

SINGAPORE'S APPROACH TO UPLIFTING LOW-INCOME AND VULNERABLE FAMILIES

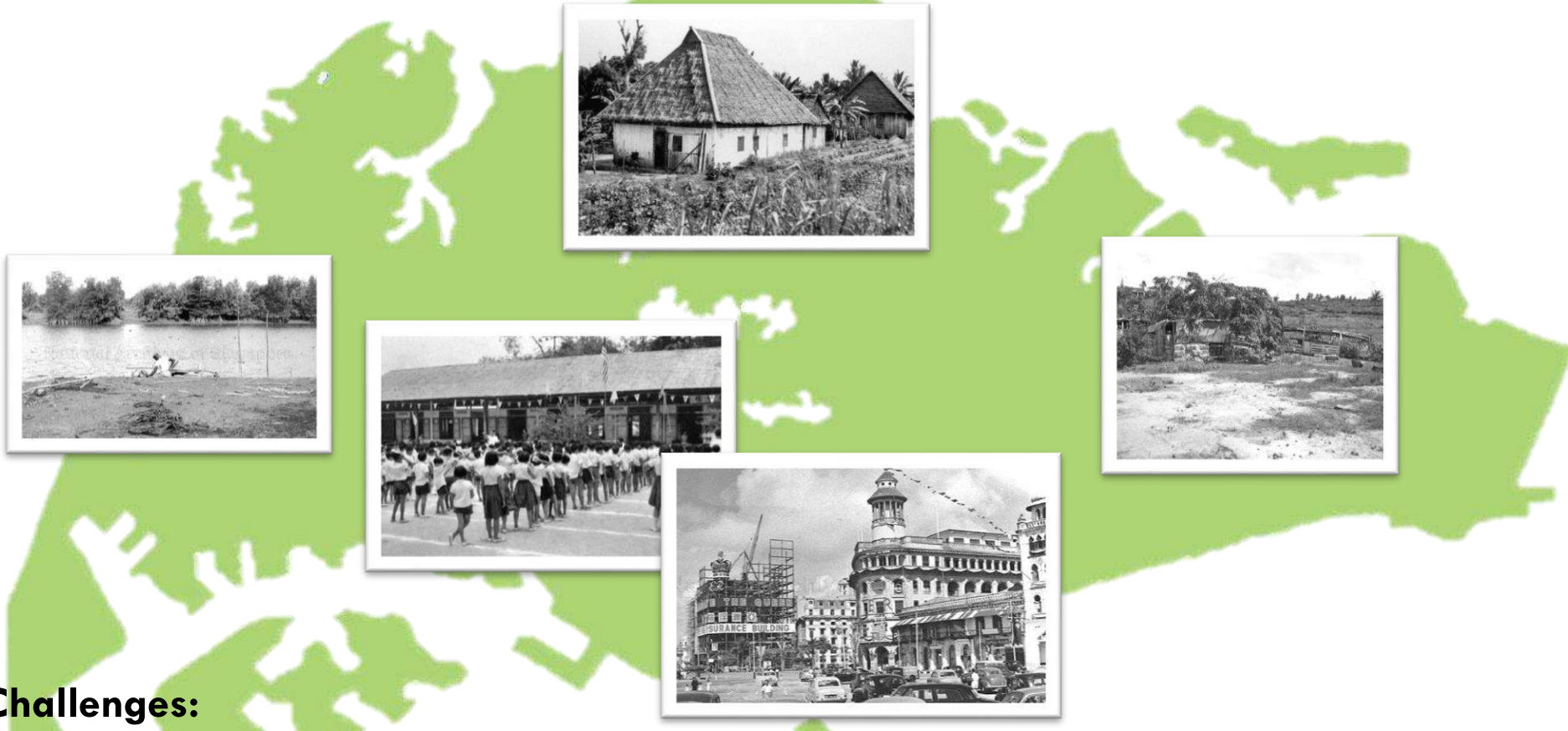
13th ASEAN-China Forum
on Social Development
and Poverty Reduction

