



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**NATIONAL
POLICY ON
AGEING**

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

2020

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FOREWORD

The increasing and poor condition of the ageing population has been a major concern to the Federal Government of Nigeria. Globally, there is remarkable efforts and commitment to guide Governments to better commitments for the care of older persons. This is necessitated by the enormous value older persons add to the national and communal development. The outcome of the first World Ageing Assembly in 1982 endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in 1991 and the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, the African Union (AU) Policy Framework and Plan of Action and other regional commitments provide the bedrock for this policy. The policy aims at addressing multi-dimensional issues impacting negatively on older persons in the country.

The recent situation analysis conducted on ageing in Nigeria indicated the increase in number of the ageing populations in need of care. It identified challenges they face to include social, health, economic, and financial constraints which is fuelled by eroding extended family kinship and other traditional supports systems. This makes it imperative for government to take leadership in the coordination of a multi-dimensional, multi sectorial support system for care of older persons detailed in this policy.

The Policy has identified efforts needed by various arms and level of government in integrating concerns of older persons in the development agenda and has further expanded on strategies to fill gaps in care of the older persons. This would help achieve the government's vision to have a society where older persons are guaranteed independence, participation, care, self fulfilment and dignity.

With the approval of the Policy by the Federal Executive Council (FEC), I urge all to work together for its effective implementation in order to achieve its goal in providing an enabling environment and support for older persons to achieve their personal goals and realize their potentials through participation in the family, community and the larger society.

Hajia Sadiya Umar Farouk

Honorable Minister

Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development

Abuja

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The importance of respect, dignity and support for the increasing number of older persons is a recognized agenda of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development tasked with the mandate to coordinate interventions to support older persons in the country commenced the process for the development of a policy on ageing to address myriads of emerging issues confronting the ageing population in the country. It included desk review of global and regional commitments and instruments on ageing, situation analysis of ageing in Nigeria using various consultative platforms with stakeholders. The contributions of the development partners particularly World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) throughout the entire process are particularly recognized and appreciated.

Sincere appreciation for their technical input at various consultative meetings for the development of the policy goes to other stakeholders including representatives of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development, other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) that cater for the ageing population, development partners, older persons, the Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN) and various civil society organisations and foundations for older persons, the media and academia. The effort of the Consultant in pulling all the resources together is most appreciated.

The multi sectorial collaboration that brought forth this Policy document laid credence to the government and stakeholders' commitment to achieve our common resolve, to improve the livelihood of older persons, reiterating the need to age gracefully. It is expected that all institutions, groups and individuals critical to its implementation will prioritize and establish mechanisms for its efficient implementation towards achieving an age friendly Nigerian society.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABA	-	Age-Based Association
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AU	-	African Union
CBO	-	Community Based Organization
COSROPIN	-	Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria
FBO	-	Faith Based Organization
FMLE	-	Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment
FMOH	-	Federal Ministry of Health
FMHADMSD	-	Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management & Social Development
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MFBNP	-	Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning
MDAs	-	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MIPAA	-	Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
NAPTIP	-	National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Offences
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NHIS	-	National Health Insurance Scheme
NPAN	-	National Policy on Ageing in Nigeria
NPC	-	National Population Commission
PABA	-	People Affected by AIDS
PLHIV	-	People Living with HIV/AIDS
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	-	United Nations
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
WASH	-	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	-	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Policy on Ageing is developed to address the special needs and harness opportunities in the increasing number of older persons in Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to effectively mobilize human and capital resources needed for its primary responsibility in promoting, providing and ensuring access to basic social services of older persons. The policy was developed using a bottom up approach, drawing from insightful and wealth of experience of wide range of stakeholders and experts.

The policy is premised on the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) which guarantees the rights of everyone in Nigeria. The policy also applies the regional and international instruments ratified by Nigeria, such as the AU Agenda 2063 and AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002); the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the UN International Plan of Action on Ageing, the UN Political Declaration on Ageing (2002) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The vision of the policy is to have a society where older persons are guaranteed security, independence, participation, comprehensive care, self fulfilment and dignity. It covers intersecting spectrum of issues and opportunities for older women and men in urban and rural settings; older persons living with disabilities, older migrants, internally displaced older persons, poor older persons and older persons that are full of vigour contributing to families, communities and the larger society.

The goal of the policy is to uphold the rights and dignity of older persons by providing an age-friendly environment to maximize their potentials for self-fulfillment. And it has eight (8) strategic objectives, which are:

- (a) To cause a fundamental positive change in perception, attitude and paradigm about ageing, old age and an inclusive society;
- (b) To guarantee an improved quality of life for older persons in Nigeria and strengthen the traditional support systems for older persons;
- (c) To provide framework for the establishment of regulatory mechanism for ageing issues;
- (d) To guarantee adequate and sustainable income security and ensure healthy Ageing;

(e) To ensure that the fundamental human rights of older persons are upheld and protected;

(f) To develop a functional data management systems for effective research, planning, monitoring and evaluation for ageing programming;

(g) To establish a responsive system to address older persons issues in terms of accessibility, availability, equity and quality health and social services for healthy ageing;

(h) To strengthen partnership and collaboration among sectors for effective delivery of programme for older persons.

There are fifteen (15) policy thrusts, which covers information and advocacy; poverty; health and long term care; food and nutrition; housing and living environment; social protection; employment; income security & financial inclusion; crises, emergencies and epidemics; ageing and migration; education, training and life-long learning; gender and ageing; culture, social integration and participation; ageing and disabilities; discrimination, abuse, violence and neglect; sports and recreation and access to justice.

The policy provides an effective framework for ensuring result-oriented implementation while giving due recognition to the collaborative role which various institutions and agencies must play. It clearly specifies roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and highlighted critical considerations for coordination, partnership and resources mobilization. The policy equally identified the importance of periodic monitoring and evaluation for the progress made and the impact of the implementation. It covers the plan for research and development of ageing issues in the country.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1. INTRODUCTION

Ageing is the process of growing old. It is the accumulation of changes in a person over time. It is a function of multi-dimensional processes of physiology, psychology and social change with consequences to the individual, family, community, national and international communities. Growing old is a natural and irreversible phenomenon with challenges and opportunities.

The phenomenon of ageing has of recent been the focus of the international community, particularly regarding its economic, social, political, scientific and human rights dimensions. Economic and social changes, urbanization, migration and technology in Nigeria have contributed greatly to the loss of capacities and the deprivations to which older persons are exposed. This has reduced the support which the family of older persons, especially their children and the community have been able to provide for them. The resultant effect of these changes leads to deprivation, social exclusion, and loneliness among the older persons in the country. This National Policy on Ageing attempts to capture Nigeria's response to the emerging issues on Ageing.

1.2. Global, Regional and National Contexts on Ageing

The global perception of ageing has changed from the traditional belief that all older persons are helpless. While it is true that many older persons need assistance, some are not only healthy but are secured economically. They also have skills and resources that, if properly harnessed could make a difference in national development.

Globally, the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) is the bedrock for inclusion and respect for rights of all irrespective of age, race, colour or sex. Specifically, the change in the dynamics for engagement of the ageing subject matter commenced after the first World Assembly by the United Nations General Assembly on Ageing, which endorsed the International Plan of Action on Ageing in 1982 and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons was adopted by the General Assembly in 1991. Furthermore, the second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid, Spain developed the UN International Plan of Action on Ageing and

the UN Political Declaration on Ageing in 2002. The instruments provided guidance to countries for developing policies and programmes for the independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity of older persons.

Additionally, other global development agenda and commitments provided guidance and expectations to countries to ensure care, support and responsiveness to older persons in countries. These include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the WHO declared Decade for Healthy Ageing among others. In Africa, the AU Agenda 2063 and AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) provides guidance to member States.

In Nigeria, the general perception of the older person is one who is helpless and constitute a burden on the government, family and society. This misconception is now changing all over the world including Nigeria, in view of the wealth of experience older persons possess which could be tapped and utilized for the good of the society. Older persons are custodians of tradition and strength of the people. They help to pass the people's esteemed cultural values, norms and morals from one generation to another, thus preserving culture particularly in the face of urbanization and globalization.

Nigeria as a signatory to a number of the global commitments and instruments. Among other efforts to respond to the needs of older persons, the National Senior Citizens Centre Act (NSCCA), 2018 was signed into law. The Act is in line with section 16(2) of the Nigerian Constitution. It was established as a State instrument to provide adequate social services and an improved quality of life for the elderly. It was specifically enacted to "cater for the needs of the senior citizens".

1.3. Changing Demographics of the Global Ageing Population

Globally, the number of older persons is growing faster than the number of people in all younger age groups. By the end of this *Decade of Healthy Ageing* - in 2030 - the number of people 60 years and older will grow by 56 per cent, from 962 million (2017) to 1.4 billion (2030) and the global population of older people will more than double to 2.1 billion. Also by 2030, older persons will outnumber children under 10 (1.41 billion versus 1.35 billion). By 2050, there will be more people aged 60 years or over than adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years (2.1 billion versus 2.0 billion).

Africa is experiencing the highest increase in the number of older persons. In 2017, Africa was home to 69 million older persons accounting for 7.1% of global

population of older persons. With a projected 229% increase between 2017 and 2050, this figure is projected to reach 226 million in 2050 and may account for 10.9 % of people over the age of 60 years old globally (UNDESA 2017).¹ The pace of population ageing is accelerating with demands on countries to fast-track action for improved national income, health and social welfare and infrastructure.

The new population projections indicate that Nigeria is one of the nine countries that will make up more than half the projected growth of the global population between 2020 and 2050; United Nations projects that by 2050, Nigeria with a total population of 400 million will be the third most populous country in the world behind India and China, with increasing median age from the present 17.9 years to 32.4 years signifying major demographic shifts over the years.

