

National Plan of Action for Older Persons

Longevity with Quality of Life

2003 – 2008

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FOREWORD

“The mark of a noble society is found not in the manner in which it helps the rich, but in how it helps the poor...not in how it protects the powerful, but how it defends the vulnerable”.¹

It can not be disputed that the older members of our society are vulnerable and therefore in need of greater protection to live a safe and dignified life in the community.

I am therefore extremely pleased that the Government of Belize has recognised this fact and has taken steps to start improving the situation of Older Persons in the country. The National Policy for Older Persons was adopted through Cabinet in June 2002 and the National Council on Ageing, the mechanism established to monitor the implementation of the Policy, came into being in February 2003.

I commend the National Council on Ageing for acknowledging the importance of developing a structure in order to carry out its function effectively and efficiently and for the production of this “National Plan of Action for Older Persons”.

I also gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by PAHO/WHO for funding the planning process and for the facilitation by Mrs. Martha Pelaez, from the International Office of PAHO/WHO in Washington, USA, at the initial workshop, which started the ball rolling.

I extend my thanks to all the members of the National Council on Ageing for their commitment and wish them much success in the adoption of this Plan.

Hon. Sylvia Flores
Minister for Human Development

1. Osei Darkwa 1997 (Ghanaian)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Plan of Action for Older Persons 2003-2008 is the response of the National Council on Ageing (NCA) to address, in a structured way, the major areas of concern affecting older persons in Belize. The National Plan of Action underpins the need to take action to improve and protect the rights of *all* older people in the country.

This document begins by providing an overview of the global situation of population ageing. It draws attention to the important decision taken by the Government of Belize, through the adoption of the National Policy for Older Persons in 2002, to recognize that population ageing is a major concern and that practical steps are needed to deal with this matter. It acknowledges the International and Regional concerns expressed through such documents as the Caribbean Charter on Health and Ageing, the PAHO Resolution on Health and Ageing and, perhaps the most notable document produced from the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The section which describes the development of the National Council on Ageing also illustrates its capacity to work as the advocate, advisor and coordinating mechanism of the Government to promote and monitor the implementation of the National Policy for Older Persons. It details the membership of the Council and where it fits into the operational structure of the Ministry of Human Development; the purpose of the Council and its Vision, Mission and Goal.

To coincide with the production of the National Plan of Action, the NCA has also developed a Strategic Plan for the years 2003 – 2006. This document is explained in section three and describes the nine broad areas of focus for the first three year period of operation. It places into context the need to link policy with strategies for action.

These broad action areas involve:

- **Operationalization** of the National Council on Ageing with functioning Secretariat that will promote, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Policy for Older Persons.
- **Planning** and development of an integrated strategy into a National Plan of Action
- **Advocacy** to raise awareness on *all* issues related to Older Persons and the Ageing process.
- **Networking** with all agencies to forge links, develop partnerships and build alliances that will benefit older people.
- **Communication, Coordination and Support** among all interested groups with responsibility for older people.
- **Monitor and Regulate** the adoption of International, Regional and National Standards and Agreements.
- **Mobilization** of Funds, Resources and Support.
- **Monitor and Evaluate** the impact of the National Plan of Action for Older Persons.
- **Collection of National Data / Social Indicators** to provide an analysis of information on older people.

Finally the National Plan of Action for Older Persons details the eleven main areas as a basis for action. These areas are inter-related and together provide a holistic approach to meeting the needs of older people.

These areas are:

- **The National Mechanism** for coordinating action for Older Persons.
- **Education and the Media** to promote more positive images of Ageing.
- **Health and Nutrition** to ensure a holistic approach in Health Care provision.
- **AIDS/HIV** to assess the impact on the health, well-being and social situation of older people.
- **Social Welfare** to maximize the social functioning of older people, their independence and years of productive living.
- **Income Security** policy and strategy development to ensure adequate economic and social protection.
- **Family** strengthening and capacity to provide adequate care for older members of the family.
- **Housing and Living Environment** to encourage and support appropriate design, building and maintenance of housing for older persons
- **Legal** framework to ensure the protection of the *rights* of older persons.
- **Research** that provides data and information on the situation of older persons which informs decisions and changes.
- **Emergency Management and Disaster Situations** organizations that accommodate needs and safeguards well-being of older people in times of National Emergency situations.

It is important to note that the broad areas of concern not only include, most typically, health, social welfare, income security, housing and family support, but also the need for a Government response to include older people in emergency management situations, obtaining valid statistical information to support the implementation of special programmes for the elderly and also creating laws that adequately protect older people.

ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS

ANDA	Association of National Development Agencies
BBB	Belize Business Bureau
BCCI	Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry
BSSB	Belize Social Security Board
BTL	Belize Telecommunications Limited
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COMPAR	Community Parent Empowerment Programme
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CVSS	Council for Voluntary Social Service
DFC	Development Finance Corporation
GOB	Government of Belize
IPAA	International Plan of Action on Ageing
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MHD	Ministry of Human Development
MIFT	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOL	Ministry of Labour
MND	Ministry of National Development
NCA	National Council on Ageing
NDFB	National Development Foundation of Belize
NGO	Non Government Organization
NHDAC	National Human Development Advisory Committee
NPOP	National Policy for Older Persons
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
QADS	Quality Assurance and Development Service (Ministry of Education)
SHAPES	School Health and Physical Education Services (Ministry of Education)
SIC	Social Indicators Committee
SIF	Social Investment Fund
SOLGEN	Solicitor General
SPEAR	Society for the Promotion of Education and Research
NEMO	National Emergency Management Organization
DEMO	District Emergency Management Organization
CEMO	City Emergency Management Organization
VEMO	Village Emergency Management Organization

1.0: INTRODUCTION

Latin America and the Caribbean is gradually but inexorably ageing and Belize is challenged with taking steps to cope with this region-wide process. However, the environment in which this process is occurring is marked by high levels of poverty, social inequity, institutional underdevelopment, low social security coverage and a probable trend towards decreased family support owing to the decline in fertility.¹

Since no international convention has yet been adopted on the rights of older persons, any strategy to address the issue regarding the protection of rights for older person's, will be developed from an analysis of legal instruments that exist at the international, regional and national level.

Human rights are inherent and all persons must be able to exercise them without any form of discrimination. Older persons have rights as individuals and also as a group. Accordingly, it is necessary to recognize their fundamental freedoms as well as enable them to exercise social rights in order to live in safety and dignity. The State, society and older persons themselves must work actively to achieve this.

In recent years a number of International, Regional and National officially acknowledged documents have been developed that focus specific attention on the need to consider older persons in society and for the introduction of policies and services that protect and enhance their lives.

