

Pensions in developing countries -

A quest for modern format for intergenerational solidarity

Older people in Africa need cash and care.

Caroline van Dullemen

One in five of the world's poorest people – living on less than a dollar a day – are over 60 years, an estimated 100 million people. We in the West tend to have romantic views of ageing in developing countries, where grandparents are respected for their wisdom. The reality is often different. While their adult children leave to live an urban life, they have to manage on their own. Moreover, the HIV/aids epidemic has profoundly changed their position. After having buried their sons and daughters, many grandparents are left behind with the responsibility for their grandchildren.

The international community, after the UN-summit on Aging & Development (Madrid 2002), is becoming aware that achieving the MDG's by 2015 will require new approaches. Social protection and pension policies provide new means to older people headed households. This is not only alleviating poverty, but has intergenerational effects as it stimulates school enrolment and improves nutrition for the younger generation.

Keywords: intergenerational solidarity, pension schemes, Millennium Goals, development.

Index

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Demographical trends in sub-Saharan Africa**
 - a. Declining fertility and longevity**
 - b. Impact of HIV/aids and disasters**
 - c. Aging as a female experience**
- 3. Risk-management**
 - a. Social protection**
 - b. Cash transfers**
- 4. Pension schemes**
 - a. Social pensions**
 - b. Micro-pensions and savings**
- 5. Evident based efficacy**
 - a. For older people**
 - b. For young children and adolescents**
 - c. Institutional developments**
- 6. Conclusions**

Annex 1. - Lesotho as case study.

Annex 2. - Social pensions in low and middle income countries

1. Introduction

How do older people – in terms of the World Bank that is, people over sixty years – survive the hardship they face, in order to raise the youngest generation? That is the leading theme of my research and the work of WorldGranny as the Netherlands partner of HelpAge International (HAI). This is leading international network on aging, 70 non-profit organisations active in over 50 countries, working with older people to improve the quality of their lives and those of their grandchildren.

After sketching the demographic trends in Africa, I'll go into recent developments regarding social protection mechanisms in order to meet the needs of child- and older people headed households. More African governments and civil society organisations are interested in finding ways of institutionalised risk-management, now the social fabric of the extended family is rapidly weakening. Installing non-contributory, social pension schemes, is a mayor option in fighting extreme poverty amongst older people and their dependants, since less than 19 % of the older population has a contributory pension. Unfortunately there are no a gender-specific figures available, but surely the majority of the women will not participate in contributory pension schemes.

The importance of pension systems to the economic stability of nations and the security of their aging population has become clear this last decade. The World Bank has taken a leading role in addressing this challenge through its support for pension reforms around the world (Holzman, Hintz, 2005). Though for sub-Sahara Africa, the bank as the IMF have mainly focused on the macro economic effects of the formal pension schemes than the meso and micro side of social pension schemes and cash transfers.

Why poverty alleviation policies in the past are so far seldom geared towards the oldest generation? Some persistent myths (Van Dullemen, 2006) could explain the lack of interest of policy makers for older people:

Myth 1: Older populations do hardly exist in Africa because life expectancy is low.

Not true. Aging is a consequence of two trends:

1. a rapid demographic transition, not only due to rising mortality rates, but also to falling fertility figures. For instance 15 – 25 % in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya and southwest Nigeria.
2. a decline of the middle generation due to urbanisation and mortality caused mainly by the HIV/aids epidemic.

As a result of those two trends, it is expected that the world's poorest countries, like Cuba, Thailand and Sri Lanka will have a higher proportion of over 65's than the USA today.

Myth 2: The vulnerability of older people is mainly caused by modernization. I.e. in Africa older people are still well of.

Not so. Since they are not always visible actors in processes of migration, of communication and other features of modernisations, they are mainly associated with tradition and the past. But inequalities experienced in earlier life, such a lack of education, difficult access to healthcare and to the labour market are far more important factors to predict poverty and exclusion to the

decision-making process later in life. Development programmes often exclude older people, not only they do not have access to credit schemes, but they are neglected in HIV/aids-prevention programmes too. Thus we could argue that impoverishment in old age may be a cross-cultural experience of the aging process rather than simply resulting from modernization. Rather, the polarization of ‘‘traditional’’ and ‘‘modern’’ societies has compounded negative attitudes towards older people.

