

AgeNews

East Asia/Pacific

*Sharing information
to strengthen
HelpAge Network*

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HelpAge

global network

Editorial

With 2017 upon us, we look back on 2016 as a watershed year for HelpAge and the Network. Our multi-country ASEAN project to build capacity and linkages on ageing, funded by the European Union, drew to a successful conclusion. With the support of UNFPA and the Vietnamese government, the Network held a landmark regional conference in Hanoi on The Economic Implications of Ageing, with over 300 participants.

Internally also, it was an important year for HelpAge International. Our Board made two strategic decisions: one, to define an overarching network approach to our work, and two, to merge the East Asia/Pacific and South Asia teams, forming a single Asia Regional Office as of April 2017. The Regional Office will be based in Chiang Mai, and we will work through HelpAge country offices in four countries: Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and Vietnam. In other countries of this wide region, we will work through our network and with other organisations interested to join hands with us in addressing the challenges of ageing. For the past few years, we and our network partners in both sub-regions have been linking fairly regularly anyway, and the merger will simply improve our efficiency and effectiveness to work together as one team without boundaries.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the European Union for its generous support over the past four years for building networks on ageing. Our multi-country project has expanded knowledge, understanding, ties, capacity and influence related to ageing issues throughout ASEAN member states. This project was timely, in light of rapid ageing across South East Asia and the rising interest of governments and societies in the impact of population change. Without the EU's support, we would not have reached many of the milestones we have seen in recent years.

Although we foresee that 2017 will be challenging in many ways, we also see that it will be, potentially, a very rewarding period. We wish you a happy and prosperous 2017.

Eduardo Klien
Regional Director
HelpAge International

Regional meeting on financial security of older women in Singapore

► Regional

On 10-11 October 2016, the Tsao Foundation hosted the "Second Multipartite Regional Meeting on the Financial Security of Older Women in East and Southeast Asia" in Singapore. Along with three HelpAge network organisations from Indonesia (YEL), the Philippines (COSE) and Thailand (FOPDEV), two representatives from the HelpAge Regional Office attended the event and contributed a presentation on "The Financial security of Older Women" focusing on social pensions.

The first day of the meeting aimed to raise awareness and was attended by around 80 people, including Mrs Josephine Teo, Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport, Singapore. The second day focused on project planning with the regional participants. This meeting was part of the Tsao initiative in collaboration with ASEAN Citi Group "Citi-Tsao Foundation Financial Education Programme for Mature Women."

Currently the Tsao Foundation works mostly with women-focused organisations, but wishes to include the HelpAge network. After discussion with senior staff at Tsao, HelpAge agreed to support them in expanding their activities at the country level through the HelpAge network in three countries, namely Myanmar, Laos and Thailand. The HelpAge network from Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam were introduced and consulted during the meeting.

To kick off the project at the country level in those three new countries, an in-country training in financial security for older women will be organised next year, with financial and technical support from the Tsao Foundation. The HelpAge network in each country will have to identify potential partners and participants, and Tsao will also connect them with their contacts, including the in-country Citi Group.

(UK)



Elder laws in Myanmar to be finalised in early 2017

► Myanmar

Like most countries in Asia, the aged population in Myanmar will double within a very short time.

To address issues related to ageing population, for the first time elder laws in Myanmar are being developed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and they are expected to be finalised at the beginning of 2017.

The ministry, relevant departments and partner organisations, including HelpAge in Myanmar, are planning to submit a draft elderly-related laws for consideration focusing on specific rights and protections for elderly individuals. This new national policy will include provisions on healthcare, accommodation, employment opportunities and income security to older people.

(PN)

HelpAge representatives at the Ministry of Labour in Thailand on Nikom Chandrawitton Day



► Thailand

Nikom Chandrawitton Day is celebrated on 29 October to mark the legacy of Mr Nikom Chandrawitton, former Director General of Thailand's Department of Labour and a leading advocate on Thai labour laws.