1.1: *The Caribbean Charter on Health and Ageing (1998)*

The Caribbean Charter on Health and Ageing focuses on the fundamental principle that health and wellness encompass the need for preventative strategies, supportive environments and senior-friendly goods and services. Older persons must be regarded as resources for development and supported in seeking their physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual fulfilment. They must also be regarded as having the right to live and die with dignity.²

1. ECLAC Report November 2003: Older Persons in Latin America & the Caribbean

2. Principles of The Caribbean Charter on Health and Ageing

The three components of the Charter are:

1. Supportive Environments for Older Persons at Home, in the Community and in Facilities, including those for long-term care: The creation of a comprehensive system of community care that protects and enhances the independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity of older persons.

2. Primary Health Care and Health Promotion.

The reorientation of the primary health care model to more specifically provide services to the elderly.

3. Economic Security, Employment and Other Productive Activities for Healthy Ageing.

The promotion of solidarity and equity among generations through review, development and monitoring of public policies and legislation.

1.2: The International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)

The first International Plan of Action on Ageing was adopted at the first World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna in 1982 and for 20 years it guided the course of thinking and action on ageing.

The Second World Assembly on Ageing took place in Madrid, Spain, April 2002 and from this event a second International Plan of Action on Ageing was developed. The recommendations for action are organized according to three priority areas:

i. Older Persons and Development.

Older Persons must be full participants in the development process and share in its benefit. A society for all ages encompasses the goal of providing older persons with the opportunity to continue contributing to society.

ii. Advancing Health and Well-Being into Old Age.

Older Persons are fully entitled to have access to preventative and curative care as well as to services that improve the quality of life to persons with age related disabilities. To reach old age in good health and well-being requires individual effort throughout life and an environment which supports such effort. Health services designed to meet the special needs of the older population must be available.

iii. Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environments.

Whatever the circumstances of Older Persons, all are entitled to live in an environment that enhances their capabilities. This includes access to basic services such as clean water and adequate food. It also requires policies that simultaneously strengthen both lifelong development and independence and that support social institutions based on principles of reciprocity and interdependence. Governments must play a central role in formulating and implementing policies that foster such an enabling environment, while engaging civil society and older persons themselves.³

³ The International Plan of Action on Ageing

1.3: PAHO Resolution CSP 26.R20 (2002): Health and Ageing⁴

At the 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference a resolution was passed which urged member states to:

- adopt national policies and plans for the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and provide adequate support for the implementation of priority areas;
- advocate for the promotion and protection of human rights and basic freedoms of older persons;
- adopt appropriate health promotion priorities for older persons and develop gender and ethno-specific targets, as well as surveillance in the areas of nutritional health, physical activity, unintentional injury and fall prevention, mental health, and prevention of aggression against older persons;
- commit to increase the access of older persons, especially those that are resource-poor, to age appropriate health care, essential drugs and vaccinations under the principle of equity;
- promote initiatives for the development of community based long-term care options and regulate the delivery of care in such settings;
- promote research for the monitoring and evaluation of program effectiveness;
- develop a plan to train primary health workers and other health professionals at the undergraduate and graduate level in the basics of health promotion and fundamentals of appropriate health care for older persons and of geriatric medicine.

1.4: National Policy for Older Persons in Belize (2002)

Following the United Nations declaration of the 'Year of Older Person' in 1999, the Government of Belize responded practically and, even before the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing took place, started the process of consultation countrywide to develop the National Policy for Older Persons, initiated and undertaken by the Ministry of Human Development. The process of consultation and debate took approximately two and a half years to complete, until Cabinet approved the final draft of the document on June 21st 2002.

The National Policy for Older Persons now serves as the document that informs and directs the work with older people in the country. The Principles on which the Policy is based include:⁵

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| * Individuality | * Independence | * Choice |
| * Accessibility | * Role Changes | * Productive Ageing |
| * Family Care | * Dignity | * Religious Freedom |

⁴ Ninth Meeting 27 September 2002

⁵ National Policy for Older Persons in Belize

2.0: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGEING

The Belize National Council on Ageing is the advisory, advocacy and coordinating mechanism of the Ministry of Human Development, and acts to ensure the promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Policy for Older Persons.⁶

The National Council on Ageing consists of eighteen members who represent the Government, Non-Government, International, private and religious organizations. The term of office for the Council members should not exceed two years.⁷

In addition to the eighteen members, the National Council is presided over by the Ministers designate, who acts as the Chairperson and the Executive Director of the Secretariat, who acts as Secretary. The Council gets its mandate from the Government as provided for in the National Policy for Older Persons.

The National Council will function to develop strategies and programmes for alleviating some of the pressing economic, social, health and cultural needs of older persons in Belize. This will involve the adoption of International Plans, such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and other United Nations Principles, all designed to bring about long lasting improvements to the quality of life of Older People in the country.

6. The National Policy for Older Persons

7. Ibid

2.1 MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGEING

The various sectors of the Belizean Society represented on the National Council on Ageing are governmental, non-governmental, private and international agencies and the church.

The Representatives on the NCA are as follows:

Government of Belize

- ❖ Ministry of Human Development
- ❖ Ministry of Health
- ❖ Ministry of Education
- ❖ Ministry of National Development
- ❖ Department of Human Services

Non- Government / Civil Society

- ❖ HelpAge Belize
- ❖ Mercy Care Center
- ❖ Sister Cecilia Home
- ❖ Octavia Waight Center
- ❖ Belize Red Cross Society
- ❖ Belize Civil Society Movement
- ❖ Salvation Army

