



# MIPAA+20 - Where are we now?

- Presented by: **Hyacinth O. Blake (PhD)**  
Director (Division of Ageing)  
Ministry of Social Development and  
Family Services, Trinidad and Tobago
- Date: 19 October 2022
- Event: Virtual Expert Group Meeting on the  
Ageing Caribbean





# Sub regional assessment of MIPAA

## Presentation Outline:

### ❖ Report highlights & other considerations

1. Economic security
2. Health and care, and
3. Enabling and supportive environments





# Economic Security

- **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

- This will require involvement of critical stakeholders which is more feasible as the COVID19 pandemic is subsiding.
- Older persons are at the centre of this policy process.
- Collaboration with international agencies e.g. PAHO can assist with this process, especially in the light of technical and other resource challenges that nation's may be experiencing at this time.





# Economic Security



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION  
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

"Sharing the Caring"

- **REPRESENTATION**

- *"Following the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the partnership between government and older persons' organisations may need to be refreshed and reinforced..."* (Quashie & Jones 2022: 9)



HelpAge  
Belize

age helps



# Economic Security

- **CONTRIBUTORY VS NON-CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS**
- Universal coverage – varied results
- Increased public expenditure on pensions
- Increase the value of contributory pensions (min. pension)
- Increase social pension entitlement age
- Flexible retirement - older persons should not be forced to continue working but should be able to do so if they want to and are able to work
- **DISCOUNTS / PREFERENTIAL RATES ON UTILITY BILLS**





# Economic Security

## POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ The current narrative of active inclusive ageing characterised by volunteering, mentorship and grandparenting does not always apply in practice due to varied socio-economic circumstances of individuals, groups and nations
- ❖ More overt connection needed between ageing, family and immigration policy.





# Health & Care

- Public/private health care systems
  - socioeconomic inequalities in health care access (esp. tertiary level)
- Non-communicable diseases and healthy ageing
- Insufficient palliative care
- Gender & health



# Health & Care

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- ❖ Impact of crime and fear of crime on Caribbean ageing (see Quashie & Jones 2002: p. 37 i.e. promoting social participation in later life)
- ❖ Fear of death if institutionalised
- ❖ Support for informal family caregivers (e.g. COVID 19 pandemic+++)





# Enabling & Supportive Environments

- Reductions in the supply (or availability) of family members to coreside and 'rising prevalence of independent living' (Quashie & Jones, 2022: 36)
- Infrastructural housing support to lower-income older persons
- Policies to support independent living / development of high quality age-friendly disaster-resistant housing
- Disaster management systems (preparedness, response & recovery)
- Built physical environment and access to digital technology
- Protecting older persons from neglect & abuse



# Enabling & Supportive Environments

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ Omnibus legislation to address a multiplicity of issues including
  - Elder guardianship law
  
- ❖ Diversification & expansion of services for older persons
  - Drug rehabilitation programmes
  - Sport & leisure activities (National Seniors Games; Seniors Olympics & Talent Competitions)



# Conclusion



**HAPPY SENIORS IN A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES**



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

To care for those  
who once cared for us  
is one of the highest  
honors in life.

Tia Walker



With

Thanks