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**AGE AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF  
OLDER PERSONS: ON-GOING  
PROCESSES IN AFRICA AND GHANA**

ELLEN BORTEI-DOKU ARYEETAY

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UNIVERSITY OF GHANA LEGON

# ISSUES

- RECOGNISING GLOBAL AGEING POPULATION
- DEFINITIONS
- ENDORSEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PEOPLE AND RECOGNITION OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION
- AFRICA ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXCLUSION OF OLD PEOPLE
- OLD PEOPLE AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN GHANA – INTERVENTIONS

# 1. PREPARING FOR A GLOBAL AGEING POPULATION

- **FORECAST NEC TO AVOID SOC EXCLUSION**

- By 2045 old pop will outstrip young;
- On-going work on Global Ageing Preparedness Index (GAP) to monitor countries progress towards preparing to protect larger numbers of older people (Centre for Strategic and International Studies)

- **GROWING AGEISM OR DISCRIMINATION**

- Competition betw old and young for scarce resources

- **REFOCUSING MDGs – MDG SUMMIT OCT 2010**

- soc --sec; health care for all nec for poverty eradication – incl old people (in Para 70 sections *g & v*)

- **CALL FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR**

- To include tax financed pensions for vulnerable groups of men and women

# 2. DEFINING OLD AGE AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN AFRICA

## DEFINITIONS OF 'OLD' AGE: WHAT AFRICA IS FACED WITH: HISTORICAL

- 'Work till death' in pre-industrial / contemporary informal economy
- 'Retirement' and pension - Socially constructed econ. category assoc. with need for industrial labour renewal
- Medical endorsement of negative attributes assoc with ageing & psycho-social, productive capability
- Age ceilings for older people's engagement in civic and livelihood activity

## DEFINITION OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

- Multidimensional process marked by no or limited access to necessary resources & opportunities for people to function in society

# DEFINITION OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION CONTINUED-----

- Multi-dimensional process marked by failure to access minimum standards of distributional and relational elements of decent well-being:
- Gordon et al (2000) Distributional and Relational elements are embedded in:
  - Impoverishment
  - Labour market participation
  - Access to services
  - Family and civic relations

### **3. ENDORSEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PEOPLE AND RECOGNITION OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION (a)**

E.G.

- **MULTILATERAL AGENCIES**
  - Championed by UN; ILO
- **BILATERAL AGENCIES**
  - DFID, USAID
- **REGIONAL BODIES**
  - AU, EU,

# ENDORSEMENT OF OLD PEOPLE'S HUMAN RIGHTS ...(b)

- Stakeholders confirm links betw. Ageing, impoverishment & soci. Exclusion
- IFA Explanatn for links:
  - Old born into poverty
  - Old become poor with loss of income
  - Old become poor with loss of health
  - Weak data base on old people affect planning and programmng

## **4. AFRICA ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXCLUSION OF THE OLD**

- **AFRICA UNION POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PLAN OF ACTN ON AGEING**
  - 5% of African pop >60yrs in 2000; rise to 10% in 2050
  - Influenced by UN Principles of Older Persons (1991)
  - Madrid International Plan of Actn on Ageing (2002)
- **AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE’S RIGHTS (1986)**
  - Article 18 (4); Article 29 (1) – duty to protect aged
  - African Commission on Human and People’s Rights – est. Focal Point on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa
- **AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER**
  - Article 26 (c) call for support to parents
- **AU POLICY FRAMEWORK**
  - Member states to incl issues of old people in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)
- **PROTOCOL ON AFRICAN CHARTER ON RIGHTS OF WOMEN**
  - Article 22 (b) prohibits discrimination based on age



# 5. OLD PEOPLE AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN GHANA – INTERVENTIONS

## **MAIN ISSUE**

- How Ghana has taken account of ageing and needs and contributions of older persons ( $\geq$  60YRS)

## **OBJECTIVE OF PRESENTATION**

- Reflect on norms and practices associated with ageing and older persons in Ghana's experience

# GHANA ISSUES

5.1 SURVIVING TRADITIONS OF OLDER PERSONS  
AUTHORITY IN SOCIETY

5.2.LEGISLATION ON THE AGED

5.3.SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND EFFORTS AT  
INTERVENTION