Churches

- ❖ Belize Council of Churches

Statutory Boards

- ❖ Belize Social Security Board

Business Sector

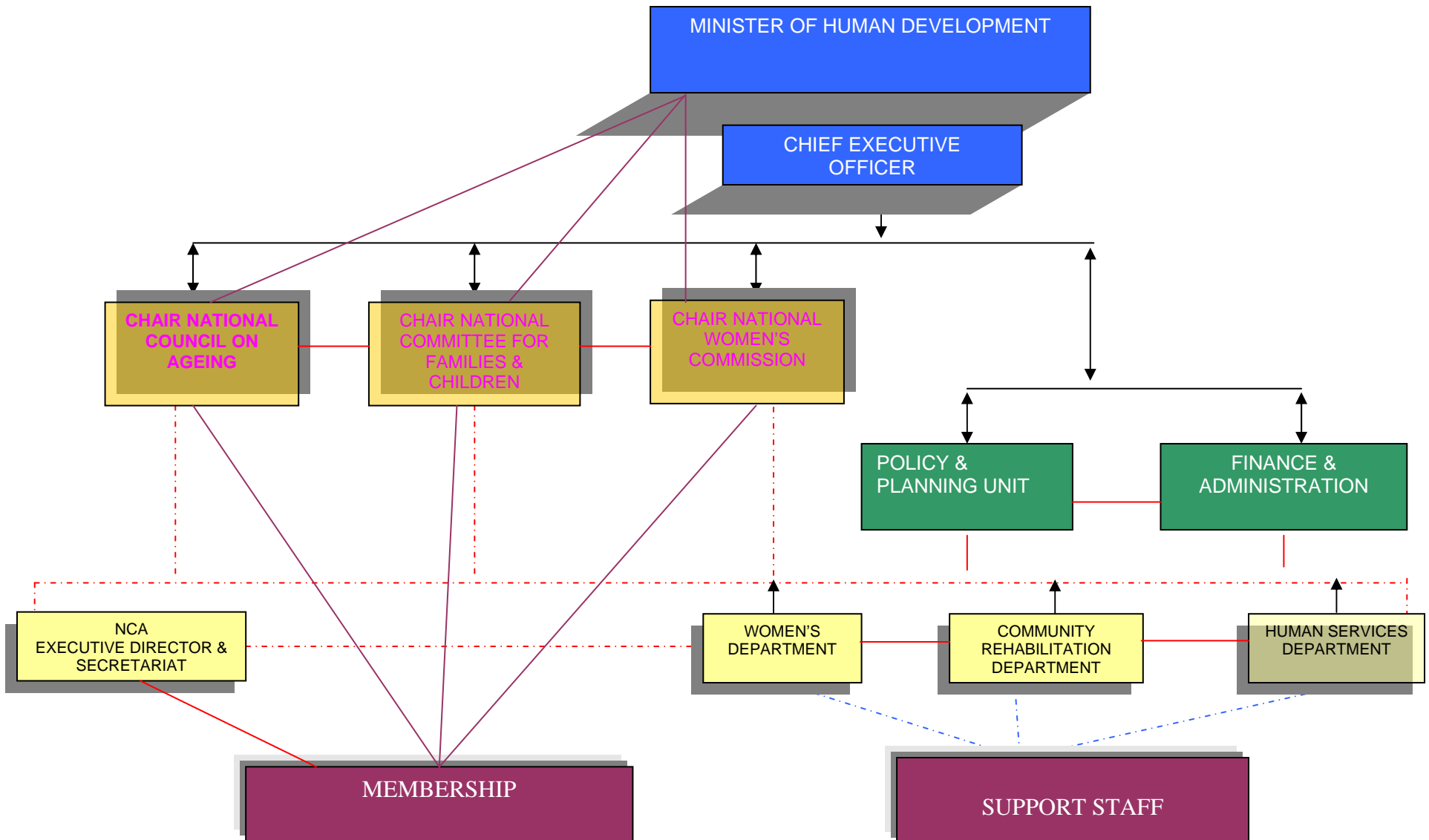
- ❖ Belize Business Bureau
- ❖ Media – Love FM

Representative for Older Persons

International Agencies

- ❖ PAHO/WHO

2:2 THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGEING: OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE: THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



2.3: PURPOSE, VISION, MISSION AND GOAL OF THE NCA

PURPOSE

The National Council on Ageing was established to ensure the promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Policy for Older Persons.

(National Policy 2002)

VISION

- By the year 2008, all older persons living in Belize will have achieved an enhanced quality of life, in relation to rights, equality, dignity, and respect.
- All older persons living in Belize will have equal access to services, and will be living above the poverty line.

MISSION

The NCA will advocate for and facilitate the development and implementation of plans and programmes which will ensure the protection of the basic human rights of older persons, thereby improving and enhancing the quality of their lives.

GOAL

The overall goal of the National Council on Ageing is to ensure the continued involvement in and contribution of the older person to the society and creating an environment of independence, dignity and integrity.

3.0: THE NCA STRATEGIC PLAN: 2003 – 2006

The National Council on Ageing Strategic Plan is an initiative to operationalise its mandate as stipulated by the National Policy for Older Persons. This plan was prepared and finalized by the National Council on Ageing with the assistance of Mrs. Barbara Elrington.

The activities of the Strategic Plan are to be implemented by the NCA in conjunction with participating Ministries / Departments and non-government agencies.

The set of objectives and strategies set out in the Strategic Plan link policy and strategy for implementation. The strategic Plan is in line with a general concept of sustained and comprehensive improvement of the lives and welfare of older persons in Belize.

3.1 Broad Area of Focus for the NCA

The Strategic Plan is structured along the following nine broad areas:

1. Establish and make operational the NCA
2. Planning and integrated strategy
3. Advocacy
 - Needs, Rights and Issues of the elderly
 - Education
 - Adoption of International Standards
 - Enabling environment
 - Supportive environment
 - Inter-generational policies
 - Legal and institutional framework
4. Linkages / partnerships
5. Communication, coordination and support among relevant interest groups
6. Monitor & regulate to ensure adoption of international standards
7. Funding and mobilization of resources and support
8. Monitor and evaluate impact of Plan of action
9. National data collection/ social indicators

4.0: THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR OLDER PERSONS: 2003 - 2008

Building an ageing friendly society that cares and respects the rights of older Belizeans: overview of challenges and opportunities

The National Plan of Action for Older Persons 2003 – 2008 consists of eleven themes that collectively represent issues of fundamental importance to the Longevity and the Quality of Life of this Nation's Older Persons. The themes address issues that have significance across organizational units of Government and Non–Government agencies, the business sector, charitable foundations as well as the general civil society. The themes are purposely inter-related and all pertain to the ultimate goal of providing a service to older persons that is holistic and adequately meet their needs.

The eleven themes are intended to be durable and not expected to change over the short-term. Each theme has an overarching goal and a detailed explanation of its elements. The eleven themes are:

- A: The National Mechanism for coordinating action for Older Persons.
- B: Education and Media.
- C: Health and Nutrition.
- D: AIDS / HIV.
- E: Social Welfare.
- F: Income Security.
- G: Family.
- H: Housing and Living Environment.
- I: Legal.
- J: Research.
- K: Emergency Management and Disaster Situations.

