

# Kenya project brief

Towards more effective and accountable social protection systems for income security in older age

HelpAge

International

**HelpAge International is currently implementing a project to improve the accountability and effectiveness of social protection schemes providing income security in older age. The project is taking place in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda and is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Funds-in-Trust.**

## Rationale for the project

The last decade has seen a dramatic increase in the number of countries working to expand their social protection systems. This includes the expansion of schemes providing income security in older age such as social pensions, which exist in more than 100 countries globally<sup>1</sup>. Recognition of the role of social protection in poverty reduction in the SDGs means that these schemes are likely to continue to expand.

As the number of social protection schemes increase, there is a great need to ensure they are effective and accountable. This is essential to reduce programme error, fraud and corruption; to resolve operational problems; and to ensure that citizens can participate in the design and delivery of schemes that will ultimately effect their lives. In Kenya the project focuses on implementation of the **Older Person's Cash Transfer (OPCT)**, a social pension funded by the Government of Kenya and targeted at poor and vulnerable older people.

## Approach

The project uses a social accountability<sup>2</sup> approach which;

- **Supports citizens** to hold social protection actors to account and,
- **Supports governments** to take actions to improve the participation of citizens in accountability processes.

## Project outcomes

1. More older people are empowered and supported to access and claim social protection rights
2. More decision makers are aware of implementation challenges in social protection
3. More decision makers are aware of how to support citizen participation and grievance redress in social protection

## Activities

- Community monitoring of the OPCT – collecting data on registration & targeting, payment and delivery, accountability and participation.
- Monitoring data reported in various meetings with decision makers to influence improvements in OPCT operations.
- Raising awareness of social protection and older people's rights through radio and older person's groups.
- Strengthening older person's groups and facilitating their dialogue with key government agencies.
- Strengthening legal support services and referral system for older persons.



*Training of Rajoro widows' group, Siaya County*

## Other activities of HelpAge in Kenya

Management of the independent complaints and grievances system for the Hunger Safety Net Programme, in collaboration with the Integrated Public Complaints and Referral Mechanism (DFID/UKAID):

- Support to the community-based Rights Committees to record complaints
- Raising community awareness of social protection rights and the complaints and grievances system
- Development of an independent management information system to record, analyse and feedback to HSNP beneficiaries

<sup>1</sup> Global Age Watch Index 2014 Insight report

<sup>2</sup> Also known as 'demand side governance' - see World Bank

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**HelpAge International is a global network of organisations promoting the right of all older people to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives. [www.helpage.org](http://www.helpage.org)**

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