

Family Summit 2014

The twentieth anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family

Session G: Generational Solidarity and Elder Caregiving

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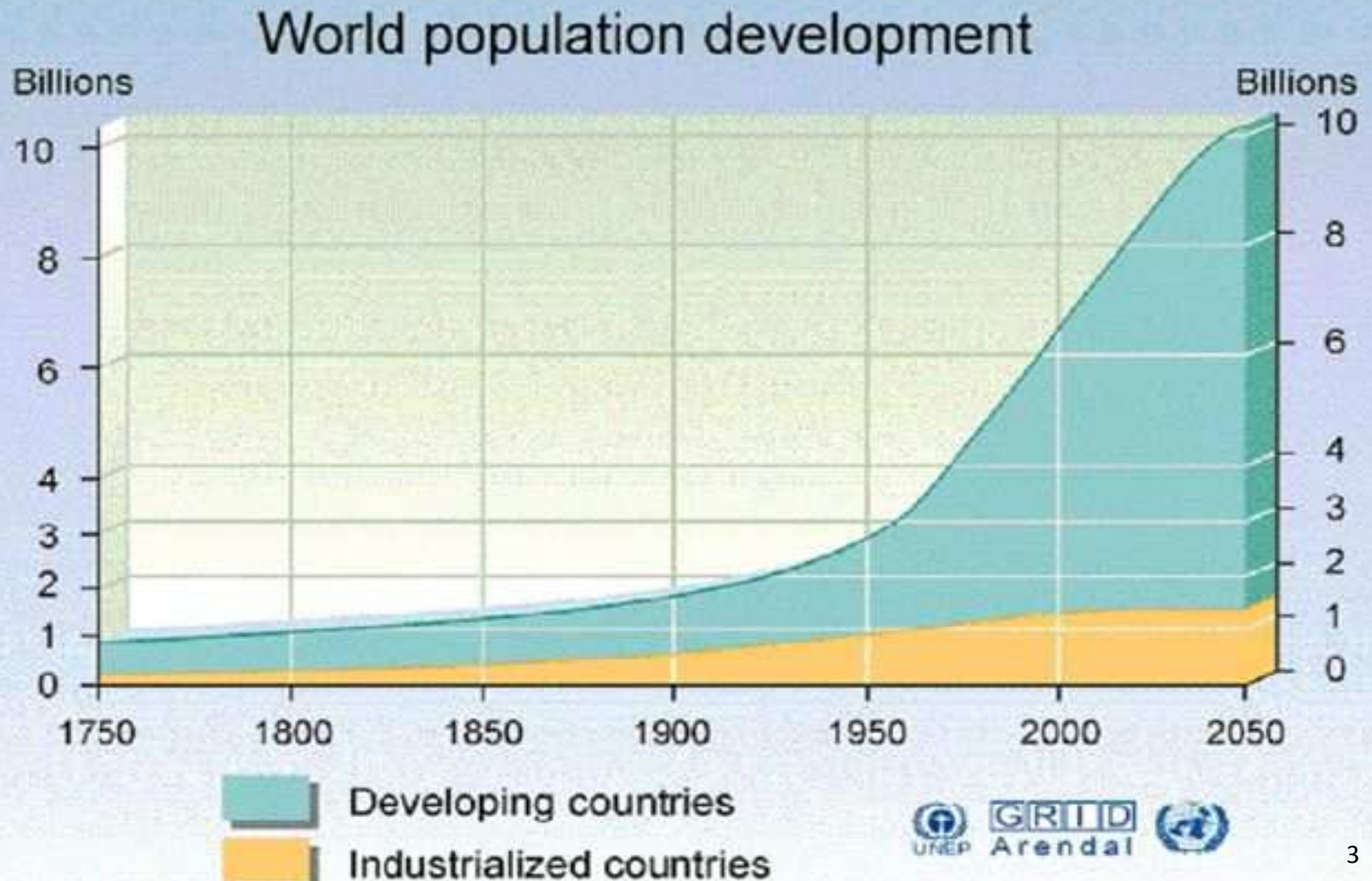
Chair, Elderly Commission, HKSAR

