

FOREWORD

In April 2002 I led the delegation to the 2nd World Assembly in Madrid where South Africa signed the declaration on the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. It is during this World assembly that we committed ourselves to develop and implement the National Plan of Action on Ageing.

The South African Plan of Action on Ageing focusses on the three key priority areas as outlined in the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing namely; Older Persons and Development, Advancing Health and well-being into old age; and Ensuring an enabling and supportive environment. It has also incorporated the fourth priority area that is based on the recommendations of the investigation committee on abuse, ill-treatment and neglect of older person, a committee that I put in place to investigate the extent of abuse of older persons in the country. These priorities have also been incorporated into the Older Persons Act, Act 13 of 2006 that has been passed by parliament in June 2006.

The South African Plan of Action on Ageing will among others strengthen intersectoral collaboration amongst government departments. It will also clearly define roles and responsibilities of government departments and civil society in the provision of services to older persons. This plan will be used as a mechanism to strengthen partnership between government and civil society.

This plan clearly indicates that the protection, care, support and development of older persons is a joint responsibility between government, civil society and the corporate sector. It presents us with an opportunity to put older persons issues high on the agenda in the country.

The plan spells out monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for implementation and effective service delivery which will ensure better life for our older persons.

The country will be measured in 2007 in New York on interventions that have been put in place to deliver on the commitments made.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the civil society, the private sector and officials from my department, nationally and provincially for their contribution towards the finalisation of this plan.

DR Z.S.T. SKWEIYA
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

In April 2002, South Africa was amongst the countries that signed the declaration on the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing. Each country was expected to develop a Plan of Action on Ageing, to ensure intergration of issues raised in the declaration in the country's programme of action and to adress country specific challenges.

In August 2004, South Africa hosted an Africa conference on Ageing. The aim of the conference was to develop an African framework for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. The conference was attended by representatives from African countries, NGOs, Private Sector, Institutions of Higher Learning and older persons This serverd as a basis for the African and the South African Plan of Action.

The country engaged in consultative processes with government departments and civil society organisations both at national and provincial level to clarify roles and responsibilities of stakeholders on issues affecting older persons. The draft Plan of Action was developed based on the inputs derived from the consultative workshops. The draft was finally consulted with government departments to confirm roles assigned to them by the sector and in terms of their constitutional mandate; as well as organs of civil society including business, the South African Older Persons Forum(SAOPF). The Plan covers a period of ten years.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING

The purpose of the South African Plan of Action on Ageing is to ensure coordination and integration of services to older persons. It also seeks to clarify roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the provision of services to older persons. Older persons will be afforded and opportunity to remain independent, active and contributing citizens in the community for as long as possible while receiving quality service.

3. SITUATION ANALYSIS

3.1 OLDER PERSONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Older persons must be full participants in the development process and also share in its benefits. No individual must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. Older persons have been previously marginalised, as ageing has been perceived as a

problem rather than a natural process. This has resulted in older persons having very little status, neither is there recognition for the worthy contribution that they make and continue to make as caregivers and in other roles (volunteerism) that they fulfil. Older persons are seldom given the opportunity to participate in the critical issues such as the development of policies and legislation about the services that they need or receive. Their voice, even though it is a voice of experience and wisdom is rarely taken into account.

3.1.1 Older Persons and Work

Most older persons are engaged in informal employment, either as hawkers, child minders and domestic workers. They also volunteer as caregivers for frail older persons and other persons suffering from chronic diseases. However there is little or no recognition for their contribution neither is such effort recognised as work. No financial equivalent is placed on the work that they do.

3.1.2 Rural and Urban development

Most older persons live in rural areas without basic services, thus increasing their vulnerability. Most of these older persons are women. Agricultural pursuits appear to be the only opportunity that they engage in. No information nor resources are available to older person to increase their access to a host of other opportunities.

3.1.3 Empowerment

The majority of older persons experience the sense of dis-empowerment. They feel isolated, discarded, and not useful to society. This is because of the manner in which ageing is perceived in the country. The worth of the older person is measured on an economic basis, and once they retire, it appears as though they are worthless citizens.

