

Violations of the older adults' rights and impoverishment of the quality of life in Cuba

Universal Periodic Review 2023

CUIDO60 - AGING, CARE AND RIGHTS OBSERVATORY

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Background: III EPU Cycle

13 recommendations about the care and rights of older persons were received and accepted by Cuba during the third UPR cycle.

The Cuban State does not provide objective, systematic, or verifiable data or information on this topic.

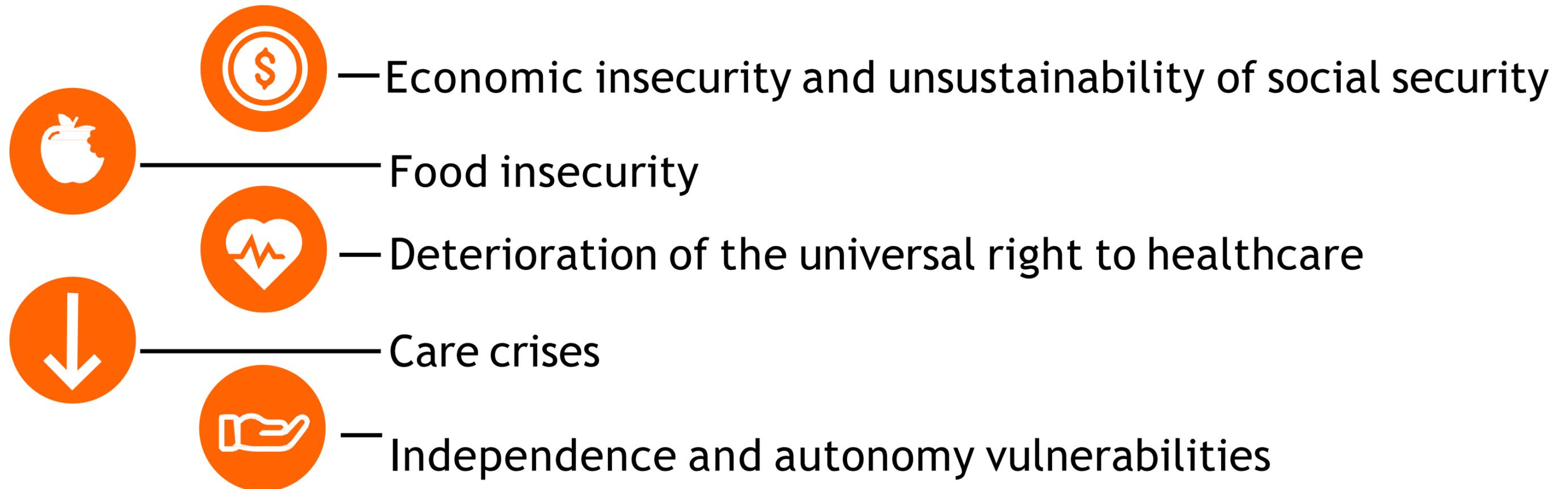
Cuba is one of the most aging societies in Latin America.

- 60+year old population: 21.6%
- In 2050 they will represent a third of the population.

Current situation: extreme worsening of the older adult's quality of life:

- Higher poverty rate
- Increase in social and territorial inequalities
- Expansion of marginalization and exclusion social dynamics

Older adult's rights are in decline and vulnerabilities increase



Poverty expansion and social inequalities increase

TASA REPRESENTATIVA DEL MERCADO INFORMAL DE DIVISAS EN CUBA		
1 EUR	251,00 CUP ▲ ^{*1}	1.17 MLC
1 USD	248,00 CUP ▲ ^{*3}	1.15 MLC
1 MLC	215,00 CUP ▲ ^{*3}	-

USD en saldo de cuenta bancaria

ESTABLECIDA: 8/14/2023 7:00 AM CUBA VIGENTE: 8/14/2023

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1.600.000

Retired (more than half receive the *mínimum pensión*)

1.528

Pesos pensioners by age or total disability

280

Pesos additional Benefit for retirees who live alone and earn the *mínimum pensión* without financial help from any family member (Sept, 2021)

1.260

Pesos welfare assistance

1.070

Pesos widow pensioners

BENEFICIARY GROUPS

47.7%

Retirees

21.9%

Vulnerable Cases

0.3%

Pregnant women

15.9%

People under Public Assistance

7.5%

Disabled persons

6.8%

Non retired

Before TO (2021), SAF meal prices averaged to 1 CUP and were subsidized for 100 % of the beneficiaries.

Post TO: Public assistance only benefits 15.9 % (El Toque, 4 de agosto de 2021)

Low-Income Families Program (SAF): does not cover increasing needs, even though they changed the criteria to classify "vulnerable"

Deterioration of Low-Income Families Program (SAF) by Tarea Ordenamiento (TO)

Normative Progress Contradictions

New Constitution (2019):

Recognizes equal rights of all before the law. The age category is added as an explicit reason for non-discrimination (Art. 41& 42). However, it has not been reflected in real improvements for this population.

New Family Code (2022):

Economic contribution of domestic and care work is incorporated. Moderate progress on the human rights of older people. Slow and difficult implementation of the Code.



Recommendations (1)

Promote a law that focuses on the protection of the elderly and create a national care system:

Modify the regulatory and institutional obstacles interfering with older adults' caregiving and public assistance.
Increase the funds to support vulnerable older adults.

Design and implement an Associations Act:

Allowing the free participation of independent civil society organizations in caregiving and humanitarian assistance for older adults. Legalizing the free participation and association of older adults.

Legalize and facilitate the participation of the transnational Cuban community who send humanitarian aid

(medical supplies, medicines, food, etc.) through an expeditious process supported by a new regulatory framework to allow regular and accountable operations.

Recommendations (2)

Promote the “silver economy”

(economic activities, products, and services designed to meet the needs of older adults), removing obstacles for private entrepreneurs and facilitating the expansion of social organizations focused on older adults.

Implement a National Social Emergency Plan

focused on vulnerable groups, prioritizing food and medicine, and other services with discounted prices for older adults. Reform the Low-Income Families Program (SAF), expanding the inclusion criteria.

Recommendations

Create a social protection network,

expanding the social program's coverage and reducing territorial and gender inequalities. Increase targeted assistance to the poor and eliminate the restrictions toward providing assistance to those who have families to help them.

Design and implement a sustainable reform of the pension system,

evaluating the increase in the retirement age and contribution amount, along with the creation of a national reserve fund allowing the inversion and profits.

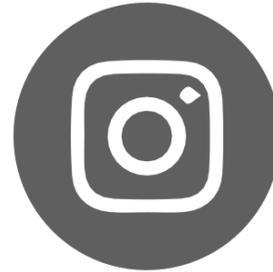
Expand, update, and facilitate access to statistical information on the elderly,

in particular, publish data on poverty and social inequalities.

Thank you



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