This year, a panel discussion was held at the Ministry of Labour on the topic of 'The labour market in an ageing society'. It was a successful information-sharing event, which demonstrated Thailand's preparation for an ageing society. Labour policy, pension schemes and elderly welfare were discussed.

Our Regional Director Eduardo Klien took part in the event and gave a presentation focusing on the social and economic implications of ageing, the effect of an ageing population on the workforce and the challenges ahead for Asia. The adaptation of a policy to meet the demands of population ageing in the 21st century was the key message and was agreed on by other panelists.

HelpAge welcomed this opportunity, which enabled us to work with our network in Thailand, to share our experiences, to learn from others and, most importantly, to contribute to Thailand's strategy and policy on ageing.

(BM)

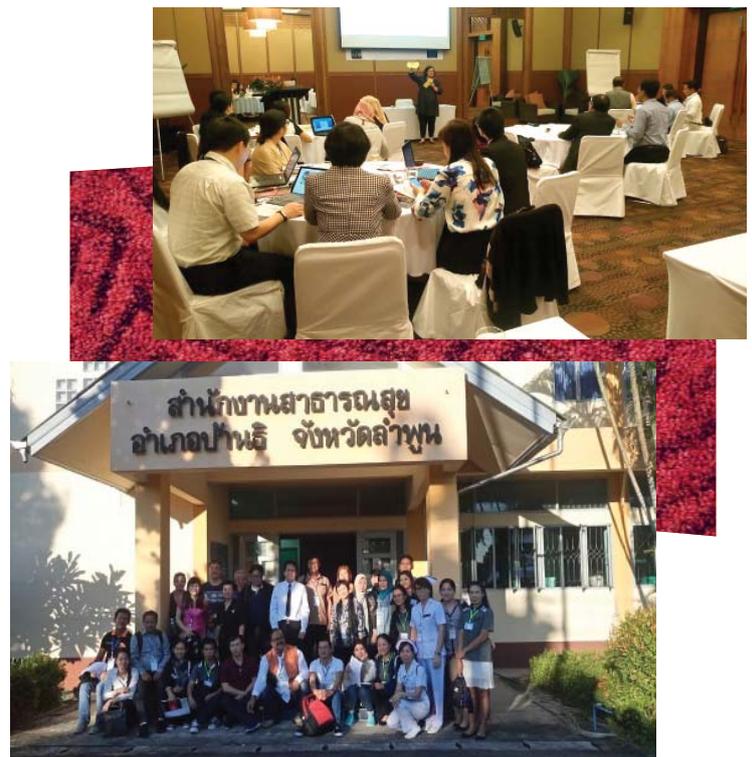
Training course on 'Developing long-term care services' held in Chiang Mai, Thailand

► Regional

In collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and with financial support from the European Union and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), HelpAge developed a training course on long-term care services, which aims to provide participants with a solid understanding of the essential considerations in developing long-term care (LTC) services and the key policy and design decisions required. The first training course was held recently in Thailand.

A total of 31 participants from eight countries, namely Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, China, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Indonesia, who are representatives from national and local governments, international development organisations, civil society organisations and private organisations, attended the four-day training course from 21–24 November 2016 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Besides lectures, exercises and detailed case studies, the training included a field visit to let the participants learn from Thailand's experience of long-term care services. They went to Ban Thi District in Lamphun Province and met representatives



“Attending the course was a good opportunity for me to learn about ageing problems in the region and to learn about making policies, programmes and projects on health care for the elderly that could be applied in Vietnam”

Luong Quang Dang

from the Ban Thi Older People’s Club, Ban Thi Municipality, Ban Thi Hospital and care givers who explained their long-term care services and how different sectors work together to provide long-term care services for older people in the community.

Mr. Luong Quang Dang from the General Office for Population and Family Planning (GOPFP) at the Ministry of Health in Vietnam said that attending the course was a good opportunity for him to learn about ageing problems in the region and to learn about policies, programmes and projects on health care for the elderly that could be applied in Vietnam. He also had the chance to share his knowledge about ageing and long-term care in Vietnam with other participants.

