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**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

NAIROBI, Thursday February 13, 2020

**DATA SEED EVENT – DATA FOR  
OLDER PERSONS**

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**OPENING REMARKS**

**BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY NELSON MARWA SOSPETER, CBS**

**STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**DURING THE OPEN DATA SEED EVENT – DATA FOR OLDER  
PERSONS**

**HELD IN PANAFRIC HOTEL ON**

**13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

- It is indeed an honour and a privilege for me to join you today on this memorable occasion as we come together as Government Ministries, Agencies, Development Partners, Research Institutions, Academia and Older Persons Organizations to build partnerships and brainstorm around the use of the available data for improved policies and programmes that make an impact on the wellbeing, dignity and quality of life of older persons in Kenya

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- To address issues affecting the older persons, the National Policy on Older Persons and Ageing and the National Standards and Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Institutions for Older Persons have been developed. Currently, Kenya is in the process of ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.
- All this is in line with the provisions in the Constitution under Article 57 which obligates the State to take measures to ensure older persons live in dignity, participate fully in the affairs of society and receive reasonable care and assistance.
- The Government continues to take measures to guarantee security and safety of older persons through the implementation of various targeted programmes such as the National Social Security Fund which provides finances to retirees in the formal sector and the National Hospital Insurance Fund. However, the numbers reached may be clear, the nature of the services rendered may not be adequate.

- In addition, the Ministry of labour and Social Protection, continues to make progress in improving the lives of older persons by creating awareness on elder abuse, tackling poverty, improving life expectancy and extending access to basic services through the Inua Jamii Programme which provides cash transfers to the Older Persons, Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Persons with Severe Disabilities.
- The Inua Jamii programme currently provides social assistance to **833,129** households headed by older persons. This has significantly reduced abject poverty and improved the quality of life of older persons in the programme.
- The number of older persons is increasing and there is still a lack of adequate evidence and data on ageing and longevity. This lack of data has contributed to low political will and low budget allocation for ageing and older persons issues.
- Situational analysis and research in the area of older persons is key to build technical expertise and knowledge on ageing, inform appropriate policy direction and resource allocation in achieving the 'Leave No One Behind Principle' by ensuring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation is inclusive of older persons to increase their capabilities and longevity.
- It is against this background that HelpAge International in collaboration with Ministry of Labour & Social Protection have organized this Open Data Seed Events Forum to create a platform where stakeholders including local technology innovators can share data on older persons and share the best practice around evidence on data for older person.

- I wish to thank you all who have participated in making this forum a success.

**Thank You and God Bless You.**