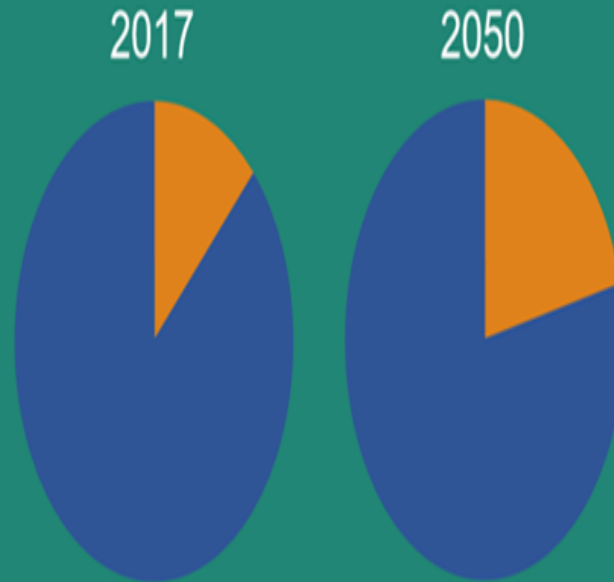


Demographics of Ageing and the Implications for Humanitarian Crises

**Dr. Ann Pawliczko
Dr. Rene Desiderio**

World is Ageing

1 in 8 people are
aged 60 or over
in 2017

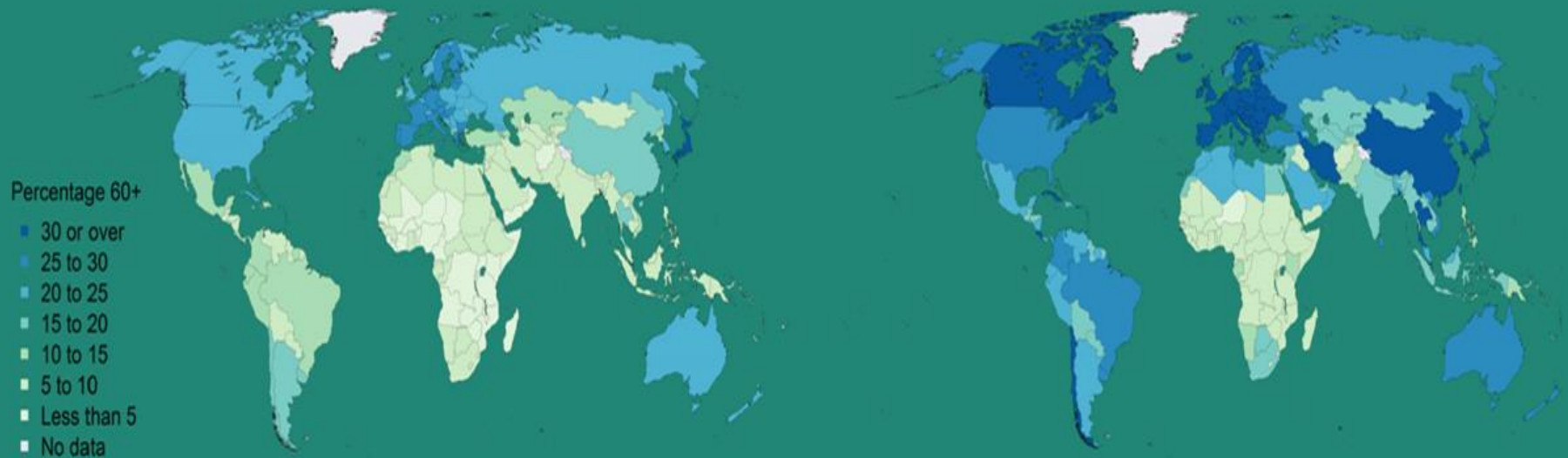


1 in 5 will be
aged 60 or over
in 2050

Almost **all countries** are ageing

2017

2050

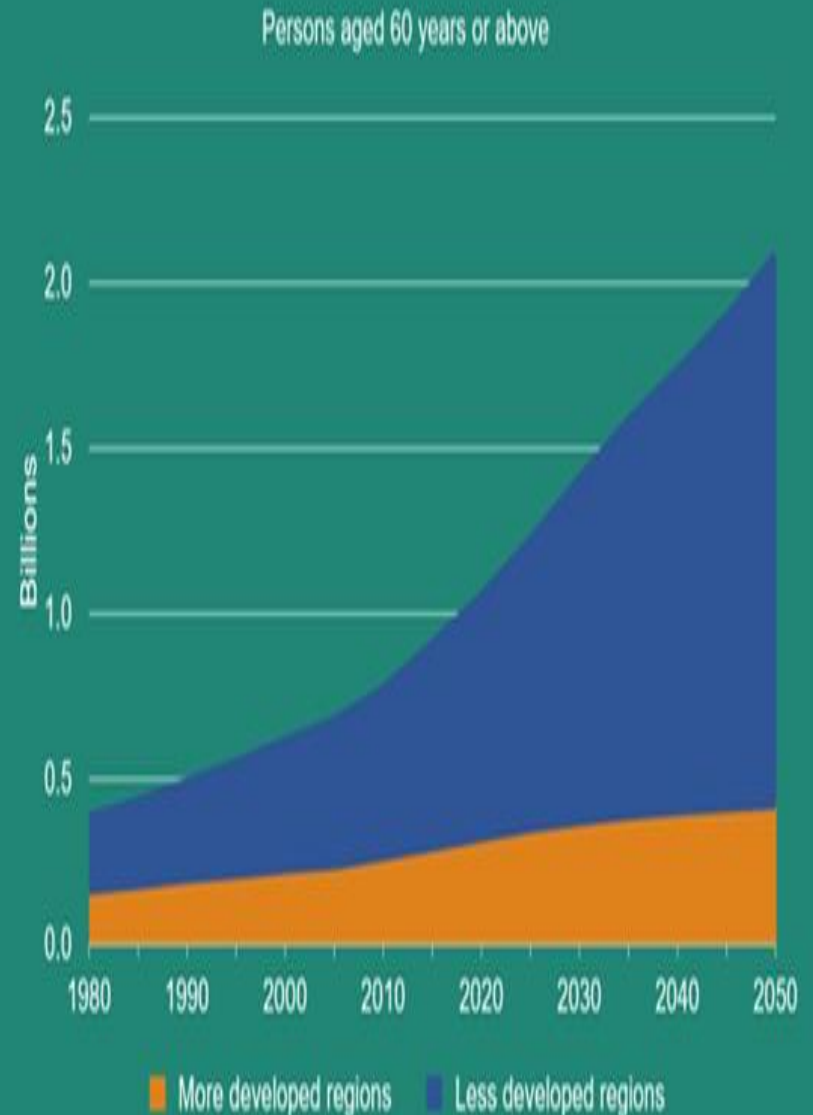


The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Population Ageing

- ♦ **Globally, 962 million persons aged 60 or over in 2017**
- ♦ **12.7% of world's population aged 60 or over**
- ♦ **In 2050, 21.5% of world's population will be aged 60+**
- ♦ **In 2050, nearly 2.1 billion persons will be aged 60+**
- ♦ **In 2000, already more people 60+ than children under 5**
- ♦ **In 2030, older persons will outnumber children under 10**
- ♦ **By 2050, almost equal number of 60+ and children under 15**
- ♦ **In 2050, older persons will outnumber adolescents & youth ages 10-24**

