

# Ageing and Development

News and analysis of issues affecting the lives of older people

Issue 23 April 2008



Is a call from the UN enough to make any difference to the lives of poor older people such as this widow from Kyrgyzstan?

## Call for stronger ageing system

**The five-year review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) culminated in a call for more resources and a stronger UN system to realise older people's rights.**

Along with climate change, population ageing is one of the biggest challenges facing the world this century, with the proportion of people over 60 set to rise from one in ten to more than one in five by 2050. However, ageing figured little at the 46th session of the UN Commission for Social Development (CSD) in New York in January 2008. Only 22 of the 192 UN member states delivered statements referring to ageing or older people – despite this being the five-year review of MIPAA.

Voices of older people from developing countries were heard at a side event organised by HelpAge International. Delegates from Peru, Slovenia, Uganda and

Vietnam, who had taken part in the Age Demands Action campaign (see page 6), commented on how far MIPAA had been implemented in their countries, and made recommendations to governments, such as the inclusion of older people in poverty reduction programmes.

The resolution passed by the CSD would support these recommendations. It encouraged member states to allocate more funding to the UN Trust Fund for Ageing, to enable the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to assist countries to implement MIPAA. It recognised the need to allocate more international development aid to poverty eradication programmes benefiting older people.

The CSD also called on the UN secretary-general to strengthen the work of the regional commissions to better support implementation of MIPAA, and requested stronger focal points on ageing.

The question is whether the CSD resolution will make any difference. One of MIPAA's weaknesses is that it is not legally binding. Recognising this, Brazil called on member states to consider the appointment of a special rapporteur on older people's rights, and the drafting of a new convention on the rights of older people.

'The UN needs to ensure that this resolution results in meaningful change,' says Stephen Kidd, HelpAge International's director of policy and communications. 'Otherwise we have to question the worth of the MIPAA review process and the role of the CSD, and give serious consideration to pressing for a special rapporteur and international convention.'

**Draft resolution on first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002**

[www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csocd2008/resolutions.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csocd2008/resolutions.htm)

## inside...

- 2 **News** [New emergencies recommendations; Pension improvements in Chile and Bolivia; African Union takes forward social protection; New research projects](#)
- 6 **Briefing** [Out of the shadows: why the next review of MIPAA needs to change](#)
- 8 **Resources** [Journal articles, reports and books](#)

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# News round up

Developments that affect older people's quality of life

2

## UN endorses key emergencies recommendations

**New recommendations for meeting the needs of older people affected by disasters have been endorsed by the most senior policy-making body of the humanitarian system, in response to a report from HelpAge International.**

**'You are the first people in the history of this camp to ever come and talk to older people and to ask about the circumstances and needs of the elderly.'**

*Tom Okello, Camp Leader, Olwal Camp, Acholi District, Uganda*

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), made up of leading UN and NGO humanitarian aid agencies, invited HelpAge International to review the humanitarian community's current policies and practice relating to older people, and make recommendations for improvement.

A review team visited IASC member agencies' head offices and emergency programmes in

northern Uganda and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. The visits showed that there were several aspects of current humanitarian practice that do not meet the needs of vulnerable older people. For example, older people rarely have access to community healthcare.

The report, *Strong and fragile: learning from older people in emergencies*, makes a series of recommendations designed to help relief programmes better meet older people's particular needs, and to see older people as much as an asset as an underserved group. These include:

- increase awareness of the global growth in numbers of old and very old people
- develop training and guidelines on ageing issues for the humanitarian sector

- introduce more effective data collection, including disaggregation by age and sex
- engage older people in decision-making
- respond to the health needs of older people
- include older people in livelihood interventions
- reflect the special requirements of older people in return, repatriation and reintegration programmes
- reflect older people's needs in any food support.

The IASC will request member agencies to incorporate these recommendations into their policies and programmes, circulate them to global 'cluster leads' and chairs of IASC subsidiary bodies, and review progress within 18 months. HelpAge International

will collaborate with the World Health Organization to develop practical guidance. The study was funded by the UNFPA Humanitarian Response Unit.

