



## **Mainstreaming Ageing in Policymaking**

### **Capacity Building Workshop**

**23-24 August 2022**

**Nairobi, Kenya**

### **Report**

#### **I. Introduction**

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 population, and it is expected to increase to reach 4 million persons in 2070 which is equivalent to almost 8% of the population. However, the older persons in Somalia constitute one of the most vulnerable groups as large segments of them are exposed to the risk of poverty, disease and isolation.

In light of this reality, and in the framework of technical assistance between the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in Somalia and Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (ESCWA), ESCWA organized a hybrid capacity building workshop on mainstreaming ageing in policy making on 23 and 24 of August 2022, in Nairobi – Kenya.

The workshop aimed to build the knowledge of relevant ministries representatives on older persons issues and priorities, as well as means to address them considering the national context.

The workshop was attended by representatives from the ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Somali National Bureau of Statistics, ministry of health, ministry of transportation and ministry of education, as well as members of the parliament.

Dg. Abdullahi Mohamed Ali, Director General of Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, delivered the opening remarks. He stressed on the importance of addressing older persons issues in Somalia and expressed his appreciation to ESCWA for its continuous support.

Dr. Sara Salman, Population Affairs Officer at ESCWA, explained the scope of technical assistance provided by ESCWA to MoLSA which started with conducting the current capacity building workshop on mainstreaming ageing in policy making, and will be followed by a situation analysis study on older persons in Somalia, a national strategy for older persons, a national consultation to review and validate the strategy, and finally an implementation action plan to complement the strategy.

## II. Workshop sessions

### a. Scene setting session:

In this session, Dr. Salman presented on the rights of older persons and the available global frameworks that addressed their issues and priorities. She emphasized that these frameworks provide many concepts and approaches to ensure the rights of older persons, build inclusive societies and make progress that leaves no one behind. She also explained how these frameworks have radically changed the perception of older persons and the approach to their issues, moving away from a narrow care-giving approach and expanding to focus on active ageing and the integration of older persons into different areas of life. Dr. Salman also presented on the different approaches covered in the frameworks such as the rights-based approach, the life-cycle approach, gender equality approach, among others, that all serve to promote healthy and active ageing. The session was concluded by a group exercise (one group on-site, and one breakout room for online participants) on the general context of older persons in Somalia.

### b. Training session 1: How to make public policies?

In this session, Dr. Salman presented on the three different steps needed whilst making public policies: planning, adoption, execution and monitoring. The preparation phase involves collecting data, drafting the strategy and identifying the different goals and objectives, ensuring that the strategy is aligned with the legal framework, analyzing the available resources, drafting the strategy and adjusting accordingly. In the adoption phase, the strategy must be complemented by an action plan that details the goals, timelines, and required activities for each strategic goal. As for the last phase, it requires a continuous monitoring and review process.

Participants were asked to specify one goal, and identify its relative objectives, activities, baseline indicators, indicators of achievement and lastly the partners involved in executing these activities.

### c. Training session 2: Mainstreaming ageing in policy making – social protection

Dr. Salman explained the different forms of social protection such as contributory and non-contributory pensions, targeted assistance for people under-privileged, and inclusive social protection for the entire population.

Mr. Said Abdullahi Abdi, head of population and social statistics at the Somali National Bureau of Statistics, provided information on the Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital Project (SNHCP) - Baxnaano project which aims to provide cash transfers to targeted poor and vulnerable households, and establish the key building blocks of a national shock-responsive safety net system. The SNHCP provides poor and vulnerable households nutrition-linked cash transfers to meet their immediate consumption gaps and protect against food insecurity and malnutrition risks. To date, 188,766 households have benefited from this project.

### d. Training session 3: Priorities

During this session, participants worked in 2 groups to identify the main priorities that needs to be addressed in the upcoming older persons strategy. Responses came as follow:

1. Health insurance for older persons: provide access to healthcare, availability of mobile clinics specially in rural and nomadic areas
2. Financial support for poor families with older persons
3. Responsive public places to persons with difficulties and special needs inclusive of older persons
4. Public transportation services that cater the needs of older persons
5. Social clubs for older persons
6. Care provision - housing and shelter for older persons without family members or/and those who face advance health difficulties and disabilities
7. Policies and Laws lead by MoLSA
8. Healthcare shelters that are suitable for older persons
9. Support for healthcare providers – training

## List of Participants

<b>In-person</b>	
Mr. Said Abdullahi Abdi Head of population and social statistics Somali National Bureau of Statistics	Mr. Mukhtar Mohamed Yusuf Senior advisor for minister of transportation Ministry of Transportation
Mr. Mohamed Abdirahman Nadiif Member of Parliament	Mr. Omar Yusuf Galadid Member of Parliament
Dr. Sara Salman Population Affairs Officer ESCWA	Mr. Milad Pournik Associate Social Affairs Officer ESCWA
Dr. Alaa Sebeh Social Affairs Officer – Regional Adviser on Disability ESCWA	
<b>Online</b>	
Mr. Hussein Abdullahi Mohamed Head of Ageing Section Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Mrs. Sahra Mohamed Bile Head section of child development
Mrs. Siham Abdullahi Mohamud Emergency medical officer Ministry of Health	Mr. Abdilrahman Omar Ali Statistician Somali National Bureau of Statistics
Mr. Abdulkadir Aden Mohamed Poverty Advisor Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Mr. Abdishakur Sh Hassan Ahmed Senior advisor to minister of education Ministry of Education
Mr. Mahdi Sheikh Abdullahi Omar Engineer Ministry of Public Works and Reconstruction	Mr. Abdullahi Adam Abdi Advisor of Social Protection Department Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
Mrs. Rana Hariz Consultant ESCWA	