

Uganda 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 Uganda the project focuses on implementation of the **Senior Citizen's Grant**, a social pension funded by the Government of Uganda, DFID/UKAID and Irish Aid.

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 SCG – collecting data on registration & targeting, payment and delivery, accountability and participation
- Monitoring data reported in various meetings with decision makers to influence improvements in SAGE operations
- Raising awareness of social protection and older people's rights through radio, older person's groups and training the media
- Support registration and verification of SCG beneficiaries for roll out of SAGE in Gulu
- Training of paralegal organisations to provide legal support and mediation services to older people
- Training national and district civil servants on contents of the new social protection policy



Community monitoring of the Senior Citizen's Grant

Other activities of HelpAge in Uganda

- Work to ensure that older people are benefitting from more accessible social protection and HIV programmes (Irish Aid)
- Income generation activities and psychosocial support to South Sudanese older person refugees (Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation)
- Strengthen Older Persons' Councils and Older Person's Associations as mechanisms for accountability in the delivery of government services (National Endowment for Democracy)

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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