Policy Area A: NATIONAL MECHANISM WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING ACTIONS FOR OLDER PERSONS

Goal: *To ensure the Mainstreaming of Ageing and the concerns of Older Persons into the National Development Framework and Poverty Eradication Strategy*

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>1: Establish the infrastructure of the National Council on Ageing within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Human Development.</p> <p>2: Give oversight to the promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Policy for Older Persons</p>	<p>(CS) The National Policy for Older Persons was approved by Cabinet in 2002 but the NCA lacks a designated Secretariat with responsibility for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NPOP.</p> <p>(O) The IPAA, Madrid 2002, and the Belize National Policy for Older Persons, empowers the Government of Belize to develop a National Plan on Ageing and to designate a Secretariat within the NCA for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan.</p> <p>(C) Fragmentation and absence of ageing issues in the planning and coordination of resources in the country.</p> <p>(C) Economic constraints and poverty creates competition for limited resources and makes it hard for isolated agencies, individuals and NGOs to find sustainable solutions to the needs of older persons.</p>	<p>Appointment of an Executive Director for the Secretariat.</p> <p>Define the legal status of the NCA. Develop by-laws and functions.</p> <p>Develop strategic plan for the work of the NCA.</p> <p>Request to the Government of Belize for a budgetary increase for the Secretariat.</p>	<p>Continue activities for recruitment and selection of Executive Director. (3 months)</p> <p>Study national and regional models to define legal status desired for the NCA.</p> <p>Ensure high level representation of the work and the plans of NCA at Cabinet level.</p> <p>Provide basis for justification of budgetary increase. (3 months)</p> <p>Organise strategic planning workshop for NCA. (6 months)</p> <p>Ensure inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral support for the NCA (ongoing)</p> <p>Lead a national advocacy campaign to promote the National Plan of Action on Ageing. (ongoing)</p>	<p>MHD, NCA, MOF,</p> <p>NCA and Solicitor General Office</p> <p>MHD, NCA, MOF,</p> <p>MHD, NCA, MOF,</p> <p>MHD, Ministry of Budget Planning and NCA</p> <p>MHD and NCA</p> <p>Minister and CEO of MHD and NCA</p>

Policy Area A: NATIONAL MECHANISM WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING ACTIONS FOR OLDER PERSONS (CONT'D)

Goal: To ensure the Mainstreaming of Aging and the concerns of Older Persons into the National Development Framework and Poverty Eradication Strategy

OBJECTIVE	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions	Responsibility
3. Develop the Planning and Coordinating capacity within the NCA for services to older persons.	(O) Insufficient indicators on the health and well-being of Older Persons and lack of dis-aggregation based on age sex, legal status, geographical location and other situational variables.	All relevant agencies have developed minimum data set for monitoring aging for Belize	Provide the Social Indicators Committee (SIC) a proposal for developing the Minimum Data Set Initiate a situational assessment of unmet needs of Older Persons in different geographic locations among other variables	MHD, NHDAC, CSO and NCA NCA to develop project proposals and seek funding in collaboration with participating agencies
	(O) Maps of unmet needs have to be developed for rational and equitable response to the needs of persons 60 years and older.	Maps of unmet needs to Older Persons ensure rational and equitable response to the needs of persons 60 years and older.	Ensure the use of location maps and other data to achieve rational and equitable response to the needs of persons 60 years and older.	

Policy Area B: EDUCATION AND MEDIA

Goal: To provide access to Information and Education to promote Positive Images of Ageing

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions	Responsibility
<p>1. To provide access to knowledge that will change the culture and promote positive images of ageing.</p> <p>2. To design and implement the necessary framework for the planning and execution of educational programmes.</p> <p>3. To promote intergenerational solidarity and understandings.</p> <p>4. To recognize the contributions of Older Persons to family and Society</p>	<p>(CS) The National Council on Ageing has been actively involved in the development of the National Plan of Action for Older Persons.</p>	<p>Educational programmes on ageing and the needs and contributions of Older Persons</p>	<p>Establish links with frontline managers to develop and implement educational programmes focussing on the concerns of ageing</p>	<p>NCA in collaboration with MOE, SHAPES, Curriculum Development Unit / QADS.</p>
	<p>(O) The National Primary School Curriculum maintains a theme on developmental stages of life but give insufficient attention to active ageing.</p>	<p>Training for frontline managers who monitor the development and implementation of educational programmes</p>	<p>Arrange training for key personnel (including curriculum developers, and implementation monitors, teachers, teacher trainers, the media personnel, tourist guides etc.) of the importance of addressing the concerns of ageing at an early age.</p>	<p>NCA in conjunction with Media</p>
	<p>(O) Lack of understanding between generations, evidenced by reports from older persons in the publication, "Situation of Older Persons in Belize" by HelpAge Belize.</p>	<p>Training for frontline managers of agencies whose work entails mobilizing persons especially in such businesses, e.g. tourism</p>		<p>NCA in collaboration with MOH Education Bureau</p>
				<p>MOE</p> <p>NCA</p>

Policy Area B: EDUCATION AND MEDIA

Goal: To provide access to Information and Education to promote Positive Images of Ageing

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>5. To promote the enhancement of self-esteem, independence and quality lifestyle</p>	<p>(C) Older persons have lower levels of education and higher levels of illiteracy; therefore health providers have not developed adequate health literacy or health education programs for older persons.</p> <p>(O) Churches and civil society have resources to promote educational campaigns to promote a change in attitude towards the health and quality of life of older persons.</p> <p>(O) A number of private non-profit clinics are already providing a model of integrated care for older persons to a limited number of older Belizeans.</p>	<p>Adequate health literacy or health education programs for Older Persons at the community level, utilizing those community organizations such as clubs, church groups, parents associations, etc.</p> <p>Assistance provided to enable Older Persons to access community health care available</p> <p>Multi –media effort at delivery of an education programme designed specifically to make young people aware of the changes, which will occur, as they grow older and the support they will need.</p>	<p>Develop and introduce programmes which provide basic health literacy skills and a general healthy life style for Older Persons</p> <p>Provide ongoing education programs on health issues concerning Older Persons especially targeting the young, family members and caregivers of Older Persons.</p> <p>Develop a primary school curriculum, teachers’ manuals and other support materials on issues of ageing for integration in the curriculum for student’s grades 3-8.</p> <p>Training of teachers and curriculum development in consultation with experts for modules to be integrated in curriculum.</p>	<p>Media Houses, MOE and NCA</p> <p>Media Houses, MOE and NCA</p> <p>NCA and Curriculum development Unit MOE, MHD</p>
	<p>(C) Media cult for “youth is beautiful” promotes the exclusion of elders.</p> <p>(O) NGOs and churches have programs focussing on older persons.</p> <p>Some individual media programs are beginning to recognise the role of older persons in society. (e.g. COMPAR)</p>			<p>Media Houses, MOE and NCA</p>
<p>6. To effect a coordinated effort by the mass media to highlight the positive aspects of the Aging Process</p>				

POLICY AREA C: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Goal: To ensure a holistic approach in Health Care Provision for Older Persons

