

STATEMENT BY THE JAPAN AGENCY FOR GERONTOLOGICAL EVALUATION STUDY (JAGES)

For more than 20 years, the Japan Agency for Gerontological Evaluation Study (JAGES) has been conducting surveys in collaboration with municipalities, and providing evidence which contributes to policy-making related to healthy ageing. We have been collaborating with more than 60 municipalities in Japan, collecting the data from more than 500,000 dwelling older adults. Researchers from almost 100 universities/institutes are using the data.

The JAGES appreciates the commitment of the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO WPRO) to healthy ageing and primary health care.

The JAGES is glad to note that WHO WPRO focuses on community-based primary health care systems to achieve healthy and dignified lives for all generations, including older people. JAGES has provided evidence on the importance of non-medical, community-based interventions aimed to achieve continuous and appropriate social participation for all older people regardless of their socioeconomic and psychosocial status. Based on the evidence, we have been asserting the importance of developing community social capital and social environments that provide various opportunities for older people to overcome loneliness and social isolation, increase and maintain their social ties, continue their social activities, and contribute to the community and the society. Such community interventions should meet the diverse needs of the range of characteristics of older people.

The JAGES calls for developing longitudinal data which have a special focus on the social determinants of health and well-being of older adults. The data should be collected in collaboration with multiple sectors including municipalities, local citizens, and researchers. Such data would empower all the stakeholders, enabling them to identify the needs and problems of older persons, set shared goals for collaborative actions, and manage and evaluate their activities in a continuous manner.

Finally, the JAGES would like to thank WHO WPRO for giving us this opportunity to present our statement, and we remain committed to continue working with the WHO WPRO to achieve healthy ageing in the region.