'This is a major step forward,' says Jo Wells, HelpAge International humanitarian policy coordinator. 'For the first time it has been recognised at the highest level that older people have been neglected, and that the humanitarian community has a responsibility to support older people as well as other vulnerable groups such as women and children.'

**Strong and fragile: learning from older people in emergencies**  
[www.helpage.org/emergencies/agendaforaction](http://www.helpage.org/emergencies/agendaforaction)

**More information:**  
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### Bangladesh cyclone

**Older people have played a vital role in responding to the devastation caused by Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh.**

**In the immediate wake of the cyclone in November 2007, older people's associations supported by HelpAge International's partner, Resource Integration Centre, identified vulnerable older people for relief. They also conveyed early warnings about Sidr, helping to save thousands of lives.**

**The older people's associations are now arranging healthcare and counselling for trauma, and providing seeds and seedlings to replace crops wiped out by the cyclone. They are also helping older people access any state benefits available to them.**

**More information:** [www.helpage.org/news](http://www.helpage.org/news)



John Cobb/HelpAge International

## Comment

### Chile's new example

For many years, Chile's pension system was held up as a model to be replicated by the rest of the world. A 1981 pension reform had put in place a privatised system, complemented by a

safety net targeted at a small number of the poorest people.

But, remarkably, Chile has effectively recognised that its 1981 pension reform was fundamentally flawed (see page 3). Not only did the government still have to pay a significant proportion of GDP to support the scheme – an average of

5.7 per cent per year – but poor people also missed out.

Chile's decision, this year, to put in place a social (non-contributory) pension for 60 per cent of the population is a significant policy shift. Social pensions are an absolute necessity if poverty in old age is to be tackled.

Although Chile has not yet made its social pension available to all older people, it has gone a long way towards that goal. Let us hope that those countries that followed Chile's 1981 pension reform look once more at Chile.

*Stephen Kidd, Director of Policy and Communications, HelpAge International*

# Discrimination in disasters

**Older people are discriminated against during humanitarian emergencies, says the latest *World Disasters Report*.**

*World Disasters Report 2007: Focus on discrimination*, published by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, points out that the number of older people affected by disasters or displaced by crises is often significantly higher than their proportion in the general population.

According to the UNHCR, 21 per cent of people displaced by war in Serbia and Montenegro were aged over 60.

At the root of discrimination against older people lies a range of prejudices and false assumptions, says the report. Such perceptions and attitudes, whether grounded in reality or not, can create a stigma around older people that they are weak, useless or worthless.

The report calls for greater awareness of the problems older people face in an emergency, including lack of mobility, chronic poor health, nutritional needs, and isolation.

It calls on humanitarian organisations and governments to:

- protect older people through relevant legislation
- mainstream older people's concerns into policies and practice
- provide more resources
- improve data and delivery by increasing older people's participation.

**World disasters report: focus on discrimination**  
[www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2007](http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2007)



Age-friendly health services can reduce premature deaths.

Vietnam Women's Union

## Healthcare gaps identified in Asia

**Most disadvantaged older people do not expect to have easy access to primary healthcare services, or to receive a good standard of care, says a study from Asia.**

Older people also feel fateful about their health status and are not aware of ways to improve it.

HelpAge International and partners five countries – Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam – investigated how older people, caregivers and health service

providers perceive healthy ageing, primary healthcare services and management of stroke and diabetes.

One-third of all older people will live in Asia by 2025. Chronic disease is a growing threat, now accounting for 60 per cent of deaths worldwide.

The World Health Organization asserts that premature deaths from chronic diseases can be reduced through the application of healthy ageing principles and effective primary healthcare services. However, the study shows that poor-quality primary healthcare services are provided to older people in Asia, especially in rural areas.

The study recommends that governments and civil society work together to:

- eliminate physical barriers to accessing primary healthcare
- reduce the cost to older people of accessing primary healthcare
- improve the quality of primary healthcare services
- integrate age-specific services into institutions and communities.