- Myth 3. Older people are a burden to society. To provide them with pensions or health care may be sound policy from a humanitarian perspective, it does not contribute to economic growth.
- Wrong.* Studies by HelpAge International¹ in Ghana and South Africa (1999) and Brazil (2003) and WorldGranny (2006) have shown the tremendous social and economic contributions that older persons make to family and community and the satisfaction they derive from it. (HelpAge, 2003) Social pensions are an example of intergenerational redistribution. Secondary effects of social pension programmes in facilitating economic and social change and in addressing rising household vulnerability (e.g. HIV/aids in South Africa, informal work in Brazil) are proved to be remarkably beneficial. (HelpAge, 2003:20).

What is the impact of these cash transfers – including pensions programmes - on the position of older people, women in particular? And what are their intergenerational effects. That is the main question of this paper. HelpAge International, has contributed to a major body of research on the topic and has started a campaign under the title ‘pensions not poverty’.

2. Demographic trends in sub Sahara Africa

a Declining fertility and longevity

Though Africa is still a young continent, due to migration and the consequences of HIV/aids epidemic -, it will soon be part of the global demographic revolution. Over the next thirty years, the population of older people in Africa will more than double in many countries including ‘war torn’ societies like the Democratic Republic of the Congo in which their number will increase from 2.1 million to 4.9 million (US Census Bureau, 1999). By 2050 there will be 102 million older people in sub-Saharan Africa of whom 22 million will be over 80 years old.

Indeed, still nearly half of the African women are married at the age of 18, one in three of them in a polygamous marriage. And the estimated average fertility rate was 5.6, though with a wide range from 7.3 and 7.1 births in Niger and Uganda to 2.2 and 2.0 in Mauritius and Seychelles.

Although scientific evidence is weak, there seems to be a fertility decline in sub-Saharan Africa, mainly caused by urbanisation (Johnson-Hanks, 2004). In the major capital cities this decline is noticeable, in rural areas it is not. In regions where people have to live on subsistence agriculture, the need for offspring is not only a long term investment for old age, but often a direct contribution to the family’s labour force. Where one has to count one or two hours for fetching water, the same time to find fire wood and other daily necessities, a proper labour division within the family structure is a prerequisite for survival.

Major developments like urbanisation and ongoing violent conflicts – Congo, Sudan - are changing fertility and demographic balance. Many older people, women in particular, find

themselves nowadays in a situation of 'double bind'. They are part of the 'left behind' community in the rural areas and at the same time they have to take care of their grandchildren without proper financial means. This causes social and economic strains. Land ownership is a dwindling asset for older farmers, due to low food prices. Their own capacity to farm is reduced. The World Food Organisation relates urbanisation to the endangering of food production and chronic food insecurity. This might have a negative effect on the youngest generation too.

b. Impact of HIV/aids and disasters

The HIV/aids epidemic strikes at the heart of the extended family and community structures. It is estimated that in Africa alone 12 million children have to grow up without their parents and very often live with grandparents. This number of orphaned children and child-headed households is expected to double in the coming decennium.

Community driven programmes cover a wide range of responses, including the use of pension schemes in South Africa, Namibia and Lesotho, home-care services in Zambia (which enable families to stay together) and training programmes for older people to become counsellors in f.i. Sudan.

The trauma resulting from the loss of family members and the stigma of having HIV/aids around in the family can result in high levels of exclusion for older people and vulnerable children leaving them ashamed and alone. Many older people feel they are failing in their role as caring grandparents because they are not able to protect their children from social isolation.

Due to civil wars and natural disasters, more than half of worlds displaced are found on the African continent. Recently, due to the tsunami, a sea strike on Christmas 2004, tens of thousands of Somalis living on the coastal areas lost their homes and livelihoods. Older people often suffer hardships in refugee camps – physically – for being unable to walk to food distribution points – and/or psychologically, due to separation from their family.

In the crisis in Sudan, where 2 million people are displaced, older people are often victims of the ongoing atrocities by the militia. Older women in the Darfur refugee camps are not even freed from rape or assault. This can even causes them to be chased by their husband.

