

Pension watch

Social protection in older age

**HelpAge
International**

age helps

Social pensions database

Charles Knox-Vydmanov, HelpAge International

Mapping existing international social protection statistics and indicators

14 March 2013

Introduction: Social pensions database

- Objectives
 - Provide evidence on important but sometimes invisible/detached part of the pension system
 - Only one component, but playing major role in extension of SP systems
 - Over 100 social pensions around the world covering over 70 million older people (c. 120 million including China)

- Definition of social pensions

State provided → non-contributory → regular → cash transfer → to older people

- Some difficult countries
 - Non-contributory? = Brazil, China, Egypt
 - Cash? – Mexico
 - Statutory? – Peru etc
- Part of Pension Watch hub on social pensions...



Knowledge centre

Welcome to the Pension Watch knowledge centre. This database now holds over 500 resources relating to social protection for older people around the world. Please explore using the search bar to the right, or browse through newest resources below.

List resources by: [Newest first](#) | [Oldest first](#) | [View as CSV list](#)

Online news report: India - Consensus on universal pension linked to Irrigation Index: Jalram

Year: 2013 | Published by: The Hindu
Author: Jebaraj, P. and Ali, M.

Following protests by the Pensions Parishad, it is reported that the Prime Minister has agreed to negotiate a consensus on the expansion of the...

Online news article: India - Jalram Ramesh agrees to hike pension, universalise scheme

Year: 2013 | Published by: The Times of India
Author: The Times of India

This article by the Times of India reports on a commitment from the Government of India to increase the transfer amount of the social...

Social Pensions in Thailand and Beyond

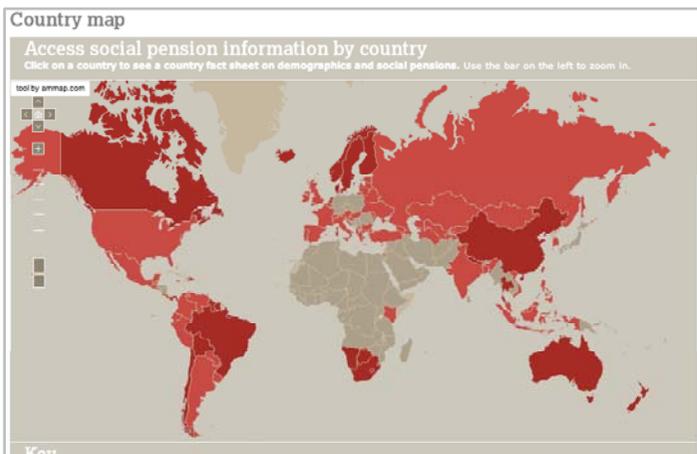
Year: 2013 | Published by: HelpAge International
Author: C. Knox-Vydmanov

This presentation was made by Charles Knox-Vydmanov, Social Protection Policy Adviser at HelpAge International on 5th March 2013. It compares the Thai social pension...

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www.pension-watch.net



Pension watch HelpAge International Pension Watch Database

September 2013 version
www.pension-watch.net

Country	Population 65+	Share 65+	Poverty rate	Number of schemes	Year introduced	Level	Local currency	USD	% of GDP
Antigua and Barbuda			3%			271 East Caribbean Dollar		1.03	
Argentina	5,800,442	14.7%				271 Peso		56	
Australia	4,208,477	18.9%	3%			3,185 Australian Dollar		1000	
Azerbaijan	770,133	8.7%				40 New Manat		36	
Bahamas	35,641	10.9%	20%			230 Bahamas \$		100	

Pensions calculator

Our pension calculator can work out the cost of universal pensions in 175 countries across the globe. Pick a country, age of eligibility and benefit level.