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OUTLINE

- Background
- Singapore's Approach to Social Assistance
- Strengthening Social Service Delivery
- Future Challenges

SINGAPORE IN THE 1950'S AND 1960'S



Key Challenges:



Building a viable and competitive economy



Provide housing



Provide education

NEW CHALLENGES 50 YEARS ON



Shrinking Household Size

- Shrank from peak at 3.53 persons in 2012 to **3.24** persons in 2018



Ageing Population

- Median age of population continued to rise from 40.5 years in 2017 to **40.8** years in 2018



Declining Fertility Rate

- Total fertility rate (births per female) was **1.14** in 2018, down from 1.16 in 2017



Housing in Singapore

- **Over 80%** reside in HDB flats, with close to 80% owning their own flats
- Families in need have access to highly subsidised government rental flats

SINGAPORE'S CURRENT SOCIAL COMPACT



Government creates the **conditions for growth and opportunity.**

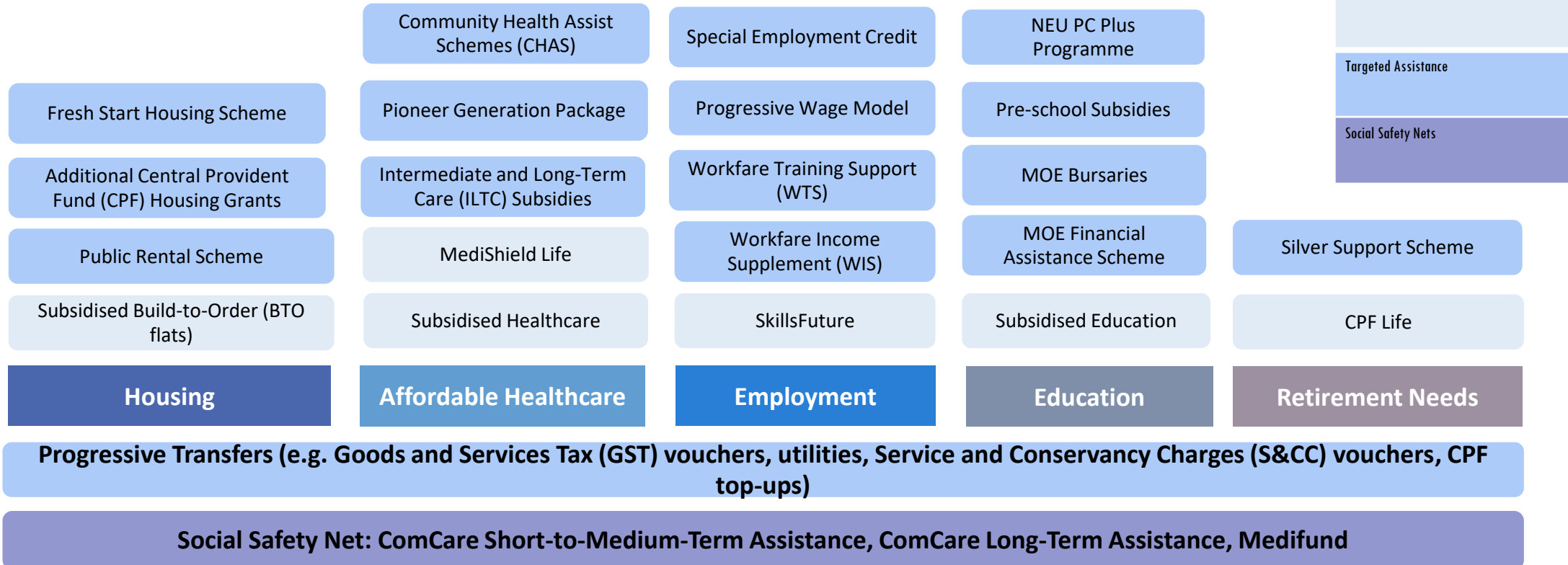
Individuals take **personal responsibility where they can, with support from their families and the community.**

Government provides a “trampoline” for those in need who can bounce back, and a “social safety net” for those who cannot.