However, older people are not just victims. Knowledge of coping strategies, alternative technical or health knowledge, might help communities in crises. Older people may have control over material assets and they may also be able to influence younger generations in peace-building processes. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have responded to this by recognizing the value of older peoples experience and employing them in refugee camps.

c. Aging as a female experience

In sub-Saharan Africa there are nowadays 100 older women for every 86 men. The UN predicts that by 2050 314 million will be over 80 years, two-third of them women. (HelpAge International, 2002:9).

For women, as for men, the aging world is a working world. Women often work in the informal sector, in subsistence agriculture. They are the main health carers and domestic

labourers. Because of the lacking family networks, in many parts of Africa older women are organising themselves to support each other in making ends meet. The organizing is encouraged by the fact that households headed by older women are twice as likely to include orphans as those headed by older men.

In some countries like South Africa and Brazil (rural pension) the access to pensions is gender specific. In South Africa 65+ for men, 60+ for women, in Brazil 60+ for men, 55+ for women.

3. Risk-management

a. Social protection

For a long time, social policies have been related to macro economic goals. In the 80-ies the World Bank and IMF enhanced the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in order to stimulate economic growth. The political resistance against the SAP was substantial, because of its harsh impact on the poor. Lately countries have been asked to develop their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (*PRSP*). This implies a more tailor-made approach to poverty reduction and the papers introduce more sophisticated instruments to monitor results.

At the same time, as the social and cultural fabric weakens and poverty deepens in the developing world, interest is raising in the role that social protection measures can play in poverty alleviation. And more specific, in enhancing poor people's capacity to manage risks – agricultural shocks, losing job, health problems etc. - and develop capacities to alleviate their poverty.

'Macro-stability is important. Social protection is important. Social protection that blows the budget will be ineffective. A budget that is so stringent that it doesn't allow for social protection is self-defeating', said professor Nicolas Bass, London School of Economics, during a seminar on 'New Strategies for Social Protection'. He distinguishes 'general programmes for general groups' and 'specific programmes for specific groups'. In his view it is important to minimize reliance on income tested allowances as this is administratively difficult, it is expensive and can induce the stigma of 'deserving poor'. However, old age was mentioned as a good way of targeting benefit. Pensions in South Africa and Brazil are effective, if only because they target women too. (HelpAge International, 2005:40).

Many PRSP's suggest that poverty is related to gender. In the HIV/aids infected regions, these documents have given attention to the position of older people. Ideas developed around health insurance for the vulnerable and older people and income are generating social protection projects (revolving funds).

Social protection is increasingly considered the same way and health and education, i.e. as contributing to the development process. A proper provision for old age has intergenerational effects and therefore a priority for developing countries to build institutions and generate information which can contribute to a inclusive, transparent and simple mechanisms for delivering social protection.

b. Cash-transfers

In April 2004 a two-years Social Safety Net Project was launched by Zambia's Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare in three rural areas of Kalomo district. Funded by the GTZ, the German Development agency, the project aims to reduce extreme poverty, hunger and starvation in the 10 percent most destitute households. These households (about 1000) are mainly headed by older people who are caring for vulnerable children and are often excluded from labour-based schemes, food or cash for work or micro-credit. Each household receives an local equivalent of about \$6 per month in cash, the average prize of a bag of maize.

Making cash count (HelpAge International, 2005) is a study of cash transfers in 15 countries of east and southern Africa and examines four programmes in more depth (in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia) and draws lessons for policy from this comparative review. A main argument in favour of cash transfers is that they give people more choice than free food programs. Evidence from this study suggests that cash is put to a wide range of uses, from all kind of needs, from health care to education. Much of the spending benefits children, both directly and indirectly. Moreover, it appeared that divers spending patterns generate a multiplier effect in the local economy.

An often mentioned argument against cash transfers is that it creates resentment and dependency. The research team of *Making cash count* found evidence that in most cash transfer programmes the eligibility criteria were transparent and accepted as fair by community members. This was especially the case when transfers for people unable to work were complemented by other social programmes, such as job opportunities for those who can work. It was found that, rather than creating dependency, cash transfer programmes were a crucial response to rising dependency ratios in context of high HIV-prevalence. Concerns that cash transfer programmes might be inflationary were not supported by this study. The variability in purchasing power (from under \$3 per month in Mozambique's Food Subsidy Programme to \$ 11 in South Africa's social pension) means that their impact on households wellbeing ranges from almost negligible to highly significant.

