

PROCESS FOR EVIDENCE REVOLUTION ON AGEING IN KENYA

Presentation at the Regional
workshop on 'Evidence-based'
policy formulation for SSA

Introduction

(a) Statutory documents for older persons in Kenya include:

- Constitution of Kenya (2010) article 57
- Executive Order No.1/2016
- National Policy on Older Persons and Ageing
- Kenya Vision 2030 (establishment of a consolidated Social Protection Fund-CSPF)
- Draft Bill on older persons

(b) The legal frameworks to cater for older persons:

- The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF)
- The Pensions Act
- The National Social Security Fund

(c)The institutional Framework to cater for older persons

- Ministry of East African Community (EAC), Labour and Social Protection (mandated to coordinate, mainstream and implement Older persons programs)
- National Gender and Equality Commission (Mandated to spearhead efforts to reduce gender inequalities)
- Ministry of Health (Established Ageing and Health Unit)

Demographic transition in Kenya

Kenya is undergoing a demographic transition of increasing population of older persons (KHS, 2009)

- 1949 population was 270,000
- 1989 population was 1,000,000
- 2009 population was 1,926,051 (M= 897,607)
(F= 1,028,444)
- Projected population in 2030 is 3,000,000

Background on evidence revolution on ageing in Kenya

- Collaboration between the Ministry of East African Community Affairs (EAC), Labour and Social Protection, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) and HelpAge International East, West and Central Africa Regional Development Centre (EWCARDC)
- Convened the first ever meeting in Nairobi to pilot an evidence revolution on aging in Kenya on 23rd October 2013

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- The meeting was convened in the wake of the launch of the Global Age-Watch Index (GAWI) – a tool, which compares countries across the world in terms of the well-being of older populations in four key domains:
- **(a)income security, (b)health status, (c)employment and education and (v) enabling environment.**
- Only 8 countries were captured in the GAWI because of lack of sufficient relevant data

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- 23 stakeholders that are key in national policy and data role players jointly met to deliberate on and identify concrete approaches for piloting an evidence revolution in Kenya
- The evidence revolution in Kenya would act as a model for similar evidence endeavors across Africa

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- Ministry of East African Community (EAC), Labour and Social Protection, coordinate the subsequent efforts to develop a pilot 'evidence revolution' on ageing in Kenya.
- The Min. EAC Labour and Social Protection then organized for a stakeholders meeting at APHRC.
- The outcomes for the meeting initiated the process 'towards pilot evidence revolution of Ageing in Kenya ' as indicated below;

Steps: 'Towards a pilot evidence revolution of ageing' in Kenya

(a)The Problem: The evidence Gap is as a result of:

- Lack of dedicated national studies on older populations
- The National survey limitations: Focus on reproductive health only (eg Demographic Health Survey-DHS)
- Kenya was not captured in the Global Age Watch Index due to lack of sufficient relevant data

(b) Meeting with key national policy and data role players in Kenya such as:

- Line Ministries (Min. of Health, Agriculture, Education, planning and Vision2030 Secretariat)
- National Statistics/Survey Agencies (KNBS, NCPD)
- Regional Research Institution (APHRC)
- Regional Civil Society Institutions (HAI, EWCARDC)
- Regional International Partners (UNFPA, World Bank, UNDP)

Aim of the meeting was to:

- Point out priority evidence needs to inform:
 - (i) national policy and action on Kenya's older population across relevant sectors
 - (ii) Kenya's position on the UN post-2015 development framework
- Map out existing survey and administrative data, and national data platforms to retrieve data to generate key evidence

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- Explore opportunities to mobilize support for the evidence revolution pilot
- Establish a national steering committee for the realization of such a pilot evidence in the near future

Outcomes of the meeting: A report indicating the following;

- (i) priority evidence gaps in each sector
- (ii) potential avenues for addressing the gaps,
- (iii) key role players to be involved in the short to medium term

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- (iv) possible funding opportunities to be pursued
- (v) An outline action plan for the initiative as indicated below;

Outline action plan

- **Step I:** Establishment of a draft evidence generation wish-list (Identification of data needs) (*Wish list has been generated*)
- **Step II:** Convening of validation meeting (*validation meeting has been done*)
- **Step III:** Evidence generation (*Yet to be done*)

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- **Step IV:** Dissemination of findings to high-level validation forum (***Yet to be done***)
- **Step V:** Dissemination of analysis findings at County level (***Yet to be done***)
- **Step VI:** Expanding short-term target surveys and planning future primary data generation (***Yet to be done***)

Development of the 'wish-list'

- Engaged a consultant on a joint effort between the APHRC and the Help Age International and Ministry
- Mapped out the key stakeholders
- Development of two tools to collect data from the Government and Non-Government organizations

Way Forward:

A step gap measure from the 'wish list'

- Available data be collected and analyzed to inform various initiatives
- to carry out surveys on older persons in various thematic areas.

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- The Ministry of EAC, Labour and Social Protection and APHRC will spearhead the activity in collaboration with the National Population and Development Council (NPDC) and Kenya Bureau of Statistics (KBS) in data collection and surveys on older persons in Kenya.
- The data collection and surveys have been delayed because of the resources needed.

On going research:

Baseline survey on institutions for older persons

Baseline survey on institutions for older persons

- Baseline survey for institutions for older persons has been done
- The intension is to provide national standards for provision of long term care for older persons to address abuse of older persons at advanced age
- Department is to develop and gazette guidelines for institutions for older persons

Long term care (LTC) framework

- APHRC in collaboration with Department through support from WHO is collecting data on the African model of long term care for older persons
- Three Counties (Nairobi, Kiambu and Siaya) have been sampled for the study
- The results are to demonstrate the urban and rural long term care model from an African perspective

Future research on older persons

- In the strategic plan, the Ministry will develop a manual for creating awareness on elder abuse (elder abuse is a problem which is escalating in all societies)
- Sharpen advocacy on elder abuse
- Work plan for financial year 2016/17; the Ministry will carry out a baseline survey on elder abuse in Kenya

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- In the forthcoming National census 2018, the Ministry will have a question which will collect disaggregated data for older persons
- Develop and update the data base on issues of ageing and older persons

THANK YOU