PRESENTATION ON DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING, THE SITUATION OF OLDER PERSONS AND RECENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA

By

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction

- Demographic Ageing

- Situation of Older Persons in Kenya (Challenges)

- Government Initiatives in Place (National & County)

- Role of Non-State Actors (Partners & Stakeholders)

- Recent Policies

- Challenges

- References

Introduction

- Kenya, like the rest of the world is experiencing an exceptional demographic transformation.

- The Constitution of Kenya (COK, 2010) Article 260 on Interpretation defines 'older member of society' as anyone who has attained the age of sixty (60) years

- According the World Bank Data the current population of Kenya stands at 53, 777, 300 (2020).

Demographic Ageing

➢ Kenya like the rest of the world has experienced a pronounced growth in its older population.

➢ Currently, the proportion of older persons (OPs) is estimated at **6%** of the country's total population. According to the 2019 National Census Report the population of OPs in Kenya was **2,740,515** against a population of **47,564,296.**

➢ This figure represents a significant increase from a modest number of 270,000 in 1949 *(1st National Census)* rising to 1m in 1989 and to 1.9m in 2009

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Demographic Ageing

➢ Majority of Kenya's older persons are female (55%) and live in the rural areas. **Seven (7)** Counties in Kenya have over **100,000** older persons each & **one (1) County** has the highest number of older persons at over **128,000**.

➢ According to the 2015-16 Kenya Integrated Household and Budget Survey (KIHBS), older persons are found in about **18 %** of the country's house-holds.

➢ About **60%** of Kenya's older persons are married and over one-third are widowed.

➢ The Table shows the **Percentage Proportion** of older persons by Age Cohorts from **1969 – 2009**.

Demographic Ageing

➤ The Table shows the **Percentage Proportion** of older persons by Age Cohorts from **1969 – 2009**. *(Source: Mr. Francis Kundu - National Council for Population and Development)*

Age Group	1969	1979	1989	1999	2009	2019
60-64	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.9
65+	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.9
60+	5.4	4.6	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.8

Situation of OPs in Kenya

➢ The demographic shift towards increased OPs in society has been accompanied by rapid urbanization, shifting attitudes within communities and population movements.

➢ In particular, the increased movement of younger persons from rural to urban areas in search of employment has led to major changes in family structures, resulting in the breakdown of the extended family support systems to older persons in society with its in-built traditional social protection systems;

➢ On the other hand rural urban migration has also created a segment of older persons in urban areas who face peculiar challenges

Challenges faced by OPs

- ✓ Poverty and Vulnerability

- ✓ Elder Abuse

- ✓ Pandemics (Covid-19 & HIV

- ✓ Discrimination/Ageism

- ✓ Low literacy levels

- ✓ Digital inequity - lack access to technologies or not benefitting fully from the opportunities available

- ✓ Victims of cyber crime and misinformation

- ✓ Limited right to work and access to the labour market
- ✓ Among others

Government Initiatives for OPs

➢ The GoK recognizes that OPs constitute an important segment of the population, which the country can depend on effectively for its socio-economic growth and development.

➢ To address the plight of OPs it has put in place **legislative, policy, programme**s and **institutional** measures that are in line with the provisions of the International, Regional and National Instruments such as the *Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), the relevant Social Development Goals (SDGs), AU Framework on Ageing, Protocol on Older Persons, Vision 2030 & the Constitution of the country*.

Legislative & Policy Measures

❑ **Constitution of Kenya (COK, 2010)**

✓ Chapter **4 and Article 57**, the Constitution obligates the state to take measures to ensure Older Persons' participation, personal development, dignity, respect and protection from abuse; and together with the family, the obligation to provide care and reasonable assistance to Older Persons.

✓ **Article 10 (2) (b)** underlines the states obligation to protect Older Persons together with other marginalized groups;

✓ **Article 21 (3)** obligates State organs and public officers to address the needs of Older Persons and other vulnerable groups.

✓ **Article 27 (4)** promotes and safeguards equality and non-discrimination of Older Persons based on age,

✓ **Article 43 (3)** obligates the state to provide appropriate social security to needy Older Persons.

✓ **Article 43 (1) (f)** states that every person has the right to education and this includes older persons

Initiatives Cont…………

❑ **Kenya Vision 2030**

- This is the Country's long-term development blue print which is aimed at creating a globally competitive and prosperous nation with high quality of life by 2030.

- It has 3 pillars Economic, Social and Political and its being implemented through successive 5 year Medium Term Plans (MTPs).

