

## **NGO Submission for the Universal Periodic Review of Mozambique in 2015**

**Submitted by HelpAge International Mozambique, June 2015**

**Key words:** older people, social security, health, violence

### **Introduction**

1. This submission highlights and makes recommendations on older people's rights to social security, health, and freedom from violence and abuse.

### **The right to social security**

2. In recognition of the disproportionate poverty, older people are one of the groups that the National Strategy for Basic Social Protection 2010-2014 gives preferential treatment to.

3. A study by Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Economicos (IESE)<sup>1</sup> which analyzed data from National Household Budget Survey (2010) showed that 58% of older people live below the official poverty line compared to 54% for the rest of the population. However only 25% of the 1.3 million older people in the country have access to the government targeted food subsidy cash transfer which is transferred monthly to vulnerable older people.

4. The delivery of the current government cash transfer programme also has a lot of gaps. According to the results<sup>2</sup> of an social accountability programme being implemented by HelpAge International 65% of older people surveyed said that that they have never been visited by the officials from the Institute of Social Action which administers the cash transfer programme. 59% said that they did not know how beneficiaries were selected and 71% said that they had not participated in the selection of their community representative for the programme. The results were also worse for older women than older men.

5. A further barrier to older people's enjoyment of their right to social security is their lack of identity cards. One of the conditions to be registered for the cash transfer programme is the possession of an identity card. A study<sup>3</sup> conducted by HelpAge international in Gaza Province in 2009 showed that 40% of the older people did not have identity cards which means they could not be registered for the cash transfer programme.

**6. Recommendation: We recommend that the Government of Mozambique take all necessary measures to expand its cash transfer programme, improve its delivery model by implementing age-sensitive measures which will allow older people to access the cash transfer, and puts into practice a consistent monitoring and implementation plan for its social protection programmes in line with ILO Recommendation No.202 (2012) and conclusions and recommendations No. 84a and 84c of the 2014 report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights' country visit to Mozambique (A/HRC/26/28/Add.1).**

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<sup>1</sup> *Growing old in Mozambique: Dynamics of well-being and poverty (2013)*, António Francisco, Gustavo Sugahara & Peter Fisker

<sup>2</sup> Annual report for Independent Monitoring Programme (2014), HelpAge International Mozambique

<sup>3</sup> Baseline report for the programme "Responsibility between generations: Older people promoting governance" (2009), HelpAge International Mozambique

## **The right to the highest attainable standard of health**

7. The inconsistency and lack of clarity<sup>22</sup> in legislation related to access to health for older people is a barrier to older people's full enjoyment of their right to health. While some laws like the Law n.º 3/2014 on the Promotion and Protection of Older People Rights and Law n.º 4/1987 mention free access to health services for older people, others like the pharmaceutical law in the country do not have any provision for free access to medicine for older people.

8. Consequently older people do not have access to age-appropriate services and are being denied their right to affordable to medicine. 22% of the older people interviewed in Mozambique in a multi country study<sup>4</sup> conducted by HelpAge International in 2013 reported that their health and medical needs are neglected because of their age. Older citizen reports from Gaza and Maputo Provinces in 2011 showed that 43% of older people were asked to pay for health services despite their legal entitlements to receive these free of charge.

9. Older people's access to appropriate and quality healthcare for older people is also severely restricted by the lack of health staff specializing in geriatrics. There are only two geriatric doctors in the whole country.

**10. Recommendation: We recommend that the Government of Mozambique take all necessary measures to ensure all older persons' access to affordable health and appropriate health care, including access to appropriate information about the entitlements available to them by clarifying its health policy towards older people and by including mainstream ageing issues in its human resources strategic plan in line with the conclusions and recommendations (No 84 d) of the 2014 report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights' country visit to Mozambique (A/HRC/26/28/Add.1) and the recommendation by CEDAW in its 2007 concluding recommendations to the country (CEDAW/C/MOZ/CO/2, paragraph 43).**

## **The right to freedom from violence and abuse**

11. Older people, especially women, continue to be subjected to violence and abuse despite the legal protection afforded them within Law n.º 3/2014 on the Promotion and Protection of Older People Rights and Law n.º 10/2004 on the Family.

12. Information from the study conducted by HelpAge International in 2013 showed that 71% of the older people surveyed had experienced at least one category of abuse (financial, emotional, physical, sexual and witchcraft accusations). The majority of those who had been subjected to sexual and physical violence did not tell the police or other authorities.

**13. Recommendation: We recommend that the Government of Mozambique take all necessary measures to ensure that older persons, especially women, are protected from violence and abuse in line with the recommendation by CEDAW in its 2007 concluding recommendations to the country (CEDAW/C/MOZ/CO/2, paragraph 43).**

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<sup>4</sup> *Developing an indicator-based system for monitoring older people's human rights, panel, survey and key findings for Peru, Mozambique and Kyrgyzstan*, London School of Economics and HelpAge International, 2013 [www.helpage.org/download/52664f10b815e](http://www.helpage.org/download/52664f10b815e)

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