# Older Persons and Poverty

*Robert Venne*

*UN Programme on Ageing*

# Poverty prevention

Education

► Full enrollment in primary education lays the foundation for eradicating illiteracy and promotes lifelong learning

► Increased access to education in younger age will ease problems dealing with technological change throughout life

► Knowledge-based society requires policies that ensure lifelong access to education and training

→ Increasing educational attainment will contribute to poverty prevention in old age

# Poverty prevention

Employment

► Empower older persons to actively participate in their societies and to work as long as they wish

► Facilitate access to credit and micro-credit

► Ensure continuous training and skills updating

► Enable reconciliation of work with care-giving responsibilities

→ Elements will contribute to the sustainability of social protection systems and the eradication of poverty

# Regional Workshop on Ageing and Poverty, Tanzania

Objectives:

► Exploration of practical links between the agreements made in Madrid in 2002 and poverty related operational programmes in sub-Saharan Africa.

► Review of evidence on ageing and poverty across Africa

► Development of recommendations for governments, international financial institutions, development agencies and civil society for the incorporation of ageing into national poverty strategies, PRSPs and the MDGs.

# Regional Workshop on Ageing and Poverty, Tanzania cont'd

Findings:

► Participation in poverty eradication policy designs allows older persons to become full partners in development.

► Mainstreaming the concerns of older persons is necessary for linking ageing to existing policy and operational programming instruments.

► National capacity has to be strengthened and awareness of the rights and priority needs of the older poor is needed.

# Interregional Meeting on National Implementation of the MIPAA, Austria

Objectives:

► Identify obstacles to national level implementation of MIPAA

► Produce guidelines to mainstream the issue of ageing into national development agendas

► Contribute to the development of a technical assistance programme for national capacity building for the implementation and follow-up of MIPAA

► Identify pilot countries for capacity building and training

# Interregional Meeting on National Implementation of the MIPAA, Austria cont'd

Findings:

► View older persons as active agents of development

► Need for more disaggregated data to contribute to a more accurate view of the living conditions of older persons

► Recognize the often inherent bias against older persons and how it will affect the outcomes of policies if not addressed consciously

► Empowerment and participation are important vehicles in efforts to mainstream the concerns of older persons

# International Action

HelpAge International

Older Citizens Monitoring Project

► Aims at engaging older persons with relevant agencies

► Supports local and national advocacy with and by older people

► Develops locally relevant indicators and benchmarks

► Promotes dialogue with local and international development agencies

# International Action

UNFPA

► Conducts participatory exercises at the country level for needs assessment and programme development

► Currently in the process of finalizing a guidance note on population ageing, which will encourage country offices to advocate for the mainstreaming of population ageing into national development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies

# International Action

UN Statistics Division

Suggestions for the 2010 round of national censuses:

► Review of the age and sex categories for disaggregation of data on a wide range of demographic and social characteristics (e.g. income, poverty) of the population

► Raise upper age cut-off for tabulating the data to 100 years plus

► Provide national numerical frameworks for review and appraisal of the MIPAA

# International Action

UN Programme on Ageing

► Provided technical cooperation on policy development concerning ageing and older persons in Senegal, Egypt, and Kyrgyzstan

► Drafted a strategy paper on 'Mainstreaming the concerns of older persons into the social development agenda'

► Developed an indicators chart to review and appraise the implementation of MIPAA including progress with regard to reducing poverty of older persons

# What needs to be done?

- ► More age-disaggregated data for informed policy interventions

- ► National indicators' development to evaluate the living conditions of older persons

- ► Mainstreaming the concerns of older persons into the budget and all relevant policies

- ► Awareness raising, advocacy and education (MDGs, PRSPs, media)

- ► Better coordination of global, regional, national and local efforts regarding policy development