

# Bangladesh

## Progress towards MIPAA implementation



**Md Mostafa Kamal Mazumder**  
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare

# **Legislation and National Policies on Older Persons**

**1. Implement the National Policy on Older Persons - 2013, Maintenance of Parents Act-2013, Re-organized the National Committee on Older Persons 2017, Action Plan to implement the National Policy on Older Persons 2013 and A draft been finalized on Probin Unnayan Foundation Act 2017 for Elderly Development.**

- Government Structures, Legislation and National Policies on Older Persons
- Government Coordinating Body or Committee on Older Persons
- Overarching Legislation on Older Persons
- Gender/Disability Provisions in Legislation on Older Persons
- National Policies and Action Plans on Older Persons
- Budgetary Allocation on Older Persons Policies and Programs
- MIPAA Implementation and 2017 Review Preparation

# **Older Persons and Development**

## **2. Enrich the ongoing Social Assistance Schemes for Older Persons and introduce contributory Universal Pension Schemes**

- Older Persons and Development
- Participation of Older Persons in Decision-making and Policy-formulation
- Social Protection of Older Persons – Contributory Pension Schemes
- Non-Contributory Pension and Social Assistance Schemes
- Measures to Increase Employment Opportunities of Older Persons
- Addressing Needs of Older Persons in Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Programs
- Collection of Statistical Data

## **Advancing Health and Well-Being into Old Age**

### **3. Sensitization, Orientation and Training Programs for Physicians, Therapy Health Professionals and other Health Caregivers on ageing issues**

- Advancing Health and Well-Being into Old Age
- Policies and Programs on Healthy/Active Ageing
- Health Insurance Scheme for Older Persons
- Affordable access to primary and secondary health care
- Geriatric and Gerontological Training
- Long term Care
- Measures to Enhance the Mental Health Services for Older Persons
- Measures to Support Persons with Disabilities and Ensure Their Participation in Decision-Making
- Collection of Statistical Data

# **Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environments**

## **4. Separate and Exclusive arrangements and opportunities for Older Persons in availing all Public Utility services.**

- Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environments
- Age-friendly, Affordable Living and Transportation
- Trainings and Accreditation System for Caregivers
- Care Quality Standards, Monitoring Mechanisms and Support to Family Caregivers
- Measures to Address Neglect, Violence, Abuse and Recognize Contributions of Older Persons
- Collection of Statistical Data

## **Reflections**

**Government become sensitized and active, making mass people responsive to the public initiatives.**

# Reflections (continued 01)

- To ensure the sustainability of govt. announced facilities for Older people .  
*E.G.: "Widow allowance", "Old age allowance" etc.*
- To built required quantity of Older Home in each district and take responsibility or to help such activities;
- To take initiatives for older people and ensure health service in discount rate;
- To built gymnasium for older people and to help improve their lifestyle;
- To introduce correct food habit and exercise manual in education system for older people;
- To take steps to open Geriatric Medicine Department in all the Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country.
- To provide transport facilities for Older people in reduced cost.
- To inspire NGOs and INGOs to work with older age people and take initiatives to provide financial and Technical Assistance for them.

# Reflections (continued 02)

- To recruit older people in appropriate job facilities and create opportunities for them and take necessary steps to give training;
- To help older people to reduce risk of disaster and protect & rehabilitate them;
- To introduce the Universal Non-Contributory Pension Scheme;
- To create Older People Welfare Fund and Savings Certificate;
- To do research and awareness on older people;
- To create information center on Older People;
- To create day care center and administer such setup for them;
- To ensure older people facilities Govt. will take necessary action as required.
- To create accessible infrastructure in residence, toilet, transport etc.
- To create Legal Aid for Older persons in the community.



## Talking Points on Experience Sharing

- Elderly people are a remarkable portion of Bangladesh's burgeoning population. The rate increases due to rise in average age of people. According to UN census, around 2.68% elderly populations are augmenting in Bangladesh every year. **In 1991, total older population was 06 million, which reaches to 11.3 million in 2011. If this grown up rate continue, elderly population will be around 19% in the coming 50 years** which could causes tremendous affect on the people, society, national and socio-economic situation of Bangladesh. According to national policy on older persons 2013, people above 60 years are created as older person in Bangladesh.

