

Humanitarian Response & DRR



Waqas A Qureshi/HelpAge International

To ensure that every older woman and man can say “I am safe and secure, free from discrimination and abuse”.

HelpAge International in Pakistan works closely with the national and international humanitarian organizations to influence policy and practice to ensure that the specific needs of the older people affected by the humanitarian situations are addressed. We implemented a humanitarian response to the 2010 floods emergency by providing health, shelter, food, NFIs, psycho-social support and livelihoods support. Since then HelpAge has responded to all major emergencies in country including the annual floods from 2011 - 2015, Chitral earthquake 2015, and the Temporary Dislocated Persons (TDPs) situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas since 2012. We respond to the emergencies by providing age and disability inclusive life-saving services to the affected communities and also by supporting other humanitarian organizations to make their programs inclusive of older people and persons with disabilities.

Age and Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Services

Health

HelpAge International has provided age-friendly primary health care services to over 106,023 older people across Pakistan supporting their physical, mental and social well-being during emergencies. These include eye care services including restoring vision, psycho social support, health education, primary healthcare services including screening and medicine for non-communicable diseases, and mobility aids.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene

During emergencies, HelpAge International proactively provides clean water, sanitary and hygiene facilities to vulnerable older people and their families. We have supported more than 7,000 older people and their families with hygiene kits.

Shelter and Non Food Items

Since 2010, HelpAge International has supported more than 4500 older people and their families by providing them shelter and non-food items including shelter kits, winterization kits, solar lamps, kitchen kits and mosquito nets and repellents.

Food and Nutrition

HelpAge International ensures that the nutritional needs of older people, often overlooked during emergencies are addressed, by providing them age friendly food and nutritional assistance. We have supported more than 6,600 older men and women with age-friendly food packs and nutrition kits.

Livelihoods Support

HelpAge International has been supporting older people by assisting them in generating decent income through various interventions such as poultry training and inputs and conditional and unconditional cash assistance to the vulnerable families. Conditional cash grants were provided for rehabilitation of livelihood activities, and unconditional cash assistance is granted to extremely vulnerable individuals/families who are dependent on their relatives or communities for their subsistence. HelpAge has supported over 5,000 older people, persons with disabilities and women headed vulnerable households to recover their livelihoods after an emergency.

Protection Services

We have successfully implemented older people led monitoring, referral and advocacy (MRA) activities both during floods and TDPs emergencies. In this regard, we train older people on monitoring whether the services delivered by humanitarian organizations are inclusive of older people and persons with disabilities; identifying prioritizing their advocacy issues, and networking and coordination with the local decision-makers and humanitarian organizations to ensure inclusion of older people and persons with disabilities in their programs. HelpAge also facilitates older people, persons with disabilities and women headed households with seeking legal documents and registration for the available services by the government and other humanitarian organizations.



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Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

HelpAge has provided technical inputs into several humanitarian policy and programme documents in country to make them inclusive of older people and persons with disabilities. In 2016, HelpAge signed an MoU with the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) to support them and their partners to make their policies and programmes inclusive of older people and persons with disabilities.

HelpAge International is also providing technical support to the DFID funded RELIEF consortium to ensure the integration of inclusion principles and practices in the programme. RELIEF is a multi-sectoral intervention with a focus on Protection, Livelihoods and WASH services for TDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA.

ADCAP

Ageing and Disability Capacity Building Programme (ADCAP) aims at improving age and

disability inclusive response by the international, national, local humanitarian organizations, donors, and the government. This is done through building awareness and capacity of these humanitarian partners to respond to the specific needs of older people and persons with disabilities, support their inclusion in humanitarian programs and reduce the protection risks they face during emergencies. In this regard, HelpAge and the ADCAP partners have developed minimum standards on ageing and disability inclusive humanitarian response. Till now we have trained 146 humanitarian actors on the use of these minimum standards.

Some of the large scale humanitarian programs in country including the OFDA funded RAPID Fund and DFID funded RELIEF programme have already started implementing ADCAP minimum standards.

