



National Strategy for Ageing and Older Persons' Act in Somalia

National workshop

March 5-6, 2024

Concept paper and agenda

I. Background

Somalia is witnessing a slow demographic transition, the number of older persons has reached about 724,000 persons in 2020, representing about 4.5% of the community according to United Nations figures. However, the number of older persons is expected to reach 4 million persons in 2070 equivalent to 7.75% of the total population. The older persons constitute one of the most vulnerable groups in Somalia as large segments of them are exposed to the risk of poverty, disease and isolation.

To support ageing with dignity, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has already established or is in the process of establishing laws, strategies, and plans. First, they are developing an Older Persons' Act to protect and empower older persons. Second, they are developing a National Strategy for Ageing to support policy coherence, facilitate coordination amongst different stakeholders, and ensure an inclusive and comprehensive approach to ageing. Finally, ageing is addressed in the Somalia National Development Plan (2020-2024), which mentions older persons as a population group in need of health care interventions, inclusion of older persons' access to care in old age as a component of the multi-dimensional poverty measure, and highlights the importance of 'elders' in dispute resolution and peacebuilding.

The National Strategy for Ageing in Somalia was prepared with support from UN ESCWA. The development of the Strategy adopted a participatory approach, which involved many stakeholders concerned with older persons' issues. This included capacity-building workshop for representatives of different ministries, on the issues and priorities of older persons, global frameworks, ways of responding to them, in addition to how to integrate their issues into the policymaking process. The Older Persons' Act was similarly led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) with technical assistance from ESCWA. The Act contributes to guaranteeing the rights of older persons to lead a dignified, autonomous and independent lives in Somalia.

II. National Workshop to review the National Strategy on Ageing and Older Persons' Act

The National Strategy on Ageing and the Older Persons' Act have been reviewed and revised based on feedback from governmental stakeholders. The purpose of this workshop is to offer a space to discuss further and validate the final versions of these documents.

a. Time and Place

The workshop will be held in Mogadishu at the Peace Hotel over two days, one for the Ageing Strategy and one for the Older Persons' Act on Tuesday March 5th and Wednesday March 6th, 2024.

b. Workshop objectives

The workshop will have two principal objectives:

- To validate the draft National Ageing Strategy and
- To validate the draft Older Persons' Act

c. Participants

To ensure a whole of society and whole of government approach, the workshop will involve:

- Representatives of different ministries
- Non-governmental representatives
- ESCWA staff

d. Schedule of Work

Day 1: Tuesday 5 March 2024	
8:30 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:30	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoLSA representative - ESCWA
9:30 – 10:00	Introductory session <p>This session will set the scene for the two-days discussions. It will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the key discussion points from mainstreaming ageing in policymaking capacity building workshop - Presentation of the strategy and methodology adopted to formulate it
10:00 – 12:00	Strategic Pillars I, II, and III: Social Protection & Financial Security, Health, and Social Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A presentation of the proposed strategic objectives and challenges - Open discussion on the proposed activities
12:00 – 12:30	Coffee and prayer break
12:30 – 14:30	Strategic Pillars IV, V and VI: Prevention of Violence, Abuse & Neglect, Data & Knowledge Base, and Coordination & Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A presentation of the proposed strategic objectives and challenges - Open discussion on the proposed activities
14:30 – 15:00	Moving forward <p>Open discussion</p>
15:00 – 16:00	Lunch
Day 2: Wednesday 6 March 2024	
9:00 – 9:30	Introductory session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the Act and methodology adopted to formulate it
9:30 – 11:00	Chapters 1-3: Scope, rights, and protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scope of the Law - Rights of Older Persons - Care & Protection of Older Persons
11:00 – 12:00	Chapters 4-5: Institutional setup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Commission for Older Persons

	- The Executive Director of Older Persons' Affairs
12:00 – 12:30	Coffee and prayer break
12:30 – 14:00	Chapter 6-8: Assistance, legal authority, and other provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Assistance - Legal Powers of the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs - Miscellaneous
14:00 – 14:30	Moving forward Open discussion
14:30 – 15:30	Lunch