



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

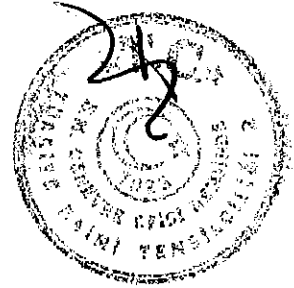
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the letter sent by Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, dated 10 November 2015, has the honour to enclose herewith an information note compiled by relevant Turkish authorities.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 21 December 2015

Encl: As stated



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

Elderly Living Homes

1. Name of the Practice:

Elderly Living Homes

2. Area Concerned:

Care

3. Type of Practice:

Policy

4. Level of Implementation:

National

5. Please describe the practice, including a) its purpose; b) when and how it was adopted; c) how long it has been used/implemented; and d) its geographic scope.

The new service concept of our General Directorate for the elderly proposes rendering care services to the elderly within the society and in a family environment in Life Homes for the Elderly that are located in centers of population (provinces - districts) instead of crowded institutional care centers (rest homes).

In Life Homes, care services are provided to elderly persons who are eligible for admission to Rest Homes but prefer to reside in a Life Home. Services in Life Homes aim improving living standards of elderly persons without isolating them from the rest of the society by way of rendering services in home environments (either in apartments or separate houses).

Life Homes for the Elderly can be established as additional units affiliated with the rest homes in provinces. Life homes for the Elderly provide one room per person and can accommodate 3 or 4 persons on average or 6 persons at maximum. All costs and needs of Life Homes are covered by the institutions with which they are affiliated.

The first Life Home was opened as a piloting project in 17 August 2012 in Ankara. There is currently a strong effort to extend the project to other provinces. Establishment of 25 more homes has recently been approved by the General Directorate of Services for PwDs

and the Elderly. Twelve of the Life Homes have actually started giving service and the total number of beneficiaries is currently 46.

6. **Which actors are involved in the development and implementation of such practice?**

Ministry of Family and Social Policy

7. **Which rights of older persons does the practice promote and protect?**

Independence, inclusion, care, self-fulfillment, dignity.

8. **How does the practice promote and protect such rights?**

Elderly living homes can be improved by expanding it in every province that is needed in Turkey.

9. **What group of older persons, if any, particularly benefit from the practice?**

Older persons who carry the admission requirements for nursing homes and prefer to live in the elderly living homes.

10. **How has the practice been assessed and monitored? Please provide specific information on the impact of the practice, with data, indicators, among others, if any.**

Audit services are regularly monitored by audits performed by the auditors of Head of Audit Services, Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

11. **What lessons do you believe could be learnt from this practice? How could it be improved?**

By increasing the social facilities and campuses for the elderly, and this practice should be expanded throughout Turkey.

12. **How could this practice be a model for other countries?**

Other countries may also customize this policy according to their own policies and cultural features.

Law No. 2022 on Retirement Pension Pays for Elderly Turkish Citizens who are of 65 years of age or over, in a dependent capacity with no relatives and no financial income

1. Name of the Practice:

2022 Elderly Allowance

2. Area Concerned:

Improving the quality of life

3. Type of Practice:

Legal regulation

4. Level of Implementation:

National

5. Please describe the practice, including a) its purpose; b) when and how it was adopted; c) how long it has been used/implemented; and d) its geographic scope.

In accordance with Law No. 2022 of 1 July 1976, elderly people who are of 65 years of age or over, in a dependent capacity with no relatives and no financial income have been entitled for pension. Elderly people over 65 years of age and persons with minimum 40% disability are paid allowances as a social aid.

6. Which actors are involved in the development and implementation of such practice?

Ministry of Family and Social Policy

7. Which rights of older persons does the practice promote and protect?

Dignity, care

8. How does the practice promote and protect such rights?

The monitoring processes and professional interventions can be improved.

9. What group of older persons, if any, particularly benefit from the practice?

Older persons who carry the admission requirements for nursing homes and prefer to live in the elderly living homes.

10. **How has the practice been assessed and monitored? Please provide specific information on the impact of the practice, with data, indicators, among others, if any.**

Audit services are regularly monitored by audits performed by the auditors of Head of Audit Services, Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

11. **What lessons do you believe could be learnt from this practice? How could it be improved?**

By increasing the social facilities and campuses for the elderly and this practice should be expanded throughout Turkey.

12. **How could this practice be a model for other countries?**

Other countries may also customize this policy according to their own policies and cultural features.