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in years)	Responsibility
<p>1. Investment in a community health infrastructure.</p> <p>2. In Service training for health care givers employed in the care of Older Persons.</p> <p>3. Determine the prevalence of chronic diseases among Older Persons.</p> <p>4. Inclusion in the National Health Development Policies a comprehensive set of policies for the care and well-being of Older Persons.</p>	(CS) Inadequate access to ‘an ageing friendly’ primary health care centre with health care personnel trained in geriatrics, basic medications and chronic care management for older persons.	Well-trained physicians, nurses and others concerned with the care of Older Persons, in support of an integrated system of care focused on maintaining the highest possible level of functioning for Older Persons.	Form alliance between the NCA and the Medical Society and the Nursing Council to incorporate geriatric training and service into training programme.	NCA and Ministry of Health
	(C) The economic situation in the country combined with the many unresolved health problems of children and HIV/AIDS create an environment of institutional neglect for the health of older persons.	Epidemiological profiles of Older Persons, showing prevalence rates of chronic diseases and geriatric conditions in the population of 60 years old and over.	Propose, in collaboration with PAHO, a prevalence study of chronic diseases in older persons and collaborate with Colleges and University for the fieldwork and analysis.	MHD, NCA and MOH PAHO
	(C) Economic pressures in the family tend to focus family resources in satisfying the needs of the young, neglecting filial responsibility in the care of older parents.	Clear articulation of the National intentions for the care, protection and well-being of Older Persons	Inter-sectoral consultations with Ministry of Health for the development of health policy for older persons.	NCA, MOH, PAHO
			Work with Ministry of Health and provide guidance to local media and health promoters on issues of health and ageing.	NCA, MOH, Media
			Develop a Belizean policy on health and ageing defining the role of public health in responding to health needs of older persons.	MOH, PAHO, NCA

Policy Area C: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Goal: To ensure a holistic approach in Health Care Provision for Older Persons

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>5. Institute Integrated Health Care Services and rehabilitation programmes for speedy recovery from incapacitating illnesses at the community level</p>	<p>(C) Cultural beliefs and stereotypes equating old age with “time waiting for death” rather than life to be lived promotes neglect in self care as well as a barrier to health promotion with Older Persons.</p> <p>(C) Older persons have lower levels of education and higher levels of illiteracy; therefore health providers have not developed adequate health literacy or health education programs for older persons.</p> <p>(O) Churches and civil society have resources to promote educational campaigns to promote a change in attitude towards the health and quality of life of older persons.</p>	<p>Geriatric clinics accessible to older persons in every community.</p> <p>Primary Health Programmes with emphasis on the total well-being of Older Persons, and preservation of the health of their health</p> <p>Increased number of older Persons in a with good health maintenance</p> <p>Timely Public Health campaigns on health and ageing using (cholera tactics) to engage everyone in society on issues of ageing.</p>	<p>Approach public and private health sector for assistance (financial and human resources) in developing and implementing health care plans for clinics.</p> <p>Assignment of Primary Health Care personnel with geriatric training in community centres</p> <p>Initiate programme which give particular attention to Older Persons suffering from mental and other disorders which could be modified by regular treatment and follow up by professionals</p> <p>Ensure consultation and technical co-operation from international bodies for the establishment of a medication-purchasing group for public and private distribution of drugs to older persons.</p>	<p>NCA, MOH, MND MFA, PAHO</p> <p>NCA, MND, MFA, MOH</p> <p>MOH, NCA,</p> <p>NCA, MOH, Private Sector</p>
	<p>(O) Belize has a dedicated number of health and social services professionals as well as advocates that would respond to a call to action in favour of healthy and active ageing.</p>	<p>Establish a purchasing pool for basic medications and medical supplies needed by older persons</p>		
<p>6. Establish a purchasing pool for basic medications and medical supplies needed by older persons.</p>				

POLICY AREA C: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Goal: To ensure a holistic approach in Health Care Provision for Older Persons

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
7. Regulation and Supervision of Institutional care	(O) A number of private non- for-profit clinics are already providing a model of integrated care for older persons to a limited number of older Belizeans.	Ensure high quality nursing and care adapted to the needs of Older Persons	Encourage the establishment of more agencies providing home care as well as institutional care for Older Persons	NCA, MOH, Private sector
8. Access to adequate food and Nutrition	(O) Individual agencies and NGOs are purchasing some needed medications for Older Persons and would benefit from a co-operative agreement to create a fund for purchasing medications and medical supplies for Older Persons.		<p>Develop standards and procedures for the registration and monitoring of homes for Older Persons</p> <p>Negotiate between Government and other support agencies to ensure the provision of uniform facilities nationwide independent of home location, income and resources.</p> <p>Train a cadre of Supervisors or Inspectors who would inspect periodically facilities for older persons and thereby strengthen the scope and quality of care</p>	<p>MOH Health Inspectors, MHD Home assessment Officers, Public Health Nurses NCA representatives</p> <p>MOH Health Inspectors, MHD Home assessment Officers, Public Health Nurses NCA representatives</p> <p>MOH Health Inspectors, MHD Home assessment Officers, Public health Nurses NCA</p>

POLICY AREA D: HIV / AIDS

Goal: To assess the impact of HIV/ AIDS on the health, well-being and social situation of Older Persons

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
1. Include Older Persons in the Public education campaign on HIV / AIDS	(C) Belize currently has one of the highest per capita incidence of HIV/AIDS in the region.	Extend all HIV/AIDS preventative Education programmes to Older persons	Include older persons in HIV/AIDS assessment surveys, testing, data Base.	NCA in conjunction with MOH, National AIDS Commission, Office of the Prime Minister, MHD
	(C) Like many other developing country Belize has limited access to the necessary medication to prolong the life of those infected with HIV			
2. Assess the impact of HIV/ AIDS on the health of Older Persons both for those infected and for those who are caregivers of infected persons or orphans of HIV/AIDS victims	(O) There is a newly established HIV/ AIDS commission, a national mechanism that spearheads preventative measures and provide support for persons infected with HIV/AIDS and their families.	Mobilize support for Older Persons as caregivers to persons infected with HIV/AIDS	Determine the health status and needs of Older Persons as caregivers to persons infected with HIV/AIDS Provide training and other support for Older Persons as caregivers to persons infected with HIV/AIDS to minimize any possible negative impact on their health and well-being Review the economic impact of HIV/AIDS on Older Persons especially in their role as caregivers.	

POLICY AREA E: SOCIAL WELFARE

Goal: To maximize the social functioning of Older Persons, their independence and years of productive living.