The final conclusion of the study is that cash transfer schemes should be integrated into a comprehensive package of context-specific social protection interventions. Pilot project should be scaled up and institutionalised within government structures. Partnerships should be built for effective delivery (involving governments, donors, NGO's the private sector and communities). Therefore investment in proper management is prerequisite.

4. Pension schemes

Most research and policy debates around old age protection have mainly focused on contributory pension programmes. With the publication of the 1994 World Bank report on 'Averting the Old Age Crisis: policies to promote growth and protect the old', the issue around aging in developing countries received a stimulus. This report instigated radical pension reforms in Chili and other Latin American countries (Mexico, Argentina).

The main conclusion of the World Bank's report was that developing countries should be aiming to establish a three pillar pension system.

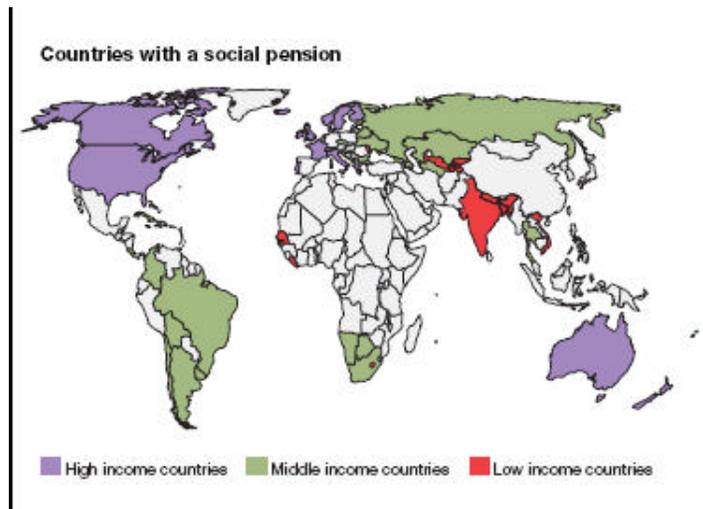
1. a non contributory basic pension pillar
2. a second pillar involving compulsory savings based pensions plans
3. a third pillar on voluntary savings.

The bulk of work and policy planning has been around the second pillar (World Bank, ILO). But more recently a consensus seems to emerge around the importance of social protection schemes based on cash transfers.

a. Social pensions

Social pensions hardly have been considered as an option in development policies, since conventional wisdom has been that 'income transfers to the poor, and safety nets more generally, are at best a short time palliative and at worst a waste of money' (HelpAge International, 2004). Furthermore, older people are often seen as consumers of welfare services, rather than productive forces in society and in some regions main contributors to development. (Gillijamse, 2006)

Social pensions, defined as a state provided non-contributory regular cash transfer to older citizens. 72 countries have either a means -tested or universal social pensions – 46 of them in low or middle income countries.



During a conference in Livingstone Zambia, supported by the African Union and the government of Zambia, senior African government representatives called for 'greater use of social pensions and other social transfers to vulnerable children and disabled people as policy options and the development of national social transfer plans within three years'.ⁱⁱ

Why social pensions are needed? (HelpAge International, 2006) In a comprehensive booklet HelpAge International provides three responses to that question.

1. Older people are entitled to benefit from international commitments to end poverty but they are deliberately or by default excluded on the ground of age.
2. Older people are often disproportionately affected by poverty. The majority of older people have no regular income.
3. To prepare for global aging.

Social pensions promote gender equity. Social pensions generally redistribute proportionately more income to women, who have less opportunity to obtain contributory pensions, and who live longer.

Universal social pensions are affordable even in very low income countries. For example Botswana, Lesotho, and Mauritius all have domestically financed universal pensions that cost max of 2 per cent of GDP.ⁱⁱⁱ Even the ILO is taken social pensions up as an issue of social protection, part of a package that also involves child benefits and disability grants.

b. Micro-pensions and savings

Since the financial sector in Africa and especially micro financing have developed substantially, the demand for more products like life and health insurance has increased.