South Africa would not be able to develop as a country if it was not for older persons performing all sorts of roles and tasks that allow others to achieve. They continue to contribute, even though it is not a direct economic contribution, and they should be

empowered to take their rightful place in society as the “voice of wisdom”, the carers of others and mothers and fathers of the nation.

3.1.4 Access to Knowledge, Education and Training

The majority of older persons did not have the opportunity to be educated, which increases their vulnerability as they have to rely on others for information. Educational programmes have been put in place to ensure that basic education as a right is made available to all those who need it. However there is still a challenge for older persons to access such programmes.

3.1.5 Eradication of Poverty

The government has made efforts to support poverty relief programmes that target older persons. These programmes are insufficient to cater for all older persons who are vulnerable and are not sustainable.

3.2 ADVANCING HEALTH AND WELLBEING INTO OLD AGE

Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity (World Health Organisation).

Older women play an important role in caring roles. Therefore, they need to be healthy in order to fulfil these challenging roles. There are few geriatric programmes available in Primary Health Care Centres to address the specific needs of older persons.

3.2.1 Health Promotion and Wellbeing

The Department of Health has developed and is implementing health promotion programmes targetting both rural and urban areas. However, there is a need to strengthen these programmes and assess impact.

3.2.2 Universal and equal access to Health care

The Department of Health provides free health care services to older persons as they are part of the vulnerable groups. There is still a challenge of access to these services especially in rural areas due to lack of appropriate transport and information on the availability of the service.

3.2.3 Older Persons and HIV / AIDS

There is an increase in the number of older persons who are infected with HIV and Aids. In the past most older persons were affected by the disease through their children and grandchildren. The exposure to the risk of infection as they provide care to their sick and children is of great concern. Yet current awareness and preventative programmes still focus on the youth, and do not target older persons.

3.2.4 Mental Health Needs of Older Persons

Older Persons because of their advancing age need mental health services more than any other group (other than the psychiatrically ill), and yet these services are not accessible to older persons.

3.2.5 Health Services and Home Based Care

The government's home based care programme needs to be strengthened to reach to all frail older persons in the community. The government cannot deliver this service on its own, partnership with the civil society is critical for effective service delivery to older persons. Capacity building programmes and other means of support need to be put in place to enable both government and civil society to provide quality and yet affordable Home Based Care services.

The health professionals carry out their function of caring adequately, but many still need training on geriatrics. There are few health professionals that have specialised in geriatrics.

3.3 ENSURING ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

This priority area is in line with the Copenhagen commitment on social development. Among others, the commitment calls for recognition of the important interaction between environmental, economic and social policies. The Second World Assembly acknowledged the shortfalls in resources required in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. Policies that empower older persons, support their contribution in society, promote access to basic services, support lifelong development independence and support, social institutions based on principles of reciprocity and interdependence are required.

3.3.1 Legislative and Policy Framework

These past few years have seen a plethora of legislation and policies being developed to ensure that older persons are catered for. South Africa has passed the legislation for older persons that promote and maintain the status, rights, well-being, safety and security of older persons.(Older Persons Act 13 of 2006). Efforts are being made to solicit commitment of other government departments in the implementation of the legislation.

3.3.2 Housing and Living Environment/Accomodation

Older persons are not prioritised in the allocation of houses. They are treated like any other citizen. There is also no policy framework that guides housing provision for older persons. New housing stock is built according to general plan, and does not take into consideration the specific need of older persons, who wants to live on their own with very little assistance. There is however provision made within the housing legislation for people with special needs, this information is not made accessible to older persons, with the result that they accept a house that does not meet ageing needs.

The White Paper for Social Development advocated a shift towards community based care for all vulnerable groups, and whilst there has been tremendous growth in community based care and support services for older persons, most residential facilities

are in advantaged areas and are too far for the vulnerable groups who are in need of these services.

3.3.3 Transport

Public transport in the country has not reached the acceptable standard. Where there is some sort of system in place, this usually does not take the needs of older persons into account. Older persons, just like the general public have to rely on buses and taxi's which are not suitable for transportation of older persons especially those with disabilities. There are no policies in place that ensure that transport for older persons is subsidized, so that they can enjoy the freedom to go where they want and at times suitable to them.

