

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?

- Presidential Decree No. 1

- Family Medicine Practice Regulation No. 28539, dated 25.01.2013 and numbered Official Gazette

- Diseases seen in the elderly are chronic diseases that require long-term care and treatment. Individuals from all age groups who are in need of home health and rehabilitation services due to their chronic illness are provided with home health services at their homes through the Home Health Units of the General Directorate of Public Hospitals. In our country, the “Directive on the Implementation Procedures and Principles of Home Health Services Provided by the Ministry of Health”, which entered into force on February 01, 2010 with the Authority's Approval No. With the "Regulation on the Provision of Services", in order to provide examination, examination, analysis, treatment, medical care and rehabilitation at home and in the family environment of individuals in need of home health, and to provide social and psychological support services to these individuals and their family members as a whole; It is ensured that these services are implemented in an equal, accessible, high quality, effective and efficient manner throughout the country in accordance with the social state understanding.

- Ministry of Health Directive on Implementation Procedures and Principles of Palliative Care Services, (2015)

- Directive on General Directorate for Public Health Service Units and Duties issued with the Approval of the Ministry Authority dated 03/10/2017 and numbered 934

- Circular of Priority in Polyclinic Services No. 2016/22: Elderly individuals have priority rights while receiving health services.

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?

- Public health services are free of charge throughout the country and include everyone regardless of age.

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.

- According to Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) statistics and the elderly 2021 data; The number of the elderly population by gender, the ratio of the elderly population according to the provinces, the ratio of the educated elderly population, the ratio of the elderly population according to marital status and gender, the poverty ratio of the elderly population, the rate of participation in the workforce, the level of happiness by age group and gender, the internet usage rate of the elderly individuals. has been done.

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?

- Within the scope of Türkiye Aging and Health Research and Türkiye Healthy Aging Action Plan and Implementation Program 2021-2026, there are targets and strategies for regulating the training of health workers and health care providers in the intervention areas.

- Within the scope of the prevention of chronic diseases and risk factors, trainings have been provided for Family Physicians in primary care for the follow-up and screening of the elderly. At the same time, studies are continuing to upload these trainings to the Distance Health Education System (USES). **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?

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?

- Health is a fundamental right of all individuals without discrimination. A number of measures have been taken to ensure that elderly individuals do not have difficulty in receiving health services. Access to services has been facilitated through practices such as giving priority to the elderly in outpatient services in secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities, and providing personnel to accompany them if there is no accompanying person.

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?

- According to Article 10 of the Constitution.....Everyone is equal before the law without any discrimination based on language, race, color, gender, political thought, philosophical belief, religion, sect and similar reasons. The measures to be taken for children, the elderly, the disabled, the widows and orphans of the martyrs of war and duty, the disabled and veterans shall not be considered contrary to the principle of equality.

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?

- Everyone is equal before the law in exercising their right and capacity to act. Elderly individuals use their legal capacity on an equal basis as other individuals, without prejudice to the provisions of the Law on the Practice of Medicine and Medical Sciences and the Patient Rights Regulation.**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?

- In Türkiye, there are Patient Rights Units in every hospital where they can get information about health rights and file complaints for not only the elderly but also all individuals.

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?

- Healthcare is a public service. It is offered equally to all. Therefore, regional differences are not observed in the health services provided.