

# **Protection of Older Persons in Forced Displacement and Emergency Settings**

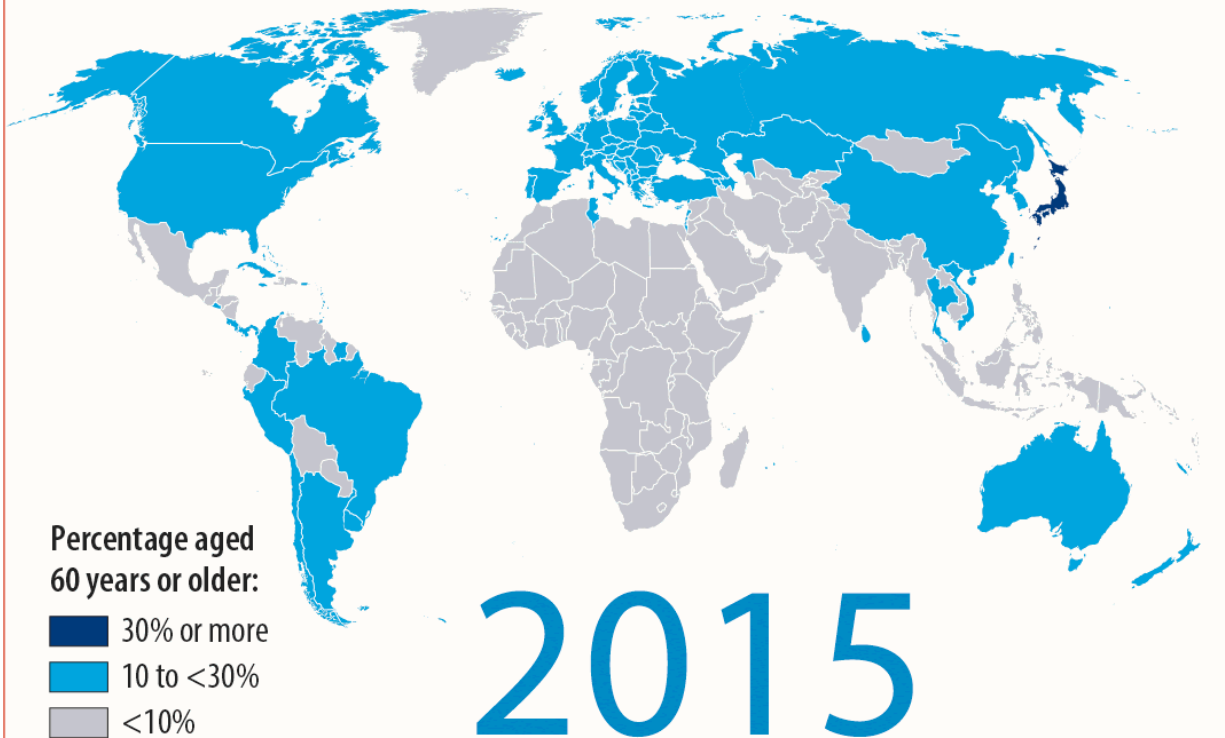
October 3, 2024

# Population Ageing

Ageing and Health

#yearsahead

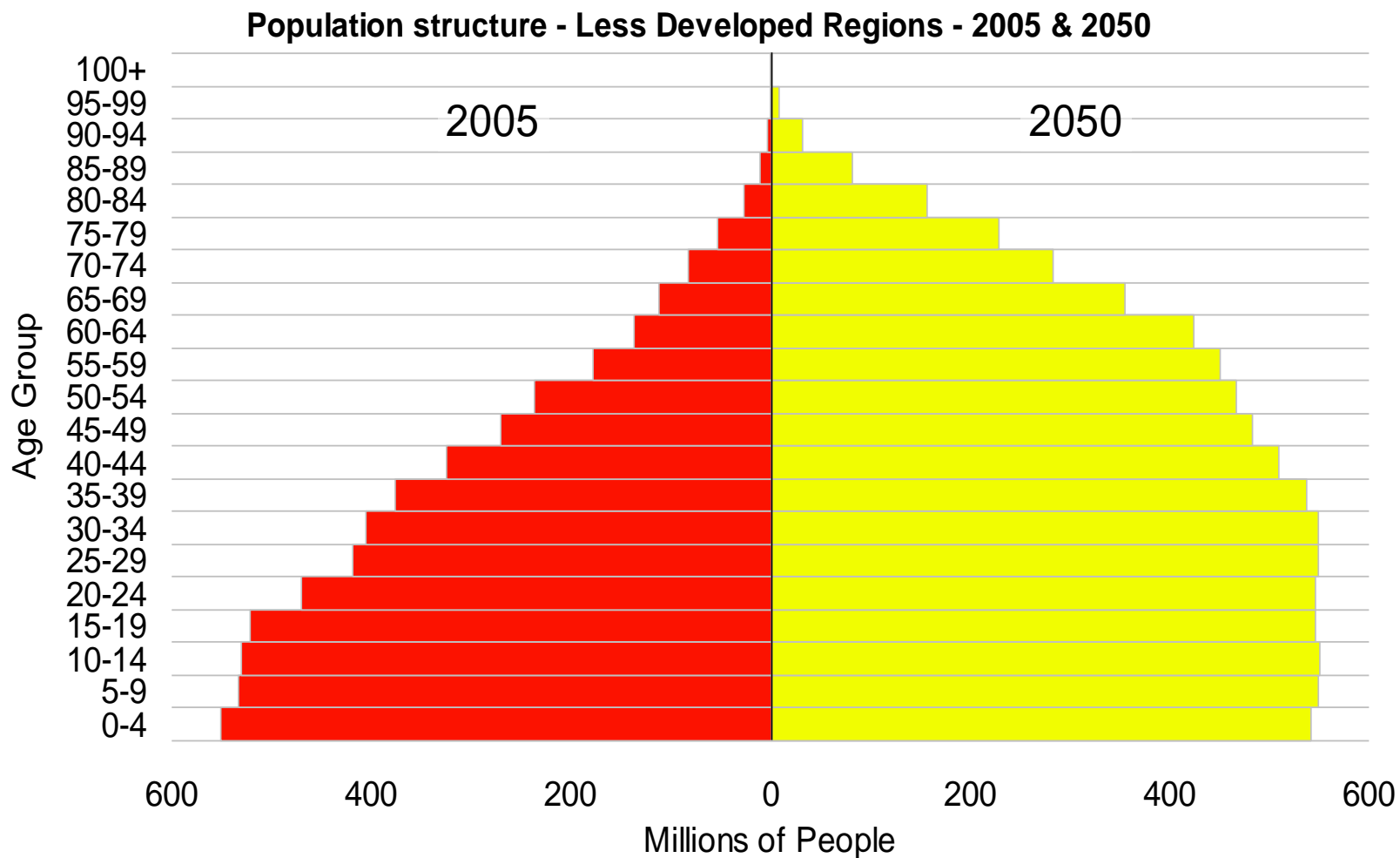
## Populations are getting older



## Global Statistics

- 12.2% of population aged 60+, 2015
- 22% of population projected by 2050

# Changing population structure



# Who are we talking about?

In 2020, the number of people aged 60 years and older outnumbered children younger than 5 years

By 2030, 1 in 6 people in the world will be aged 60 years or over.

Projections show that by 2050 more than 80% of the world's older people will be living in low- and middle-income countries

It is estimated that 46% of older persons have one or more disabilities.

An estimated 4 per cent of all displaced persons in the world are older people, though a lack of age-disaggregated data may hide a much higher percentage.

# Who is old?

- The United Nations defines old age as 60 years and above.
- In many developed countries: the age of 65 is used as a reference point for older persons.
- Or the age when an older person becomes eligible for old-age social security benefits.
- 'Oldest-old' refers to people who are over 80 years of age.
- So, there is no exact definition of "old" as this concept has different meanings in different societies



**Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength.**

*Betty Friedan*



**There is  
no  
“typical”  
older  
person**

# Protection risks faced by Older People

## Poll

# Separation from Family or community



Azham al-Zubairi/DEC

Sheika was forced from her home in Yemen, now she lives in a displacement camp.



