

Segunda Conferencia regional intergubernamental sobre envejecimiento  
en América Latina y el Caribe: hacia una sociedad para todas las edades  
y de protección social basada en derechos

Brasilia, 4 al 6 de diciembre de 2007

**TRINIDAD Y TABAGO**

Informe de la aplicación de la Estrategia regional de implementación para América Latina y el  
Caribe del Plan de Acción Internacional de Madrid sobre el Envejecimiento





## SURVEY ON PROGRAMS FOR OLDER PERSONS IN THE CARIBBEAN

*The objective of survey is to know in greater detail the aging national programs that are being implemented in the countries of the Caribbean. The information provided will be used in the technical report that ECLAC is preparing for the second Regional Conference on Ageing that will take place in Brasilia, December 4th through the 6th, 2007. We ask for your collaboration in answering this survey so that the advances on this issue in your country will be included in our report.*

### I. IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENT

Country	Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Name	Jennifer A. Rouse (Ph.D.)
Institution	Ministry of Social Development
Position	Director, Division of Ageing

### II. CHANGES IN AND CHALLENGES TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OLDER PERSONS

*Please briefly respond to the following questions:*

- List the three main **changes** in the quality of life of older persons in your country during the last 5 years. List in order of importance.

1	<b>Establishment of the Division of Ageing in August 2003</b>
2	<b>Increased public awareness of ageing and age-related issues through the media and community outreach programmes</b>
3	<b>Launch (in July 2007) and ongoing distribution of the National Policy on Ageing to key stakeholders and the general public</b>

- List the three main **challenges** to the quality of life of older persons in your country. List in order of importance.

1	<b>Lack of adequately trained persons in health facilities in geriatric care and treatment of age-related illnesses</b>
2	<b>Impact of migration in heightening the vulnerability of older persons</b>
3	<b>Inadequacy in the delivery of a coordinated social services system for seniors</b>

### III. MAIN PROGRAMS IN EACH OF THE PRIORITY AREAS OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY ON AGEING

*The following questions seek to identify the existing programs for older adults in the areas of economic security, health, and surroundings in your country.*

- In the last five years, which programs have been implemented to achieve the **economic security** of older persons in your country? (Here, we refer to the areas of contributory and non-contributory pension coverage, employment, credit, micro-finance, and workforce training, among others)

1	<b>Retirement Planning Seminars for employees aged 50 yrs &amp; over</b>
2	<b>Contract work is available in the private/public sectors to skilled workers in post-retirement years</b>
3	<b>Entrepreneurial assistance and micro-finance are offered to seniors to establish small business ventures</b>

4	Free tuition is offered for tertiary-level education for all ages
5	Free training workshops offered in financial management/investment

2. In the last five years, which programs have been implemented to improve the health of older persons? (Here, we refer to the areas of training for health care workers, primary care, long-term care institutions, promotion of healthy behaviors and surroundings, and the monitoring of the health status of older persons, among others)

1	Training of Patient Care Assistants in basic geriatric care
2	Chronic Diseases Assistance Programme (CDAP) offers free medication to seniors
3	Research in progress by health professionals on early detection/prevalence rates of Alzheimer's Disease
4	Regional Heads of Government held a conference in Trinidad in September 2007, on the high incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases and launched a campaign to raise public awareness on healthy behaviours
5	Legislation on Homes for Older Persons Bill 2007 was passed by the Senate to regulate/monitor/control standards of care in Homes for the Aged and care facilities for older persons

3. In the last five years, which programs have been implemented to improve the physical and social surroundings of older persons in your country? (Here, we refer to the areas of housing, transportation, mistreatment, image, and social support, among others)

1	Mortgage loans are extended beyond retirement age & Rent-to-buy arrangements for low-cost housing
2	Establishment of the Older Persons Information Centre (Help Desk) – a referral facility to provide information on services (including mistreatment of the elderly) and products available for seniors
3	Establishment of Senior Activities Centres for persons aged 55 yrs and over
4	Free bus passes granted to seniors & priority seating arrangements on public buses
5	Annual sports/recreational/cultural events held for older persons

#### IV. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR OLDER PERSONS IN THE COUNTRY

The following questions seek to identify some characteristics of the most important programs for older persons that have been implemented in your country. Where at all possible, include two programs for each priority area of the Regional Strategy on Ageing (economic security, health, and physical and social surroundings)

1. What is the coverage, amount of resources, and initiation year for the most important programs for older persons?

Name of the program	Initiation year	Characteristics of the covered population (sex, age, area of residence and/or condition of poverty)	Coverage (in absolute numbers of the elderly population served)		Amount of resources in USD	
			Initiation year	Actual year of implementation	Yearly	Total (since the beginning of the program)
Old Age Pension (Public Assistance)	1939	65 yrs & over	30,000	120,000	\$31M	
Chronic Diseases Assistance Program (CDAP)	2004	18 yrs & over	120,000	143,000	\$250,000	\$1,500,000
Senior Citizens Grants (e.g., free glasses and hearing-aids; house repairs; diabetic strips, etc.)	1990	60 yrs & over	108,000	143,000	Approx. \$100,000	Approx. \$1M
Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP) (homecare services)	1997	60 yrs & over	Not available	Not available		

Stop Elder Abuse Now (SEAN)	1997	55 yrs & over	Not available	Not available		

2. What is the source of the funds designated to the national programs for older persons?

Name of program	Source of funds				
	National budget/Ministry of Social Development	Others Ministries	International cooperation		Others (please identify)
			Refundable	Not refundable	
Old Age Pension	✓				
CDAP		Health			
GAPP		Comm. Dev. Culture and Gender Affairs			
Senior Citizens Grants	✓				
Extended Mortgage loan		Housing			
SEAN				✓	

3. In order of importance, list the three main problems that programs for older persons face. Please refer to the areas of financial sustainability, management, and monitoring, among others.

1	Change in the political directorate
2	Inadequate staffing requirements
3	Inadequate (or lack of) monitoring and evaluation assessments

4. What are the mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of important national programs for older persons?

Name of the program	Mechanism for monitoring	Mechanism for evaluation
Senior Activities Centres	Cabinet-appointed Inter-ministerial Committee & Quarterly reports	Client Assessment Surveys & NGO Reporting Forms biannually
CDAP	Records of pharmacies/hospitals' dispensaries	Regional Health Authorities
Old Age Pension	Life Certificates completed by pensioners biannually	Social Welfare Local Board Offices
Senior Citizens Grants	Annual Financial audit	Social Welfare Local Board Offices

5. Indicate the mechanisms for older adults' participation that have been included in the most important national programs for older persons

Name of the program	Design	Implementation	Monitoring	Evaluation
Public Open Forum for Older Persons	Community-based; bottom-up; participatory approach	6 held annually in church halls and school auditoria in various districts	Client Assessment Forms & Rapporteurs	Comprehensive Report with seniors' recommendations
International Day of Older Persons	Sports/Recreational; Cultural & Festive	Annually in October (e.g., Senior Games; Talent Show for Seniors; etc.)	Client Assessment Forms	SWOT Analysis
Radio Series "Ageing Gratefully"	Promote positive imaging of ageing	3-mins broadcasts 4 times daily (Mon-Fri)	Listenership ratings	Biannual reports from Radio station
Retirement Planning Seminars	Presenters address employees aged 50 yrs & over on topical issues (e.g., financial planning; nutrition; employment opportunities; etc.)	Approx. 3-4 annually	Social-sector Ministries collaborate	Evaluation Forms completed by participants at the end of each Seminar