

Building Inclusive Resilient Communities

Perspective of South Asian Experiences & Knowledge



Samina Kousar/HelpAge International

HelpAge

International

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Programme updates

National Disaster Preparedness Day observed in Bangladesh

The National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD) was observed on 10 March 2016 in all Inclusive Disaster Resilience project areas of Bangladesh with the central theme- “We will not be afraid of calamities, we will overcome those”. Around 600 participated in the events organised with an aim to sensitise mass about need to take necessary precautions to face natural calamities, by partners- Bangladesh Institute for Theatre Arts (BITA) and BOHUBRIHY, jointly with the Upazilla administration.



Participants during rally organised on the National Disaster Preparedness Day, 10 March 2016.

Events like discussion, earthquake and fire mock drill/ simulation, and art competition were organised on the day. Several high level government officials including District Commissioner, Upazilla Social Welfare Officer, Upazilla Chairman, Union Parishad Chairman and its members participated in the events.

Students who participated in the art competition learned about the risks and vulnerabilities of older people and inspired them to remain helpful towards older people during emergency situations. Moreover, significant numbers of people were introduced to importance of paying special attention to older people during disasters, as well as utilising their skills and knowledge for better preparedness.

Leadership and Community Management Skills training for Community Based Organisations in Bangladesh

Under Inclusive Disaster Resilience project funded by Margaret A. Cargill Foundation (MACF), training on Leadership and Community Management Skills for representatives of Community Based Organisations were organised during the month of March and April 2016. The overall objective of the training was to enhance decision making and conflict resolving skills and knowledge, required for any successfully community leaders. A total of 90 participants from 50 CBOs, mostly presidents and secretaries of CBOs, were selected and trained through 5 trainings in 3 different project locations. Staff from HelpAge along with implementing partners facilitated the trainings and came up with a detailed follow up action plan at the end of the training.



CBO representatives participating in group work during training

Sumon Sen/ BITA

Contact **Mostafizur Rahman** to learn more about DRR programme in Bangladesh-

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“If I hadn’t received HelpAge cash support I would have starved and wouldn’t able to restart my small shop. It saved my life, helped my son to continue his school. I am now happy with my income”

- Khodeza Bewa, 62, from Kurigram district, Bangladesh

Helping Older People in Emergencies (HOPE) training conducted in Nepal

Under Inclusive Disaster Resilience project funded by Margaret A. Cargill Foundation (MACF), HelpAge International in coordination with its implementing partner- Community Support Group (CSG) conducted several Helping Older People in Emergencies (HOPE) trainings at Kaski and Tanahu district of Nepal, in the month of May 2016. The aim of the training was to sensitise people regarding older people's vulnerabilities/ needs and measures to tackle them particularly in emergencies. Key stakeholders from District Administration Office, District Development Committee, District Women and Children Office, and local NGOs participated the training. Altogether, 8 community level (280 participants) and 2 district level (66 participants) trainings were organised in two of the aforementioned districts. Participants put forth commitments to define their respective roles and responsibilities in humanitarian crisis emphasising the needs as well as capacities older people possess and also made commitment for inclusion of older people issues in their organisational work.

[Read training full report.](#)

Contact **Bhesh Parajuli** to learn more about DRR programme in Nepal-

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Support to the consortium mainstream age and disability

HelpAge International- Pakistan conducted capacity building programme on inclusive humanitarian response for the staffs of Responding to the Evolving and Long-term IDP Emergencies in the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (RELIEF) project in the month of May 2016, using Age and Disability Capacity Building Programme (ADCAP) materials.

RELIEF is a four years project funded by UK Government (DFID), which is being implemented by a consortium consisting of International Rescue Committee, ACTED and HelpAge. The objective of the project is to respond to the emerging as well as long-term needs of the Temporary Displaced People (TDPs) and returnees in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa (KP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). HelpAge as technical partner in the project is ensuring inclusion of older people, Person with Disabilities and their concerns in the project interventions.