Laila Barakouq/Age International





## Being a Victim of Abuse



**Inability to leave home even if one wants to**



# Grandparents taking care of grandchildren



Picture: Caritas Australia

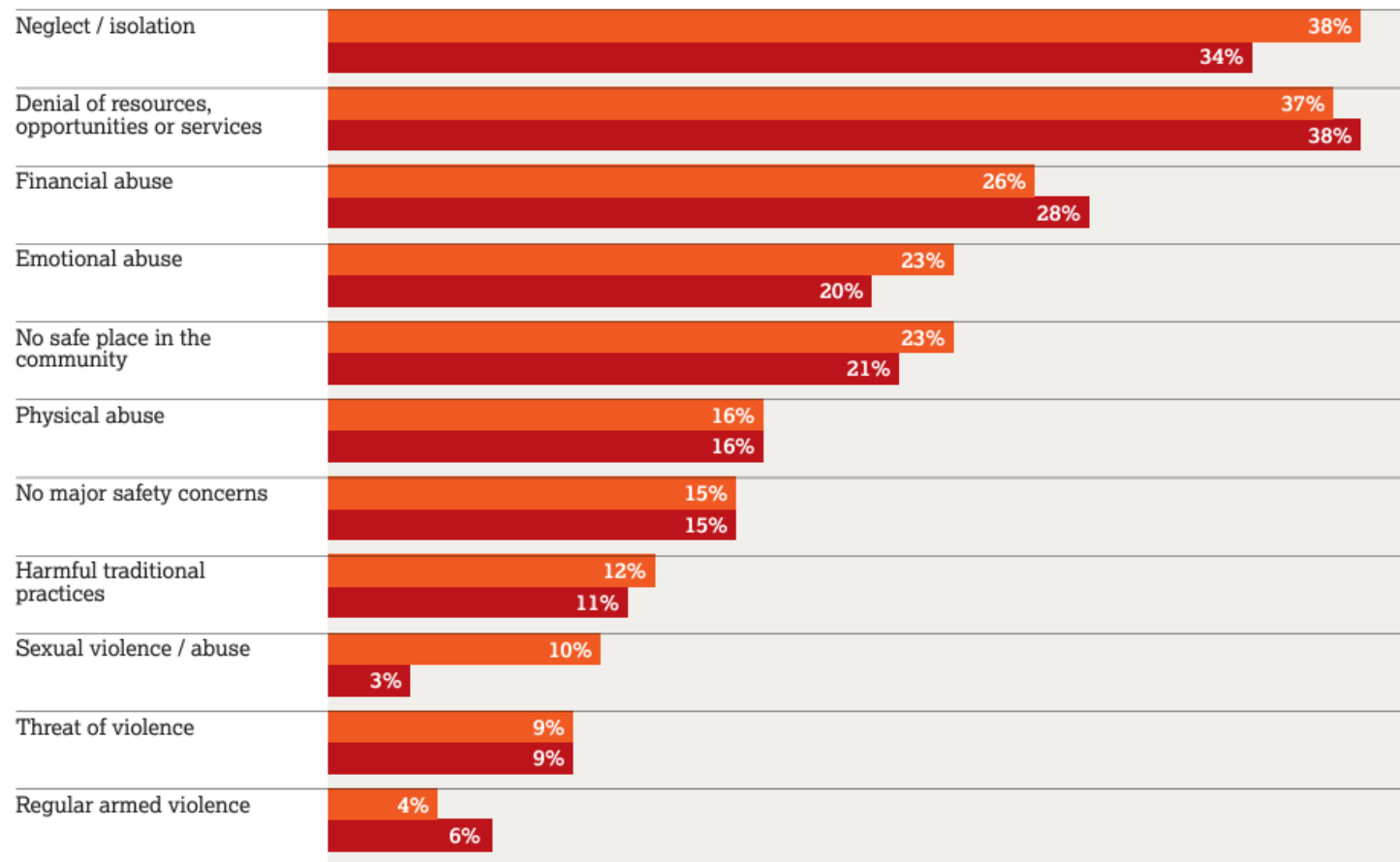
## Having housing, land and property rights Ignored

**Older people may lack legal documentation to prove ownership of land and assets.**



# If not now, when?

Figure 2: Main safety risks



Older women Older men

# Elder Abuse

**Elder abuse** is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. It can take various forms such as financial, physical, psychological, sexual, neglect, exploitation, abandonment.

**Elder abuse** is violence or any other type of harm because of older age. It can be carried out by those who are close to older people, such as family and caregivers, or by social structures and institutions.



**1 in 6 older  
women and  
men  
experience  
abuse**

**4 %  
reported**

Elder abuse remains invisible. Only 4% of elder abuse is reported.

