

ETHIO Ageways

Editorial

With the occurrences of the International Day of Older People on 1 October and the Global Launch of the UNFPA-HelpAge Global Ageing Index 2013 brought due attention to the matter of *the greying of generations*.

In an interview with Ethiopian media, the CEO of HelpAge had noted that “the young bulge today is the old bulge tomorrow and the right policy direction should be made”. Confirming this statement is the UNFPA report *Ageing in the 21st Century* which shows by the year 2050, eight out of 10 people will be over 60 years old and the population of older people will outnumber the population aged 15.

With this upcoming demographic shift, UN agencies, governments and development actors must address the phenomenon through appropriate policies and programmes mainstreaming ageing into international and national development agendas.

This pertains particularly to developing countries, where the anticipated decrease in fertility rates and increase in mortality rates will have the major impact that requires the matter be addressed now.

Given the substantial, however; often overlooked contributions older people made and continue to make to society, it is necessitated that stakeholders take perspective measures and develop coping mechanisms to address the future bulge of older people in advance.

In this 3rd edition of our newsletter, HelpAge presents its works with local partners in Ethiopia to support the inclusion of older people in development plans and interventions over the past six months.

Welcoming the Newly Appointed CEO of HelpAge International

In October 2013, HelpAge’s Ethiopia Country Office had the privilege to host Mr Porter, the newly appointed CEO of HelpAge International, on his first field mission.



Mr Porter meets older people at the Older People Exhibition.

Commencing his visit, the CEO in the company of Ms Jane Scobie, Advocacy and Communications Manager, and the Country Director, convened to the Older People Exhibition where he was welcomed by the President of EEPNA and several older people association’s (OPA) leaders. The viewing of the stalls of the different partner and other older people focused organisations provided a glimpse of the care and support programme and the opportunities of ageing friendly income generation activities undertaken in the country. The exhibition also offered a venue for discussion between the CEO, the Country Director of HelpAge and the leaders of the different OPAs from Addis Ababa. The CEO broadly deliberated with the older representatives on the opportunities and challenges of the activities they are undertaking as well as the role of HelpAge International in that regard.

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Events

May 2013

HelpAge International's Ethiopia Programme relocated its office. Find new location on back of publication.

18 May 2013

A Stakeholders' Experience Sharing Forum was conducted in Bahir Dar attended by government officials, different older people associations, non-governmental and media aiming to facilitate learning from the good practices of Amhara National Regional State and share perspectives and regional experiences in improving the lives of older people.

8–12 June 2013

The Regional Director of HelpAge International's East West Central Africa Regional Development Centre (EWC ARDC) visited resilience building and livelihood projects in Borena and Hawassa.

14 – 15 June 2013

HelpAge co-facilitated a workshop on social protection focusing on HIV and AIDS in collaboration with Addis Ababa HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Office in Addis Ababa. The workshop was aimed at sensitising older people and PLWHAs associations as well as UN agencies, international organisations, government sector bureaus and charities and societies on the social protection policy and communication strategy.

10 – 11 July 2013

In commemoration of World Elder Abuse Day 2013, HelpAge supported its affiliate, the Ethiopian Elderly and Pensioners National Association in collaborating with the Ethiopian Human Rights Authority to raise awareness of 150 older people associations' leaders and members as well as concerned government line departments. (See Page 9)

20 – 31 August 2013

In collaboration with its British partner, Age International, HelpAge conducted a workshop on participatory photography for beneficiaries of the Support A Grandparent/Raise A Grandchild project in Addis Ababa. A photo exhibition 'ImAge Ethiopia—The View of Ethiopian Older People' was held at ASNI Gallery. (See Page 7)

22 August 2013

HelpAge organized a half-day workshop for the media to raise awareness on ageing in Ethiopia. The event saw the active participation of over 30 representatives from the media and relevant government line departments. (See Page 6)

30 September – 1 October 2013

The occurrence of International Day of Older Persons' 2013 was celebrated vibrantly commemorated in Ethiopia. (See Page)

12 October 2013

HelpAge International co-organised the Disaster Risk Reduction Conference held at the Hilton Hotel. (See Page 5)

17 – 20 October 2013

The first annual older people focused exhibition was held at the Tropical Gardens in Addis Ababa. (see Page 4)

17 – 21 October 2013

Mr Toby Porter, CEO of HelpAge, visited the Ethiopia Country Programme on his first official since his appointment. (Page 1, continued on page 10)

8 November 2013

A consultation on Older People Issues in the Post-2015 convened at the Kaleb Hotel in Addis Ababa in the presence of its government and non-governmental stakeholders, also launching the study 'The Vulnerabilities of Older People in Ethiopia'. (See Page 8)

November 2013

HelpAge was ranked 83rd out of the Top 130 Charities Brands of the UK for 2013.



