

FOCUS AREA 1:

CONTRIBUTION OF OLDER PERSONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Substantive guiding questions:

National Legal and Policy Framework

1) What are the legal provisions, policy frameworks in your country that recognize older persons' right to participate in and contribute to sustainable development?

- Thus section 16 (2) (d) states that it shall be a State policy to provide adequate social services and an improved quality of life for the elderly. Also, section 17(3) (a) of the Constitution provides that the Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that all citizens without discrimination on any group (including the older persons) have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood as well as adequate opportunity to secure suitable employment.
- National Senior Citizens Centre Act, 2017 mandates, the National Centre to identify and cater for the needs of older persons.
- National Policy on Ageing, 2020
- SDGs - Leave no one behind.
- National Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing 2022-2032.
- National Social Protection policy.

2) Measures to ensure the rights of Older Persons are protected, promoted and fulfilled.

- National Senior Citizens Centre Act 2017.
- The National Policy on Ageing 2020
- National Policy framework on Healthcare for the Aged (2018);
- National Strategic Health Development Plan, 2018-2022.
- National Social Protection Policy 2021
- Pension Reform Act 2014 (as amended)



3) What are the challenges faced by older persons for the realization of their right to contribute to sustainable development at national and international levels?

- Ageism
- Poverty
- Diseases (non-communicable diseases)
- Harmful socio cultural practices and elder abuse
- Neglect, isolation and loneliness
- Property disputes and disinheritance
- Intergenerational gap
- Unemployment
- Systemic discrimination and exclusion
- Low literacy levels
- Accessibility to digital technologies
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Accessibility to social amenities and infrastructure
- Acquired disability

4) What data, statistics and research are available regarding older persons' contribution to sustainable development?

- Nigeria Living Standards Survey (NBS 2019) incorporating data on vulnerable older persons.

5) What measures are being taken to eliminate ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviours that devalue older persons' contribution to sustainable development?

- Section 42 of the Nigerian Constitution prohibits the discrimination of any citizen.
- National Senior Citizens Centre Act
- National Policy on Ageing
- The National Senior Citizens Centre's strategic document and the operationalization of the national policy on ageing with plan of activities.
- The National Senior Citizens Centre is presently collaborating with the National Orientation Agency on the development of Information



Education and Communication materials (IEC) aimed at re-orienting the public about their perception of older persons and ageing.

- High level Advocacy, sensitization and awareness creation across national and sub-national level.
- Training and capacity building of policy makers, decision makers, planners and implementers.

6) What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to participate in and contribute to sustainable development?

- The Nigeria Police Force has complaint desks where complaints are received, for investigation or prosecution.
- The array of Courts including Magistrate Courts, Customary Courts and Sharia Courts across the country for resolving civil and criminal matters.
- National Human Rights Commission, is mandated to receive complaint from citizens where their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as contained in national, regional and international human rights treaties have been violated.
- Public Complaints Commission, is the National Ombudsman. It is mandated to receive complaint on administrative injustice perpetrated by government and private sector.
- Citizen's Rights Department of the Federal Ministry of Justice also receives complaints from citizens on the violation of their civil rights.
- Legal Aid Council of Nigeria is set up to receive complaints from indigent citizens in civil and criminal matters and provide free legal representation.
- The National Pension Commission has a complaint unit, which receives complaints on issues of unpaid, delayed or pension inconsistency.
- Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD). It was established to administer pension payment for retirees under the defined benefit scheme, which existed before the contributory pension scheme.



FOCUS AREA 2: ECONOMIC SECURITY

Question One

What are the legal provisions and policy frameworks in your country that guarantees the minimum essential level of the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular the right to an adequate standard of living?

- **Section 16 (2) (d) of the CFRN 1999** The State shall direct its policy towards ensuring...old age care and pensions, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of disabled are provided for all citizens’.
- **Article, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 22 of the African Charter on Human & Peoples’ Rights.** All peoples shall have the right to their economic, social and cultural development with due regard to their freedom and identity and in the equal enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind.
- **National Senior Citizens Act, 2017**
- **National Policy on Ageing 2021**
- **Pension Reform Act 2014(as amended)**
- **National Social Protection Policy 2021(Revised)**
- **National Development Plan 2021- 2025**
- **National Health Insurance Scheme Act, Cap N42, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004,** is aimed at providing easy access to healthcare for all Nigerians at an affordable cost through various prepayment systems.
- **The National Social Investment Program** created by the Federal government of Nigeria in 2016 to tackle poverty and hunger across the country. The National Social Investment Program focuses on ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable populations including children, youth, and women.
- **The National Social Housing Programme (NSHP)** is the housing component of the government’s Sustainability Plan to deliver affordable housing and millions of jobs for Nigerians.
- **National Policy framework on Healthcare for the Aged (2018)**
- **National Strategic Health Development Plan, 2018-2022.**



Question Two

How is poverty defined in the national policy framework?

