



SGA Africa Pan African Webinar Series- Session 2 - Thursday 20 August 2020

Theme: United and coordinated Africa for the inclusion of older people in COVID-19 Response and Development Agendas

Survey conducted by SGA Africa on the impact of COVID -19 containment and mitigation strategies on the rights of older persons in Africa showed, that 72% of respondents from 18 African Countries, reported inadequate structures for older persons' inclusion and participation in policy responses to COVID-19 and, the non-responsiveness of mitigation and containment strategies to their specific needs. Findings confirmed the fragile infrastructure and mechanisms of governments and private sector, for palliative distributions and provision of health care for pre-existing conditions during the pandemic and in most cases, the lack of social protection for older persons. From Community, State, National and, sub-Regional and Regional levels, there are identified gaps in addressing the inclusion of older persons in COVID-19 responses and national, regional and global development agendas, with actions to uphold their voices and human rights.(SGA Africa Report, 2020)

Without effective mechanisms, partnerships and, coordination among relevant actors; member states, AU, UN agencies, NGOs and, Private sector (bilateral, multilateral cooperation), it would be difficult to fill the gaps and to address COVID-19 and recovery phase. The policy brief published by the [UN Secretary General](#) on the Impact of COVID-19 on older persons provides sufficient guidance on the inclusion of older persons.

The Stakeholder Group on Ageing Africa (SGA-Africa) is organizing the 2ND in the SGA Africa Pan African Webinar series, on COVID-19 and, the Rights of older Persons in Africa on **the theme: United and Coordinated Africa for the Inclusion of Older Persons in COVID-19 Response and Development Agendas**. The webinar session will bring together, relevant stakeholders including, high level representatives of some African member states, UN Departments and Agencies, African Union Commission (AUC), UN-ECA (host of the African Regional Forum), sub-Regional Parliament, Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), and NGOs in Africa, to share experiences, challenges, best practices in identifying partnerships opportunities, mechanisms for linkages, engagement and collaboration among stakeholders on strengthening and fast tracking inclusion of older persons in policy responses to COVID-19 and development agendas.

Speakers will identify key areas of action for partnerships, collaboration and coordination, in crucial development, humanitarian and advocacy functions across Africa, including a regional and national multi-sector and comprehensive response plans for older persons in the context of covid-19. The discourse, will address partnerships and coordination of efforts to mitigate ageism and deepening poverty, health and psycho-social distress of older persons; expansion of social protection and universal health coverage and structuring integrated community care and human resource capacity, in order to re-engage inclusion of older persons in development agendas. Partnerships and collaboration on acceleration of efforts, towards the signing and ratification of the Protocol to the Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Rights of Older Persons in Africa will be considered.

Recommendations would guide actions towards identification of opportunities and, tools for coordination of policy, normative and programmatic actions.

Objectives

- To build a strong partnership among different African stakeholders on ageing, for effective coordinated advocacy and, action for the inclusion of older people in the COVID-19 response and in development agendas
- To identify tools for creating opportunities for stakeholder engagements and coordination at regional and sub- regional and national level
- To identify mechanisms for effective inclusion and participation of older persons in policy responses and development agenda
- To enhance understanding of the value and contributions of older persons and the implications of their inclusion and participation in policy responses

Theme

United and Coordinated Africa for the Inclusion of Older Persons in COVID-19 response and development agendas

Sub-themes:

- Mechanisms for Promoting Stakeholder Collaboration and Partnerships on Inclusion of Older Persons in Policy Responses and Programs –

Speakers: AUC; WHO; UNECA, Member State, Older Person

Each will speak to the subtheme, in the context of the organization's statutory mandate and the crucial development, humanitarian and advocacy functions across Africa, including a regional and national multi-sector and comprehensive response plans for older persons in the context of covid-19

The Older Person will speak to- understanding the value and contributions of older persons and the implications of their inclusion and participation in policy responses

Sub theme 2

- National, Regional and International Instruments on Rights of Older Persons: Implications for Inclusion of Older Persons in Development Agendas-

Speaker-

Sub theme 3

- Collaboration on the ratification of African protocol/UN Convention of the Rights of Older Persons- Identifying Opportunities Emerging From the COVID-19 Crises and Strengthening Solidarity

Speaker – NGO Representative

Day 2

Subthemes

- COVID -19 : Outstanding Innovative & Sustainable Policy Responses to Equality and Inclusion of Older persons (5 **Country presentations, representing 5 regions**)
- Ways of Translating the policy brief of the UN Secretary General on the Impact of COVID-19 on older persons into Building Sustainable Coalitions

- Reflections and Way Forward

Rationale

The conversations between the stakeholders on the theme and sub-themes will include the sharing of their perspectives on rights of older persons and, implications of a united and, coordinated Africa for older persons ' inclusion in development agendas. The sharing of best practices, challenges and lessons learned from different stakeholders with regards to collaborations, partnerships and coordination of response to the COVID-19 both now and beyond will foster understanding and an agenda of inclusion. The dialogue will take into account, the value of older people, people with disabilities and other most vulnerable groups and the SDGs 'leaving no one behind', and serve as an opportunity to identify the gaps and seek possible solutions.

Partners: African Union Commission (AUC), UN-ECA/ARFSD, UNDESA, OHCHR, WHO Nigeria / NANHRI, NHRC, DOF, INPEA, IFA, HelpAge International, DIS MOI, GERAN, NSINDAGIZA, GAN, MANEPO, HEPIQ-C

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Stakeholder Group on Ageing

