

Mozambique 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 takes 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 (FiT).

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 globally¹. 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 Mozambique the project focuses on implementation of the **Basic Social Subsidy Programme (PSSB)** a cash transfer targeted at labour constrained households and implementation of the Government's Social Security Strategy 2016-24.

Approach

The project uses a social accountability² 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 PSSB – collecting data on registration & targeting, payment and delivery, accountability and participation.
- Monitoring data reported in various meetings with Government, bilateral and other decision makers to influence improvements in PSSB operations and implementation of the Social Security Strategy 2016-24.
- Raising awareness amongst Government institutions and older people on social protection legislation and strategy, and the older people's national plan.
- Pilot digital grievance redress mechanism in collaboration with the National Institute for Social Action (INAS).
- Government engagement through active membership of the national Social Protection Working Group.



Payment day for the PSSB

Other activities of HelpAge in Mozambique

- Improving access of older people to social protection and HIV programmes (Irish Aid)
- Independent monitoring of the PSSB in collaboration with civil society partners (Dutch Embassy)
- Monitoring delivery and access to health, care and HIV services, prevention of non-communicable diseases and access to medicines (DFID/UKAID)

¹ Global Age Watch Index 2014 Insight report

² 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

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