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

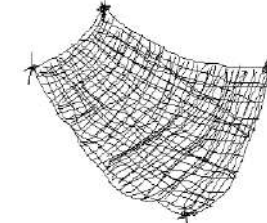
“MULTIPLE LINES OF ASSISTANCE”: EACH SUPPORTING SPECIFIC NEEDS IN A TARGETED MANNER, BUT COLLECTIVELY COMPREHENSIVE IN SUPPORT ACROSS VARIOUS DOMAINS.

*The list is not exhaustive





COMCARE — *A TRAMPOLINE AND A SAFETY NET*



KEY PRINCIPLES



Inspiring Responsible
Individuals



Building strong and stable
families



A caring community

OVERVIEW OF COMCARE SCHEMES

Long-Term Assistance (LTA)

Provides **long-term support** to persons who are unable to work due to old age, illness or disability, have limited or no means of income, and have little or no family support.

Short-to-Medium-Term Assistance (SMTA)

Provides **temporary financial support** to low-income families and individuals who are temporarily unable to work (e.g. due to illness, caregiving responsibilities), jobseekers who require financial assistance, and those earning a low income and require financial support.

Assistance for Children

Provides **additional financial assistance** for **preschool** and **student care** to support the developmental and care needs of children from low-income families

Interim Assistance

Provides **immediate financial assistance** to individuals and families who require urgent and temporary financial relief, through the community touch points

COMCARE LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE (LTA)

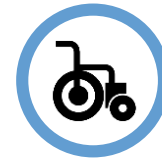
Target Group:

- Most needy and vulnerable
- Permanently unable to work due to illness, disability, old age
- Little or no means of income/support

Package of Assistance:



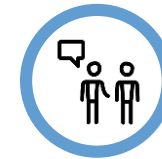
Cash assistance
for daily living
expenses



Additional
assistance for
specialised
medical needs



Medical
Assistance



Free/Highly
subsidized access
to community
and social
support

COMCARE SHORT-TO-MEDIUM-TERM ASSISTANCE (SMTA)

Target Group:

Low-income individuals or families in financial difficulty who require temporary assistance:

- Seeking employment
- Temporarily unable to work due to illness, caregiving, etc.
- Insufficient income to meet basic needs

Depending on household's needs:



Cash assistance
for daily living
expenses



Rent
Assistance



Utilities,
S&CC
Assistance



Medical
Assistance

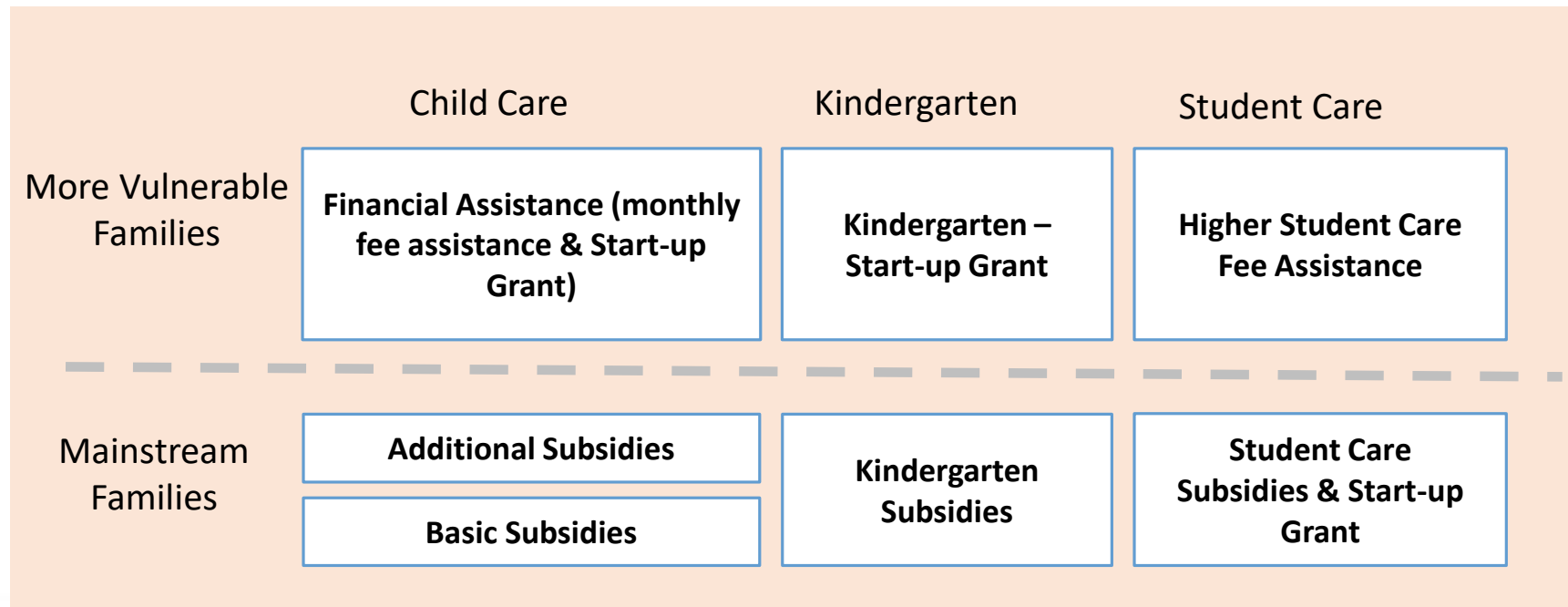


Employment
Assistance

COMCARE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN

Address developmental needs of children from lower income families

- Provide children with an early start
- Provide adequate supervision for children while parents work



SOCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

Financial Assistance

ComCare Fund

Administered by MSF Social Service Offices

Social Work Intervention

Family Service Centres

Key community-based social service provider for families in need

Community-Based Social Services

Elderly Services

Senior Group Homes, Community Network for Seniors, Senior Activity Centres

Disability Services

Early intervention centres, Day Activity Centres, employment support, Adult Disability Homes

Long-term Support, Rehabilitation and Protection

Child Protection, Probation, Rehabilitation Services

Residential facilities for the aged: Sheltered Homes

Care and rehabilitation of destitute persons: Welfare Homes

Other Relevant Services

Employment Assistance Services

Healthcare & Medical Social Services

SOCIAL SERVICE OFFICES (SSOS)

- More accessible and coordinated social assistance to Singaporeans in need
- Roll out of 24 SSOs completed in 2015
- 95% of ComCare beneficiaries now live or work within 2km of an SSO.



THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY

The issues faced by the low-income and vulnerable families are becoming increasingly complex.

Increasingly complex needs and family structures, e.g. single-parent family, reconstituted family, etc.

Need to navigate different systems and multiple touchpoints in order to get the assistance needed

Entrenched inter-generational poverty – challenges in achieving aspirations for the second generation

Need to ease bandwidth tax while equipping them with the life skills to break poverty cycle.

NEXT PHASE OF SERVICE DELIVERY

COMPREHENSIVE, CONVENIENT AND COORDINATED SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Comprehensive and Targeted Support for the Low-Income and Vulnerable

- **Community Link (ComLink)** – social service hubs at or near rental flats
- Enable the **community, businesses and residents** to pool resources to help those at risk or in need
- Empower families to harness their strengths and resources to **achieve sustained stability**

More Convenient for Vulnerable Households to receive help

- Information- and data-sharing arrangement across agencies to **reduce administrative load** on clients
- **Physical co-location** of services or **video-conferencing** with agencies

Better Coordination and Link-Ups across Agencies

- Case coordination guidelines to **guide agencies** in supporting families with complex circumstances
- Training of frontline officers to equip them to **identify clients' needs more comprehensively** and connect them to relevant help

FUTURE CHALLENGES



**Smaller Family
Units**



Ageing Population



**Uncertain
Economic Outlook**

THANK YOU!