(TS)



Tripartite meeting for convention on human rights of older people

► Mongolia

The Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD), HelpAge network partner in Mongolia, organised a tripartite meeting to gain support from stakeholders for the new international convention on the human rights of older people. This initiative was jointly organised with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), with the support of Help Age International.

Representatives of two major national associations of older people, groups from urban and rural areas, human rights NGOs and service providers came together to raise concerns about the

human rights of older people and to ask the government to support a new UN convention on the rights of older people. Older people highlighted the need for a convention that would address ageism, discriminatory practices and age-specific issues in political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights. They hope that issues specific to Mongolia will be reflected in a new convention. As the government is drafting a law on older people, the discussion focused on critical issues of pension and social protection, employment, health care and issues of environmental destruction that affect the health of current and future generations. The Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Mr N. Nomtoibayar, and the

Chief Commissioner of the NRHC, Mr Baymbadorj, expressed their strong support for the convention while the MFA promised to actively observe the UN processes towards the new convention. The tripartite meeting resulted in greater understanding by stakeholders about the human rights of older people and the need for a convention that would protect and promote their rights. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed to form a multi-stakeholder alliance among older people’s organisations, human rights groups, service provider NGOs, the NHRC and government agencies to continue networking and advocating for the rights of older people in Mongolia.

(AD)

Advocacy meetings on addressing non-communicable diseases organised in five regions of Myanmar



► Myanmar

Myanmar is currently experiencing a rapid shift in its health profile due to a sharp increase in the number of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). According to the World Health Organisation, 59 per cent of deaths in the country are due to NCDs. The 2014 STEPS survey revealed that around 94 per cent of adults in the country are exposed to at least one risk factor of catching NCDs.

HelpAge International Myanmar, in collaboration with the University of Public Health, the University of Medicine 2 (both in Yangon) and Thammasat University (in Thailand), is implementing a project supported by the European Union that aims to expand public health capacities for supporting evidence-based policy and improved health services in preparation for addressing NCDs. Advocacy meetings under this project were organised in five regions of Myanmar (Yangon, Bago, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Mawlamyaing) between 9 and 24 August 2016. The objective of these meetings was to sensitise policy makers, government officials and other stakeholders to the importance of addressing NCDs with a comprehensive approach, and also to clarify the role of various departments and stakeholders.

A total of 503 participants took an active part in these advocacy meetings. They included elected public representatives, officials from the Department of Public Health, the Department of Medical Care, the Department of Education, the Department of Sports, the Department of



Police and other stakeholders from universities, the Red Cross, INGOs, NGOs and the media. The meetings received a very high level of political engagement as the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region and the Chairperson of the Nay Pyi Taw Regional Council inaugurated the meetings in their respective regions, while the meetings in other regions were chaired by the regional Social Ministers.

Dr. Myint Shwe, Director of the NCD Division of the Ministry of Health, Prof. Ko Ko, from the University of Medicine 2, Dr. Tej Ram Jat, HelpAge Project Manager, Dr. Soe Myint, Public Health Advisor and Dr. Kyaw Myint Myat Thein facilitated the meetings and gave an overview of NCDs, including causes and risk factors, the current prevalence of NCDs in the country, a comprehensive approach for the prevention and management of NCDs, key challenges and opportunities, as well as the role of different departments and stakeholders in addressing NCDs.

(TRJ)

For more information on the WHO STEPwise approach to surveillance (STEPS), please visit <http://www.who.int/chp/steps/en/>

Announcements

New facebook page on health project in Myanmar

HelpAge in Myanmar has launched a new facebook page for a project called 'Strengthening Public Health Capacity to Respond to Myanmar's Disease Transition'.

This page provides information on project updates and raises awareness on issues related to addressing non-communicable diseases.



