

AgeNews

East Asia/Pacific

*Sharing information
to strengthen
HelpAge Network*

Issue 14
December 2014



Inside:

- Sharing experiences on the replication of ISHCs
- Working together on the rights of older people in the Asia Pacific region
- Looking back, looking forward
- Interview with former Executive Director of HelpAge Cambodia
- IDOP events round-up
- Story from the field: Thailand
- The situation of older people in IDP camps in Kachin State, Myanmar

**HelpAge
International**

global network

Editorial

It is hard to believe how quickly this year has passed and that 2014 has come to an end.

Our team – in the region and in countries – has performed well beyond expectations, at times sacrificing leisure and family time. That is not good and we need to strike a balance. The network in the region has also demonstrated huge initiative, commitment and willingness to share and learn.

Our programme in Myanmar is now the largest in the world. During this year, two very large projects were designed and approved: one on social protection and one on health. This is in addition to the vigorous expansion of grassroots organisations in rural Myanmar. The team in Vietnam, on the other hand, has been exploring and developing standardised approaches for OPA replication, and is sharing its experience with the wider HelpAge International.

The post-Haiyan efforts were well handled by the HelpAge-COSE team in the Philippines. This was a joint and fruitful effort, setting an example for future collaborations.

The regional team has been amazing this year. It not only unfolded the EC-funded multi-country project for network development but also hosted a large and decisive regional conference which will have impact in years to come.

Challenges for 2015 are already laid out in many areas, including OPA development, care strategies, preparing for and responding to emergencies, spreading the good news of social protection, gathering and conveying knowledge, highlighting the rights of older people, and collaborating with others.

My best wishes for a very successful 2015.

Eduardo Klien

*Regional Director, East Asia/Pacific
HelpAge International*

Sharing experiences on the replication of ISHCs

On 19 September 2014 the Vietnam National Committee on Aging (VNCA) and Vietnam Association of the Elderly (VAE) jointly organised the forum 'Sharing experiences on the replication of Intergenerational Self-Help Clubs (ISHCs)'.

150 participants attended the forum, including Mr Nguyen Trong Dam, the Deputy Minister for Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and member of the Standing Committee of VNCA, Mr Dam Huu Duc and Ngo Trong Vinh, Vice Chairmen of VAE, Ms Ritsu Nacken, UNFPA Deputy Representative in Vietnam, and Ms Meredith Wyse, Strategic Development Manager of HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific Regional Office.

In his opening speech Mr Nguyen Trong Dam emphasised the purpose of the forum to share experiences, clarify advantages and disadvantages, and discuss methods of planning the replication of ISHCs.

Mr Dam Huu Duc stated that Vietnam has entered the period of ageing population, and the situation of care for older people has many shortcomings, especially in rural and remote areas. Ethnic minority areas continue to face economic difficulties, high poverty rates, and a high percentage of elderly who do not receive

pensions. Despite government policies relating to care and promoting the role of older people, problems facing older people persist. After nine years of scaling up, the ISHC model has proven comprehensive, including support for increased income, improved living standards and improved social life of older people. ISHCs promote the many opportunities and resources of older people.

In conclusion, Mr Ngo Trong Vinh emphasised the positive role of older people's associations who participated in the construction of more than 700 ISHCs in 12 provinces and expressed the need to continue to support the participation of older people in developing more ISHCs. He also suggested that VAE work more closely with relevant ministries to implement the National Programme of Action on Ageing 2012-2020, including specific targets for the number of ISHCs in Vietnam.

(LMH)



Global AgeWatch Index launch in Korea

HelpAge Korea held the 4th AgeTalk event on 1 October to present the results of the Global AgeWatch Index 2014. Mr Hyunse Cho, President of HelpAge Korea, explained the meaning of the Index and Korea's 2014 result and Professor Hyeji Choi presented the reality of Korean older people in light of the Index. The following open discussion brought forth a vigorous debate between participants including journalists, members of Older People's Self-Help Groups, academics and activists.

Media interest in the Global AgeWatch Index was high in Korea, with 168 media mentions in printed media, radio and television broadcasts and online. Most of the articles expressed shock and dismay on the low welfare level of Korean older



people in the world, which contrasted with the high economic status of the nation. Many articles quoted the GAWI report about the need for national debate about the depth and extent of old-age poverty and how to tackle it, and successfully delivered the message of HelpAge to Korean society.

(JK)

Working together on the rights of older people in the Asia Pacific region

Fourteen HelpAge network members from ten countries in the Asia Pacific region attended a workshop on the social integration and human rights of older people, organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in Bangkok from 30th September to 2nd October 2014.

The workshop was unprecedented as it brought together, for the first time in any region, representatives from civil society, national human rights institutions and government to discuss how to better protect and promote older people's rights at both the national and international level. HelpAge network representatives played a critical role in the discussion by emphasising that older people themselves are the primary stakeholder in the debate on and response to better protection of their rights.

As members of civil society they were able to voice the concerns of the older people they work with and raise some of

the more challenging areas of older people's rights, including older people's own internalisation of ageist attitudes and their lack of access to justice. On violence and abuse they raised the question of how to effectively legislate and prevent it in practice. They talked about the intersectional discrimination that older women face – because they are older and because they are women - and how the lack of data disaggregated by sex prevents the development of more appropriate gender-based interventions and policies.

When longer working lives was suggested as a solution to income insecurity in the region, they highlighted that not all older people are able to or have the opportunity to work, particularly in the face of age discrimination in employment practices. The danger of reinforcing the stigma and discrimination against those who are frail and unable to work was also raised as an unintended consequence of an over emphasis on active ageing as the only solution to demographic ageing and increased longevity.

