

# Ageing in Africa

## Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of Ageing in Africa this year. The year has started off positively with HelpAge International being named the recipient of the 2012 Hilton Humanitarian Prize. This prestigious prize is an acknowledgement, not just of HelpAge, but of the many organisations and thousands of older people within our network who work tirelessly to ensure that older people are heard and future generations have greater access to services during their golden years.

Some of the positive work done by our affiliates is highlighted in this issue. We focus on the rights component of the Hunger Safety Net Programme, an innovative cash transfer pilot programme that is changing the lives of thousands of people in Northern Kenya.

This issue also reflects on the Age Demands Action campaign, a movement that has made governments accountable to older people who are demanding change in their lives. The campaign turned five last October and is set for a major expansion in 2012 as more campaigns are held during the calendar year. The campaigns provide a unique opportunity for older people to advocate for themselves and meet high level government officials.

We salute the achievements the campaign has had in Africa but also realise that much more needs to be done for older people. This is made more apparent this year as we mark the 10-year anniversaries of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and the Africa Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (AU).

This year is therefore a decisive year in making major strides in making the world a better place for the ageing population.

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HelpAge International has been selected as the recipient of the 2012 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize of USD\$1.5 million. The Prize was presented at the Global Philanthropy Forum on April 16 in Washington, D.C. to HelpAge CEO Richard Blewitt and HelpAge Chairman Tilak De Zoysa.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation presents the annual award, the world's largest humanitarian prize, to an organisation that is doing extraordinary work to alleviate human suffering. The foundation made the announcement on International Women's Day

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## Hilton Humanitarian Prize HelpAge International Wins \$1.5 million award



Mrs. Diane Jeffrey, Age UK chair, and Hazel Austin, Age UK's Marketing and Communication secondment to HelpAge, at a cocktail celebrating the Hilton Prize and honouring Mrs. Jeffrey's first visit to Kenya

International jury selects the only global NGO with singular focus on improving the lives of the world's older people.

on March 14 in recognition of the invisible role of older women in maintaining the welfare of families, communities and food production across the developing world.

# First Conference on Gerontology and Geriatrics to be held in Africa

Ten years after African governments adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and the African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (AU Plan), the continent faces critical questions about the status of knowledge of, and responses to challenges of ageing in its societies. What major challenges and drivers have shaped progress in policy action on older persons and what have been the impacts in Africa? What opportunities do individual and populations ageing hold for development in Africa?

What do we know about the scope and determinants of older persons' vulnerability to poverty, exclusion and ill-health, including to HIV and AIDS infection? How do families sustain care and cohesion between generations in rural and urban contexts, and how can they be supported in this? What roles can new technologies play, and how should health and social protection systems be reoriented to ageing populations?

These and other vital issues will be discussed in the 1st IAGG Africa Region Conference of Gerontology and Geriatrics, to be held in Cape Town from October 17 to 20, 2012. According to Dr. Isabella Aboderin, the conference convenor, the three day Scientific Programme, comprising four plenary sessions and three parallel tracks of symposia and paper sessions, as well as a half-day inter-disciplinary symposium on "Geriatric Care in Africa," will provide a unique platform for appraising Africa's progress in the implementation of MIPAA and the AU Plan and for effective knowledge transfer, cutting edge debate, and networking among researchers, civil society role players, policy makers and practitioners across Africa and other world regions.

*More information on the conference can be obtained at [www.iagg.cmc-uct.co.za](http://www.iagg.cmc-uct.co.za)*

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The Hilton Prize receives more than 200 nominations from throughout the world each year, and an independent international jury makes the final selection.

"The world is ageing. By 2015, over 890 million people will be over 60; nearly three times the total population of the United States of America. Nearly 190 million older people live in poverty with more than 100 million living on less than USD\$1 a day," said Steven M. Hilton, CEO and President of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. "As the world prepares for this monu-

mental demographic shift, HelpAge is showing us that it is important to recognise and support older people so they can continue to be contributing and productive members of society."

"Receiving the Hilton Prize is a great honour," added Richard Blewitt, CEO of HelpAge. "It is especially meaningful to draw the world's attention to the historic transformation being brought about by global ageing and the plight of millions of older people who face overwhelming financial, social and health hurdles every day. At HelpAge, we believe the whole world benefits when we tap the substantial wisdom and talents of older people and enable them to lead dignified, active, healthy and secure lives."

Women make up the majority of older people around the world – nearly two thirds of those over the age of 80 are women. Many older women in developing countries are not only the economic providers for families, but frequently they are the sole caregivers of AIDS orphaned grandchildren. In Kenya alone, there are 1.1 million children orphaned by HIV and AIDS, in a country where more than half of those over aged 60 already live in absolute poverty.

"Older women are responsible for much of the farming and food production in developing countries, a critical function as food insecurity grows," notes Catherine A. Bertini, Hilton Prize juror, Syracuse University professor, and former executive director of the United Nations World Food Program. "They are the key contributors to families and communities."

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## Older people's rights

are human rights

"Older women are responsible for much of the farming and food production in developing countries, a critical function as food insecurity grows,"



Assistant Minister of Gender Hon. Atanas Manyala Keya, delivers the keynote speech at the cocktail celebrating the Hilton Prize

HelpAge  
wants older  
women  
farmers  
to get the  
help they  
deserve

“On International Women’s Day, HelpAge wants older women farmers to get the help they deserve, including: targeted agricultural subsidies, a basic form of pension for agricultural workers and increased skill sharing with children to protect future generations,” added Blewitt.

Both an advocacy and development organisation, HelpAge was instrumental in

2002 in shaping the United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by 57 countries who pledged to include ageing in all social and economic development policies. Since then, the HelpAge global network of older people and its 94 affiliated organizations in 70 countries have continued to press for improvement in government policies supporting the aged.

HelpAge believes a critical component is engagement of older people themselves in efforts to claim their rights to health care, social services and economic and physical security. It has shown that older people are their own best advocates and make valuable contributions to society as caregivers, advisors, mentors, mediators and breadwinners.

Among HelpAge’s accomplishments in 2011 were:

- Two million older people were helped to claim a new or increased pension payment.
- 360,000 older people and their families were aided to get through life-shattering emergencies, such as the East African famine and Haiti earthquake.
- 48,000 older people received basic health care.

Two million older people were helped to claim a new or increased pension payment

# Income security for older people

is a basic human right



- 50,000 older people were supported to fight abuse and discrimination cases with the help of 300 specially-trained older people's groups.
- 5,000 older people received voluntary HIV counseling and testing.

Viewed as the world's leading authority on global ageing, HelpAge is actively engaging with the United Nations, European Union, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, bilateral donor governments, the World Economic Forum and other influential organisations to ensure there is a strong understanding of the critical need to support the human rights of older people.

2012 is being recognized as the Year of Global Ageing triggered by the 10th anniversary of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing when world leaders will again convene to review what has been accomplished in a decade of progress to extend rights for older people. HelpAge is collaborating with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on The World's Older Persons Report to launch on October 1st that will assess the progress made since 2002. In Europe, 2012 is also being celebrated as the Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations across EU countries.

### About Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize

The Hilton Prize jury currently includes: Princess Salimah Aga Khan, international ambassador for SOS Kinderdorf International; Catherine A. Bertini, professor of public administration, Syracuse University, and former executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme; Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH, former director-general of the World Health Organization and former prime minister

# Teach older people new skills

and they regain their dignity

of Norway; Eric M. Hilton, director, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and son of the late Conrad Hilton; James R. Galbraith, director, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; Strive Masiyiwa, African humanitarian, business leader and cell phone pioneer, founder and executive chairman of Econet Wireless; and Professor Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize Laureate in economics and Lamont University professor at Harvard University.

The Hilton Prize Laureates are recognized leaders in the humanitarian world and include: Handicap International (France), 2011; Aravind Eye Care System (India) 2010; PATH (Washington), 2009; BRAC (Bangladesh), 2008; Tostan (Senegal), 2007; Women for Women International (Washington, DC), 2006; Partners In Health (Massachusetts), 2005; Heifer International (Arkansas), 2004; International Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (Denmark), 2003; SOS Children's Villages (Austria), 2002; St. Christopher's Hospice (United Kingdom), 2001; Casa Alianza (Costa Rica), 2000; African Medical and Research Foundation (Kenya), 1999; Doctors Without Borders (France), 1998; International Rescue Committee (New York), 1997; and Operation Smile (Virginia), 1996.