The number of older persons worldwide is expected to **double** by 2050



Marked Differences between Regions in Per Cent of Elderly

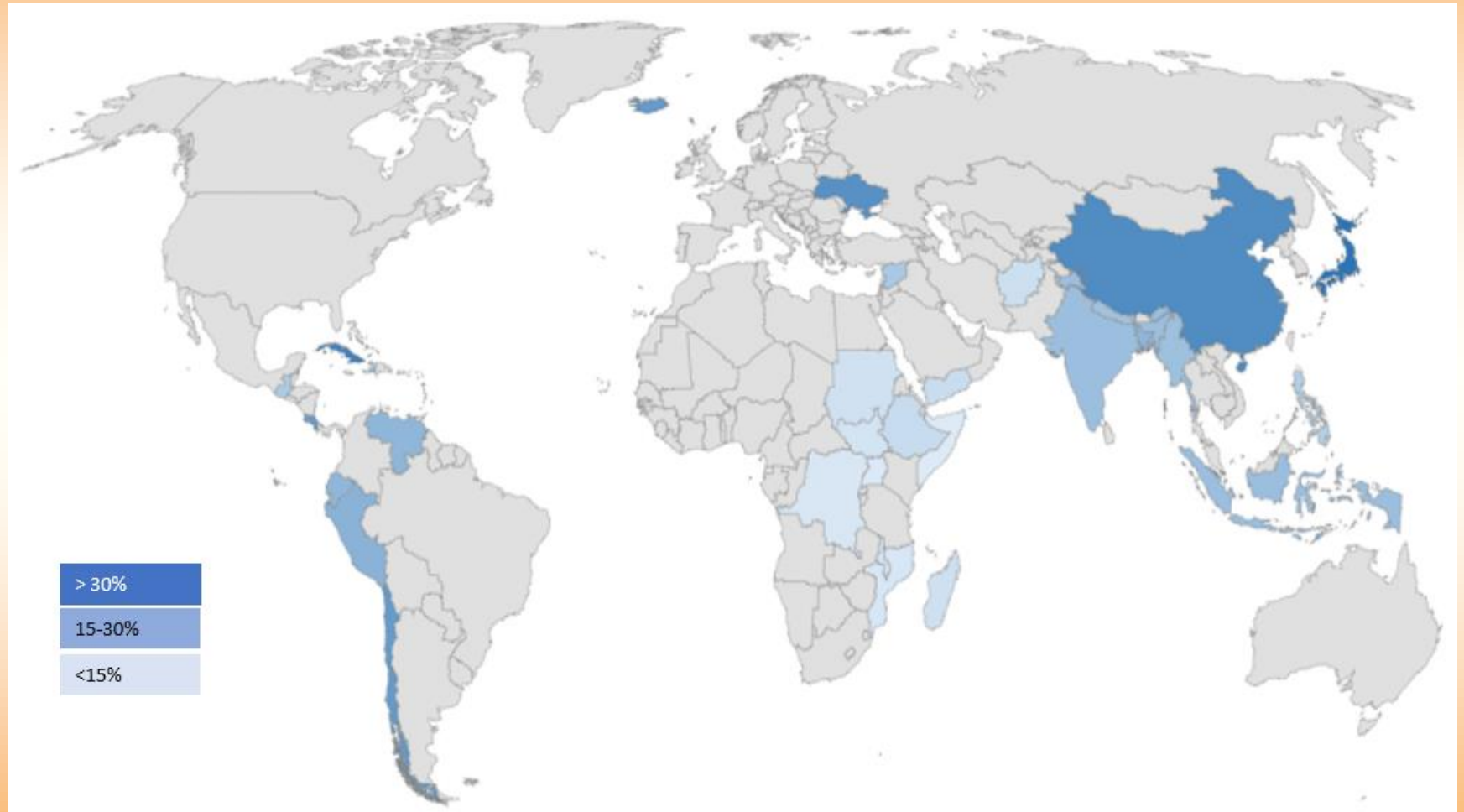
In 2017:

- ♦ **Africa - 6 %**
- ♦ **Asia - 12 %**
- ♦ **LAC - 12 %**
- ♦ **Europe - 25 %**
- ♦ **N America - 22 %**
- ♦ **Oceania - 17 %**