**Primary healthcare for older people: a participatory study in five Asian countries**  
[www.helpage.org/resources/researchreports](http://www.helpage.org/resources/researchreports)

## Pension improvements in Chile and Bolivia

**Nearly 600,000 older Chileans who currently receive no pension will receive about US\$125 a month under a new law promoting 'pensions for all'.**

Chile's 'multi-pillar' pensions system was approved by both houses of congress in January 2008. It replaces the system of privately managed individual pensions, established in 1981. This system covered only 60 per cent of workers, excluding many of those who had worked in the informal sector or in unstable employment, and women who had worked at home.

The new system includes a 'solidarity pillar', a social (non-contributory) pension financed from general tax revenue. It will cover approximately 60 per cent of

older people and reduce the gap in pension income between men and women. It comes into effect in July 2008.

In Bolivia, a new social pension, the *Renta Dignidad*, was approved by the national congress in November 2007. It replaces the *Bonosol*, a once-a-year payment of Bs1800 (US\$220) for everyone aged over 65. The new law follows petitions presented to the Bolivian government by older people's representatives.

The *Renta Dignidad* represents an

improvement on the *Bonosol*. It will be paid more frequently at a higher rate and to a wider age group. Everyone over 60 will receive the equivalent of Bs200 (US\$25) a month, except those receiving a private pension, who will be means-tested and receive a lower amount.

Minister for Planning and Development, Gabriel Loza, says that the introduction of the *Renta Dignidad* will reduce moderate and extreme poverty by 2 per cent and help Bolivia to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

# News round up

Developments that affect older people's quality of life

4

## Bolivia to protect older women's rights

**The Bolivian government must ensure that older women have the necessary identity documentation to access services that are theirs by right, says the UN.**



Tom Weller/Help Age International

Registering older Bolivian women will help them access services.

The call comes from the committee monitoring implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Bolivia, which ratified the convention in 1990, reported to the committee's 40th session in Geneva in January 2008.

Many older women in Bolivia – particularly indigenous women living in rural areas – are denied access to entitlements such as healthcare and social security because they lack identity documentation proving eligibility. Lack of documents also excludes them from democratic processes, including voting and being elected to public office.

Independent experts on women's rights, recommended that the Bolivian government establish concrete goals and timetables for ensuring the registration of women – in particular older women, women with disabilities and indigenous women living in rural areas.

The committee also called on the Bolivian government to address the structural nature of poverty experienced by older and other marginalised women, and to adopt measures to ensure their equal access to land, housing, healthcare and social services.

### More information:

[www.helpage.org/news/latestnews/ddvv](http://www.helpage.org/news/latestnews/ddvv)

[www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/co/CEDAW.C.BOL.CO.4.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/co/CEDAW.C.BOL.CO.4.pdf)

Following the session, the CEDAW committee, made up of

## Why population ageing matters

**Two recent reports show that global ageing continues to attract the attention of policy-makers – and not only because of growing numbers of older people.**

In 2007, the US State Department hosted a one-day seminar, 'Why population ageing matters: a global perspective'. The event was a response, in the words of the seminar report, to the fact that 'the significance of population aging and its global implications have yet to be fully appreciated'.

Key global priorities in an ageing world would include financial preparation for longer lives, and finding ways to reduce age-related disability. Changing family structures, shifting patterns of work and retirement, and the growth in non-communicable diseases were all identified as challenges. At the same time, opportunities for economic growth lay in large labour pools in countries where the demographic transition was in its early stages.

A major UN report has also highlighted global ageing. The 2007 World Economic and Social

Survey analyses the implications of ageing for social and economic development around the world.

The report echoes the message from the US State Department in saying that ageing will have a profound impact on societies and will need to occupy the increasing attention of policy-makers.

These reports demonstrate that policy-makers are beginning to see that population ageing is not just about older people. Demographic transition will have profound impacts on societies and economies across the world. As the US State Department notes, 'it is critical to address problems sooner rather than later'.