5.4 SERIOUS DATA GAPS

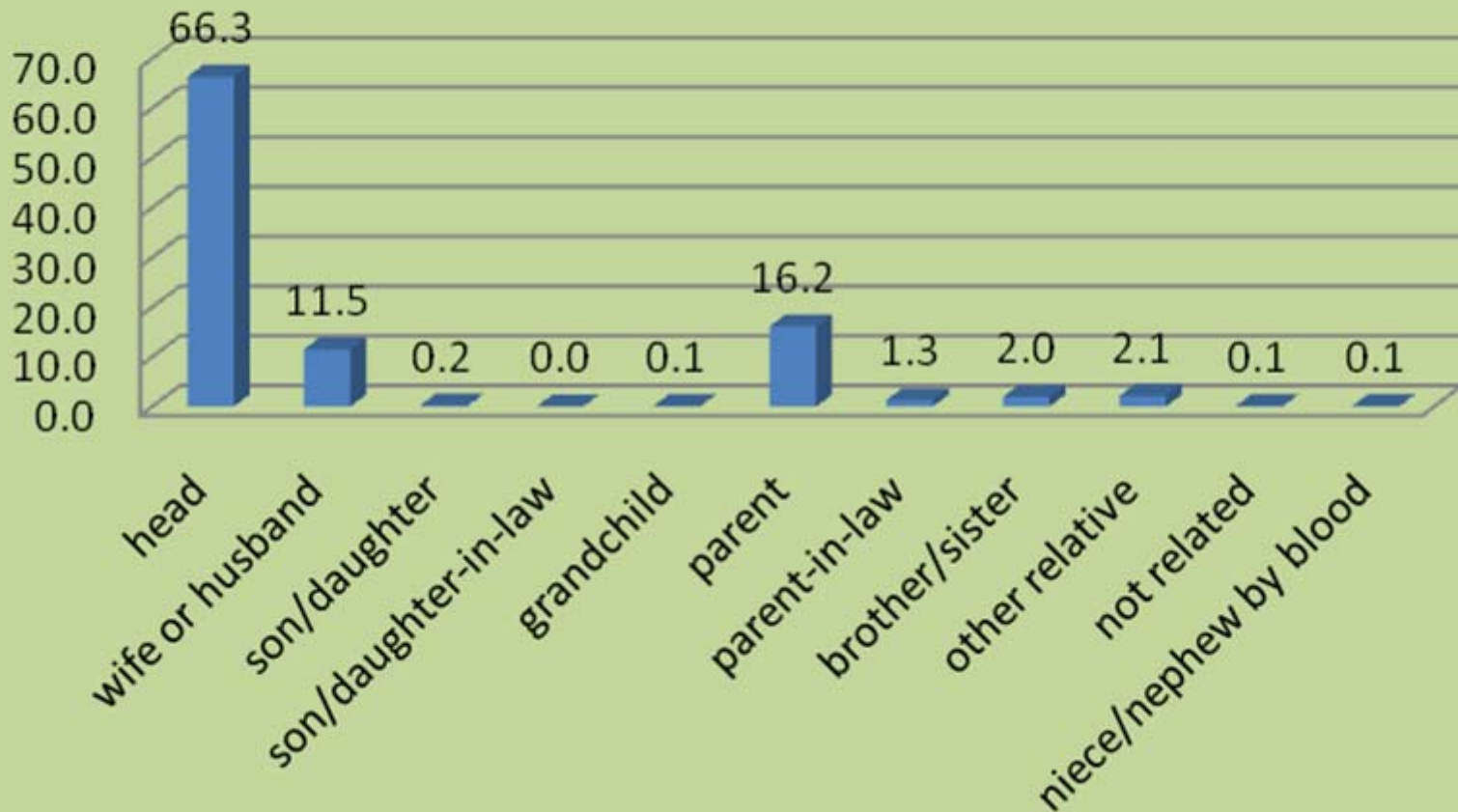
# 5.1 SURVIVING TRADITIONS OF OLDER PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY IN SOCIETY

- Old people apparent control of power and & authority in family /community has survived modernisation & urbanisation – see GLSS (2005) and the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (2008)
- $\frac{2}{3}$  of older persons still head their households and several manage large households of about 6 persons or a range of 1-22 person hhd sizes! (Fig 1; Table 1)
- Older persons continue to exercise authority over productive assets in the lge informal economy, e.g. land, trees, fishing gear and family labour.
- Selection of traditional authority reps; arbitration still preserve of counsel of elders
- Growing public rebellion against older people control of authority & traditional resources

