



Sharing Nigeria's Experience: Ageing policy Action – A Social Development Framework.

EMEM OMOKARO PhD.

Director General National Senior Citizens Center (NSCC)

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen



...Improving quality of life of Senior Citizen

- It is one of my highest privilege to serve as, the pioneer Director General of Nigeria's National Senior citizens Centre, the Federal government agency with mandate to identify the needs of older persons in Nigeria and to address them with the goal of improving their quality of life and wellbeing
- It is my honour today to share the deliberate and strategic efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria to identify and address diverse challenges of its rapidly increasing absolute numbers of older persons and to exploit the Economic Growth opportunities these presents.
- I wish to express Nigeria 's immense gratitude to UNDESA , INIA and other partners. Nigeria's policy formulation and Action Plan on Ageing has benefitted immensely from 10 years of impactful training of policy and decision makers, planners and practitioners across multi-sectors through the INIA DOF Insitu-training and the expansion of that opportunity with INIA Satellite Center for sub -Saharan Africa. In Nigeria 375 persons have been trained in Ageing Policy Formulation ,Planning Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation ; Gerontology and Geriatrics; Ageing and Legislative Foundations etc. UNDESA has also supported Nigeria's development of the National Plan of Action on Ageing and the National Policy Guidelines on Geriatric Social Care.

Background

- Nigeria is a very young country in terms of National population.
- Projected at 213 million in 2021 with 60% under 35 years and a median age of 18.
- However, the absolute number of older persons is rapidly increasing with 14.8 million in 2019 (NBS NLSS 2019).
- 50.2% are male and 49.8 are female.
- 5.3 million in the Urban centers while 9.5 million in the Rural areas (NBS NLSS 2019).

- Nigeria has the highest population of older persons in Africa.
- The population is growing at 2.8%, and projected to be 29.8M by 2050. In that year the total population is projected at 400 m and the 3rd largest behind India & China.
- Older persons are persons 60 and above. With 60 being the mandatory retirement age for most public servants



Poor and Vulnerable older persons in National Cash Register

Summary of NSR

19,393,195
Households

36 States &
FCT

8,000 wards

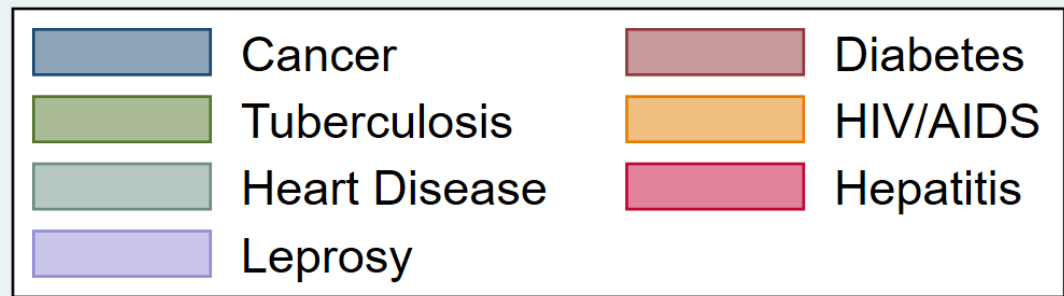
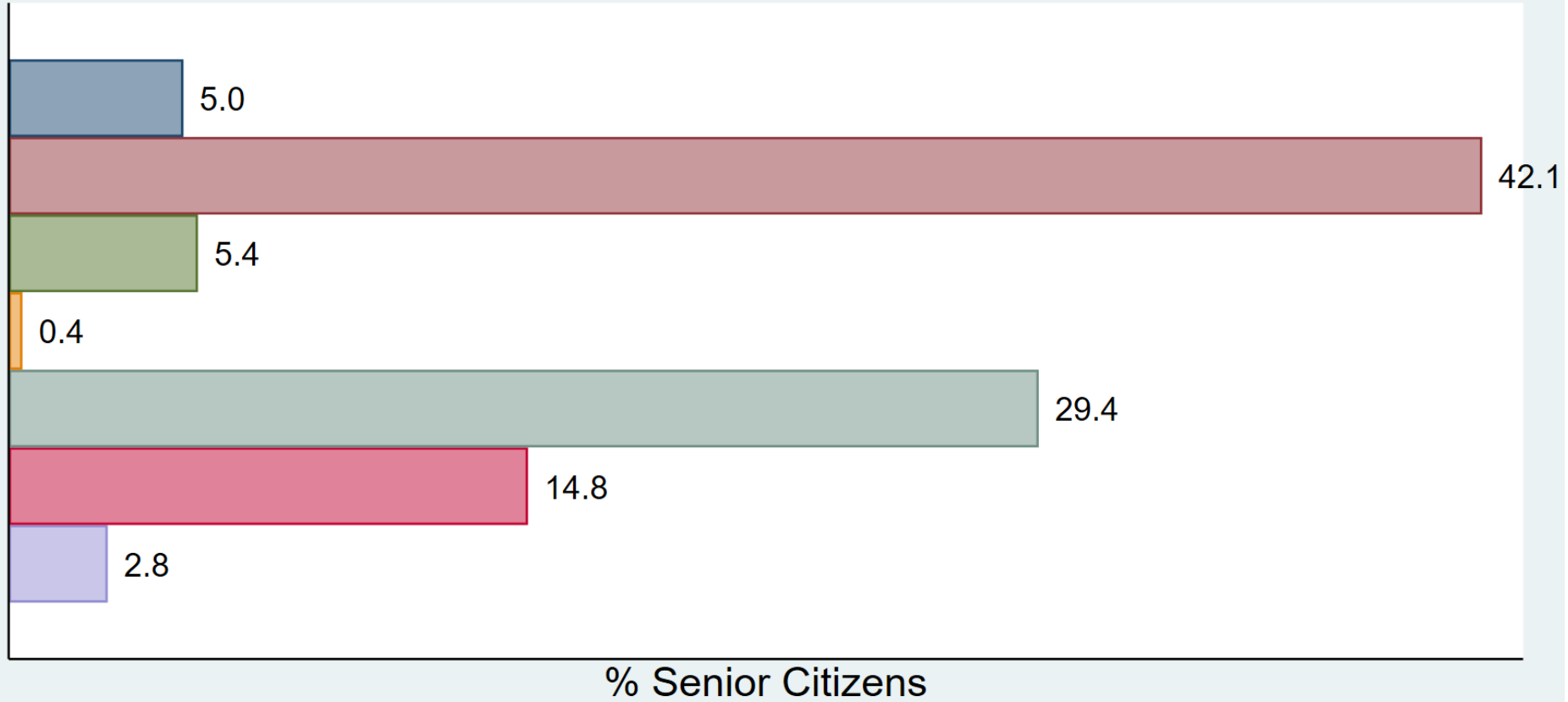
228,244
Communities