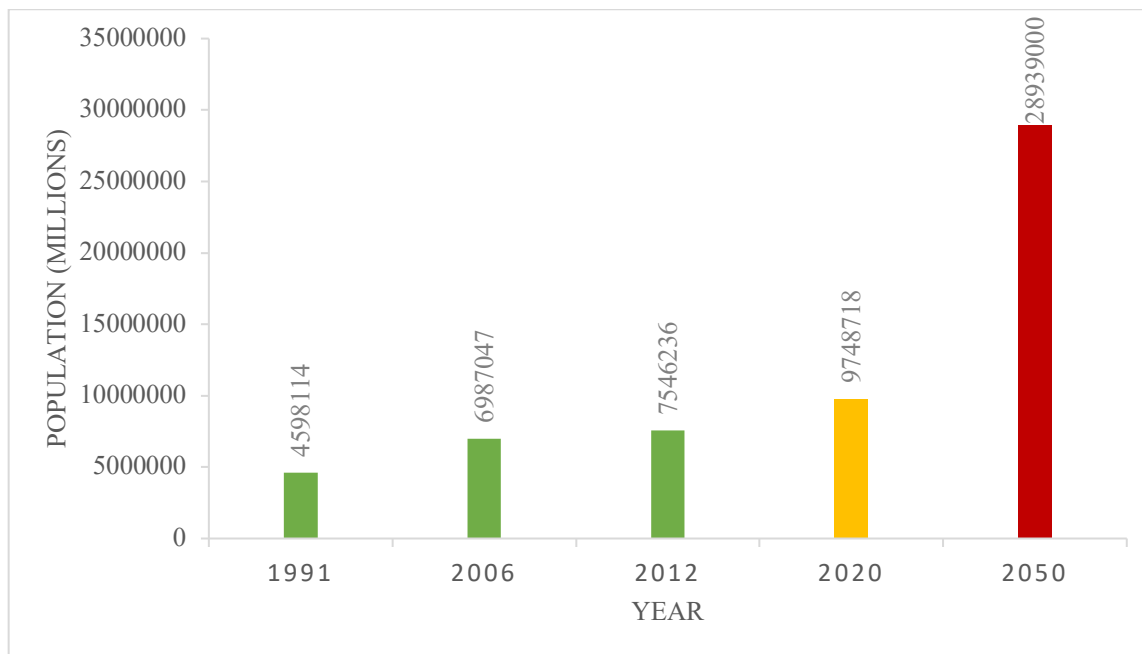
In most countries, the proportion of older people in the population will increase. In 2017, 1 in 8 people worldwide was aged 60 or over. By 2030, this is projected to rise to 1 in 6, and by 2050, 1 in 5

1.4. Population Profile of Older Persons in Nigeria

In Nigeria, in spite of the youthful population age structure, the proportion and absolute number of people entering the older age cohort (60 years and above) is increasing. The histogram shows the trends in Nigeria ageing population between 1991 and 2012 as well as the projection for the year 2020 and 2050; the population of older persons has increased in absolute numbers from 4,598,114 million in 1991 to 6,987,047 million in 2006, was projected to reach almost 10 million (9,748,718 million) by 2020 and 28,939,000 by 2050 if the current inter-censal growth rate persist. (NPC 2013). Reports show that disability increases with age, e.g. the age specific disability rate at ages 85 years is about three times the rate for ages 60 – 64 years and the crude disability rate for the older population is 12.34 for every per 1000 older persons.

Rate of disability is higher among older males (55%) than females. However, older women are more likely to report limitations, use of assistance and a greater degree of disability

¹ UNDESA (2017) World Population Ageing 2017 Report



Source: NPC 2013

Trends in Nigeria ageing population between 1991 and 2012 as well as the projection for the year 2020 and 2050.

1.5. RATIONALE

The traditional support and care for the older persons both in rural and urban communities have continued to decline especially in the face of the changing socio-economic and technology climate. The breakdown of the extended family system which used to be the bedrock of support for older persons, coupled with rural-urban migration of the younger generation have adversely affected the quality of care given the older persons hence the need for a well-articulated policy on ageing. Older persons are a vulnerable group with peculiar needs and aspirations. They have peculiar challenges that directly affect their quality of life. Older persons are supposed to live a life of rest leisure and happiness after years of toil. However, life for a majority of older persons, is characterized by poor health due to burden of chronic diseases, lack of adequate medical care, idleness, loneliness, stigmatization, discrimination and poverty.

The Federal Government of Nigeria commits through this policy to address ageing and older persons as investment and not a cost. It therefore seeks to reverse scenarios where longer lives are fraught with vulnerabilities, diseases, redundancy, and multi-dimensional poverty which arise from ageism, discrimination and diminished investments in older people. The government is committed to a new

menu of concrete steps that promote healthy ageing and maintenance of functional ability in older age, thus minimizing the losses of key drivers that discount the continuing engagement of older persons as social force for development. The government will harness the endless opportunities and contributions that an ageing population that a socially and economically active, secured and healthy population can bring to the society.

1.6 CONCEPTS AND DEFINITION

Ageing: Ageing is the process of growing old. It is the accumulation of changes in a person over time; it is a function of multi-dimensional processes of physiology, psychology and social change with consequences to the individual, family, community, national and international communities (Adapted from Help Age International, 2012). For the purposes of this policy, an older person refers to anyone aged 60 years and above.

Gerontology: The scientific study of all aspects of the ageing process, including the clinical, psychological, economic, and sociological issues encountered by older persons and their consequences for both the individual and society.

Geriatrics: It is a specialty of medicine focused on high quality patient-centred care to improve health, independence and quality of life for older persons.

Healthy Ageing: It is the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age, which allows older persons to be and do what they have reason to value.

Ageism: It is the individual or systemic stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination against people on the basis of their age. It is widespread and an insidious practice which has harmful effects on well-being of older persons.

Older Population: The older population is not a homogeneous group. They can be grouped in terms of component age groups, distinguishing younger and older segments as follows:

- (a) 60 – 74: The young Old
- (b) 75 – 79: The Aged
- (c) 80 and above: The oldest Old.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0: Situation Analysis of Ageing in Nigeria

2.1 Introduction

The development of interventions to ensure financial, socio-economic, physical and psychological well-being of older persons is of importance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is premised on the fundamental human rights of this population as enshrined in Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999), the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (1948) and the AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002). The increasing number of older persons makes it imperative and the eroding extended family kinship and other traditional supports systems calls for articulated guidance and leadership by government to ensure comprehensive and standardized support system for the ageing population in the country. This situation analysis considers demographics of older persons in Nigeria based on available secondary data. It presents international commitments and instruments of critical importance to programming for older persons. It equally presents the national legal instrument available for ageing in Nigeria - The Senior Citizen Centre Act 2018 and presents the findings from the consultative meeting with stakeholders on the situation analysis of ageing in Nigeria and input to the finalization of the Draft National Ageing Policy.

2.2. Methodology for the Situation Analysis

The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development charged with the mandate to coordinate Social Welfare matters pertaining to the older people with the support of World Health Organisation, Nigeria Country Office had conducted a Situation Analysis on Ageing in Nigeria.

The situation analysis adopted a cross sectional survey design which allows information to be elicited from a wide range of audience using various methods. Basically, relevant literature were reviewed including national and international instruments, tool and action plans for identification of critical requirements and elements critical for the development of the National Policy on Ageing. Data and information were collected from relevant stakeholders during the stakeholders consultative meetings held across the country in 2018.

Participants at the data collection meeting include, representatives of the then Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development, other Ministries Departments and Agencies, development partners, older persons, and civil society organisations and foundations for older persons, media and academia. The participants identified the following sources of information: personal observation, professional experience, films and novels, media on how older persons are treated, survey and research by individuals and organisations including Global Age Index 2017.

Thematic analysis of the collected data was done. Critical elements were integrated into the National Ageing Policy as agreed by all stakeholders.

2. 3. Challenges of Ageing in Nigeria

Literature² and submission by stakeholders revealed that in Nigeria, older persons generally experience considerable challenges due to a number of social, economic, health, psychological and financial constraints. More worrisome is the plight of vulnerable groups within this sub-population which include women especially widows, poor rural dwellers, those with disability, the chronically ill and the mentally ill. Other challenges identified include the lack of policies and skilled human resources to respond to the current social priorities and complex needs of an increasingly ageing population.

Also noted, were the lack of access to basic amenities of life, neglect by children and other family members, stigmatization, discrimination and stereotypes. Reviews also revealed that poor well-being increases with age, but reduces as level of education increase. All these affect older persons at both urban and rural settings. The study group revealed that the older persons in Nigeria are faced with income insufficiency in retirement, ageism, and social isolation. Studies and ageing stakeholders in Nigeria made recommendations for the modification of federal and state legislations and regulations, health and social policies and programmes that

² Pelsler, 2012; UNDESA, 2013; Nowik, & Muriel Sajoux, *Africa, a Young but Ageing Continent*. 491 Population & Societies 1, 1-4 (2012). (Hereinafter: Golaz, Nowik & Sajoux). For more information in this field see also: Benoit Kalasa, *Population and Ageing in Africa? A Policy Dilemma?* (2004). Hereinafter: Kalasa

may promote physical, emotional, social, and health and well-being through active ageing.³

2.4 Global and Regional Agenda on Ageing

- The Global pledge of the 2030 Agenda to ‘leave no one behind’, has given the world an unparalleled opportunity to promote inclusion of older people and population ageing in international as well as national development agenda. The sustainable development agenda 2030 and African Union agenda 2063 frameworks commit to the principles of people – centred, human rights and universality to ensure that access to opportunities and potentials of people of all ages are harnessed in an environment, where people of all ages including older people receive their rights and entitlements related to health, social, economic, political and cultural spheres in order to ensure equality and prosperity of all.
- The demand within the fundamental principles of global and regional resolutions; Agenda 2030, AU Agenda 2063, placed on African governments to adopt the right based and life-course approach to formulate innovative and sustainable framework of inclusion.
- The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its envisioned inclusiveness with a pledge to live no one behind, offers a promise that every goal target and indicator should be held up with a human right lens and across the life course and the commitment of leadership to its implementation should be reflected in inclusive major groups and other stakeholders’ institutional engagement mechanisms.
- Guided by the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing with its three priority directions, WHO global strategies on Health and Ageing, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights of Older persons and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-Agenda 2030, traditional myths and stereotypes about ageing and exclusion of older persons in development are challenged with a redefinition of ageing not as decline and burden but as living and social capital with a focus on healthy ageing and maintenance of functional capacity along the life course. Policy and services advancing health

³ (2012) Araromi, M.A, (2015), Protecting the Rights of Older People in Nigeria: Towards a Legal Reform, Journal of Law, policy and Globalization (ISSN 224-3240 (Paper) ISSN 224-3259 (Online) Vol. 40, 2015

and income security through age bands to the continuing engagement of older persons as social force for development, in an age friendly communities become imperative.