- The broad flagship project under the Social pillar - relevant to OPs is establishment of a **Consolidated Social Protection Fund for older persons (CSPF**).

Initiatives Cont…………

❑ **National Policy on older Persons and Aging (Revised 2018)**

- The policy underscores the Government commitment in addressing the rights, and protection of this segment of population.

- The overall goal of the policy is to provide an environment that recognizes, empowers, and facilitates older persons to participate in the society and enjoy their rights, freedoms and live in dignity.

- The policy has 11 thematic areas with several interventions which are being implemented by both State and Non-State Actors.

Initiatives Cont…………

Other Policies

- ✓ The National Volunteerism Policy

- ✓ The National Social Protection Policy

- ✓ Draft Family Promotion and Protection Policy

- ✓ Draft National Policy for Persons with Disabilities

- ✓ National Standards and Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Institutions of Older Persons

Institutional Frameworks

i. A fully pledged **Unit for Older Persons & Ageing** (Senior Citizens Affairs Unit) whose mandate is promotion and coordination of government action on the issues affecting OPs and ageing in the country.

- It has adopted a multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of the policy interventions and in advancing the rights and aspirations of OPs; through collaboration with relevant MDCAs, CSOs and other Development Partners

Institutional Frameworks

i. National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF)

ii. National Social Security Fund (NSSF

iii. Pensions Department

iv. The Directorate of Adult and Continuing Education in the Ministry of Education

v. Ministry of Health has a Division of Geriatric Medicine

vi. State Department for Gender Affairs (SDGA).

Institutions Cont………..

v. National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)

- A Constitutional Commission mandated to spearhead efforts to reduce gender inequalities and the discrimination against all; women, men, persons with disabilities, the youth, children, the elderly, minority and marginalized communities. Some of the key things that the Commission has undertaken include;

  - ✓ A study to establish the effects of Covid-19 on Older Persons;
  - ✓ An investigation on the institutions that are taking care of older people among others.

Min. Specific Programmes for OPs

- The Ministry through the State Department of Social Protection, Senior Citizen affairs & Special Programmes–Directorate of Social Development implements the following programmes;

a) **Family Promotion & Strengthening**

  ➢ Focus is to empower parents and caregivers for parenting roles and responsibilities for happy stable families for stronger society. Over *1800 Lay Volunteer Counsellors (LVCs)* across the Country have been enlisted and empowered to provide psychosocial support; guidance and counselling services including referral services to older persons and families in distress.

  ➢ With support from UNICEF and other relevant stakeholders the Ministry is in the process of *Developing a National Parenting Programme* whose purpose is to prepare parents/*grandparents* and caregivers for effective parenting roles and responsibilities. [18]

b) Cash Transfer Programme for Older Persons (OPCT)

➢ Begun as a pilot in 2007 as a household targeted program for the poor and vulnerable OPs aged 65 and above with 300 households. This program has since 2017, transformed into an individual benefit to older persons aged 70 years and above who are not on pension. *Currently the program covers 833,129 older persons out of the 1.2 million (70 plus) older persons*.

c) Health Insurance for Beneficiaries of the OPCT Programme

➢ The Ministry (State Department has signed an MOU with the MOH & NHIF to deliver this service to all OPCT Beneficiaries in the National Safety Net Programme.

d) Institutional Care & Support for Older Persons

➢ The rising number of vulnerable OPs in need of care and support due to the effects of rapid urbanization, elder abuse and family breakdowns among others, has necessitated the establishment of rescue centres/institutions.

➢ The findings of a Baseline survey by DSD in 2014 established that there were 125 institutions offering services to 22,000 OPs either through *residential, day-care* or *outreach programmes*. It also established that there was provision of unregulated and unstandardized services to OPs in the existing institutions.

➢ To respond to this challenge the Min. developed the *National Standards and Guidelines on the Registration and Management of Institutions of Older Persons (2018)* and; established & launched on 15th June 2021 the *Kirinyaga Rescue Centre for OPs)* as a temporary shelter and for benchmarking. A **Video Documentary** on the Centre has also being shot to facilitate awareness creation on the facility.

Programmes Cont………

e) Data on Institutions and Service Providers for OPs

➢ During the 2020/2021fy the State Dept. in partnership with UNFPA, HelpAge & NCPD undertook an exercise to Map out institutions & service providers offering services to OPs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

➢Through this exercise, data was received from only 28 Counties exercise also established that there 137 institutions offering services to OPs (an extra 12) from the findings of the Baseline survey of 2014 which established the 125.