OBJECTIVE	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
1. Strengthen and expand national / community-based social services 2. Develop Comprehensive data base on the location and needs of Older Persons to ensure the adequate coverage with relevant services. 3. Create, Promote and Maintain active roles for Older Persons for as long as possible in and for the community.	(CS) Recent research has indicated that “loneliness” is one of the leading factor affecting the majority of Older Persons in Belize	Related Agencies with enhanced capacity to determine and take action to alleviate the social needs of Older Persons at national / community levels	Provide training to equip relevant Agencies with the skills necessary to determine and cater to the needs of older persons in their community. Develop a directory of available social services to Older Persons	CSO, UB and NCA in conjunction with Election and Boundaries, Social Security NCA in conjunction with other Agencies
	(C) Acute shortage of information on Older Persons in Belize	Agencies have established and maintain comprehensive and current registers, data base or other system information on Older Persons at the national / community levels	Conduct research to determine the true social services needs of Older Persons both at the National and community levels	NCA in conjunction with BTL and other private sector agencies,
	(C) Older persons have no voice especially the most vulnerable, in low income situations and rural locations.		Conduct research to update, fill in the gaps and expand existing information and data on Older Persons	NCA in collaboration with Private Sector Agencies
	(C) General disorganization of Social Services for Older Persons	Increase the number of Older Persons who are actively participating in social activities outside the home	Wide consultations with the relevant organizations to maintain an ex-service league of membership to their mutual benefit	NCA and organizations of active teachers, nurses and others

POLICY AREA E: SOCIAL WELFARE CONT'D

Goal: To maximize the social functioning of Older Persons; their independence and years of productive living

OBJECTIVE	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
4. Promote collaboration among all stakeholders in caring for Older Persons	(C) The availability of many under-utilized facilities where Older Persons can meet for social activities including community centres, physical therapy and income generating centres and projects.	The establishment of or extension and utilization of existing organizations to retain or embrace a retired membership organization	Identify seed monies, training and other support services that could be made available to set up Older persons in small business enterprise Negotiate the use of operating activity centres by Older Persons in non-peak hours and the establishment of others where no centre exists to promote more productive lives among Older Persons	NCA, NGOs, Private Sector representatives and families. MHD Various agencies, NCA with assistance from the Media Houses
	(C) A number of social agencies, such as YWCA and HelpAge, are promoting the concept of Active Aging” through drama, dance, Queen Shows, skits etc.	Increase the number and frequency of initiatives that make Older Persons visible in the community and boast their self – esteem	Encourage the organizations of retired persons as voluntary or paid agents in such areas as small business management, nursing and teaching	NCA with Unions, Business Bureau, Services Commissions, Boards of managements etc.
	(O) The country boasts many and varied youth Organizations which could become involved in the Services and care of Older Persons	Partnerships developed between the old and the young especially where the latter can benefit from the experiences of Older Persons.	Develop networks and partnerships among and between stakeholders in the proper caring for Older persons; e.g. Old and Young groups, the Church, Lodges and other Uniform Orgs.	MHD, NGOs Youth for the Future, Scout Association
5. Involve the Youth in the provision of Services and care of Older Persons				

POLICY AREA F: INCOME SECURITY

Goal: To develop and Implement Policies and Strategies that will ensure adequate Economic and Social protection for Older Persons

OBJECTIVE	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>1. Increase the level of participation of vulnerable groups in income generating activities to decrease the likelihood of their exclusion or dependency in later life</p> <p>2. Integrate Older Persons in the poverty reduction targets.</p> <p>3. Enable Older Persons to continue working for as long as they want to work, are able to work or to return to Independent Employment</p>	<p>(CS) Many Older Persons live at subsistence level and income security is a grave concern</p>	<p>Policies and projects for poverty reduction include Older Persons</p> <p>Reduce the proportion of Older persons living in poverty.</p>	<p>Enlist more active and decisive participation of Older Persons (as pressure groups) in the national development processes, both as agents of change and as beneficiaries of progress.</p> <p>Policies and projects for poverty reduction to include the improvement of the situation of Older Persons</p> <p>Propose measures to alleviate poverty among the population of 50 to 64 years of age.</p>	<p>Line managers in the various ministries of government, ministry of finance. NCA</p> <p>NCA in collaboration with NGO's such as SPEAR, ANDA and CVSS Community based organizations National Garifuna and Maya Councils.</p>
	<p>(CS) Several donor support projects for the alleviation of poverty, however, there is an absence of integration of ageing and development issues as they affect Older Persons in the poverty reduction targets.</p>	<p>Participation of Older Persons in the national development processes, both as agents of change and as beneficiaries of progress.</p> <p>Revised legislation for the adjustment of retirement age and elimination of age discrimination to access credit and securing the rights of older persons.</p>	<p>In collaboration with Employees and Workers Organizations ensure the maximum extent possible for Older Persons to continue to work under satisfactory conditions for both employee and employer.</p>	<p>Public Service commission, Public Service Union, Office of the SOLGEN, NCA</p> <p>NCA, MHD</p>
	<p>(C) Current GOB Policy on retirement age from the Public Service emulated by the corporate society.</p>		<p>Convene working groups to examine current policies and practices and make recommendations, with Revision by the Solicitor General Office.</p>	<p>MHD and MIFT, (Foreign Trade), NCA and SSB. (1 year)</p> <p>NCA working with SIF and MOF, Ministries of Trade and Budget Planning.</p>

POLICY AREA F: INCOME SECURITY CONT'D

Goal: To develop and Implement Policies and Strategies that will ensure adequate Economic and Social protection for Older Persons

OBJECTIVE	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
4. Promote training and re-training for productive aging 5. Ensure that Social Protection and Social security programmes cover an increasing number of Older Persons moving towards universal coverage of Older Persons	(C) Limited skills and expertise in the labour force due to high cost of training, there is a grave need to eliminate age barriers in the formal labour market	On-going public education on retirement planning and financial, investment management.	Work with different training agencies to ensure that Older Persons are included in training programmes and opportunities are provided for the full utilization of the potential and experience of Older Persons.	NCA, NHDAC and relevant Agencies with Technical assistant where necessary from bilateral or multilateral agreements
	(C) Older persons lack, in general, marketable skills. (C) High unemployment in population and very limited employment opportunities for Older Persons.	Social Welfare polices and practice rationalized to mitigate the situation of women and men 50 and over, who are recipients of social welfare.	NCA and Ministry of Labour organise the skill data bank project for older persons.	NCA and MOL
6. Provide advice and counselling services for older persons regarding all aspects of social protection and Social Security 7. Address the situation of most vulnerable groups of older persons especially those in rural settings	(C) Lack of tax incentives for the employment of elders. (C) Strong Age prejudice exists; especially negative attitude towards employing Older Persons in the work Force	Persons moving towards universal coverage for Older Persons	Persons in business and professionals with special skills, e.g. teachers, managers and nurses, who can provide advice and counselling.	NCA, MOF and private sector
	(C) Discrimination in access to credit. (C) Pension plans are very limited and serve a small percentage of elders today.		Work with the financial institutions to organise workshops and presentations for the pre and post retirees.	NCA, MOF and private sector

POLICY AREA F: INCOME SECURITY CONT'D

Goal: To develop and Implement Policies and Strategies that will ensure adequate Economic and Social protection for Older Persons