The theme of micro pensions however, in has been a barren field so far. Some organizations, like INAFI – International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions, are considering taking this issue up as a pilot research issue. Established in March 1995, INAFI Africa is the Pan-African arm of a global network of practitioner microfinance institutions motivated by the desire that poor people too should have access to appropriate financial services according to their means and needs

As with the development of micro financing, the concept of saving is becoming more popular. Several MF's even require a certain percentage of the micro loan to be put aside as savings. In Asia (for example Grameen Bank, Brac) this is already a more common practice. In India in 2006, the SEWA bank was breaking new ground with setting up a Micro-Pension Scheme for the self employed. The SEWA members were granted permission to join an approved pension plan that offers no assured returns but allow up to 40 % collection to be invested in the Indian stock market Another Indian example is the UTI Mutual Fund's 'Micro Pension' scheme for women workers of the unorganised sector. Initially the scheme covered 5,100 members of the SHEPHERD (Self-Help Promotion for Health and Rural Development), a non-governmental organisation.

WorldGranny, as a partner of HelpAge International has taken 'micro-pensions program for developing countries' up as one of its priorities for the coming years. The Netherlands has a reputation in the field of pensions and mutual insurance. Its substantial academic and corporate expertise could well be used by developing countries. Also the recent Minister of Development Cooperation is member of the Dutch Labour Party and more than its predecessors interested in supporting new strategies in targeting the Millennium Goals and risk management.

5. Evidence based efficacy

a. For older people

As far as research results are available, cash transfers and social pensions are a win-win policy option. A comparative research has been done by a team of 9 researchers from UK and South African universities, HelpAge International and the Institute of Development and Policy Management. They researched the impact of the provisions in Brazil (for workers in the rural areas the program started in 1963) and South Africa (started in the forties, was gradually equalized for all South Africans in the nineties). These two countries contain the largest non-contributory pension programmes in the developing world.

The main findings of this comparative study (HelpAge International, 2003) were:

- Social pensions increase the income of the poorest 5 percent of the population by 100 per cent in Brazil and 50 percent in South Africa.
- People in households receiving a pension are 18 percent less likely to be poor in Brazil and 12.5 per cent less likely in South Africa.
- In Brazil and South Africa, pension benefits are shared within households, and non-contributory pension benefits should be considered more appropriately as household cash transfers tagged on old people.
- Non-contributory pension programmes have a significant impact on poverty. In the absence of non-contributory pension programmes, the poverty headcount and the poverty gap would be appreciated higher for households with older people. The impact on the poverty gap is much larger for the poorer households. The programs significantly reduced the probability that individuals in households with a pension recipient will be in poverty.
- Non-contributory pension programmes reduce household vulnerability. Households with a non-contributory pension recipient show greater financial stability and lower probability of experiencing a decline in living standards.
- Non-contributory pension programmes promote functionings in older people. Preliminary analysis of a range of deprivation indicators shows that pension recipients have a lower incidence of deprivations, especially in urban areas.
- In Brazil and South Africa, non-contributory pension programmes reach a large number of older people (5.3 million in Brazil and 1.4 percent in South Africa). The programmes are financially sustainable and attract a large measure of political support.

b. For young children and adolescents

Cash transfers do have positive effects on children's well-being. The longer the schemes are in operation, the more rigorous evaluations can be carried out. The largely qualitative study, *Making cash count*, indicated a positive effect as did several studies on the impact on child poverty in South Africa (Barrientos, de Jong, 2000)

Social pensions reduce child poverty and increase school enrolment and nutritional intake. Pensions are often used for – or is freed up money to spend on children's health, education and better nutrition, contributing to meeting the Millennium Goals on hunger, education and health. As a result 10 – 14 year old school enrolments are significantly higher among rural Brazilian households that receive pensions as compared to those who did not. Girls in

recipient households in South Africa were on the average 3 – 4 cm taller than girls of the same age, living in non-recipient households.

However, ensuring that children are indeed benefiting from an unconditional transfer requires a basic, but adequate monitoring system – this should include an insight into intra-household spending and a link to a response mechanism that could be activated in cases of misuse.

c. Institutional developments

Scientific evidence is still weak, but there are strong indicators suggesting that the delivery capacity of the governments of the countries with a social pension scheme or a wide range cash transfer system, is improved substantially.

For instance in Lesotho (Hagen, 2007) the Ministry of Finance is eager to stimulate local governments to play a major role in facilitating the pension scheme. Due to decentralization, local governments are more accessible for the older people. Registration of births and deaths is being done by the district administration. This population registration was set up after it seemed very hard for older people to prove their age and their entitlement to a pension. Furthermore the pension scheme stimulated the various ministries to work closely together, for instance the Ministries of Health and of Social Welfare. With this registration it is easier to reach out to orphans (because the death of their parents is now registered) which means that assistance can be brought in the form of a public assistance grant for grandparents that did not yet have reached the age at which they are entitled to a pension.