To visit the fanpage, search for: Strengthening Public Health Capacity Towards Myanmar's Disease Transition

Launch of new COSE's website

COSE recently launched their new website – <http://www.cose.org.ph>. The launch was announced during the Sampung Ulirang Nakatatanda Awards 2016 on 2 October 2016.



To visit COSE's fanpage, search for: Coalition of Services of the Elderly, Inc. or @CoalitionOfServicesOfTheElderly

ASEAN regional workshop on the promotion of older people's associations

Population ageing is a major challenge for many ASEAN¹ governments. In Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore, the proportion of the population aged 60 or above will increase from 10 per cent in 2007 to 40 per cent by 2050.²

ASEAN has recognised both the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing, and made a commitment to empower older people and strengthen their capacity in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing³, which was adopted by ASEAN Heads of State/Government in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2015. One of the key strategies included in the declaration is for member states to encourage the development of older people's associations (OPAs) across the region.

Learning from each other and sharing useful experiences make OPAs a helpful tool to promote well-being among older people within their communities. ASEAN leaders support the establishment and replication of OPAs in the region through evidence-based research and collaboration among member countries.

The workshop was held from 6–8 December 2016 in Siem Reap Province, in the Kingdom of Cambodia. This workshop was attended by around 80 government policy-makers, researchers, professional practitioners, OPA representatives and experts in the area of OPAs from ASEAN countries, who exchanged views and sought to establish a supportive environment for older people.

The workshop was co-organised by the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY) and HelpAge International, and was funded by the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Korea's special fund for ASEAN.

Older people's associations (OPAs)

Older people's associations (OPAs) are intergenerational and multifunctional, community-based organisations led by older people. An OPA provides a method of informal social protection for older people and their communities. Through these community-based organisations, older people and their households can improve their livelihoods and wellbeing. Although the OPA model is different in many countries, many common characteristics are shared, including the main aim, which is to improve the wellbeing of older people and their communities.



1. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN has 10 Member States which are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
2. UN Population Division (2005). World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision
3. Read the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing at <http://bit.ly/2iuPOD>

What participants say:



Vira Tum, HelpAge Cambodia

“It was important for Cambodia to host this event because we want to learn from other countries about their strategies and practices to promote OPAs, and also for Cambodia to share its experience with other countries. The OPAs that we organised for the field visit are quite new and the programmes might be limited, but we wanted to demonstrate the collaboration that is possible between the OPAs, communities, and NGOs both local and international. The intergenerational factor of OPAs is something we would like to highlight. I think the most important point is how governments can support OPAs and ensure their sustainability and self-sufficiency in the long term.”



Dr Vichai Chokvivat, Senior Citizen Council of Thailand

“For Thailand, this was an opportunity to learn from other ASEAN countries and international organisations, so that we can adapt the lessons learnt to our country. At the same time, we could share our experience with others too. At this workshop, it was very useful for us to meet other people working in the same area of work as we do. We could build a strong network and will continue working together on ageing issues.”

Dr San San Aye, Department of Social Welfare, Myanmar

“In Myanmar, we have a strong interest in OPAs. Older people can contribute to our economy. Many of them are still active and very wise. The government has to provide both a policy and a strategy that supports older people. They are important for our country’s development. An OPA is a good community-based tool that allows each community to work on its own issues and try to solve problems without assistance.

In Myanmar, we have OPSHG (Older People Self-Help Groups) which are being piloted and, based on our achievements so far and the challenges that we face, we are planning to increase their numbers.”



Eva Sabdono, Yayasan Emong Lansia (Indonesia)

“It is important that ASEAN involved CSOs and NGOs in the process because we will follow up on the promises that were made in the workshop. For example, when I joined the MIPAA in Madrid, I came back to Indonesia and reminded the government that we need to produce a plan of action on ageing. If I had not been involved, I could not have done so. There are a lot of things that can be done without a big budget, so I don’t understand why people always talk only about resources and budget. The most important thing is that people share the same intention and have great determination.”