Other instruments which provide guide for responsive care of older persons globally include:

- (a) UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 1948
- (b) African Charter of Human and People’s Rights – 1981
- (c) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966
- (d) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) 1966
- (e) UN Declaration on the Rights to Development – 1986
- (f) The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) - 1979
- (g) The Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) – 1984
- (h) The International Labour Organization Conventions
- (i) UN Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 1996

These instruments lay credence to the effort in Nigeria for the development of a policy that would clearly articulate the issues pertaining to older persons in the country with specific objectives and strategic interventions to address them.

2.5 NIGERIA’S ROLE IN IN PROTECTING OLDER PERSONS

The general perception of the older person is one who is helpless and constitute a burden on the government, family and society. This misconception is now changing all over the world including Nigeria, in view of the wealth of experience older person possess which could be tapped and utilized for the good of the society. Older persons are custodians of tradition and strength of the people. They help to pass the people’s esteemed cultural values, norms and morals from one generation to another, thus preserving culture particularly in the face of urbanization and globalization.

Nigeria is a signatory to a number of the global commitments and instruments which protect the rights and guide responsive inclusion and programming for older persons. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended provides protection for persons of all ages. Other legal instruments in the country that could be used to protect the rights of older persons are Violence against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) 2015 and the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities Prohibition Act (2018).

Some Policy documents in the country equally made provisions for the integration of issues pertaining to older persons. These include:

- (a) Social Development Policy for Nigeria (1989)
- (b) The National Social Protection Policy (2017)
- (c) The National Health Policy
- (d) The National Policy on Food and Nutrition (2016)
- (e) National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development (2004)
- (f) Strategic Plan for the National Population for Sustainable Development (2008)
- (g) Monograph on the Elderly by NPC
- (h) National policy framework on Healthcare for the Aged (Launched Dec, 2018)
- (i) Regional strategic development plan on healthy ageing 2020-2030
- (j) Implementation of 2016-2020 of global strategy of plan of action on Health and Ageing
- (k) National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (2012)
- (l) National Policy on Employment (2017)

The findings from the situational analysis on ageing guided the policy thrust and themes.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK AND CORE VALUES

3.1 POLICY DECLARATION

The Federal Government is aware that older persons have special needs and face difficulties in accessing appropriate services. The Federal Government also stresses its primary responsibility in promoting, providing and ensuring access to basic social services, bearing in mind the specific needs of older persons.

The Federal Government of Nigeria hereby formally declares its firm resolve and commitment to protect the human rights of older persons and in particular to undertake and promote all relevant measures to safeguard and continuously advance the care and well-being of all older persons. While accepting primary responsibility for providing leadership on ageing matters on the implementation of this policy, the Federal Government recognizes the need for effective collaboration with States and Local Governments, international agencies, older persons themselves and their organizations, the media, private sector, Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Community-Based Organization, institutions and other stakeholders.

3.2 VISION

To have a society where older persons are guaranteed security, independence, participation, comprehensive care, self fulfilment and dignity.

3.3 MISSION

To eliminate abuse, neglect, violence, discrimination and stigmatization of older persons by facilitating, health, security, access to justice and for older persons' active participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their societies in order for them to enjoy fulfillment of life in an age-friendly society.

3.4 SCOPE

The policy targets older persons across intersecting spectrum of older women and men in urban and rural settings; older persons living with disabilities, older migrants, internally displaced older persons, poor older persons and older persons that are full of vigour contributing to families, communities and the larger society. It encompasses strategic interventions to address wide ranging challenges and

opportunities of older persons identified in the following areas; income, healthcare, food/nutrition, gender, housing, water, power, transportation, recreation, social contact, socio-cultural and political participation and voluntary services.

3.5 GOAL

To uphold the rights and dignity of older persons by providing an age-friendly environment to maximize their potentials for self-fulfillment.

3.6. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The strategic objectives of this policy are:

- (a) To cause a fundamental positive change in perception, attitude and paradigm about ageing, old age and an inclusive society;
- (b) To guarantee an improved quality of life for older persons in Nigeria and strengthen the traditional support systems for older persons;
- (c) To provide framework for the establishment of regulatory mechanism for ageing issues;
- (d) To guarantee adequate and sustainable income security and ensure healthy ageing;
- (e) To ensure that the fundamental human rights of older persons are upheld and protected;
- (f) To develop a functional data management systems for effective research, planning, monitoring and evaluation for ageing programming;
- (g) To establish a responsive system to address older persons issues in terms of accessibility, availability, equity and quality health and social services for healthy ageing;
- (h) To strengthen partnership and collaboration among sectors for effective delivery of programme for older persons.

3.7 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Traditional Respect and Regard for Older Persons

This National Policy on Ageing in Nigeria is rooted in the traditional respect for and high regard in which older persons are usually held. This arose partly from the important position they occupy and the important roles played by them in the traditional society and the equally fervent concern of the people for their happiness and welfare. It flows from the realization that older persons as a social category

has special needs, socio-economic and health problems requiring specialized attention and treatment. The policy unequivocally shall ensure older persons do not experience discrimination, abuse, violence and neglect

Respect for Human Rights

The Fundamental Human Rights of older persons as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (1948), AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) and the chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999), SDGs provide guidance to the policy. Older persons are important members of the Nigerian society and are entitled to respect and dignity that citizenship confers on all Nigerians in life course. The policy is guided by the principles of:

- (a) Equity to address diversity and vulnerability
- (b) Inclusion
- (c) Equality before the law
- (d) Prohibition against discrimination on the grounds of sex, age, gender, disability
- (e) Freedom from all forms of violence
- (f) Protection against arbitrary deprivation of property and livelihood.

Gender Responsive

Gender responsiveness is a core value for all and integral consideration for all the components of the policy thrust. It is premised on the fact that age impacts differently on male and females, hence aligning to global commitment for gender responsiveness in all social and developmental programmes and ensure the policy addresses needs of both males and females.

Integration of Ageing and Older Persons

Recognition of the effectiveness and efficiency of the opportunity for the integration of old age issues into all government policies, strategies, plans with effective accountability framework.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 POLICY THRUST AND PRIORITY THEMES

4.1. INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY

4.1.1 ISSUES:

There is relatively little information about the situation of older persons in Nigeria. The absence of comprehensive information means that ageing is poorly understood and, as a result, resources are not adequately allocated to meet the needs of older persons. The needs and rights of older persons are cross cutting, hence, it should be integrated into the policies and interventions of all stakeholders. Negative attitudes towards older persons limit their access to information, thus increasing their social and economic vulnerability. There is a great need for sensitization programmes to ensure the full understanding of ageing issues and the concept of the responsibility to older persons.

4.1.2 OBJECTIVES:

The Objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure that comprehensive information on the situation of older persons is compiled and made accessible to all.
- (b) Ensure that the needs and rights of older persons are integrated into all existing and new policies in all sectors.
- (c) Ensure that coordinating and monitoring mechanisms are established at all levels of government so that issues affecting older persons are addressed effectively.
- (d) Create awareness among policy makers, the media and civil society.

4.1.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Undertake research to identify, compile, analyse and present data relating to older persons in the Nigerian society
- (b) Liaise with the National Population Commission (NPC) for the collection and analysis of national census data specific to the needs of older persons

(c) Improve data collection about the contribution of older persons to the economy, including their participation in the informal economy and in unremunerated work including household work and subsistence agriculture.

(d) Identify information gaps that exist in relation to the needs and rights of older persons.

(e) Draw up guidelines to facilitate the implementation of appropriate policies regarding older persons.

(f) Encourage and support individuals and organizations that give assistance to older persons

(g) Strengthen or establish national coordinating structures (bringing together representatives of older persons, Line Ministries and other stakeholders to ensure that the needs of older persons are addressed.

(h) Ensure enlightenment of the populace to change attitude that prevent older persons from accessing services available to them.

(i) Implement public education programmes to create awareness and understanding of the rights of older persons to strengthen the image and dignity of older persons in the society

(j) Remove language barriers, and ensure that information communicated are understood by older persons.

4.2 POVERTY

4.2.1 ISSUES:

One of the aims of this policy is the eradication of poverty among older persons. Although global attention has recently been focused more actively on poverty reduction targets and policies, older persons in many countries still tend to be excluded from these policies and programmes. Where poverty is endemic, persons who lived a life time of poverty often face an old age of deepening poverty, as older persons are typically the poorest members of society living far below the poverty line.

Poverty has been described as human deprivation and lack or limited access to essential capabilities that could facilitate long and healthy life. Various reports indicate poverty is more pronounced in rural areas than in urban centres. Also, the

level of insurgency, farmer-herdsmen conflicts and banditry has immensely contributed to poverty especially among the ageing population in the country. Older persons are severely affected by economic depression; they are usually targeted during periods of retrenchment, have limited access to employment, credit training and other services that would enable them increase their income.