6.1%

4,175,622 Individuals

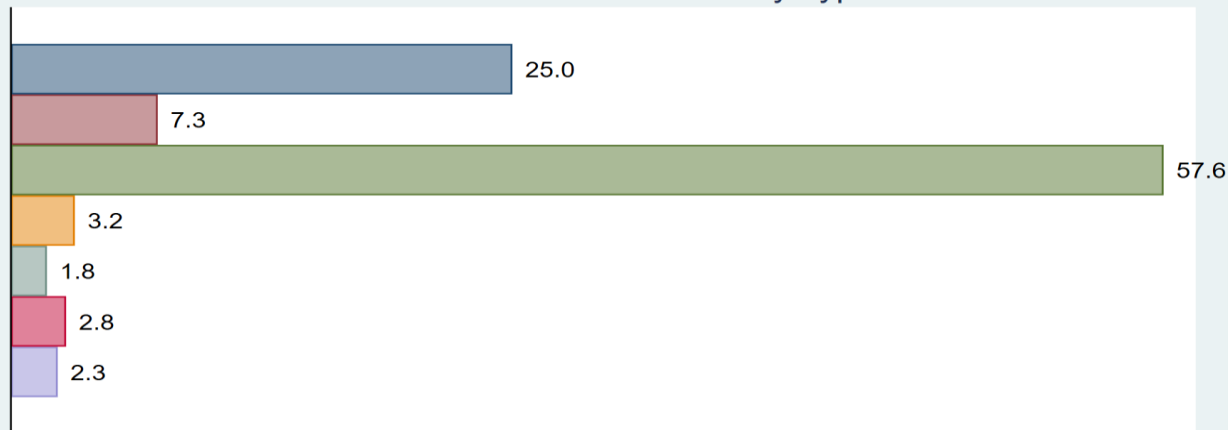
3,733,360 Households

Chronically Ill

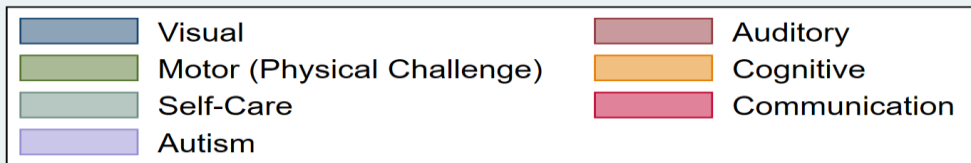


Source: NSR 31st Oct. 2024

Distribution of Senior Citizens in the NSR by Type of Disabilities



% Senior Citizens



Source: NSR 31st Oct. 2024



Social Development Framework

- Instead of the narrow pessimistic negative ageist stereotypes about burden of ageing and older persons
- The Social Development Framework provides holistic, multi sectoral insights and opportunity to harness the potentials in the challenges of its ageing population for sustainable development
- The framework promotes the Universality of investments in inclusive health & social systems and infrastructure;
- It sees the youth bulge with a longevity lens and embraces the dividend and economic growth opportunities in engaging the expertise and experiences of older persons and the geriatric market
- Nigeria's Social development framework is Not a Coincidence – It is a well thought out strategy
INFLENCED BY MANY SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN NIGERIA

AGEING and SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

Global Ageing Trends



1. Rapid ageing:

Addressing health systems, social protection, life-long learning and continuing engagement, intergenerational roles, long-term Care, psycho-social challenge



2. Urbanization:

Housing and living arrangements, mobility and transportation. Water sanitation, social connections, mental health and access to public services.