### Why population ageing matters: a global perspective

[www.state.gov/g/oes/rts/or/81537.htm](http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rts/or/81537.htm)

### World economic and social survey 2007: development in an ageing world

[www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2007files/wess2007.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2007files/wess2007.pdf)

## World Bank pension policy attacked

**The World Bank's 'peculiar persistence' in promoting privatised social security systems comes under fire in the latest report from the international citizen monitoring group, Social Watch.**

*Social Watch Report 2007: In dignity and rights* points out that, even when studies carried out by the World Bank itself indicate that it is not possible to prove the success of privatisation policies for old-age pension systems, these have been consistently implemented since the 1980s.

For poor older people in developing countries, the World Bank's 'social risk management' approach may be doubly problematic, says the report. Not only are poor older people in developing countries more likely to become marginal players in labour markets and household economies as they age, but they are also less likely to have access to 'assets' that can be used to mitigate against risks.

The report calls for provision for older people in developing countries to be seen as something of strategic importance within social and economic development programmes.

Older people have an important role to play within extended family groups in helping to reduce the destabilising outcomes of increasing urbanisation, labour force migration and, in southern Africa in particular, the debilitating impacts of HIV and AIDS.

Providing older people with 'assets' in the form of cash benefits will guarantee that they have a continuing value as carers for family and community members, says the report.

For marginalised, poor older people, with no access to either labour market opportunities or alternative risk mitigating assets, the only feasible institutional mechanism for social protection remains the state.

### Social Watch Report 2007: In dignity and rights

[www.socialwatch.org/en/informImpreso/index.htm](http://www.socialwatch.org/en/informImpreso/index.htm)



# AU furthers social protection

**The African Union Commission of Social Affairs is following up on the commitments to social protection made by African governments in Livingstone and Yaoundé in 2006.**

At a landmark conference on social protection in Livingstone, Zambia in 2006, supported by the African Union, representatives of 13 African governments adopted the Livingstone Call for Action. This asked for African governments to put together costed national social transfer plans within two to three years, integrated into national development plans.

The Yaoundé Call for Action, adopted by African Union member states in October 2006, asks for implementation of the Livingstone Call for Action and the adoption of comprehensive social protection

schemes for older people, with particular emphasis on universal social pensions.

The African Union has requested HelpAge International to help organise a series of national consultations and regional expert meetings to review social protection progress.

Six one-day national consultations were held in Cameroon, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Tunisia in March. Three regional expert meetings of two to three days each are planned for Egypt, Senegal and Uganda in April.

A key outcome of this process, which is funded by the UK Department for International Development, will be a set of recommendations for presentation at the first-ever African Union conference of ministers for social development, to be held in mid-May 2008 in Namibia. The conference will review progress in Africa on social development, and discuss a revised social policy framework for adoption by African member states with social protection recommendations embedded into it.

High-level endorsement of the recommendations is expected to put African governments in a position to further develop social protection policies and secure necessary resources for long-term implementation.

'We are honoured to work in partnership with the African Union to further the development and implementation of ground-breaking policy and programmes to change for the better the lives of the poorest people of Africa,' says Sylvia Beales, HelpAge International's senior policy advisor.



Expanded social protection schemes could relieve poverty in Africa.

## Research in Africa and China

**Three new studies focus on palliative care in Africa, relationships between children and older carers in Zambia, and a healthcare scheme in China.**

In sub-Saharan Africa, a combination of age-related health conditions, HIV and AIDS, poverty, care responsibilities of older people, and the fracturing of traditional family networks means that the palliative care needs of older people are particularly pressing.

The African Palliative Care Association is carrying out a study funded by the UK-based organisation, Help the Aged, which aims to describe the life experiences of older people in Kenya and Uganda, and recommend how palliative care

can be integrated into existing services for older people.

A PhD study supported by the University of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs aims to show what challenges are faced by children living with older carers in rural Zambia. It will suggest how to support older carers, extended families and communities.

China's new rural cooperative medical scheme is being piloted in several counties. Older people's participation in the

scheme in Sichuan Province is being researched as part of a PhD study at the University of Sydney.

