



NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Guiding questions for the thirteenth session.

Focus area 1: Right to health and access to health services

National legal and policy framework

1. What are the legal provisions and policy frameworks in your country that guarantee the right of older persons to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health facilities, goods and services?

- **The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)**
- **National Health Act, 2014**
- **National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2022**
- **National Senior Citizens Centre Act, 2017**
- **The National Policy on Ageing for Older Persons 2021**
- **Mental Healthcare Act, 2021**
- **National Social Protection policy.**
- **National Policy framework on Healthcare for the Aged (2018)**
- **National Strategic Health Development Plan, 2018-2022.**
- **National Policy framework on Healthcare for the Aged (2018)**
- **National Strategic Health Development Plan, 2018-2022.**
- **National Plan of Action on Ageing in Nigeria and Project Activities 2021- 2025**
- **NSCC Strategic Roadmap on Ageing 2022-2032**

2. What steps have been taken to ensure that every older person has access to affordable and good quality health care and services in older age without discrimination?

- a) **National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2022** the Act makes provision for vulnerable Nigerians access healthcare. According to the Act, the vulnerable group comprise of children below 5, pregnant women, **older persons**, physically and mentally challenges and the indigent. The requires state governments, through their health insurance schemes to provide healthcare coverage from these groups. It requires that this will be done through the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund and other sources without the payment of premium by these categories of people. The Act also make provision for the establishment of the Vulnerable Group Fund.
- b) **National Health Act, 2014** provides for the inclusion of older persons in the category of persons exempted from the payment for healthcare services in Public Health Establishments.
- c) **National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC)** since its establishment have intentionally entered into partnerships and carried out programmes and activities for better inclusion of older persons in the healthcare system. E.g
 - Secured partnership with National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) WHO Nigeria, and Executive Secretaries of States Primary Health Care Development Agencies for the Mainstreaming of Integrated Care of older persons into Primary Health Care Services.
 - Assessment for enumerators in selected LGAs in Nigeria NSCC-NPHCDA-WHO National Workshop on Mainstreaming Geriatric Care into Primary Health Care System in Nigeria.

- Conducted a National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop with diverse representation 10 categories, including; MDAs, NGOs, CSOs, Media, Professional bodies, Experts in Ageing, Pensioners, Older persons, Community leaders and Religious institution, on Integrated Care for older persons (ICOPE) for Development of Concept and Plan of Activities and Timelines.
- Executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Implementation of Integrated Care for Older Persons (ICOPE) with NPHCDA, WHO Nigeria, Forum of Executive Secretaries of SPHCDA.
- In partnership with WHO Nigeria and NPHCDA developed scope, objectives and assessment tools for human resource, infrastructure, data and community outreach and referral systems for Baseline development.
- Developed Proof of Concept Protocol and guide lines and has commenced Pilots of Integrated care for older persons in Adamawa State and FCT PHC.
- Medical outreach to over 1,000 older persons on Health Promotions, health checks, and referrals in Area Councils in Abuja and Town Hall meeting venues.

3. What data and research are available regarding older persons' right to health and access to health care and services? Please indicate how national or sub-national data is disaggregated by sex, age and inequality dimensions, and what indicators are used to monitor the full realization of the right to health of older persons.

Data and Research available regarding older persons' right to health and access to healthcare and services:

SHARE OF POPULATION WITH ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE LAST 30 DAYS BY SEX AND AGE GROUP (PERCENTAGE)- NLSS 2018-2019

✓ **Across Age Group.**

- 0-4 years old = 41.3 percent for boys and 40.0 percent for girls
- 5-9 years old = 31.3 percent and 32.6percent
- 10-14 years old = 29.2 percent for boys and 27.1 percent for girls
- 15-49 years old = 31.7percent male and 35.5percent female
- **50-64 years old = 43.3percent and 51.9percent**
- **65+ years old = 58.0 percent for men and 66.6 percent for women**

✓ **Across Sector**

- Urban = 50.4 percent for male and 57.9 percent female

SHARE OF POPULATION WITH INCIDENCE OF HOSPITALIZATION/ADMISSION IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX AND AGE GROUP (PERCENTAGE) DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD.

0-4 years = 4.9 percent male and 4.5 percent female

5-9 years = 3.4 percent male and 3.6 percent female

10-14 = 2.9 percent male and 3.2 percent female

15-49 = 4.6 percent male and 7.9 percent female

50-64 = 7.2 percent male and 10.3 percent female

65+ = 13.7 percent male and 13.2 percent female

NATIONAL = 4.9 percent male and 6.6 percent male

SOURCE: National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) - Nigeria Living Standard Survey (NLSS) 2019

THE INDICATORS USED TO MONITOR THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH OF OLDER PERSONS:

1. Availability of healthcare facilities/services
2. Affordability of healthcare services
3. Accessibility of healthcare services:
 - a. Physical environment
 - b. Finance
 - c. Psychological

4. What steps have been taken to provide appropriate training for legislators, policymakers, health and care personnel on the right to health of older persons?