## 5.1B CHALLENGE OF DEPENDENCE ON OLDER PEOPLE

- Downside of older people's authority is the continued cases of dependence on older people by their families, as shown in headship factor and hhd size (see Fig.1 & Table 1)
- Using the 2008 GDHS, dependency ratio of older people was determined by the ff:
  - Estimating the relationship of Household Heads with older people (**headship factor**)
  - Estimating household size headed by older people 60 years and above (**HH size factor**)

## Relationship of Older People to Household Heads



Source: GDHS, 2008

### **Fig 1: Relationship of Older People to Household Heads**

Throughout the Distribution, 66% of older people were household Heads.

Size of Households Headed by Older People (60+)					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
HH size headed by 60+	9320	6.249571	3.759446	1	22

**Ratio = 1:6.2**

Size of Households Headed by People less than 60 years					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
HH size headed by Less than 60	37172	5.564511	2.919583	1	20

### **Table 1: Older Persons and Size of Household (GDHS, 2008)**

On the average households headed by older people 60 years and above stands at 6.2 people whereas those households headed by people under 60 years stands at 5.7 people

## **5.1c. OLDER PEOPLE AND CARE GIVING – USEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS BUT OVERTASKED!**

- Widespread dependence on older relatives to baby sit and care for grandchildren when parents, work, migrate or die
- Reliance on older people to nurse sick relatives
- Reliance on older people to provide domestic work support in children's homes

## 5.2.LEGISLATION & POLICIES ON THE AGED

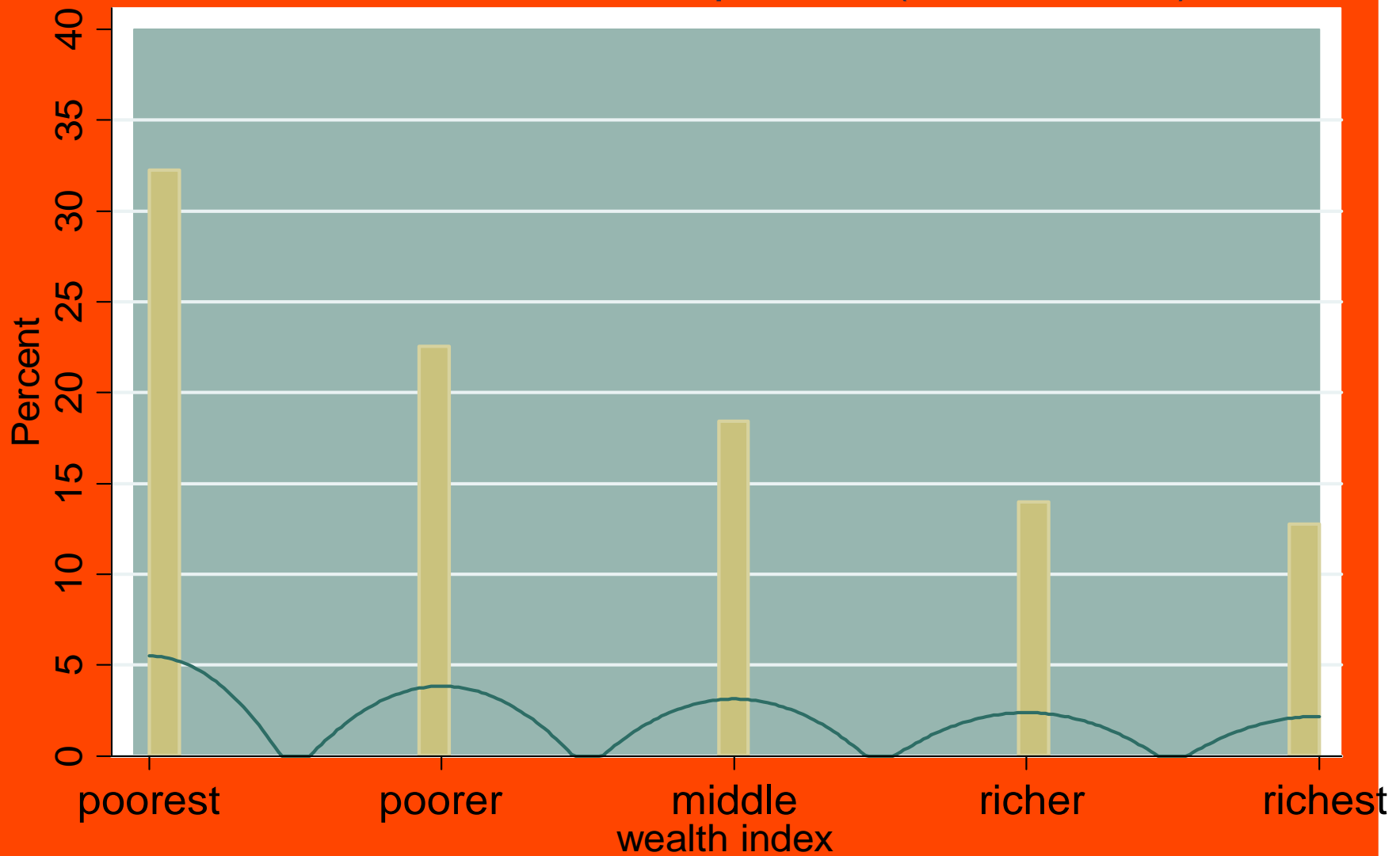
- Ghana 1992 Constitutional support for the rights of all (Chapt 5 & 6)
- National Ageing Policy (2010)
- Ghana Med Term Devpt Framework – Ghana Shared Growth and Devpt Agenda 2010 - 2013. Vol. 1 Policy Framework, GoG,. NDPC (pg 91)
- National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS)