### About Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in five priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, caring for vulnerable children and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters. Following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a non profit organization doing extraordinary work to alleviate human suffering.

From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants and in 2011 distributed \$82 million to organizations in the U.S. and throughout the world. The Foundation's current assets are approximately \$2 billion.

For more information, please visit [www.hiltonfoundation.org](http://www.hiltonfoundation.org).

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## Rights education and outreach in the HSNP

Issues and impacts with a focus on Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Sierra Leone

**H**elpAge manages the grievance mechanism for the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP), a cash transfer initiative supported by the Government of Kenya and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The HSNP is implemented by various other organisations, and HelpAge is responsible for the Social Protection rights component (SPR).

Global evidence suggests that Social Protection initiatives are more effective when they are designed with the ben-

eficiaries' rights in mind, and when they provide avenues through which such beneficiaries (and the wider community) raise complaints about aspects of the HSNP, including processes used in selecting beneficiaries. Downward accountability is better achieved through a rights-based Social Protection programme.

An important part of the transparency and accountability derived from the rights-orientation of the HSNP is achieved through working closely with all stakeholders in the programme (for example communities, implementing agencies, local authorities

and payments agents), making them aware of their rights and responsibilities and of the channels through which they can raise perceived abuse of these rights. The SPR component's rights education work is largely channeled through rights barazas (public meetings), where communities are introduced to the HSNP, their entitlements and functioning of the grievance mechanism. Since the start of the programme, the SPR teams in the four districts in northern Kenya where the project has been implemented have convened such barazas in 147 sub-locations, with an estimated attendance of 121,747 community members.

In addition, these community forums are used to elect rights committees. Rights committees consist of 5 to 13 members who collect complaints from the communities and forward them to programme implementers. Rights committees are community-based structures. This means that they are close to the beneficiaries, are known by the complainants, and interact with local leadership and other programme stakeholders.

To date, the SPR component has established and trained 136 rights committee members, totaling an estimated 1,224 members of the community. It is through these structures that people, such as 60-year-old Muslima from Jowa sub-location in Wajir, can complain when the smart card she was handed to access her cash does not seem to be working. It is through these committees that Muslima's problems in accessing her entitlements are brought to the attention of HelpAge and her partners. If not for these structures, Muslima would have to travel long distances to Wajir town to air her grievances, rather than walking to the home of a neighbour whom she knows.

rights  
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through  
rights  
barazas

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### Case study: “I wouldn’t have been registered if it were not for them”

*The Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP) is a joint project by the Government of Kenya and the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) that seeks to reduce extreme poverty in Kenya and support the establishment of a government-led national social protection system. Ajuma, a 95 year old widow is a beneficiary of this project. She hails from Lonyuduk sub-location in Nakoyo village and lives with her only grandchild Ipese. Ipese’s parents were killed by cattle rustlers from a neighboring country.*

*It is hoped that regular, predictable, guaranteed cash transfers to people like Ajuma, will reduce food insecurity, protect assets and reduce the impact of shocks such as drought on poor households. Although the transfer is relatively small (around USD\$30 every two months), Ajuma is enthusiastic about it.*

*This is her story as told in her own words.*

*” My mother said I was born years when Abutang’I was killed in Turkana [Abutang’I is a traditional description of when Dr. Krypton was killed in 1914]. My mother was left behind to give birth while my father tended for our livestock between our home (Turkana) and the land of Nakoro eosin (Ethiopia). I grew up and got married to a young handsome man, who gave me three children, Ekai, Ng’ikamoe and Ng’atotin, the mother to this girl, Ipese. Ekai, my older son, was abducted by enemies and up to now I have not seen his grave or his face. Ng’ikamoe schooled far away and married a woman I never saw until she brought his dead body for burial. My other problem was that the years in my identity card were not reflecting my actual age”*

*As she continued narrating, her voice became more strained.*

*“The parents of this girl were killed outside this village near a river while watering the few animals we had. Since the death of my children, I have incessantly tried to register in relief food distribution programmes in vain; in fact, I am not registered for the present ongoing emergency operations because I came late. As you know, our village is quite far-flung. The monitor asked where I was at the time of registration; all she could tell me was, ‘Sorry, there is no number left for late comers.’ I had no choice but curse the day I lost my children.*

*To me, this registration was like many others that I had missed because of long distance and delayed information which disadvantaged some of us who are single or too old to walk. Then Lokom (a Rights Committee member) came and told us that all the older persons who were not registered could hand over their names to Nakasukou and Ateni, HelpAge International Social Protection Rights staff, for late registration. I was hesitant, to hand in my name.*

“The rights committees are voluntary structures and are a critical part of the grievance mechanism for the HSNP. As Muslima points out, “...the first person we went to when our cards had problems was to the rights committee members. We know who they are. We know where they live. It is easy for us to tell them our problems.” Muslima has not received her card yet, but she takes comfort in knowing where to go to find out when it will be ready.

Shangara, also from Jowa, shares Muslima’s thoughts on the rights-orientation of the HSNP. Shangara is 50 years old, and has received a cash transfer five times since the start of the initiative. Prior to that, she had been enrolled in various food relief programmes over the years. She sees the difference in previous programmes and the HSNP.

“In the food programmes which we have received for over 10 years, we could not really complain when the food was delayed or when it simply did not come. Even if we suspected corruption may have been going on, who could we tell? In this programme, I know exactly how much I should get and when. If there is a problem, I go to the rights committees or sometimes to Equity Bank.”

### Accessing cash-transfer entitlements through community-based appeals mechanisms

#### Kalobeiyei sub-location, Turkana District.

The Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) in Kenya is an innovative social protection initiative which uses a cash transfer to reduce hunger and poverty among vulnerable groups in Northern Kenya.

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*However, after engaging in conversation with with other older women who were in a similar situation, I was convinced and lastly handed my name. The HelpAge staff told me about a DFID and Government of Kenya programme which I was eligible for. I took their word for truth and went to the registration venue with Ipese. I found Oxfam and HelpAge staff waiting for those of us who were late. The village council of elders was specifically convened to determine whether we were eligible for enrolment in Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP). Unfortunately it emerged that I was not only late, but the years in my identity card were less than my actual age. So I underwent age verification by the council of elders who also turned out to be younger than me! Thank God HSNP staff had a book which had some information on the Turkana calendar."*



**The council of elders and HelpAge International staff verifying Ajuma's age – "the year of Abutang'I"**

*Establishing the time when someone was born in the Turkana community is quite a challenge, especially for the older persons who were born years back when time was defined by seasons, events or occurrences.*

*"The idea of having rights component in this whole programme is bright and I wish all programmes emulate the same fashion because I would not have been registered without the rights team."*

*As an older woman, she points out that she had no control over the family's livestock and support from her relatives was sporadic and unreliable.*

*"Now I am registered for this cash transfer, I am not going to think of marrying my granddaughter earlier because I can provide for her. My granddaughter can now stand in front of other girls without reprimand."*

*This is a clear sign that empowering communities with such initiatives makes a significant contribution to ensuring that cash transfer programmes are effective in reaching the most vulnerable.*

«Supported by the Government of Kenya and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), HSNP is testing out various targeting methodologies with the aim of informing the national roll-out and uptake of wider social transfer instruments. HelpAge International is part of a consortium of organisations implementing the project, and is particularly responsible for the implementation of a

rights-based approach in the programme (Social Protection Rights or SPR component).

To this end, HelpAge manages the accountability aspect of the HSNP, implementing a grievance and complaints mechanism, ensuring due process in the various stages of the programme implementation and acting as an independent, beneficiary advocate.

The grievance mechanism managed by HelpAge and her partners includes an appeals adjudication function, in which members of the community who believe they meet the criteria for enrolment into the programme can appeal against their exclusion. The SPR therefore plays a critical function in reducing the errors that sometimes occur in social protection beneficiary targeting.