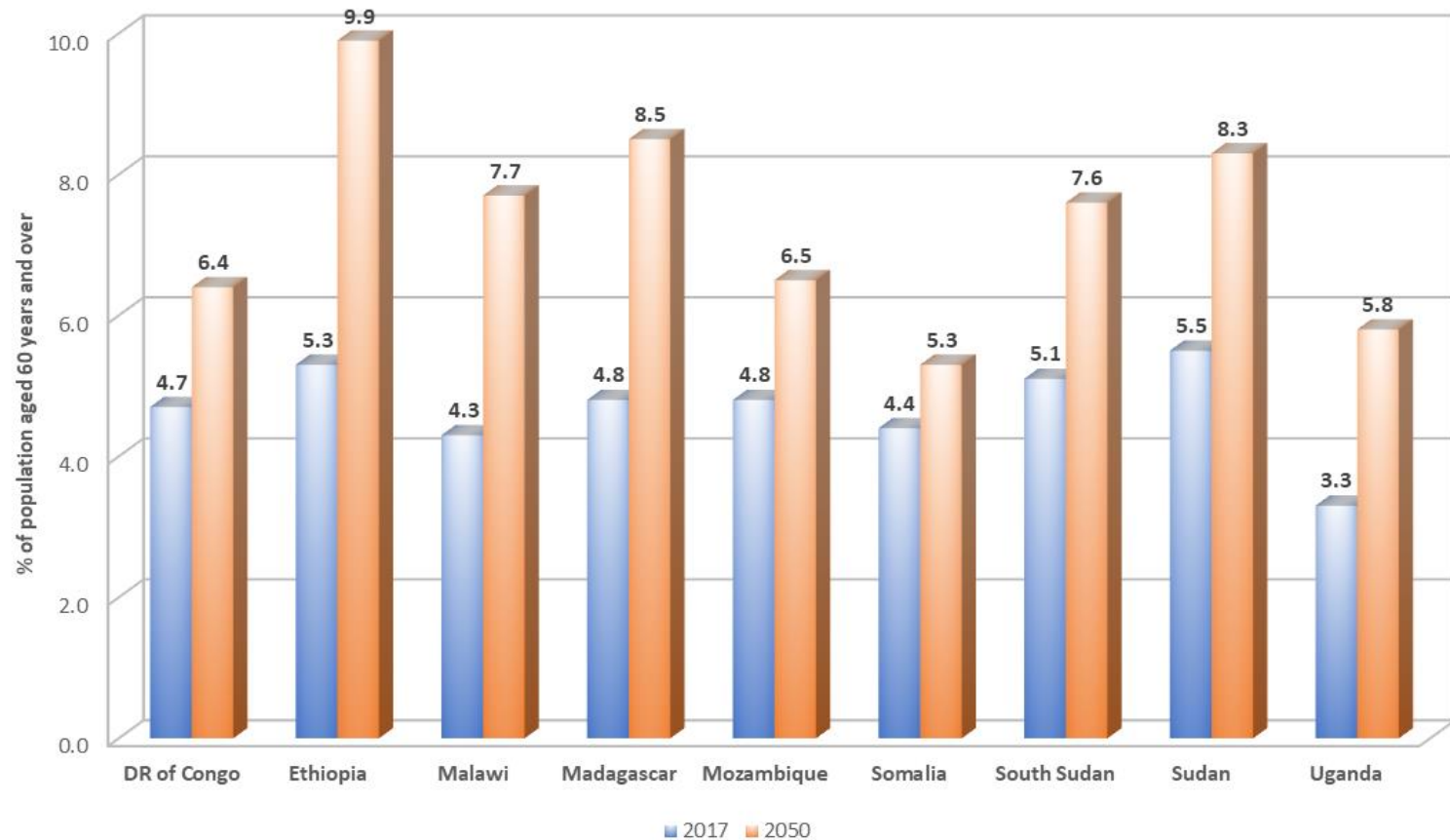
By 2050:

- ♦ **Africa - 9 %**
- ♦ **Asia - 24 %**
- ♦ **LAC - 25 %**
- ♦ **Europe - 35 %**
- ♦ **N America - 28 %**
- ♦ **Oceania - 23 %**