## 5.3 SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF OLDER PEOPLE IN GHANA AND EFFORTS AT INTERVENTION

- **INCOME INSECURITY**
- OPs over represented in poverty categories
- A total of 50% of hhds in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quintiles are made up of heads over 60 years (see Fig 2 on pg 12)
- Public services give inadequate attention to older persons

# Wealth Index of People 60+ (GDHS 2008)



# 5.3a

## HEALTH CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

- only 2% of older people are registered for National Health Insurance (NHIS) – once registered people over 65 yrs can access free care
- 2% of older people use treated mosq nets exposing them to malaria
- Most older people suffering from chronic illness - treatment not on essential list of NHIS

Access to NHIS by Older People (60+)					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Registration for HNIS	3441	1.970357	2.621189	0	20

Source: GDHS 2008

From the 2008 GDHS, on the average, only about 2% of older people, 60 years and above, have registered for the National Health Insurance Scheme

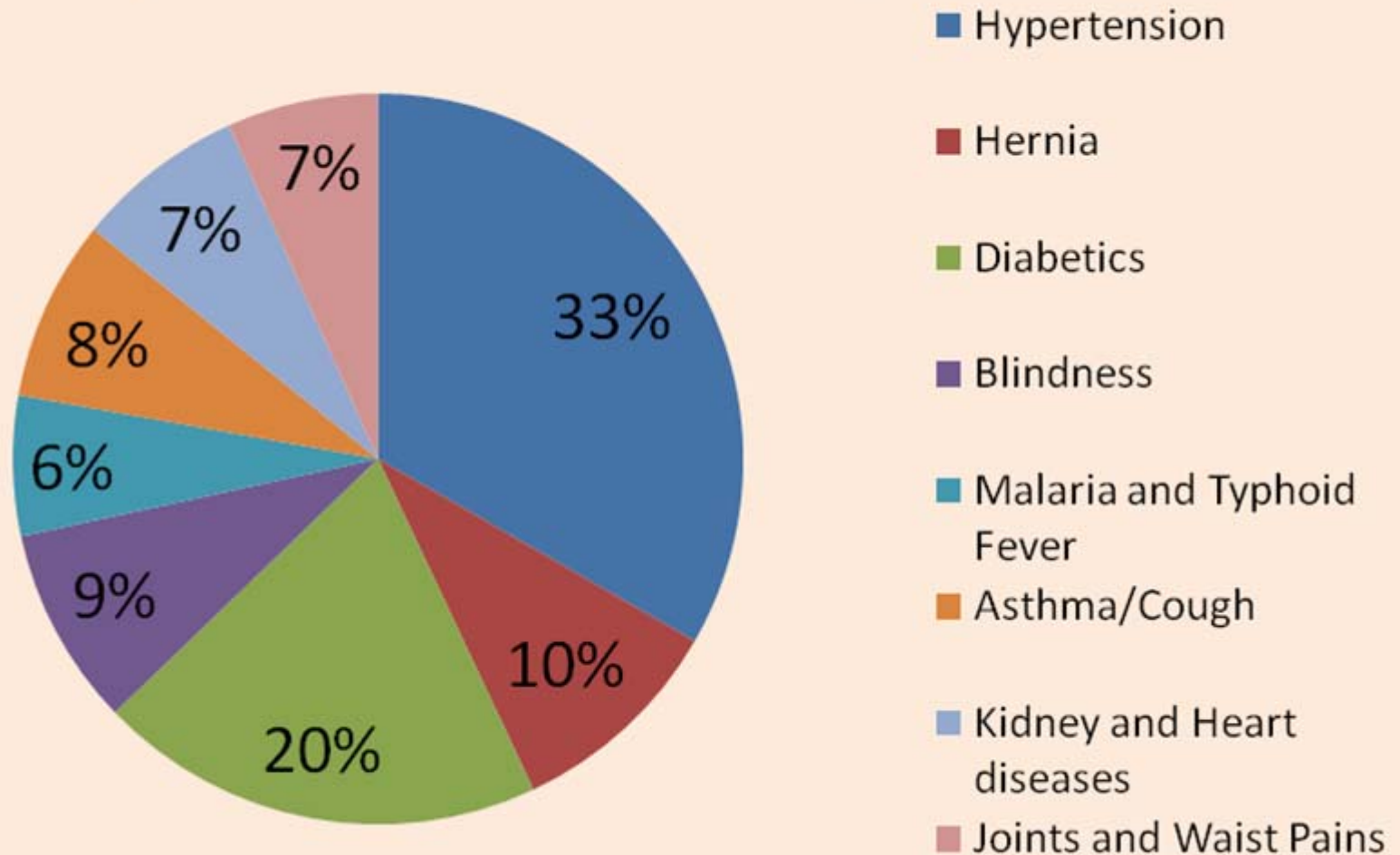
# Older People and Use of Treated Bed Net