Advocacy for Inclusive Humanitarian Response and DRR

HelpAge is one of the founding members of Ageing and Disability Task force (ADTF) in Pakistan. Since 2010, as an active member of Ageing and Disability Task Force (ADTF) Pakistan, we have been raising awareness amongst the humanitarian actors and the government institutions about the vulnerabilities of older people and persons with disabilities during emergencies and advocating for making their humanitarian and disaster risk reduction interventions inclusive of older people and persons with disabilities.

HelpAge also participates in several DRR and humanitarian coordination forums including the clusters and the working groups in country and advocates for age and disability inclusive policies, programs and tools. We have successfully included Older People's Associations (Community based forums for

Older People) in National Humanitarian Network (NHN) forum in Nowshera district where they are advocating for the inclusion of Older People in Disaster Risk Reduction.

To raise awareness about the importance of age and disability inclusive DRR and humanitarian programs, we observe International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) every year on 13 October. In 2014, the Prime Minister of Pakistan highlighted the importance of inclusion of older people and issues in DRR.



Inclusive DRR

HelpAge International implements Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) programme in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. This programme provides an opportunity for old and young; men and women of the communities to come together and share their

capacities for reducing risks related to disasters. Older men and women contribute in disaster preparedness and response by sharing their indigenous knowledge while the younger people furnish their energies for implementation of various CBDRM activities.

Capacity Building of Communities on Inclusive CBRM and Climate Change Adaptation

We have established 237 'older people led' and 'older people inclusive' Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) in Pakistan. These include 40 DMCs in Nowshera- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; 50 in Rahim Yar Khan, 50 in Muzaffargarh, Punjab; 40 in Shikarpur and 57 in Jacobabad, Sindh. These DMCs (consist of older and younger members of the community) are trained on inclusive disaster risk management planning at the village level, development and implementation of local level Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) plans and registering their village DRM and CCA plans with their respective District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs).

The DMCs are also equipped with DRR toolkit and trained on implementation of their disaster risk management plans through mock drills and simulation exercises. The DMCs continue to update their DRM plans and engage with DDMAs for renewal and integration of their plans into the district government DRM plans.

HelpAge promotes an 'inclusive' approach to CBRM whereby vulnerable members of the communities' i.e. older people, persons with disabilities, women, children, ethnic and religious minorities, refugees and internally displaced people who are generally excluded from planning and decision making at the community level, actively participate in CBRM planning and implementation. In this regard, HelpAge has developed technical guidelines to support organizations working on CBRM to ensure participation and inclusion of these vulnerable members of the communities. Furthermore, HelpAge's CBRM activities facilitate

strengthening inter-generational linkages at the community level by harnessing older people's wisdom and knowledge about traditional risks management measures and youth's talent and energies in implementing these measures.

The VDMCs are linked with relevant stakeholders like DDMA, Rescue 1122 and local municipalities where they share their plans and do joint mock drills to ensure effective response.

Technical Support on Inclusive CBRM

HelpAge International is supporting the DFID funded CAWI consortium consisting of Concern Worldwide, ACTED, WHH and IRC for including older people and persons with disabilities in their CBRM activities. HelpAge International also supported Civil Alliance for Disaster Resilience (CADR) in Pakistan by developing technical guidelines on Inclusive CBRM with funding from Disaster Preparedness, European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (DIPECHO). HelpAge also facilitated piloting of South Asia Regional Inclusive Framework in Pakistan. The preliminary framework provides guidance on inclusion of vulnerable groups in DRR. Based on the final field piloting the framework is articulated in regional DRR toolkit.

Institutional Partnerships

HelpAge International works in close collaboration with the government authorities. We have developed and piloted technical guidelines for inclusion of vulnerable groups in DRR in collaboration with PDMA-KP. Furthermore, we have signed an MoU with the Center for Disaster Management Preparedness and (CDMP), University of Peshawar for sharing expertise in the areas of evidence generation, advocacy and mainstreaming vulnerable groups for their DRR curriculum.



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