3.3.4 Social Security

The Department of Social Development has ensured that all those who are entitled to an old age pension receive it, the challenge is the payment system. In some cases it is not older person friendly. Grant in Aid has been available for people in need but very few older persons make use of it, because of lack of information. The role of the older person has changed in society. The state is making efforts to ensure that they receive all the information pertaining to old age grant, the information on other grants is not reaching older persons in rural areas. However, in order for them to perform the role of caregivers they need to have sufficient information about types of grants available for them to carry out their added responsibilities.

3.3.5 Community Based Care and Support Services

A large number of Non Profit Organisations manage community based care and support services exist in most urban areas in the form of day care centers, service centres and luncheon clubs. Some of these Non Profit Organisations also provide counselling services to older persons. There has been shift from institutional care to community based care and support services.

3.3.6 Civil Society Participation.

Government has created an enabling environment for participation of older persons in decision making on issues affecting them. The South African Human Rights Commission together with the Department of Social Development have put in place mechanisms for the establishment of a National Forum for older persons. Its main objective is to ensure that older persons participate in civil society matters.

3.3.7 Volunteerism.

Many older persons are volunteers at pay points, assisting with social security pay-out, taking care of orphans, people with disabilities, other frail older persons and their sick children. Older persons are carrying out these responsibilities with little or no support. Their efforts are also not recognised.

3.3.8 Inter-sectoral Collaboration

Services to older persons demand a collaborative effort. However services are still fragmented, with the different departments each providing services to older persons that they deem fit, or if the budget allows them to provide a service. Ageing cuts across the different spheres of government as well as across government departments. Minimal Intersectoral collaboration takes place between the departments. The Department of Social Development takes the major responsibility for service delivery to older persons. There is a need to plan and thus implement collaboratively to create greater impact.

3.3.9 Image of Ageing

South Africa as a country has always perceived older persons as a vulnerable and marginalised group. *“Ageing is a natural process of development, and should be embraced. Individuals as well as the society should make adequate preparation for it”*. There is a need for the provision of comprehensive programmes that cover ageing from cradle to grave. The Social Development White Paper also moves from this premise, and urges us to develop programs that are aimed at the development stages rather than the pathologies that are experienced. Just as children need protection when they are

born, the youth need protection and support during their youth years, adults require skills and empowerment for their development, Older persons also need protection, care, empowerment and the enabling environment, which will allow them to continue living a fulfilling life.

3.4 PROTECTION OF OLDER PERSONS

3.4.1 Protection Mechanisms

The Older Persons Act 2006(Act 13 of 2006) provides for the maintenance and protection of older persons. Mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure implementation and compliance.

3.4.2 Prevention of Abuse, Neglect and Violence to older persons

The Minister for Social Development, Dr Z.S.T. Skweyiya appointed a committee to investigate abuse, neglect and ill-treatment of older persons in the country in 2000. The findings revealed that there is extensive abuse of older persons in both residential facilities and in the community. Furthermore, it was discovered that older persons were abused by people they trust.

The Older Persons Act 13 of 2006 has incorporated the recommendations of the investigation report. The Department has developed a protocol on the management of elder abuse. Awareness programmes on elder abuse have been developed and implemented in all provinces.

3.4.3 Victim Empowerment

Older persons have become easy prey for criminals. The government has put in place Victim Empowerment Programmes, however older persons are not aware of them. A strategy to intensify the marketing of the programmes needs to be put in place.

3.4.4 Advocacy

The South African Older Persons forum is a mechanism that has been put in place to advocate for older persons on issues affecting them.

3.4.5 Access to Services

The Department of Social Development made efforts to take services to the people in line with the Batho-Pele principles. Social Security pay points have been made available in many of the poorer communities although there are still challenges that need to be addressed in those pay points. Efforts to extend Social Work services to areas of need is in process, however services are still not accessible to older persons in rural areas. The Department of Home affairs has developed a system to fast track the issuing of identification documents .Access to transport remains a challenge.

The different government departments are engaged in programmes to make their services accessible to communities; however there is still a need to intensify services delivery.

4. PLAN OF ACTION

4.1 PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

ISSUE:

Changing structures of families and traditional patterns of care resulting in weakened support systems

Changing roles of older persons, older persons are pillars of families. The HIV/AIDS has worsened the situation.