6. Conclusions

Demographic changes affect all Africans. The international community, as a follow-up to the UN Summit on Aging & Development (Madrid 2002), is becoming aware that achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 will require greater financial commitments and new approaches. The urge for changing attitudes towards older men and especially women, who should be perceived as key players in the productive and reproductive field, is becoming clearer every day.

And there is some good news. The Tanzanian government is including older people in its Poverty Reduction Strategy Review, while in Ghana the government has developed a National Programme on Ageing. In cooperation with HelpAge International, the African Union Policy framework and Plan of Action on Aging was formally launched in 2003. National policy development is guided by this framework. And the Regional Conference held in Livingstone, 2006 has sensitized various African countries about the need for the implementation of a social pension scheme.

Furthermore, cash transfers, social protection programmes and pension programmes, including all three pillars, are now subject to a political debate. In several African countries social pension schemes are indeed getting implemented and in many more countries pilot projects are thoroughly researched. The international community could be doing more in-depth study into the impact of the protection measures and pension schemes and support monitoring and evaluation skills within the local communities.

In sub-Saharan Africa, where most countries can rely only on a limited tax base and suffer from a lack of effective administration, the introduction of non-contributory pension programmes will require international support. Donor countries are even bound by obligations under the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, and therefore the

realization of these rights to all people. They can play an important role in both disseminating innovative pilot programs and in supporting developing country governments to explore the practical and political consequences of instituting national schemes of income transfer for the oldest generation. Communication and exchange of expertise between different partners in social protection and pension sector should be facilitated.

Collaborative action is required to ensure that the intergenerational and socio-economic impacts of HIV/aids are being considered. Older people could be playing a key role in HIV/aids prevention within their families and communities. They should be supported to get access to their entitlements. This is not only beneficial for the oldest generation, but has direct consequences for the youngsters and therefore should it be considered as a mayor political, financial and social tool to envisage the future.

Annex 1. Case study Lesotho:

The Institute of Southern African Studies, part of the National University of Lesotho (NUL) started its Lesotho Old Age Pension Impact Project in August 2005. This interdisciplinary research involved twelve Departments and Institutes of the University.

The objective was to assess the impact of the pension scheme on the well-being of its recipients since it was introduced in Lesotho in November 2004. Currently the Pension is paid to almost all Lesotho citizens aged 70 years old or beyond. About 75 000 people, 3.5% of the Lesotho population, now get the pension as an unconditional cash transfer. The pension is slightly above the official poverty line for adults in Lesotho, that has a population of about 2 million people. About 40% is living below poverty line of \$US 1 per day. 60% have less than US\$ 2 a day. The economic situation in Lesotho has declined since the mid-1980s due to the recent major loss of jobs for Basotho men working in the South African mining industry.

Main findings:

Pensioners satisfaction with their life.

Responses to the question “Now that you have received the pension, how has your satisfaction with life changed from how it was before you had the pensions.”

30 % ‘A Lot More Satisfied’
 56% ‘A bit more satisfied’
 14% ‘No change’ or ‘A bit or a lot less satisfied’

Pension and hunger.

The pension is providing old people with more food security.

Statement	% agreeing this was the case before the pension	% agreeing this is the case after the pension
I never had enough food to fill me up	20	10
I sometimes have enough	47	47

food to fill me up		
I always have enough food to fill me up	26	36

In the field of employment, income and support:

- Pension has been used to create 45 new jobs
- 11% of recipients claim that the pension makes it easier to borrow.
- 23 % get cash incomes in addition to the pension
- 25% of those getting a cash income before the pension get less of this after the pension.
- No overall change in pensioner assets held (nb 95% already owned their own house)
- Average 4% of pension is saved
- Small increase seen the in amount of giving or lending cash to others.
- After receiving their pension the proportion of pensioners paying their own funeral society instalments rose from 67% to 88%. Three respondents were using the pension to increase their subscriptions and provide themselves with a more expensive funeral.

