



Old Age Financial Security of Women in Viet Nam

**The Office of Vietnam National Committee on
Ageing (VNCA)**

Singapore, 10-11/10/2016



1. Introduction

- Vietnam National Committee on Aging (VNCA) a government body with 22 members:
- Chairman: A Deputy Prime Minister
- Vice Chairmen: Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and President of the Vietnam Elderly's Association
- 20 members: Vice- minister government ministries and mass organization (Ministry of Health, Culture-Sport and Tourism, Information and Communication; Agriculture and Rural Development, Financial, Planning and Investment; Transportation, Justice, Home Affairs, Vietnam Social Insurance, Women Union, Famers' Association, ...)



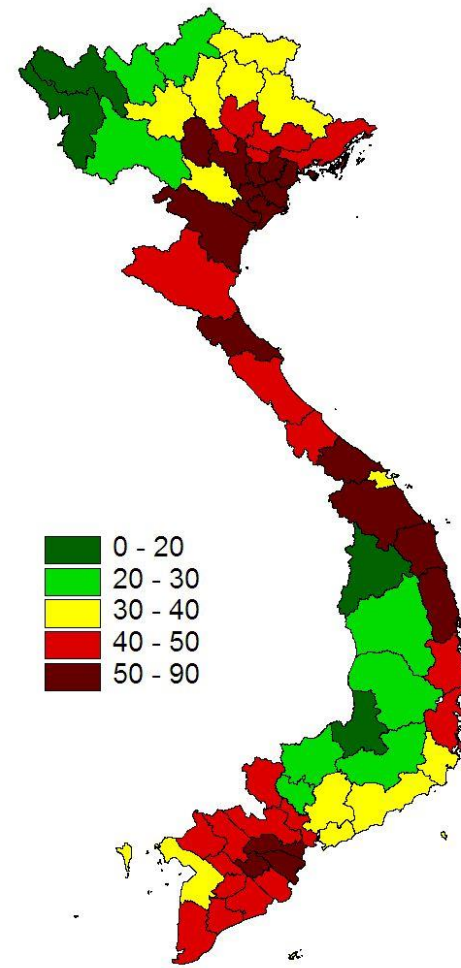
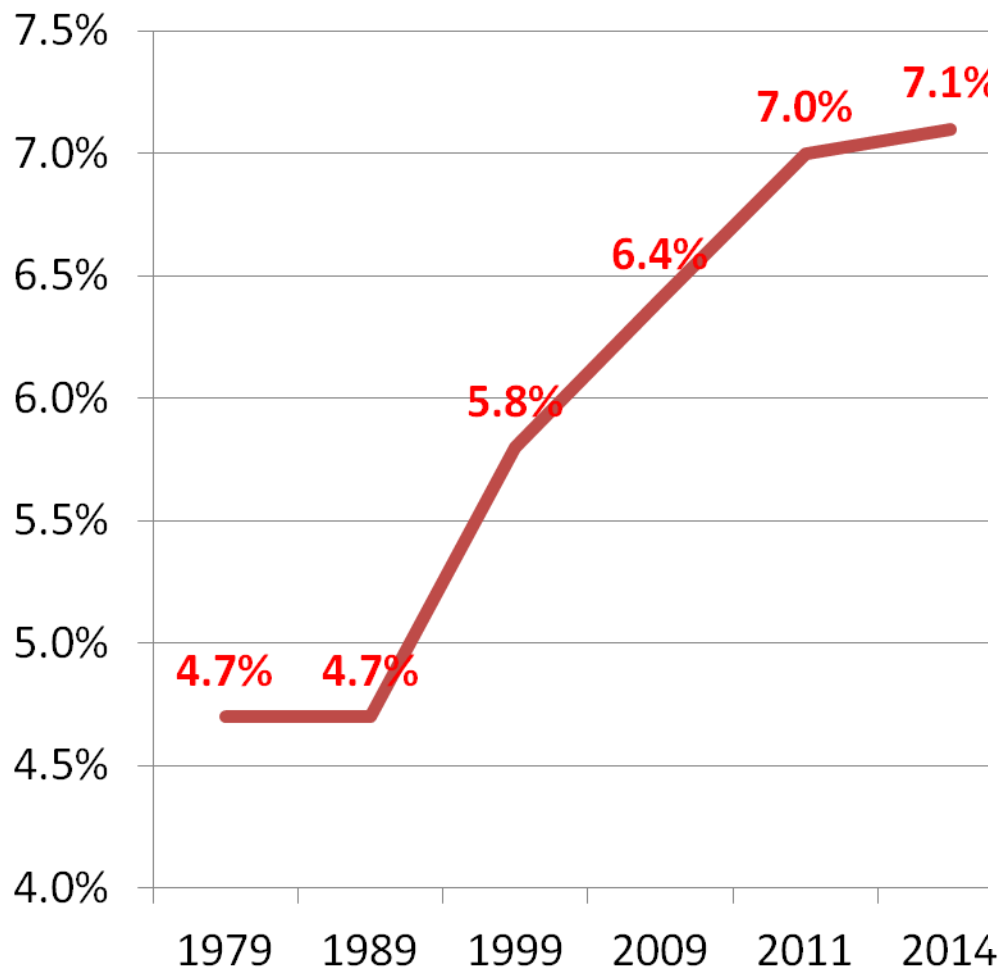
1. Introduction (Cont.)