3. Migration:

Out-migration of adult children weakening family support and living arrangements and older persons migrating affects independence & Ageing in place



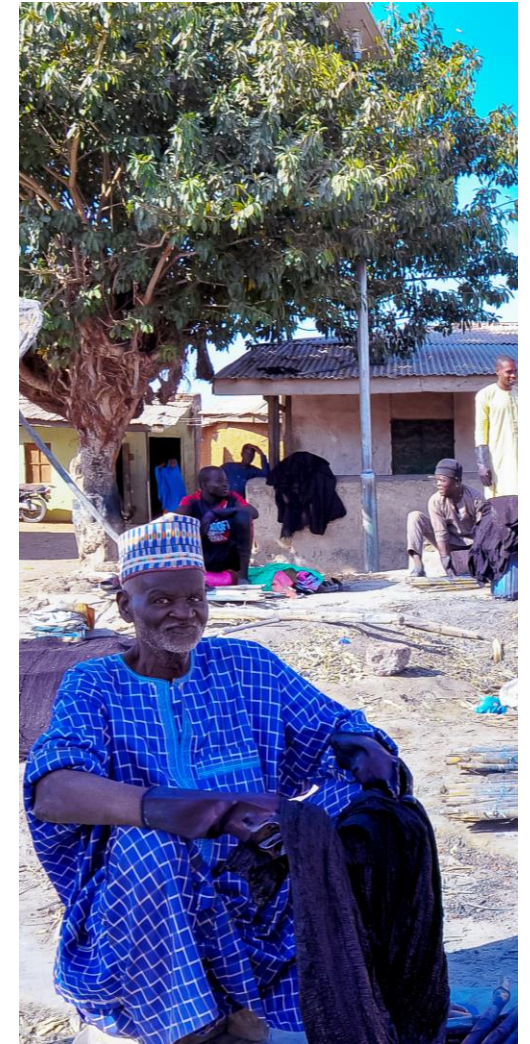
4. Technology

Digital divide, education and integration
Adoption of technology for health access
Elimination of face to face interaction

Major Social and Structural Challenges Demanding Strategic Social Development Framework

So how is Nigeria navigating the following challenges ;

1. Intersection of ageing with global trends and the implications
2. The socio- cultural & economic environment which shapes experience of ageing
3. Diversity in population of older persons and rapidly increasing number of older persons in Nigeria
4. Ageism and marginalization of older persons
5. The interlinkages and intersections of MDA mandates and priority areas in ageing
6. Challenges of Federal System of Governance and subnational collaborations,
7. Limited institutional capacity and quality human resource in the field of ageing
8. Budgetary Appropriation

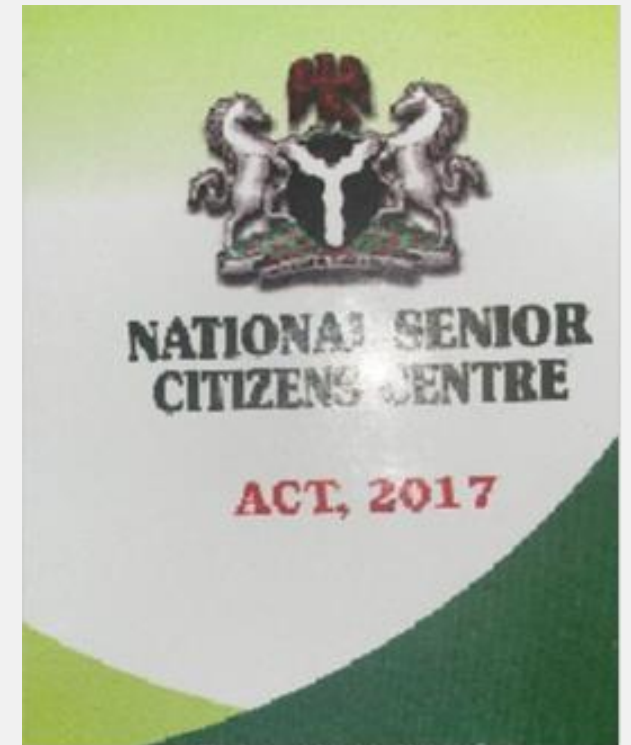


Nigeria's deliberate Strategic Pathways to responding to the challenges and implications of Ageing Makes for a Social Development Framework

1. Established Legal Entity and Regulatory Frameworks
2. Formulated the National Policy on Ageing 2021
3. Developed a National Plan of Action on Ageing 2021-2025
4. Developed a Strategic Roadmap on Ageing 2022-2032
5. Designed Pillar programs and flagship project activities and- integrated in the National Development Plan
6. Established Multisectoral ecosystems and Partnership mechanisms with MDAs/ stakeholders for program implementation
7. Established sub national stakeholder consultative Forums and program implementation and monitoring mechanisms

Legislative Foundation

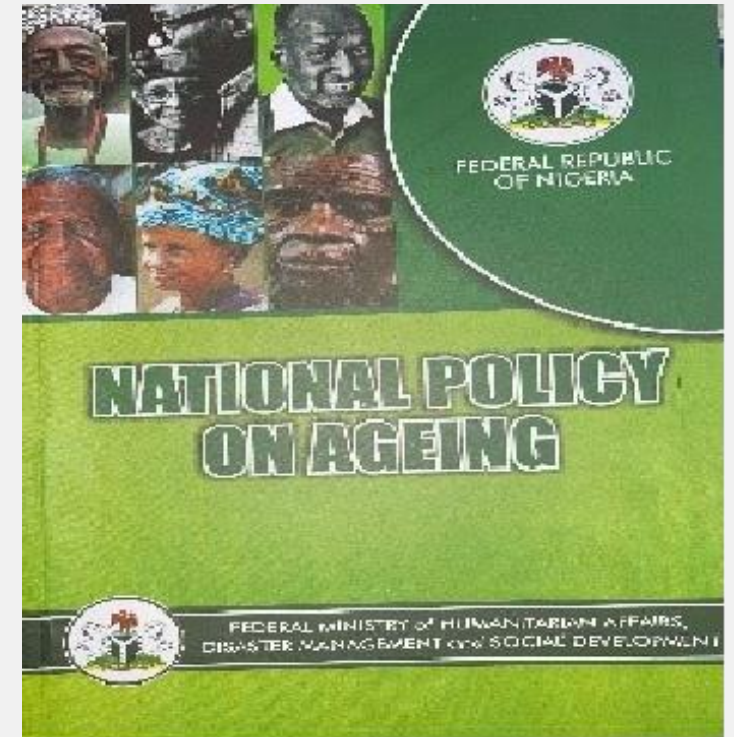
- Nigeria signed the National Senior Citizens Centre Act in 2017, with a mandate to identify and cater for needs of older persons- Improve the lives and well being of older persons.
- This fundamental and landmark legislation compelled the establishment of the National Senior Citizens Centre as a focal Agency on Ageing in June 2021.
- Legislation Upholds a multi sectoral approach - Investments in their Capacity Enhancement, Continuing Engagement and economic empowerment and social connections and social programs for the vulnerable.
- **It directs a vision of an inclusive society , Equity , dignity , independence, health and social programs as Human right issues.**