- NSCC developed the capacity of a pool of master trainers, in models of senior centers, care quality assurance, and certification, who will be consistently deployed to cascade the training programme nationally to build capacity for implementation of the establishment of senior centres and services.
- Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of age-friendly, gerontology and geriatrics curricula in the Medical, Nursing and Social Work Colleges.
- Training of Medical, Nursing and Medical Social Work Professionals on prevention of elder abuse and maltreatment.
- Plan of action by WHO to integrate the Care of Older Persons into Primary Health Care System.
- Health Promotion of Healthy Ageing.

- NSCC has trained officers of the National Assembly Commission and has appointed Ageing Desk Officers within the office of the Clerks of its supervisory Committees at the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- NSCC has had engagements with Chairman of Senate Committees and House Committees to provide better understanding of Ageing and the peculiar needs of older persons.

Progressive realization and the use of maximum available resources

5. What steps have been taken to align macroeconomic policies and measures with international human rights law, to use maximum available resources for the realization of older persons' right to health, such as through expanding fiscal space, adopting targeted measures and international cooperation?

- 3.03% of Nigeria's GDP is allocated to the health sector. This is below the 10% recommended by WHO. However, there is no information on what percentage out of the 3.03% is allocated towards the health of older persons.

Equality and non-discrimination

6. What are the challenges faced by older persons in their enjoyment of the right to health, including

the impact of intersectional discrimination and inequality based on age, gender, disability and other grounds?

- Poverty, due to loss or reduction of earning power.
- Absence or minimal Social and financial risk protection for poor and vulnerable population. In its attempt to address this issue, the National Health Insurance Scheme was established to:
 - ensure access to quality health care services,
 - provide financial risk protection,
 - reduce rising costs of health care services and
 - ensure efficiency in health care through programmes such as the:
 - Formal Sector Social Health Insurance Programme (FSSHIP),
 - Mobile Health,
 - Voluntary Contributors Social Health Insurance Programme (VCSHIP),
 - Tertiary Institution Social Health Insurance Programme (TISHIP),
 - Community Based Social Health Insurance Programme (CBSHIP),
 - Public Primary Pupils Social Health Insurance Programme (PPPSHIP)
 - Provision of health care services for children under 5 years, prison inmates, disabled persons, retirees and the elderly.

7. What measures have been taken to eliminate ageism and discrimination based on age, including discriminatory laws, policies, practices, social norms and stereotypes that perpetuate health inequalities among older persons and prevent older persons from enjoying their right to health?

- NSCC developed IEC materials as campaign tools against ageism and other stereotypes associated with ageing.
- NSCC held sensitization Workshops on Models of Senior Centers, Domiciliary Care and Care Facilities/Core Competencies and Care Quality assurance guidelines.
- Engagement of Expert Group for Development of Zero Draft National Training Manuals, and Sub policy guidelines on Care quality assurance compliance procedures
- NSCC Developed Proof of Concept Protocol and guide lines and has commenced Pilots of Integrated care for older persons in Adamawa State and FCT Primary Health Care
- Secured partnership with National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) WHO Nigeria, and Executive Secretaries of States Primary Health Care Development Agencies for the mainstreaming of ICOPE into Primary Health Care Services
- Conducted a National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on Integrated Care for older persons (ICOPE) for Development of Concept and Plan of Activities and Timelines.
- Executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Implementation of Integrated Care for Older Persons (ICOPE) with NPHCDA, WHO Nigeria, Forum of Executive Secretaries of SPHCDA
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8. What measures have been taken to ensure that older persons are able to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including making an informed consent, decisions and choices about their treatment and care?

NATIONAL HEALTH ACT, 2014

This provide a framework for the regulation, development and management of a national health system and set standards for rendering health services in the Federation. The Act provides an enabling environment for patients to make informed consent, decisions and choices about their treatment and care.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH ACT 2021

The National Mental Health bill was passed into Law on 22nd November, 2022. The Act establishes the Mental Health Services Department to promote and protect the rights of persons with intellectual, psychosocial or cognitive disabilities and provide for the enhancement and regulation of mental health services in Nigeria. It guarantees the right of persons with mental health to appoint legal representative, participate in treatment planning, access information, privacy and dignity.

Accountability

9. What judicial and non-judicial mechanisms are in place for older persons to complain and seek redress for the denial of their right to health?

- **Section 30(1-4) of the National Health Act** sets out procedures for laying complaints by persons who denied their right to health.
- **The National Human Rights Commission** is mandated to receive complaints of human rights violations as contained in national, regional and international human rights instruments.

10. What mechanisms are in place to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of older persons living in different geographic areas of the country in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of health laws, policies, programmes and services that affect them?

- Contributions in the drafting of laws, policies, programmes and services are from different demographics of people and multi-sectoral. With the establishment of the National Senior Citizens Centre and the composition of its Stakeholders Consultative Forum, which is made of older persons, organizations, groups in all the 36 States and Local Government Areas in States, older persons' participation are becoming more eminent.