4.2.2 OBJECTIVES:

The objectives are:

- (a) Ensure that the rights and needs of older persons are comprehensively addressed in Government poverty eradication programmes.
- (b) Explore effective means of supporting family institution.
- (c) Promote access for older persons to employment and income generating opportunities, credits, markets and assets.
- (d) Embark on enlightenment campaigns to change attitude and behavior that prevent older persons from accessing service available to other population groups

4.2.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Collate, analyse and disseminate information on the factors that contribute to the poverty experienced by older persons
- (b) Review policies and programmes on poverty eradication to ensure that the specific needs of older persons are taken into account.
- (c) Involve older persons in the assessments, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of poverty alleviation programmes.
- (d) Support innovative programme to empower older persons particularly women to increase their contribution to and benefit from development efforts to eradicate poverty.
- (e) Enhance international cooperation and support national efforts at eradicating poverty in keeping with internationally agreed goals in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons.

4.3 HEALTHY AGEING AND LIFE-COURSE

4.3.1 ISSUES:

The dire consequences of increasing number of people, requiring substantive provisions of social security, a continuum of health care services including long term care, enabling and supportive environment present major concerns and place a demand on governments at all levels to formulate innovative and sustainable framework of action on health and ageing.

Fostering resilience across the life course through Universal Health Coverage is fundamental as a policy directive for equitable promotion of health and maintenance of intrinsic capacity of older persons. Aligning health systems to the needs of older persons, underpins the concepts of universal health coverage, integrated care, and healthy ageing. These are essential to reduce the burden of diseases and health care cost and can help support sustainable development, including disaster risk reduction. This is critical in improving primary health care, better trained formal and informal health workforce, improve system for long-term care and for environments to be made more age-friendly. Access to health services is not a benevolent act but is a basic human right for any human being regardless of age which must include provision of medications needed to control chronic diseases that become more prevalent in older age such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, arthritis and other diseases.

It is critical the health sector respond specifically by aligning health system to healthy ageing. WHO defines Healthy Ageing “as the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age” It will require a transformation of health systems away from disease based curative models towards the provision of older-person-centred and integrated care.

Disease specific Conditions:

Developing a sustainable and equitable systems for providing long-term care (home, communities and institutions) is very crucial. The intrinsic capacity-locomotor, vitality, sensory (vision and hearing), physiological and cognitive become the key domains to assess the functional ability of the older persons.

Non-communicable diseases

Ageing is among the major contributory factors to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases, which are leading causes of preventable morbidity and disability. Appropriate preventive care in younger ages

and age-friendly primary health care minimize the magnitude and the consequences of non-communicable diseases. There may be multiple risk factors for mental health problems at any point in life. Older people may experience life stressors common to all people, but also stressors that are more common in later life, like a significant ongoing loss in capacities and a decline in functional ability. Apart from health related issues associated to mental health such as dementia and depression, older people are more likely to experience events such as bereavement, or a drop in socioeconomic status with retirement. All of these stressors can result in isolation, loneliness or psychological distress in older people, for which they may require long-term care. Older adults are also vulnerable to elder abuse - including physical, verbal, psychological, financial and sexual abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious losses of dignity and respect. Current evidence suggests that 1 in 6 older people experience elder abuse.

Intake of substances (drugs and tobacco), lack of physical exercise, nutritional challenges (malnutrition, obesity and anemia), environment/housing, socio-cultural issues, poor literacy level and poverty are all key contributing factors affecting older population.

Communicable Diseases

The impact of HIV/AIDS, other epidemics and communicable diseases on all sections of the society is immense, but the specific impact on older persons is seldom analyzed. In the case of HIV/AIDS, not only are older persons at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS but they are the main providers in care for those affected by HIV/AIDS and for orphaned grandchildren. It is therefore critical that specific intervention are developed within the health sector for prevention and management of such diseases among older persons.

Long Term Care

With about 10 million older persons living in Nigeria and the increasing incidence and burden of non-communicable diseases including Alzheimer's and related diseases which affect older persons disproportionately, older persons' need for long-term care is growing. A significant proportion of these people requiring long-term care defined as the activities undertaken by others in order to ensure that people with, or at risk of, a significant ongoing loss of intrinsic capacity can maintain a level of functional ability consistent with their basic rights,

fundamental freedoms and human dignity. There is need for government strategic intervention as prescribed by the WHO⁴ on long term care.

4.3.2. OBJECTIVES:

The objectives are to:

- (a) Provide routine quality age-friendly services that are promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative.
- (b) Provide long-term care for older persons that is promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative.
- (c) Ensure that access to affordable quality older person- centred and integrated clinical care is legally constituted and enforceable.
- (d) Transform, build and maintain a sustainable, appropriately trained and deployed workforce to deliver quality Long-term care services that meet the specific needs of older persons
- (e) Orient systems around intrinsic capacity and functional ability.
- (f) Sensitize philanthropic and business organizations to support health care needs of older persons in their communities.
- (g) Empower older persons to make choices that enables them to live satisfying lives and lead healthy life styles.
- (h) Ensure the type of recreational activities for older persons which will enhance inter-generational interaction and co-operation.

4.3.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Review and develop evidence-based national health policies, strategies, guidelines and plans to ensure they respond to specific needs of older persons as well as the universal health coverage and key into healthy ageing agenda
- (b) Involve older persons in the revision of health policies, strategies, guidelines and plans

⁴ WHO Series on Long Term Care: Towards Long Term Care in Sub-Saharan Africa. World Health Organization 2017

(c) Develop tools and training packages to strengthen formal and informal caregivers.

(d) Create and enable age-friendly health infrastructure, provision of quality long-term system through clinical care and integrated care for the older persons-(ICOPE)

(e) Facilitate effective training of healthcare workforce including geriatric doctors, nurses, social workers, caregivers at all levels of care to provide needed specialized services to older persons.

(f) Build awareness of the health needs of ageing populations and older people, and support self-management and engagement of older people, family and communities

(g) Integrate geriatrics into the primary health care service with effective referral system to support linkages.

(h) Implement legislation to ensure that health workers do not discriminate against older persons.

(i) Review health budget to ensure that adequate funding is devoted to the provision of services for older persons.

(j) Provide subsidized health care services for older persons-

(k) Ensure access to medical product/ vaccines & technologies through provision of appropriate medicines, vaccines, hearing aids/devices, glasses wheelchairs and walking frames for the benefits of older persons;

(l) Ensure older persons participation by involving them in the design, provision and monitoring of health services

(m) Provide access to free and adequate physical and mental health services for older persons especially those with disability, who are unable to meet the cost of the services

(n) Develop and implement a strategy for the provision of safe traditional medicine.

(o) Develop and implement a strategy for the management of chronic health conditions and long term care which become more prevalent in old age.

- (p) Develop and implement national education programmes that focus on healthy life-styles for all age groups to improve the health status of people as they advance in age.
- (q) Encourage the development of health insurance scheme that include older persons and non-formal sectors.
- (r) Improve measurement, monitoring and evaluation on Healthy Ageing for planning and decision making.
- (s) Combat ageism and transform understanding of ageing and health through collection and dissemination evidence about ageing, the role and contribution of older people and the social and economic implications of ageism
- (t) Support research and innovation and gather evidence on what can be done to foster healthy ageing in diverse contexts, including increased awareness of the social determinants of health and their impact on ageing;
- (u) Strengthen partnership and multi-sectoral collaboration for effective healthy ageing programming and raising awareness about the autonomy and engagement of older people through a multi-sectoral approach;
- (v) Foster older people's autonomy by creating and supporting platforms for sharing information about what works in fostering older people's autonomy
- (w) Conduct and strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation system to understand the nature and extent of the impact of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics on older persons.
- (x) Strengthen community-based care mechanisms to ensure that older persons who are caregivers of those affected by HIV/AIDS and other epidemics receive support.
- (y) Strengthen community-based care mechanisms to ensure that older persons whose children have died of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics receive support including psychosocial support and counselling.

4.4 FOOD AND NUTRITION

4.4.1 THE ISSUES:

Older persons are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition. Malnutrition is one of the factors that contributes to poor health of older persons, hindering their active participation in different activities. Older persons are more susceptible to food deficiencies as a result of physiological and physical changes. Many of the diseases suffered by older persons are the result of dietary factors, some of which have been operating since infancy. These factors are then compounded by changes that naturally occur with the ageing process.

Social isolation contributes to reduced food intake and increased risk of malnutrition. Degenerative diseases such as cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, osteoporosis and cancer, which are among the most common diseases affecting older persons, are all diet-affected. Micronutrient deficiencies are often common in elderly people due to a number of factors such as their reduced food intake and a lack of variety in the foods they eat. This brings risks of increased mortality, and reduction in older person's functional ability for income generation thus, making self-care activities harder and more difficult. There is poor data about the food and nutritional needs of older persons in Nigeria. Most food and nutritional training curricula do not include older persons and nutritional assessments fail to include this age group.

4.4.2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are:

(a) Ensure that older persons' rights to adequate food and nutrition are respected with appropriate policy and guidelines for delivery to access adequate food and nutrition

(b) Ensure that due attention is given to nutritional deficiencies and associated diseases in the design and implementation of health promotion and prevention programmes for older persons.

(c) Ensure appropriate and adequate provision of accessible nutrition and food for older persons in hospital and other care settings.