Programmes Cont………

f) Advocacy against Elder Abuse

- Elder abuse is on the rise in Kenya. To enhance awareness on the vice the government launched the World Elder Abuse Awareness day on 16th June, 2014.   Since then the Day has been being observed annually and used as a platform for creating awareness on elder abuse among the general public.

- The Ministry in addition to marking the UN Days (IDOP & WEADD) also organizes other awareness and sensitization forums in collaboration with relevant stakeholders on issues affecting OPs and on their rights.

- This FY the Ministry has targeted to develop a *Booklet/Guidelines for sensitization on the Ageing and the Rights of OPs*; and also to *initiate Intergenerational dialogues /programmes* that involve the youth as an investment to improve the outlook of the future populations of OPs .

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Programmes Cont………

g) The Ministry has been facilitating the **Ratification of the Proto col to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa**.

- Cabinet approved the ratification of the Protocol together with the one for Persons with Disabilities on 25th February 2021.

- Both Protocols are with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for prep arations of the Instruments to be deposited in the AU to effect the ratification.

County Initiatives

- County Governments have also put in place measures to address the concerns of OPs in their respective counties.

- Most of the programmes are on *provision of health services* and *Social Protection.*

- For instance we have Makueni County where every household pays 500/- (USD 50) and each family member can access health services *(Makueni Health Care)*

- Older persons from **65 years** enjoy free health services.

- Some other counties also have similar initiatives

- Support in hosting the UN Days which present platforms for awareness creation and call for action to address the issues affecting the elderly in the society.

Role of Non-State Actors

- The Government is also working closely with a number of stakeholders/Partners who include; NGOs, OPOs, FBOs, CBOs in response to the challenges facing OPs.

- The focus has been on health, nutrition, provision of shelter, awareness creation on needs, rights and aspirations of older persons, age-appropriate income generation projects, psycho-social support, food donations, HIV AIDs education and information/monitoring of the cash transfer programme for OPs.

- In the recent past a lot of attention has been focused on education and protection against the Covid-19 pandemic.

- HelpAge-Kenya office has been a key Partner to the Ministry and has supported a lot of OPs interventions.

Role of NSA Cont…….

Help Age International – Kenya office

- Focuses 2 programme components

1. Healthy Ageing
2. Freedom from Violence, Abuse & Neglect (VAN)

Kenya Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (KAGG)

- Has been very instrumental in advancing the understanding of ageing and experiences of old age through education, research, publications and networking

- Promotion of the interests of Geriatrics in all aspects of the health care practices through research ,disseminations and related activities.

Role of NSA Cont…….

<u>Under Healthy Ageing</u>

- ✓ Collaborates with the MOH in the provision of health services and information including screening for Non-communicable Diseases (NCD), acute & chronic care and treatment as well as Covid -19 prevention & vaccination;

- ✓ Technical support to Government on healthy ageing public policy issues;

- ✓ Building and expanding Older Persons Associations and supporting organizations working for OPs secure income;

- ✓ Contribution to the government urban cash transfer programme targeting vulnerable urban households to mitigate the economic impacts of Covid -19;

- ✓ Strengthening capacity of older persons voice and participation in the universal pension programme to strengthen its accountability , grievance and complaint mechanism.

Role of NSA Cont…….

Freedom from Violence, Abuse & Neglect (VAN)

- Collaborates with Government Ministries of Health and Social Protection as well as government agencies such as NGEC.

- Networks members and other development partners to promote OPs rights of freedom from VAN

- Pushing for the ratification of the AU Protocol by the Kenyan Government.

Recent Policies

1) **Development of a Social Risk Management (SRM) Framework**

➢ SRM aims at protecting local communities from the unintended negative effects of infrastructural development projects.

➢ The Ministry with support from the World Bank is working towards institutionalization of SRM in Kenya.

➢ A National Inter-agency Social Risk Management Multi-sectoral Committee has been constituted to provide policy and programmatic guidance to SRM implementation.

➢ Working with institutions of higher learning to develop a curriculum and training programmes on SRM for the stakeholders. *OPs will largely benefit since they among the high risk groups that are impacted negatively (either through displacements or loss of property) during infrastructural development.*

Policies Cont……….

2) Draft National Retirement Benefits Policy Framework

The National Treasury is in the process of developing this policy for the provision and management of retirement benefits in Kenya together with an Inter-Agency Task Force comprised of representatives from the Retirement Benefits Industry.

3) Kenya Mental Health Policy (2015-2030) – whose goal is towards attaining the Highest Standard of Mental Health.