15 May 2014

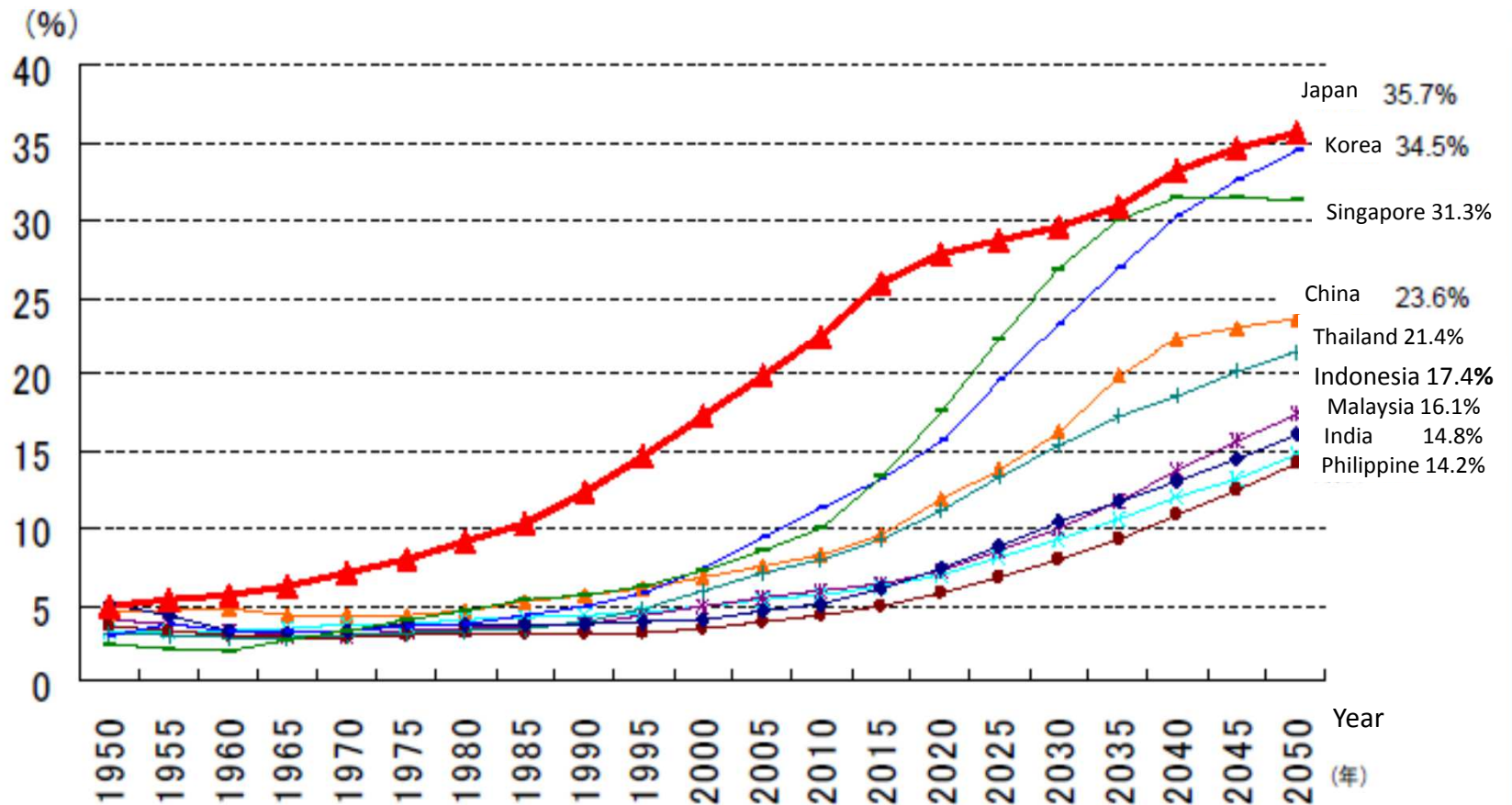
Content

- 1) Population ageing brings challenges for care giving
- 2) Care-givers relationship with recipients
→ all reduced to within the blood-family
- (3) Expanding the care giving network:
generational relationship building for social
solidarity
- (4) Policy initiatives : some examples

World Population Development 1750-2050



Population Ageing in Asia



UN, World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision.

