

Unofficial translation

## **Rights of older persons in Sudan**

The concept of caring for the elderly, providing for them and respecting them is an integral part of the society's ethics and traditions which also has a religious connotation, as Islam calls for respect of humanity in general and respect of elderly (parents) in particular.

Older persons in Sudan are considered as having life experience and wisdom. The religious and social responsibility for their care falls on their families.

Older persons enjoy all political, civil and economic rights, regardless of gender, religion, color or political affiliation. State has put in place a national strategy to ensure the protection and care of the elderly with the effective participation of public and private sectors, as well as civil society.

A technical committee was formed to prepare a draft bill on the care of the elderly following principles of the Constitution and especially article 45/2 of the 2005 Constitution of Sudan, under the title of “rights of older persons and special groups”; The State also guarantees the rights of older persons, respect of their dignity and provides them with full care, such as essential medical (and other) services, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 16 (1) of the 2005 Constitution also stipulates that the State shall enact laws to protect society from corruption, delinquency and social injustice and to promote the society’s virtuous moral and social values, in harmony with religions and cultures of Sudan.

The project was discussed in the Technical Committee of the Council of Ministers and was returned to the Ministry to include the observations, amendments and recommendations of the joint meeting of the Ministerial Committee for the sectors of government, administration and economic development in the Council of Ministers. The recommendations were taken into account and acted upon and document was sent again to the Council of Ministers for a final review.

In this context, the National Policy for the Care of Older Persons was updated in 2017 through a specialised technical committee in coordination with the National Committee for the Care of the Elderly, which was formed by Ministerial Resolution No. 37 of 2012

The Ministry has contributed to reducing poverty through social initiative programs, direct support programs for poor families and a comprehensive social security project targeting older persons with disabilities and their families, as immediate and direct interventions to alleviate poverty. The project covers all elderly, regardless of gender.

The Ministry also set up annual celebrations of the international day of older persons in coordination with the National Committee for Older Persons and other stakeholders, showing how important the Day is as show of appreciation and recognition of the importance of older persons, their contribution and the role they play within their families, since families are the foundation of society.

In addition, the Ministry has set up annual training courses for trainers working in the field of the elderly in the center and the states, and cover areas such as health care, nutrition, sports, psychological and social harmony, equality etc.

There is also an insurance system providing social protection for the insured and their families for payment of monthly pensions in cases of loss of income as a result of compensation for events covered by the law, such as death, disability, or old age. The disbursement service is done at pension outlets located in all states of Sudan, which are fully equipped for the convenience of the pensioners, providing payments through ATM. For those citizens unable to go to any pension outlet, a mobile service is available to go to them, and for those who choose to, pension is deposited in their bank account.

The Fund has also introduced a complementary system, providing social support to the distinct group of pensioners, which is implemented through a work plan approved by the senior management of the Fund, and managed and monitored by the beneficiaries.