

Guiding questions for the thirteenth session

Focus area 2: Social Inclusion.

- What are the legal provisions, policy frameworks and/or measures in your country that explicitly focus on older persons who are marginalized on the grounds of their sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status? (This may include addressing older populations on frameworks dedicated to other marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, migrants, minorities, homeless people etc.; or addressing marginalized groups within frameworks devoted to older persons)
- a. **The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)** is the premise on which all other laws and policies are built. Particularly, Section 16(2)(d) Provides that the Government shall direct its policy towards the provision of suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, **old age care and pensions**, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of persons with disability.
- b. **National Senior Citizens Centre Act, 2017** led to the establishment of the National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC) with the mandate to identify the needs of senior citizens in Nigeria and to cater for them. The statutory remit of the NSCC is also rooted in the National Policy on Ageing for Older Persons in Nigeria, 2021 and other regional and international instruments, with the objective of guaranteeing security, independence, participation, comprehensive care, self-fulfilment and dignity of older persons in the society. The establishment of NSCC has instituted operational efficiency to the statutory management of older persons in Nigeria and is an agency that has assumed the responsibility to promote and ensure the enjoyment of all Human Rights of all older persons (60yrs and above) in Nigeria.

Functions include but not limited to:

- Identify the needs, trainings and opportunities for senior citizens.
- Promote health and wellbeing, through initiating health and social programs
- Responsible for the provision of recreational, sports and educational programs
- Initiate, develop and implement productive activities and work schemes aimed at providing income for older persons.
- Promote and maintain linkages with State and Local Governments.
- Maintain a credible database.

c **The National Policy on Ageing for Older Persons 2021:** This instrument aims to improve the overall wellbeing of older persons in Nigeria. The objective is to have a society where senior citizens are guaranteed security, independence, participation, comprehensive care, and dignity. It covers intersecting spectrum of issues and opportunities for older women and men in urban and rural settings, older persons living with disabilities, older migrants, internally displaced older persons, poor older persons and older persons that are full of vigour, contributing to the progress of families, communities and larger society. This policy is positioned to uphold the Rights and dignity of older persons by providing an age-friendly environment to maximize their potential for self-fulfilment. The National policy is intentional and is located to significantly reduce ageism and abuse, promote optimistic views. It provides the concrete procedures and ecosystems for ensuring equal opportunities for older persons in order that they can achieve their potential in life regardless of background, including through full and active participation in civic, social, economic and political aspects of decision-making processes. The Action plan

provides the brick-by-brick programmatic actions, indicators, timelines and actors to deliver on activities. It works through the strategic framework, compelling acceleration of social inclusion of senior citizens in development. The National Policy on Ageing, acknowledges the diversity of the older population with social inclusion of all older persons as its cardinal point. It embraces an optimistic perception of ageing, addressing both the challenges and opportunities. With a lens on older persons as a force for economic development, the policy adopts the National Strategy which fosters approaches that promote socially and economically active, secured and healthy ageing population.

NSCC Strategic Roadmap on Ageing 2022-2032

The objective of the Roadmap is to galvanize subnational, national and international stakeholders to collaboratively seek sustainable pathways to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of older persons. It gives a clear and realistic direction which transcends political cycles and jurisdictions on how to accelerate inclusion of older persons in development. The document presents a framework for coordinated national action towards reversing many years of exclusion of older persons by clarifying the mandate, vision, mission, priority areas and strategic pathways.

National Plan of Action on Ageing in Nigeria and Project Activities 2021- 2025

The National Action Plan of Action on Ageing and Project Activity Plan, being the operationalization of the National Policy on Ageing (2021), presents its core intervention programmes and activities, key performance indicators and the implementing multi-sector-wide actors with timelines, covering the period, 2021-2025. It outlined capital projects and activities that the National Senior Citizens Centre has inputted as its capital projects into the five-year National Development Plan of Nigeria.

In addition to the National Policy on Ageing, Nigeria has other policy aimed at upholding the dignity of its vulnerable population in general and older persons in particular. These include,

- I. National Social Protection policy.
 - II. National Policy framework on Healthcare for the Aged (2018)
 - III. National Strategic Health Development Plan, 2018-2022.
 - IV. National Policy framework on Healthcare for the Aged (2018)
 - V. National Strategic Health Development Plan, 2018-2022.
- d. **National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2022** the Act makes provision for vulnerable Nigerians access healthcare. According to the Act, the vulnerable group comprise of children below 5, pregnant women, **older persons**, physically and mentally challenges and the indigent. The requires state governments, through their health insurance schemes to provide healthcare coverage from these groups. It requires that this will be done through the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund and other sources without the payment of premium by these categories of people. The Act also make provision for the establishment of the Vulnerable Group Fund.
- What legal age limits exist in your country that prevent the full and equal participation of older persons in societies in areas such as employment, education, healthcare, financial goods and services, or others?
 - **Employment**
- a. **The Public Service Rules 2009** contains rules and regulations relating to the appointment, promotion and discipline of employees of the government. The rules place maximum age of entering the Public Service at 50 years. Although, the same Public Service Rules states that person above the age of 50 years can be employed on contract basis.
 - b. **The Public Service Rules** also provides for the exit of persons who have attained 60 years from the service. The retirement age for all academic staffs of universities, colleges of educations and polytechnics

below the level of a professor sixty-five (65) years. Professors and Justices of the Supreme Court are permitted to retire at 70 years.