Japan Ministry of Public Management, Census.

National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Estimated Population in Japan 2002

Percentage of 60+: Asian Trends

國家／地區	2000 (%)	2025 (%)	2050 (%)
日本 Japan	23.3	36	44.2
韓國 Korea	11.2	27.1	40.8
新加坡 Singapore	10.6	31.7	39.6
泰國 Thailand	9.6	19.1	26.4
印尼 Indonesia	7.7	13.7	24.8
中國內地 Mainland China	10	19.6	31.1
中國香港 Hong Kong	14.8	30.8	39.5
中國澳門 Macao	9.7	27	43.6

Ageing in the Asia-Pacific Region

Total Fertility Rate in the Asia-Pacific region

Macau	0.8
Hong Kong	0.9
Singapore	1.4
China	1.7
World Average	2.6

Life Expectancy in the Asia-Pacific region

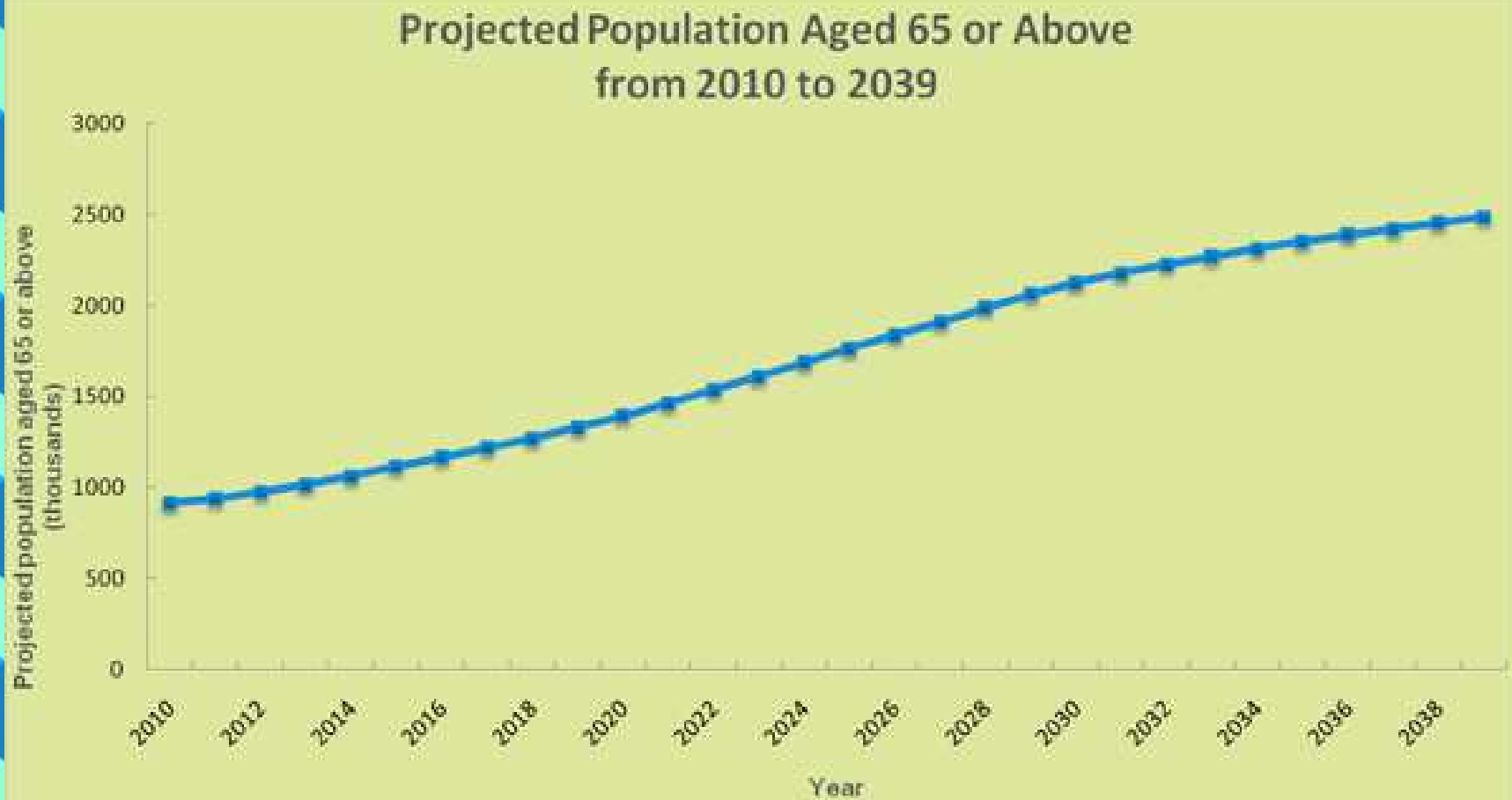
Macao	80
Hong Kong	82
Singapore	79
China	71
World Average	65

