SOCIAL SECURITY FUND IN BURUNDI: MAKING SOCIAL SECURITY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

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Abstract - Social security is attracting significant interest a basic need and should be accessible to all the population in order to ensure their wellbeing and quality of life. Many countries in Africa and the world has received much attention in recent years made social security accessible to all the population and this has increased their welfare and quality on life. Recently, the government of Burundi has embarked on a project to examine the issues related to delivery of social security services in Burundi. This topic covers pension and occupational risks areas. I argue that social security in Burundi has for many years been affordable to the elite group of people with higher incomes and thus not accessible to all. This research paper shows benefits/opportunities of extending social security for these sectors which are not yet covered by social security. The data come from a special survey carried out the report of the document Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper CSLP (2004). The results are consistent with the view that the labor market in Burundi predominated by the independent and informal sector almost 97% while 3.2% are formal workers. This paper examines the current challenges and factors necessary for implementing of social security for all and formulate policy recommendations for consideration by the government of Burundi.

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This topic will cover pension and occupational risks areas. This research will aim to show that social security is a need that has not been met in the society. This is because many people are not enrolling for social security as they cannot afford the periodic contributions. I will argue that people do not have access to benefits of society except one part of the population that is in the formal sector.

This research paper will show benefits/opportunities of extending social security for these sectors which are not yet covered by social security. It should be noted that the Burundi social/labor consists of 90 percent of population of workers who work in the informal sector. Recently, the government of Burundi has embarked on a project to examine the issues related to delivery of social security serves in Burundi. However, the current government policy on social security has not been streamlined to cover the needs of all people of Burundi in respect to social security services.

The purpose of this research project is to examine the current challenges and factors necessary for implementing of social security for all and formulate policy recommendations for consideration by the government of Burundi. Whereas previous studies have examined “Social Security for All: Investing in Social and Economic Development”, I intend to discuss how Burundi can make a different strategy opening social security and making it accessible to all. This research paper is based on existing work by Burundi government considering formal sector; however, I will add the methods and strategy that can be adopted for those in the informal sector.

II. STRATEGIC FOR SYSTEM INTEGRATION

Burundi is a member country of the East African community of 5 countries (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania Mainland, Tanzania Zanzibar, Uganda) and all countries have set different objectives to increase sustainable development in the community, which is the foundation of the community. Burundi has ratified the Convention of the International Labor Organization to improve the treatment of the worker and culminates the coverage of social security to any citizen without such a criminal offense. International Labor Organization has a policy of extending coverage of social security for all and increasing human well-being to overcome sustainable development in the world. The various studies of the International Labor Organization (Garcia&Gruat,2003; ILO,1962; ILO,1982) have shown that the extension of social security for all plays a very important role and is the key to development, which means the goal of the millinery to reduce the poor in all the countries of the world, the informal sector represents a large proportion of the population.

There is no other way to break through the world's economic development by excluding the coverage of the informal sector representing the majority of the world's population. The informal sector includes different categories of people engaged in several activities that play a major role in the development of the country.

A human being must always work to look for income and live properly. Even so, he is always confronted with different labor risks, often reducing existence or loss of human life. The government has a duty to protect humanity introducing a good policy that results in a minimum guarantee of wellbeing.

The community role is the setting of the goal of humanitarian development and the protection of occupational risks for every individual in the world. Burundi is an emerging country development and representing a large number of the working population in the informal sector. The policy of extending coverage of social security in the informal sector requires good state willingness by doing a proper study to identify the number of labor force and planning a good project to create employment for people to ensure an income for everyone. This will contribute to the contribution to the social security fund and to the increase of the income in the state fund.

According to the different methods of the other countries (East Africa) which have established the policy of extending social security coverage, the creation of income-generating projects (cooperatives, associations) which are of paramount importance in the various fields, notably the development of national wealth, solidarity of members of the informal sector, creation of employment, increase in monthly income, increase in human standard of living, collective income, improvement of the working environment, good labor performance and improved production. Burundi can adapt this strategy to bring together members of the informal sector in order to know the exact number of people active. Each citizen can contribute to the various projects of the government generating income. The result of the establishment of cooperatives and associations in the informal sector will have a double advantage for the country and the success of the extension of the social security coverage, in particular the informal sector constituting a large part of the Burundian population.