### More information:

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*China healthcare:* Lin Yuan, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney  
Email: [lyua8104@usyd.edu.au](mailto:lyua8104@usyd.edu.au)

## Diary

■ A section of film on the social pension in Lesotho has become one of the most-watched non-profit videos posted on YouTube UK. Produced by the Dutch NGO, WorldGranny, the 15-minute film describes why the Lesotho government introduced a universal social pension, how it works, and what it means for older people and their families.

[www.youtube.com/user/helpage](http://www.youtube.com/user/helpage)

■ The World Bank's new book on ageing in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, *From red to gray*, indicates a change of view since its 1994 publication, *Averting the old age crisis*. The authors suggest a number of economic and social policies that can assist societies adjust to greater numbers of older people, including the introduction of a modest social pension as an affordable measure in most countries.

■ India's Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill 2007, in which people who neglect their parents' basic needs face three months in prison, was passed into law in February. Not surprisingly it has courted controversy, with some commentators suggesting that a better approach may be to design a social security system, including pension schemes, to enable older people to live a dignified life.

■ Around half of all older people in areas severely affected by HIV and AIDS now care for adult children and/or orphaned grandchildren. New reports from HelpAge International, *Stronger together* and *Committed to caring*, look at the role of older carers. Another report, *Building bridges*, describes how to support older carers, based on experience in Tanzania.

[www.helpage.org/researchandpolicy/hivaids/resources](http://www.helpage.org/researchandpolicy/hivaids/resources)

# Briefing

Analysis of current topics in ageing

6

## Out of the shadows

**The voices of poor older people have been little heard in the first five-year review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, despite the promotion of a participatory approach. This needs to change in the next review cycle.**

On 1 October 2007, International Day of Older Persons, delegations of older people in 26 countries met with government representatives to review progress in implementing the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), present their issues and demand action.

Older people said that regular income, alongside affordable health-care, were essential to securing MIPAA's vision of a society for all ages. They called for priority to be given to economic security, health provision, inclusion, and an end to age discrimination. Their governments responded by providing firm commitments to increased pensions, improved healthcare and better access to basic services such as food, water and credit.

This first-ever coordinated global action by older people to bring about change – the Age Demands Action campaign coordinated by HelpAge International – showed that older people have clear aspirations, and that they want their voices to be heard by policy makers. They want MIPAA to be implemented in a way that is relevant to them – and to avoid falling into the trap highlighted at the 2002 Assembly, when an older woman from Zimbabwe said: 'They say this is the second plan – what happened to the first?'

### Promoting participation

In keeping with MIPAA's central aim of promoting older people's participation in society, the UN Commission for Social Development (CSD) endorsed a bottom-up approach to review and appraisal of MIPAA. It undertook to carry out a global review every five years.

The CSD mandated UN regional commissions to organise regional conferences to present the

outcomes of 'an open-ended, participatory process that seeks to incorporate and link local and national activities to UN regional intergovernmental bodies and up to global level of the review and appraisal' of MIPAA.

This approach marked an unprecedented and welcome shift away from the conventional review process, in which governments report on their own actions, towards sharing this responsibility with a wider group of stakeholders, including older people.

### Patchy commitment

UN regional review meetings were held in Macau in October 2007 (ESCAP), León in November (ECE), Amman in November (ESCWA), Addis Ababa in November (ECA) and Brasília in December (ECLAC).

In the event, country reports presented at these meetings reveal a patchy commitment to reviewing MIPAA, and a disappointingly low adoption of a participatory approach. Despite UN member states' declarations to the contrary, the views of poor older women and men have not been systematically reflected in the official reports. For example, in Europe and North America, only 31 of the 56 member states submitted country reports on progress of the UNECE regional implementation strategy. Of these, just 12 had established a bottom-up monitoring process and a close working relationship between governments and citizen groups.

The Africa regional report details progress on policy formulation and adoption in a range of countries.

But it is often not clear what the provisions of the policies are, or whether older people have engaged in their formulation.