Family structures are unable or unwilling to care for older persons and cases of abuse are increasing.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Recognition of the fundamental rights of older persons by ensuring the rights of older persons are protected.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Develop and implement legislation to protect older persons.	Protection of the rights of older persons	DSD SAHRC All government departments
2. Facilitate the establishment of representation groups for older persons	Older persons represented at national and provincial level	SAHRC (Lead) DSD

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
	Active participation of older persons on issues affecting them	
3. Facilitate the development of the South African Charter on the Rights of older persons	Rights of older persons protected	DSD SAHRC
4. Provide legal support to older persons in need	Protection of the rights of older persons	Dept. of Justice Legal Aid Board SAHRC
5. Train older persons to provide information and advise on legal rights relating to older persons rights	Older persons empowered on their legal rights	Justice DSD DPLG SAHRC SAOPF
6. Ensure implementation of legislation for maintenance of children who are left under the care of older persons	Psychosocial and financial support for older persons	Dept of Justice

RECOMMENDATIONS II: Undertake necessary measures to ensure that older persons access their rights.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Develop data on older persons who are abused	Information on elder abuse cases available	DSD NPOs
2. Implement programmes of civic and public education to raise awareness on the rights of older persons	Communities empowered	SAHRC (Lead) All Departments NPOs
3. Capacitate service providers on the rights of older persons	Service providers empowered and capacitated	SAHRC & DSD(Lead) All Depts NPOs SETA
4. Develop and review curricula for social workers and other service providers working with older persons to include the rights and issues of older persons	Integrated curricula inclusive of older persons issues	Academic institutions DSD SAOPF(South African Older Persons Forum)

RECOMMENDATION III: Develop and implement appropriate strategies that address the concerns of older persons

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Develop, implement and review strategies that emphasises community support and care mechanisms for older persons	Responsive strategies	DSD DoH NPOs Private sector
2. Develop programmes that ensure that older persons remain in communities for as long as possible	Community based programmes in place	DSD NPOs DoH Other government departments Private Sector
3. Provide and enhance access to social assistance schemes for older persons	Accessible social assistance schemes	SASSA DSD Private Sector
4. Promote the involvement and contribution of older persons in families and communities	Active participation of older persons in families and communities	DSD Fora NPOs
5. Develop systems that ensure that older persons are given priority when	Older persons prioritized in provision of services	DPLG (Lead) Presidents office Premiers office NPOs

they seek services		Private Sector All government departments
6. Create awareness on the roles and contributions of older persons in the society	Change in perception on ageing	DSD(Lead) All government departments NPOs Fora Presidency Premier's offices
7. Ensure provision of adequate and accessible recreational and leisure facilities both in urban and rural areas to promote active ageing.	Accessible active ageing programmes	Sports and recreation(Lead) Education Private Sector NPOs
8. Strengthen traditional and community support.	Well functioning traditional support mechanisms	Arts and culture(Lead) House of traditional leaders

4.2 INFORMATION AND COORDINATION

ISSUE:

The absence of comprehensive information about ageing and poor coordination has resulted in inadequate resource allocation.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Ensure that comprehensive data on the status of older persons is compiled, available and accessible.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Ensure that the National census data includes issues specific to older persons	Issues of older persons highlighted in National census data	Statistics South Africa(Lead) DSD
2. Conduct research on the status of older persons in the country	Availability of the baseline information on the status of older persons	DSD NPOs Institutions of Higher Learning HSRC MRC Statistics South Africa
3. Develop directory of services for older persons	Information on services to older persons available and accessible	DSD GCIS

RECOMMENDATION 2: Ensure that the needs and rights of older persons are integrated into all existing and new policies.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Ensure that older persons are actively involved in policy and strategy formulation; and monitoring and evaluation.	Active participation of older persons in policy and strategy formulation, monitoring and evaluation	Office of the President/ Premier's office(Lead) DSD All departments NPOs

2. Develop, implement and review existing policies to ensure that the specific needs of older persons are included	Policies that are responsive to the needs of older persons	Office of the Presidency/Premier's office(Lead) DSD All Departments NPOs
3. Integrate issues of older persons with disabilities into existing and new policies; and programmes	Policies responsive to the needs of older persons with disabilities.	Office of the Presidency/Premier's office(Lead) DSD All Departments