Source:

UN Population Division (2011). *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*

Ageing Population in Hong Kong

People aged 65 or above will increase from 0.89 million (13%) in 2009 to 1.33 million (17%) in 2019, 2.06 million (25%) in 2029 and 2.49 million (28%) in 2039



Ageing in Hong Kong: Some Special Features

- The ageing in developing countries of the Asia-Pacific Region goes much **faster** than that in most developed European countries and US (80 – 150 years to rise from 7% to 14%)
 - The older population in China is expected to increase from 10% to 20% from 2000 to 2027
 - The population aged 60 or above Hong Kong SAR, China, Singapore 15% → 40% from 2006 to 2050
- Growing **old** before (while) growing **rich**
- More in number + more oldest old → more older persons with MCI (**mild Cognitive Impairment**)
- More older **women**: housewives, no protection, may even be evicted when become a widow
- Limited space: **carers living apart**

More Need for Care

- More aged
- Longevity (→ MCI)
- High dependency ratio
- Less extended families
- Divorces & single Ps increase
- Individualism Vs collectivism
- Professionals/workers shortage

→ Family care?



Need for quality Long
Term care

Relationship of the Caregiver to the Elderly Care Recipient by the Gender of the Care Recipient

Relationship of Caregiver to Elder	Total Care Recipients (N = 5,273)		Male Care Recipients (N = 1,839)		Female Care Recipients (N = 3,434)	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Husband	14.4	743	-	-	21.6	743
Wife	23.6	1,246	67.8	1,246	-	-
Father	0.0	4	0.0	1	0.0	3
Mother	0.0	6	0.0	2	0.0	4
Brother	1.6	87	1.7	31	1.6	56
Sister	4.9	258	3.5	64	5.7	194
Son	18.2	959	15.0	275	19.9	684
Daughter	34.0	1,791	20.5	377	41.2	1,414
Son-in-law	4.6	241	2.7	50	5.6	191
Daughter-in-law	8.0	422	4.8	89	9.7	333
Other male relative	8.0	421	6.0	110	9.1	311
Other female relative	4.3	754	8.5	156	17.4	598
Male friend	3.8	202	4.0	73	3.8	129
Female friend	9.8	516	4.9	90	12.4	426
Hired help	15.1	796	10.3	190	17.7	606
Person from social service agency	13.0	687	10.2	188	14.5	499
Other nonrelative	2.1	270	4.4	81	5.5	189

Source: 1982 National Long-Term Care Survey (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1984)
 Because elders could report the receipt of help from more than one person, the column totals do not sum to 100

Care giving reduced to within the blood-tied family

Sources of help:

Pre- 60s : Family, clansmen, neighbors & friends

60s- 80s : Family, neighbors & friends

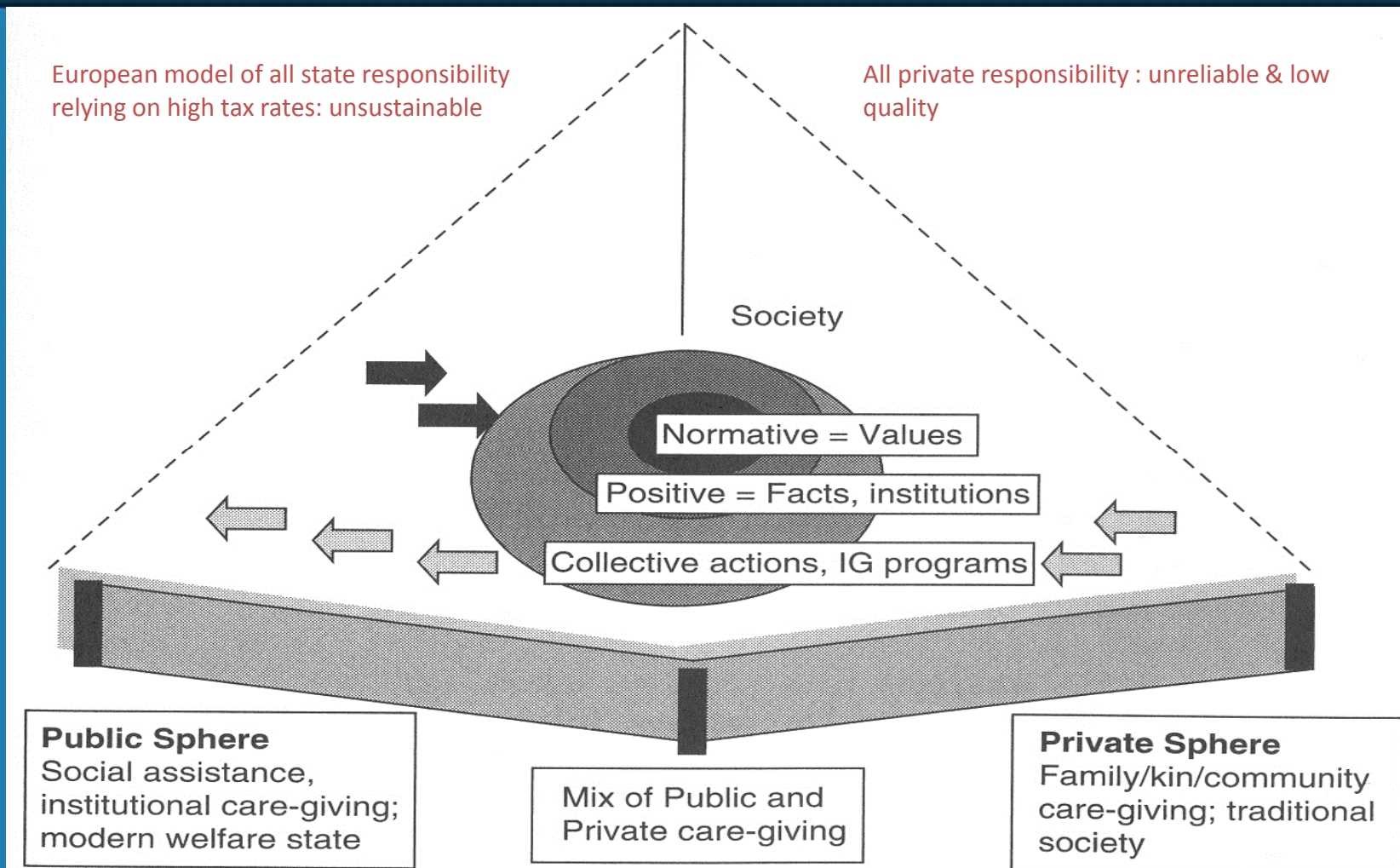
80s- 2000: Family & friends

2000-now: just within nuclear-family !!!

→ Need to strengthen generational networks,
but how?