**Violence, abuse and neglect  
(VAN)**

An umbrella term to describe different forms of violence experienced by older people due to a number of factors, including but not limited to their age, gender, disability, place of origin, marital status, class or sexual orientation

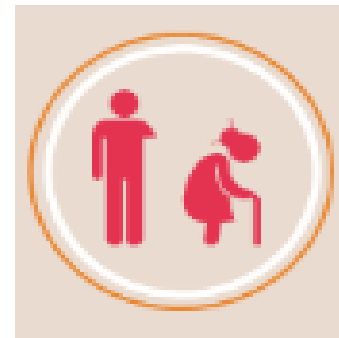
# Types of Elder Abuse



**Physical**



**Emotional**



**Sexual**



**Neglect**



**Financial**

“My son persuaded me to sell my house to repay his debt...I agreed and now I’m left homeless.”

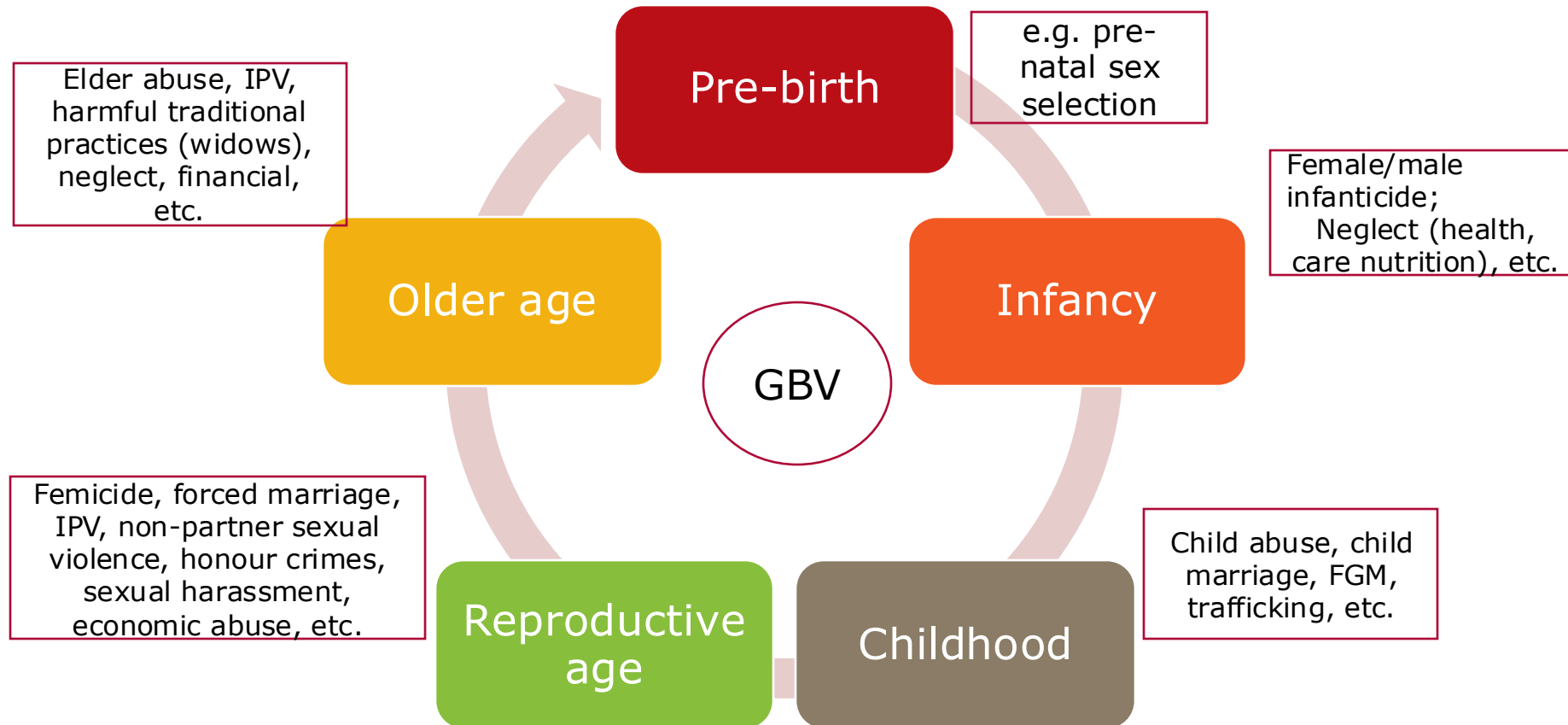
Woman, 70, Kyrgyzstan



Little is known about  
GBV prevalence  
among older women  
AND older men.