Mr Porter, new CEO of HelpAge, visits the Cash Transfer Pilot in Tigray Regional State.

Jane Scobie/Screen Shot/HelpAge International (2013)

A Bright Commemoration of Ageing

With the theme “The Future We Want: What Older People Are Saying”, International Day of Older Perspns’ 2013 was celebrated vibrantly at national and regional levels for the 22nd time in Ethiopia this year.

Erna Mentemesnot Hintz/HelpAge International/2013



The multi purpose building in Bahir Dar intended to generate income for activities benefitting older people.

At national level, the celebration was held in Bahir Dar City, the capital of the Amhara Regional National State on 30th and 1st October 2013, which observed the participation of over 700 high government officials, representatives of non-governmental organistaions as well as older people associations and media. This region was selected because of its successes in development activities benefitting the 60+ generation through unified action by the regional government and older people associations. The celebration was organised by a network of organisations headed by the Ethiopian Elderly and Pensioners National Association (EEPNA) and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in collaboration with the Amhara Regional Government and was highlighted by a series of diverse events.

A march of nearly 400 people accompanied by a marching band was organised with the street named in honour of older people ‘Aregawian Godana’ (Older People Avenue) as a start point. An official visit by high government officials comprised of Ministers, Commissioners and Directors convened to the construction site of the older people centre and multipurpose building. This regionally financed project estimated at over ETB 60 million, aims to raise the funds for the operations of the regional older people associations and serve as a older people centre. Highlighting the main event held at the Bahir Dar Cultural Hall, were speeches delivered by the Adviser to the President’s Office, the Minister of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Minister of the Ministry Women, Youth and

Children Affairs, the High Commissioner of Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Director of the Private Social Security Agency as well as the Country Director of HelpAge International and leaders of older people associations. The speeches commended the efforts undertaken by different government and non-government organisations, however also recognising the need for strengthened works and further promising cohesive action with stakeholders to develop plans and implement policies in assistance to older people. Moreover, the event was complemented by musical entertainment, viewing of a documentary film and ceremonial events. The ceremonial events included an award ceremony recognising the contribution of different governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as exemplary older men and women and a candle lighting ceremony.

A panel discussion was also staged which was lead by the State Minister of MoLSA, his adviser and the Director of the Education Bureau of the region and provided the older participant with an opportunity to voice their views and opinions.

Besides the multi-events in Bahir Dar, HelpAge with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs sponsored the popular TV show Q & A with a reach of 1 million, which saw older people competing confidently alongside younger people.

At regional and zone levels, the celebration of IDOP 2013 observed the participation of another than 3000 older people and their stakeholders in Addis Ababa City, Oromia Regional State and Borena Zone.

The event was a success in terms demonstrating the contributions and challenges of the Ethiopian older people in a vibrant manner with the active engagement of several government decision makers and other stakeholders.



Senior government officials commemorating the contributions of older people in Bahir Dar on 1st October in a candle lighting ceremony.

Erna Mentemesnot Hintz/HelpAge International/2013

Initiation of the First Annual Older People's Care and Support Exhibition in Ethiopia

HelpAge International in close collaboration with Ethiopian Elderly and Pensioners National Association (EEPNA) and partners lead the organisation of the first-ever annual exhibition focused entirely on ageing in Ethiopia.

Held in the greenery of the Tropical Gardens in Addis Ababa from 17th to 20th October, this exemplary event aimed to showcase the work undertaken by and for older people. This model exhibition allowed organisations to display their efforts towards improving and sustaining the lives of the so often neglected demographic group of today's generation, particularly in matters relating to care and support activities and job opportunities.

The exhibition was officially opened in the presence of senior government officials, representatives of older people focused non-governmental organisations and older people associations. Following a joint ribbon cutting ceremony by EEPNA and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), the guests convened to the viewing of the stands representing 11 Addis Ababa based organisations focused on the 60 + generation.

The exhibitors demonstrated their work presenting briefings, video, printed materials, photographs, handicrafts and actual live production of these to senior officials from government, the newly appointed CEO of HelpAge and representatives of different older people associations from across the capital city. Furthermore, the event offered experience and knowledge sharing between the exhibiting organisations and engaged teenagers as volunteers with the target of bridging the gap between the generations.

