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## OEWGA 12

Focus area : ECONOMIC SECURITY

### **1 – What are the legal provisions and policy frameworks in your country that guarantees the minimum essential level of the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular the rights to an adequate standard of living**

Thanks to our advocacy and campaign, The African Union Protocol on Older Peoples' Right was ratified in December 2021, Presidential Decree N°2021/752 of December 28, 2021

The Cameroon Constitution in its preamble

The national policy paper on the promotion and protection of older people

LAW N° 667/LF/18 of June 12 1967 organising the social security in Cameroon

LAW N° 69/LF/18 of November 10, 1969 instituting the old age pension, disablement and whole life insurance scheme, modified by the law N°84/007 of July 04, 1984/18:

LAW N°84/007 of July 4, 1984 modifying those LAW N°69/LF/18 of November 10, 1969 directing and old age pension, disablement and whole life insurances schemes

ORDER N°73/17 of May 22, 1973 organising the social security

DECREE N° 74/733 of August 19, 1974, setting the modalities for applying the law N°69/LF/18 of November 10, 1969 directing an insurance scheme for old age pension, disablement and whole life

DECREE N°94/199 of October 7, 1994 on the general status of the public service that organises the state's scheme of pensions paid to retirees public agents

DECREE N°777/495 of December 7, 1977 setting the conditions for the creation and running of private, social structures (PSS) that favour the putting in place of private structures delivering care to older persons

Adding to this, in application of the provisions of Decree N 82/412 of September 9, 1982, setting the modalities for grants of aids by the state to destitute and needy persons, destitute older persons benefit from various types of assistance (medical, financial, school and psychosocial, in equipment...) from the State, for their personal needs and those of their offspring

### **2 – How is poverty defined in the national policy framework**

Poverty is defined as the situation of someone living below the poverty line that is in 2014, 339 715 FCA per year

### **3 – What are challenges faced by older persons living in poverty, including the impact of intersectional discrimination and inequality based on age, gender and other ground**

- The inability to medical care and medicine when we know that old age is very often synonymous with multiple pathologies
- Inappropriate feeding and nutrition because unable to afford to eat or, to some other extent, to eat a balanced diet.
- Poor housing

It is demonstrated and experienced by all that good housing is an important factor in life

- Accentuation of social isolation which is already very handicapping in old age, because feeling unable to participate in the life of his community
- Inability to take part in development
- Lack of autonomy and independence that makes them feel useless
- Loss of self-esteem and confidence

The situation is worsened by systemic ageism, discrimination, violence, abuse, neglect

For all that is said above, it is necessary to stress on the fact that older women suffer more from the effects of poverty and its crucial manifestations on their lives and their health. This explains the double discrimination to which they are subject, that of gender and age.

**6 - What is the impact of macroeconomic policies on economic insecurity and poverty among older persons and vice versa ? What policy options are available and/or implemented in order to expand fiscal space and maximise available resources to ensure economic security and the right to an adequate standard of living for older persons ?**

Impact is not visible.

Policy options for older people are available in our national policy paper for the protection and promotion of older persons in Cameroun and the African Union Protocol Cameroon just ratified. We can't wait to see the implementation soon.

**8- What measures have been taken to eliminate ageism and discrimination based on age that prevent older persons to access economic and other productive resources, including financial services, lands, adequate housing and the right to inheritance ?**

Cameroon National policy paper on the protection and promotion of older people, the ratification of the African Union Protocol, the DECREE N°2005/160 of May25, 2005 organising the Ministry of social affairs has created a department for the social protection of persons with disabilities and older persons with a sub Department for the protection of older persons.

All the above are evidence that measures are taken to eliminate ageism and discrimination based on age. Our line ministry is limited. Civil society, ACAMAGE and NETWORKS, NGOs and associations are advocating and campaigning for different implementations

Can't wait for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons to come into force./-

Signed

Paulette METANG, President ACAMAGE