Age	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P>t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Use of ITN	<b>-0.2757766</b>	0.2866837	-0.96	0.336	-.8378622 .286309
_cons	70.19484	0.1856968	378.01	0	69.83076 70.55893

Source: GDHS- 2008

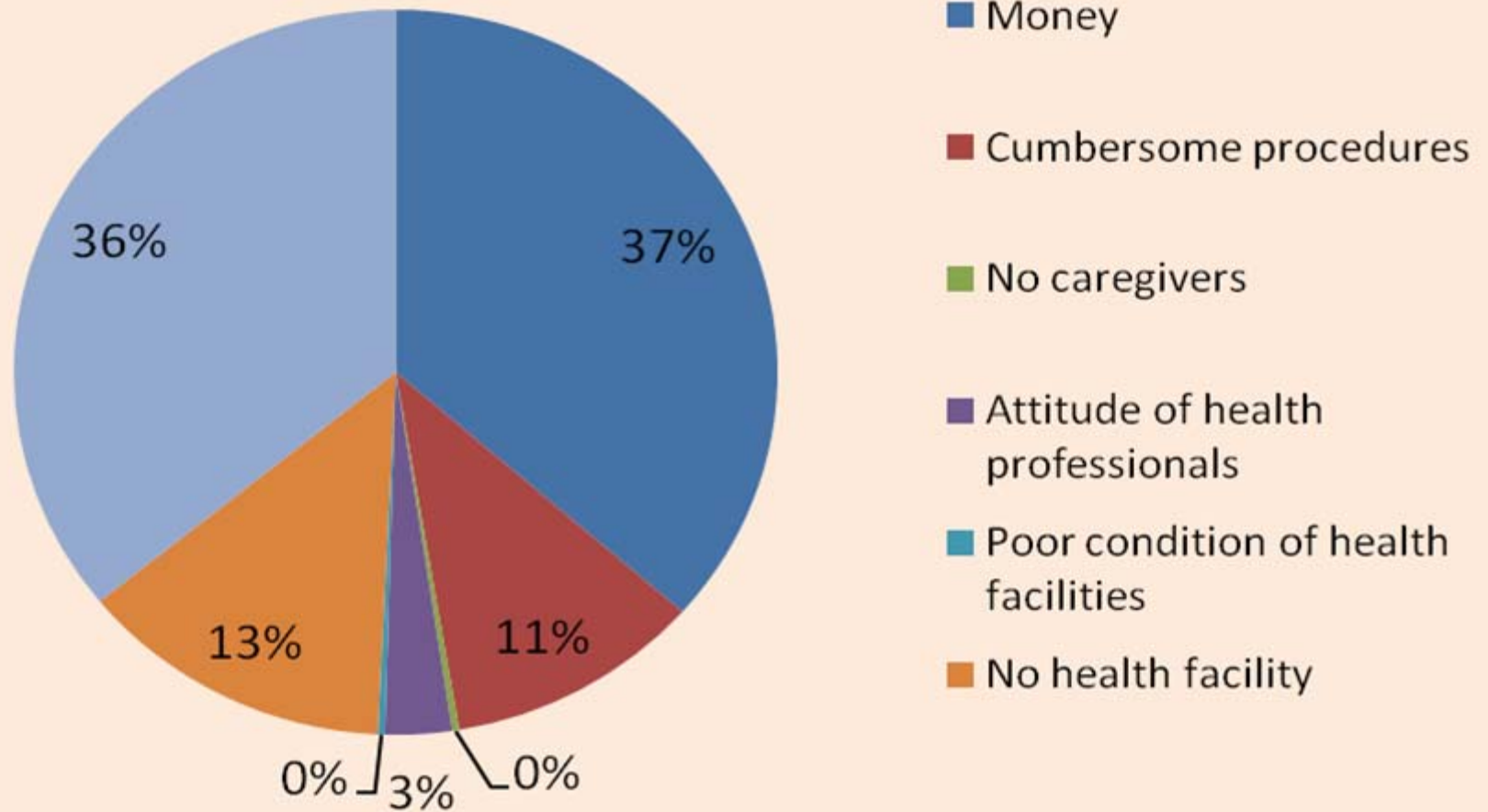
On the average, there is an inverse relationship between the use of ITN and ageing. The implication of the neg. relationship is that the older you are the less likely you are to use mosquito nets – expose older people to malaria