With this exhibition, a new culture of showcasing the views, contributions and challenges of older people and their associations to different stakeholders has been initiated.

"It would help not to treat age as if it were any less of a pleasure than it was when we were six and saying, 'I'm six and a half.' You know, we could be saying, 'I'm fifty and a half' and say it with joy. Each age is different and has different discoveries and pleasures."

Gloria Steinem



Erma Mentenot Hintz/HelpAge International/2013



Erma Mentenot Hintz/HelpAge International/2013



Erma Mentenot Hintz/HelpAge International/2013



Erma Mentenot Hintz/HelpAge International/2013

Photos (Top to bottom)

1. Advisor to State Minister of MoLSA and Country Director of HelpAge get a briefing from the exhibitor representing 'Yewedequtin Ansu'.
2. Director of the Directorate for Vulnerable Groups of Ethiopian Human Rights Commission visits and appreciates an exhibitor stand.
3. Older beneficiary describes the participatory photography outputs she produced.
4. CEO of HelpAge with members of the ADA delegation.

Enhancing the Inclusion of Older People in Disaster Risk Reduction

This year, International Disaster Risk Reduction Day Conference was *Enhancing the inclusion of Older People and other Vulnerable Groups in Disaster Risk Reduction* held on 12th December 2013 at Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa in presence of over 200 representatives from governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as media.

Organised by a consortium of humanitarian organisations including FAO, ACCRA, UN OCHA, Handicap International as well as HelpAge International, the event was highlighted from speeches of high governmental officials and UN agencies, a demonstration of a participatory theatre piece performed by a dance group comprised mainly of people living with disabilities, presentations of approaches and best practices for the inclusion vulnerable groups from different focused organisations as well as an exhibition which saw the participation of nearly 20 local and international non-governmental organisations.

HelpAge presented a paper on how the international humanitarian system could be sufficiently set up to ensure the inclusion of specific vulnerable groups and needs of older people, people living with disabilities (PLWD) and other socially vulnerable groups as well as how to reap the benefits of the contribution of older people and PLWD in their communities passing on 'traditional' knowledge, skills and experiences in DRM.