The component promotes inclusivity by working for the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights and the freedoms that accompany such rights. This is particularly important in a context in which vulnerable and socially marginalised groups are often on the periphery of social development programming. In Turkana District, the SPR teams have successfully received and referred complaints and adjudicated beneficiary appeals. Through the appeals process, the SPR component has enabled people who would not otherwise have accessed these important entitlements to do so.

A case in point is an appeal adjudicated by the SPR in Kalobeieyi sub-location, Turkana District. Registration and enrolment took place in Kalobeieyi sub-location in December 2008. The methodology used in Kalobeieyi is the social pension, in which people over 55 years old, once their age is confirmed, are entitled to receive a bi-monthly transfer of Kshs 2,150. The SPR, through its community-based rights committees (RCs), received a list of 226 individuals who felt that they met the requirements, but had not been enrolled into the programme. They had not been present during the registration process, and therefore wanted the opportunity to participate in "late enrolment."

**HSNP is testing out various targeting methodologies with the aim of informing the national roll-out and uptake of wider social transfer instruments**

**HelpAge manages the accountability aspect of the HSNP, implementing a grievance and complaints mechanism, ensuring due process**



## Case study: Old people like me can receive money!

*Ejore, a 76 year old woman from Komudei in Nadapal sub-location, has three grand children depending on her for the last 7 years after losing her daughter to HIV and AIDS.*

*"I have never felt young again and neither have my relatives appreciated my presence. My grandchildren had constantly been chased from school because I could not afford school uniform and contribution for water. All they relied on was collecting used and tattered pieces of uniforms thrown away by other children, piece the rugs together and use them as uniform to avoid being chased from school by the head teacher.*

*Three times in 2010, I had to go to school to resolve a fight between my grandson and his schoolmate for scolding and branding him "taka taka ya municipal" (municipality garbage heap).*

*Oh my God!, Whatever came to the mind of these well wishers, that old people like me, Ejore, could receive money without work! Now, this money that is given to me will see my grandchildren through school. Look at me, don't you see happiness in my eyes, no more humiliation and frustrations for my grandchildren!*

*You know, when I was informed about this money, I could not believe because I have never seen money distributed freely; only food in my life time is distributed that way and, once in a while, some food would be given to us so that we could dig terraces.*

*Food for work, but free money...never, especially for the old folk who are considered useless. Next month, if you visit me and my grandchildren, you will see a difference!"*

These cases were then vetted during the validation process, a process in which people's eligibility is ascertained. Of these, 140 were confirmed to be less than 55 years old and therefore ineligible for entry into the HSNP. 86 cases were for over 55 year olds, and referred to the Administration component for late registration. The programme therefore made a decision a few months later to enroll the 86 persons. The HSNP has a built-in component of back-payments which ensures that late entrants are paid their full entitlement.

Without access to a grievance mechanism embedded within the community and which includes community-based rights committees, the programme implementers would perhaps not have become aware of these "missed enrolment" cases. Further, through the SPR component, their case was brought to the attention of those concerned that once eligibility was confirmed, the beneficiaries were enrolled. They are now receiving the benefits of the cash transfer.

One of the beneficiaries, Aro-

go says, "I never knew that the SPR would actually follow through on the commitments that were made during the public baraza in 2008." Arogo appreciates the rights-orientation of the programme and notes, "Ejok ayakau anakasukou anaateni, aponi kolong kimuriakin sua tabalasi cha kech ebuni ateni" (It's good we had the rights component to take up our case. We thought that our case was forgotten but SPR has been informing us that justice will be done in the end).

### Rights component boost women's visibility in community leadership

**By Abdiya Hassan,  
Coordinator, SPR Mandera  
Women for Peace  
(HelpAge partner)**

"Through HSNP, I know how to differentiate between those that are vulnerable and needy among the community. I also do not back down in demanding for the rights of the beneficiaries where they have been denied". These are the words of Mama Rukia, a member of the Rights Committee repre-

senting Bulla Power sub-location in Mandera.

Mama Rukia is also a member of a sanitation group that cleans their sub-location. This group comprises of 17 women. In exchange for their efforts in keeping the environment clean, the members are compensated with food and empty buckets. However, there are times when the compensation for her group is less than agreed on. Sometimes, the chiefs and their committees try to give her group less food or buckets. However, due to her knowledge on her rights, Mama Rukia always turns it down and complains directly to the chief that her rights have been violated. Her protests have been received»

The HSNP has a built-in component of back-payments which ensures that late entrants are paid their full entitlement

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**When older people speak**

**we are listening**



“with shock since many people in the community, including men, do not have the courage to challenge the chiefs.

Mama Rukia is used to the questions: “Why are you so different from all these women. Can’t you just accept what you are given? Are you mad?” This does not intimidate or make her give up.

It is this spirit that has made Mama Rukia a strong and vocal advocate for the rights of her community members even those not in HSNP. She jokingly says that she has been nicknamed “Mama Wazimu” (crazy woman) as whenever she is seen, they say the crazy woman is coming.

### Promoting a rights-based approach to social protection through HSNP

By HelpAge staff, Marsabit

Haduma sits huddled against the mud-brick wall of the chief’s office, every now and again shifting her position so as to squeeze into the gradually receding shadow cast by the ferocious midday sun. Haduma is waiting to be seen by the village council of elders which had been specifically convened to determine whether she was eligible for enrollment in HSNP. It is hoped that regular, predictable, guaranteed cash transfers to people like Haduma will improve reduce food insecurity, protect assets and reduce the impact of shocks such as drought on poor households. Although the transfer is relatively small – around USD\$30 every two months - Haduma is enthusiastic about the project. “This is a great idea,” she says. “We never expected that something like this could happen. It will help me buy food and clothes and even restock.” Haduma is lucky; her sub-location in rural Marsabit had

## When you give to older people

they give back

been selected for the pension component of the pilot programme and, as an older woman, she is eligible to register. However, like many older people in northern Kenya, Haduma did not have an Identification Card (ID) and therefore could not prove that she was at least 55 years old – the age threshold for registration. In order to avoid unfairly excluding older people such as Haduma, the programme has established Councils of Elders to verify the eligibility of those who lack ID cards. As she waits calmly for her hearing with the Council of Elders, she talks about herself. Haduma has lived in a small village in the Marsabit region of Kenya’s Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) all her life. She described how things had changed over the years; increased transport between the towns and rural areas, the arrival of schools, a market and increased private ownership of land. This change had

mostly been for the better. When asked about older people’s situation in Logologo, her tone changes. “It depends on the families,” she says. “When I was younger, I remember that older people were cared for properly by their families. Today, many older people are just left alone. When drought comes and life gets tough, the younger people go to look for pasture and the old people are just left behind. If we are lucky food aid will come.”

“I am growing weak. I cannot work and cannot take care of my needs alone.” Haduma explains that she relied on the support of her sons who, as nomadic livestock herders, often travel great distances away from the village in search of pasture for their animals. As an older woman, she points out that she had no control over the family’s livestock and support from her sons is sporadic and unreliable. “I don’t want to have to

Why are you so different from all these women. Can’t you just accept what you are given?

When I was younger, I remember that older people were cared for properly by their families. Today, many older people are just left alone

### Case study: Helping the Marginalized



Aley (left) talking to the SPR representative

Aley is a 72 year old mother living in a village in Elwak South. She is blind. The old woman lives in the homestead of her former husband who is married to a younger wife. During the registration period for Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) Social Pensions, her former husband told her not to bother going since he would take her Identity Card (ID) and register her together with himself and his wife.

She gave him her ID, but when he came back in the evening, he told her he could not trace where the registration was being conducted, and therefore did not register any of them. Aley believed him, but unfortunately when the list of beneficiaries was published, the old man and his wife were on the list, but Aley’s name was missing. She felt extremely sad. However, luck was on her side. One of the field monitors from the administration component of HSNP lives in the same

area. In the evening when he came home, he heard the story of what had transpired. The field monitor offered to assist her. The following day, a representative of SPR visited Aley. She was in her small hut, sitting on her bed, holding her walking stick. When asked why her former husband failed to register her, she says, "Although he divorced me a long time ago and married another wife, he still wants to rule me and does not like the idea of me getting an equal share of pension money."