Reports from Asia and the Pacific indicate some inclusive approaches to policy-making. An ESCAP survey, launched in 2005 and covering more than 20 countries, shows that about half these countries used participatory tools, such as client satisfaction surveys and focus group discussions to collect information for reviewing MIPAA.

According to the report of the ESCAP regional review, most countries in the region have developed policies and are implementing interventions to address the needs of older people. Coordinating mechanisms on ageing at presidential and ministerial level have been established in some countries, while others have designated national focal points on ageing.

The report recognises that low levels of education have been an impediment to the promotion of

### Age Demands Action

On 1 October 2007, older people in 26 countries met with government representatives to demand that they fulfil their commitments under the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The countries were Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominica, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, UK, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Reports from some of these countries and more information about Age Demands Action are available at: [www.helpage.org/researchandpolicy/agedemandsaction](http://www.helpage.org/researchandpolicy/agedemandsaction)

Age Demands Action will run again 2008, with more action in more countries.

### Poverty and pensions

In high-income countries, relative poverty is higher among older people than in the rest of the population.<sup>1</sup> In Serbia, older people make up 17 per cent of the population<sup>2</sup> but 25 per cent of people living below the poverty line.<sup>3</sup>

In Bolivia, 63 per cent of older people live in poverty, compared with 59 per cent of the total population.<sup>4</sup> In some districts of Uganda, 64 per cent of older people live in absolute poverty, compared with 38 per cent of the population as a whole.<sup>5</sup>

For the Millennium Development Goal on poverty and hunger to be achieved by 2015 investment is needed now to tackle the poverty of older people and their dependants. Social grants in South Africa, including the social pension, have reduced destitution by two-thirds and poverty levels by 48 per cent.<sup>6</sup>

Universal social pensions are affordable and feasible, even in the least-developed countries, according to estimates by the ILO, World Bank and UNDESA. UNDESA estimates that in most of 100 countries surveyed, a social pension equivalent to US\$1 per day for everyone over 60 would cost less than 2 per cent of GDP – not only in 2005, but also in 2050, taking into account population ageing.<sup>7</sup>

active ageing. Better resourced governments, such as Hong Kong, China, Japan and Singapore have prioritised the promotion and provision of opportunities for continuing education and retaining mature workers beyond the compulsory retirement age.

In Western Asia, achievements include the establishment of national committees on ageing in seven countries, the building up of specialist geriatric care skills in medical professions, the introduction of mobile clinics in Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia and the gradual decline of older people's illiteracy in the region (although very high levels remain – up to 40 per cent of over-60s in Jordan).

However, there has been little progress in formulating national policies for older people, with only four countries – Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar and Syrian Arab Republic – drawing up guidelines for doing this. According to the ESCWA representative who gave the keynote address at the regional

review meeting, 'charitable acts' on ageing, rather than 'systematic policies', dominate the region. A strong social model could reduce inequalities and tension between communities.

The Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting reflected most closely the priorities identified by older people who took part in the Age Demands Action campaign. The report highlights the importance of economic security for older people, and the need for action at governmental and UN level to curb abuses of rights perpetrated against older people. Its recommendations include greater provision of social security in old age, and the appointment of a special human rights rapporteur for older people.

Governments of the Caribbean, in their sub-regional meeting, stated their commitment to an ageing population. They reported advances in the formulation and adoption of national policies and supportive legislation to provide for and protect older people.

Their reports detail the extension of existing social security coverage by increasing pensions; establishing and strengthening non-contributory pension schemes; and taking measures to address isolation and loneliness of older persons through social, recreational and cultural activities.

### Transparent monitoring

The fact that a number of the reports and recommendations reflect older people's demands for income, health provision and the end to abuse is to be welcomed.

Older people are disproportionately poor across the world. Regular income to older people, especially those in the informal sector, and the provision of affordable healthcare, are acknowledged as key to reducing old-age poverty and supporting intergenerational interdependence.