- VNCA assists the Prime Minister in establishing, and implementing, laws, policies, programmes and action plans on caring for and promoting the role of older people.
- VNCA coordinates ministries, branches, localities and mass organizations on propagandizing disseminating and evaluating the implementation
- The Office of VNCA assisting and coordinating in carrying out VNCA's functions and tasks.



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Percentage of population aged 65+ and ageing index



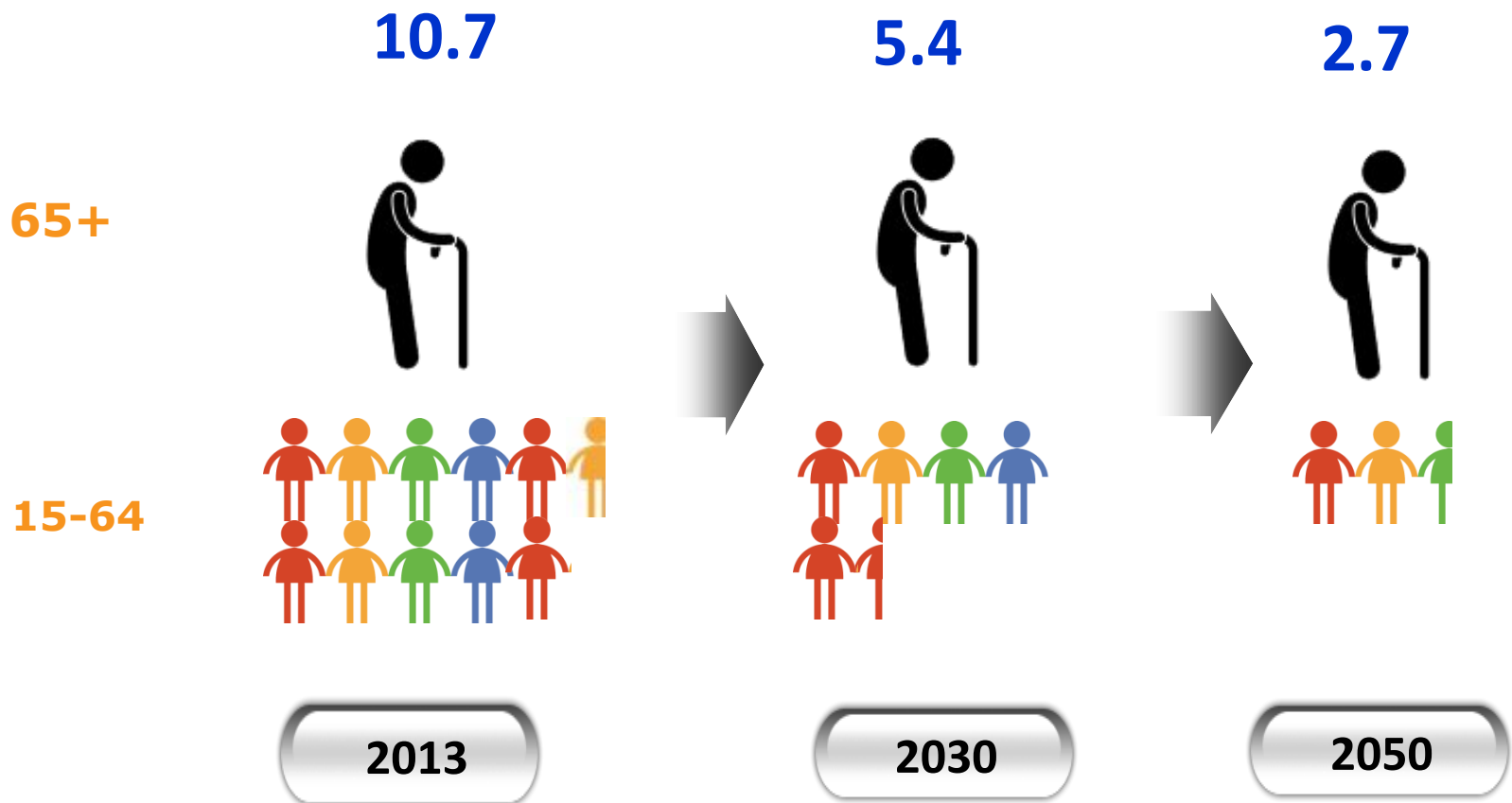
Source: GSO

Fewer young people to support older people



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Vietnam old-age support ratio



Feminization of ageing in Viet Nam



% elderly residents by age and sex in 2009

Age	60-69	70-79	80+
Number of females per 100 males	131	149	200

% elderly residents (whose spouse passed away) age and sex in 2009

Age	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Males	5.9	15.7	36.0	13.9
Females	37.0	57.9	81.9	53.7
Total	23.0	40.6	66.3	37.1