National Policy and Social Development Framework

- Global Frameworks and Development Agendas underlining NSCC National Policy on Ageing
- The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing-2002 Revised-2019
- The Sustainable Development Goals- 2015-2030
- WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030
- Promote **sector-wide approach:**

Integration of Older persons and Development/ Advancing into old age with health and wellbeing/ Ensuring Enabling and supportive Environment for older persons

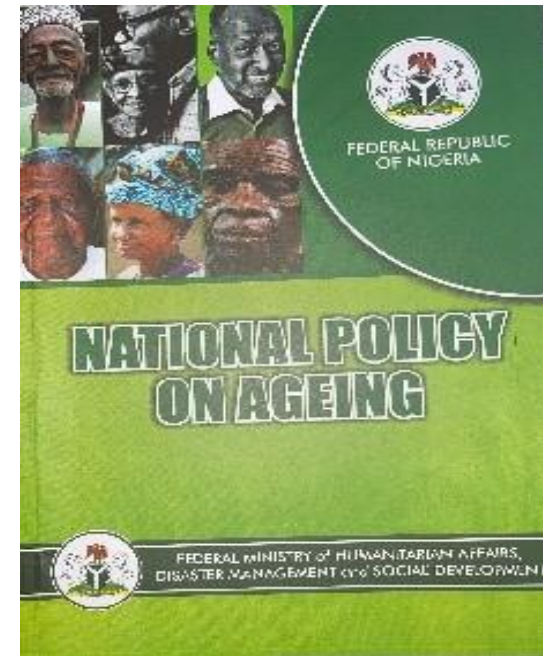


Policy Framework

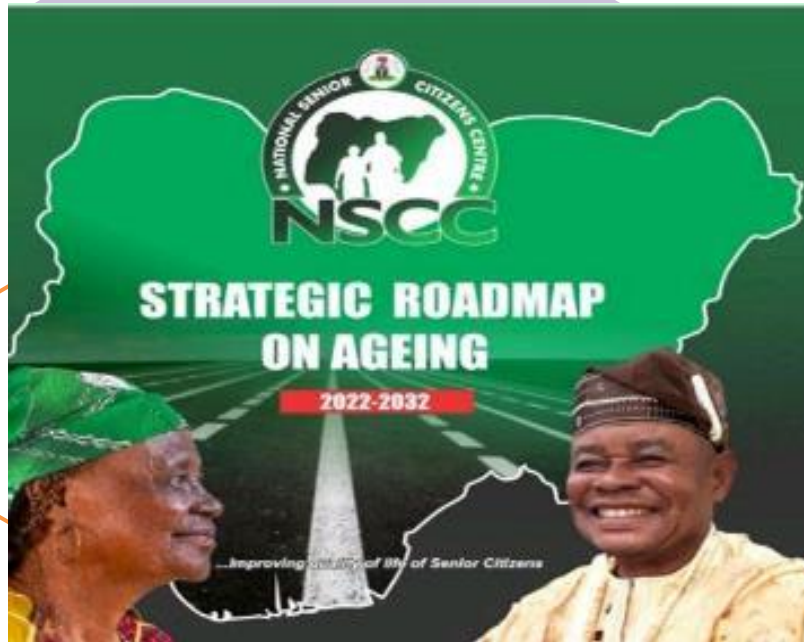
The National Policy

Other National policy documents in Nigeria aimed at upholding the dignity of its vulnerable population including older persons in particular which guide NSCC pursuit of ageing mainstreaming in MDAs,

- National Social Protection Policy, 2022 (revised).
- National Strategic Health Development Plan, 2018-2022.
- National Policy for Persons with Disabilities.
- National Policy for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons 2021.
- National Gender Policy 2015.



Strategic Roadmap on Ageing



- Strategic Roadmap 2022-2032-through National Inclusive multi-sectoral technical working group
- Articulatees the most critical issues
- Identifying Strategic path ways for Program interventions -
 - 1) **Ageing Mainstreaming** and/or
 - 2). **Creating New Opportunities** through flagship programs

Operationalizing the National Policy on Ageing

Finding Strategic Pathways for Program



- 8 ageing programs
- 15 Project Activities objectives
- Justification
- Strategic pathways
- Partnerships
- Monitoring evaluation framework
- Key performance
- Multi-indicators
- Timeline – 2021-2025.