Policy consideration for care from younger generations:

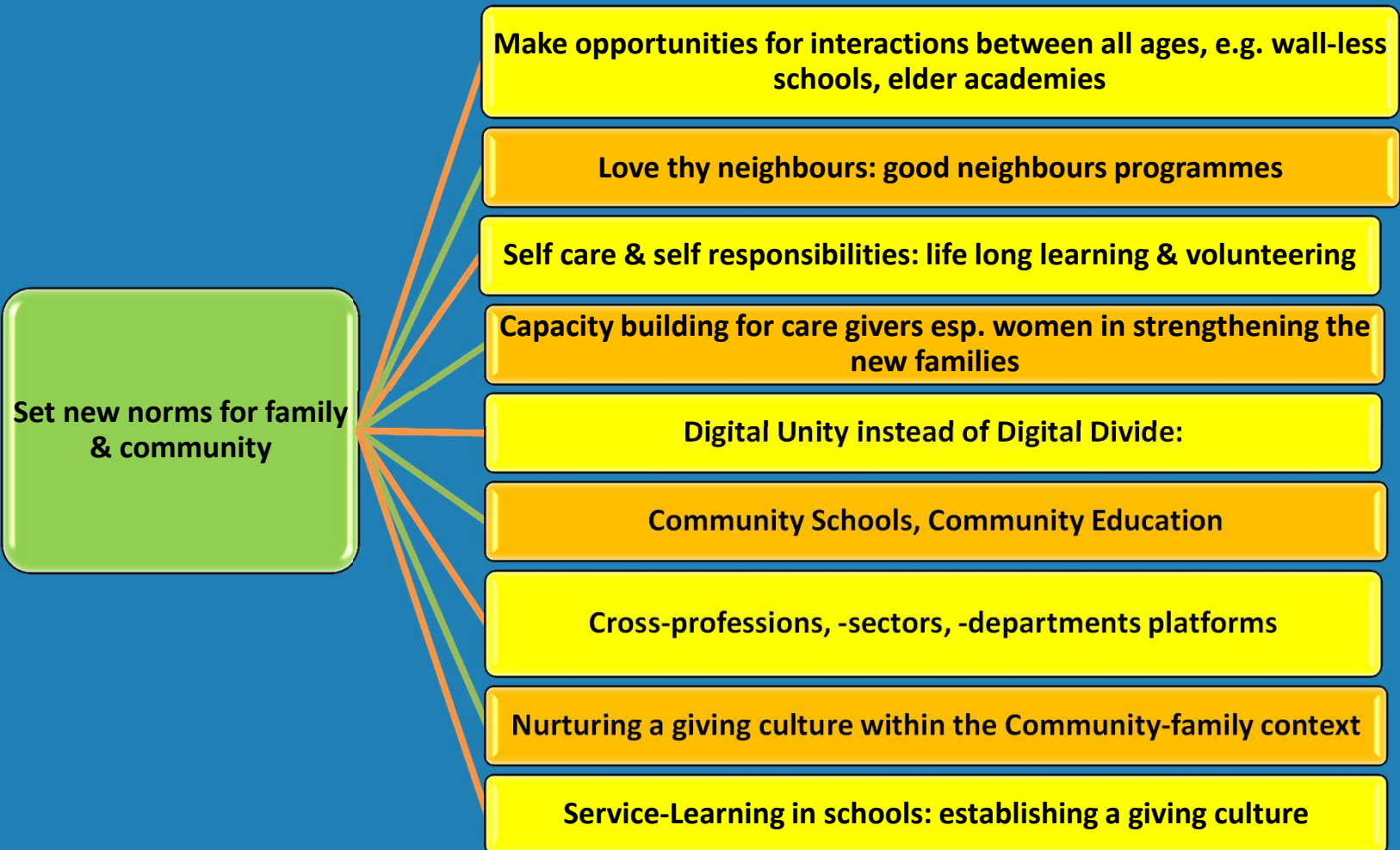
Pendulum of Society along the Public/Private Continuum



