

# المنتدى السعودي للأبنية الخضراء SaudiGreenBuildingForum

11th OEWG - Call for Inputs to NGOs with ECOSOC Status

## Education, Training, Life-long Learning and Capacity-building

Statement delivered in writing to the Open-ended Working Group of United Nations for the purpose of strengthening the protection of older persons.

Presented by Saudi Green Building Forum



*Oldery in The Dates Market, Photography by Mr. Abdallah Mohammed AlHarbi, dated 5/6/2017, Unayzah Saudi Arabia via Saudi Green Building Forum 2017-2019*

### History

Still the problem of illiteracy is one of the problems facing many countries today. The Arab countries, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aim at eradicating

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illiteracy for all in order to promote and advance the whole population to achieve the global agenda 2030.

During 2015 and 2050 Saudi population increase in the elderly rate from 5.4 percent (1.6 Million) to 25 percent (10 million); And public expenses on education will drop in the same period as the youth dependency ratio decreases from 41 percent to 24 percent.

Increased health expenditures and a reduction in public expenses on education are expected to offset each other, due to pollution aging shifts.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's efforts since its foundation 1950's a new place for adult education and literacy was established, called the Department of Popular Culture established by King Saud AlSaud (1902-1969).

The number of schools for adult learning at that time was only 13 schools. Since then, the country's education has been keen to eradicate illiteracy and adult education especially senior citizens in order to promote the Saudi society welfare.

Saudi Arabia has managed to achieve a qualitative leap in that area by reducing the illiteracy rate to 5.6%.

Today, the Kingdom participates with the international community in celebrating the annual 1st of October "Day of the Elderly" and encourages the importance of this occasion, activates joining programs set by NGO, school visits, social welfare's homes by holding workshops and training courses.

## **Definition**

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No doubt, it's essential that education, training, life-long learning for all growing aging groups in the Arab World and Saudi Arabia. The adoption of legislation system would empower people with opportunity not only to work after the age of 60 in the case of his or her ability to do so, but also contribute to the global agenda 2030 on SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

Saudi's welfare disbursement of monthly aid for the disabled, as well as access to social services, health and recreation they need for free secures continues independency due to lack of family support in some cases.

The system ought to serve the elderly and strengthen their status, protect their rights, ensure their care, and involve government agencies and private sector in providing programs and services that best fit.

Obligations measures are undertaken by Saudi Arabia to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of older persons to education, training and life-long learning by producing database prepared for the elderly, including his/her basic data, with issue an identification card or fingerprinting to receives services and facilities support a normative elements of the rights of older persons to capacity-building.

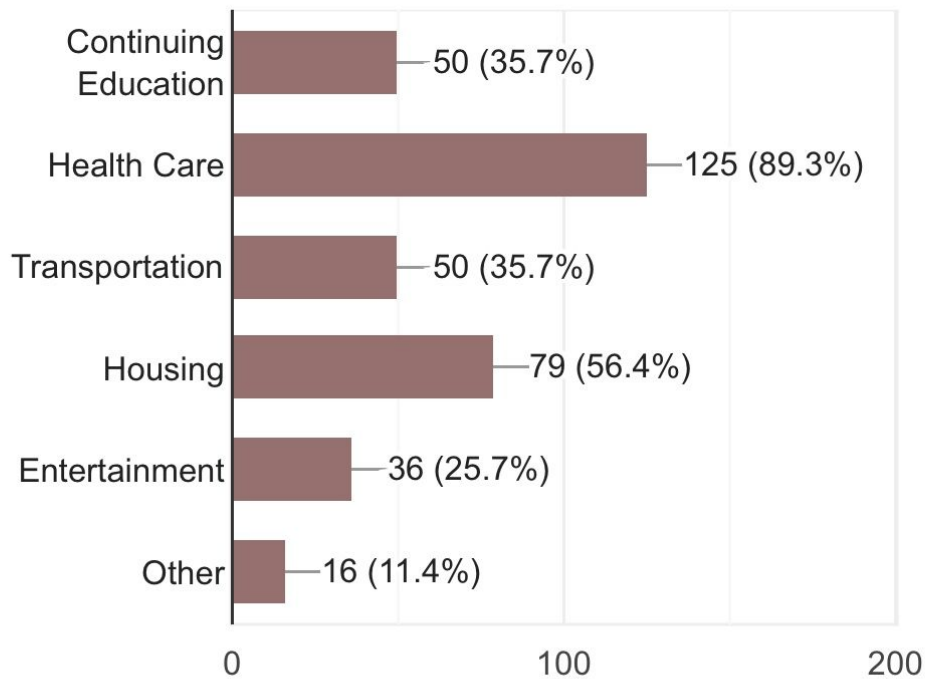
## **Special considerations measures**

140 experts on the topic of aging participated in a survey recognizing by 2050, more than 20% of the world's population will be 60 years of age or older, When asked about the most important resources needed for aging group to support.