- Poverty is measured at the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day.
- Poverty is also measured by Multi-Dimensional Index (MDI).

Question Three

What are challenges faced by older persons living in poverty, including the impact of intersectional discrimination and inequality based on age, gender and other grounds?

- Stigma and discrimination
- Inadequate social security and protection
- Isolation and loneliness
- Exclusion from participation
- Elder Abuse
- Poor health and nutrition.
- Disinheritance
- Lack of information about their rights.
- Inter-generational gaps
- Acquired disability

Question Four

What data, statistics and research are available regarding older persons living in poverty?

- National Living Standard Surveys (NBS 2019)
- National Poverty and Vulnerability data by the National Social Safety Net Coordinating Office (NASSCO)

Question Five

What steps have been taken to address economic insecurity and poverty in older age and to ensure the right to an adequate standard of living for older persons?

- Mainstreaming older persons into existing programs.
- Creation of new flagship programs for older persons.
- National Policy on Ageing 2021
- Social Protection Policy 2021
- Unconditional cash transfer program.
- Development of new policy measures for older persons in the area of social care provision of health insurance for the vulnerable.

Question Six

What is the impact of macroeconomic policies on economic insecurity and poverty among older persons and vice versa? What policy options are available and/or implemented in order to expand fiscal space and maximize available resources to ensure economic security and the right to an adequate standard of living for older persons?

In spite of the Macroeconomic policies in Nigeria inflation, unemployment, decline in infrastructure, poor power supply, inadequate health facilities, insecurity bedevils the economy leaving the vulnerable of which older persons constitute a large population more exposed. The purchasing power of older persons have further diminished, resulting in the inclusion of social care as a pillar of the National Development Plan 2021- 2025 and some interventionist programs such as;

- Cash Transfer Programme by Government
- National Social Registry of Poor and Vulnerable Households
- Dedication of a separate register for older persons in the social safety net register.
- Household Uplifting Program



- The Micro Credit Scheme (MCS): This is being packaged for about one million artisans and market men and women and the government intends spending about N60 billion as loan to them. Loan facility will range between ten to one hundred thousand naira.
- The National Policy on Social Protection (NPSP)

Question Seven

What good practices are available in terms of ensuring older persons' economic security, including through a life-course approach? Equality and non-discrimination.

- There are pre-retirement schemes available for retirees to encourage and sustain their continuous engagement, through their life course.
- I'm Alive Verification process introduced by Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate to the ease verification process for retirees, where verification is done online as opposed to in- person.
- The National Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing.

Question 8

What measures are being taken to eliminate ageism and discrimination based on age that prevent older persons to access economic and other productive resources, including financial services, land, adequate housing and the right to inheritance? Remedies and redress.

- The creation of ageing desks by the National Senior Citizens Centre, across relevant government institution to mainstream and prioritize issues that concern older persons.
- National Senior Citizens centre is presently collaborating with the National Identity Management Commission in the registration and issuance of ID cards to older persons. This is aimed at promoting Age-friendly services and environment to facilitate easy access, discounts, courtesies and priorities for older persons.



- National Human Rights Commission, is mandated to receive complaint from citizens where their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as contained in national, regional and international human rights treaties have been violated.
- Public Complaints Commission, is the National Ombudsman. It is mandated to receive complaint on administrative injustice perpetrated by government and private sector.
- Citizen's Rights Department of the Federal Ministry of Justice also receives complaints from citizens on the violation of their civil rights.
- Legal Aid Council of Nigeria is set up to receive complaints from indigent citizens in civil and criminal matters free.

What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their economic security and enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living?

- The National Senior Citizen's Centre in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria and the National Orientation Agency have initiated the development of a community based Anti- elder Abuse Rapid Response and Redress Model/Mechanism.
- National Human Rights Commission, is mandated to receive complaint from citizens where their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as contained in national, regional and international human rights treaties have been violated.
- Public Complaints Commission, is the National Ombudsman. It is mandated to receive complaint on administrative injustice perpetrated by government and private sector.
- Citizen's Rights Department of the Federal Ministry of Justice also receives complaints from citizens on the violation of their civil rights.
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