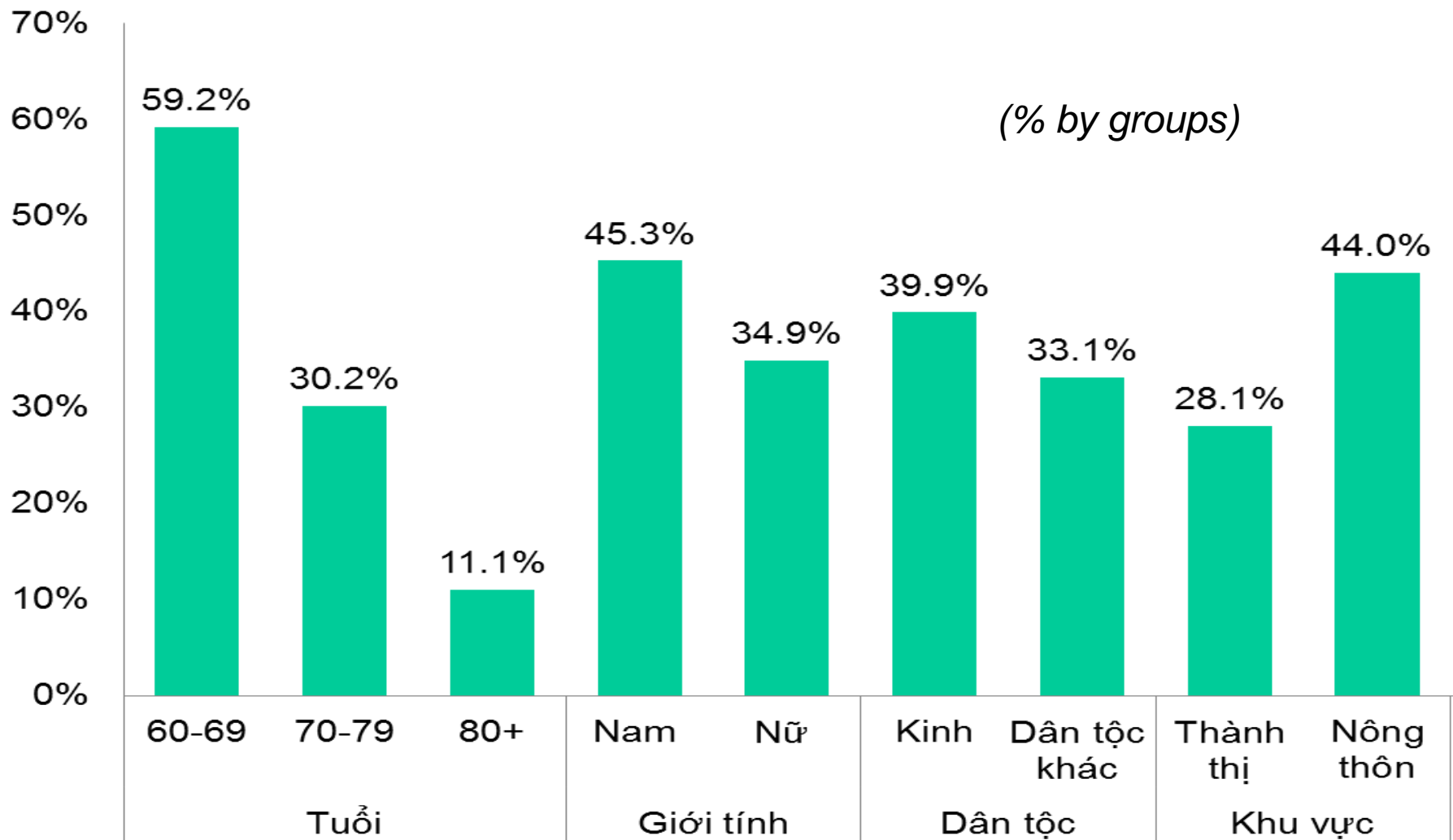
Source: 2009 Census

Labor market participation



- Female workers' participation was lower than males: 11.5% (2007)
- More women work in informal sector than men
- Unemployed women are more than men
- Average salary of women is lower than men's, as a result, women's pension is lower

Percentage of working older women (direct and indirect economic activities) is low: 34.9% compared to 45.3% from men



Pension



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- ❑ Older women rarely have pension:
 - Males: 33%
 - Females: 19%
- ❑ Early retirement (55 year-old) makes low pension of women