RECOMMENDATION 3: Ensure establishment of coordination and monitoring mechanisms at all levels, to effectively address issues affecting older persons

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Establish office on the status of older persons in Presidency and Premiers offices	Office on the status of older persons in Presidency and all premiers offices	South African Older Persons Forum (SAOPF)(Lead) Presidency office Premiers offices
2. Establish national and provincial coordinating structures for older persons	Coordinating structures for older persons both nationally and provincially	SAHRC (Lead) DPLG Presidency office Premiers offices DoL DSD Private Sector NPOs
3. Develop and	Provincial	Presidency office

implement Provincial integrated plans	Integrated Plans implemented	Premiers office
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4.3 POVERTY

ISSUES

Older Persons are consistently among the poorest of the poor, yet their needs are seldom acknowledged in poverty reduction initiatives.

Older persons are systematically denied access to employment, credit, training and other services that would enable them to increase their income.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Ensure that the rights and needs of older persons are comprehensively addressed in poverty reduction strategies.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Integrate older persons in poverty reduction programmes	Socio-economic status of older persons improved	DoA - Lead DTI - Lead All government departments NPOs Private Sector
2. Involve older people in the assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of poverty alleviation programmes	Active participation of older persons in poverty reduction programmes	DoA (Lead) DTI (Lead) All government departments Fora Private Sector
3. Review anti-	Positive impact of	Department of Arts and

poverty programmes to ensure that they support, rather than contribute to the decline of, traditional support structures	anti-poverty programmes on traditional support structures	Culture(Lead) DTI DoA Traditional Leaders NPOs Private sector
4. Create awareness on policies that enable older persons to access basic services	Informed and empowered older persons	SAHRC DSD Housing Transport DPLG Traditional leadres Water Affairs and Forestry All government departments NPOs Private Sector

4.4 HOUSING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT

ISSUES

The majority of older persons are denied access to housing or decent shelter as a result of socio-economic changes and belief systems.

The majority of older persons live in rural areas where in many cases land ownership is governed by customary law. Property disputes affect older persons as family and community members strive to take control.

Building designs limit older person's access to services as well as reducing their access to political and civic representation.

Lack of infrastructure for community based care services to older persons.

Public transport and communication systems need to be responsive to the needs of older persons.

Older persons are vulnerable and susceptible to criminal activities both at pay points and in communities.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Ensure that older persons have access to safe, durable and affordable shelter.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Review and update housing policies to ensure that they reflect the needs of older persons(Quota)	Policies responsive to the needs of older persons Older persons have access to housing	Housing (Lead) GPLG (Lead)
2. Ensure that policies and legislation governing land rights and security of tenure do not discriminate against older persons	Older persons have equal access to land	DLA (Lead) Housing Office of the Presidency Premiers office NPOs Private sector
3. Monitoring of compliance to norms and standards in residential and community based facilities to protect the rights of older persons	Provision of quality of service to older persons	DSD(Lead) DoH DPLG

4. Provision of basic infrastructure for community based care and support services to older persons	Acceptable conditions for provision of services to older persons	DPLG (Lead) DPW (Lead) House of Traditional Leaders Private sector
5. Preferential allocation of ground floor accommodation for older persons	Appropriate accessible accommodation for older persons	All Departments NPOs Private sector
6. Implementation of policies exempting qualifying older persons from rates and taxes	Basic services accessible to qualifying older persons	DPLG(Lead) Housing Traditional leaders SARS

RECOMMENDATION 2: Ensure that public infrastructure accommodates the needs of older persons.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Design accessible public buildings to accommodate the needs of older persons	Public buildings accessible to older persons	DPW(Lead) DPLG (Lead)
2. Modify existing public buildings to ensure access for older persons	Public buildings accessible to older persons	DPW (Lead) DPLG
3. Ensure equitable distribution of basic services (Water Electricity)	Basic services accessible in rural and urban areas	DPLG (Lead) Water affairs and Forestry DPW

Telecommunication roads and sanitation) in urban and rural areas		Presidents office Premiers Office All government departments Eskom Telkom
4. Provide efficient, accessible, safe transport to older persons	Older persons have access to efficient, safe and accessible transport	DoT (Lead) SAPS(Lead) DPLG
5. Subsidise costs for older persons using public transport	Older persons have access to subsidised transport	DoT (Lead) DPLG

RECOMMENDATION 3: Ensure safety and security of older persons

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Develop, implement and review strategies that ensure safety and security of older persons in communities	Protection of older persons	Safety and Security SAPS
2. Develop and strengthen existing Victim Empowerment Programmes for abused older persons	Access to psycho-social therapy by abused older persons	SAPS Safety and Security

3. Develop and implement rehabilitation and after care programmes for elderly offenders	After care and rehabilitation programmes responsive to the needs of elderly offenders	DCS
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4.5 FAMILY

ISSUES

The family is an important source of support to older persons.