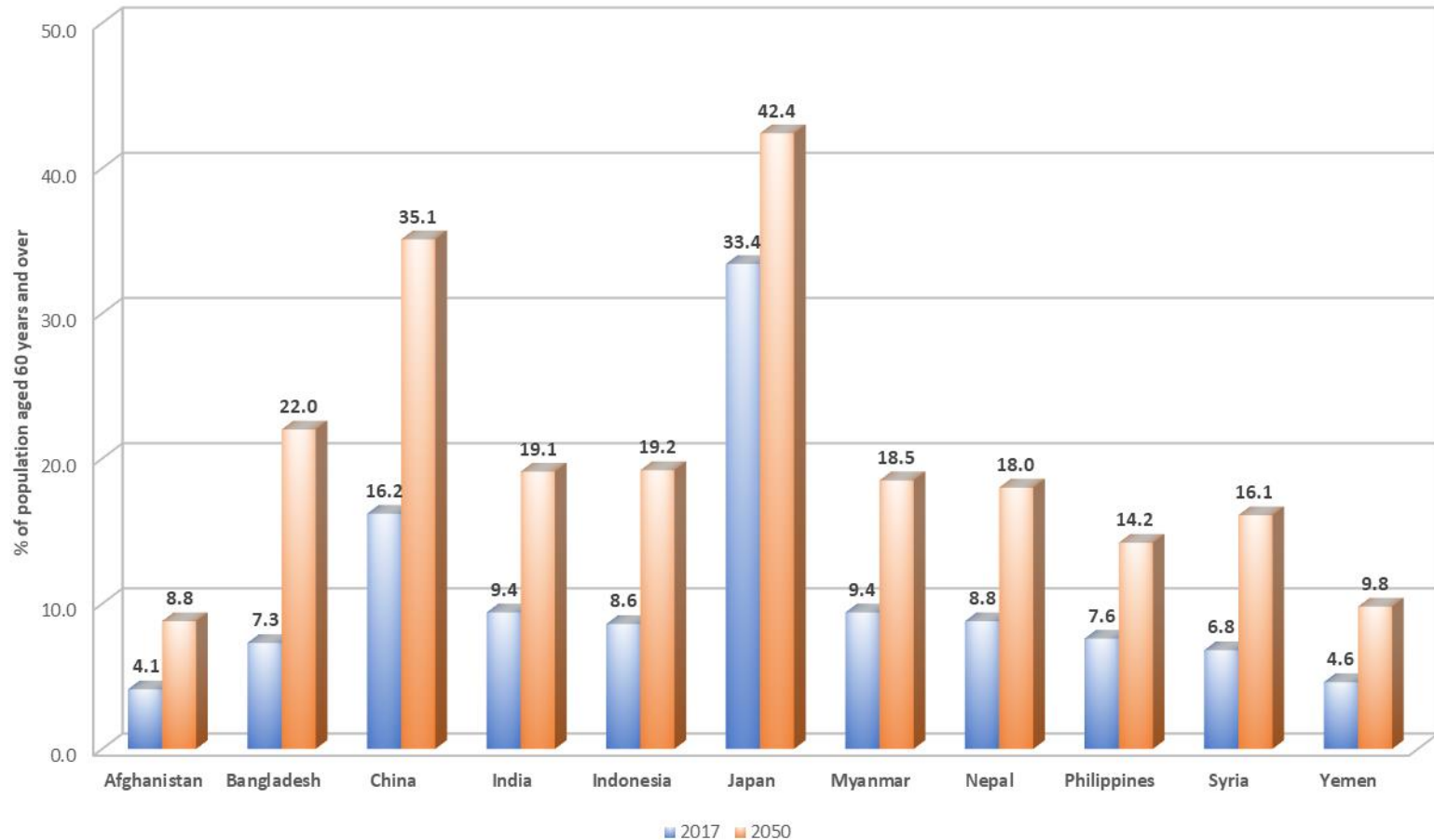
“Hot Spot” Countries



