

# Age-Friendly World: What will it Take

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# Aging World

- More older people survive to advanced ages.
- First time in history people aged 65 outnumber children under age 5
- **Globally, the number of older persons is growing faster than the numbers of people in any other age group.**
- By 2050 1.6 billion people worldwide will be over the age of 65

# Aging World

- Projections indicate that in 2050, women will comprise 53 per cent of the world's population aged 60 years or over. Since average survival of males is projected to gradually move closer to that of females, the sex balance among the oldest-old will become more even. The proportion of women aged 80 years or over is projected to decline to 58 per cent in 2050.

# Aging World

- By 2040, the oldest-old are projected to account for one in four older persons in Europe, Northern America and Oceania.
- The older population is growing faster in urban areas than in rural areas.
- Globally, the proportion of older persons residing in urban areas is higher than for other age groups.

# Aging World

- Japan is home to the world's most aged population: 33 per cent were aged 60 years or over in 2015.
- By 2030 many middle-income countries will have aged considerably





## World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities Initiative

“ . . . to engage cities to become more age-friendly so as to tap the potential that older people represent for humanity.”

# World Health Organization

Age Friendly Network Founded in 2005  
Currently 258 cities in 28 countries



**World Health  
Organization**



In 2050, older adults will represent 22% of the world's population.



Two-thirds of these will live within city limits.



# Creating Caring Communities

Gerontologists continue to make major contributions to our understanding of aging and quality of life.

*The Ecological Model of Aging:*  
**CONTEXT MATTERS**

to health, wellness, independence,  
life satisfaction, and more.

# Eight Considerations/Domains

Outdoor spaces and buildings

Transportation

Housing

Social participation

Respect and social inclusion

Civic participation and employment

Communication and information

Community support and health services

# Outdoor Spaces and Buildings



Clustered shopping and services

Elevators and ramps

Law enforcement

Stair railings

Traffic islands

Easy-to-read signs

Public toilets

Green spaces

Public seating

Rest areas

Non-slip walkways

Extended time at pedestrian crossings

Lighting



# Mobility

**Pedestrian**  
**Bicycles**  
**Public**  
**Transportation**  
**Automobiles**  
**Self driving cars**





# Housing

- Location
- Structure
- Design
- Choice





# Social Participation

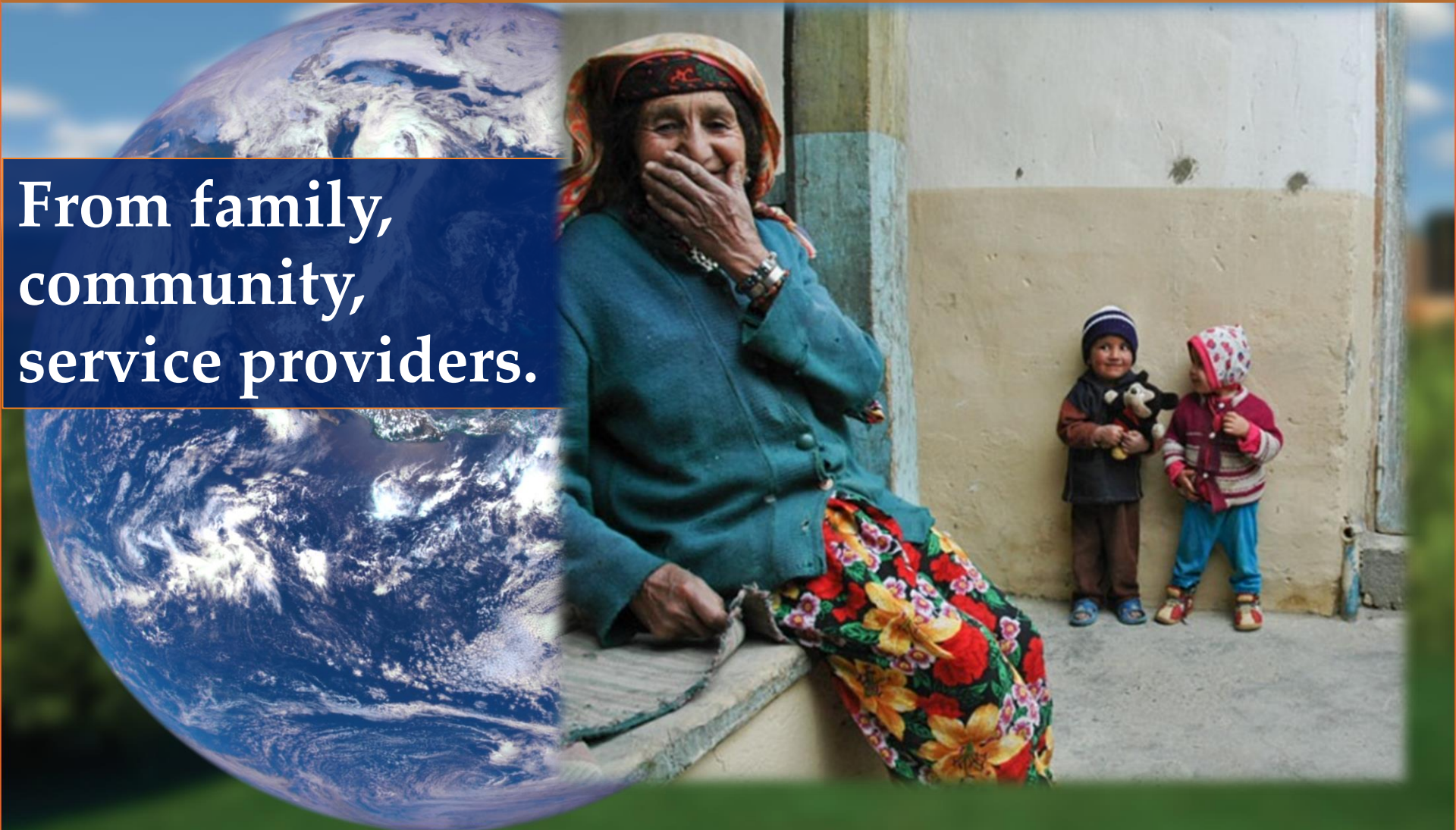
- leisure,
- social,
- cultural,
- spiritual, and
- family activities.





