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Title of Lecture: The State of Old People in Ethiopia & Mainstreaming their Concerns into Key National Policies

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Keywords: elderly, Ethiopia, care, NGOs/CSOs, aging

Summary

In Ethiopia, about 4% of the total population (3.3 million) is older persons (CSA, 2006). More aged population lives in rural areas than urban areas. Key service providers for the elderly people are government, communities/families and NGOs/CSOs (Civil Society Organizations). Governmental services to old people consists of institutional care, subsidies and retirement pension. There are 62 NGOs are working directly or indirectly on the issues of elderly people. They support basic food/shelter, medical/physical therapy and psycho social. Traditionally, extended family provides multiple types of supports to elders. But nowadays, cause of recurrent drought, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and economic problems, it has become hard for the families to support them. The national plan of action has provides a common avenue to mainstream of aging. However, it requires allocation of sufficient financial resources, organizational commitments and law enforcement mechanism.

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