4.4.3. INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Review national food and nutrition policies (Including those governing emergency situations to address the specific needs of older persons.
- (b) Involve older persons in the development of food and nutrition policies
- (c) Include issues related to the food and nutritional status, vulnerabilities and needs of older persons in national, local and household nutritional surveys.
- (d) Provide subsidy to older persons for medically recommended foods, medication and related health services.
- (f) Implement national nutrition education programmes for all age group to improve their nutritional status as they enter old age
- (g) Develop and review the pre-service and in-service training curricula of food and agricultural professionals to ensure that the needs of older persons are adequately addressed.
- (h) Pay particular attention to nutritional deficiencies and associated disease in the design and implementation of health promotion and prevention programmes for older persons.
- (i) Ensure older persons, the general public and care givers know about specific nutritional needs of older persons, adequate intake of water, calories, protein, vitamins and minerals.
- (j) Review government agricultural and food security programmes to ensure that the needs of older persons are taken care of.
- (k) Conduct research to increase understanding of the nutritional needs of older persons in Nigeria.

4.5 HOUSING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT

4.5.1. ISSUES

Housing and environment including factors such as provision, accessibility, affordability and safety, the financial burden of maintaining a home, and the important emotional and psychological security of a home are particularly important for older persons. It is recognized that good housing can promote good health and well-being.

Many older persons have limited access to decent shelter as a result of socio economic changes and belief systems. The majority of older persons live in rural areas, where, in many cases, land ownership is governed by customary law. In some situations, property disputes affect older persons as family and community members strive to take control of the properties of older persons. This is particularly true for older women following the death of their spouses, especially if they do not have children.

In Nigeria, residential facilities for older persons are not part of the culture of the people and there are older persons abandoned without family or children, hence the need to strengthen the existing residential facilities for older persons. Building designs often limit older persons' access to service as well as limit their access to political and civil participation. Furthermore, public transport and communication systems need to be responsive to the needs of the older population groups.

4.5.2 OBJECTIVES:

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure older persons have access to safe, durable and affordable shelter with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure
- (b) Ensure that public infrastructure accommodates the needs of older persons in particular, those with disabilities.
- (c) Ensure that policies and legislation governing land rights including security and tenancy in urban and rural areas do not discriminate against older persons, particularly women.
- (d) Ensure that older persons and families caring for older relatives are eligible for subsidized housing loans and other similar benefits.

(e) Encourage housing design to promote intergenerational living which are culturally appropriate and meet individual desire.

(f) Ensure that universal standards are observed in the provision of goods and services for older persons

(g) Improve the availability of accessible and affordable transportation for older persons.

4.5.3. INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

(a) Review and update housing policies to ensure that they reflect the needs of older persons in both rural and urban areas.

(b) Enact and implement legislation to protect the rights of older persons living in Residential Facilities/Institutions (both Government and private with due regard to issues of security, private space and privacy.

(c) Enact and implement legislation to provide older persons and families caring for older persons subsidized housing facilities with WASH infrastructure including low interest housing loans and other similar benefits.

(d) Provide preferential allocation of ground floor accommodation for older persons in respect of high-rise buildings.

(e) Enact and implement legislation to protect the property rights of the older persons particularly women.

(f) Modify existing public buildings to ensure access for older persons by providing ramps, rails, and lifts.

(g) Create consultative mechanisms at all levels of society, by including older persons in decision making process affecting their housing and living environment.

(h) Provide accessible and subsidized transportation for older persons

(i) Enact legislation on priority for older persons in boarding and sitting in public transport.

4.6 FAMILY

4.6.1. ISSUES

The family remains one of the most important sources of support for older persons. However, family institution is changing and traditional patterns of care and support are no longer guaranteed. Living patterns are fundamentally changing as urbanization results in many older persons living alone in rural areas.

Economic pressure and changing social values have resulted in families being unable or unwilling to care for relatives. Consequently, cases of physical, social, emotional and economic abuse by family members are increasing.

The contributions older persons make to the family are seldom acknowledged and programmes designed to support families fail to take into account the valuable role that older persons play. In communities and families affected by HIV/AIDS, older persons are the primary caregivers of the sick and the large numbers of orphaned grandchildren and relatives.

4.6.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure legislation to promote and strengthen the capacity and role of the family in its community-based care of its older members.
- (b) Ensure that legal instruments exist to protect the rights of older persons within the family and community.
- (c) Encourage the involvement and contribution of older persons in the family, community and state.
- (d) Ensure self-sufficiency, enhance self-esteem and facilitate older persons' participation in the economic life of their families and communities.

4.6.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Review and revise family focused legislation to ensure that it is inclusive of the needs of older persons within the family.
- (b) Identify, support and strengthen traditional support systems to enhance the ability of families and communities to care for older family members.

- (c) Enact legislation pertaining to taxation that encourages the care and support of older persons within the family e.g. tax concessions for those supporting older relatives.
- (d) Collect, analyse and disseminate information about the contributions that older persons make to their families and society.
- (e) Involve older persons in all stages of the design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of family-focused programmes.
- (f) Review and update policies and programmes relating to the family to ensure they make adequate provision for the specific requirements of older persons.
- (g) Develop and strengthen rural economies to curb rural/urban drift which affects the support structure for older persons in rural areas.
- (h) Design and implement services to meet the specific needs of older persons in urban areas recognizing that family networks tend to be weaker in urban centres.
- (i) Establish or expand programmes of intergenerational, social and cultural activities.
- (j) Educate society to have positive attitudes towards older persons.

4.7 SOCIAL PROTECTION

4.7.1 ISSUES:

The family remains the main and most appropriate form of support for older persons. Social protection is a multi-sectorial and multi discipline approach that contributes to poverty reduction and provides a life of dignity for all citizens. Social protection responds to the social and economic hardships of the poor and vulnerable. Minimum social protection floors are increasingly recognized as necessary and effective approach to ensure that the benefits of development are shared fairly and older persons are not left behind. Government through the National Social Protection Policy (2017) supports that older people should live their later year in old age with dignity. Most of the older persons in Nigeria operate in very subsistence informal and mostly agricultural economy and in spite of chronic health challenges, continue to work in difficult conditions with no opportunities to contribute to pensions. Social protection should ensure a dedicated invaluable

safety net which should cover basic –non- contributory cash transfers to provide a lifeline for older persons.

4.7.2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure the design, development, and implementation of practical, realistic and appropriate social protection strategies that include the concerns of older persons.
- (b) Discourage the institutionalization of older persons and retain the culture of respect for them.
- (c) Encourage the emphasis of community based support such as kinship, and extended family; neighbourhood and institutions in the community, such as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Non–Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Age-Based Association (ABAs) and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs).

4.7.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Develop, review and implement strategies which emphasize traditional community support and care mechanisms for older persons.
- (b) Develop and promote the participation of Older Persons’ Associations, self-help and NGO initiatives using the national agreed social protection strategies.
- (c) Devise protection systems that ensure that older persons are given priority when they seek social and other services including access to multi- purpose day centres.
- (d) Provide adequate and accessible sports, recreational and leisure facilities both in urban and rural areas to avoid /reduce boredom, loneliness and depression.
- (e) Decentralize health and social protection or welfare services to ensure access by older persons.
- (f) Design programmes and services to sustain the independence of older persons in rural areas and enlist the contributions of older persons’ as volunteers in community-based initiatives.

- (g) Facilitate and strengthen traditional rural and community support mechanisms
- (h) Increase quality of care and access to community- based long-term care for older persons living alone in order to extend their capacity for independent living as a possible alternative to hospitalization and nursing home placement.
- (i) Enact legislation that will enable older persons' have access to social protection and welfare services that are sensitive to their needs.

4.8 EMPLOYMENT, INCOME SECURITY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

4.8.1 ISSUES

Older persons are among the poorest in most societies and often do not have access to regular income. They are denied access to employment opportunities and are often victims of retrenchments and reorganizations. In Nigeria, older persons are generally perceived as lacking the vigor and capacity of youth to carry out activities and in a predominantly young population. With challenges of youth employment, engagement of older persons is perceived as lost opportunities for the younger generation. They also experience hindered access to insurance products, loan eligibility and are strategically excluded from participation in economic growth processes of the society. Older persons also experience age discrimination in the labour market both in the public and private sectors due to stereotypes and prejudices about ageing and old age. This invariably affect the income security and financial inclusion of older person.

The ability to contribute and benefit from social security programmes is generally limited to those in the formal sector and as a result, most people enter older age totally reliant on their ability to continue to generate their own income in the informal sector. Hence, the need for policy preparedness for addressing older persons' right to access to work, labor market and financial inclusion.

Innovation and focus on mentoring through the creation of intergenerational synergies, the experiences, expertise and wisdom of older persons can be transferred and institutional memories preserved by eliminating ageism and normative gaps for older persons' rights. The overall economy can benefit from the experiences and skills of older worker to train younger and newer employees, thus,

facilitating the retention and productive fulfilment of older workers in the workforce. Furthermore, factors affecting older women in the labour market deserve special mention. These include gender imbalance in workforce, family care obligations, lack of career development due to interrupted work history, etc.

4.8.2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination against older persons in the work-place and at the informal sector.
- (b) Ensure enactment of appropriate legislation for the establishment and implementation of formal and informal social security systems.
- (c) Ensure employment opportunities for all older persons who want to work.
- (d) Give special consideration to the needs of older women in giving credit facilities and providing income generating opportunities.
- (e) Strengthen programmes for older persons in the informal sector in terms access to work and labour market, non- retirements and social protection services in the informal sector

4.8.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Introduce flexible recruitment and retirement policies with appropriate strategies and opportunities to enable older persons to continue contributing to the work-force, as long as they are willing and able. Pensions and gratuity should be made available as older persons retire
- (b) Provide skill training for alternate employment for retrenched and retired older persons.
- (c) Reintegrate qualified indigent older persons with disability into the labour market through special social security scheme.