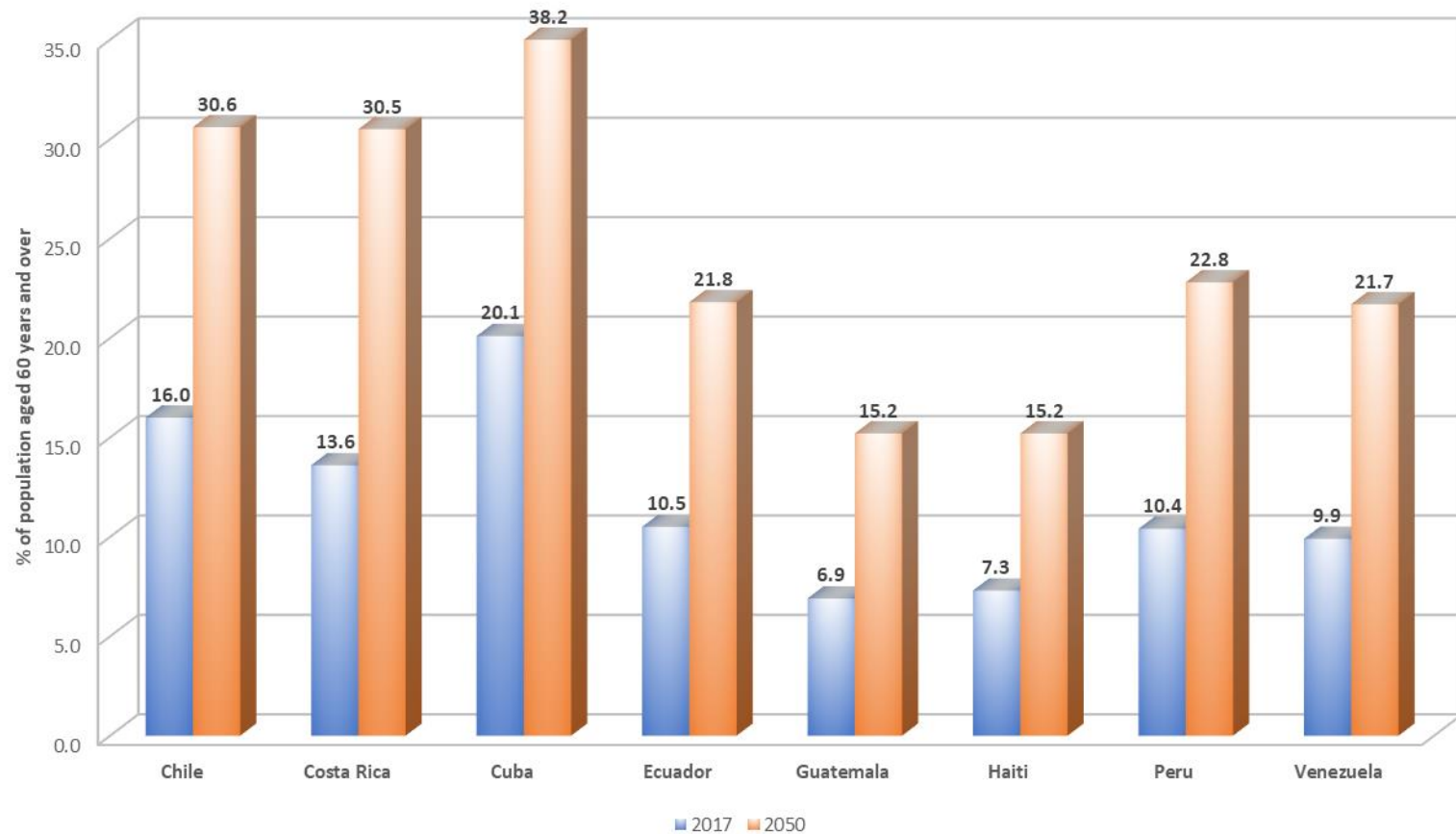
Per Cent of Population 60+ 2017 & 2050 Africa