## Reported Disease Conditions among OLder People



HelpAge Ghana 2009

# Barriers to Healthcare for Older People



HelpAge Ghana (2009)

# 5.3b

## **INCOME SUPPORT**

- 10% of workforce has formal soc. Security – mostly in formal sector
- Cash value of soc. sec. criticised as low
- Older people normally rely on informal soc sec support from family – eroding with time and urbanisation
- Modest % of older people access remittances – benefits more women (30.5%) than men (17.8%) (Table 2 pg 20);
- Cash transfer to a limited number of households – 40,000 around the country in national LEAP programme



# Remittance Outlook for Older People

Target Recipient	Urban		Rural		Ghana	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Older Parents	25.8	41.5	13.2	23.0	17.8	30.5
Spouse	1.0	5.3	0.5	5.9	0.7	5.6
Child	26.6	13.8	40.6	25.7	35.6	20.8
Brother/sister	18.7	12.9	18.6	14.3	18.7	13.7
Other relative	22.1	21.4	21.3	26.5	21.6	24.4
Non relative	5.7	5.0	5.7	4.7	5.7	4.8

Source GLSS 5, 2008

# 5.3c

## **OLD AGE AND WORK**

- Informal sector workers have no retirement age; formal sector workers face compulsory retirement at 60 yrs
- National Service Scheme runs National Volunteer Programme - employs active retired teachers
- Post-Retirement Contracts increasing in universities

## **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

- No age bar to public office – Parliament, Council of State; District Assemblies; Traditional Authorities
- Public preference for youth rather than older people

## 5.4d.

- **Old People and Discrimination**

- Vested interests among youth push out older workers
- Old age is linked to competition, obsruction
- Old age victimised by superstitious beliefs and assoc. with witchcraft - victimises women
  - E.g. Banishment of old women to witches camps in Gambaga, NR Ghana; widowhood rites

- **Neglect and abuse of old people**

## 5.3e.

### **GHANA COMMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

- **Ghana Report on the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action.**  
Prepared by National Population Council.  
2007. Accra
- Newly adopted Ageing Policy to be implemented to consolidate programmes and monitoring of activities to support older people in Ghana

# 6. WAY FORWARD – FILLING DATA GAP

## RESEARCH OPTIONS

- Greater use made of national household survey data on to understand situation of older people
- Embark on panel study on *Social change dynamics of social and economic situation of older people*
- Hold public debate on ageism and other forms of older people victimisation in Ghana – for public educ and to generate more insight into issue