PRIORITY PILLARS

**Livelihood
Empowerment/
Social Assisatance**

**Healthy Ageing,
Distribution of
Assistive
Devices and
Technologies**

**Long Term Care
and Support
Services**

**Continuing
engagement of
capacities of older
persons**

**One Community
one Senior Center
Initiative**

**Age Friendly
Services and
Elder Justice
Campaign**

**Older Persons
Multipurpose ID
Cards and
expanded Access to
Social Protection**

**Research, Data
Documentation,
Monitoring and
Evaluation**

**These pillare programs are aligned with SDG
1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10,14& 17**

The multi-sectoral programs calls for Ageing mainstreaming by a dedicated Agency

Coordinating and Collaborating Centre

The Centre works with MDAs, the private sector, community groups and non-governmental organizations, to supply quality programmes, valuable guides, publications, timely information and national orientation on issues that affect Nigeria's older persons.

Initiating Centre

The Centre creates opportunities and solutions to advance active healthy life-styles, income security, enabling environment, life-long education opportunities, intergenerational community livelihood programmes, generation-to-generation campaigns, etc.

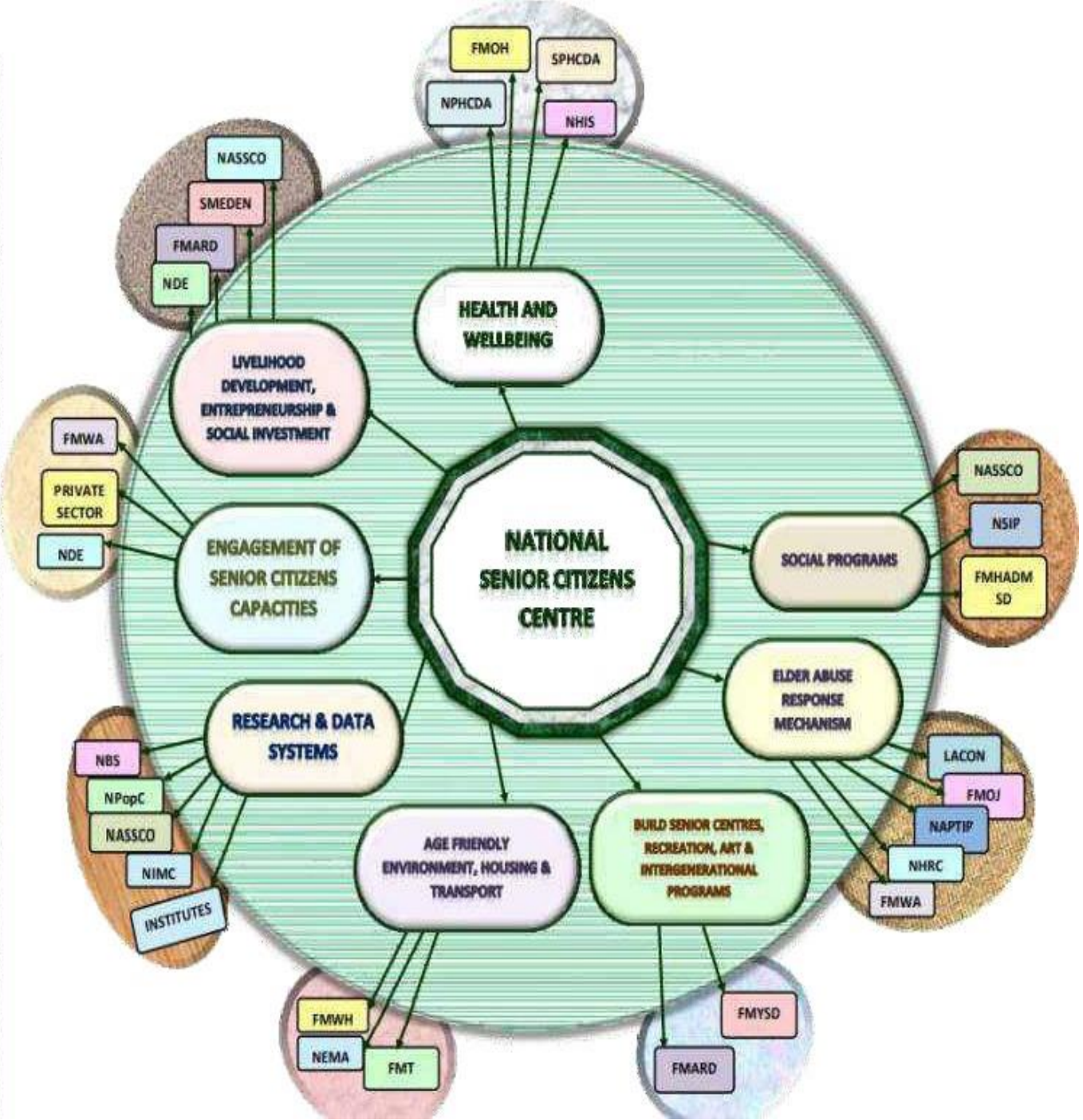
Advocacy Centre

The Centre sensitizes, informs, educates and mobilizes the public and relevant stakeholders to influence attitude, shift policies and engender legislative reforms in affirmation of older persons.

Resource Mobilization Centre

The Centre monitors and responds to sector policy and legislative issues that affect older persons at government/private institutions, community, traditional and faith-based institutions, in the interest of older persons through creating special purpose vehicles to mobilize needed resources and provide facilities and platforms to deliver solutions.