Aley's particulars were recorded, and she was promised that her name would be included in the list of those who missed the registration and readout at the next validation baraza (public meeting). She became excited, very happy and agreed to avail herself.



The SPR representative entering Aley's hut

"This is unbelievable, it is too good to be true," says Aley. "The government and NGOs have been coming to Elwak, but only those who were known and their close relatives were benefiting. If all organizations could have a component which advocates for the voiceless like me, then the pain of vulnerable persons could be less."

During the validation baraza, Aley's name was mentioned. She was present, having been brought to the meeting by her granddaughter. The following day, she was also enrolled, and currently gets Kshs 2,150 every 60 days.

rely on my sons. Sometimes I need to go to the clinic, but I can't afford to buy the drugs that I need."

At a table inside sat a number of village elders, the local chief and a representative of the village Rights Committee who was charged with observing the process. Initially, Haduma had been left out during the registration process and it was the Rights Committee that had alerted the programme about her situation. They had also pushed for a separate verification hearing to be held for Haduma and eight others.

The verification hearing was quick and to the point. Everyone in the room knew Haduma and, although she had no ID card, they were confident that she was older than 55 years old and therefore eligible for the pension. Haduma's membership of the Ilabalis age-set (a group of people who were circumcised at the same time) was recognized as sufficient proof of her age and thus was confirmed as eligible for registration. "The programme is more reliable than simply waiting for my sons to help me," she says. "When there are food shortages, I can also help my grandchildren and make sure they go to school."

"It is so important to have a complaints process," she adds. "I wouldn't have been registered without it."

## A decent life of a social pensioner who has big plans

By Halkano Jarso, Livelihoods Coordinator, Save the Children UK, Mandera

Standing on a rock overlooking the Takaba Hill in Mandera West, Yussuf Maalim, 78, scans through the clear blue skies. It has not rained for long and the scorching sun leaves a sticky feeling on his face. Mzee Yussuf, a social pension beneficiary in Takaba sub-location, lives quietly in the heart of the Takaba town, the place he settled after fleeing from Somalia over a half a century ago at the age of 25. Once upon a time, he narrates, the hilltop had a foggy cover that never cleared, like a magnet pulling in the regular rains that descended with comforting regularity.

"Now, it has been left bare," he says, stabbing a finger through the thick air. "How shall we get sufficient rainfall for our livestock, or save our children in the worst-hit parts of Kenya who are currently severely malnourished?"

Yussuf is a beneficiary of the HSNP by virtue of his age. He recalls the first payment he received as a shocking revela-

The verification hearing was quick and to the point.

"It is so important to have a complaints process," she adds. "I wouldn't have been registered without it."

## social protection for older people

mitigates the impact of HIV and AIDS

# HelpAge Expands its work in Africa

**E**ffective January 1, 2012, changes have been made to the organisational structure of HelpAge International in Africa. This follows internal and external consultations to further engage with audiences in Southern Africa and expand HelpAge's work in that region as well as expand the organisation's work in Western Africa.

Therefore, HelpAge has made the following administrative changes to the Africa region.

The Africa Regional Development Centre based in Nairobi has been renamed the Eastern, Western and Central Africa Regional Development Centre (EWCARDC). The Regional Director remains Ms. Nesta Hatendi and the contact information remains the same.

The new Southern Africa Regional Development Centre (SARDC) is based in Pretoria, South Africa and is headed by the new Regional Director Mr. Necodimus Chipfupa. Mr. Chipfupa was the immediate past Country Director of HelpAge in Tanzania. His position in Tanzania has been taken over by Ms. Amleset Tewodros, formerly the Regional Programmes Manager at the regional office in Nairobi.

tion of how modern technology can be embraced to identify the details of each beneficiary through the use of captured personal bio data. Yussuf pensively sits under the big shade tree in his compound and relates the bi-monthly cash transfer to a lactating animal which meets immediate needs of the family either through milk or either its sale, a diversity of its kind.

In his sunset years, Yussuf confirms the agony his age mates go through in the hands of his erstwhile well-wisher or family members to meet their survival needs. "I can now comfortably pay for the milk I consume each month without having to rely or beg from my children and grandchildren."

## Meeting the concerns of beneficiaries through the rights committees

**Ada Mwangola, DFID**

Mary Ekeno is one of many volunteers of the HSNP in Lodwar, Turkana district, one of the operational areas of the programme. She was chosen by her village as one of the 15 members of their Rights Committee. The main role of these committees is to confirm each recipient has received their right entitlement and to receive any complaints from beneficiaries on the programme.

"The designers of this programme must have gone to a church or a mosque; this programme, unlike food relief which doesn't give dignity,

gives people respect and empowers them to question," she says. "Transparent processes have prevented people of power from interfering. This is very empowering. The committee can now take to task any programme or agency once we know what our rights are."

The HSNP Rights component is responsible for providing a public and transparent mechanism through which the rights of the Programme stakeholders are promoted and protected and their responsibilities made clear. This brings together a range of stakeholders at village level to discuss not only issues of the programme but also broader development issues affecting people. These are committees of about 15 people generally at least half of whom are women. They meet regularly and can take up cases where people have been wrongly excluded or included. They also question other aspects of implementation, but they have also taken to looking at the delivery of other services, such as education and health.

"Money has given us respect, and what is different about this programme is the training we receive," says Mary Kawakon, one of the beneficiaries. "Those who used to fetch firewood like outcasts are now given respect as they start small businesses. The payment has bonded us and brought back the status of older people who were left out. We are now seen as worthy and respected by younger people. We have small resources from purchasing goats and household utensils. We can even access drugs." Damale Ekal, another beneficiary adds that she can now afford to educate her grandchildren and buy them school uniforms.

**The HSNP Rights component is responsible for providing a public and transparent mechanism**

**"Money has given us respect, and what is different about this programme is the training we receive."**



# Age Demands Action celebrates fifth anniversary

Since its inception in 2007, Age Demands Action (ADA) campaign has been a channel through which the Older people have used to influence governments and other bodies to root for their rights. For the last five years, the ADA campaign which takes place annually in the month of October, has gained momentum. Since 2007, ADA activists have been leading a call for their rights, a call that politicians can no longer ignore. The campaign has achieved real change for older people.

In Sri Lanka, what started in 2007 with a meeting between an ADA delegation and the Deputy Minister for Social Services and Social Welfare, has resulted in a National Action Plan for Older people. A new pledge on senior citizens allowance of 2,000 Rupees per month for everyone over 75 was introduced. In Cameroon, just three years since the first meeting between ADA delegates and the Minister of Labour, the National Assembly is set to pass the National Policy on Ageing Persons into law.

In 2011, 51 countries worldwide participated in the ADA event. In Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) joined the campaign for the first time, making it the first year that all countries in the HelpAge network were involved in ADA.

The following are some of the experiences the countries involved in ADA have undergone during the past 5 years.

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HelpAge staff led by Regional Director, Nesta Hatendi (left), preparing for the ADA rally in Nairobi

## Burkina Faso

ADA was first held in Burkina Faso in 2009. The outcome of the meeting was a draft Bill prohibiting witchcraft accusations on older people. The bill has not yet been adopted. Also, thanks to ADA, the ministry charged with the advancement of human rights conducted a study on the status of older people in Burkina Faso.

## Cameroon

From 2007 to 2010, through ADA Cameroon advocacy, the country's government formulated a National Policy on Ageing which it validated in June 2010. The National Policy on Ageing is pending official release and its deposition in the Cameroon House of National Assembly for debate and passing into a bill after which the President shall promulgate it into law.

## Sierra Leone

Current Evangelism Ministries (CEM) outreach, participated in ADA between 2007 and 2010. There has been a

change in government's policy as a result of the ADA campaign. A Committee on Older People has been set-up by the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Welfare to guide the formulation of National Policy on Older People in Sierra Leone.

More attention has been given to the welfare of older people in Sierra Leone. Subsidy for older people has been increased by 20 per cent and a new home site has been identified for them. The Committee on older people is searching for funds to conduct National Consultative Workshops on the formulation of the National Policy on Older People.