Effect on help received by and given by pensioners

- 95% ambulant and can look after themselves, but 50-60% need help in house and in their gardens and fields
- Pension has produced no change in the extensive help given by the family, especially children
- Pension is seen to have *improved* relationships within the family
- 215 respondents between them are caring for 65 dependent orphan children. M 30 a month of the pension spent on average for this. *This is 20% of all the pension money received by the sample group.*

Pension and support for education

- 60% of the pensioner respondents have dependent school-age children in their households. Two-thirds of these are at primary school
- 90 children get additional support made possible by the pension at an average of M 60 each a month. Over the whole sample surveyed this would be an average of about 20% of the pension received by each pensioner.
- The extra money is used mainly for uniforms, travel, and books.
- 75% of responders would use any higher pension to increase education spending on children even though it was observed that primary school children now pay no fees.
- Pension spending on education is seen as less important than spending on food and accommodation but more important than spending on clothes
- There was no interest from pensioners in using pension for educating themselves.

Pension and respect

There is still much respect for the elderly amongst the Basotho. 85% of pensioners say they get a lot or some respect. This has not changed substantially since getting the pension.

The pensioners are still used a lot as advice givers. This also is not much changed.

Pension and relations with others

- Around 95% responded that they have full control themselves of how their pension is spent. The other 5% give control to their family. Such finding shows that nearly all older people personally obtain more resources due to pension schemes. It would be interesting to control for gender.
- 7% claim they are being physically and/or mentally abused, usually by family members. Three instances of this were related to other family members trying to get control of how the pension is spent.

Physical and mental health

80% of the pensioners are in general good health, but 15% say they have serious health problems especially with their joints, blood pressure and vision. Local health services are available but require pensioners to go to them. After getting the pension more is now spent on health services for the recipient and household. Priority spending is for transport to get to the clinic and hospital and buying medicine.

References:

African Union, Government of Zambia, HAI, (2006), *A transformative agenda for the 21 st century: Examining the case for basic social protection in Africa, report on an Intergovernmental Regional Conference held in Livingstone, Zambia.*

Cichon, M, 2004, *Reaching out to 100 million poor? Designing resource mobilization strategies to combat old age poverty through universal pensions*, a concept note to UN Commission for Social Development, New York.

Cichon, M, Pal, K. and others, *A Global Social Trust Network, a New Tool to Combat Poverty through Social Protection*, ISSA Initiative Findings and Opinions, May 2003.

DFID (2005) *Social transfers and chronic poverty: emerging evidence and the challenge ahead* A DFID practice paper, London.

Gilijamse, R, *Caring Grammys invest in the future, On the Economic Contribution of Older People Raising Children in Zambia and South Africa*, 2006, WorldGranny, Amsterdam.

Hagen, K. (2007 work in progress), *Old Age Pension in Lesotho, a mayor tool of poverty reduction*, WorldGranny, Amsterdam.

HelpAge International (2002), *Ageways, Practical issues in aging and development*, issue 61, dec. 2002, HIV/aids and older people, London.

HelpAge International (2003a), *Age and Security, How social pensions can deliver effective aid to poor older people and their families*, London.

HelpAge International (2003b), *Forgotten families, Older people as carers of orphans and vulnerable children*, London.

HelpAge International (2005), *Making cash count, Lessons from cash transfer schemes in east and southern Africa for supporting the most vulnerable children and households*, London, Institute of Development Studies, Save the Children, UK.

HelpAge International (2006), *Why social pensions are needed now*, London.

Holzmann, R. and Hinz, R. and others (2005), *Old-Age Income Support in the 21 st Century, An International Perspective on Pension Systems and Reform*, Washington DC

Institute of Southern African Studies, (2005) , *Lesotho Old Age Pension Impact Project Study*, Maseru.

J. Randel, T. German and D. Ewing (eds. 1999), *The Ageing and Development Report, Poverty, Independence and the World's Older People*. HelpAge International & Earthscan Publications, London

State of the world's older people 2002 (2002), HelpAge International, London.

United Nations, (2002), *Gender, Pensions and Social Citizenship in Latin America*, New York.

United Nations, OCHA, (2006), Southern Africa, Focus on social pensions and poverty reduction, New York.

Van Dullemen, C.E., Older People in Africa: New Engines to Society? - *NWSA Journal* 18:1 (2006) 99-105.

World Bank, (1994), *Averting the Old Age Crisis: policies to promote growth and protect the old*, Washington DC.