- (d) Provide public education on individual responsibility for social security issues so that people understand the need to plan for their old age.
- (e) Develop and implement strategies that extend the coverage of formal and informal social security systems to older persons; allow contributions by all those in the formal and informal sectors, including part-time workers, rural, agricultural, domestic and migrant workers.
- (f) Strengthen the governance of social security systems to include performance targets relating to set objectives including the processing of payments to ensure transparency and solvency. Involve both younger and older persons in the design and implementation of strategies and policies relating to social security.
- (g) Conduct pre-retirement programmes to enable older persons to develop the necessary coping skills that will equip them for the emotional, psychological and socio-economic challenges of retirement.
- (h) Promote a realistic portrait of older workers' skills and abilities by correcting damaging stereotypes about older workers
- (i) Increase participation in the labour market of the working age population and reduce the risk of exclusion or dependency in later life.
- (j) Promote new work arrangements and innovative workplace practices aimed at sustaining working capacity and accommodating the needs of older persons by setting up employee assistance programmes and reintegrate indigent older persons into the labour market through special social security scheme
- (k) Encouraging older women's participation in the formal sector through appropriate legislation and ensure they have access to credit facilities and income-generating opportunities.
- (l) Provide sustainable work-related health-care services with emphasis on prevention, occupational health and safety.
- (m) Provide access to technology, lifelong learning, continuous education, on-the-job training and vocational rehabilitation.
- (n) Identify and address issues of older persons in the informal sector in terms of access to work and labour market, non- retirements and social protection services in the informal sector

4.9 CRISIS, EMERGENCIES AND EPIDEMICS

4.9.1 ISSUES

In emergency situations such as period of conflict, natural disasters, climate change, crises, and other humanitarian emergencies and epidemics, older persons are especially vulnerable, because they may be isolated from family and friends and less able to find food and shelter. Their rights and needs are often overlooked by those implementing aid programmes and the contributions they can make are often ignored.

Emergency situations often result in rapid changes in social patterns and the status accorded older persons in stable situations is undermined. Older persons could be called upon to assume primary care-giving roles. Government and humanitarian relief agencies should recognize that older persons can make a positive contribution in coping with emergencies in promoting rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Other crises and emergencies that exert negative impact on older persons include impecuniosity and the inability to meet their financial needs occasioned by constant increase in inflationary trends. Various types of societal violence like armed robber, local conflict and insurgencies resulting in displacements, lack of jobs for the upcoming younger generation have negative consequences on older persons.

4.9.2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure that assistance reaches older persons in situations of conflict and climate change that their needs such as food, shelter, medical care and other services in disaster and emergency situations are met when providing humanitarian services.
- (b) Ensure the protection of the rights and needs of older persons affected by epidemics, crises and emergencies.
- (c) Enhance the contributions of older persons to the establishment and reconstruction of communities and the rebuilding of the social fabric following emergencies.

4.9.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Promote national and international effort to prevent and resolve issues of conflict and climate change outcomes like flooding, global warming etc. thereby establishing peace and security for the well-being of older persons.
- (b) Utilize the potential contributions of older persons such as care of children, their knowledge of traditional coping mechanisms and alternative health systems, conflict prevention and resolution strategies.
- (c) Provide support to older persons to meet their basic needs, such as food, water, shelter, clothing, health care and transportation.
- (d) Institute gender responsive modalities that ensure that older persons are taken into consideration in the establishment and reconstruction of communities and the rebuilding of the economic and social fabric following emergencies including family tracing so that older persons are reunited with family members.

4.10 AGEING AND MIGRATION

4.10.1 ISSUES

Movement of people from one location to another has increased tremendously in recent times. Economics support, including remittances from children outside their immediate environment is a vital lifeline to older persons and through them to their communities and local economics.

Older migrants from rural to urban areas often face loss of social networks and suffer from the lack of supporting infrastructure in cities, which can lead to their marginalization, loneliness and exclusion, in particular, if they are ill or disabled.

4.10.2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure the integration of older migrants within their new communities.
- (b) Ensure that ageing workers' rights to employment and minimum working conditions are respected.
- (c) Create an enabling environment in the rural areas to minimize the migration of older persons to urban areas for self-actualization.

4.10.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Review the legislation to ensure minimum working conditions that protect the rights of older workers against hazardous work and ensure equal treatment of migrant workers.
- (b) Encourage supportive social networks and design measures to assist older migrants to sustain economic and healthy security.
- (c) Develop community-based measures to prevent or offset the negative consequences of urbanization, such as the establishment of recreation centers for older persons.
- (d) Develop policies and programmes that facilitate, as appropriate and as consistent with national laws, the integration of older migrants into the social, cultural, political and economic life of countries of destination and encourage respect for those migrants including the removal of linguistic and cultural barriers when providing public services to older migrants.

4.11 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING

4.11.1 ISSUES

Poor access to education earlier in life means that high proportions of older persons are illiterate and unaware of their rights. Public education programmes often use language and media that are not accessible to older persons. Education and training programmes in some cases have limitations that prevent the participation of older persons and thereby limit access to new employment and other opportunities. As training and education programmes are developed, the skills and experience of older persons are often overlooked and their contributions are neither acknowledged nor encouraged. Issues relating to older persons are absent from

education and training curricula – from primary school to tertiary and professional education. Education is a crucial basis for an active and fulfilling life. In situation of technological change, older persons who are not integrated in requisite training and education can end up alienated, isolated and lonely. Greater emphasis on access to knowledge, education and training opportunities is needed for older persons in the workforce.

4.11.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure that older persons have access to continuous education, training, retraining as well as vocational guidance and placement.
- (b) Develop and strengthen strategies that encourage older person's participation as educators and trainers.
- (c) Increase the understanding and awareness of ageing issues through education and training.
- (d) Ensure the full utilization of the potentials and expertise of all ages, recognizing the benefits of increased experience with age.

4.11.3. IINTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Strengthen and extend adult education programmes to ensure that they are inclusive of the needs of older persons.
- (b) Ensure that public education campaigns are culturally sensitive and are conducted in local languages that take account of the literacy levels among older persons.

- (c) Design and implement vocational training programmes that encourage the participation of older persons, including older persons with disability.
- (d) Encourage older persons to offer their skills as volunteers and to update social, cultural and educational knowledge especially in information technology.
- (e) Raise the awareness of employers and workers organization on the retraining older workers particularly women.
- (f) Encourage and promote literacy, numeracy and technological skills training for older persons and the ageing workforce including special literacy and computer training for older persons with disabilities.
- (g) Implement policies that promote access to training and retraining for older workers and encourage them to continue to use their acquired knowledge and skills after retirement and act as mentors, mediators, and advisers.
- (h) The curricular on adult education should be expanded to consider older persons abilities, capabilities and mental alertness.
- (i) Gerontology should be introduced at all levels of education.

4.12 GENDER & AGEING

4.12.1 THE ISSUES

The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action has not adequately brought about the desired change in the status of women. Gender relations shape the entire life cycle from birth to old age, influencing access to resources and opportunities and shaping life choices at every stage. Ageing affects women and men differently, both physiologically and socially. For example, women's lack of property rights mean that widowhood or the dissolution of marriage often bring with it a loss of home and property. Women experience particular vulnerabilities that is derived from women's life-long disadvantages due to negative stereotype,

patriarchy and discrimination. The gender dimension of ageing must therefore be a prominent feature of all agenda for policy action. The impact of gender differences and inequalities in education and employment opportunities increases through every stage of an individual life reaching a peak in old age. Culturally, men find it more difficult to adjust to widowhood. Some older men experience abandonment due to residue of conflicts of polygamy among other things.

Good health, economic security, adequate housing, etc. are fundamental to ageing with dignity. For instance, men and women suffer from health problems as they age but women's lack of access to adequate care is sharpened by their higher levels of poverty. Any policy to address these issues effectively must be informed by an understanding that women and men experience old age very differently.

4.12.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure the mainstreaming of gender into all policies relating to ageing
- (b) Ensure equal representation of women and men in decision making processes affecting older persons.
- (c) Remove stereotypes that negatively affect older women and men.
- (d) Ensure that older women have equal opportunity and access to socio-economic services.
- (e) Address the negative issues affecting widows and childless older women.

4.12.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Mainstream gender issues into all ageing policies, programmes and activities at the inception, planning, implementation and evaluation levels.
- (b) Research and disseminate information on differential ageing in women and men
- (c) Mainstream older persons into the National Gender Policies and programmes
- (d) Review legislations to ensure that older women/widows can access micro-credit and have equal access to land control, farming and other income generating activities. Laws should also be reviewed to protect older widows against discrimination, abuse and violence in terms of widowhood and burial rites, inheritance and other unfavourable cultural practices affecting them.
- (e) Sensitize the general populace to remove stereotype and discriminatory attitudes and behavior against older women and enhance respect for older women's rights.
- (f) Fully integrate older women into the community to ensure that they continue to live productive lives and encourage older women in their supportive roles as caregivers, counselors, mentors, decision makers and peace builders.

4.13 CULTURAL, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION

4.13.1 ISSUES

Culture is the way of life of a people. Older persons as custodians of culture which helps to transmit on our esteemed values, norms and mores from one generation to another thus, preserving the people's cultural heritage, particularly in the face of urbanization and foreign influence. Much of our cultural values are fast disappearing and there is no concerted effort to tap the potentials and knowledge of older persons who are the custodians of these values. Reducing vulnerability and

promoting participation is not only about creating special services for older persons, but also, to ensure that they have equal access to mainstreamed services along with other vulnerable groups. Culture, behaviours and lifestyles such as substance abuse and alcoholism also impact negatively on people's well-being as they age. Hence, the need to address it among older persons as well. Promoting participation of older persons not only reduce vulnerability but also ensures that they have equal access to mainstream services along with other vulnerable groups.