Ratio of the elderly living in poor households

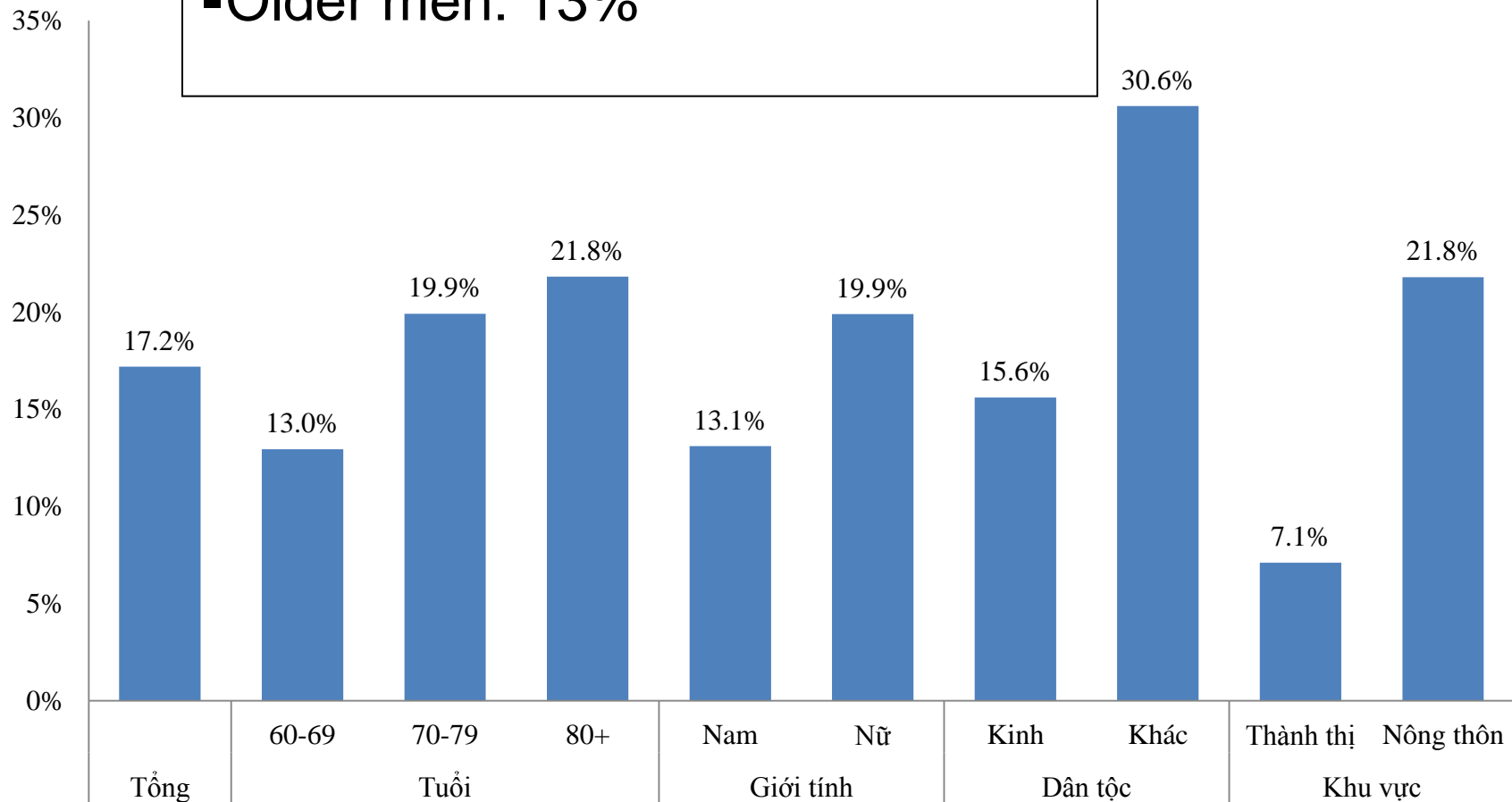


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17.2% elderly residents living in poor households

- Older women: 20%
- Older men: 13%

(% by groups)



