



# REGIONAL WORKSHOP

“Evidence-based Ageing-related Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Venue: Lake Naivasha Resort Hotel

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# SOCIAL PROTECTION & OLDER PERSONS IN KENYA



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# Objective



## Outline

- Background
- Vulnerabilities faced by OPs
- Objective of SP for OPs
- Policies & legislations for Ops
- SP Policy focus
- SP Programs for Ops
- Proposals for enhancing SP for Ops
- Conclusion



# Background

The CoK (2010) Article 260 defines an Older Person (OP) as any Kenyan aged at least 60 years

Constitutes about 6% of the national population (2019 national census)

Translates to about 2.7 million people

Majority live in rural areas

About 37 % of households with older persons in Kenya are poor (2015-16 KIHBS)

Only 14 % of older persons have a health insurance (2015-16 KIHBS)



# Vulnerabilities faced by OPs

Food &  
Nutrition  
insecurity

Abuse, neglect  
&  
Abandonment

Poverty &  
Exclusion

Poor  
health

Dependence  
by younger  
populations



# Objectives of SP for OPs

To cushion the older persons against the various risks & vulnerabilities associated with old age

To promote the inclusion & empowerment of older persons for improved livelihoods & dignity

To facilitate increased awareness on older persons protection against abuse

To establish & strengthen institutions on care & support of older persons



# Legislative & policy provision for OPs

## Article 43(1)(e):

- “Every person has a right to social security”

## Article 43(3):

- “The State shall provide appropriate social security to persons who are unable to support themselves and their dependents”.

## Article 57

- “Obligates the State to put in place measures to ensure that older persons live in dignity, respect and be free from abuse”.



## **SP Policy focus**

- Integrated approach to SP programming
- Systems approach
- More inclusive schemes
- Efficient monitoring, reporting, learning & research
- Adequate capacity
- Sustainability, affordability & fiscal space





# SP programs for OPs

## Current programs

- Universal Scheme for Older Persons: The 70 Years & Cash Transfer Program
- The NSSF – reforms to a full pension scheme
- Institutions for older persons

## Proposed Schemes

- Post retirement health scheme
- Expanding the older persons' CT to 60 yrs
- Provision of health cover (subsidy) to the OPs



# Impact of demographic ageing in the SP system

High dependency ratio

Low productive force (low labour force)

Costly Social Security provision

Increased need for Social Assistance



# Conclusion

Need for appropriate SP interventions during active age to reduce on older persons vulnerabilities e.g. inclusive social security regimes

Effective health insurance cover for older persons (UHC)

Tapping on the demographic dividends – youthful population

Coherent policies & legislations on older persons

# THANK YOU