- ABBREVIATIONS**
- FMHADMSD** – Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management & Social Development
 - FMOH** – Federal Ministry of Health
 - FMT** – Federal Ministry of Transport
 - FMOJ** – Federal Ministry of Justice
 - FMWH** – Federal Ministry of Works & Housing
 - FMARD** – Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development
 - FMYSO** – Federal Ministry of Youth & Sport Development
 - FMWA** – Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
 - NPHCDA** – National Primary Health Care Development Agency
 - SPHCDA** – State Primary Health Care Development Agency
 - NHRC** – National Human Rights Commission
 - NBS** – National Bureau of Statistics
 - NPopC** – National Population Commission
 - NIMC** – National Identity Management Commission
 - NDE** – National Directorate of Employment
 - LACON** – Legal Aid Council of Nigeria
 - NAPTIP** – National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
 - NASSCO** – National Social Safety Net Coordinating Office
 - NHIS** – National Health Insurance Scheme
 - NSIP** – National Social Investment Program
 - NEMA** – National Emergency Management Agency
 - INSTITUTES** – University Institution
 - SMEDEN** -



Mechanisms of Engagements.



Ageing Desk forum engaging with 40 MDAs



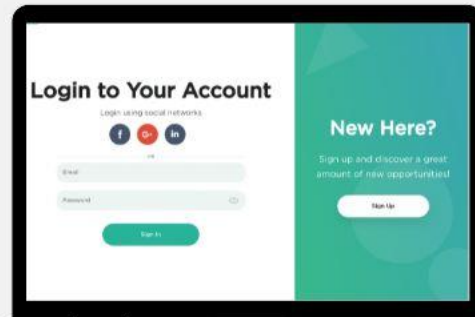
National Stakeholders Consultative Forum on Ageing in 36 States and FCT



Forum of State Commissioners with purview over older persons (36 and FCT)



Elder Justice Charter Forum for mobilizing network support against elder abuse and for age-friendly services



Continuing engagement portal and platform for retired professionals and technocrats



Geriatrics Social Care Skills Sector Council



Goodwill Ambassadors of Age-friendly Services and Elder Justice Advocacy

☐ The Challenges of Federal System of Governance and subnational collaborations

- High level advocacy of domestication of the National senior citizens act
- Enhancement of capacities of Personnel
- Partnerships to cascade National Ageing programs

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

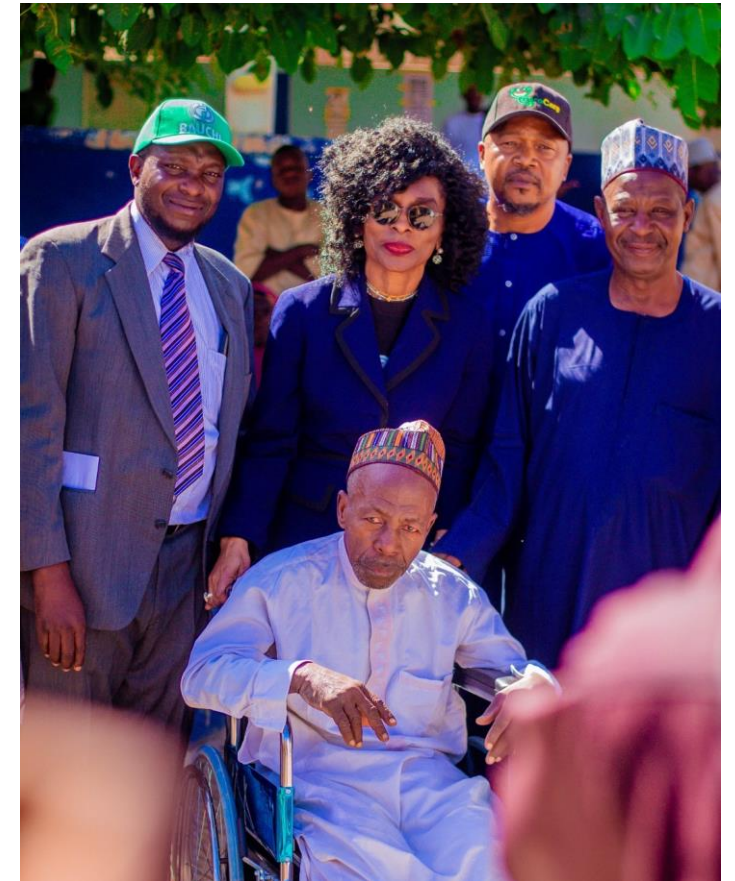
**Healthy Ageing, Counselling
and Senior Citizens National
Walk for Life Initiative**



Healthy Ageing/ medical outreach/ assistive devices

Medical Outreach to Rural Communities, and Distribution of Assistive Devices to older Persons Living with Disabilities:

- Health Promotions
- Disease Prevention
- Diagnoses and Treatments
- Referrals.
- Needs Assessments & Distribution of Assistive Devices



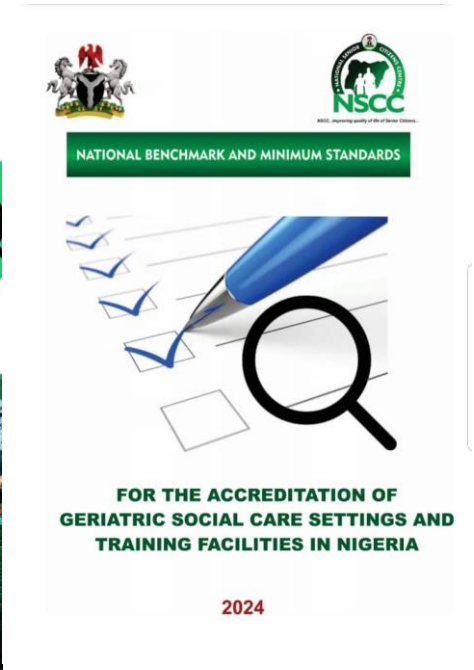
Long Term Care & Support System

Aims to address the gaps in care and support services , the burden of families; the abuse of older persons in the care of unskilled care workers and the undervaluing of care work; Promote Care as decent work, Fair wages. Poverty reduction and to empower women and girls

