

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
Peace - Work - Fatherland  
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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
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GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
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DEPARTMENT FOR THE SOCIAL PROTECTION  
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY  
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SUB-DEPARTMENT OF THE PROTECTION  
OF OLDER PERSONS  
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REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
Paix - Travail - Patrie  
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MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES  
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SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
\*\*\*\*\*

DIRECTION DE LA PROTECTION SOCIALE DES  
PERSONNES HANDICAPEES ET DES PERSONNES AGEES  
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SOUS-DIRECTION DE LA PROTECTION  
DES PERSONNES AGEES  
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## ELEMENTS TO ASSESS THE KEY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON FOR THE SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

The social inclusion policy in all areas of national life and social justice is a priority at the centre of the main concerns of the **State of Cameroon**. In fact, the country advocates the participation of all in the national development effort, each according to his or her capacities and potential. Within the framework of the said policy, actions carried out and relevant progress in favour of older persons should be capitalised on. They include:

### FOCUS : MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- The Constitution of June 2, 1972, revised on January 18, 1996, proclaims in its preamble that human beings, without discrimination of sex, race, religion, belief, possess inalienable and sacred rights and also states that the nation protects (...) Older Persons...
- The Presidential Decree N°2017/383 of July 18, 2017 on the organisation of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) created the Department in charge of the Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons with a Sub-Department specifically in charge of the Protection of Older Persons.
- A National Policy Paper for the Protection and Promotion of Older Persons in Cameroon drafted with a 2019-2023 Action Plan : Five Major Strategic Axes including: Health and well-being, Participation, Improvement of the living environment, Favourable and protective environment and Research-Action on ageing.
- A National Committee on Ageing (CONAVI) under the coordination of the Minister for Social Affairs, which includes not only sector-based governmental (inter-ministerial) actors, but also all the actors in the support chain for older persons, in particular regional and local authorities, civil society, bilateral and multilateral cooperation (National Framework for Guidance and Consultation on the Issue of Ageing).
- A National observatory on Ageing (ONVI).
- Strengthening of the legal framework for the protection of older persons in accordance with the provisions of international legal instruments: Ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons - (December 28, 2021).
- A normative and institutional framework on strengthening the promotion of a healthy and active ageing with a focus on improving the health and well-being of older persons, with a focus on the implementation pillars of preferential actions and measures for the participation of older persons in sustainable development and their economic security.

**FOCUS : KEY MEASURES AND PROGRESS AS CONCERNS PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Focus Area 1) AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECONVERSION OF OLDER PERSONS (Focus Area 2)**

**Focus Area 1 : Measures to promote the participation of older persons in the sustainable development process and in social life:**

- Implementation of operational measures to encourage older persons to participate in civic and cultural activities.
- The Action Plan for the implementation of the National Policy Paper on the Protection and Promotion of Older Persons in Cameroon has identified eight (8) actions and thirty-one (31) activities for a total of one billion four hundred and seventeen (1,417) million CFA francs.
- Support to older persons in setting up associations or networks.
- Promotion of voluntary work among older persons.
- Strengthening solidarity among generations.
- Promotion of mutual aid among generations.
- Establishment of interactive platforms between working people, future workers and older persons.
- Establishment of mechanisms for valuing and monitoring the skills of older persons
- Public symbolic recognition of century-old people
- Facilitating the access of older persons to credit, income-generating activities, markets and capital.

**Focus Area 2 : Action to promote the reconversion and socio-economic security of older persons:**

- Organisation of training sessions for older persons on the preparation and harmonious management of retirement.
- Implementation of strategies to create a fulfilling environment and to improve the living conditions of older persons who are fragile with a precarious income.
- Creating opportunities for the economic and social participation for older persons.
- Facilitation of the accessibility of older persons to the basic social services they need to enjoy their long years of life, in health and activity. Six (06) actions and twenty-one (21) activities for an amount of five hundred and eighty-eight (588) million CFA francs have been identified in this light.
- Project for the construction of "The Recreational Centre for Older Persons". Public institution, multifunctional framework for valuing the skills of seniors, inter-generational exchanges and institutional supervision of older persons including those in need of special protection measures.

**FOCUS : KEY MEASURES AND PROGRESS AS CONCERNS THE PROMOTION OF A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING (Focus Area 1) AND THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF OLDER PERSONS (Focus Area 2)**

**Focus Area 1 : Measures to promote the right to health and access to health services for a healthy and active ageing (health and well-being of older persons):**

- Implementation of strategies and operational instruments to promote a healthy ageing in all regions: strengthening the health map and technical facilities for care delivery to older persons in Cameroon (MINSANTE).
- Adapting health systems to the needs of the oldest populations: Creation and multiplication of specific blocks for care delivery to older persons and training of specialists in Health Faculties and specialised colleges.
- Improving the management of age-related pathologies (creation of geriatric wards in health facilities throughout the country) and training specialists in geriatrics, gerontology and nutrition, physiotherapists, clinical psychologists and social workers.)
- Development of long-term care systems.
- Education and sensitisation of older persons on physical and sport activities, balanced diet and the proper use of medication.
- Programmes to build the capacities of older persons on care delivery to older persons infected and/or affected by other epidemiological diseases.
- Programmes to build the capacities of health-care providers on care delivery to older persons infected and/or affected by other epidemiological diseases.
- Provision of pharmaceutical subsidies to make generic drugs for age-related diseases available and accessible.
- Medical assistance and support for older persons: organisation of campaigns and regular free medical consultations; screening and monitoring of age-related diseases.
- Project for the creation of mutual health insurance schemes in the context of universal health coverage in Cameroon.
- Continuation of the project to redefine the terms of reference of social structures and technical operational units of MINAS.
- Promotion of a healthy and balanced diet for older persons.
- Food support and assistance for older persons.
- Implementation of recreational and leisure activities.
- National social mobilisation campaigns in the field of nutrition adapted and specific to older persons in the community and/or in institutions as well as with the Organisations of Older Persons.

- Targeted sensitisation and education of families and communities on appropriate dietary rules for older persons.

### **Focus Area 2 : Action to promote the social inclusion of older persons:**

- Taking into account the target group of older persons with their specific needs in development policies and programmes, as well as the healthy and active ageing approach. This is done within the framework of local development actions under the Law on Decentralisation through the devolution of powers to Regional and Local Authorities (Regions and Councils) throughout the national territory for the socio-economic reconversion of older persons.
- Promotion of inter-generational dialogue and exchanges, as well as the valuation of older persons and their skills.
- Establishment and running of networks of national community volunteers engaged in the fight against ageism.
- Establishment of adapted and accessible open-to-public or public transport services in rural and urban areas.
- Organisation of sensitisation and education activities for decision-makers, private actors, Regional and Local Authorities and civil society organisations on the development and availability of social services adapted to universal accessibility.
- Drafting and implementation of a housing policy taking into account the needs specific of older persons.
- Promoting family care for older persons and the fight against ageism towards older persons.
- Improving the analysis, monitoring and understanding of age-related issues and the management of age-related diseases (functional rehabilitation, etc.).
- Taking into account the issue of ageing in school programmes and curricula at all levels of education.
- Capacity building of public and private structures delivering care to older persons