Country

Age eligibility

Monthly pension level

calculate

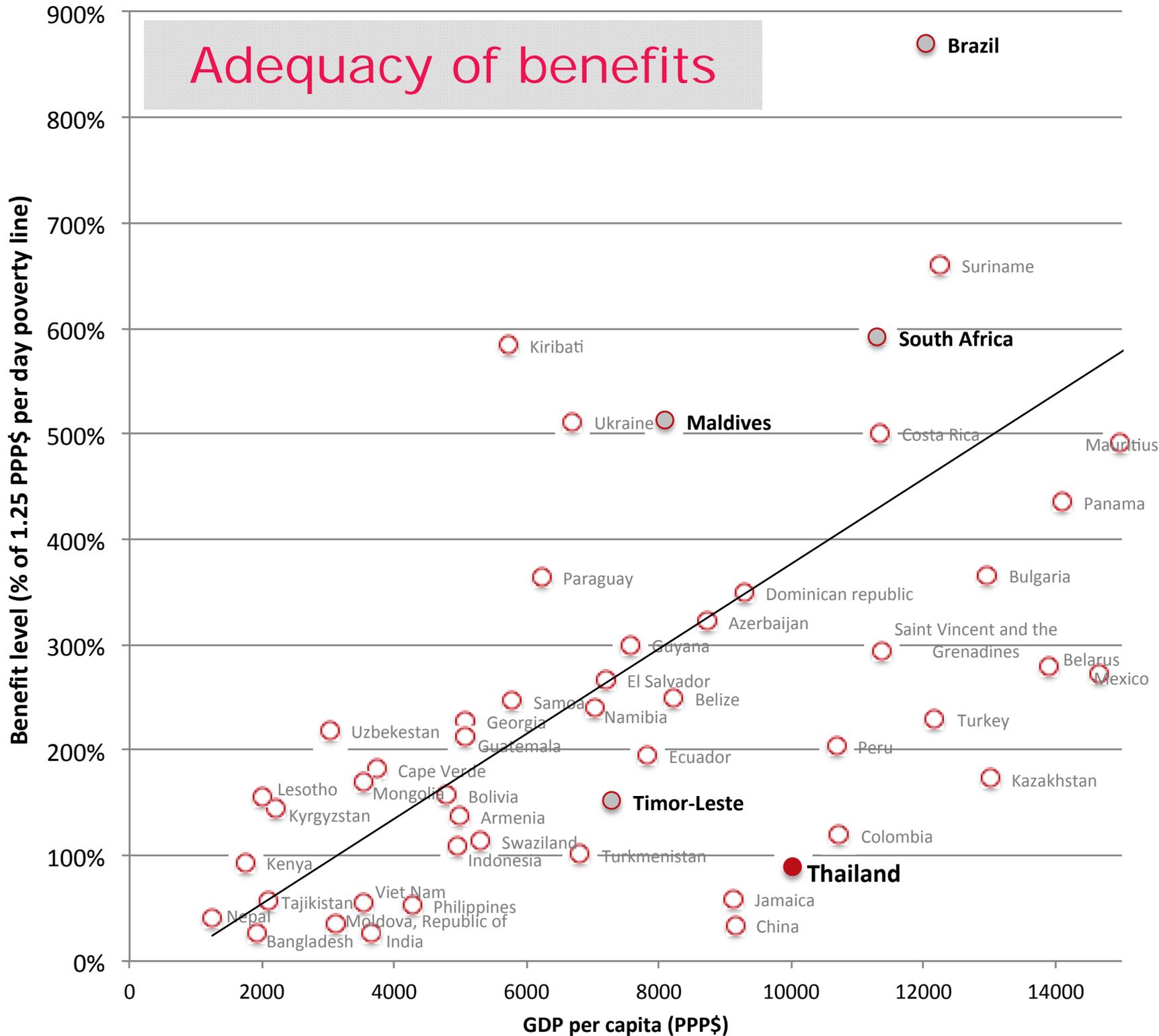
What do we collect data on?