2. Bangladesh is implementing various programs for the elderly population since 1998 which are as follows:

➤ **Old Age Allowance:**

The constitution of Bangladesh in its clause 15(d) clearly stated to ensure social security. It spells the right to obtain public assistance in case of boundless want arising from unemployment, illness or disability, widowhood, lack of parents or unlimited need due to senility and other reasons. Despite constitutional obligation no government had come forward to implement this commitment. **But the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, during her last tenure introduced old age allowances program in 1998.** this is an epoch-making social security program in the history of Bangladesh. Initially, in 1997-1998 Fiscal Year 120 million taka distributed among 0.40 million beneficiaries @ 100 Taka per month. Now in current FY 2016-2017 allocation increased to 18,900 million taka and distributed 500 taka per month among 3.15 million beneficiaries.

## ➤ Old Home

In Bangladesh, traditionally the elders are thought as the guardians and advisors of the society. Elderly people are respected by the family, society and even by the nation. But due to globalization and various socio-economic reasons, the traditional values and customs are not maintaining properly. Due to degradation of modern values, the younger generations consider the experience and knowledge of the elders are outdated. On the other hand due to their profession they have to go for work in various global markets. As a result, the traditional joint family structures have broken down and familial support to the elders have been reduced drastically. For this reason to support the vulnerable families govt. has initiated this program in **06 Old homes in 06 Division of the Country in 2015-2016** which are run by the Department of Social Services under Ministry of Social Welfare. Besides this, a pilot project of Old home at 12 Shishu paribar in 07 divisions with 10 seats in each as launched experimentally recently. After successful completion of pilot, it will be scale up throughout the country gradually.

## ➤ **Senior Citizen Declaration**

As per the provision of rule 8(1) of the National Policy on Older Persons 2013, Govt. has declared the citizen above 60 years are Senior citizen.

## ➤ **Health Care & Nutrition for Older Persons**

Regarding the health care & nutrition for older persons are described in the rule 12 of the policy. According to the rule and plan of action following attempts has taken:

- ‘Geriatric care and medicine’ subject has introduced in the MBBS course. Curriculum Geriatric health problem also included in the subject “Epidemiology of Communicable and Non-communicable diseases”.
- Geriatric medicine department has planned to establish in different public medical colleges.
- Establishment of separate counter and provide services on priority basis for the elderly female in different public hospitals.

➤ **Insurance scheme for Elderly people**

Government has planned to introduce Insurance scheme for the elderly people.

➤ **Progress of MIPAA 2002**

**Bangladesh first enacted a policy in 2013 regarding the aging population in pursuits of Madrid International Plan of Action in Ageing (2002).** Old age allowance program started in this country was much earlier of Madrid Plan of Action. But the activities taken by the Government for the Older persons were not organized. For structuring the actions and for running long term permanent operations, to highlight their right and all-out welfare and socio-economic development, Govt. has formulated some policies which are as follows:

- ✓ **National Policy on Older Persons 2013:** to execute the policy a plan of action was also accepted by the Govt. thrusting mainly on health, transportation and accommodation. Concern Ministries related to the plan of action also informed to execute the plan.
- ✓ **The Parents Care Act 2013:** To ensure the right of food, cloth, shelter, medical and companion with parents “The Parents Care Act 2013” has enacted by the Govt. Children are bound to take care of their parents due to this act. The safety, security and all others opportunities of parents will be ensured by the enforcement of the law.
- ✓ **A draft on Probin Unnayan Foundation Act 2017:** This draft act has been finalized for the development of older persons through monitoring and executing the decision taken by the Govt.

# **Activities of NGOs and INGOs incorporating GOVT.**

- Some national and international NGOs are actively working in Bangladesh for elderly population. Among them some leading organizations are:
  - Bangladesh Association of Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM) established in 1960.
  - Resource Integration Center (RIC)
  - Boiska Kallyan Samity (BKS)
  - Sir William Beverage Foundation
  - Help Age International etc.