89% of them said health is the most demanding resource needed for the aging group over 60 years old, and equity divided 35.5% on education and transportation.

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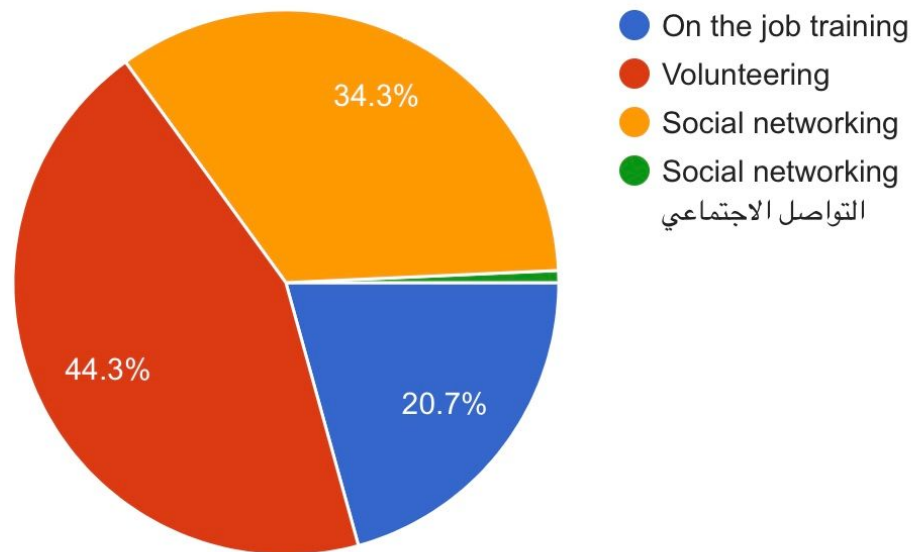
140 responses



When asked what is expected of Seniors Citizens, 44% said volunteering, 34% social networking and 20% on the job training helping youth.

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140 responses



It is noteworthy that the process of adult education and literacy in the country was launched in 1437. The illiteracy rate at the start of the project within the country is 60%, but the efforts of the community within the country to reduce illiteracy were quickly adopted.

## Responsibilities

The private sectors, civil society and all parties defined in the context of life-long learning and capacity- building hand-in-hand.

In line with the SDGs to support flexibility in government action, the National Transformation Program has contributed to raising the pace of coordination and joint action by setting some common goals for public entities based on national

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priorities, pushing for joint planning, transfer of expertise between public agencies, and private sector engagement.

NGOs/ Non-profit in the process of identifying challenges, innovating solutions, financing and implementation methods, and contributing to follow-up and performance evaluation.

- Raising the efficiency of services and programs for the elderly, and those who are cared for by the government.
- Design and implementation of a model oasis for seniors to provide shelter and day care services.
- Design and standardize administrative structures and organizational in digital platform.
- Automate business processes ROI (Return of Investment)
- Raising the efficiency of technical and administrative Human Resources.
- Developing flexible communication and cooperation mechanisms between the Ministries and the relevant authorities.

*“Creating age friendly communities and cities where older people's right to social inclusion and contribution to the society will be appreciated without limitation or restrain on their right to independence and autonomy” Faisal Alfadl, Founder of SGBF UN Representative.*

## **Implementation**

36% of the 140 participants said Civil Society establishments are the best to advocate their rights of education and 20% for each governors.

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All participants agreed that the best tools are local policy 55%, financial indentured 54% and global law 48% would advance a form of normative content for the development of a possible international standard.

The best practices going forward must adapt the SDGs for all aging group.

The targets set is divided into two parts:

- The educational section should target elderly men and women alike, who did not attend education in advance in order to eradicate illiteracy.
- Specialized in the empowerment of older persons who have been able to enroll in education, earned a certificate from practicing their vocational training to enter the labor market.

**/end**