4) Policy Brief on COVID-19 and Older Persons COVID-19, How Safe are Kenya's Older Persons (May 2020), This was prepared out of a Mapping exercise of institutions & service providers offering services to OPs during the Covid-19 pandemic that was done in partnership with UNFPA, HelpAge & NCPD.

Policies Cont……..

4) Participation of Vulnerable populations in their programmes: The Cash Transfers in Kenya (2014) by NGEC. This is a Report of an Audit of Cash Transfer programmes for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs), Persons with Severe Disabilities (PWSDs) and the Elderly which revealed the level of their participation in the programmes designed for them.

5) Whipping Wisdom: Rapid Assessment on Violence Against Older Persons in Kenya (2014) by NGEC – The report documents the provenance of abuse of OPs in Kenya, different forms of violence, emerging drivers of violence against OPs and opportunities for County governments , Private sector and Non-State actors have in promoting rights of OPs.

Policies Cont……..

6) **Audit of Residential Homes for Older Persons in Kenya**: An Audit of residential institutions of older members of society in selected counties of Kenya (2016).

7) **Health and Well-being of Older Persons in Kenya**: Tackling the data gaps and needs by Prof. Lucy W. Maina- Kenyatta University

8) **Measuring the Contribution of Volunteer Work on Kenyas Gross Domestic Product – Research Report (June 2017)** - some of the recommendations include; develop a Volunteer recognition Framework, recognize informal /direct volunteerism and to involve Seniors and Retired professionals in volunteer work among others.

9) **Midline Impact Evaluation of Kenya's Inua Jamii 70 years and Above Cash Transfer Programme - Inception report (Sept.2020)**

Policies Cont……..

10) Video Documentary on the Kirinyaga Rescue Centre OPs

- The objective of the Video Documentary is to raise public awareness on the plight of OPs who have been neglected, abandoned and are in need of care, support and protection;

- Publicize the facility and arouse interest in other County Governments to establish similar institutions in their respective counties and also;

- To serve as a resource mobilization tool for older persons programmes specifically on elder abuse.

Policies Cont……….

11) The government is in the process of ensuring health protection for all under the **Universal Health Care (UHC)** agenda. This initiative is being piloted in about four (4) Counties.

12) Petition by the HelpAge Ambassador for Older Persons -

o During this years IDOP celebration read a petition to the Ministry on some of the issues OPs wanted addressed by the government. Some of the Salient issues he raised included;

✓ Creation of a Council of Elders

✓ Consideration for the award of government tenders (AGPO) to OPs similar to the like the ones for the women, youth & PWDs.

✓ Provision of free health care services for the elderly among others

Challenges

o Rich policy architecture is not matched by commensurate implementation , a few programmes are in full operation such as the CTs, Covid -19 and institutional care;

o Policy responses to ageing are characterized by limited generation or systematic use of evidence to inform policy formulation, decision making, on resource allocation, the implementation of policy provisions and finally M & E of such action;

o There is urgent need for utilization of the existing evidence, mechanism for stakeholder engagement for information sharing and coordination on ageing responses;

o Broad data gaps that need to be addressed through primary survey research;

References

1) Population Age – Structure and Demograhic Dividend in Kenya, Advisory Paper No. 6, National Council for Population and Development;

2) Midline Impact Evaluation of Kenya's Inua Jamii 70 years and Above Cash Transfer Programme - Inception report (September 2020)

3) Data collection methodology and tools for supporting the formulation of evidence-based policies in response to the challenge of population ageing in Kenya - CONSULTANCY REPORT Submitted to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

4) Department of Social Development Report on the Establishment of a Databank on Institutions Offering Services to Older Persons in Each County (June 2014)

5) Policy Brief on COVID-19 and Older Persons COVID-19, How Safe are Kenya's Older Persons – May 2020;

6) Presentation on 'Digital Access and Literacy' during the 2021 IDOP Symposium on 1st October 2021 by Albert Aluvisia , Directorate of Adult and Continuing Education. State Department for Early Learning and Basic Education, Ministry of Education

7) Presentation on 'Healthy Ageing' during the 2021 IDOP Symposium on 1st October 2021 by Dr. Muthoni, Gichu, Division of Geriatrics, Ministry of Health

8) Measuring the Contribution of Volunteer Work on Kenyas Gross Domestic Product – Research Report (June 2017) - Consultant report

9) National Gender and Equality Commission Website (www.ngeckenya.org)

10) 2020 International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) Report , Dept. of Social Development.

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