



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER, WOMEN
AND SPECIAL GROUPS**

Focus Area 1&2: Rights to Health and Access to Health Services & Social Inclusion

The country's commitment to equality is protected in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977), that provides equality of rights for everyone. The constitutional principles of equality are further expressed in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 which articulates the desire to eliminate all forms of inequalities and discrimination. Elderly persons a special group have the right to fully participate in all economic, social and cultural activities as well as everyone in order to improve their well-being.

The following are the instruments which guiding elderly persons' care, rights services, security and protection services:

- National Aging Policy 2003,
- National Health Policy 2007,
- National Strategy of Eradicate Elderly killings 2018/2019- 2022/23,
- National Policy on Disability of 2004;
- National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children for the year 2017/18-2021/22
- National Social Security Policy 2003.

In terms of rights to Health and Access to Health Services Tanzania continues to make various efforts to make sure elderly persons receive appropriate services:

- The government implement National Health Policy that governs the provision of health services to all groups, the policy has set the foundation for the elderly to be provided with free health care, especially the needy elderly who cannot afford it.
- Continue to identifies elderly persons countrywide where currently a total number of 2,117,637 elderly people have been identified in 26 regions and among them

937,266 elderly people (27.7%) have been provided with Health Insurance for treatment

- Establishment of windows to provide health services to elderly where Until April 2022, a total of 2,335 windows for providing health services for the elderly have been allocated in hospitals and public health care centers throughout the country.
- In providing care and protection to elderly, The Government manages and coordinates services provided to 14 government Elderly Home Centers with a total number of 264 (157M and 107F) elderly people. It's also manage the standard services provided to 20 private owed Elderly Home Center with a total number of 537(295M,242F). Services provided to these Elderly Persons Home including food services, shelter, clothing, health services, psychological support and spiritual services.
- Also, the government is in the process of passing the Universal Health Insurance Bill to become a Law which will ensure that all groups including the elderly person's access health services without facing any challenges.
- The government has established health care committees for the elderly in government hospitals consisting of a doctor, a social welfare officer and a nurse to ensure that the elderly receive appropriate care.
- Also there is a campaign to ensure that the elders are given priority in getting health services in hospitals and health centers so there are posters to feed "**Elderly First**" keep the culture of serving the elderly first
- The commemoration of International Elderly Persons Day on 1st October on every year, which gives elder persons' opportunities to participate, discuss, and organize various issues related to their well-being.
- The government in collaboration with the National Advisory Elderly Council supervise and monitors the various services provided to the elderly in the country to ensure that the elderly receive appropriate services.

All the above initiatives are various efforts taken by the government to insure care, rights, support and protection so that they can enjoy their old age with a good health.

Focus Area 1&2: Contribution of older persons to Sustainable Development and Economic Security

The government has continued to take the following initiatives in order to bring economic security for the elderly and sustainable development:

- Implementing the strategy of economic empowerment of poor households, the Government has continued with the implementation of the Program for the Survival of Poor Households. During the year, 2021/22, a total of 525,658 elderly people benefited from TASAF program. Through the program elderly involves in community works, animals keeping, farming and other small income generating activities which contribute to sustainable development.
- In Economic Through community economic programs elderly empowered through provided with credits, loaned livestock (goats, cows and chickens loans). Presence of Elderly organization which lead the participations of elderly in economic issues in some regions of the country bring the improvements of the economic situation to elderly persons.
- Also, through credit provided in Local government elders especially women are provided with loans in small groups to make them engage in small economic business in order to improve the economic situation in community
- Furthermore, in order to ensure safety, security and eradication of elderly killings in Tanzania and encouraging fully participation in economic issues, the government has continued to implement National Strategy to Eradicate Elderly Killings of 208/2019-2022/2023. Currently, the situation of elderly killings in Tanzania lowered from 190(2015) to 58(2022).
- The commemoration of World Elderly Abuse Awareness Day on 15th June a day in which the entire world voices its opposition to end any form of abuse such as psychological, neglect, physical and economical abuse to our older generation.
- Also, Currently the country established National Elderly Advisory Council and make having total of 20,749 Elderly Advisory Councils at all level from village/streets, Ward, Councils and Regional. These council used as a platform for elderly person to participate in discussing about their rights, development issues, planning and motivate themselves on social economic issue for sustainable developments.

Challenges

- Older persons are considered as a group whose productive power has decreased, so many stakeholders are not focused on empowering them economically and make elder persons not have a stable economy
- Lack of sufficient resources to enable the elderly to engage in various economic activities for Sustainable Development
- Financial insecurity due to failure to manage day to day financial obligation due to retirements
- Poor care provision many elders people require additional care which can be done by family member but mostly they don't get due to limited numbers of care givers
- Elders facing challenges of access to health care on access to medical service which require a lots of medical professionals and clinics to collaborate delivery of Medication and other types of care.