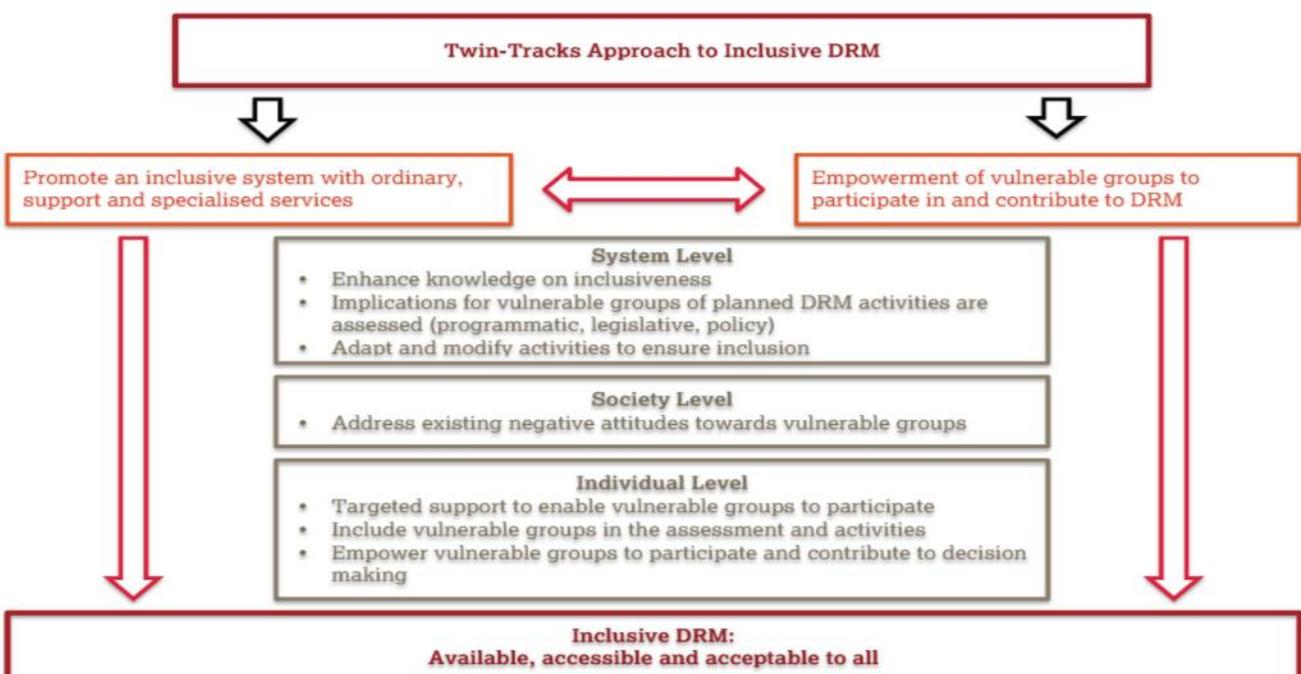
HelpAge International 2013

Older women speaks at a community meeting in Borena Zone.

To this end, HelpAge advocated for the 'intergenerational approach and inclusive framework in disaster risk management', which aims at supporting development and promotion of intergenerational practice as a catalyst for effective DRM at community level. Moreover, HelpAge shared its experiences of implementing the approach in six districts of Borena Zone benefitting more than 45000 pastoralist communities which was made possible through partnerships with ECHO and Save the Children.

It can be said the conference was a success in seeing participation of a broad range of humanitarian associations learning and sharing their best practices in including people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Illustration 1: The Vulnerability Inclusive Framework



Catering to the Needs of Older Refugees in the Camps of Dollo Ado

Over the years, continued conflict in neighbouring Somalia has led to high influx of refugees into Ethiopia. Analysing the system of response system of the humanitarian work being undertaken, it was found although the needs of vulnerable groups such as women and children were built into system whilst those of older people were highly neglected. In addition, the relationship between the refugees and the host community were seen to become increasingly fragile.

It was in 2011 that HelpAge first got involved in responding to the nutritional, health and psycho-social, of older refugees in the camps of Dollo Ado.

As the leading organisation on ageing, HelpAge has been active involved in responding to the humanitarian needs of older persons.

With funds from the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation, HelpAge with the Pastoralist Welfare Association, supported over 4500 older refugees and members of the host community through the project entitled 'Improving health and mental well-being of older people in Dollo Ado's Refugee Camps and its surrounding area'.

The project saw the construction of six refugee camps, which served as a multi-functional public space for both the refugees and the host communities. The centres were and will continue to be used for healthy living support and advisory services including trainings to the communities. Additionally, walking sticks, wheelchairs and hearing aids were provided to older refugees to reduce their disability within the camps.

Engaging the Media to Promote Active Ageing

In August, Help Age international staged a half-day workshop to harmonise the effort from the media houses for the common goal of improving the conditions of older men and women prior to the International Day of Older Persons on 1st October 2013.

Help Age International said on the occasion that, the issues of older people can only be addressed through collective action by stakeholders. This time it is the journalist who has the power to mobilise the population and influence policy makers. Authorities from local TV, radio and print agencies expressed their willingness to extend their share to the same effort.

The journalists from the TV and Radio stations and media and communications experts from government line departments deliberated on ways of cross support and collaboration towards a successful media campaign and popular sensitisation over the



Older men sit in front of the Older People Centre in Melkadida Camp.

HelpAge International/2013

With increased health and mobility, older people in the camps who have literally no pensions were enabled to access camp services and return to their communities and continue to earn an income.

Furthermore, Older People Groups were established which were in charge of organising different cultural events to relieve the isolation created by the breakdown of traditional social structures. The events included story telling, poetry, songs and cultural competitions and aimed to bring the refugee and host communities together, transfer indigenous knowledge and improve communication between different age groups.

This project has empowered older people to regain an active status in their communities, to speak up about their needs and challenges, share their experiences, knowledge and skills and enabled them to obtain age-friendly support.

concerns of the older people in Ethiopia.

Ultimately, a common understanding and consciousness was reached for the promotion of ageing through an ad hoc committee hoped to bring about sustainable and regular media coverage on ageing through various channels.



Country Director of HelpAge addresses journalist and media experts in the workshop.

PANE/2013

Empowering Older People Through Participatory Photography

In August, HelpAge International in partnership with Age International organised workshops on Participatory Photography for its partners and beneficiaries in Addis Ababa. Age International commissioned PhotoVoice, a UK charity, to provide training to use participatory photography as a way to involve the people a project supports in showing the work they do and why it is important.

Participatory photography is when people affected by issues or living in a community are the ones taking the photos to represent themselves and their situation. It means that someone else is not choosing what to focus on as important, and how to present the people in the community.

