Old Age Support Ratios Globally:
The old-age support ratio measures how many persons in the main working ages (15-64 yrs) are there to support each older person (65+). The world’s old-age support ratio has been declining continuously, meaning that there are increasingly less people in the working age to support every person aged 65 years or over. The ratio went down from nearly 10 working-age persons for each older person in 1990 to 8 in 2012, and is projected to drop 4 in 2050 (Fig 1). The old-age support ratio in developed countries declined from 5 working age persons for each older person in 1990 to 4 in 2012 and projected to drop to 2 by 2050.

Old Age Support Ratios in PPD Member Countries in Asia-Pacific: In the Asia-Pacific region, except in Vietnam, old-age support ratio decreased in all other 7 Member Countries (MCs) in 2012 compare to 1990 (Fig 1). In 2012, the ratios ranged from highest 14 working-age person for each older person in Bangladesh and Pakistan to lowest 8 in China, Sri Lanka and Thailand. All member countries of this region would experience much decline in old-age support ratio by 2050 (Fig 1). Similarly, by 2050, except Yemen, all 4 MCs of PPD in this region would have declined old age support ratios in 2050, ranging from 16 working age persons for each older person in Mali and Uganda to 7 working age persons for each older person in South Africa.

Old Age Support Ratios in PPD Member Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa: In the Sub-Saharan Africa, Benin, the Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Senegal and Uganda experienced higher old-age support ratios in 2012 compared to 1990, when ratios in Ethiopia remained same (Fig 1). Rest of the member countries experienced decreased old-age support ratios, ranged 16 working-age persons for each older persons in Nigeria to 13 in South Africa. Except, Ethiopia all the member countries of PPD in this region would have declined old age support ratios in 2050, ranging from 16 working age persons for each older person in Mali and Uganda to 7 working age persons for each older person in South Africa.

Old Age Support Ratios in PPD Member Countries in MENA: In the MENA region, except Yemen, rest of the 4 MCs of PPD experienced decreased old-age support ratios in 2012 compare to 1990 (Fig 1). Similarly, by 2050, except Yemen, all 4 MCs of PPD in this region would experience marked decline in old age support ratios, ranging from 3 to 5 working age persons for each older person.

Old Age Support Ratios in PPD Member Countries in LA: Both Colombia and Mexico experienced decreased old-age support ratios in 2012 compare to 1990, and would experience much declined old-age support ratios ranging 3 to 4 working age persons for each older person by 2050 (Fig 1).

PPD is a Southern-led Southern-run Inter-governmental alliance of 26 developing countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Middle-east & North Africa (MENA) and Latin America (LA). PPD was established following the recommendation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action with the mandate to promote South-South Cooperation on Reproductive Health, Population and Development among the developing countries. The organization is a permanent observer at the United Nations.

Website: http://www.partners-popdev.org/
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