Nursing Home/Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers

1. **Name of the Practice:**

Nursing Homes

2. **Area Concerned:**

Care

3. **Type of Practice:**

Institution

4. **Level of Implementation:**

National

5. **Please describe the practice, including a) its purpose; b) when and how it was adopted; c) how long it has been used/implemented; and d) its geographic scope.**

Before reviewing the historical development of rest home tradition in Turkish culture, one should take into account the attitude towards the elderly in the Turkish society. Even

in the very first era of Turkish history in Central Asia, the society showed great respect to the elderly with the purpose of benefiting from their knowledge. The elderly was protected and referred to as a source of knowledge. Acceptance of Islam by the Turkish Society contributed to this respect and guaranteed its place in social structure. Offering of *fitre* (alms) and *zekat* (tithe) first and foremost to elderly people had added a particular meaning to such aid. Analyzing the services offered to elderly people historically, we see that the kind of assistance offered had rather become typecast according to social and cultural structures and beliefs of societies. Existence of charity institutions in all periods throughout the history shows that elderly people were always assisted and protected in the Turkish society. The first institution for caring for elderly people in the history was established in the 1st century, during the Seljuk era. Reha Oğulları in Sivas and Muzaffereddin Ebu Sait, the ruler of Erbil, in Egypt built various shelters and rest homes for widowers and the elderly. In the Ottoman era, alms-houses and dervish lodges were known to serve elderly people in need.

Social services were offered by foundations until the 19th century. The public institutions and charity institutions that offer service in this area were started to be established in the 19th century. With the establishment of Darülaceze (almshouse) during the reign of Abdulhamid II, poor men, women and orphans were provided with support. This institution laid the foundation of a contemporary and efficient institution in Turkey and it currently continues its services.

Law No. 1580 which regulates duties, responsibilities, authorities, operations and fields of activity of local governments, came into effect in 1930 after the proclamation of the republic. This law imposed the responsibility of protecting people in need of care (elderly) and establishing and administering centers for the elderly. As per provisions of this law, residential institutions for the elderly were opened in various provinces of Turkey under the titles of orphanages, alms-houses and rest homes. Besides, various associations, minorities and natural entities also established residential centers for the elderly. The first nursing home affiliated with Ministry of Health and Social Assistance was opened in Konya in 1966 and the second one was opened in Eskişehir in the same year.

6. Which actors are involved in the development and implementation of such practice?

Ministry of Family and Social Policy

7. Which rights of older persons does the practice promote and protect?

Independence, inclusion, care, self-fulfillment, dignity, and right to care are protected.

8. How does the practice promote and protect such rights?

By increasing the social facilities and campuses for the elderly and this practice should be expanded throughout Turkey.

9. What group of older persons, if any, particularly benefit from the practice?

The admission requirements for Nursing Homes and the centers are the following:

a. Admission requirements for Nursing Homes

- To be aged 60 and older,
- Not to have a disorder that will restrain the person from meeting his/her own needs; be in a position to do daily activities independently such as eating, drinking, bathroom, toilet and etc.,
- To have a good mental health,
- Not have a contagious disease,
- Not to be a drug or alcohol addict,
- Being in a social and/or economic deprivation that is determined by the social investigation report.

b. Admission requirements for Centers

- To be aged 60 and older,
- To be in need of special attention, support, protection and rehabilitation temporarily or permanently due to the physical and mental decline,
- To have a good mental health,
- Not have a contagious disease,
- Not to be a drug or alcohol addict,
- Being in a social and/or economic deprivation that is determined by the social

investigation report.

- 10. How has the practice been assessed and monitored? Please provide specific information on the impact of the practice, with data, indicators, among others, if any.**

Audit services are regularly monitored by audits performed by the auditors of Mead of Audit Services, Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

- 11. What lessons do you believe could be learnt from this practice? How could it be improved?**

Social activities can be increased in these areas.

- 12. How could this practice be a model for other countries?**

Other countries may also customize this policy according to their own policies and cultural features.

Free Transportation Card for Elderly

- 1. Name of the Practice:**

Free Transportation Card for Elderly

- 2. Area Concerned:**

Accessibility, Social Inclusion, Independence

- 3. Type of Practice:**

Regulation

- 4. Level of Implementation:**

National

- 5. Please describe the practice, including a) its purpose; b) when and how it was adopted; c) how long it has been used/implemented; and d) its geographic scope.**

Since 1 January 2014, free card service has been implemented to be used in the municipal busses and private public busses for persons who are aged 65 or over, which provided

free transportation within the city to them. In addition, free orange card service is also available for citizens over 60 years of age residing only in Ankara.

6. Which actors are involved in the development and implementation of such practice?

Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Municipalities

7. Which rights of older persons does the practice promote and protect?

It helps to access to services, accessibility and independent participation into the community.

8. How does the practice promote and protect such rights?

Independence, inclusion, care, self-fulfillment, dignity.

9. What group of older persons, if any, particularly benefit from the practice?

All citizens over 65 years of age can benefit from this service in Turkey.

11. What lessons do you believe could be learnt from this practice? How could it be improved?

All older people should be informed of this service.

12. How could this practice be a model for other countries?

Other countries may also customize this policy according to their own policies and cultural features.