Beneficiaries of the partner organisations Enderedada Elder People Association (EEPA) and Community Based Integrated and Sustainable Development Organisation (CBISDO) used their new skills and equipment to show what is needed, and how things are changing, instead of just telling it. In a photo exhibition entitled 'ImAge Ethiopia – The Voice of Older People in Ethiopia' at ASNI Gallery, the beneficiaries were empowered to show their photos with their words to people who cannot come to their community themselves who is involved in the project, what life is like for them, and why their support is important.

"Who would have thought this would happen at my age? Since I learnt how to take photographs, I take my camera everywhere. I take photographs of things I like and my surroundings. My favourite part is sharing what I have captures with other people." Wagay, 73, photographer and beneficiary at CBISDO

HelpAge continues to employ participatory photography in its documentation of projects that

contribute to the empowerment of older people as well as fundraising efforts for care and support.



Exhibitor's of the Participatory Photography Exhibition Mrs Bayush Woldearegay and Mrs Zenebech Wolde from EEPA.

"For the unlearned, old age is winter; for the learned, it is the season of the harvest."

Hasidic saying

Uses of Participatory Photography

A. Personal Change

- Learning new skills
- Building confidence in expressing own opinion and voice
- Finding and understanding own perspective on an issue
- Therapeutic support
- Creative play and fun
- Enabling voices that are usually sidelined to be heard and recognised
- Vocational training – potential income generation or transferrable skills
- Supporting the development of social skills and group work
- Having fun!

B. Social Change

- Building community
- Increasing participation – including those with low literacy and/or social status
- Building dialogue within the community and/or with wider society
- Creating knowledge and understanding of a situation that is misrepresented or ignored
- Raising awareness and educating around issues that are difficult to explain or express
- Advocacy and campaigning – making people care and act
- Generating press and media coverage

The Matter of Older People in the Post-2015 Consultations

HelpAge International and the Poverty Action Network – Ethiopia (PANE) staged a daylong consultation on 8th November 2013 at the Kaleb Hotel in Addis Ababa. The workshop aimed to deliberate, solicit and concretise the issues of the older people in order to ensure their inclusion in the Post-2015 National Development Plan (NDP).

Organisers stated that despite desperate conditions of older people in the country, they had been overlooked in both the global development agenda – Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and that of the national development agenda—the Gross Transformation Plan. Therefore, forums that allow raising and debating the issues of older people are of paramount importance bringing the realities of that particular age group to the attention of policy makers.

Mr Feleke Tadele, Country Director of the Help Age, noted in his address that at present the account of 'life expectancy' is becoming one of the major components of development indicators for countries in their human development performance. Living longer does not ensure the wellbeing of the 60+ age group in the country demonstrated by desperate living conditions of older people coupled with limited support systems available. Thus, CSOs, donors, government agencies and all stakeholders must work hard to complement the gap over the issues of older people in the Post-2015 NDP.

The occasion also saw the launch of the study report entitled *'The Vulnerability of Ethiopian Older People – The Case of Amhara, Oromiya and Tigray National Regional States'*. The study aims to provide comprehensive information on vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms of older people in country and ultimately, is expected to serve as background and guide for government agencies, donors, international agencies and NGOs in developing better-targeted assistance programmes and projects. At present, there are over 4 million older people living in Ethiopia who are largely living in poor conditions and are furthermore deprived of actively partaking in socio-economic activities. The situation for urban older people is dire and matters worsen further in rural settings. The study also noted that as a result of the HIV and AIDS pandemic, older people shoulder the role of carer for numerous orphans and vulnerable children. Nevertheless, there are clear indications that the Government of Ethiopia is processing a proclamation aimed at addressing the conditions of disadvantaged older people through the implementation of a National Social Protection Policy. A second study presented *'The State of Health and Ageing in Ethiopia: A Survey of Health Needs and*

Challenges of Service Provisions'. Conducted in five regional states –Addis Ababa, Afar, Oromiya, Tigray and SNNPR, it was revealed that eye problems, arthritis and hypertension are the pressing health challenges of the older people. Moreover, provision of health services were often found to disregard the particular needs of older people in terms of adequate personnel, supplies, equipment and infrastructure.

By way of recommendation, HelpAge emphasised that major stakeholders that is government agencies, CSOs, donors and other concerned development actors must work together to sustainably support older people through appropriate interventions.



Ms Sofia Mohammed, Senior Programme Officer for HelpAge presents on health and ageing in Ethiopia.