A part of the government there will be an increase in tax revenue in the state fund playing a major role in the development to implement sustainable projects and useful for citizens including school construction, construction of hospitals, road construction, construction of universities, which are indispensable elements in the development of the country.

Many countries in Africa awaited the advice of the International Labor Law Convention and implemented this policy to open up the informal sector. Each country has developed a study to increase the social security coverage rate. Accession in coverage requires monthly or quarterly contribution according to the regulations drawn up by the organization committee in the countries.

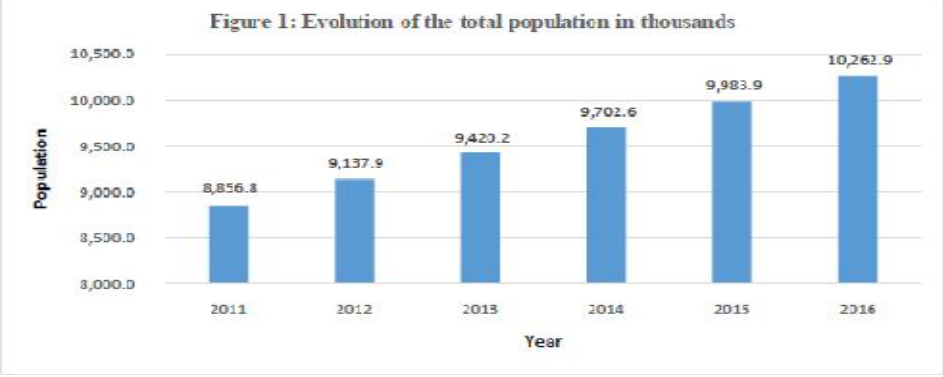
In addition to the obstacles in the informal sector, it is possible to extract the social security coverage for each member of the sector in order to achieve a remittable result especially for each member of the informal / formal sector and the increase of the national economy. Every citizen will have the right to affiliate in the social security institute and participate in various government projects established to increase his / her standard of living and income resources.

Evolution of the population of Burundi

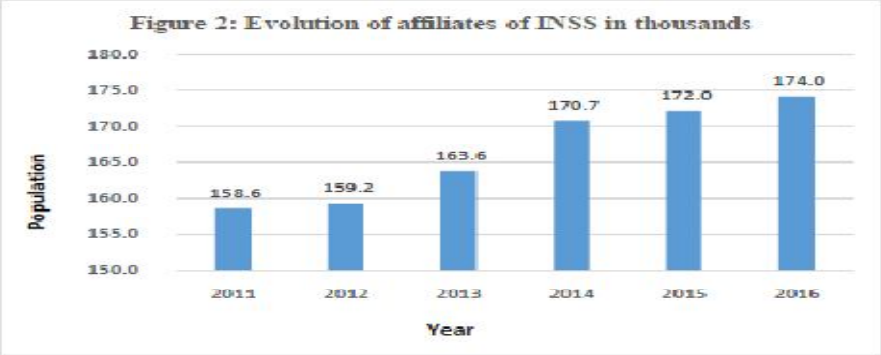
There is no doubt that the continued growth of the population will put pressure on the territory and consequently a direct impact on the environment and social security. If the State does not take appropriate measures to developing the secondary and tertiary sectors, the current major problems related to population pressure on land will only get worse. Indeed, while the level of the Burundian population remains (90%) in subsistence agriculture, the pressure on the arable land will only increase with its corollary consequences.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Population	8,856.8	9,137.9	9,420.2	9,702.6	9,983.9	10,262.9
INSS	158.6	159.2	163.6	170.7	172.0	174.0
ONPR	76.9	79.2	84.7	87.9	91.2	92.3