Dioscor Benalla, Confederation of Older People’s Associations of the Philippines

“Healthcare and social protection are the two most important issues that must be addressed by OPAs. They need programmes on these two issues. OPAs must raise awareness of older people’s rights. There should be awareness-raising activities on rights and issues that affect older people. They must be assertive in taking their rights forward. Successful OPAs require a strong commitment from all sectors.”



Notes:

CSOs - Civil society organisations

MIPAA - ‘Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing’ is a comprehensive action plan for governments and civil society, amongst other groups, for building a society for all ages. MIPAA is the first global agreement which recognises older people as contributors to the development of their societies, and which commits governments to including ageing in all social and economic development policies, including poverty reduction programmes.

Age Demands Action global activities on International Day of Older Persons

Once again, older men and women from all over the world came together to campaign for their human rights for the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October. This year campaigners were encouraged to ‘Take a Stand against Ageism’.

Ageism is stereotyping and discrimination against individuals or groups on the basis of their age. It is a social perception that is widely adhered to yet difficult to recognise. We are used to hearing the expression “too old” to refer to older people without thinking about the damage this may cause to both older and younger people. It is a form of discrimination and as with all discrimination, it legitimises and sustains inequalities.

This year, partners in the **Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia, Myanmar and Cambodia** all took part in Age Demands Action (ADA) events for the International Day of Older Persons. They aimed to start a conversation with older people about ageism, encourage ministers to attend the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Ageing and build relationships with governments for future collaboration on ageing issues.

Decision makers met and pledges made

In **Cambodia** older people met with the Minister of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY), who pledged to sponsor and expand older people’s associations (OPAs) throughout the country.

In **Mongolia**, campaigners met the Prime Minister as well as the Chair of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The Prime Minister pledged that the new law for older people will come into effect in January 2017 and people of 70 years and older will receive a minimum of 200,000 tug (US\$ 100) a year.

Our partner in **the Philippines**, the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), met with the Commissioner on Human Rights of the Philippines, who promised to attend the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Ageing this year and to call for the strong involvement of the National Human Rights Institute in the discussion.

Consciousness-raising and role-play workshops

Many partners in the region and around the world held consciousness-raising and role-play workshops to start a discussion on ageism.

We are all affected by ageism every day but unless it is in our consciousness it is difficult to see the damage it does and what we can do to tackle it. This is where consciousness-raising comes in. It is a



tool that encourages people to explore feelings of frustration or injustice, which they may have previously dismissed as unimportant or the norm, in a confidential group.

Older men and women explore how they feel about getting older, and give examples of times when they have been treated differently because of their age.

Role-play workshops can have a similar impact. They enable the audience and participants to explore how it feels to experience ageism and how to challenge it by seeing ageist incidents being played out in front of them.

Partners in Cambodia, Mongolia and Myanmar all carried out consciousness-raising workshops, whilst in the Philippines, COSE created a role-play workshop. In Cambodia, they set up a brainstorming session with the ageing alliance in order to connect all of the Older Peoples Associations (OPAs) in different provinces to work together to tackle ageism.

HelpAge in Myanmar said:

“This was the first ever discussion about ageism in Myanmar and it was an effective initiative advocating for the rights of older people in our society.”



Ageism and a UN convention on the rights of older people

One of our overarching aims for ADA has been to campaign for a UN convention on the rights of older people. Highlighting the prevalence of ageism across the world will strengthen the case for a new convention and the need to protect our right to live free from violence and abuse and discrimination in every aspect of our lives, including in older age. We hope that raising awareness about ageism will continue to build on how partners have been campaigning towards a convention.

If you would like to know more about what we can do together on ageism and the UN convention, get in touch at campaigns@helppage.org or add your voice to our wall on why you're taking a stand against ageism. You can also take a look at our film which features the voices of older people. Please visit our global website www.helppage.org.