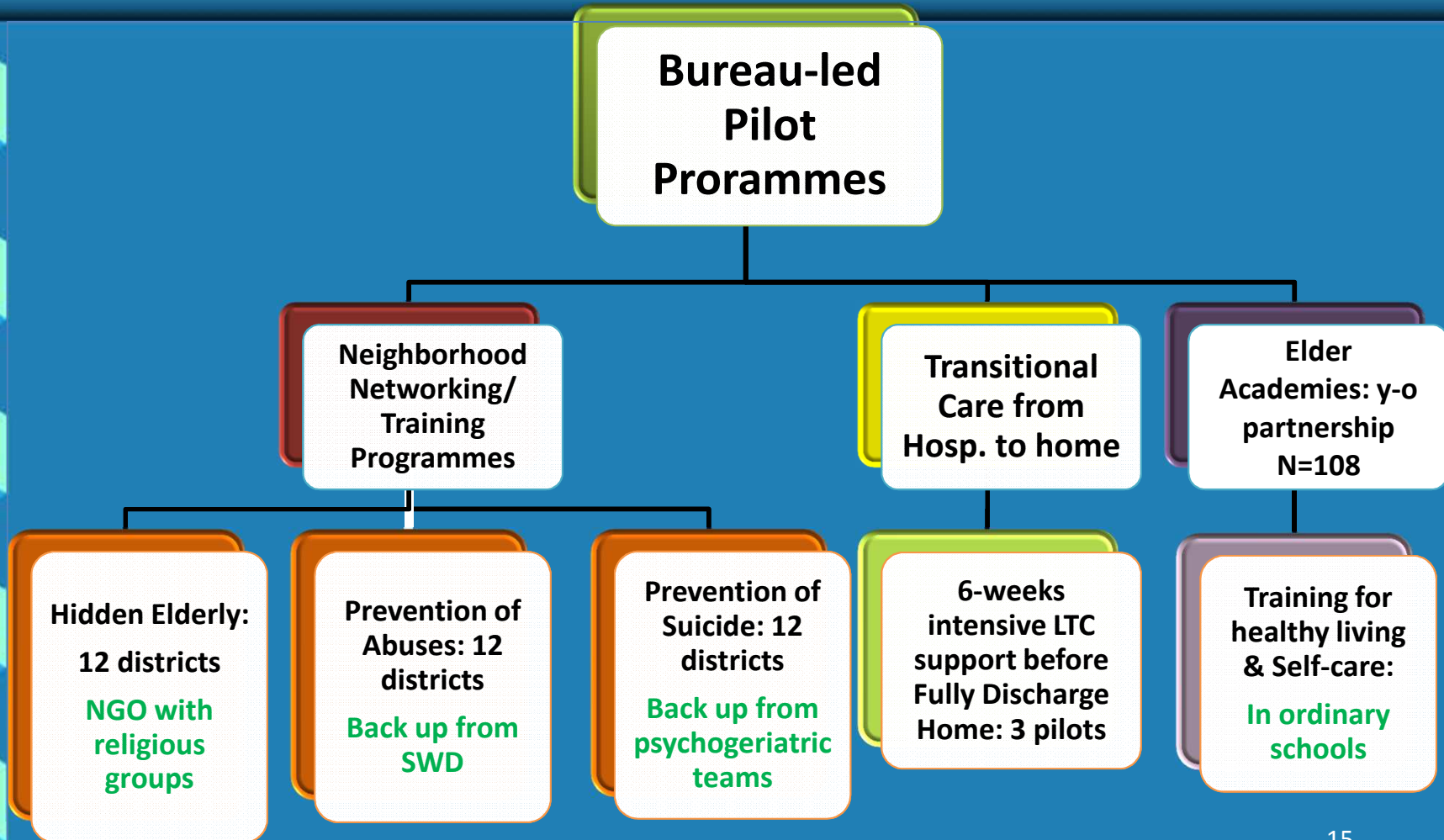
What's needed for more care: building generational relationship for social solidarity

- **Within the family:** enhance individual capability, creates family-friendly environments, capacity-build elders, strengthen roles of grand parents, parents and promote filial care (e.g. elder academies (EAs))
- **Within the community & in the neighborhood:** Building neighborhood friendship networks → provide a reason to care (e.g. neighborhood programs, EAs, service-learning, QF for OLE)
- **Government policy/program:** family care as the core, neighbor as support, government as supplement (all policy should adhere to this guiding principle)

Family as core, neighbourhood as support and government as supplement: HK responses



Top Down Initiatives in Promoting Support to generations (pilot programs)





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