



National Commission for Human Rights

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SUBMISSION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF RWANDA FOR THE 14 TH SESSION OF THE UN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

NATIONAL LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

In Rwanda, older persons are those persons aged 60 years and above in line with the Labor law, and the retirement age of 65 years as defined in the National Older Policy.

1. What are the national legal provisions and policy frameworks that recognize older persons' rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)? This could include, but is not limited to:

a) The right of older persons to adequate housing, including land, property and inheritance.

- The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda guarantees for everyone including the elderly the right to live in a clean and healthy environment.
- Law governing land prohibits discrimination in relation to access to land.
- Law governing urban planning and building in Rwanda highlights the accessibility and inclusivity of public buildings and transport in favor of vulnerable persons including the elderly.
- Law governing matrimonial regimes, donations and successions disposes the elderly rights on the management and inheritance of their property.
- The National Social Protection Policy (2020) and National Social Protection Sector Strategy Plan (2018-2024) ensure the provision of social assistance including construction and rehabilitation of shelter for the needy older persons.

b) The right of older persons to access and enjoy, on an equal basis with others, the physical environment, transportation, information and communications (including ICTs), and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas (e.g. buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, schools, housing, green spaces, medical facilities and workplaces; information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services).

- Law establishing the Rwandan Elders Advisory Forum reinforce the communication and information sharing for the elderly.
- Law governing information and communication technologies provides the regulatory authority establishing a permanent committee to provide advice on the ICT- related interests of older persons and those with disabilities.

- National transport policy and strategy for Rwanda (2021) establishes adequate tariff and accessibility conditions for traditionally excluded travelers including the elderly

c) Policies/programs that enable older persons to live independently and to be included in their communities as they age.

- Law establishing the long-term savings scheme and determining its organization
- One cow per poor family known as “Girinka” Program is provided to poor older persons
- Community Based Health Insurance scheme targets poor elderly to be fully integrated into the health insurance system.
- Pension scheme managed by the government of Rwanda and given to retired older persons worked in public sector; while those who worked in private sector benefit from private pension scheme.
- Shelter program is designated to provide social assistance in form of houses to the needy elderly.

2. What are the challenges and barriers faced by older persons for the realization of their right to accessibility, infrastructure use and habitat (transport, housing and access) at the national and international level?

- The lack of reserved seats for older persons in public transport vehicles.
- Limited budget to cover all demands of support in houses for the needy older persons
- Inaccessibility of direct routes restricts the comfortable walking for the needy elderly

DATA AND RESEARCH

3. Data, statistics and research available at the national level regarding older persons’ rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (public transport, housing and access)?

- The Fifth Rwanda Population and Housing Census (RPHC5) establishes the statistics on the elderly.
- The National Commission for Human Rights ‘survey on the respect of the elderly’ rights.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

4. What measures are being taken to eliminate ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviors that hinder older persons’ rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)?

- Centers /homes have been constructed for older widow/ers left without children to overcome loneliness.
- Increment of budget to provide support in houses for the needy elderly.
- Developing inclusive transport system by reserving the elderly adaptable seats.

REMEDIES AND REDRESS

5. What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to submit complaints and seek redress for denial of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)?

- The Integrated Electronic Case Management System (Rwanda IECMS) was developed to facilitate people including the elderly filing their cases.
- The National Commission for Human Rights, Ombudsman office, the elderly council, and Assemblies of the Citizens organize weekly meetings at village to deal with people claims including elderly claims for remedies and redress.

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