Area	Core data collected	Denominators/indicators
Benefit level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly benefit (Local currency) Detail where multiple benefit levels apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDP per capita PPP\$ (PPP\$ poverty line) US\$ <p><i>Sources: IMF, World Economic Outlook</i></p>
Targeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age(s) of eligibility Means-test, Pensions-test, Geography, Other 	
Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary numbers Not sex and age disaggregated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age-eligible population Population 60+/65+ <p><i>Sources: UN Population Division, World Population Prospects and scope for using publically available national data</i></p>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual cost (local currency) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDP (current) government revenue/expenditure US\$ <p><i>Sources: IMF, World Economic Outlook and Article IV documents</i></p>
Basic data	Name, Year of introduction, Legislative base	

Adequacy of benefits

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History of social pensions



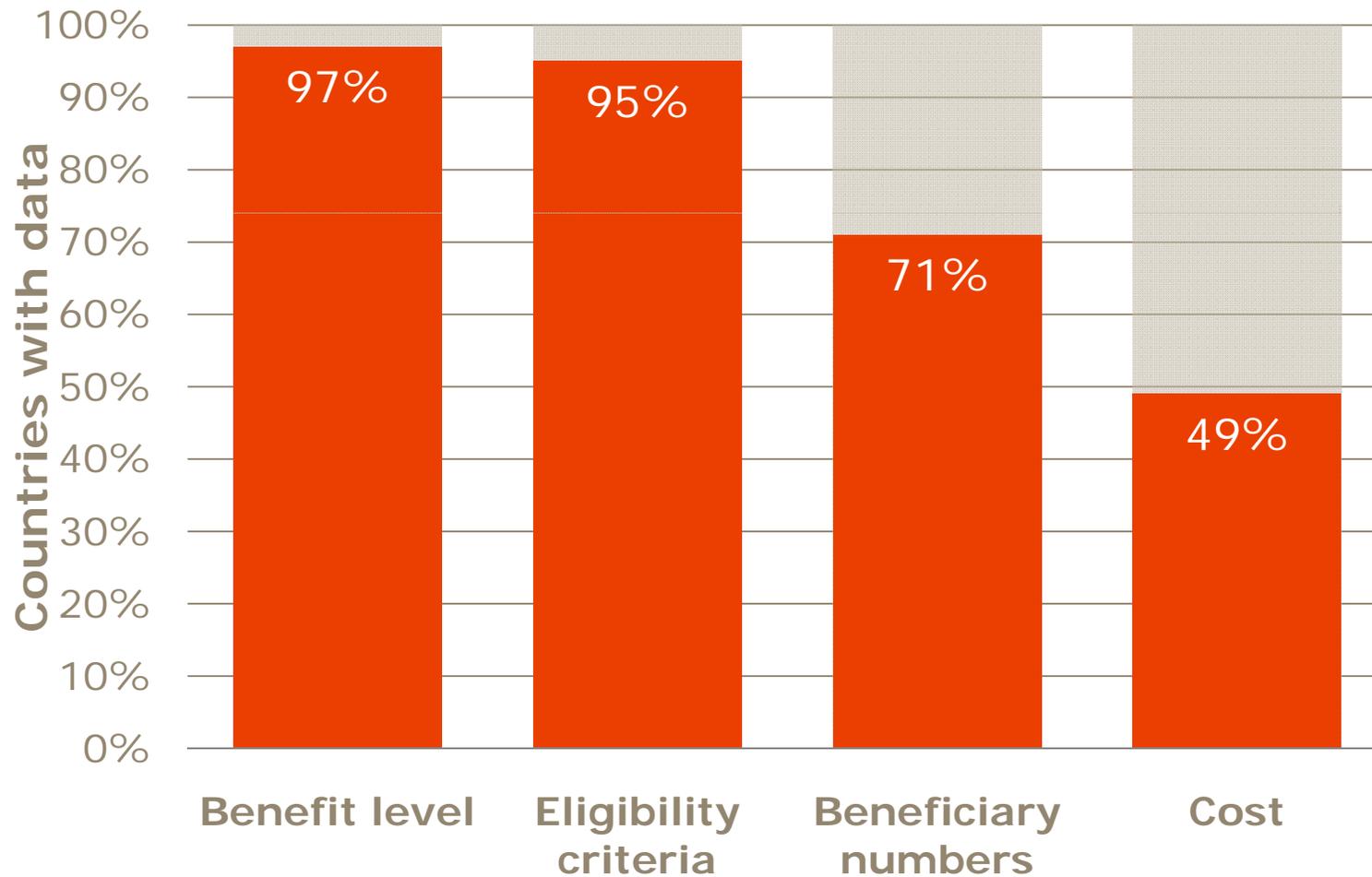
Sources

- Administrative data
 - Household data used in country-level analysis
 - eg. Belize, Bangladesh (forthcoming)
- Process
 - Desk-based research by UK staff