# Respect, Social Inclusion

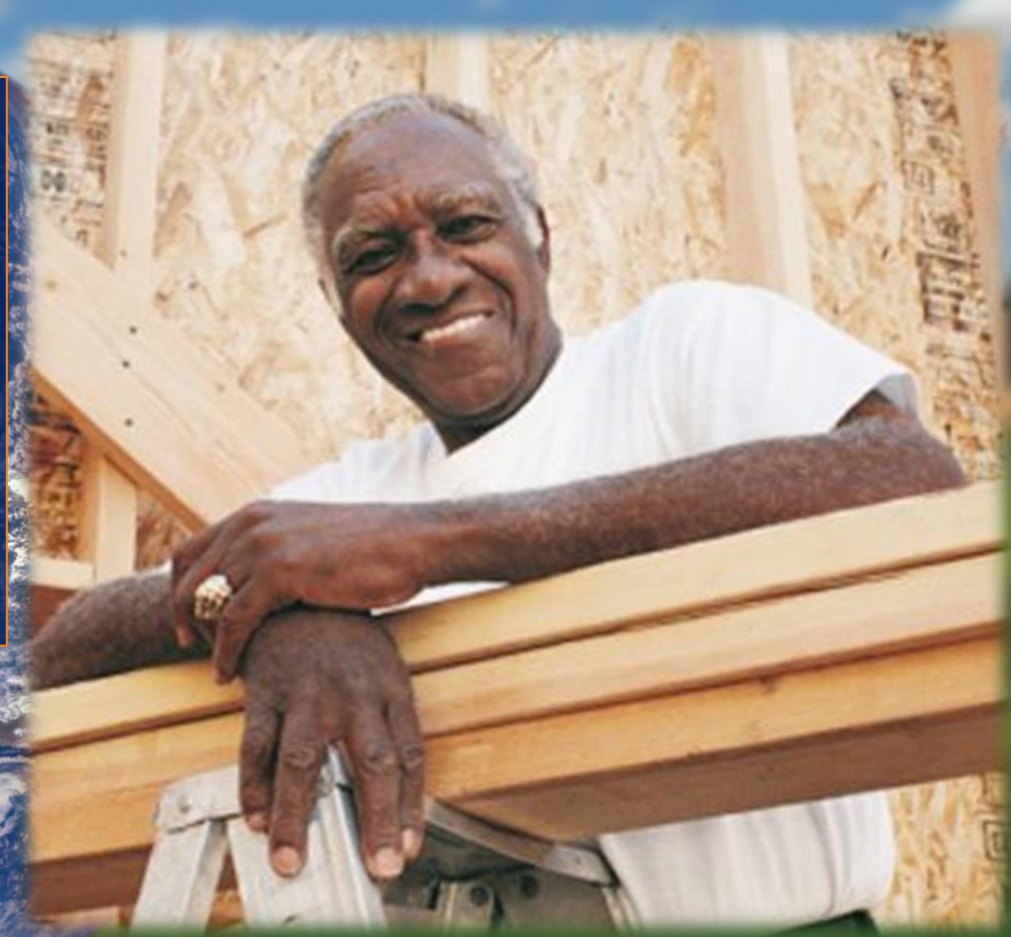
From family,  
community,  
service providers.





# Civic Participation/Employment

- **Volunteerism**
- **Paid employment**
- **Entrepreneurism**
- **Social perception of older workers**



# Communication/Information

**Information & social  
inclusivity**

**Staying linked to  
people and events**







# Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities

## Network Membership

Cities participating in a global network commit to a cycle of continually assessing and improving their age-friendliness.



# Age Friendly Initiative

All cities in Santa Clara County will become a World Health Organization designated Age Friendly City by 2017



**AGE FRIENDLY**

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

# Sustainability

- WHO provides best practices and network membership support
- Senior Commission work plan follows through on outcomes from surveys and proposed projects
- Incorporate age friendly projects into each cities' Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs)
- As we experience an AF community, we understand how essential it is. Plus we are standing on research.



# Next Steps

- Organize an age friendly taskforce
- Assessment
  - Focus groups
  - Surveying
  - Develop project ideas to meet needs
- Gain support of elected officials
- Submit application to WHO