Though private sector on the other hand, has no restriction on age limits to employment and retirement, general practice seems to tilt towards the practice in the government organizations.

- **Education**

- c. The **National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal education** is the statutory Federal Government parastatal charged with responsibility of making literate all those who for one reason or the other did not or cannot benefit from the formal school system. This Commission through its programmes have contributed to the development of Nigerians, irrespective of age. A lot of older persons have assessed formal education and vocational skills from these programmes.

- d. **National Policy on Education (2004)** Adult and non-formal education occupies a pride of place in this policy which describes adult and non-formal education as all forms of functional education given to youths and adults outside the formal school. In order to cater to the needs of this varied categories of clientele, adult and non-formal education programmes generally on offer are: Basic Literacy, Post Literacy, Women Education, Functional Literacy, Nomadic Education, Continuing Education, etc

- **Financial goods & Services**

- e. The Central Bank of Nigeria has as one of its focus policies, financial inclusion and encourages financial institutions and other policy makers to remove barriers like education, gender, age and irregular income so as to enhance access, as financial inclusion is a catalyst for economic growth and development. Despite the best intention of the financial regulator, a sizeable number of older persons complain of denial of access financial facilities due to their ages.

- **Health**

- a. **National Health Act, 2014** provides for the inclusion of older persons in the category of persons exempted from the payment for healthcare services in Public Health Establishments.

- b. **National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC)** since its establishment have intentionally entered into partnerships and carried out programmes and activities for better inclusion of older persons in the healthcare system. E.g

- Secured partnership with National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) WHO Nigeria, and Executive Secretaries of States Primary Health Care Development Agencies for the Mainstreaming of Integrated Care of older persons into Primary Health Care Services.

- Assessment for enumerators in selected LGAs in Nigeria NSCC-NPHCDA-WHO National Workshop on Mainstreaming Geriatric Care into Primary Health Care System in Nigeria.

- Conducted a National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop with diverse representation 10 categories, including; MDAs, NGOs, CSOs, Media, Professional bodies, Experts in Ageing, Pensioners, Older persons, Community leaders and Religious institution, on Integrated Care for older persons (ICOPE) for Development of Concept and Plan of Activities and Timelines.

- Executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Implementation of Integrated Care for Older Persons (ICOPE) with NPHCDA, WHO Nigeria, Forum of Executive Secretaries of SPHCDA.

- In partnership with WHO Nigeria and NPHCDA developed scope, objectives and assessment tools for human resource, infrastructure, data and community outreach and referral systems for Baseline development.

- Developed Proof of Concept Protocol and guide lines and has commenced Pilots of Integrated care for older persons in Adamawa State and FCT PHC.

- Medical outreach to over 1,000 older persons on Health Promotions, health checks, and referrals in Area Councils in Abuja and Town Hall meeting venues.

- What measures are in place, if any, to ensure that older persons in institutions segregated from their communities -such as institutional care systems or prisons- can continue participating in their society?
 - States have an obligation to use maximum available resources to progressively achieve the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights. What is the share of national public expenditure budget targeted to older persons as a distinct group?
- a. The National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC) created by the Nigerian Government to identify and cater for needs of older person, is majorly funded by the government to ensure its progressive realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons. NSCC has been able to mainstream older persons into some existing programmes of government and develop some of its own flagship programmes e.g
- NSCC developed the Senior-led Indigenous Crafts and Skills program known as the 'Spark Age Intergenerational Empowerment Program' in partnership with the National Directorate of Employment (NDE):
 - NSCC developed survey tools and trained 24 Master Trainers of: State-wide Enumerators for the assessments of older persons' indigenous craft and skills.
 - Livelihood ventures were set up towards the development of micro-credit enterprises in 36 States and FCT.
 - Pilot surveys on indigenous crafts and skills assessments were conducted in 3 Area Councils of the FCT; preparatory to nationwide assessments in 18 states and 9 Local Government Areas per State.
 - Enhancement of the capacity of 230 Older Persons, with development of new age specific training modules and structuring trainings to the hard to reach areas, through partnership with States NDE offices and nationwide coordination mechanisms.
 - NSCC's partnership with NDE includes mainstreaming older persons into the NDE 'Matured People's Program' and integrating 36 older persons' in 18 States and FCT, for the Five Hundred Thousand Naira loan (N500,000.00). So far, Eighteen Million Naira (N18,000,000.00) loan has been disbursed through the NDE mechanism.
 - NSCC in partnership with NDE interviewed 2,893 older persons engaged in craft and were able to map and identify 2,800 plus craft.
 - NSCC has secured a 'Proof of Concept Grant' for Seven (7) older persons per State, in 36 States and FCT, in indigenous crafts making ventures. Stakeholders in Ageing Consultative Forum across Local Government Areas are excited about the uncommon prospects and have been mapping outstanding indigenous crafts in their respective States for these grants.
 - Development of Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks, including setting up and integrating States Stakeholders Technical Team as independent monitors in 36 States and FCT.
 - Conducted desk reviews by Expert Groups of existing national and state policy frameworks, strategic action plans, literature on Care of older persons with focus on Primary Health and harmonized with Diagnostic Report of situation older persons and care.
- b. The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development is another special purpose vehicle used by the government to progressively realize the economic and social rights of older persons.
- NSCC Identified and listed 2,390 very poor and vulnerable older persons in 36 States and FCT for mainstreaming into the Grants for Poor and Vulnerable coordinated by National Social Investment Programs of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