Urbanization and chronic diseases such as HIV and Aids pandemic has weakened the structure of the family.

RECOMMENDATION 1: PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN THE CARE OF OLDER PERSON

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Identify, support and strengthen traditional support systems to enhance the ability of families and community to care for older persons	Well functioning traditional support system accessible to older persons and their families	DSD (Lead) House of traditional leaders DPLG Arts and Culture Fora NPOs Private sector
2. Include issues of older persons and family responsibilities	Culture on responsibilities to older persons	DoE (Lead) Institutions of higher Learning

in the curricula of all educational institutions	cultivated to all members of the society	DSD Fora SETA Private sector
3. Establish and strengthen intergenerational and cultural programmes	Preservation of culture Transfer of knowledge to the younger generation	DSD (Lead) Arts and Culture NPOs
4. Establish and strengthen the existing family preservation programmes	Well functioning and resilient families	DSD (Lead) NPOs
5. Establish and strengthen existing respite care services to ease burden for families taking care of frail older persons	Well functioning support systems for frail older persons and their families	DoH (Lead) DSD NPOs Private sector SETA
6. Strengthen caregiver support programmes	Well established caregiver support programmes	DoH (Lead) DSD NPOs
7. Build capacity of older persons on their right to protection within the family	Empowered older persons	DSD (Lead) SAPS SAHRC NPOs Fora Private sector

8. Promote involvement and contributions of older persons in families	Active participation of older persons in decision making	DSD (Lead) NPOs Fora Premiers offices
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4.6 SOCIAL SECURITY

ISSUE:

Social security has become the main source of income to meet the needs of vulnerable older persons and their families.

RECOMMENDATION 1: ENSURE THAT ELIGIBLE OLDER PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO SOCIAL GRANTS

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Create awareness on available social grants, requirements and how to access them	Informed older persons	SASSA (Lead) NPOs
2. Facilitate access to documents (identity documents, birth certificates)	Access to legal documents	Home Affairs (Lead) Traditional leaders SAPS DoH DSD NPOs DPLG
3. Develop and	Access to	SASSA (Lead)

implement norms and standards to ensure that older persons receive quality service	acceptable levels of service to older persons	DPLG For a
4. Device systems that ensure that older persons are given priority when they access grants	Less queing of older persons	SASSA
5. Provide social relief of distress to vulnerable older persons	Basic needs of older persons provided	DSD (Social Security)

4.7 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME SECURITY

ISSUES:

Older persons are among the poorest of the poor and often do not have access to regular income.

Older persons are employed in the informal sector and did not have the opportunity to contribute to the formal social security programmes

RECOMMENDATION 1: ENSURE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Create awareness on individual responsibility for social security issues so that people understand the need to plan for their old age	State of readiness for retirement	DoL (Lead) All government departments Private sector
2. Develop social security systems that allow for contributions by all those in the formal and informal sectors	Accessible comprehensive social security system for all	DoL (Lead) Private sector
3. Ensure participation of younger and older persons in the design and implementation of strategies and policies related to social security	Employees capacitated on social security issues	DoL (Lead) SASSA
4. Provide support to informal social security programmes.	Well functioning/sustainable social security system	DoL (Lead) Private sector
5. Develop and	Capacitated older	DoL (Lead)

implement pre-retirement programmes to enable older persons to develop the necessary coping skills that will prepare for the challenges of retirement.	persons	Private sector NPOs
6. Develop and implement policies to protect older persons from forceful evictions from farms	Protection of older persons from forceful evictions in farms	DoL (Lead) DLA Labour movements (Unions) NPOs
7. Lobby for the review of legislation to accommodate older persons who need to work for as long as possible	Older persons remain in the workforce for as long as possible	Fora

4.8 CRISES, EMERGENCIES AND PANDEMICS

ISSUES

Emergency situations often result in rapid changes in social patterns and the status accorded to older persons in stable situations is undermined.