(BH)

Read more how HelpAge has worked on the Convention at <http://www.helppage.org/what-we-do/rights/towards-a-convention-on-the-rights-of-older-people/>

Philippine government considers more pro-ageing policies through COSE's support

► Philippines

Recently, the Philippine president, legislators, national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs) have started to pay serious attention to older citizens' issues and concerns. Statesmen and agencies' heads have given strong consideration to the recommendations of the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) and the Confederation of Older People's Associations in the Philippines (COPAP) in consultation meetings and hearings.

These discussions have contributed to some notable developments, such as: a) the piloting of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Reporting System and Prevention Programme for Elder Abuse Cases (RESPPEC), b) a

proposal to increase the budget for social pension to include a number of indigent senior pensioners; c) the passing of the Anti-Age Discrimination in Employment Act that prohibits the discrimination against any individual in employment (hiring) based on their age, and d) the Centenarian Act of 2016 to honour and give additional privileges to Filipinos aged 100 and over.

The legislators also expressed interest in a universal social pension system. At a tax reform hearing, Senator Sonny Angara asked COSE Executive Director Emily Beridico to explain the concept of a universal social pension in the Senate Committee of Ways and Means. The proposed pension system also received a

nod from Congressman Rodel Batocabe, who pledged to file a bill on the institutionalisation of said system.

In the past, only a few laws have been created and implemented in the Philippines that protect and give rights to older people. These are the Republic Act (RA) No. 7432 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003, which was amended by the Republic Act No. 9994 or the Senior Citizens Act of 2010 to include provision for social pension. Another law is the Republic Act 10645 or mandatory PhilHealth coverage for all senior citizens, which was also an amendment to RA 9994.

(HG)

Thai government announces new measures to support older people

► Thailand

In early November, the Government of Thailand announced four new measures to support older people. These measures will be key to coping with an ageing society, since the ageing population in Thailand will reach 20 per cent by 2020.

First, concerning jobs, the government will encourage the business sector to hire more older people and offer tax privileges for entrepreneurs who do so.

Second, concerning residence for older people, the government will provide land or offer financial support for real estate companies that will develop projects for older people.

Third, concerning reverse mortgages, people over 60 will be able to pledge their debt-free residences as collateral for loans. The amount of the mortgage will depend on the age of the borrower, the house value and the interest rate.

Fourth, concerning an integrated national pension system, a board of members will be formed to establish policy and set up a national pension fund for workers aged 15–60, including workers in the private sector and temporary workers.

In addition, there was also a proposition to extend the retirement age. According to the Minister of Social Development and Human Security, workers in the private sector would be encouraged to extend their retirement age beyond 55, while those who work in the public sector would be offered incentives such as tax rebates if they are taking care of aged parents.

The government also supports the notions that older people should be offered life-long education, easy access to public transport and opportunities to exchange knowledge and learn new skills. Older people and those entering old age should be considered an important resource for Thai society and continues to contribute to the country's development.

(WW)



Golden Book: Vietnam's OPA fundraising tool adopted in Cambodia



The Older People's Association (OPA) in Reach Dounkeo village recently adopted a new strategy to secure resources to support the community in solving local challenges by fund-raising locally through a Golden Heart Book. The OPA committee was invited by HelpAge Cambodia to attend a training session in a Reach Dounkeo pagoda about the Golden Book, a model used by OPAs in Vietnam. The Golden Book is a space where OPA members can identify individual or family

situations where support is required. Each case has its own entry, providing photos and details of a specific situation. Donors can contribute to individual cases or to the work of the OPA in supporting vulnerable community members.

One entry in the Golden Book describes the poor living conditions of one of the OPA members, Mr Yung. A widower since Khmer Rouge days, Mr Yung has two sons and four grandchildren. Both of his sons migrated to work as labourers in

Story from the field

Thailand some time ago but one has recently returned to the village with a drug dependency. *"I was very sad and depressed to discover that my son has a drug addiction. I don't know what I can do except look after him as well as I can"*. Caring for his son has drained Mr Yung's savings. He explains, *"I am 87 years old but I still have no toilet at home. I always go to the nearby jungle or the wild area behind my house when I need to go to the toilet. It is hard for me at this age when I need to go to the toilet at night time"*.