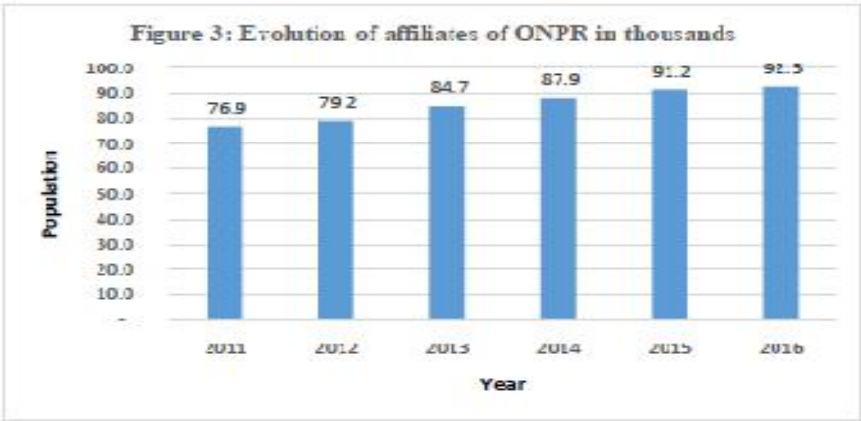
Table 2: Number of population in thousands
Source: statistical review of social security 2011-2016



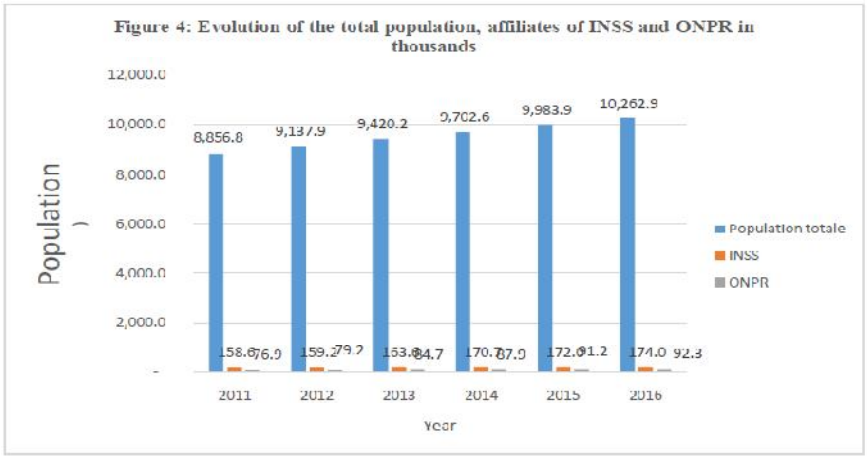
Source: ISTEEBU



Source: statistical review of social security 2011-2016 at the INSS



Source: Statistical review of social security 2011-2016 at the ONPR



Source: Statistical review of social security 2011-2016 at the INSS and ONPR

Despite the positive change in the number of active insured persons from 235,460 to 266,280 for the period from 2011 to 2016, the absolute number of active insured persons remains small compared to Burundi's labor force.

CONCLUSION

This paper has demonstrated that social security system in Burundi has a big challenge; the matter of imbalanced and insufficient coverage This paper has offered an explanation for three issues. Firstly, social security coverage is biased towards people who are employees in the formal sector. Secondly, they do not cover informal sector. Last, social security has deficit for balance economically, more people retire and demand pensions but fewer new members are enrolling in Social security system. In particular, this paper has identified the causes and consequences of social security coverage for all sectors in Burundi and explain the policy recommendation adopted by other countries in Africa. The finding expands upon the research carried out (Estivill ,2003; Carrin,2005), claim that social security is important element and should be obligatory in the different sectors to increase their wellbeing and security in the life. This point contributes to our understanding of a large part of the Burundian working population as an independent member and the others are in the

informal sector, this causes a problem when it awaits a retirement age or when it has a daily work accident.

Finally, there is a great deal of effort to find a solution to the problem of social security in Burundi, particularly on the balance of the economy to formulate the recommendations be adopted on the calculation of membership dues. I suggest that there is an urgent need to cover all sectors in social security so that informal sector and formal sector can contribute a number significant increasing development in the country.

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