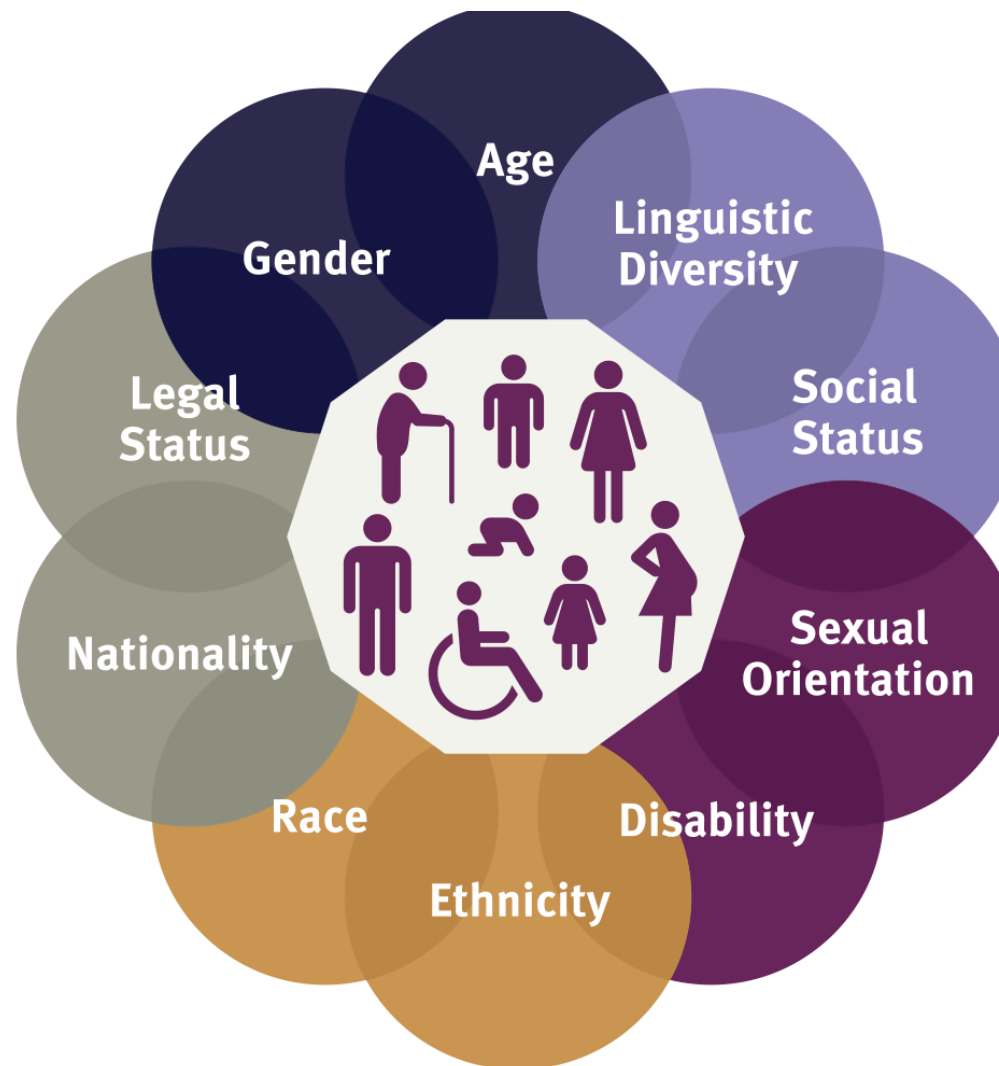


# GBV across the life course



# Intersectionality and violence

## UNHCR Diversity Wheel



# Key Messages

- Older people on the move are at high risk of protection concerns and are frequently subjected to one or more forms of violence, abuse and neglect based on their age, gender and other intersecting characteristics.
- Strengthen the collection and analysis of SADD data (sex, age and disability disaggregated)
- Mainstream older people's inclusion through integrating age into existing gender, disability and protection mainstreaming policies and action plans.
- Consult older people and promote their participation and empowerment.
- Recognize the capabilities and contributions of older people.



Thank you!

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