## Ethiopia

Due to ADA, older people have been included in Ethiopia's HIV and AIDS five year strategic plan. In addition to this, different ministries such as Women and Children Affairs, Social and Labour Affairs and Health have started giving due attention to older people in their programmes and interventions. ►►

a meeting between an ADA delegation and the Deputy Minister for Social Services and Social Welfare, has resulted in a National Action Plan for Older people.

Due to ADA, older people have been included in Ethiopia's HIV and AIDS five year strategic plan.

## Ghana

On September 30, 2011, older people from Ashanti, Volta, Greater Accra and Durbur called on the Department for Social Welfare to release funds owed to older people from the government's Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme. Although the cash transfer scheme is intended to target the poorest older people, payments had not been made for 10 months. Eleven days later, Enoch Teye Mensah, Minister for Employment and Social Welfare, announced the release of USD\$1.6 million owed to older people above the age of 65.

Through ADA Campaigns, Ghana saw the success of the long awaited National Ageing Policy.

## Kenya

As a result of the work done by ADA activists, HelpAge Kenya and HelpAge International, the Kenyan government recently increased funds for the older people's cash transfer programme from US\$ 6.5 million to US\$ 13 million in the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, raising the number of households per constituency receiving the cash transfer from 10 to 20. The cash transfer also increased from Kshs 1500 to 2000, expanding the areas getting the transfer from 44 to 72 districts.

## Mozambique

Since the inception of ADA in Mozambique in 2008, the government's interest and commitment on the laws that protect older people's rights has increased. They have developed Terms of References for the process but have not yet moved forward due to funding constraints.

The National Council of Older

© HelpAge International 2011



Participants march during Burkina Faso's ADA rally

People, a multi-sectoral group that formulates elaborate policies, programs and plans related to ageing was created by official decree in February 2011 and launched in April. The government reviewed the criteria of eligibility for the food subsidy and increased the amount to 150 meticaïs, Mozambican currency.

## South Africa – KZN Durban District

Following Muthande Society for the Aged (MUSA) participation in ADA, the South African government has created a Senior Citizens Parliament. In the Parliament older people have their say in different matters concerning them. The Old Age pension has also been increased and talks are in progress on how best to improve the lives of older people living in rural areas. The Department of Social Development through its agency South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), which is responsible for disbursing pensions, has agreed to use

MUSA's Centre in Tafelkop as a pay point site.

## Sudan

On September 27, 2011, a delegation of 29 older people living in western Darfur's Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps met the Director-General of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Ahmed Suleiman, ahead of the ADA rally at the Hujaj IDP camp. It was at the meeting that the director-general agreed to provide health insurance cards for approximately 4,000 displaced older people who are most at risk. These cards will enable recipients to access vital health services. Mr Suleiman also pledged to provide Identity Cards for an additional 1,000 older people living on their own in the camps. The provision was implemented in January 2012.

## Tanzania

HelpAge Tanzania has participated in ADA campaigns since 2007. Among the chang-

Ghana saw the success of the long awaited National Ageing Policy

The South African government has created a Senior Citizens Parliament. In the Parliament older people have their say in different matters concerning them.





This year, the unique movement saw over 62,000 campaigners in 59 countries

## Country Reports

**A**ge Demands Action (ADA) is the only globally co-ordinated movement of Older People campaigning for their rights. This year, the unique movement saw over 62,000 campaigners in 59 countries leading targeted campaigns that won real change. With 100 per cent increase in media coverage, campaign partners estimated that at least 50 million people worldwide heard about the campaign. A total of 171 partner organisations participated in the campaign; of these, 51 were HelpAge Affiliates.

### Highlighted ADA actions:

The global petition- a concerted drive to increase the number of signatories led to over 25,000 people adding their voice to the global call for older people's rights.

Sri Lanka – two third of popu-

lation heard about ADA in the media.

Tanzania - 11,000 people took action in 21 regions.

Nepal - President, Dr Ram Baran Yadav, watched ADA campaigners perform street theatre.

Bangladesh - thousands of older people formed human chains.

Costa Rica – 900 older people marched through the capital city of San José.

Czech Republic - hundreds took part in a solidarity run, while over 2,500 people attended ADA events.

Haiti - first lady, Sophia Martelly hosted an ADA reception at the Palais National

USA – two ADA leaders spoke at the United Nations for the NGO Committee on Ageing and Rights discussions.

### Engaging public figures

Campaigners met with 89 senior government representatives and other high profile politicians such as Member of European Parliament Milan Cabrnoch from the Czech Republic. Support was also won from renowned Jamaican reggae group, the Jolly Boys and famous Haitian actress, Huguette Saint-Fleur.

### Highlighted outcomes won by older people:

Sudan - health insurance cards will be distributed to 4,000 older people in western Darfur's internally displaced people's camps.

Pakistan - Northern Areas Transport Corporation pledged a 50 per cent discount on train fares for older people.

Fiji - the new National Council of Older People established

Northern Areas Transport Corporation pledged a 50 per cent discount on train fares for older people in Pakistan.



# ADA participants in Africa 2011

## **Burkina Faso:**

*Centre des Personnes Agées du Cameroun, Yaoundé, Association des Personnes Agées de Matomb (APAMAT), Matomb-Yaoundé*

## **Cameroon:**

*Regional Centre for the Welfare of Ageing Persons in Cameroon*

## **Democratic Republic of Congo:**

*HelpAge International in DRC*

## **Ethiopia:**

*Elderly and Pensioners National Association*

## **Ghana:**

*HelpAge Ghana, Compassion Africa Aged Foundation, Elike Aged Care Support*

## **Kenya:**

*HelpAge Kenya, Misyani HelpAge Kangundo, Holy Cross Parish Nairobi, Daughters of the Sacred Heart Mpeketoni, Thogoto Home for the Aged, SVP Kakamega, Missionary Benedictine Sisters, THIKA*

## **Mozambique:**

*VUKOXA, Associação dos Aposentados de Moçambique, ASA-DEC- Sofala province, Older People's Committee in Tete*

## **Sierra Leone:**

*Current Evangelism Ministries Outreach Sierra Leone, Society for the Welfare of the Aged, Civil Society Platform for Social Protection in Sierra Leone, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, National Council for the Welfare of Elderly*

## **South Africa:**

*Muthande Society for the Aged*

## **Sudan:**

*the Sudanese Society in Care of Older People, El Salam Organization in Care of Older People, Red Crescent*

## **Tanzania:**

*HelpAge Tanzania, Saidia Wazee Karagwe (SAWAKA), Tanzania Mission to the Poor and Disabled (PADI), CHAWALI*

## **Uganda:**

*Uganda Reach the Aged Association*

## **Zambia:**

*Help Age Zambia, Senior Citizens' Association of Zambia*

## **Zimbabwe:**

*HelpAge Zimbabwe*

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es in policy noted since 2007, are the exemption of property tax for older people's non-commercial houses in urban areas; free health care policy for older people; inclusion of older people in the revised HIV and AIDS policy; and a government feasibility study on a universal pension for older people.

## **Uganda**

Among the significant changes noted due to ADA include the passing and launching of The National Policy for Older Persons. A positive attitude towards older persons within their communities and the ruling party- National Resistance Movement has also been noted.

## **Zambia**

Following ADA campaigns over the years, the Zambian government has scaled up the cash transfer programme to 10 more districts. It has moved from a pilot programme to a permanent cash transfer. Also, older persons have been included in the farm input support programme.

## **Zimbabwe**

HelpAge Zimbabwe (HAZ) has participated in ADA since 2007. In February 2011, the Cabinet Committee on legislation passed the older persons bill. The bill is now awaiting discussion in parliament. The government is working on a new constitution and HAZ is hoping that a referendum will provide positive results for older people. Although they have been no significant changes in terms of policy, HelpAge Zimbabwe is now enjoying a better working relationship with various government departments notably, the social services department.

Among the changes in policy noted since 2007, are the exemption of property tax for older people's non-commercial houses in urban areas

HelpAge Zimbabwe is hoping that a referendum will provide positive results for older people.

