



PriHEMAC

Profile of Primary Health Care and Management Centre (PriHEMAC) NGO on Elderly Friendly

PriHEMAC registered with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in 1998. It has carried out many projects with different International, National, State and Local Organizations.

It is well known that the proportion of Elderly persons globally, and particularly in Nigeria, has been rising and so are their health challenges.

PriHEMAC has therefore established Training Institute for Health Caregivers of the Elderly and/or Convalescents in 2014, since then, PriHEMAC has trained many Health Caregivers. Many of the Caregivers have been engaged under PriHEMAC Management and by other Individuals/Organizations to provide quality care for many interested/able Elderly and/convalescents.

PriHEMAC NGO Efforts and Achievements on Elderly Friendliness

In an effort to expand and promote the principles and practices of Elderly Friendliness, PriHEMAC (NGO), requested for and obtained Partnership with Molete Baptist Church Ibadan (MBCI) recognized as one of the potential Stakeholders. Other Stakeholders that could be empowered include: Governments; Development Partners: Private Sector: NGOs and Community Organizations

The successfully established Partnership between MBCI/PriHEMAC on Community Care of the Elderly Initiative has successfully metamorphosed to the 'Model Elderly Friendly Churches'*** Model.

Based on the successful PriHEMAC/MBCI partnership experience, a Proposal on 'Promoting Elderly Friendliness through Empowered Stakeholders such as Churches/Mosques' was formally submitted for support on 25-05-2018 to the President of Nigerian Baptist Convention (CBN) / Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) - Rev. Samson Olasupo A. Ayokunle, Ph.D.

Soon after, in order to promote Inter-faith collaboration, involvement and participation, an Endorsement Statement was also obtained from Alhaji (Shaikh) Abdul-Ganiy Abubarkar Agbotomokekere - The Chief Imam of Ibadan land and President General, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) Oyo State Chapter.

Furthermore, International recognition was also achieved. After viewing the Video on PriHEMAC Profile, University of Buffalo (BU) New York USA has recently formalized Partnership between PriHEMAC and its Experiential Learning Network (ELN). The Staff and Students of BU were inspired by PriHEMAC Model, particularly with its focus on, among others, training and use of Caregivers and

PriHEMAC Elderly Friendly Ambassadors (PEFAs)# to empower Stakeholders such as Religious Organizations

#An Elderly Friendly Church/Mosque is one that:

- i) has some trained PriHEMAC Elderly Friendly Ambassadors (PEFAs) who can represent their spiritual leaders confidently and competently to prevent, relieve and ameliorate the pains and sufferings of their Elderly members;*
- ii) ensures establishment of budgetary line (e.g., Opening Elderly Friendly Endowment Fund Account) for their Elderly Friendly activities;*
- iii) identifies and supports the training of suitable persons as home/health Caregivers;*
- iv) ensures engagement of Caregivers to provide care for their needy Elderly Members and*
- v) celebrates their Elderly Members at least once annually.*

After the PriHEMAC/MBCI Partnership on Community Care of the Elderly was successfully established, the need to empower Religious Organizations to become Elderly Friendly arose. This inevitably led to identifying and training of Primary Care Elderly Friendly Ambassadors (PEFAs) and so, in 2018, the training PriHEMAC Elderly Friendly Ambassadors (PEFAs)* started.

***A PEFA is a trained person who has acquired adequate knowledge, developed appropriate attitudes and possessed necessary skills to confidently and competently:**

- represent his/her organizational/spiritual leaders to identify and compile a list of elderly persons within and around their organizations;*
- recognize the needs of the identified Elderly and in various ways, prevent, relieve and ameliorate their pains and sufferings;*
- initiate and promotes resource mobilization through networking with appropriate stakeholders in support of meeting the needs of the elderly;*
- identify, encourage and support suitable persons to be trained and engaged as home/health Caregivers;*
- become one of the empowered 'critical mass of Change Agents' who can positively/effectively influence powerful Stakeholders to make necessary policies and create enabling environments conducive for promoting quality of life (QoL) of higher proportion of the Elderly in Nigeria and beyond.*