But the reports contain no concrete plans to implement the proposed policies or to provide any dedicated resources to pay for them.

The fact that small delegations of older people met with government ministers and heads of state in 26 countries to discuss key concerns and develop partnerships shows that older people are ready and willing to engage in policy processes. Yet very few formal government responses were developed in conjunction with older people. Despite being experts in the realities of ageing, older people were not invited to participate in the expert meetings.

It is possible to make change. For the next five-year review cycle, NGOs and citizen groups are suggesting a monitoring process that is transparent and participatory. It should contain contributions from NGOs and older people, and be based on meaningful indicators, agreed upon with civil society. There must be renewed support for older people and their governments to engage in a bottom-up approach.

At the same time, all countries should commit resources to data-gathering disaggregated by age and sex, relevant research on ageing, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and promoting best practice. This is necessary to ensure that policies on ageing are responsive to older people's needs and rights, and that they receive the political and financial backing they require.

*Written by Sylvia Beales, Senior Policy Advisor, with Ama Bartimeus, Monitoring and Evidence Advisor, HelpAge International*



The Age Demands Action campaign showed that older people want their voices to be heard.

- 1 UNDESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2007*, p. 91
- 2 UNDP, *Human Development Report 2005: The Strength of Diversity*, 2005
- 3 *Poverty Reduction Strategy for Serbia*, Belgrade, Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2003
- 4 Bolivia Poverty Map, Unsatisfied Basic Needs, Synthesis, La Paz, April 2002
- 5 Ugandan Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Department of Disability and Elderly, *Health Needs of Older Persons: An Assessment Report of Kamuli and Wakiso Districts*, May 2002
- 6 Economic Policy and Research Institute, South Africa, ODI London presentation, October 2007
- 7 UNDESA, 2007



# Resources

New articles and publications

8

## Journal articles

### National

The economic marginalization of post-Soviet Russia's elderly population and the failure of state ageing policy: a case study of Magadan City  
*Round J, Oxford Development Studies 34:4, 2006, pp 441-456*

Marginalisation of childless elderly men and welfare provision: a study in a North China village  
*Zhang W, J. Contemporary China 16:5, 2007, pp 275-293*

Poverty, wealth inequality and health among older adults in rural Cambodia  
*Zimmer Z, Social Science & Medicine, 66:1, January 2008, pp 57-71*

Migration and aging: the case of Zimbabwe  
*Andrew C and Nyanguru M A, J. Aging & Social Policy 19:4, 2007, pp 57-85*

Old age pensions and the promotion of the rights of older people in Lesotho  
*Nyanguru A C, J. Social Development in Africa, 22:1, January 2007*

### International

Demography and civil society: a historical perspective on contemporary transitions and their implications for population ageing  
*Kreager P, Oxford Institute of Ageing, Working Paper 306, October 2006*

### Health and wellbeing

Political and economic influences on the health and welfare of the elderly in the USSR and Russia: 1955-2005  
*Davis C M, Oxford Development Studies 34:4, 2006, pp 419-440*

### HIV and AIDS

The effect on elderly parents in Cambodia of losing an adult child to AIDS  
*Knodel J, Population and Development Review 33:3, 2007, pp 479-500*

Knowledge and attitudes about HIV/AIDS among community-living older women: re-examining issues of age and gender  
*Hillman J, J. Women & Aging 19:3/4, 2007, pp 53-67*

Poverty and the impact of AIDS on older persons: evidence from Cambodia and Thailand  
*Economic Development and Cultural Change 56:2, January 2008, pp 441-475*

## Papers, reports and books

Labor supply responses to large social transfers: longitudinal evidence from South Africa  
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HelpAge International has a vision of a world in which all older people fulfil their potential to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives. HelpAge International is a global network striving for the rights of disadvantaged older people to economic and physical security; healthcare and social services; and support in their caregiving role across the generations.

**Ageing and Development** aims to raise awareness of the contribution, needs and rights of older people and to promote the development of laws and policies supporting older people. It is published twice a year by HelpAge International, with funding from Help the Aged (UK).

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