When the OPA started the Golden Heart Book in his village, it raised US\$ 150 in just one month. The OPA committee decided to allocate some of this fund to build a toilet for Mr Yung as his need is a priority for him in later life. He expressed, *"In all my life, I never expected to have a toilet. But now I have one and I'm very happy"*.

Regional social protection workshop: Mandalay region

► Myanmar

A regional Social Protection Workshop was held on 8–9 October 2016, in Mandalay, Myanmar, organised by HelpAge International Myanmar with the collaboration of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The main purpose of this workshop was to identify vulnerabilities in seven districts – Mandalay, Myingyan, Pyinoolwin, Yame'thin, Nyaung Oo, Kyaukse, and Meiktila, and to draft a feasible social protection action plan based on the identified needs of vulnerable groups organised by lifespan. These groups are early childhood, school age, women and the elderly. The expected result of this two-day workshop was to clarify the role and responsibilities of key stakeholders in implementing social protection arrangements.

A total of 177 participants came from different government departments, representing Labour, Immigration, Home Affairs, Education, Health and Sports, Planning and Finance, Social Welfare,

General Administration, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, as well as the National League for Democracy (NLD) and parliamentarians. The inclusion of participants from such vastly different sectors aimed at building a platform between the community level and the political body to achieve the approval of the central and regional government for the regional social protection plan.

The participation of Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement and U Myo Thit, the Regional Minister for Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources, had a great impact on the workshop, as their focus on the formulation of regional social protection plans offered a huge empowerment to the role of key parliamentarians and ministries. HelpAge staff took an active part in group discussions and Dr. Wesum (Social Protection Advisor to the government of

Myanmar) participated in the panel discussion on the role of policy and decision makers, together with speakers from Parliament, the Planning Department, and the General Administration Department. The result of the panel discussion was a commitment to collaborate in establishing and developing a community-based social protection mechanism from key actors in the relative departments.

The two-day workshop concluded with suggested ways to prepare a vulnerability profile for the townships by the end of December. Also, the results of group discussions were summarised to produce a regional plan to be drafted by the external consultant hired by HelpAge International Myanmar.

(PS)



Resources

Publications



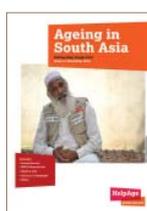
The Economic Implications of Ageing Conference proceedings
HelpAge International,
East Asia/Pacific



Informal social protection in Myanmar's central dry zone
HelpAge International,
Myanmar Country Office



Ageing and the City
HelpAge International



Ageing in South Asia (Issue 2)
HelpAge International,
South Asia



"Asia-Pacific countries should strengthen their health systems and sharply increase spending to deliver effective universal coverage in order to meet the changing needs of their fast ageing populations, according to a new OECD report"

Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific 2016
Measuring Progress towards Universal Health Coverage
OECD/WHO

Blogs

Make cities safe and inclusive for older people, says new HelpAge report ahead of Habitat III (<http://bit.ly/2eotzMi>)

Ben Small, HelpAge International

HIV in India: why are older people the forgotten story? (<http://bit.ly/2haB8ao>)

Prakash Tyagi, GRAVIS, India

Human Rights Day: Standing up for older people's rights today and every day (<http://bit.ly/2hMS1b0>)

Bridget Sleep, HelpAge International

A UN convention on ageing would protect older people's rights in Mongolia (<http://bit.ly/2hMIUqS>)

Amarsanaa Darisuren, Center for human rights and development (CHRD), Mongolia

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

AgeNews East Asia/Pacific aims to highlight issues of ageing and the rights of older people in East Asia/Pacific as well as share experiences of the network working with and for older people.

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