Moreover, the establishment of a separate health policy for the older people, encompassing capacity building for health workers, improved medicine and equipment as well as systematically involving older people in income generating activities to achieve a healthy and productive aging community in the country, was proposed.

Another segment of the conference was *'Post 2015 Development Agenda and Aging'*.

In closing, the Ethiopian Elderly and Pensioners National Association called upon all concerned stakeholders to join hands to work towards the sustaining ageing in the country through an inclusive Post-2015 agenda.

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"Aging is an inevitable process. I surely wouldn't want to grow younger. The older you become, the more you know; your bank account of knowledge is much richer."

--William Holden

The Observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2013 in Ethiopia

Age Demands Action (ADA) was launched in 2007 in 27 countries. The campaign strives for a society in which the 60+ generation can equally enjoy active, dignified, healthy and secure life. Older people are at the heart of ADA since they are best suited to become activists on ageing issues and are passionate advocates for change in their countries. Since it started, ADA has created a sustainable environment where older people lead in bringing about tangible changes in their country and globally. Initially, the focal day of the campaign was focused on the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October. Since then, ADA has become a year round campaign. Several campaign action days ('spikes') have been selected, giving older people an opportunity to remind their governments about their promises on 1 October. One of these spikes is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day commemorated on 15 June. This campaign day aims for older people to approach their governments to raise the issue of elder abuse in their countries as well as support the petition for a new UN Convention on Older People.

Venerating the occasion of WEAAD 2013, the Age Demands Action delegation in close collaboration with our affiliate, Ethiopian Elderly and Pensioners National Association (EEPNA), approached the Office of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and reached consensus to organise events for an audience of older people associations and concerned government line departments in Addis Ababa.

On separate occasions, EEPNA and EHRC hosted two workshops aimed to raise the awareness 160 older people association (OPA) members from Addis Ababa City and concerned government bodies such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Federal and the Addis Ababa Police Commission, giving an insight into what World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is about and scope of ageing covered in the National Plan of Action on Human Rights (NPAHR). Recognising the issue of older people and human rights as a matter that requires serious attention from its stakeholders, the Commissioner for Vulnerable of EHRC reiterated the beginning of much necessitated partnership between EHRC and older people associations and their supporters in implementing the NPAHR and raising awareness of the community of concerned government bodies, the community as well as older people themselves. The meeting also saw speeches from the President of EEPNA, the Director of the Directorate for Social Welfare and Promotion and the Country Director of HelpAge International.

Chairman of the Addis Ababa City OPA and the

EHRC's Director of the Directorate for Human Rights Violation Prevention and Monitoring delivered Presentations. The papers glimpsed at the WEAAD in context to Ethiopia and reviewed the NPAHR in light of the 60+ generation and the role of the EHRC. Open deliberations followed. OPA leaders and members and government stakeholders discussed on the situation of age discrimination, the roles of different government line departments and the OPAs themselves in tackling the matter. During one of the occasions, the Director of the Directorate for Social Welfare Development and Promotion expressed the need for building capacities of older people associations in order to equip them with the skills and knowledge to respond to and tackle the abuse cases across the city as well as strengthening the network of OPAs in this relation. He further noted that the government organisations and older people focused organisations like HelpAge play merely a side role in complimenting the activities of the associations. It is the associations that must work together, strengthening their voice to respond the problem by



Mr Feleke Jember, Director of MoLSA's Directorate for Social Welfare Promotion addresses an audience of older people at the MoLSA Meeting Hall.

taking strategic and unified action. Lastly, he extended the pledge of the Ministry to support older people movement in preventing and monitoring human rights violations against the 60+ generation.

The Vice Chairman of EEPNA called for older people leaders to trickle down the knowledge and information gained through the workshop to their members. A fortnight from the events, OPA leaders of the 11 Addis Ababa City and Sub-City Older People Associations in partnership with respective Offices of Labour and Social Affairs gathered an estimated 6500 signatures from their members and highly contributing to the global petition for a UN Convention for Older Persons.

Remembering A Legendary Hero

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

The news of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's death at the age of 95 has been met by the world with a sense of sadness and loss.

