

Promoting healthy ageing in Asia-Pacific through action on climate and air pollution

Annex:

1. Overview of policies that promote healthy ageing linked to climate change and air pollution
2. Further reading

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1. Overview of policies that promote healthy ageing linked to climate change and air pollution

Policy or plan	Year	Aim and activities
UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	2002	<p>This is the global agenda for tackling the issue of ageing in the 21st century, focusing on three priority areas: 1) older persons and development; 2) advancing health and wellbeing into old age; and 3) ensuring enabling and supportive environments.</p> <p>It acknowledges that the health of older people is determined by a lifelong accumulation of behaviours and environmental exposures, highlighting the importance of advancing health and wellbeing across the life course and into old age.</p> <p>The second priority specifies that governments' responsibilities include identifying and addressing environmental and socioeconomic factors that contribute to the onset of disease and disability in later life, such as reducing environmental pollution.</p> <p>The third priority highlights the recognition of interactions between environmental, economic and social policies, including providing housing and a living environment that is equitable and accessible to older people, particularly in rural areas.</p>
UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)	2021	<p>This is the second action plan of the WHO Global Strategy on Ageing and Health, building on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and explaining how to promote healthy ageing through multisectoral approaches.</p> <p>It identifies the priorities to strengthen research and collaboration on emerging areas, including the effects of climate change on the health of older people; strengthening intersectoral links among gender, age, nutrition and food systems, climate change and work on cities.</p>
World Health Organization (WHO): Regional Action Plan on Healthy Ageing in the Western Pacific	2020	<p>The action plan highlights that the leading causes of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are increasingly beyond the control of the traditional reach of the health sector. Therefore, investing in health from a more holistic perspective, such as through health-determining sectors including energy, transport, building, agriculture and urban sectors, has been incorporated into the emerging perception of healthy ageing.</p>
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP): Accelerating implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, to build a sustainable society for all ages in Asia and the Pacific	2022	<p>This is an outcome document to accelerate regional action on ageing in the Asia- Pacific region.</p> <p>It aims to protect older people from all emergency situations, including climate-related disasters while recognising older people's role in climate action by sharing their experiences in disaster risk management and climate mitigation and adaptation.</p>

<p>WHO: Updated global air quality guidelines</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>This guideline provides new scientific evidence which revealed that the health risks of air pollution are large and increasing, particularly due to deteriorating air pollution in lower-income countries, exacerbated by climate change and coupled with population ageing and changing lifestyles.</p> <p>Tightening regulations of air quality standards can particularly limit the annual mean concentration of major health-damaging air pollutants such as PM_{2.5} not exceeding 5 µg/m³, which will significantly reduce the health and economic burdens of NCDs.</p>
<p>World Meteorological Organization (WMO): Early Warnings for All initiative</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>This initiative aims to prioritise protecting people in climate-vulnerable countries, by mobilising climate adaptation investments of US\$ 3.1 billion in early warning systems to reduce loss and damage by 30% between 2023 and 2027 against extreme weather events including heatwaves. This includes measures of strengthening disaster risk knowledge sharing, observations and forecasting, preparedness and response, and communication of early warnings.</p>
<p>Japan: Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems (MIDORI)</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Japan's Green growth strategy through achieving carbon neutrality in 2050 recognises the shrinking number of older producers in the food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, driven by population ageing, as being a main challenge threatening farm production.</p> <p>Through promoting innovation and behavioural changes, the objective of MIDORI is to develop the sustainable food systems affected by triple threats of climate change, biodiversity loss and ageing. Japan has promoted agricultural policy reform since 2019, with increased investments in climate-smart agriculture.</p> <p>It aims to achieve a number of policy goals, including reducing the use of chemical pesticides by 50%, increasing the use of organic farming to 25% of farmland, and improving labour productivity in food manufacturing industries by 30%.</p> <p>To improve the production side of sustainability and productivity, priority actions include integrated pest management with artificial intelligence technologies, electrification of agricultural mechanisation (such as electromotive tractors), carbon sequestration through biochar products and blue carbon, and improved work environment.</p> <p>Reducing food loss and waste, and promoting a shift to more balanced dietary patterns, including sustainably sourced seafood, can promote sustainable consumption. The development of a circular economy with more use of local resources can improve rural livelihoods and promote healthy eating.</p>
<p>China: National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>This national strategy highlights the priority of strengthening the adaptive capacities of socioeconomic systems to climate change, including agriculture and food security, and public health.</p> <p>It aims to identify and protect vulnerable groups against the impacts of climate change, by monitoring climate-sensitive diseases including infectious and cardiovascular diseases.</p> <p>It also aims to strengthen climate-resilient health systems, including through developing climate and health adaptation pilots in hospitals and caring homes.</p>

2. Further reading

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