# What works for a successful ADA campaign

**A**DA coordinators in various countries gave their views on the lessons learnt over the past four years in organising a successful advocacy campaign and what best practices they encourage other countries to adopt.

## Burkina Faso

“Appointments for meetings between older people and government authorities have to be booked earlier. As well as capacity building for the delegation and assisting them select spokespersons who can clearly articulate the issues of older people.” – Bruno Ouedraogo, Promo Femmes

## Ethiopia

“The work with the ADA activists began in advance in June to strengthen the delegation for more commitment. The delegations will now focus on tangible and achievable policies which may not incur high costs to implement. Also, an influential/prominent individual artist has been targeted as an ADA delegate.” – Aman Wabe, HelpAge International, Ethiopia

## Ghana

“Preparatory meetings were held one month ahead with all partners so as not to interfere with arrangements as the ADA day approached. Delegates now undergo training to prepare

them in delivering messages to government officials.” – Aaron Odua-Mensah, HelpAge Ghana

## Kenya

“Planning meetings begin early in July with the final two meetings held in August. This gives the older people time to reflect on the issues they want to present. Also, fundraising for ADA begins earlier. The value of including like-minded organizations such as health networks and organizations working with orphan and vulnerable children in the campaign has also been noted.” – Agnes Pondo Nyambare, HelpAge Kenya

Older people will be included in the HIV and AIDS strategic plan in Ethiopia.

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the region's first National Ageing Policy (2011).

Indonesia - home care programme expanded to an additional 33 regions, benefiting 100,000 older people.

Ethiopia - older people will be included in the HIV and AIDS strategic plan.

Zimbabwe - Ministry of Labour and Social Services supports the passing of the Older Persons Bill (2012) through parliament.

Peru - the Congress passed Pensión 65, a non-contributory pension pledged by President Humala for people over 65. Over 25,000 older people in 13 regions were the first to receive the pension.

Sudan - on September 27, a delegation of 29 older people living in western Darfur's Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps met the Director General of the Ministry of

Social Welfare, Ahmed Suleiman ahead of the ADA rally at the Hujaj IDP camp. At the meeting the Director General agreed to provide Health Insurance Cards for approximately 4,000 displaced older people most at risk. These cards will enable recipients to access vital health services. Mr Suleiman also pledged to provide Identity Cards for an additional 1,000 older people living on their own in the camps. The provision was implemented in January 2012.

Ghana - On September 30

older people from Ashanti, Volta, Greater Accra and Durbar called on the Department for Social Welfare to release payments owed to older people from the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme. Although the cash transfer scheme is intended to target the poorest older people, payments have not been made for 10 months. Eleven days later Enoch Teye Mensah, Minister for Employment and Social Welfare announced the release of US\$1.6 million in payments owed to older people above the age of 65.

## Universal Pensions

Promote Income Security and Dignity

Minister for Employment and Social Welfare announced the release of US\$1.6 million in payments owed to older people above the age of 65

# The Media and ADA



ADA activists at a planning meeting at HelpAge Kenya offices

However, the ADA campaign... has created media awareness on issues facing older people

**T**he media plays an important role in advocacy work. For older people, media access has been difficult in the past. However, the ADA campaign has created media awareness on issues facing older people. Organisations

involved in ADA find it easier to approach the media on October 1. The media's role in issues affecting older people has been the subject of discussion internationally.

The Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, 1982  
In this meeting, member

countries adopted the International Plan of Action, which has guided the thinking on ageing over the last 20 years. It recommended a variety of initiatives in employment and income security, health, housing, education and social welfare. »

## Mozambique

“Improving relationship with media and deeply involving partners contributes to greater success.”  
– Tima Suale, HelpAge International, Mozambique

## Sudan

“Consultations are held with each of the Older People Committees to get their views and enhance their participation. There is now one big ADA day celebration in Hujaj camp in Geneina which is accessible to all stakeholders and ensures increased participation of older people outside the refugee camps. Also, policies have to be clearly defined. This will make lob-

bing for the government's commitment much easier.”  
– Mavenjina Cathy and Mohamed Fawz, HelpAge International, Sudan

## Tanzania

“Organising meetings with older people to develop a clear understanding of policies they will focus on is beneficial. Also, involving interested middle aged people in discussions in order for them to understand the age-related problems, widens the group campaigning for older people's rights. A greater involvement of local radio and TV stations increases people's awareness of ADA.” – Flavian Bifandimu, HelpAge International, Tanzania

## Uganda

“Older people are their own best advocates. This year, decision-makers will meet with older people and hold a panel discussion. This will enhance commitment and accountability.” – Agnes Kiyimba, Uganda Reach the Aged Association

## Zambia

“Trainings in rights awareness for older people are now an important part of preparing for the campaign.” – Rosemary Sishimba, Senior Citizens Association of Zambia.

Member countries adopted the International Plan of Action, which has guided the thinking on ageing over the last 20 years



«Recommendation number 46 of VIPAA 82 highlights the need of the mass media to highlight the positive aspects of the ageing people and its process.

This effort should cover among other areas, the present situation of the aged with a view to identifying and responding to their real needs. The role of the media should therefore be towards: 1) educating the general public about the ageing process; 2) promoting the participation of older persons in social, cultural and educational activities within the community. Older persons should be involved in formulating and designing these activities.

### The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Article 112 of MIPAA 2002 highlights the need to portray the images of older persons as attractive, diverse and creative, making vital contributions and competing in public attention.

Older women in particular are affected by misleading and negative stereotypes. Instead of being portrayed in ways that reflect their contributions, strengths and resourcefulness and humanity, they are often reflected as weak and dependent thus reinforcing exclusionary practices at the local and national levels.

Recommendation 113 of MIPAA 2002 states the need of public recognition of the authority, wisdom, productivity and other important contributions of older persons. The media can help achieve this by:

- Promoting images that highlight the wisdom, strengths, contributions, courage, resourcefulness

of older women and men including older persons with disabilities.

- Moving beyond the portrayal of stereotypes and illuminating the full diversity of humankind.
- Recognizing that they are the agents of change and can act as guiding factors in fostering the role of older persons in development strategies, including in the rural areas.
- Avoiding ageism in the workplace and instead present positive images of older persons.

### The AU Policy Framework on Ageing in Africa

It highlighted the need for the stakeholder's involvement in creating strategic partnerships at all levels: individuals, communities, NGOs, donors, the private sector, the media, governments, religious bodies and other civil society groups. The media in particular needs to make provision of reporting time and space to address the issues relating to ageing and older people.

Below are achievements in ADA's advocacy work in Africa involving the media over the past few years.

#### Burkina Faso

Radio stations in Burkina Faso aired information that

helped sensitise the community on the problems of social exclusion of older people. Listeners were able to contribute to the topic.

#### Cameroon

ADA Cameroon 2010 succeeded in media campaign when it involved the state owned National Television station (CRTV) through a regular live program called "Monday Show" which accorded interview and educative talks/discussions with older people on their rights and challenges. The private television station, Canal 2 International, covered the October 1 celebrations.

#### Sierra Leone

BBC and the local media covered previous ADA activities in Sierra Leone, specifically in Freetown, Kenema and Bo. Lansana Fofanah of BBC in Freetown interviewed Rev. Dr. Augustine Lansana, the Executive Director of Current Evangelism Ministries (CEM). An older person was also interviewed by BBC Media in Bo.

#### Ethiopia

There has been success in previous ADA campaign with the media's involvement. These included government media outlets where older people and concerned government officials were interviewed. Private media, such as Shager Radio program,»

Older women in particular are affected by misleading and negative stereotypes

Protecting older people

secures your own future

There has been success in previous ADA campaign with the media's involvement in Ethiopia.

also aired older people's issues. ADA delegations have been lobbying and working closely with influential media personalities and private media owners.

## Kenya

ADA 2010 was covered by all the major TV stations. HelpAge Kenya engaged in breakfast show interviews with K-24 TV, NTV and local radio stations. The Regional Director of HelpAge International was also interviewed by IRIN, a humanitarian news agency based in Nairobi. The advocacy work HelpAge has done with the media, has made it easier to get interviews with media houses during ADA campaign activities.