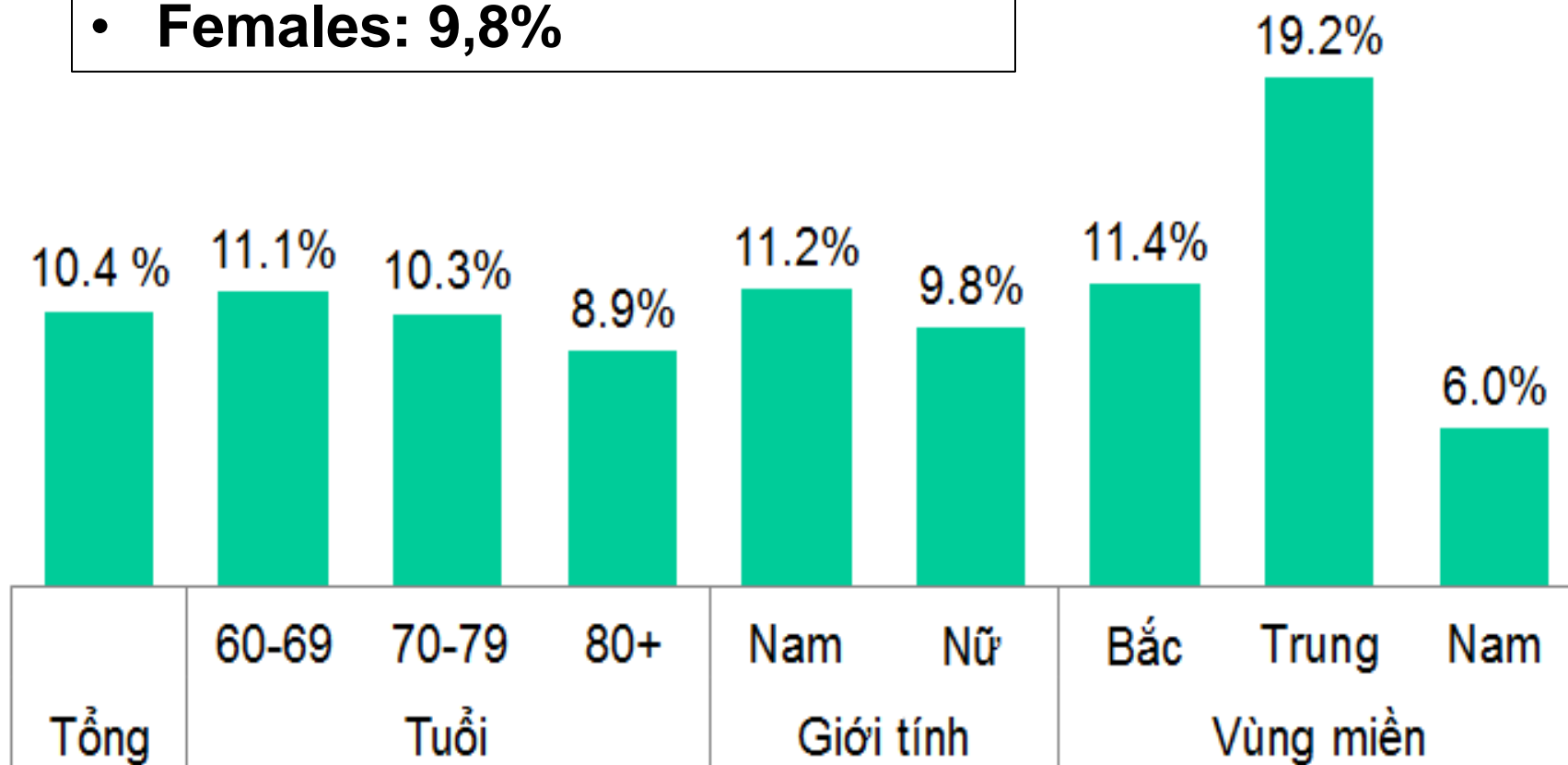
Savings of older women



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Only 10% elderly residents have savings

- **Males: 11,2%**
- **Females: 9,8%**



Challenges in old age financial security of women



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- ❑ Limited awareness on ageing population and needs of the elderly has resulted in the fact that ageing issues, especially ones of older women have been rarely put into socio-economic development programs, strategies and plans of the nation and localities;
- ❑ There remains barrier of age in policies or implementation of policies and programs on loan provision, training for transfer of science and technology, job creation, etc.,
- ❑ Lack of data on age and gender separation, especially after age 60- lack of evidence for policy advocacy.

Challenges in old age financial security of women in Vietnam



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- ❑ There is a wrong assumption that elderly/ older women are to be cared for by their children, therefore it is not necessary to participate in income generation activities
- ❑ Lack of information about financial products, relevant job opportunities and less support to access financial services
- ❑ Older women are busy at home and caring for grandchildren, therefore they do not have time to participate in activities of income generation and social activities.



2. Key outcomes of the country meeting

- Population aging is an issue in the world and Vietnam and a challenge for the social - economic development of each country.
- Unified awareness of the right which the elderly people and older women have access to social security.
- Government policies should be designed, and constructed on the basis of gender data analysis; bringing aging issues into policies.