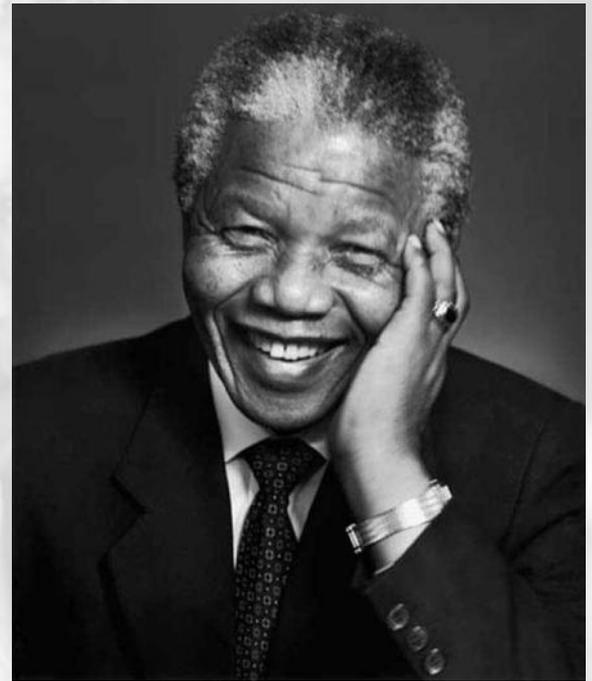
'Madiba' was freed at age 72 after long term imprisonment and was elected President of South Africa in 1994 at the age of 76. During his five year presidency and his work thereafter, Mandela helped to heal the trauma of Apartheid through a process of truth and reconciliation and with a generosity, forgiveness and warmth towards his oppressors.

A source of inspiration to other civil rights activists around the world, Mandela won the Nobel Prize in 1993. His birthday, July 18th, has been declared Mandela Day, a global celebration of his legacy and a day dedicated to promoting global peace.

Mandela saw older people as the key to health of a society and its stability. He was also the founding member of the Elders, an independent group of global leaders who work together for peace and human rights.

It is with regret that HelpAge International in Ethiopia extends its condolences and offers its deepest sympathies to the Mandela family and the world on the passing of the Great Nelson Mandela.

1918—2013



Continued from cover page

The session ended with the CEO pledging continued support to Ethiopian older people in strengthening their capacities to deliver their mission in cooperation with the concerned stakeholders.

Consequently, the CEO set out to observe the Social Cash Transfer Pilot in Tigray Regional State. With funds from UNICEF and HelpAge, this project is supporting more than 4000 people, the majority of whom are older people, with a cash transfer of ETB 155 (≈USD 8) per month to support them in their daily livelihood. In partnership with the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), HelpAge hosted the CEO on a meeting with the community members of the village of Wajirat and to acquaint

himself with the process of the cash transfer at grassroot level. Concluding his stay in Tigray Regional State, the CEO met and deliberated with Mr Telkewoini Assefa, Executive Director of REST, on the project.

In addition to the field visits, HelpAge's Country Office held a reception for Mr Porter at the Siyonat Hotel in Addis Ababa in the presence of high government officials, directors of development organisations, academicians and staff of the country programme.

To view the CEO's video blog on the visit to Tigray go to: <http://www.helpage.org/blogs/toby-porter-20545/visiting-cash-transfer-projects-in-ethiopia-637/>

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Mr Eshetu Bekele, Executive Director of PANE, reviewed the historical developments and several initiatives leading up to the launch of the MDGs in 2000 by world leaders in order to improve the living conditions of the millions of poor in Africa, Asia and Latin American. The MDGs have benefited many countries where millions of their citizens graduated from poverty, while other countries are at various points in the race until 2015 and others still lag behind. Today, there are about 430 million older people in the world who live under uncertain conditions of income. Hence, they deserve due attention when developing the Post-2015 development plans. Groundwork must be laid to ensure both the incorporation of older persons in the NDP as well as assurance they benefit from it.

Accordingly, there should be a systematic and scientific national database for the people 60 years and over, proper social protection, and non-discriminatory approach to the issues of the older people with clearly defined goals.

Successively, fruitful discussions were held amongst representatives from government, non-governmental, CSO and older people associations' ensuing in important recommendations to incorporate the matter of ageing in the NDP. These included means such as free land transportation for poor older people, launch of national senior citizens packages and reservation of at least 10 % of seats in parliament for senior citizens and vulnerable groups were brought forward.

UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLES FOR OLDER PERSONS

- 1 Older persons should have access to adequate food, water, shelter, clothing and health care through the provision of income, family and community support and self-help.
- 2 Older persons should have the opportunity to work or to have access to other income-generating opportunities.
- 3 Older persons should be able to participate in determining when and at the pace withdrawal from the labor force takes place.
- 4 Older persons should have access to appropriate educational and training programmes.
- 5 Older people should be able to live in environments that are safe and

INDEPENDENCE

PARTICIPATION

- 7 Older persons should remain integrated in society, participate actively in the formulation and implementation of policies that directly affect their well-being and share their knowledge and skills with the younger generations.
- 8 Older persons should be able to seek and develop opportunities for service to the community and to serve as volunteers in positions appropriate to their interest and capabilities.
- 9 Older persons should be able to form movements or associations of older persons.

- 10 Older persons should benefit from family and community care and protection in accordance with each society's system of cultural values.
- 11 Older persons should have access to health care to help them to maintain or regain the optimum level of physical, mental and emotional well-being and to prevent or delay the onset of illness.
- 12 Older persons should have access to social and legal services to enhance their autonomy, protection and care.
- 13 Older persons should be able to utilise appropriate levels of institutional care providing protection, rehabilitation, and social and mental stimulation in a humane and secure environment.
- 14 Older persons should be able to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms when residing in any shelter, care or treatment facility, including full respect for their dignity, beliefs, needs and privacy and for the right to make decisions about their care and quality of their lives.

CARE

SELF-FULFILMENT

- 15 Older persons should be able to pursue opportunities for the full development of their potential.
- 16 Older persons should have access to educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources of society.

- 17 Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and to be able to be free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse.
- 18 Older persons should be treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status, and be valued independently of their economic contribution.

DIGNITY

Staff updates

"Well, I don't like getting older; I have to tell you that. But I think that what I have loved in my life are the intergenerational activities. I teach at Georgetown. It gives me an opportunity to stay very connected with the younger generation in terms of conveying information, but also getting information from them. I have always enjoyed having people of different ages around me. I have thought that was fun. I do think that one needs to have respect for people who are older. I really do love the idea that one can respect generations."

Madeleine Albright

Farewell

Eyob Kassa,
Project Officer – Dollo Ado

Diramu Dub,
Cashier and Admin Assistant

Manindanchi Agegnehu,
Finance Officer

Roba Halake,
Programme Officer – Borena Field Office

Welcome

Ahmed Ibrahim,
Project Coordinator – Dollo Ado

Dagim Hailu,
Cashier and Admin Assistant – Dollo Ado
Habtamu Kitaba,
Senior Finance Officer

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HelpAge International

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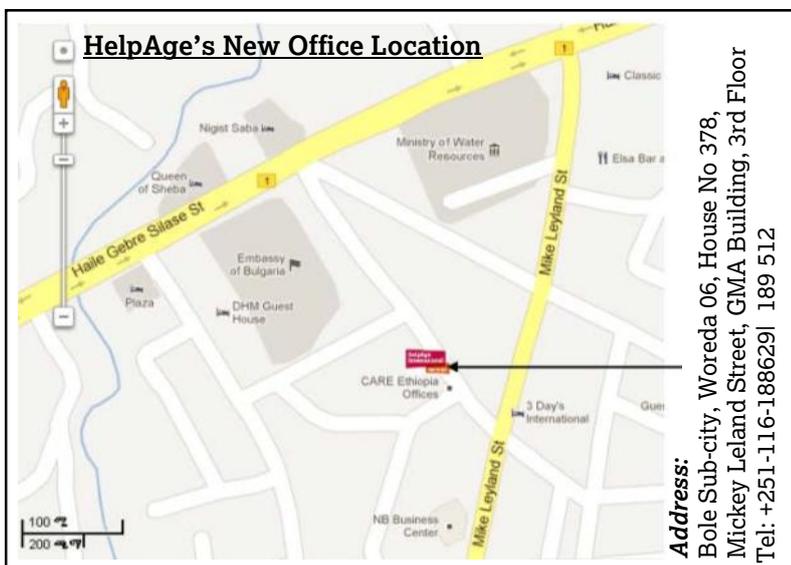
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Feedback from readers are welcome. Please forward your comments to:

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Kindly include your name, organisation (if any) and contact details.



Publications and Other Resources

Available Publications

- **The State of Older Peoples' Health in Ethiopia: The Needs and Challenges of Older People**
- **The HIV & AIDS Peer To Peer Education Manual : Amharic and Afan Oromo Language Version**
- **The Vulnerability of Older people in Ethiopia—The Cases of Oromia, Amhara and SNNP Regional States**

Upcoming Documentary

- **Strengthening Inter-Generational Linkages to Increase Resilience and Reduce Vulnerability in Borena Zone**

E-copies can be requested via email provided on right .