

Item 4

IRAN

Item 4 (Interview)

IN THE NAME OF GOD

The efforts conducted under the provision and coordination of the **Secretariat of the National Council for Older Persons**, the main government body in charge of policymaking and coordination related to older persons in the I.R.IRAN, in accordance with the MIPAA recommendations:

**Older persons and development:**

- In order to develop a policy framework for inclusion of population ageing into national development strategies, we decided to develop a "**National Strategic Document on Ageing**", this document was initially developed by the Secretariat of the National Council for Older Persons, operating under order of Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Security, later it was integrated with suggestions from other stakeholders in the public and private sectors, and finalized to be presented to the president's office within the next month. The document consists of 6 main strategies in the fields of: General culture regarding older persons and their dignity, enabling older persons, providing and improving physical, mental and social health, improving social capita and social support, creating necessary foundations for older people's benefits, providing financial security for older person's support. The action plans derived from these strategies will provide the basis for older people's social inclusion and promotion, with special focus on older women and those residing in rural areas.

- In order to deploy all plans and interventions related to older persons on basis of data, related statistics and situation analysis, the "**National older persons assessment study**" has been designed and approved for funding by the Ministry of Cooperation, Labor and Social Security, the draft questionnaires are prepared for pilot study, the main assessment will be conducted in 2018, with collaboration by several universities and UNFPA, IRAN.

Regarding the empowerment of older people, several programs have been conducted as below:

- Empowerment of older women in less developed regions, by teaching self-care, healthy lifestyle and help from community outreach teams. Over 70 thousand women are targeted for 2017.
- Integrating the Global Age Watch Index, in the countries' assessment system for monitoring the older persons well being, with collaboration of UNFPA, Help Age International, and under guidance of Prof. Ziedi.

**Income security and employment:**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the Secretariat of the National Council for Older Persons, promoted the first session of the **national committee for older persons**, headed directly by the Minister of Cooperation, Labor and Social Security, and attendance by all high ranking officials related to older person's affairs, many programs regarding income were set into motion:

- Designing a special "**Dignity Card**" for older citizens, a smart card enabling the holder access to healthy nutrition, safe transport, healthcare and cultural/ entertainment, sport facilities, with a special discount/ free of charge, the pilot study was successful in 3 provinces.
- Organizing a **pre- retirement orientation and empowerment course**, in which the attendants obtain skills regarding pension and financial management, investment, life skills, family and social interactions and possible post retirement occupation and activities.

- Establishment of the first "**University of 3<sup>rd</sup> Age**", with the cooperation of several universities , Municipalities and, community based organizations and welfare organization, and academic support provided by "UNESCO". It is designed as short and long term courses with certificates enabling older persons to carry out training others, paid and, or voluntary occupation, and get skills related to self-maintenance, leisure activities and other means of social interaction and life long- learning.
- Promoting self- help groups managed by older people, in charge of community interventions for improving older people's quality of life, sponsored by the welfare organization, called the "**Farzanegaan Foundation**", now active in all 32 provinces of IRAN.

#### **Addressing all forms of discrimination:**

- After many joint sessions with members of university faculties, members of NGOs related to older persons, an human rights representatives, the first draft for "**the Action Plan for Prevention and Intervention Protocols Against Elder Abuse**" was prepared by the Secretariat of the National Council for Older Persons, an presented to the Minister of Cooperation, Labor and Social Security , and after formal approval, now the first phase which is teaching older persons and their families regarding elder abuse and ways to prevent and control it, will be piloted in Tehran city, in collaboration with Farzanegaan Foundation and Tehran Municipality.
- The first "**Older Persons ' Bill of Rights**" Has been prepare and undergoing final revisions by legal and other related officials, to be presented to the Senate for approval.

#### **Ensuring healthy live sat all ages:**

- The ministry of health and medical education has devised an integrated geriatric short assessment protocol into the PHC system throughout the Iran provinces,
- The welfare organization is carrying out a Community Based Rehabilitation program on a national scale which provides means to identify and support all disabled individuals in urban an rural settings,
- A pilot study is being conducted in Tehran by the welfare org. in collaboration with Iran Alzheimer Society, for early screening, prevention and control of Alzheimer's disease.
- The goal of increasing the healthcare services provided for the older persons , both in availability and affordability, is one of the main strategies outlined in the "**National Strategic Document on Ageing**".
- The Secretariat of the National Council for Older Persons, is planning to develop an expert committee in order to device standard and practical educational material , to enhance knowledge regarding all aspects of caring for an older person, within the family setting and in the community..
- Coverage of people of all age by a basic health insurance plan called the "**Salamat Insurance**".
- Promoting **healthy life styles** and **self care** to middle- aged and older people by using community base interventions(eg: **Farzanegaan Foundation**).

### **Enabling and supportive Environments:**

, The twenty first century is faced with the issues of population aging and urbanization, in a manner that the percentage of older people will rise from 11 percent in 2006, to 22 percent by 2050, on the other hand the number of cities over 10 million population has increased by five folds in the twentieth century, both these issues are happening more rapidly in developing countries, as compared to developed countries. In an age-friendly city, where special designing codes and standards are carried out for proper modifications, elderly and ordinary people have equal citizens' rights, which is made by creating opportunities for health, participation and security, along with active ageing, their quality of life is improved. With the help of **UNFPA and International Federation on Ageing**, a **National Age-Friendly Cities workshop** was conducted, and following that event in 2017, 3 major cities have started their programs, Isfahan is currently in the course of registering in WHO website of Global Age-Friendly Cities, and in 2018, 30 more cities will join the program as coordinated by the **Secretariat of the National Council for Older Persons**.

### **Data and research:**

In the I.R. IRAN the national census is conducted every 5 years and the latest census was completed in 2016-2017, in which demographic information regarding older persons were collected, more in depth information regarding all socio-economic, health and other domains will be provided after the **"National older persons assessment study"** has been carried out in 2017-18. At the same time, the Secretariat of the National Council for Older Persons is planning to bridge the information gaps by using community-based resource to complete the older persons relevant data.

Our main areas of interest which should be emphasized in the outcome document are:

- Attention should be paid on the importance of using new technologies in order to complete a problem – based data bank of older persons, in a manner to facilitate all related networking between related organizations, and the people.
- Encouraging international relations for developing universal protocols against ageism and elder abuse.
- Attention to the significant role of community – base programs in promoting all aspects of older persons' life.
- Special attention to feminization of ageing, especially in developing countries, more importantly those who are alone or providing for the family.