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>8. Encourage the possibility of making available supplementary retirement income and to develop various means of personal savings at an earlier age for retirement purposes</p> <p>9. Draft legislation to protect older persons against abuse, neglect and exploitation.</p>	<p>(C) Discrimination affects many groups of Older Persons; urban vs. rural situation, men vs. women and those able or unable to pay for services</p> <p>(O) Current school curriculum reforms should include early training in preparation for Older years</p>	<p>Invest in rural and urban infrastructure to enable older persons a basic minimum quality of life.</p>	<p>Rationalize social welfare coverage to include all the needy including homeless, or in institutions and those living at own place according to their special need.</p> <p>The school curriculum, Youth training programmes and other training should encourage the possibility of making available supplementary retirement income and to develop various means of personal savings at an earlier age for retirement purposes</p>	<p>NCA, MOF and private sector</p> <p>NCA and other Agencies</p>
	<p>(C) There is a paucity of legislation specifically geared to the protection of the rights and property of Older Persons hence neglect and abuses to Older Persons abound in various forms.</p>	<p>Draft legislation to protect older persons against abuse, neglect and exploitation to ensure protection of assets.</p>	<p>Negotiate with Banks and other Insurance Agencies the importance of targeting initiatives to assist in retirement planning and security</p> <p>Ensure multi-sectoral participation by way of a national consultation in the drafting of legislation. (18 months)</p>	<p>All interest group and agencies, NCA and the office of the Solicitor General</p>

POLICY AREA G: FAMILY

Goal: To strengthen the capacity of the family to provide adequate care for older members of the family

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>1. Adequate coordination of support to families caregivers and opportunities for Older Persons to live at home free from abuse and neglect.</p> <p>2. Increasing numbers of Older Persons remaining a part of their family and the larger community thereby enhancing their quality of life.</p>	(CS) There is no comprehensive plan for strengthening the role of family caregivers and for providing services to assist older people to stay home as long as they want.	Family members trained in all matters regarding quality care for Older persons	Develop in collaboration with the School of Nursing Education ongoing family caregivers training program that is both affordable and accessible to the family. Use a multi-media approach to ensure that even those who are functional illiterate will benefit	NCA, Sol. Gen. MHD
	(C) Due to the economic situation of the country, the pool of potential caregivers at home is diminishing.			
	(C) Migration of younger people has left some elders without the usual extended family support.	Increasing Numbers of Older Persons living in their family homes later into their life cycle and actively participating in family matters and receiving quality care and attention.	Give technical and other support to establish and maintain a Retired Nurses Association for the Care and Assistance to Older Persons.	NCA, MOH, School of Nursing, Education, NGOs, Retired Nurses Association
	(C) Changing cultural values tend to value youth and the appearance of youth and disvalue the old creating a generational gap.		Establish a multi-sectoral group of home health care providers to work as consultants, home caregivers and provide relevant training for family members	NCA, MOH, School of Nursing, Education, NGOs, Retired nurses Association
	(C) Lack of community support and education for family members that want to care for elders with disabilities.		Establish a cadre of health care inspectors to examine the home care needs of Older Persons and develop community plans for meeting these care needs.	NCA, School of Nursing Education
	(C) Lack of day centres or spaces for older persons to engage in programmes and structured activities			

POLICY AREA G: FAMILY CONT'D

Goal: To strengthen the capacity of the family to provide adequate care for Older members of the family

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
3. Provide relevant training for family members	(C) Lack of trained professionals in ageing issues and lack of social programs targeting older persons.	Obtain funding or identify community spaces like church halls, where day programs may be held for Older Persons with special needs and with disabilities.	Collaborate with financial institutions and churches to build and operate day centres. Develop Proposals for funding for projects for older persons in various communities	NCA, SIF, Ministry of Finance NCA Secretariat and other Agencies
4. Establish Referral and Reporting system for Older persons	(C) The Churches provide limited services to Older Persons living at home.	Develop a reporting, investigating and immediate response system for any health related problems or any neglect or abuse situation for Older Persons	Establish a free-phone abuse network or helpline for Older Persons and families	MHD NCA
	(C) Lack of information on family violence against Older Persons.		Identify and train community resources for quick response to reports of abuse.	MHD
	(C) Society lacks a culture of respect to Older Persons.		Train Older Persons themselves to develop the capacity and confidence to confront and report abusers.	MHD
	(O) Human Services already provide a significant number of services to older persons and their families in a home care program but these services are limited to Belize City.		Use the media to educate families and Older Persons about abuse.	
	(O) The Mercy Care Centre, the Ex-Service League, the Black Cross Nurses and Help Age all provide limited home care to elders in Belize City.			

POLICY AREA G: FAMILY CONT'D

Goal: To strengthen the capacity of the family to provide adequate care for Older members of the family

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
5. Change the culture and images of ageing and promote intergenerational solidarity especially within families.	(CS) Break down of family and community solidarity with Older Persons.	Strengthen community programs such as SHAPES, COMPAR and others in developing an intergeneration module.	Conduct sensitization workshops with SHAPES, COMPAR and other communities groups.	NCA
	(C) Lack of understanding between generations, evidenced by reports from older persons in the Situation of Older persons in Belize, pub. HelpAge.	Develop educational materials to support intergeneration programming.	Access technical and financial support for Preparation and writing of an intergenerational module. Prepare support materials highlighting the role and contributions of older persons both past, present and future	NCA NCA, Media, Ministries and NGO's.
	(C) Stereotyping of Older Persons in the culture, evidenced by reports from Older Persons in the "Situation of Older Persons in Belize", published by HelpAge Belize.	Promote through various media positive images of ageing.	NCA develops promotional campaign including video spots, brochures, documentaries, etc. (year one)	NCA
6. Transition to nursing home services occurs later in the life cycle with minimum trauma for patient or family members	(C) The transition from home to institution may be traumatic for both the Older Person and the family members; there is no preparation for either usually resulting in the feeling of abandonment for the Older Person.	Develop a plan for training in gerontological issues all personnel involved in services to Older Persons.	Access technical assistance in development of plan and for the implementation of the training program. Negotiate the proposal for the establishment of a hospice, Identify support and funding. Develop support manuals for the family and the patient.	NCA MOH, MOE NCA, International Agencies, NGO's, universities, etc.
	(C) Currently there is no place in Belize where the terminally ill may be cared for effectively while at the same time prepared for dying in dignity.	Establish a Hospice in each district		NCA and Agencies and other Interest groups

POLICY AREA H: HOUSING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Goal: To encourage and support initiatives for the Design, Setting up and Maintenance of appropriate local Infrastructure for use by Older Persons