- The issue of financial security for old women need attention from the government, and community.
- There should be a plan to prepare for old age, savings program for them starting at young and middle age.



2. Key outcomes of the country meeting

- Promoting communication, strengthening awareness and capacity of policymakers at all levels: organizations, association of the elderly and Social Policy Bank.
- Enhance finance ability for old women by training and training courses.
- Sharing experiences and lessons learnt from ASEAN countries, especial Singapore; using the training materials for finance and security for old women.
- To build a network with the participation of the organizations, association of the elderly, and the women union.

3. Next steps



- Viet Nam Government have approved the National Action Program on the Elderly for the 2012-2020 period;
- The Government has approved the project on the Replication of the Intergenerational Self-help Club Model in the 2016-2020 period; with the participation of 60-70% of older women, the poor, near poor or disadvantaged; At least 50% members of Club get a loan in cash or in kind to improve their income.



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3. Next steps

- Currently 14/63 provinces/cities have implemented and replicated more than 1,000 clubs; approximately 20,000 older women get loans and have increased their income.
- By 2020, form and manage about 2000 ISHC, approximately 65,000 OP in at least 45/63 provinces/cities.
- Design with the support from Tsao Foundation a program containing training on financial security for older women in these clubs (in accordance with Vietnam's conditions in rural and urban areas).
- In the 2017-2018 period: Coordinate training on financial security, establish learning networks for elderly women in Hai Duong, Thai Binh provinces, etc.



Thank you for your attention