Older persons as the main providers of care to those affected and infected by HIV and AIDS are at risk of contracting HIV and AIDS pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION 1: ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS OF OLDER PERSONS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ARE PROVIDED FOR

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Develop, review and implement policies related to emergency situations to ensure that the rights of older persons are protected	Accessible emergency services to older persons	DPLG (Lead) Premiers' offices SANDF DSD DoH Private sector NPOs Fora
2. Ensure participation of older persons in the design and implementation of emergency programmes	Programmes responsive to the needs of older persons	DPLG(Lead) Premiers' offices DSD DoH SANDF Private sector NPOs Fora
3. Prioritise older persons in emergency situations	Non discriminatory service	DPLG (Lead) SANDF Fora Private sector DSD DoH
4. Identify and address the social and psychological	Responsive mechanisms to the needs of older	DPLG (Lead) DSD NPOs

needs of older persons	persons	Private sector DoH
5. Design and implement programmes that strengthen and sustain family structures during periods of displacement and rehabilitation faces of a disaster	Resilient families	DPLG (Lead) DSD NPOs Private sector
6. Ensure that older persons who have been forced to leave their homes are able to recover their property upon return	Property recovered	DPLG (Lead) SAPS

RECOMMENDATION 2: ENSURE PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF OLDER PERSONS ON CHRONIC DISEASES SUCH AS HIV AND AIDS; AND OTHER EPIDEMICS

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Conduct research to determine the nature and extent of the impact of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics on older	Responsive programmes	DoH (Lead) MRC Institutions of Higher Learning HSRC DSD

persons		Premiers offices Presidency Office Stats South Africa
2. Develop and review policies relating to HIV/AIDS and other epidemics to ensure that they include issues affecting older persons	HIV/AIDS and other epidemics policies responsive to older persons needs	DoH (Lead) DSD Premiers offices Office of the presidency
3. Develop and implement intergenerational public programmes relating to HIV/AIDS and other epidemics	Moral regeneration and intergenerational solidarity promoted	DSD (Lead) DoH Youth Commission
4. Create awareness on HIV and AIDS and other infectious diseases	Informed choices	DoH(Lead) DSD NPOs All government departments
5. Provide support to older persons caring for those affected by HIV and AIDS; and other chronic diseases	Support programmes implemented	DoH(Lead) DSD(Lead) Private sector
6. Strengthen community based	Support structures in place	DoH(Lead) DSD(Lead)

care and support services to ensure that older persons who are caregivers of those affected by HIV/AIDS and other epidemics receives support		NPOs
7. Involve older persons as educators and learners in programmes on HIV/AIDS	Active participation of older persons in HIV/AIDS programmes	DoH(Lead) DSD NPOs

4.9 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ISSUES:

There is high illiteracy rate amongst older persons.

Inaccessible medium of communication to public awareness programmes.

Lack of recognition of older persons skills and experience in the development of educational programmes.

Issues relating to older persons are not reflected in the training curricula.

RECOMMENDATION 1: ENSURE THAT OLDER PERSONS HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Strengthen and extend Adult Basic Education Training (ABET) to include older persons	Literate older persons	DoE
2. Ensure that public education campaigns are culturally sensitive to the needs of older persons	Accessible and acceptable educational campaigns	All government departments NPOs Fora Media
3. Ensure that public education campaigns are accessible in terms of language and literacy levels of older persons	Informed older persons	All government departments GCIS NPOs For a

RECOMMENDATION 2: PROMOTE OLDER PERSONS PARTICIPATION AS EDUCATORS AND TRAINERS

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Recognise and acknowledge skills of older persons and create a data	Data base on older persons skills	DoE (Lead) DSD DoL Private sector

base of their skills		
2. Provide opportunities for older persons to be trained as Peer Educators and Trainers in all sectors.	Older persons' skills maximally utilised	DoE (Lead) Other government departments DoL

4.10 GENDER

ISSUES:

Majority of older persons in the country are women with the women to men ratio increasing with age, older women are more vulnerable than older men.