Identified the need for formalized and regulated Care system for older persons who need care

Developed National Policy Guidelines For Quality Assurance in Geriatric Social Care and Standard Operating Procedures For Care settings in Nigeria ; Developed National Benchmark and minimum standards for Accreditation of care facilities and domiciliary care agencies

Set frameworks for quality assurance systems and mechanisms to **recognize, classify, formalize, regulate and bolster CARE GIVING TO OLDER PERSONS** as a fundamental component of social and economic development

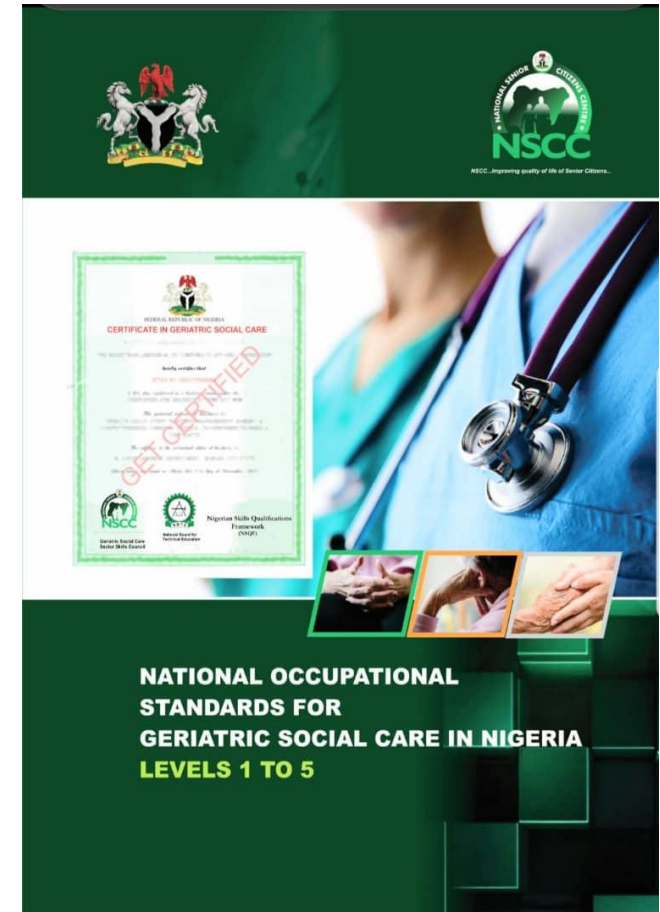


CARE ECONOMY- MAKING A BUSINESS CASE FOR CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Ageing is an industry that provides employment opportunities- NSCC is positioning Nigeria to exploit economic opportunities in geriatric and gerontological fields-

Developed the National Occupational Standards Levels 1-5

- Training and National Certification of Care givers- promoting Inter-generational synergy and employment opportunities
- Established Geriatric Social Care Council
- unlocking the value chain in the care economy
- starting with the identification, recognition and classification of Geriatric Social Care as a sub-sector in Nigeria
- Ensuring that the formalized Care workforce with knowledge, skills and competencies crucial to enable workers access the labour market and -to practice older -person centred care



INCOME SECURITY

Livelihood Empowerment and Social Assistance

NSCC is prioritizing the productive capacities and value of the demographics “60 plus” by branding their unique and specialize products and services

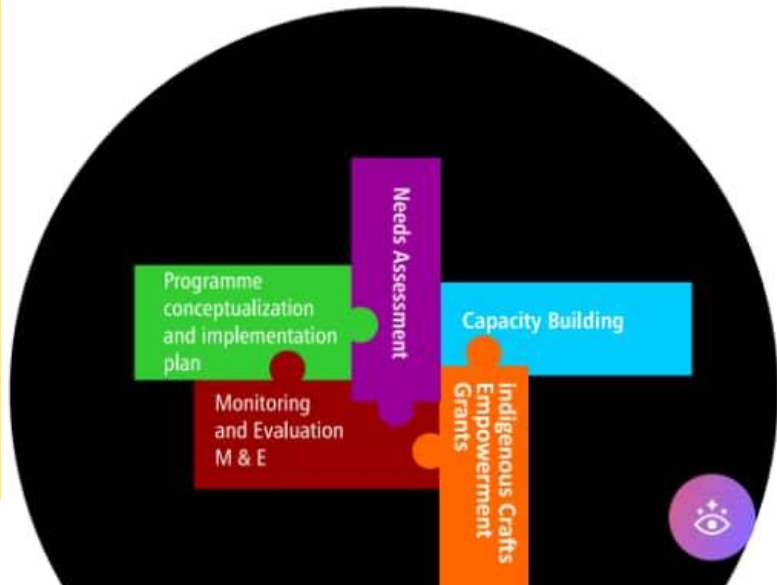
These productive categories (retirees and pensioners) are mobilized into groups of cooperatives as economic and productive cells

NSCC provides the facilitation and coordination while communities provide the resources (human capital, land and off-takers)

We propose a “Third Party Financing Arrangement” to bridge project funding gap between production and off-taking

The risk mitigation strategy include the group ownership and output.

Project Activities.