## Mozambique

The media is very involved in ADA campaigns. They are included in the ADA planning process and the advocacy groups. Last year, various media outlets covered ADA events such as TVM (public television), STV (private television), TV Miramar (private television), RM (public radio) and newspapers such as Jornal Noticias, Jornal Savana

and Jornal a Verdade. A press conference, debates and interviews involving HelpAge spokespeople and staff with the media were also held.

## Sudan

Last year in Darfur, Shorouq TV covered the ADA celebrations at Ardamata. Shorouk Radio, prior to October 1, highlighted the importance of ADA day held annually on September 4 in relation to 2010 theme. In Khartoum, SSCOP held training programmes, open forums, lectures and provided materials to the media about older people.

## Tanzania

HelpAge has a good working relationship with the media. During the previous years, there was wide coverage of older people's issues before, during and after October 1. The involved media included TBC1 (TV) and TBC2 (radio), ITV, Channel Ten TV, Radio Maria, Radio Free Africa and several local radios stations. Moreover, the event featured on the front pages of all the local newspapers.

## Uganda

Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) had TV and Radio talk shows where two delegates talked about issues of Social Protection for older persons, access to health care services and HIV and AIDS.

## Zambia

Senior Citizens' Association of Zambia (SCAZ) has been working closely with the Zambia Information News Services, which feeds information to all media houses in Zambia.

## Zimbabwe

From 2007, the media has always been invited to cover commemorations to mark the International Day for Older Persons. In 2008, an older person featured in the prime news bulletin on national television. The General Manager for news and current affairs was invited at the annual event.

ADA  
2010 was  
covered  
by all the  
major TV  
stations in  
Kenya.

### ADA activist from Ethiopia, Ato Tilahun Abebe, 76.



*Born in 1935, Abebe was raised by his grandmother.*

*"ADA is about aspiring for and bringing about changes for older people, not paper work. This year, it will be about achievements, no more planning; it's time to get results! Once we know where we are, we can see where we must go."*

*Abebe believes in change through organisation. He is a board member of the Ethiopian Elders and Pensioners National Association (EEPNA) and vice-chair of the Addis Ababa Pensioners Association. Until recently, it was only civil servants who were entitled to any social pension. On October 1, Abebe along with hundreds of others, marched in the city of Hawassa. The colourful march was led by a brass band. International Day of Older People celebrations was attended by the Ethiopian President, the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, HelpAge Ambassador in Ethiopia, Tesfaye Abebe and leaders from a number of older people's associations. On November 27, Abebe was one of the 140 older people to take part in the 12th annual Great Ethiopian Run, a 10 kilometre race.*

The media is very involved in ADA campaigns. They are included in the ADA planning process and the advocacy groups.



Safo Bonaya Boru of Galma Roba Village in Moyale District, ponders her future due to the lack of rain in the area.

HelpAge is providing more than 1,700 older people with food items including multi-vitamins

## Emergencies work in Ethiopia

Erna Mentenot-Hintz - HelpAge International, Ethiopia

Over the past months, HelpAge has been extremely busy responding to the emergency needs of older people in Ethiopia.

The Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) and the Global Emergency Fund are helping HelpAge reach 5,700 older people in the Borena zone. With joint efforts from Cafod/Trocaire/Sciaf and four local partners (Action For Development, Gayo Pastoralist Development Initiative, SOS Sahel and Accord), support to an estimated 4,000 older pastoralists and their families through cash and food for work activities is still on-going. Income-generating activities are expected to commence soon which will be accompanied by relevant trainings in business management and the formation of self-help groups.

Recently, as a result of conflict refugees from Kenya have been arriving in Moyale district in Borena bordering

Kenya. Here, HelpAge is providing more than 1,700 older people with food items including multi-vitamin foods as well as non-food items such as simple building materials for temporary shelters, blankets and water containers of age-friendly sizes.

DEC and BandAid are making it possible for HelpAge to reach 3,300 older people in the Dollo Ado camps. HelpAge and its partner Pastoralist Welfare Organisation have been supporting older people in four camps and their surroundings by providing age-friendly emergency response.

For instance, the monthly food packages that are distributed consist of potatoes, tomato paste, peanut butter and rice, all easily digestible by older people.

Most recently, the refugee influx has been increasing from 100 to 450 people per day as a result of the intensifying unrest and drought situations in Somalia. Consequently, another camp has been put in place, and HelpAge is striving to incorporate the additional older refugees into the response efforts.

## Support older people

they are guardians of our traditions

HelpAge is striving to incorporate the additional older refugees into the response efforts.



# Regional Workshop discusses HIV-Sensitive Social Protection and Older People

A regional consultative meeting on social protection, HIV and AIDS and older people was organised by HelpAge in collaboration with the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) in November 2011 in Nairobi. The meeting brought together participants from eight countries in Eastern and Southern Africa representing national AIDS commissions and programmes, ministries of gender, social affairs and health, regional and national civil society organisations (CSOs).

The objectives of the meeting were similar to those of the first regional meeting on HIV and AIDS and Social Protection held in 2007 in Dar es Salaam, but with a stronger focus on impact of the various social protection programmes and in relation to the HIV-sensitive social protection framework.

The meeting brought together representatives from government, UN agencies, development partners and civil society to identify effective social protection and HIV and AIDS strategies and best practices in the region which are making a significant contribution to mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS affected households. A key objective of the meeting was to develop advocacy strategies to influence decision makers to incorporate effective policy and programme interventions in future social protection and HIV and AIDS strategies.

The 2011 meeting included two panels addressing HIV-sensitive social protection

and collaboration and coordination between government and civil society organisations in social protection. Group work was organized to identify which HIV-sensitive social protection policies, strategies and programmes should be promoted as good practice and why, and what needs to be done to scale up these good practices at national and/or district level. Country teams also developed action plans based on lessons learned, good practices, and HIV sensitive social protection programmes they plan to further explore, modify or replicate from the presentations and discussions.

## Key recommendations from the meeting included:

- Develop a regional HIV-sensitive social protection and older people position paper incorporating as a starting point information, good practices and lessons learned from the regional consultative meeting including financial implications

- Carry out an analysis of CSO social protection capacity building needs
- Mapping of the Parliamentary Committees in the EAC and SADC regions on HIV and AIDS, social protection and vulnerable people including older people
- Determine status of social protection in SADC, EAC and IGAD
- Establish a regional mechanism for sharing information, good practices and lessons learned on social protection, including HIV-sensitive social protection mechanisms
- Identifying and disseminate advocacy opportunities at regional and national level to influence HIV-sensitive social protection, e.g. Livingstone 2, review of SADC regional HIV and AIDS, OVCY strategic frameworks.

To receive the report, please contact the Regional Communications Officer, Gacheru Maina ([gmaina@helpage.co.ke](mailto:gmaina@helpage.co.ke)).

The 2011 meeting included two panels addressing HIV-sensitive social protection and collaboration and coordination between governments and civil society organisations in social protection.

Develop a regional HIV-sensitive social protection and older people position paper.

*While many social protection schemes were not set up with HIV as a primary focus, their potential to contribute to a comprehensive HIV response is increasingly recognized. UNAIDS has identified nine priority areas; among these is the commitment to “enhance social protection for people affected by HIV.” Achieving social protection for people and households affected by HIV is a critical step towards the realization of Universal Access to prevention, treatment, care and support, particularly for older people and those under their care.*

*The UNAIDS goal is to ensure that people living with HIV and households affected by HIV are addressed in all national social protection strategies and have access to essential care and support by 2015. Social protection measures need to be HIV-sensitive and are when they include people who are either at risk of HIV infection or susceptible to the consequences of HIV and AIDS. HIV-sensitive social protection measures can reduce vulnerability to HIV infection (prevention), improve and extend the lives of people living with HIV (treatment) and support individuals and households (care and support) (UNAIDS, 2010).* ►►

« HIV-sensitive social protection can be grouped into three broad categories of interventions:

Financial protection through predictable transfers of cash, food, or other transfers for those affected by HIV and those who are most vulnerable. Cash transfer programmes are operating in several countries in the region sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups, including children orphaned by AIDS and older people: Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, and Lesotho. Also included in financial protection is age-appropriate livelihood programmes. Livelihood is defined as the capabilities, assets and strategies employed by people of all ages to make a living and ensure food and income security.