 - Monitoring other databases, new studies, media, google alerts, Twitter etc for new developments
 - Accessing data on government websites
 - Correspondence with HelpAge offices, experts on issue and government contacts
 - Collaboration with World Bank (more recently)
 - Funding: BMZ project
- Regularity
 - Moving from ad hoc updates → regular editions
 - **Social Pensions at a Glance** with World Bank

Limitations

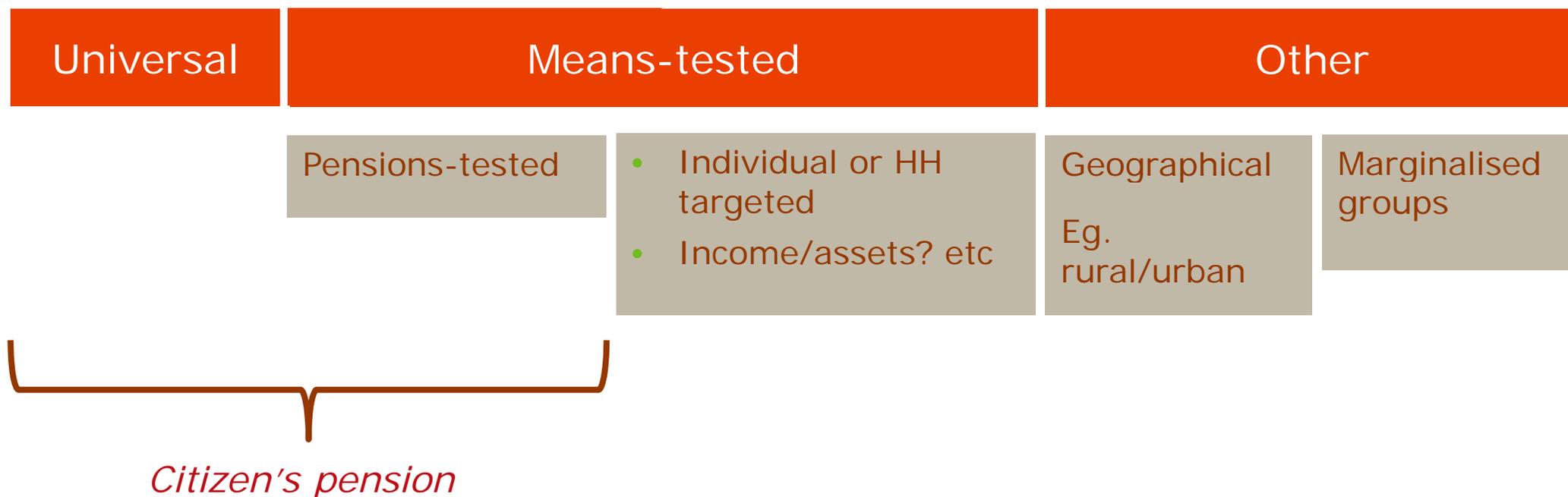
- Context: fragmentation of pension systems
 - Implementation of social pensions often completely separate from rest of pension system
 - Data can be elusive and out of date (eg. govt. websites)
- Sex and age-disaggregated coverage data not yet captured
 - Potential to expand the database but data not available in all countries
 - Disaggregation by **disability** and **benefit level** also often not available
- Administrative costs
 - Extremely challenging to define and rarely collected and disaggregated
 - Not feasible to capture consistently
 - But database now labelling where included (or not)

Gaps



Definitions

- Eligibility



- Indicator: Coverage in **old age**

- Two core denominators for analysis and comparison
 - population above pension age
 - population above consistent age cut off (65+)

Thank you

Find more at...

Pension watch
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www.pension-watch.net

Twitter: [@pensionwatch](https://twitter.com/pensionwatch)