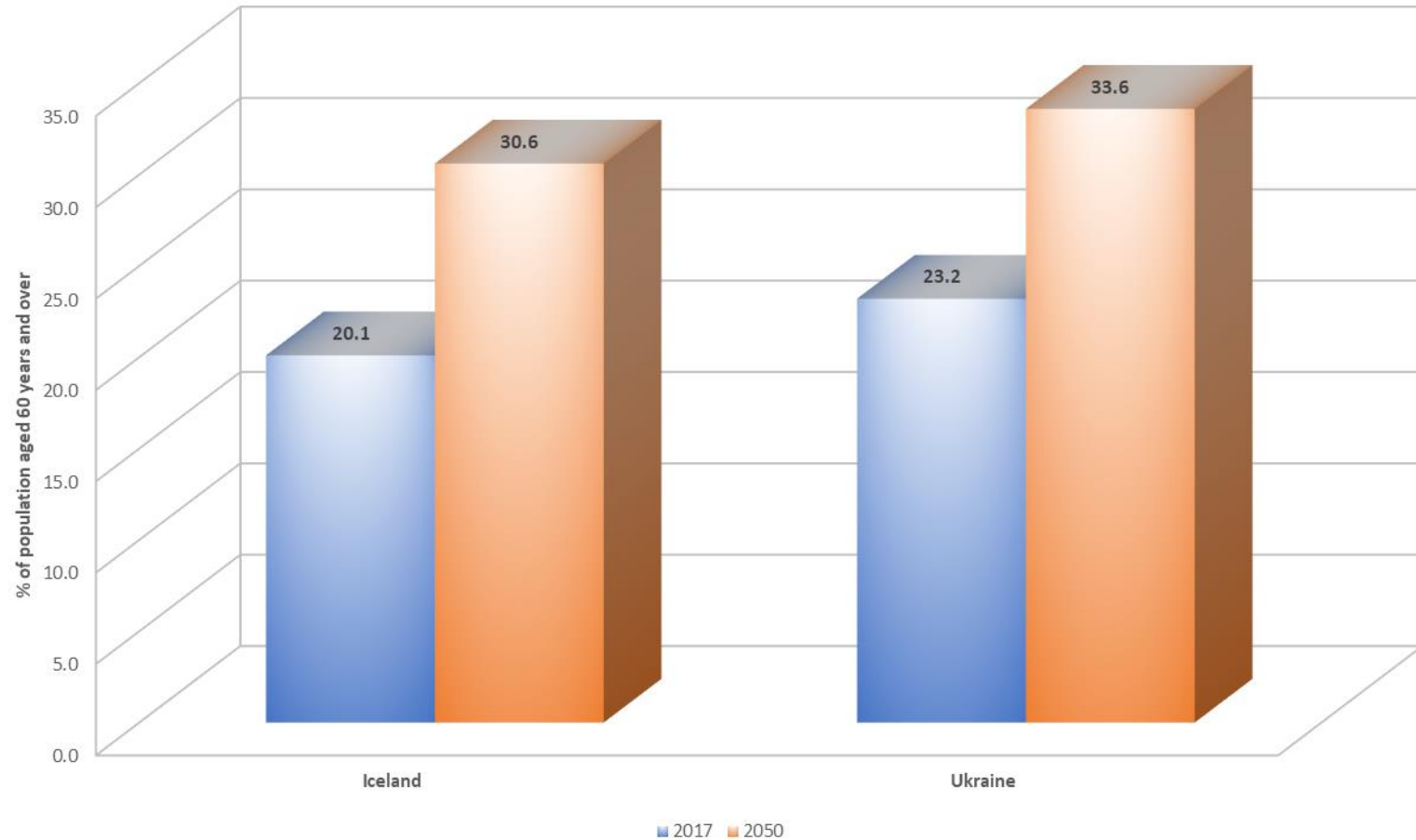
Per Cent of Population 60+ 2017 & 2050 Asia



Per Cent of Population 60+ 2017 & 2050 Latin America and the Caribbean



Per Cent of Population 60+ 2017 & 2050 Europe



Implications of Population Ageing

- ♦ **Large numbers of older persons already live in conflict and disaster-prone areas**
- ♦ **As conflicts and humanitarian situations increase, more older persons will be affected**
- ♦ **As the numbers of elderly increase, even more will be in harm's way**
- ♦ **Older persons are often unseen, forgotten, left behind**
- ♦ **Older persons can be more vulnerable**
- ♦ **Many older persons can contribute**
- ♦ **Policies must specifically address the situation of elderly**

Urbanization of Disasters

- **Disasters increasingly impact cities**
- **Increasing numbers of elderly in urban areas**
- **Asia – most disaster prone region and largest increase in proportion of urban among elderly**
- **Asia – home to country with largest percentage of older persons: Japan 33% elderly**
- **Humanitarian aid must adequately address issues of urban elderly**

Accurate Data

- **Collect age and sex-disaggregated data**
- **Do not lump all older persons in one group**
- **Collect data in 10-year increments**
- **Keep collecting data after age 75**
- **Analyze and utilize the age-disaggregated data for planning purposes**

Capacity Development: Training in Working with Older Persons in Emergencies

Train all front-line staff on the special issues, needs and potential contributions of the elderly:

First responders

Protection officers

National guards

Disaster relief workers

Humanitarian aid workers

Health professionals

Companies manufacturing humanitarian aid equipment and supplies

Volunteers

Training

- **Train in human rights law and humanitarian protection standards, enhance awareness of rights of older persons and fight age discrimination**
- **Train how to detect and report abuse of elderly**
- **Provide manuals, guidelines, checklists**
- **Design a practical course on older persons in humanitarian situations for inclusion in the curricula of gerontology departments**

The Way Forward

- ♦ **Include older persons in disaster preparedness, rescue efforts and recovery programmes**
- ♦ **Collect age and gender-specific data for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation**
- ♦ **Undertake research, training and capacity building to meet needs of older persons**
- ♦ **Ensure adequate financial and human resources**
- ♦ **Involve all stakeholders - governments, civil society, private sector, UN, NGOs**