Access to affordable quality services, including treatment, health and education services which are particularly critical to older people and which need to be age-friendly.

Policies, legislation and regulation to meet the needs and uphold the rights of the most vulnerable and excluded, for example:

- Accessing entitlements – Awareness of benefits, securing birth certificates and identity papers
- Paralegal support protecting the inheritance and land rights of older carers and children orphaned by AIDS, child and elderly abuse
- Inclusion of older people in regional and national policies, strategic frameworks, legislation – HIV and AIDS strategic frameworks and the EAC HIV and AIDS Bill. ■

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**“Mama Teresa”**  
**Full name, Teresa Anyango**  
**Sub-location: Bar Simbo**  
**Location: South Alego**  
**County: Siaya**  
**Age: 68**

**A** retired teacher, Mama Teresa raised seven grandchildren. She is an active member of an Older Citizen’s Monitoring Group, working through HelpAge affiliate KESPA (Kenya Society for People with AIDS), monitoring health officials’ treatment of older people. Only two weeks ago, Mama Teresa was bed ridden suffering from severe malaria. Yet, she knew better than most in her rural farming community in Western Kenya that as an older woman, she was unlikely to be seen by a doctor, despite a two hour walk to the nearest health centre in scorching heat.

Born in Ugenya, she was married at 22 and had 10 children, five of whom have died. She taught children at the local primary school from 1955 until her retirement in 1993. Her husband died in 1982 and

has lived in the same home for over 30 years. She proudly says, “I decided to stay here, by myself, in my home”.

Out of her children that died, three sons left her with seven grandchildren aged between 10 and 24 who she raised. Her children who are still alive are all housewives that have moved away with their own families except one daughter who is a teacher at a nearby school. “I cannot rely on my daughters. They have their own children to support. Their lives are also difficult; they can’t help me,” she says. Unable to raise all the grandchildren herself, close friends took care of three of them. However, Mama Teresa says, “I personally still care for four grandchildren. It is hard. It is very hard because I have so many and I try to educate them, but money is not there.”

Teresa relies on her land and her teaching pension to survive. “Even though I taught a long time I received a very small pension: Kenya Shillings 1,000 (US\$ 12) a month. It has increased a little to Kshs 1,800 (USD\$ 11) over»

Also included in financial protection is age-appropriate livelihood programmes

I personally still care for four grandchildren. It is hard. It is very hard because I have so many and I try to educate them, but money is not there.

»the last couple of years. It is not enough to cover myself and my grandchildren. Now, inflation hits us, every expense is more.”

“I also work in the shamba (farm). I till my land and get money from my crops. I also have two calves, but I cannot sell the calves. I need the milk for my family as they grow.”

Despite her own challenges, Mama Teresa is fighting for older people to access better healthcare in their community. In 2008, she joined the Older Citizens Monitoring Group, set up by HelpAge International’s affiliate KESPA, to monitor how healthcare officials’ were treating older people. “As a widow, I have to support my grandchildren and I joined the group to get help for me and others like me. I liked the group because they help the poor, the needy, orphans and vulnerable children.” Mama Teresa describes a healthcare system that is failing older people. “If you go to the hospital, they don’t welcome us properly. They say that we (older people) should just give our drugs to the grandchildren; they would rather just wait for our death than help us”.

“You stay there so long, sitting on those benches, 4 to 5 hours without being attended to because you are ‘old’, you are ‘aged’. They don’t even talk to us properly and doctors do not see us. It is also difficult to attend the hospital, because it is too far. How can we get there? I would have to walk to Siaya, about 5 km in the sun.”

“I don’t go regularly, because I stay there for a long time, I need to come back and I don’t want to leave the house alone”. Angry that older people were not being attended to or given drugs because they had little money, Mama Teresa wrote a report for officials and she has already seen

change. “Now they attend to older people as soon as they see us sitting on the benches and they are called for treatment. But, there is still much more to do. I hope that they will allow older persons to be treated freely. I wish for them to assist us in our homes because we travel so far”.

Mama Teresa reflects that she did not expect such a life when she was young, because when her husband was still alive, she knew she was protected. However, she believes that she is luckier than some widows as she has been left in peace. She says, “If their husbands die, the community does not respect them, they even want to take their belongings. Men do not experience this; they still live in their homes”.

“My life is short and I am getting old. I am getting worried and tired. I cannot do much work now. So I am worried now how my grandchildren will manage themselves,” she says.

**Cornel Ochieng Odido**  
**(Mama Theresa’s grandson)**  
**Sub-location: Bar Simbo**  
**Location: South Alego**  
**County: Siaya**  
**Age: 24**

Cornel finished his high school education and trained in Early Childhood Development, courtesy of a project with KESPA. He worked on a two year contract. Currently, he is searching for work. He

dreams of obtaining a diploma which would qualify him as a Professor in Early Childhood Development.

“I was eight years old when I left Nairobi after my parents divorced. My parents sent me upcountry to live with my grandmother. Since then, my father has died and my mother abandoned me.”

“Mama took care of me, paid the fees for secondary school, even though she could not afford it fully. One year, I never attended school. I could only go for the final exams. From this and much more, I found that she is a caring grandmother; she is a mum and dad to me”. “I am always helping her. I mop the house. I am happy to help my grandmother because she is also happy to help me. She is humble, intelligent and hardworking”.

“I am used to her, so whatever people say, I don’t bother about them; she is the one person I can count on. Many say that ‘you are just staying with your grandmother, where is your mum, where is your dad?’, but you just have to accept this is part of life. I want to be like her. She is my role model.”

“I want to work hard and get money to make sure she is not going to labour in the shamba, pulling the cattle and have someone who can help. She can just stay at home since she is getting old.”

**She believes that she is luckier than some widows as she has been left in peace.**

**With a little support**

**older people make a big difference**

“I want to work hard and get money to make sure my grandmother is not going to labour in the shamba, pulling the cattle and have someone who can help her.”



## Staff changes

### Farewell

*The following staff members left EWCARDC. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.*

**Marion Ouma**

Social Protection and Civil Society  
Capacity Building Officer

**Godfrey Mulongo**

Regional Monitoring and Evaluation  
Coordinator

**Everlyn Situma**

Regional Emergencies Coordinator

**Amleset Tewodros**

Regional Programmes Manager (now  
Country Director, HelpAge office,  
Tanzania)

**Steven Otieno**

Regional Monitoring and Evaluation  
Coordinator

### Welcome

**Martin Mubisi**

Regional Programmes Officer

**Fiona Clark**

Head of Programmes

**Laura Beckwith**

Regional Resource Mobilisation  
Coordinator

**Kennedy Mambo**

Regional HIV and AIDS Coordinator

**Ibrahim Njuguna**

Emergencies Manager

**Donnelly Mwachi**

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

**HelpAge  
International**

**age helps**

HelpAge International helps older people claim their rights, challenge discrimination and overcome poverty, so that they can lead dignified, secure, active and healthy lives.

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## Kenya Emergency Response Update

In response to the drought in the Horn of Africa, HelpAge developed and implemented a GBP 333,536 DEC funded age-friendly emergency response project in Turkana district.

Humanitarian assistance was provided to 3000 older people in Turkana through cash transfer of Kshs 3000 (US\$ 35) per month per person for three months and distribution of NFIs. To enhance our accountability to the community in drought response, help desks were established in all the project sub-locations as mechanism for members to raise complaints and receive feedback in relation to the project.

A six-week secondment of an ageing expert to UNHCR in Kenya (Daadab refugee camp) and Somalia identified gaps in programming and policy by humanitarian actors and donors in addressing the needs of older people living in refugee camps. Though the outcome of this process has not attracted new funding, it has generated interest among humanitarian actors and UNHCR in particular which has agreed to a secondment of an ageing expert for 4 months with support from HelpAge. This will have a long term and broader impact on quality of service to older people in refugee camps.

Within the quarter HelpAge International and Cafod submitted a joint application for funding to ECHO of euro 800,000 on disaster risk reduction as a consortium.