One of the major concerns raised during the event is paucity of national level age disaggregated data and lack of awareness among humanitarian agencies about its importance. HelpAge International- Pakistan team has been supporting consortium members as well as project implementing partners to collect sex, age and disability disaggregated data of the activities that are taking place because it could be useful reference for the future.

[Read project progress till April 2016.](#)

Humanitarian response & preparedness project in Muzaffargarh Punjab receive meaningful attention

German Foreign Ministry/HAD funded humanitarian response and preparedness project in Muzaffargarh Punjab being implemented by HelpAge International- Pakistan has received meaningful attention from local level authorities. Strong collaboration with relevant stakeholders especially Rescue- 1122 (a designated institute of government with trained personnel and equipment, responsible for search and rescue during disasters) has been developed.

Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) are now linked with Rescue-1122. At the moment joint mock drills are in progress which will complete presumably before monsoon-usually results in floods. Specialised trainers from Rescue-1122 are facilitating the sessions. The key feature that HelpAge introduced into it is the involvement of older people with disability and their careers or older careers so that they can better understand or be informed about specific needs of older people during disasters.

Contact **Anwar Sadat** to learn more about DRR programme in Pakistan-

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Participants during mock drill session jointly organised by HelpAge and Rescue- 1122 in Muzaffargarh, in April 2016.

Success stories

Cash support revived Khodeza's livelihood

Khodeza Bewa- 62, a widow mother of a school going son, lives in Tapurchar village of Dantvanga Union under Roumari sub-district of Kurigram district in Bangladesh. She has a small grocery shop adjacent to her house which is the main earning source of her family.

Last August 2015, twenty five villages were flooded and remained in water for few weeks. Khodeza's tiny house along with her grocery shop was severely affected, so she had to take shelter at a local primary school. Almost all her valuables were swept away, including what she had in her grocery. As she had no income source then managing basic needs for her son and herself was very difficult.

Besides running shop, sometimes she used to work as a day labourer, but scope of such work in her locality was very limited especially during emergency situations. Life became very difficult for them.

Community Based Organisations leaders enlisted her for emergency cash support to be provided to the most affected households with older people, through Regional Emergency Fund (REF) of the IDR project. The cash was distributed to the flood affected older people to meet their immediate needs or recover their livelihoods. Khodeza received BDT 2,000, which she spent for repairing house and shop, and also purchased some essential goods to resume her livelihood. Consequently, she started earning and begun to lead normal life. Now her shop is running well- she has regular income.

"If I hadn't received the cash support I would have starved and wouldn't able to restart my small shop. It saved my life; it helped my son to continue his school. "I am now happy with my income," expressed Khodeza Bewa.



Cash support restored Deen Muhammad's hope

Deen Muhammad lives in a small village of Jhok Fazloo Wali in District Muzaffargarh of Punjab province in Pakistan, with his wife and 7 daughters. He is an Asthma patient.

He had an ox, which he used for transporting villager's goods for earning his/family's living- he could earn fair amount of money doing the work and they were happy with that. One unfortunate day his ox died. He neither had optional income source, nor any savings to get another ox, which forced him to rely on neighbours for living.

His distressing situation was exacerbated by monsoon flood that hit his village and the entire province Punjab. All the villagers including Deen Muhammad and his family moved to safer locations for about 2 weeks. They were shocked to see the massive destructions flood made to their house and village, upon their return after 15 days. Deen Muhammad and his family members were left helpless with no better idea for moving ahead with their lives.

HelpAge International project team visited several flood affected villages in the district to select beneficiaries for livelihood support programme in the following days. Deen Muhammad was also identified as the needy in consultation with the community. Conditional Cash Grant PKR 35,000 was provided to him as a part of the programme. He spent the money to set-up a "small shop" as the village didn't have any, believing they can make good out of it.

These days, Deen Muhammad runs the shop with support from his wife and children. He is very much thankful to HelpAge for the money.

Major upcoming events

Bangladesh

- Age Inclusive PVCA Validation Workshop at Union and Upazila level
- Identification, development and implementation of DRR Small Scale Resilient livelihoods/Infrastructure Projects

Pakistan

- National Learning Conference (24th May 2016)

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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.

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