

Tanzania 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 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 Tanzania the project focuses on implementation of the **Zanzibar Universal Pension Scheme (ZUPS)** - the first government funded universal social pension in east Africa – with project links made to social protection policy on mainland Tanzania.

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 aware of implementation challenges in social protection
3. More decision makers aware of how to support citizen participation and grievance redress in social protection

Activities

- Community monitoring of the ZUPS – collecting data on registration & targeting, payment and delivery, accountability and participation.
- Monitoring data reported in meetings with decision makers to influence improvements in ZUPS, including with Ministry of Empowerment, Social Welfare, Youth, Women and Children
- Training social workers to support the establishment of older people's community groups.
- Supporting older people to submit grievances to the ZUPS grievance and complaint mechanism.



Launch of the Zanzibar Universal Pension Scheme

Other activities of HelpAge in Tanzania

- Improving access of older people to social protection and HIV programmes (Irish Aid)
- Monitoring delivery and access to health, care and HIV services, and access to medicines (DFID/UKAID)
- Intergenerational approach to prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (Pfizer)
- Eyecare treatment in partnership with SightSavers (Conrad N. Hilton Foundation)
- Promoting the inclusion of the 50+ age population in the fights against HIV and AIDS (SADC)
- Protection of Burundi refugees (BPRM and UNHCR)
- Promotion and protection of older women's rights from witchcraft accusations (BMZ and EC)

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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