



## **REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

### **MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

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#### **PRESS RELEASE**

NAIROBI, Friday, October 11, 2019

**For Immediate Release**

#### **NEW STUDY PRAISES KENYA'S SOCIAL PROTECTION SECTOR INTERVENTIONS**

**LABOUR and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani has today released findings of the latest review of the Sh26 billion-a-year Social Protection Sector that shows Kenya's steady progress in cushioning its needy citizens against poverty.**

Releasing the results of the independent review, the Cabinet Secretary said the Government had raised the number of beneficiaries under social protection programmes to 1.3 million from a low of 150,000 in 2006.

"The report finds that the country has made impressive progress in mounting a robust social protection system, and embraced a more coordinated approach in the implementation of interventions that have prevented many needy Kenyans from sliding into deep poverty," CS Yatani said while releasing the findings at Hotel Intercontinental, Nairobi.

The CS also promised to step up measures to protect children's rights, emphasizing that the Ministry was streamlining the children sector to ensure their rights were respected and protected.

The Ministry, he said, had started implementing a recent Cabinet directive that banned international child adoption in the country.

Following the directive, he said, "we have moved to streamline the operations of the Child Welfare Society with the appointment of a new board which has already been inaugurated in a bid to ensure children under the care of children's homes live dignified lives".

The report shows that the number of households under the Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children increased from 153,000 in 2013 to 353,000 in 2017. On the other hand, the number of persons in the Older Persons Cash Transfer has increased from 59,000 beneficiaries to 833,000 households.

"The significant increase was due to the policy decision in 2017 to have universal coverage of all persons aged 70 years and above under the Older Persons Cash Transfer," Yatani said.

Beneficiaries under the Persons with Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer has increased coverage from 14,700 to 47,000 households over the same period.

The CS announced that the Ministry was gradually developing a graduation programme that will link tax-financed social transfers to other services to facilitate graduation from poverty.

To remain on the right trajectory of reforms in the Social Protection Sector, the CS announced key areas that the Ministry will tackle going forward:

- 1.** Addressing the rising cases of older persons' abuse and neglect that continue to affect an already vulnerable section of the population.
- 2.** Collating of adequate data on Persons With Disability (and on issues of disability) to facilitate proper planning. The 2019 National Housing and Population Census is expected to provide adequate data for planning for persons with disabilities.
- 3.** Ensuring regular and efficient payment of cash transfers to beneficiaries. The Ministry has already developed an Integrated Management Information System for the cash transfer programmes and rolled out a new payments model for beneficiaries.

“Social protection is an important way to reduce vulnerable people’s risk of poverty, including through unemployment, ill health and old age. If care givers are living in poverty, it is harder for them to provide for their children. By improving living standards and access to services, social protection therefore protects children's rights and development.” UNICEF Representative in Kenya Maniza Zaman.

For additional information, please visit [www.socialprotection.go.ke](http://www.socialprotection.go.ke)

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