



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**Centre for Human Rights, HelpAge International
and Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership
in Africa**

**2nd Regional Expert meeting University of
Ghana, Legon, 9th August 2018.**

Kazanka Comfort

Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria



Country case studies: Progress and challenges in strengthening the protection of human rights of older women in Nigeria.

Mission of Fantsuam Foundation is

To eliminate poverty and disadvantage among women and youths through integrated development programs.

This presentation considers

How our integrated development model focuses on older women.



Context of Fantsuam's Older Women Services

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic resulted in movement of orphans back to the villages to be catered for, by their grand mothers.

There were no social services to help the grandmothers and the traditional safety net of the extended family support had weakened considerably

Fantsuam Foundation instituted new program called KAKAS (literal translation = grandmother) to meet the psycho-social, financial, health and housing needs of the grandmother and her new dependants



Grandparents now looking after grandchildren





Services of Fantsuam For older women

1. Food, nutrition and Clothing
2. Free medical service and home-based care
3. Shelter: Home construction repairs and maintenance services
4. Emergency e.g. early evacuation during crisis or medical support
5. Social Protection: Legal support, Elder abuse – especially accusations of witchcraft, Ageism – discrimination/ disrespect on age grounds
6. Continuing Education with scholarship provided
7. Economic empowerment through monthly stipends. (This has been suspended due to lack of funds)
8. Lobbying for inclusion in Government cash transfer program
9. Energy needs: domestic lighting and subsidized cost for clean cook stoves
10. Secretariat for the Jema'a Older Persons Association



Annual Events Dedicated to Older Persons, especially Women

World Elder Abuse Day: 15th June to highlight the abuse and suffering peculiar to our rural communities in Nigeria

World Health Day: 07th April: to highlight the peculiar and growing health needs of older persons. For example, an increasing number of older persons in our host communities have chronic leg pains

Human Rights Day, 10th Dec. – Age Demand Action (in collaboration with HelpAge International, a local awareness-raising event on Rights of Older Persons,



Continuing Education for Older Women





Health checks for Kakas On World Health Day





Warm greetings from one of my Kakas



THANK YOU