

## Guiding questions for the thirteenth session.

### Focus area 1: Right to health and access to health services

#### National legal and policy framework

1. What are the legal provisions and policy frameworks in your country that guarantee the right of older persons to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health facilities, goods and services?

The rights and guarantees of older citizens for medical care are enshrined in both the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Senior Citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic”, and in the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Protection of the Health of Citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic”, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Health Insurance of Citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic”, the Law KR "On Public Health".

In accordance with the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On health insurance of citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic”, pensioners and persons receiving social benefits are subject to compulsory health insurance.

According to the Program of State Guarantees for Providing Citizens with Health Care, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated November 20, 2015 No. 790, the elderly are included in the category of citizens who have the right to receive free health care at the outpatient level and in hospitals according to their social status.

2. What steps have been taken to ensure that every older person has access to affordable and good quality health care and services in older age without discrimination?

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3. What data and research are available regarding older persons’ right to health and access to health care and services? Please indicate how national or sub-national data is disaggregated by sex, age and inequality dimensions, and what indicators are used to monitor the full realization of the right to health of older persons.

In the study of the situation of older people in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2022, conducted by the NGO "Resource Center for the Elderly", the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, a group of experts and researchers, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, there is a section devoted to the analysis of interaction between the central and territorial departments of the Ministry of Labor, social security and migration of the Kyrgyz Republic with local governments, territorial institutions of health care and the social fund to provide social services to senior citizens.

4. What steps have been taken to provide appropriate training for legislators, policymakers, health and care personnel on the right to health of older persons?

The Department of Public Health and Healthcare of the Kyrgyz State Medical Academy (KSMA) has developed a program on "Social Gerontology", which covers problems closely related to ethical and legal issues related to the protection and guarantee of the rights of older citizens, health promotion that promotes longevity and the organization of medical and social help.

The developed "Work Program" for 6th year students of the Faculty of General Medicine in the discipline "Social Gerontology" was approved by the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Kyrgyz State Medical Academy named after. I.K. Akhunbaev. During the 2018-2019 academic year, about 400 students were trained in gerontology. For the 2019-2020 academic year, 23 groups were selected from the Faculty of General Medicine in the process of training 230 students. To date,

630 students have been educated in the field of health and social gerontology over the past three years, as well as 356 family doctors and doctors of narrow specialties have completed courses in gerontology and geriatrics.

### **Progressive realization and the use of maximum available resources**

5. What steps have been taken to align macroeconomic policies and measures with international human rights law, to use maximum available resources for the realization of older persons' right to health, such as through expanding fiscal space, adopting targeted measures and international cooperation?

The most significant trends in the social policy of the state continue to be the development of a system of targeted social protection, medical and social services, as well as the introduction of modern technologies and methods of social work into the social support system for the elderly using positive international experience and the successful experience of non-profit organizations of the Kyrgyz Republic dealing with improving the quality of life of older people in Kyrgyzstan.

### **Equality and non-discrimination**

6. What are the challenges faced by older persons in their enjoyment of the right to health, including the impact of intersectional discrimination and inequality based on age, gender, disability and other grounds?

The issue of older people's access to quality medical services is a topical issue in the country. Often, high-quality medical services are not available to older citizens on the ground (lack of appropriate specialists, medical equipment, etc.). To provide quality medical services to older people, it is necessary to train interdisciplinary specialists, introduce special training programs for specialists in medical universities, programs for retraining and advanced training of social workers, psychologists, nurses, i.e. creation and development of geriatric care, as well as the provision of palliative care. It is necessary to develop interagency cooperation between the relevant ministries and departments.

7. What measures have been taken to eliminate ageism and discrimination based on age, including discriminatory laws, policies, practices, social norms and stereotypes that perpetuate health inequalities among older persons and prevent older persons from enjoying their right to health?

Measures taken to protect older people from domestic violence and other forms of delinquency and criminal assault.

Violation of the rights of older people can occur in institutions, communities where they live, and families. Age discrimination in the workplace leads to a negative perception of older workers and dismissal, in health care facilities such discrimination can lead to the denial of necessary services or the provision of services of undesirable quality. The extreme manifestation of the violation of the rights of the older generation is the neglect of their rights and interests.

One of the most negative manifestations of the violation of the rights of older people is domestic violence. On the basis of the authorized state body in the field of social development of the Kyrgyz Republic and its territorial divisions, a social protection hotline 117 operates. The automated system 117 is a tool for detecting cases of domestic violence. However, to date, there are no separate statistics on older citizens who have been subjected to violence, as well as on types of violence.

Also, one of the most common offenses against the elderly is fraud. In order to prevent violation of the rights and legitimate interests of this category of citizens, the Criminal Police Service of the Internal Affairs Directorate of the Republic on an ongoing basis carries out appropriate work to identify individuals and criminal groups involved in fraud. With the help of domestic media, the population is informed about disclosures and detentions, and preventive work is carried out to prevent such facts. On the official website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic there is a mobile application "My district police inspector", which provides an opportunity to find out the address, phone number, nearest police station, find it on the map, find

out the contact details of assistance services and get advice from the district police officer on how to avoid theft, not get hurt from scammers, as well as what to do in cases of violence. To date, the prosecution authorities continue the relevant work to improve the system for identifying an object (person) by sex, age and other personality traits, without confirmation of which the system does not automatically accept other data when registering messages in the Automatic Information System of Crimes and Offenses.

8. What measures have been taken to ensure that older persons are able to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including making an informed consent, decisions and choices about their treatment and care?

- Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Senior Citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic”
- Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic

### **Accountability**

9. What judicial and non-judicial mechanisms are in place for older persons to complain and seek redress for the denial of their right to health?

In case of violation of their rights, elderly citizens can apply to the institution of the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic. According to the law "On the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated July 31, 2002 No. 136, the Ombudsman (Akyikatchy) controls the observance of constitutional rights and freedoms of man and citizen. Human rights organizations also monitor the coverage of human rights.

10. What mechanisms are in place to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of older persons living in different geographic areas of the country in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of health laws, policies, programmes and services that affect them?

Free legal aid centres have been opened in the Kyrgyz Republic throughout the country, and the citizens can find the addresses of these centres on the website of the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic.

There is also an institution called the “aksakals’ court” which receives the cases at the request of citizens concerning property and family disputes. Aksakals’ courts operate on the basis of the Law of the KR “On Aksakals’ Courts”.