EMPOWERING RURAL ARTISANS

Evolving Sustainable Livelihoods for income generation and general wellbeing

1. mapping livelihood ventures /
2. National needs assessments/
3. capacity enhancements,
4. grants/ loan scheme/
5. multi-purpose cooperative
6. Sector wide partnerships in building social enterprise
7. formation of third party financing
8. value chain and market promotions.



Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies

- ECONOMIC TREE-CROP PLANTING PROGRAM AND PROMOTION OF VALUE CHAIN PROCESSING, MECHANIZING AND MARKETING
- . Reduce poverty and vulnerability of Senior citizens by creating opportunities for engagement in Livelihood programs and public work schemes for income;
- ii. Accelerate support Services and expansion of National and State Safety-Net program coverage for poor and vulnerable senior citizens
- iii. Accelerate senior citizens' inclusion in National and States Social Investment programs.



Project Activities.

Using Cooperative Society Framework for Social Assistance

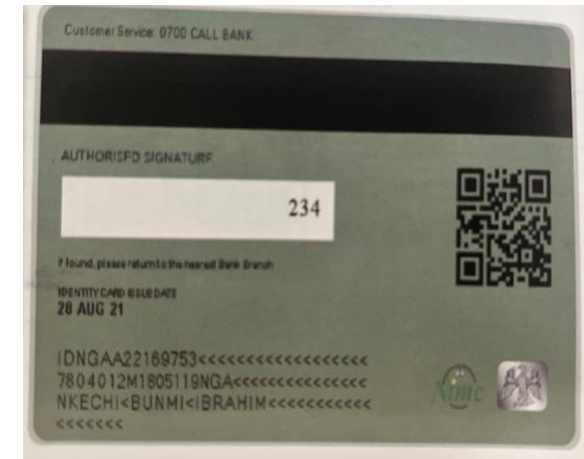


EQUITY AND INCLUSION OF OLDER PERSONS' CONCERNS IN GOVERNMENT BUDGET

NSCC is committed to advocacy for equity in public spending on provision of social safety nets, social assistance and skills development across generations by providing the framework to increase social investments in older persons especially older women residing in rural council.

NSCC-NIMC Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose/Social Safety-Net cards –

- Tool for discounts, concessions and priority services in public places
- For Equity and Inclusion in National and States Social Investment Programs
- It seeks partnerships with State and local govts to deploy the Senior=Multi-purpose ID and Social safety- net cards as integral
- Nigeria is moving further to ensure its older persons have National mechanism for accessing Social assistance.
- This multipurpose card is an e- wallet that will integrate over 15 old age social assistance services for the card holders, including ;
 - ✓ -Medication support
 - ✓ - Nutrition & meal support
 - ✓ - Social care support
 - ✓ - mobility & transportation support
 - ✓ - old age grant
 - ✓ - cash transfer.
 - ✓ - Multipurpose Cooperatives membership support
 - ✓ -Rural artisan grant
 - ✓ -Subsistence farmer program grant .
- Each of the programs list the legibility indicators - integrated in the chips
- NSCC and NIMC is stretching to find funds to rollout the first 1,000 050M cards in February 2025.



One Community One Senior Center

- Building of Senior Centers for recreation sports, arts and leisure, cross generational education
- Developed Prototype and Programme Guidelines
- ✓ Skills acquisition,
- ✓ Intergenerational cross learning
- ✓ Volunteering opportunities,
- ✓ Promote literacy, Art and Leisure, Health
- ✓ Wellness and recreational programs
- ✓ Opportunities for social assistance for senior citizens in need



Continuing Engagement Bureau program



- Capacity Enhancement, Work Creation Partnership and Brain Trust Project.
- Matching Senior citizens expertise with work or Volunteering opportunities
- DG NSCC welcomes and promotes Retired Nurses Continuing Engagement in Geriatric Social Care and Support Services within their communities,
- Providing training opportunities for their up -skilling for registration and accreditation of Domiciliary (Home) Care Agencies within communities

Media and Entertainment Veterans volunteering



Elder Justice Campaigns

- Promoting Age friendly environment and AWARDS
- Mobilizing National Support Networks for Senior Citizens against Elder Abuse
- NSCC Developed and distributed 10 effective electronic and 3,000 hard copies of IEC materials in partnership with NAPTIP NHRC, NOA and Legal Aid Council, translated into 3 major Nigerian languages on Elder Abuse AWARENESS and remedy and rescue Call lines.
- Elder Abuse Prevention, Identification, interventions and Prosecutions
- Mobilizing partnership strength
- Development of National Support networks for Senior citizens
- Launch of Elder Justice Clubs in Secondary schools
- Commemoration of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) in 2021, 2022, 2023,2024





SILVER OASES - NG

NSCC television program that brings the viewers delightful focus on NSCC's commitment to addressing the challenges of Older Persons while exploiting the opportunities in a Care Economy, as well as, refreshing insights for reflections of viewers on involvement with NSCC in curating the future of Ageing in Nigeria

For sponsorship call
+234 803 711 2992

conclusion

- [?] Nigeria's Social Development Framework is therefore not a coincidence but a clear thought out strategy of inclusion, integration and sustainable development development.
- Understanding and adoption of MIPPA, and a convention on Rights of older persons- provides the contexts for Equity & Inclusion of older persons in sustainable development.
- A social development framework creates the opportunity for expanded social protection and bilateral funding for inclusive social development
- This is NIGERIA'S POLICY ACTION



...Improving quality of life of Senior Citizen.

Thank You
For Your Attention