4.13.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Encourage the promotion/preservation of positive cultural values through documentation of historical past and acknowledgement of the contributions older persons make to family and society.
- (b) Tackle the impact of ageism by educating, counselling, and raising awareness on ageing issues.
- (c) Ensure the participation and social integration of older persons in the society irrespective of gender, disability, culture or ethnicity in order to promote old people's rights in decision-making.
- (d) Encourage community-based support programmes and recreational facilities for older persons
- (e) Ensure alleviation of isolation and marginalization of older persons in rural areas.
- (f) Develop and implement intervention to address drug, substance abuse and alcoholism among older persons
- (g) Encourage establishment of specialized care homes in situations where there is need for professional supervision and respite from burden of care such as hospices

4.13.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Establish day care centres and old people's club to provide recreational opportunities, religious and income generating activities for older persons;
- (b) Include older persons in the documentation of historical and cultural past;
- (c) Strengthen the involvement of older persons including older women as role models and agents of moral reawakening and create opportunities for older persons to share their wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise with the younger generations
- (d) Involve older persons as consultants in specialized fields and community affairs.
- (e) Encourage volunteerism amongst older persons in strategy designs in community affairs;
- (f) Encourage the establishment of organizations of older persons at all levels to ensure the representation older persons in decision-making;
- (g) Encourage intergenerational community programmes for mentoring and social enterprise

4.14 AGEING AND DISABILITIES

4.14.1 ISSUES

The prevalence of impairment and disability increases drastically with the onset of old age. It follows that as the life expectancy of the Nigerian population increases, so too will the prevalence of disability among older persons in the society. Older women with disabilities in general, unlike their male counterparts, suffer double jeopardy as they experience a lot of setbacks in all spheres of life.

The effect of impairment and disability are often exacerbated by negative stereotypes about persons with disabilities. This may result in lower expectations

of their abilities and in social policies that do not allow them to reach their full potentials.

Enabling interventions and environment supportive of all older persons are essential to promote independence and empower older persons with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of society. The ageing of persons with cognitive disabilities is a factor that should be considered in planning and decision-making processes.

4.14.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Maintain maximum functional capacity throughout the life course and promotion of the full participation of older persons with disabilities.
- (b) Reduce discrimination against persons with disabilities based on misconceptions and stereotypes.
- (c) Give adequate publicity on issues affecting older persons with disabilities.
- (d) Provide information about institutions which can support older persons with disabilities.
- (e) Ensure that all older persons with disabilities shall have full access to rehabilitation, therapeutic aids and orthopedic technical services within their communities as a part of community-based rehabilitation programme.
- (f) Develop standards, guidelines and enact legislation to ensure accessibility to housing, health, buildings, and public transport services.
- (g) Make information available in formats that can be used and understood by older persons with hearing, visual and other communication impairments.

- (h) Provide vocational guidance and information about different occupations to make informed decision when choosing an occupation according to their interests and disabilities.

4.14.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Ensure that national policy and programme dealing with disabilities take cognizance of older persons with disabilities;
- (b) Develop, as appropriate, gender and age-sensitive national and local policies, legislation, plans and programmes for the treatment and prevention of disabilities, taking health, environmental and social factors into account;
- (c) Provide physical and mental rehabilitation services for older persons with disabilities and encourage the provision of rehabilitation and appropriate care and assistive technologies such as prosthesis, orthoses and technical aids for older persons with disabilities to fulfill their need for services, support and full integration into society;
- (d) Develop community-based programmes to provide education on causes of disabilities and information on how to prevent or manage them throughout the life course;
- (e) Create age-friendly standards and environments to prevent the onset or worsening of disabilities;
- (f) Encourage the development of housing options for older persons with disabilities that reduce barriers to encourage independence and where people make public spaces, transportation and other services, as well as commercial premises and services used by the general public accessible to them;

(g) Enact and popularize legislation to ensure compliance with the disability friendly policies.

(h) Promote, in accordance with applicable international law, including international agreements acceded to, the accessibility for all, without discrimination, including the most vulnerable sectors of the population, to pharmaceuticals or medical technologies, as well as their affordability for all, including disadvantaged groups;

(i) Encourage and facilitate the establishment of self-help organization of older persons with disabilities and their caregivers;

(j) Encourage employer receptivity to older persons with disabilities who remain productive and capable of paid or volunteer work;

(k) Address the issue of the portrayal of older persons with disabilities as objects of pity and public sympathy;

(l) Ensure television stations provide sign language, inset or sub-titles in at least one major newscast programme each day and in all special programmes of national significance for the benefit of older persons with disabilities. Other media shall do the same.

4.15. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

4.15.1. THE ISSUES

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as Amended, domestic legislation as well as regional and international human rights instruments to which Nigeria is a signatory make provisions for the protection of rights of older persons. However, beneficiaries from these legal infrastructure are unaware of these legal provisions. Poverty, illiteracy and inadequate legal support deny people especially

older persons the opportunities provided by the laws to enforce their rights when they are violated. Furthermore, the absence of a specific law dedicated to a comprehensive protection for older persons is a major systemic gap. The policy deems it fit that interventions targeted at ensuring access to justice is made an integral part of the services for older persons.

4.15.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- (a) Ensure that the rights of older persons are recognized and respected by all citizens
- (b) Commit to abolishing all forms of discrimination based on age, gender, and disability
- (c) Ensure that the rights of older persons are protected by appropriate legislations in terms of: (i) Sensitizing them on their rights and obligations under the law (ii) Providing opportunities for older persons to organize themselves into groups in order to advance their interests (iii) Opportunities for social inclusion and active participation of older persons in the formulation and the implementation of policies that directly affect their well-being.
- (iv) Opportunity to benefit from community care and protection in accordance with Nigerian cultural values (v) Enhancing economic empowerment to guarantee autonomy and independence
- (d) Guarantee older persons access to social and legal services, enforce their rights and enhance their independence, participation, self-fulfillment, protection and care.

4.15.3 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Make provision for specific and direct legal assistance to older persons to claim their rights
- (b) Enact legislation which penalizes family members, the community or others who abuse older persons
- (c) Sign, ratify and domesticate the protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's rights relating to the rights of older persons
- (d) Include older persons in the development, review and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated national policy to meet the needs of older persons
- (e) Ensure that the UN Principles for Older Persons, (1991) (Independence, dignity, self-fulfillment, participation and care) are mainstreamed into strategic implementation plans.
- (f) Ensure Nigeria's unflinching support and endorsement of the fledging UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons
- (g) Develop, enact and review legislation to ensure that older persons, receive equitable treatment under customary and statutory laws including reviews of legislation on property and land rights inheritance laws and social security legislation including that adults provide support for their parents
- (h) Ensure that when children are left in the care of older persons, the parents of such children should provide adequate financial and /or material support.
- (i) Ensure that data is collected and collated on the number of older persons who are victims of crime.

(j) Improve older persons' knowledge of their rights and access to legal services through public enlightenment and ensure communities and public sector understand the rights of older persons.

(k) Develop and review the training curricula for social workers, care givers and all those working with older persons to ensure that they adequately include the rights of older persons.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Government recognizes the need for strategic partnership involving all stakeholders at all levels. Therefore, this policy requires an effective framework for ensuring result-oriented implementation while giving due recognition to the collaborative role which various institutions and agencies must play. Consequently, the implementation of this policy will involve the participation of all tiers of Government, organized private sector, International Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, education and research institutes, communities, family networks, media, and the older persons themselves.

5.1. STAKEHOLDERS

Institutions, organizations, agencies, associations, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) whose mandate have a bearing on the well-being of older persons shall constitute the stakeholders for the implementation of this policy.

5.3. TARGET GROUPS

In accordance with the definition of older persons in chapter II above, the target group for this policy shall be:

- (a) Older persons adjudged to be in need of the services outlined in the policy;
- (b) Older persons with disabilities;
- (c) Rural and urban older Persons;
- (d) Young old (60 – 74 years);
- (e) Aged (75 – 79 years);

- (f) Oldest of the old (80 years and above); and
- (g) Association of older persons.

The method of implementing this policy and programmes shall consist of the following:

- (a) The National Advisory Council on Ageing;
- (b) State Advisory Committee on Ageing;
- (c) Local Government Advisory Committee on Ageing;
- (d) Standing Sub-Committees of the National Advisory Council.

To aid the implementation of this policy, an Advisory Council on Ageing will be established at the State and Local Government levels. The Secretariat of the Council/Committee will be from the coordinating ministries/agency at the national and state levels.

The Membership of the Council will be drawn from:

1. Chairman (to be appointed by the President on the advice of the Honourable Minister responsible for Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development)
2. Federal Ministry of Health;
3. Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA);
4. Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC);
5. Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF);
6. National Population Commission;
7. Federal Ministry of Finance;
8. Budget and National Planning;
9. Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment
10. Federal Ministry of Education;

- 11- Representatives of Associations of Older Persons;
12. Nigeria Society for the Welfare of the Retired and Older Persons (NISREP);
13. Federal Ministry of Agric. & Rural Development
14. Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs
15. Christian Association of Nigeria
16. Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
17. State Governments (one per geo-political zone)
18. Federal Ministry of Justice
19. Federal Ministry of Information and Culture
20. National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA)
21. National Pension Commission
22. Legal Aid Council
23. Central Bank of Nigeria
24. Federal Ministry of Interior
25. National Council of Women Society
26. Federal Ministry of Works and Housing
27. National Human Rights Commission
28. National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP)
29. National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)
30. Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs)
31. One other person to be appointed by the President on the advice of the Honourable Minister responsible for Social Welfare
31. National Bureau of Statistics
32. National Universities Commission;

33. National Orientation Agency (NOA)
 34. National Social Safety-net Coordinating Office (NASSCO)
 35. Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASOW)
 36. Representative of Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN)
 37. Representative of the National Technical Working Group on Ageing in Nigeria
- Appointees must have the appropriate qualifications and service delivery for the older persons.

The National Advisory Council on Ageing will have the statutory function of advising the Honourable Minister on measures and programmes for the well-being of older persons and in particular of proposing to the Federal Government for approval, Draft National Implementation Plans for the care and well-being of older persons and of coordinating on behalf of the Ministry, the implementation, by relevant ministries and other agencies, of the approved National Implementation Plan.

