



GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

**CARIBBEAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE
FOURTH REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL
CONFERENCE ON AGEING AND THE RIGHTS OF
OLDER PERSONS**

**June 01- June 02, 2017
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**



**Ms. Charyn Wilson
Director, National Assistance Board**





Brief History of Barbados

- Entire Population of Barbados: 280,000
- Persons over 65 Years in 2010: 11.3%
- Projected Population of Persons over 65 Years in 2025: 18.0%





Situation of Older Persons in Barbados

- 30,800 persons over 65 years in 2010
- 50,400 persons over 65 years in 2025
- Persons are living longer and are in need of array of services to address their needs and maintain well-being



Measurement taken by the
Government of Barbados to
implement the San Jose Charter 2012
and to Strengthen Protection for the
Rights of Older Persons



Ms. Charyn Wilson
Director, National Assistance Board





The National Policy on Ageing for Barbados

- is guided by the international principles emanating from a number of conventions, to which Barbados is a signatory.



Ms. Charyn Wilson
Director, National Assistance Board





National Policy on Ageing for Barbados

Brief Description of the Areas

- 1.0 Policy Statement
- 2.0 National Policy on Ageing and Its International Precedence Statement
- 3.0 Policy Ageing in Barbados: The Demographic and Social Dimensions
- 4.0 Financial and Economic Security for Older Persons in Barbados
- 5.0 Health and Health Care





National Policy on Ageing for Barbados

Brief Description of the Areas (Con't)

- 6.0 Physical and Built Environment
- 7.0 The Social Environment
- 8.0 Legislation
- 9.0 Research
- 10.0 Institutional Arrangement



Ms. Charyn Wilson

Director, National Assistance Board



Barbados Achievements

Agree to improve social protection systems so that they effectively meet the needs of older persons by promoting the following actions:

SOCIAL SECURITY

- The National Insurance Scheme provides for older persons that are 66 1/2 and older, once they have paid into the plan.
 - There is a contributory and non-contributory pension scheme. The non-contributory pension is for older persons that were informally employed and could not pay into a pension plan. They receive a stipend twice a month.



Ms. Charyn Wilson

Director, National Assistance Board





Barbados Achievements Con't

HEALTH

- Barbados already has universal health care for its citizens
- The Barbados Drug Service has maintained its policy of supplying free medication at point of service to patients 65 years and older and those diagnosed with hypertension, diabetes asthma, glaucoma and epilepsy, under the Special Benefits Service
- The National Disabilities Unit is the government entity that provides medical, and assistive devices for older persons



Ms. Charyn Wilson

Director, National Assistance Board





Barbados Achievements Con't

HEALTH CON'T

- The Barbados Association of Palliative Care is a non-governmental organization that provides support services at no cost to individuals and families
- In the Ministry of Health, 80% of persons registered in their Non-Communicable Disease Programme are over 65 years and have at least one non-communicable disease. Thus, special attention is given to older persons attending the programme.





Barbados Achievements Con't

HEALTH CON'T

- In the past five years, formal Gerontological training has been introduced at the Barbados Community College.
- The Ministry of Health has mechanisms for monitoring and oversight for the Geriatric Hospitals and the private sector Nursing Homes and Senior Citizens Homes.
- In 2015, the Ministry of Health expanded its care and treatment of HIV, with clients being seen at local Polyclinics across the island in addition to the Lady Meade Clinic, which is the central hub of clinical HIV care.





Barbados Achievements Con't

HEALTH CON'T

- Currently, the National HIV Commission is working on their HIV National Strategic Plan 2014-2018.
- In the past five years, the Ministry of Social Care, (the National Assistance Board) has provided HIV public awareness and outreach to older persons by conducting seminars on a semi-annual basis. The Seniors' HIV Drama group also took the HIV message to the community by staging major productions in 2013, 2014 and 2016.
- In February 2016, the Seniors' HIV Drama Group released a CD, entitled, "Take Warning" and posters were disseminated throughout Barbados depicting the elderly and HIV.



Ms. Charyn Wilson

Director, National Assistance Board





Barbados Achievements Con't

SOCIAL SERVICES

- The state operated Jorris Dunner Elderly Day Care Centre was opened in 2015 to provide care and companionship for the elderly who live alone or need assistance and supervision during the day. The programme also offers relief to family members or caregivers and allows them the freedom to go to work, handle personal business or as respite while knowing their loved one is care for in a safe environment.
- The state run Home Care service has been in place since 1982. It is at no cost to the recipient and ensures that elderly and/or disabled persons are assisted with a range of daily living skills such as cooking, washing, cleaning, grooming and shopping. The goal is to assist the elderly in maintaining their dignity and independence for as long as possible.



Ms. Charyn Wilson

Director, National Assistance Board





Barbados Achievements Con't

Disseminate information on the right to retire, preparations for retirement, as well as on the possibilities of other vocational or voluntary activities.

- In 2015, the Ministry of Social Care held a series of training sessions for government employees and persons in the community on Preparation for Retirement.
- The National Assistance Board annually holds an 8 week all-day Preparation for Retirement training for its employees
- The National Assistance Board has a formal Helping Hands Volunteer Programme where individuals, especially retirees can volunteer to provide companionship for home care recipients.



Ms. Charyn Wilson
Director, National Assistance Board





Barbados Achievements Con't

Draw attention to the vulnerability of older persons in emergency situations and following natural disasters

- The Evacuation of Vulnerable Persons Plan was ratified in December 2012. This evacuation plan is part of the island wide evacuation plan. Vulnerable persons are individuals deemed to be at risk such as the elderly living alone and persons with disabilities.
- There is a Vulnerable Persons Committee that meet on a monthly basis and it has the responsibility for vulnerable persons during and after manmade and natural disasters. It is comprised of twenty four stakeholders in the National Disaster Response System



GAPS

- Accessibility to housing for older persons
- Legislation to address elder abuse
- Legislation to address Human Rights of Older Persons such as equality and non-discrimination



PLANS AND PRIORITIES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

- The Committee to monitor the implementation of the National Policy on Ageing has a plan of action to address the 100 recommendations outlined in the National Policy on Ageing. The recommendations will be addressed according to priority (urgent, short, medium or long term).
- The government will enact a codified law to address the issue of elder abuse and continue to observe June 15, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, as a nationally recognized day with structured activities that promote awareness of the elder abuse phenomenon
- The Government of Barbados will address housing for the elderly, especially as it relates to emergency (similar to Lancaster House which opened in August 2015), short term crises situations and long term solutions.
- As recommended in the National Policy on Ageing, The National Assistance Board will change its name to the Commission of Elder Affairs.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH



Ms. Charyn Wilson
Director, National Assistance Board

