



Ghana country assessment report on ageing and health



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Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Why and how the report was prepared	v
Acronyms and abbreviations	vi
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Global ageing	1
1.2 Emerging health and social trends of ageing	1
1.3 Ageing situation in Ghana	2
1.4 Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of older people	3
2. The health of older people in Ghana	5
2.1 Socio-environmental circumstances	5
2.2 Physical health	8
2.3 Physical functioning	12
2.4 Nutrition, physical activity, risk factors and behaviours	14
2.5 Vision and hearing	17
2.6 Cognition and mental health	18
3. Health systems response and policies	19
3.1 Health service delivery	19
3.2 Universal coverage and financing	23
3.3 Leadership and governance	24
3.4 Health workforce	26
3.5 Policies and laws	26
3.6 Implementation of Ghana's National Ageing Policy	27
4. Recommendations and the way forward	29
References	31

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Why and how the report was prepared

This document was originally prepared as a longer assessment report for discussion at the Ghana Ageing and Health Policy Dialogue, which took place on 13–15 August 2013 in Accra, Ghana. Hosted by WHO, Ghana's Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ghana Health Service (GHS), delegates included senior national policy-makers and regional programme managers from GHS and MoH. Other participants included the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations, professional associations, researchers from academic institutions and representatives from international resource development services. The event was part of the WHO Knowledge Translation on Ageing and Health project, developed in partnership and with financial support from Age UK.

Ghana, like many other countries, is experiencing a demographic transition with its ageing population. The Government of Ghana approved a National Ageing Policy (Ageing with Security and Dignity) in October 2010, which, together with an Implementation Action Plan, was launched in December 2011. The Policy stipulated the creation of a coordinating institution, called the National Council on Ageing, to oversee the implementation of the Policy. Ghana's Ministries, Metropolitan and District Assemblies (MMDAs) were then supposed to integrate the draft Implementation Action Plan into their own programmes and develop sectoral action plans, but this did not happen.

In 2012, the Government of Ghana, through the MoH, requested support from WHO to develop plans to implement the National Ageing Policy. In response, the Department of Ageing and Life Course (ALC) at WHO commissioned an assessment report to inform the Ghana Ageing and Health Policy Dialogue.

The initial assessment report reviewed evidence from the WHO Study on global AGEing and adult health (SAGE) in Ghana and other sources. The work was complemented by site visits and key informant interviews to evaluate what progress, if any, had been made in implementing Ghana's National Ageing Policy and Implementation Action Plan, noting the challenges and extra support required. A multi-stakeholder Task Team on Ageing and Health was also set up, with the support of WHO, to provide advice as the assessment report was developed and reviewed. The report proposed five priorities relating to the prevention, treatment and care needs of older people in Ghana.

The Ghana Ageing and Health Policy Dialogue in 2013 resulted in the fine-tuning and agreement of the five priority health issues, followed by the development of intervention options to address them. These are contained in Section 4 of this document, which is a distillation of the assessment report.

Acronyms and abbreviations

ADL	activities of daily living
BMI	body mass index
CHPS	Community-based Health Planning and Services
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CRD	chronic respiratory disease
CSO	civil society organization
g/dl	grams per decilitre
GH¢	Ghanaian cedi
GHS	Ghana Health Service
Hb	haemoglobin
IADL	instrumental activities of daily living
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
LMIC	low- and middle-income countries
MMDAs	Ministries, Metropolitan and District Assemblies, Ghana
MoH	Ministry of Health
NCD	noncommunicable diseases
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
SAGE	Study on global AGEing and adult health
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization
WHOQoL	WHO Quality of Life
WHR	waist-to-hip ratio

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