State Advisory Committee on Ageing shall be established in the Office of the Honourable Commissioner responsible for Social Welfare and will be made up of State Line Ministries, State Representatives of Organizations and Agencies listed above. At their own levels, each State Government will formulate its own strategies and institutional framework to ensure its effective participation in the national drive to achieve the objectives and goals of this policy. Similarly, each Local Government shall establish in the office of the Supervisory Councilor responsible for Social Welfare, an advisory committee on ageing, which shall plan, organize and coordinate its activities on this matter, including its participation in activities organized by the State and Federal Government.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

6.1 ISSUES

To have a firm basis for assessing the situation and well-being of older persons periodically and innovatively develop plans and relevant programmes for the maximum benefit on a continuous basis, there is the need to conduct regular periodic surveys, systematic studies, comprehensive and specialized research on their situations and aspects of ageing.

Research shall therefore be undertaken in various areas of ageing by government agencies, research institutes for gerontological studies and institutions of higher learning. All these bodies should work together to achieve the goal of developing tools for improving the quality of life of older persons in Nigeria.

6.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives are:

- (a) To bring to the fore various factors positively contributing and negatively affecting the well-being of older persons.
- (b) To highlight the age and gender sensitive data and analysis which will provide essential materials for effective planning and evaluation.
- (c) To use research findings to facilitate the sustenance of the policy.

6.3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Government shall:

- (a) Ensure the composition of a network of researchers and research Institutes on ageing to coordinate and share data/findings from various studies, and survey conducted.
- (b) Facilitate the dissemination of data/findings to relevant organizations and institutions and strengthen capacity for data use to address issues concerning ageing.
- (c) Ensure adequate funding for research and planning activities on ageing.

CHAPTER SEVEN

7.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Government has the responsibility to monitor and evaluate periodically the progress made and the impact of the implementation of this policy, nationwide, as it may deem fit in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Other agencies and stakeholders participating in the implementation of this policy as spelt out in Chapter Four have various responsibilities. These include monitoring, at their level both the implementation process and the impact of the policy as a basis for steering their own programmes and activities and for meaningful inputs into the policy, evaluation and review process at the national level. In this regard, all stakeholders who will be implementing this policy shall be required to maintain statistical and other records of their programmes and activities. They can make necessary inputs in the periodic assessments of their operations, impact and any problems or emerging challenges they may face.

Systematic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Policy on Ageing is essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons, thus, ensuring that the goals and objectives of the policy are achieved.

The National Focal Point on Ageing i.e. the Federal Ministry or National Agency responsible for Social Welfare shall coordinate the monitoring and evaluation process at the national level. Similarly, the State Focal Point on Ageing or the State Ministry or Agency responsible for care of older persons will coordinate the monitoring and evaluation process at the States and Local Government levels.

CHAPTER EIGHT

8.0 COORDINATION, PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Government recognizes that hitherto, programmes on ageing in Nigeria failed to make the desired impact because of lack of proper coordination and duplication of effort by various agencies. Consequently, appropriate measures will be introduced to ensure more effective and continuous coordination of the policy and programmes for protection and welfare of older persons, especially programme priorities, programme planning and basic strategies and targets of programme implementation.

8.1 COORDINATING AGENCY/FOCAL POINT

The Federal Ministry, Department or Agency responsible for Social Welfare shall be the focal point on all issues pertaining to Ageing in Nigeria. It shall also have the primary responsibility for coordinating the implementation of this National Policy on Ageing, in collaboration with the National Advisory Council on Ageing.

8.2 MACHINERY FOR COORDINATION FOR POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Government recognizes that the existing arrangements for coordinating policies and programmes for older persons are inadequate in many ways, and therefore, the need to be strengthened at the State and Local Government levels. The State Ministry, Department or Agency responsible for the care of older persons shall be responsible for coordinating policies and programmes at the State, Local Government and Community levels.

The National, State and Local Government Advisory Council/Committees on Ageing will act in an advisory capacity to provide support to the coordinating agencies both at the Federal, State and Local Government levels respectively.

The National Council responsible for Social Development shall be the highest policy making body on all issues pertaining to older persons in Nigeria.

8.3. IMPLEMENTATION

In coordinating the implementation of this policy, the Federal Government shall avoid measures likely to discourage or stifle local initiatives or local variations in economic, institutional and cultural situations of States and Local Government as well as other stakeholders.

As the focal point on ageing in Nigeria, the primary action of the Federal Ministry or Agency responsible for Social Welfare will be to facilitate and promote the national Policy on Ageing. Apart from overseeing the development of the policy, it shall also initiate enabling legislation, lead the designing of guidelines and tools for the implementation of the policy; advocate means of mainstreaming ageing issues into development agenda, engage in dialogue with development partners, civil societies and the private sector on implementation of interventions, coordinate the institution of a national monitoring and evaluation mechanism for ageing response in the country as well as manage information exchange and use.

8.4 NATIONAL ACTION/RESPONSE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

The implementation and continued review of the National Policy on Ageing would bring it to currency of the various programmes in the scope of the policy and ensure achievement of the goal of full involvement of older persons in national development. The success of that endeavour is the joint responsibility of the three tiers of Government, the development and implementing partners, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the traditional rulers and the older persons themselves.

The responsibility of Government to older persons remains the guarantee of improvement in their quality of life, total integration in the society, adequate income security through the execution of programmes and projects that would allow lifelong development for individuals and the society. This would provide an environment that would allow older persons to discharge their responsibilities to the country.

The implementation of the Policy on Ageing require sustained action at all levels in order to respond to the demographic changes ahead and to mobilize the skills and energy of older persons. In addition, there is a critical and continuing need for international assistance to help in the area of funding, technical assistance, capacity building and networking.

The implementation of the National Policy on Ageing also requires a holistic approach to the development of older persons that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility, cooperation and full respect for the various religious, ethical and cultural backgrounds of older persons in Nigeria.

In carrying out their primary responsibilities for implementing this National Policy, a necessary first step by the three tiers of Government in the successful implementation of the plan is to mainstream ageing and the concerns of older persons into all the national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies of its various implementing agencies.

Programme innovation, mobilization of financial resources and the development of necessary human resources will be undertaken simultaneously. Accordingly, progress in the implementation of the policy will depend on effective partnership between government, civil societies, and the private sector as well as an enabling

environment based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance.

The role of Non-Governmental Organizations is important in the implementation of the policy. Other crucial elements of implementation include: effective organization of older persons; educational, training and research activities on ageing, national data collection and analysis, such as the compilation of gender and age-specific information for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation.

8.5 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Financial constraints pose obvious problems to the planning and implementation of programmes by either the government or the voluntary organizations. There is therefore a need for the mobilization of all available resources for effective development and implementation of all programmes for older persons.

In order to develop and promote programmes and activities for older persons, the Federal, State and Local Governments should allocate adequate funds from their annual budget for the care of older persons. In this regard, it is strongly recommended and indeed, expected, that all tiers of government, Federal, State and Local, shall allocate annually to programmes designed and implemented specifically for the well-being of the older persons not less than three percent (<3%) of their budget. The three tiers of government also should conduct and coordinate fund raising activities at their various levels for older persons.

The implementation of this policy will have the following resource critical elements:

- (a) Availability of technical skills and appropriate human resource development;
- (b) Capacity building to improve the knowledge and skills of operators in this sector

- (c) Clear and specific allocation of financial resources for the sustenance of this policy
- (d) Resource mobilization by all stakeholders with effective coordination mechanism and clarity of the status of the resources investment by various stakeholders.

8.6 STAKEHOLDERS FOR RESOURCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The following Stakeholders will be involved in resource mobilization:

(a) Government at all Levels

Leadership on the development of the Policy as well as resourcing specific service.

(b) Development Partners

Provision of financial and technical support as well as capacity building and networking to complement national and sub national efforts.

(c) Organized Private Sector

Revision of corporate policies that discriminate against older persons in employment of older persons, pension issues, pre-retirement training, contribution to pension schemes and contribution to community programmes targeting older persons.

(d) Non-Governmental Organizations

Integration of issues relating to older persons and the allocation of resources to develop older person's specific programme, identification of felt needs and encouragement of volunteerism.

(e) Philanthropists/Individuals

Contributions to the funding and other support for older persons.

(f) Faith-Based Organizations

Provision of spiritual services to older people, education on ageing and other social services for older persons at the community level.

(g) Traditional Leaders, Religious Leaders and Other Gatekeepers

Provision of leadership and mobilization of support and care of older persons within the family and community.

(h) General Public

Provision of support to older persons within the family and community.

(i) The Media

Sensitization of the public on issues relating to ageing and older persons.

There should be political will on the part of the three tiers of government to mobilize funds and other resources for the care and welfare of older persons. Government should establish a National Trust Fund on Ageing to support organizations working with and for older persons. Relevant Government agencies and non-governmental organizations will be encouraged to mobilize and access resources from both domestic and international sources for the implementation of programmes and activities likely to advance the goals of this policy.

CHAPTER NINE

9.0 POLICY REVIEW

The National Agency responsible for Social Development in collaboration with its social development partners shall review this policy every five (5) years. Other tiers of government are also expected to adjust their programmes/ activities within the same time frame and condition.

CHAPTER TEN

10.0 CONCLUSION

Ageing as a development issue has gained global attention. Proper articulation of the direction of the Federal Government of Nigeria in addressing ageing matter is critical as the government is positioned to lead strategic engagement in collaboration with development partners towards positioning ageing matter as multi-sectorial focus for the health and socio-economic development in the country.

The development process for the National Policy of Ageing which had wide and in-depth consultations and technical input by all critical stakeholders would have a far-reaching effect in ensuring an age friendly country. It is expected that the implementation plan for the policy is strictly adhered to and coordinated by Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

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