RECOMMENDATION 1: Mainstream ageing in policies relating to Gender.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Conduct research on differential ageing in women and men	Gender issues mainstreamed in older persons policies	Commission on Gender Equality(Lead) MRC HSRC Institutions of Higher Learning Statistics South Africa Premiers' offices

4.11 HEALTH

ISSUE:

Older people are denied access to essential health services.

RECOMMENDATION I: Ensure that older person’s rights to appropriate health care are legally constituted and guaranteed.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Develop, implement and review all national health policies and strategies to ensure they respond to specific needs of older persons	Policies, strategies and guidelines responsive to older persons needs	DoH
2. Involve older persons in the development, review of health policies and strategies	Active participation of older persons in the development of legislation and strategies	DoH (Lead) Private sector

RECOMMENDATION II: Ensure the delivery of health services that meet the specific needs of older persons.

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Undertake research on older persons needs	Services that are aligned to older persons needs	DoH (Lead) HSRC MRC Institution of Higher Learning
2. Develop and review health budgets to ensure adequate funding is devoted to the provision of services	Free Health Services accessible to older persons	DoH

for older people		
3. Ensure in-service training for health professionals on health needs of older persons	Knowledgeable health professionals	DoH
4. Ensure appropriate and continuous training on ageing issues for community health workers	Knowledgeable community health workers	DoH
5. Ensure national coverage of comprehensive health services, including HIV and AIDS service for older persons	Informed communities	DoH Media
6. Strengthen integrated geriatric services and training at all levels of the health care system	Medical Tertiary Institutions offering a programme for all health professionals	DoH Tertiary Institutions of Higher learning
7. Provide free health services to older persons, especially those with disability who are unable to meet the costs	Access to free Primary Health Care	DoH
8. Develop and implement a strategy for the provision of safe traditional medicine	Traditional Medicines regulated	DoH

ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBILITY
9. Provide comprehensive ophthalmic services for older persons	Reduced ophthalmic ailments for older persons	DoH (Lead) Private sector
10. Provide comprehensive oral health services for older persons	Comprehensive oral services accessible to older persons	DoH (Lead) Private sector
11. Subsidised the costs of assistive devices for older persons	Free access to those eligible	DoH (Lead) Private sector
12. Develop and implement a strategy for the management of chronic health conditions that are more prevalent in old age	Well controlled chronic health conditions	DoH
13. Implement national programmes on healthy lifestyles	Healthy and active ageing	DoH

5. RESOURCE MOBILISATION

The implementation of the South African Plan of Action on Ageing will have resource implications. There will be a need to provide the following resources:

- Provision of technical skills and appropriate human resource
- Capacity building on issues of ageing and the Plan itself
- Allocation of budget to implement the Plan

Although this plan has resource implications, it is important to note that some activities do not require additional resources. It is also critical that all stakeholders including private sector should embark on resource mobilisation to ensure successful implementation of this Plan.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Department of Social Development will take a lead in the implementation of the Plan. The South African Older Persons Forum (SAOPF), the premiers' office and the office of the presidency will monitor the implementation by all government departments. Stakeholders will be expected to develop detailed implementation plans at provincial and local level and to report progress on a quarterly basis.

ANNEXURE A

ACRONYMS

AIDS –Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBOs – Community Based Organisations
DCS - Department of Correctional Services
DLA - Department of land Affairs
DoA – Department of Agriculture
DoE – Department of Education
DoH – Department of Health
DoL – Department of Labour
DoT – Department of Transport
DPLG – Department of Provincial and Local Government
DPW – Department of Public Works
DSD – Department of Social Development
DTI – Department of Trade and Industry
EAP – Employee Assistance Programme
FBOs – Faith Based Organisations
FOR A – Plural of Forum
GCIS – Government Communications Information Systems
HIV – Human Immune Deficiency Virus
HSRC – Human Science Research Council
MRC – Medical Research Council
NGOs – Non- Governmental Organisations
NPOs – Non Profit Organisations
SAHRC – South African Human Rights Commission
SANDF – South African National Defence Force
SARS – South African Revenue Service
SAPS – South African Police Service
SASSA – South African Social Security Agency
SETA – Sector for Education and Training Authority