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (Timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>1. Promote aging in the Home or in Age Integrated Communities</p> <p>2. Incorporate the needs of older persons in the national Housing and transportation development plans</p> <p>3. Preferential Status for Financial support to families to make provisions for Older family members.</p>	<p>(O) Belize is assessing and upgrading its infrastructure. There is currently a housing construction boom unprecedented in its history, road construction and upgrading as well as an ongoing expansion of the transportation system for land, air and water.</p>	<p>Promotion of efforts to support the integration of Older persons in their homes and communities</p> <p>Plans, construction and expansion of infrastructure designed to support multigenerational communities</p>	<p>Workshop including the media, family representatives, Financial lending Institutions to identify what services are provided for Older Persons and what improvements to services could be made available.</p> <p>Provide Older Persons and their families with timely information and advice on housing options</p> <p>Encourage Retrofitting of homes</p> <p>Encourage the Ministry of housing to provide free of costs models and plans for construction or retrofitting homes for Older Persons</p> <p>Encourage businesses to provide discounts for the retrofitting homes to accommodate Older Persons or those with disabilities.</p>	<p>NCA, DFC, Ministry of Housing, NDFB, Building Societies City / Town Councils Private Sector</p> <p>Ministry of Housing, NCA City/ Town Councils</p> <p>Ministry of Housing NCA</p> <p>NCA, BCCI, BBB</p>

POLICY AREA H: HOUSING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Goal: To enable Older Persons access to adequate, affordable and accessible housing whether living on their own or in alternative accommodations

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
4. Support and Promote the development of a continuum of Housing options for Older Persons		Improvement in housing and environment designs to promote independent living	Encourage relevant authorities to meet the needs for share co-existence and multigenerational homes through the design and construction of housing and environ including easy access to essential services	Ministry of Housing, City and Town planners, NCA
5. Ensure affordable transportation for older Persons	(C) Many concerns are raised as to the barriers to mobility and access to essential services in different communities for Older Persons and for those with disabilities, access to banks, churches, parking, buses, neighbourhood based businesses and services etc.	Affordable and adequate transportation for older Persons	Set up referral networks for assistance for procuring and maintaining mobility equipment for Older Persons e.g. wheel chairs, canes, wheelchair commode etc.	NCA, MHD and MOH
6. Promote those rehabilitative services that promote independent living	(C) Cost of transportation, the small number of Age friendly drivers and the felt need for safer roads, inadequate sidewalks, limited number of open spaces and parks are all barriers limiting the movement of Older Persons.	Increased numbers of Older Persons able to continue independent living for longer time	Encourage transportation companies to retrofit buses to facilitate Older Persons and to provide reductions in fares for Older Persons.	NCA and other interest groups to negotiate

POLICY AREA I: LEGAL

Goal: To promote the legal framework to ensure the protection of the Rights of Older Persons

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>1. To enforce existing laws that uphold the right of Older Persons and where these do not exist lobby for legislation of same</p> <p>2. Enforcement of property rights for Older Persons</p> <p>3. Apply legal requirements for the protection of pension rights</p> <p>4. Revise Social security pension</p> <p>5. Seek legislation to define Older Persons in accordance with international standards.</p>	(O) Currently Helpage Belize is conducting legislative review to determine the extent to which current laws protect the rights of Older Persons.	Appropriate laws that protect the rights and property of Older Persons enforced	Support the legislative review process being undertaken by HELPAGE. Share information on the where to access free legal advice and assistance for Older Persons	NCA, HELPAGE, Human Rights and other interest groups NCA and Legal Aid, Human Rights Commission, Bar Association
	(O) The Government of Belize is currently drafting proposals for Nation Health Insurance (NHI)	Review and revise Property rights as it relates to Older Persons Establish universal coverage pension for Older Persons	NCA to acquire the services of legal advisor Work closely with legal entities to ensure that laws exists to protect property rights of Older Persons and to ensure justice for them when there is any infraction of their rights.	NCA, MHD, MOF
	(O) Various agencies, Government of Belize and the Business Community are engaged in the debate regarding retirement age and retirement and post retirement benefits.	Revise Social security pension based on a cost of living adjustment	Set up a hotline for Older persons (to move) Provide actuarial services to determine the feasibility and sustainability of the amount and budget necessary to support a national minimum pension and increased social security pension	NCA and other interest groups in conjunction with BTL or other telecommunication operators NCA, CSO, BSSB

POLICY AREA J: RESEARCH

Goal: To provide data and other information on the situation of older persons that could be utilized to inform decisions on improving the lives of older persons.

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>1. To collect reliable data that reflects the true situation of older persons in Belize</p> <p>2. Inform and educate the Belizean populace on the situation of older persons in Belize</p> <p>3. To inform policy decisions for the improvement of the situation of older Persons</p>	<p>(C) Different agencies possess the capacity for the collection, processing, storage and retrieval of data, however in most instances it is not gender, age or location specific and rarely it includes information on Older Persons.</p>	<p>All participating agencies maintaining data vital to the improvement of the situation of Older Persons which are used to inform decisions on the type of support required by different groups of Older Persons</p>	<p>Devise methods for the collection of relevant and timely data</p>	<p>CSO, NCA Other interest groups</p> <p>NCA, University of Belize, CSO</p>
	<p>(C) The utilization of data collected and stored is normally done to facilitate historical information. The need for more timely data is critical.</p>		<p>Encourage the research departments of different universities, as well as other agencies, to assist with research projects carrying out research on the financial, social, emotional, health, employment situation of older persons. Also determine changes in public perceptions of aging</p>	
	<p>(C) Little or no analysis of data is done.</p>		<p>Publish and disseminate findings</p> <p>Use data to inform policy and other programme decisions</p>	<p>NCA, CSO</p>

POLICY AREA K: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER SITUATIONS

GOAL: To ensure that the needs and well-being of Older Persons are accommodated under the Emergency Management Plans of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and other pertinent organizations.

OBJECTIVES	BASIS FOR ACTION		RECOMMENDED ACTION	
	Current situation (CS) Constraints (C) Opportunities (O)	Goals/Targets	Strategies/Actions (timing in phases)	Responsibility
<p>1. In the event of a community or national emergency or disaster the needs of Older Persons will be accommodated at all phases of planning and response</p>	<p>(O) There is in place a national mechanism that coordinate response to emergencies and disasters</p>	<p>A voice for older Persons on the national Emergency Management Organization</p>	<p>Advocate for the NCA to be represented on NEMO and other local organizations such as the DEMO and VEMO.</p>	<p>NCA and MHD NEMO / DEMO / VEMO /CEMO</p> <p>NCA in coordination with the Elections and Boundaries Commission and the Central Statistical Office.</p> <p>NCA, National Fire Service, MHD, Dept of Transport National Security, Chair / Coordinators of NEMO Committees</p>
		<p>Maintain a current register of Older Persons, in order to facilitate their mobilization in situations of emergency.</p>	<p>Facilitate the compilation of a register, which clearly identifies Older Persons, in order to facilitate their mobilization in situations of emergency.</p> <p>Facilitate the formation of a subcommittee made up of representatives from NGO's, the Fire Department, Ministry of Human Development and Transport Department which would be responsible for the mobilization of Older Persons in situations of emergencies in institutions for Older Persons</p>	
		<p>A public sensitized to the plight of Older Persons in emergency situations</p>	<p>Support the sensitization of the community to the needs of Older Persons in emergency situations and of Older Persons to emergency services available to them.</p>	

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