



II- Guiding Questions for the focus areas of the IX session of the open-ended Working Group on Ageing: Long-term care and palliative care

Q1. In your country/ region, how is long-term care for older persons defined and provided for in legal and policy frameworks? What types of support and services are covered?

Answer: In Kingdom of Bahrain long-term care is provided for people 60 years and above. The government supports older people to have a dignified life by helping them financially and morally and provide them with health, housing and social services, also the government grants the family the necessary support to enable them to take care of their elders within their families, and also supports the low income family financially by offering them different programmers to become financially independent.

Q2. What are the specific challenges by older persons in accessing long-term care?

Answer:

- Coordination between various agencies providing services to the elderly.
- High cost of long-term care, which is provided to elderly free of charge in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Role of the family in term of care, and limited family support mechanisms.

Q3. What measures have been taken/ are necessary to ensure high quality and sustainable long-term care systems for older persons, including for example:

- Sufficient availability, accessibility and affordability of services on a non-discriminatory basis?
- High quality of services provided?
- Autonomy and free, prior and informed consent of older persons in relation to their long-term care and support?
- Progressive elimination of all restrictive practices (such as detention, seclusion, chemical and physical restraint) in long-term care?
- Sustainable financing of long-term care and support services?
- Redress and remedy in case of abuse and violations?

Answer:

- The long-term care service is provided equally for male and female, regardless if they are citizens or residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the service provided included: Health, social, cultural, mental, entertainment, and occupational therapy services.



- Article (8) of Law No. 58 for the year 2009 Concerning Older People's Rights provides that: "Accepting an older person in an institution is not allowed without a written consent from him / her or from his legal representative or by a decision from the ministry after availability of the requirement specified by regulation".
- Also Article (11) of Law No. 58 for the year 2009 Concerning Older People's Rights provides that: "The relatives of the elderly up to the third degree will be punished by law for whoever accepted to take care of the old person and failed to do so and his action caused negligence and damage to the elderly.
- The elderly are provided with senior citizen discount card which can benefit them from government and non-government organization.
- In case of abuse the elderly or their representative can sue to court, as the law provide them protection.

4. What other rights are essential for the enjoyment of the right to long-term care by older persons, or affected by the non-enjoyment of this right?

Answer: The older persons should have the rights to choose the nursing home, which they want to live in, also they, should have the right to dignity, physical and mental freedom and social security right. In addition to right to:

- Privacy
- High quality and tailored care
- Continued communication and participation in society and cultural activity.
- Freedom of expression and thought, convictions, believes and values.
- Right to redress.

5. In your country/region, how is palliative care defined in legal and policy frameworks?

6. What are the specific needs and challenges facing older persons regarding end of life care? Are there studies, data and evidence available?

7. To what extent is palliative care available to all older persons on non-discriminatory basis?

8. How is palliative care provided, in relation to long-term care as described above and other support service for older persons?

9. Are there good practice available in terms of long-term care and palliative care? What are lessons learned from human rights perspective?

Answer 5 - 9: Although the term palliative care is not defined in the law, Bahrain's government provides all care services for the elderly including social, health and psychological care at all stages of their life and in any circumstances that elderly may exposed.