Since then, PriHEMAC has trained many PEFAs for interested Religious Institutions willing to promote Elderly Friendliness**

****Elderly Friendliness is the capacity to recognize the presence of Elderly persons, appreciating their needs, doing whatever is necessary, including enlisting the support of others, to meet their common needs and or relieve/ameliorate their sufferings.**

The same year 2018, the first 3 Batches – a total of 66 PEFAs - were trained from 9 Institutions were empowered with the principles and initial practices of becoming Elderly Friendly Organizations

(EFOs). Out of the 9 EFOs that started empowering process, only MBCI has fulfilled all the requirements/criteria and has emerged as being the Model Elderly Friendly Organization. MBCI has trained 10 PEFAs (that constituted MBCI GRAY HAIR COMMITTEE) and 5 Caregivers; opened an Elderly Friendly Endowment Account and has started caring for and celebrating her Elderly Members annually since 2017. The number of MBCI Elderly members being supported according to their needs and celebrated annually rose steadily from 67 in 2017; 84 in 2018; 100 in 2019 and 102 in 2020.

Status of Scaling Up Activities on Promoting Elderly Friendliness In Oyo State

In order to further promote/expand initial achievements of 2018 on Elderly Friendly Program, an 8-Member (4 Christians and 4 Muslims) Scaling-up Committee was established in September 2020.

The initial step of activities of Scaling-up Committee was renewing the Approval/Support of the Authorizing Bodies of the 2 Major Religious Organizations - Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA).

After their approval, and through the efforts of the Scaling-up Committee Members, 3 Rounds of Training were carried out: 70 PEFAs were produced and 16 EFOs (6 Churches and 10 Mosques) were empowered between 11th November and 8th December 2020. The trained PEFAs were instrumental to empowering the EFOs that sponsored them.

Further more the 70 PEFAs and Model Elderly Friendly Organizations were recognized in an Award Ceremony at PriHEMAC Training Institute on 7th January, 2021 with the Honorable Commissioner of health, Dr. Bashir Victor Bello, gracing the occasion as Special Guest of Honor. In the First quarter of 2021 (January-March), 38 PEFAs from 10 EFOs have been trained bringing the total number of Organizations Empowered thus far to 35

Learning Experiences

From the recent past experiences and activities, we have learnt that:

- i) The relatively centralized authority that exists within the Islamic Religious Group (e.g., the voice of Chief Imam of Ibadan - Alhaji (Shaikh) Abdul-Ganiy Abubarkar Agbotomokekere - is highly respected by all Imams in Oyo State) does not exist within the Christian Group which has 5 distinct BLOCKS, This was why the response to participation is much faster among the Mosques than among the Churches.
- ii) Many Churches and Mosques are not readily aware of their Political Wards except those that have been actively involved in one health program or the other.

Our learning experiences show that, evidently, the 2 Major Authorizing Religious Bodies - Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) have approved/endorsed the Elderly Friendly Program.

It has therefore been resolved that Churches and Mosques in all Local Government Areas of Oyo State will be invited, through any most effective means of communication to participate on the Program in Batches.

The Members of Gallery of Experts on PEFA, and the Scaling- Up Committee on Promotion of Elderly Friendliness have agreed to carry out PEFA and Caregiver Trainings as follows:

- i) PEFA 2-Day Training x 4 Monthly: Monday – Tuesday and Wednesday – Thursday during the 1st 2 weeks of the Month @ N5K per person.
- ii) Caregiver 1 Week Training x 1 Monthly during the 3rd Week of every month @ N10K per person

Interested Organizations (Churches and Mosques) and/or Individuals could register at PriHEMAC Office No 8, Road A Close Olubadan Estate New Ife Road, Ibadan

Payments are to be made to our Account number 0005319515, Access Bank.

Kindly contact us on these numbers- 07031659289, 07030782068 and 08033256644