They also put forward practical suggestions about how to better protect older people's rights. They insisted that social pensions are critical to ensure the right to income security. They suggested more community and peer-based support systems to address the reality of changing family structures and living arrangements. They called for comprehensive, integrated, person-centred health and social care systems that included end of life and palliative care and national dementia plans.

Support across the network for a new international convention, as one mechanism to ensure that older people enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others, is strong. Network members discussed the importance of ongoing tripartite discussions between government, civil society and national human rights institutions in building political support for a convention and agreed to collaborate strategically on this as a regional network.

(BS)



LuminAID – Innovation in lighting

In the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the city of Port-au-Prince was flattened and the whole city's infrastructure was damaged. While aid deliveries focused on meeting basic human needs like shelter, food, water and medicine, Anna Stork and Andrea Sreshta, architecture and design students at Columbia University, realised that lighting was something that seemed overlooked. Earthquake victims felt unsafe at night during the blackouts that occurred for several weeks. To respond to this need they prototyped their first renewable portable source of light, the LuminAID.

Developed from the idea of an inflatable emergency shelter, Stork and Sreshta applied the same logic to make an affordable flat-pack lantern. The LuminAID is a solar-powered inflatable lamp about the size of small pillow when it is inflated. It has a solar-cell, rechargeable battery and LED inside a durable plastic case. The plastic case itself can be written on directly, which means instructions in any language can be printed on the product. A LuminAID that has been fully charged in the sun for 6-7 hours can give up to 15 hours of LED light.

These days LuminAID is used beyond emergency situations. Over the past year, the LuminAID Lab, together with NGO and non-profit partners, has distributed more than 5,000 lights through its **"Give Light, Get Light"** projects across 15 countries. With every LuminAID purchased, a light will be donated to a Give Light project. The lights will be distributed through charitable projects to individuals around the globe who cannot access electricity.

(PN)

For more information on the **"Give Light, Get Light"** project, please visit <http://www.luminaid.com/give-light/>



Looking back, looking forward

Time flies. In the blink of an eye, the year 2014 is drawing to a close and 2015 is suddenly upon us.

In 365 days so much has happened. AgeNews asked HelpAge's five regional programme managers to share their best achievements of 2014, and look forward to what's most exciting for the year 2015.

If you can think of other important moments of 2014 for HelpAge or older people in this region, please share with us at www.facebook.com/HelpAgeAsia.

(TL)



"In 2014, studies on the situation of care for older people and approaches to meeting their care needs in the region were conducted, which have enhanced our understanding and led to the development of the interim strategy on care for HelpAge and Network. This was great work by HelpAge and our partners.

"One of our main achievements in 2014 was the effective implementation of the Haiyan programme, its positive impact on older people and their families, the unique model of partnership with Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) and the acknowledgement of COSE by the Philippines government as a key humanitarian agency addressing the specific needs of older people. In addition, the active role played by the Confederation of Older People's Associations of the Philippines (COPAP) demonstrated the resourcefulness of older people in responding to disasters in a meaningful way.

In 2015 I'm enthusiastic about older people leading community resilience programmes in the region through disaster risk reduction activities funded by key donors, which will help communities face natural disasters with courage."

Godfred Paul



"For me, the highlight of 2014 was our breakthrough proposals on social protection and health in Myanmar. These were important because they will allow us to engage on new policy issues at the highest levels.

Next year I'm looking forward to regional research on policies on ageing through UNFPA. This work will allow us to develop clearer advice to governments on developing their ageing policies."

Peter Morrison



In 2015 I'm excited to continue working with CSO networks and academics, expanding the support base to advocate for further improvement of old age pensions in Thailand, including social pensions – we'll be working together to draft a comprehensive law and submitting it for consideration by the national legislative council."

Usa Khiewrord



“The highlights from 2014 are numerous and all have a common theme of teamwork, partnership and collaboration. I am particularly proud of our oversubscribed course on Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes, which brought together academics, development partners, governments and CSOs to share learning and experience on moving forward the action on social protection.

Looking forward to 2015 I am most excited about building the momentum behind the expansion of the movement of Older People’s Associations (OPAs), including the evaluation of OPAs conducted in partnership with the Oxford Institute of Ageing, creating relationships with new organisations interested in working with older people, and working with regional governments on scale up strategies.”

Meredith Wyse



“In 2014 the first Community Driven Development training workshop was conducted by HelpAge International Vietnam for a total of 36 participants from 12 countries including three HelpAge regional offices: Eastern European and Central Asia Regional Office, South Asia Regional Office and East Asia and Pacific Regional Office. This was important for the wider sharing of Vietnam’s Intergenerational Self-Help Club (ISHC) development model to local partners and HelpAge offices as well as exploring new income from external consultancy and conducting training workshops.

I’m looking forward to HelpAge International Vietnam becoming an official network partner of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) in Vietnam in 2015. This will increase the visibility of the ISHC development model as well as our work in community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Vietnam. It will also increase our opportunities for long term funding from OFDA.”

Quyên Tran



Older People in Ageing Societies: Burden or Resource?

The 2014 HelpAge Network Asia/Pacific Regional Conference, held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Chiang Mai, brought together 204 participants from 29 countries to look at a decidedly timely topic: how to redesign our societies so that we can take full advantage of the positive aspects of population ageing and mitigate the risks.

Although the countries represented at the conference are at different points along the path to aged populations, all will have an older population (those aged 65+) of more than 21 per cent in the coming decades. Now is the time to develop policies, practices and social behaviours that harness the potential of people in later life.

Particular focus was given to the contributions and needs of older people related to economy and health, and to how to ensure that older people are not perceived merely as a burden but recognised for the many contributions that they make. Through a mix of plenary addresses, panel discussions, parallel sessions on sub-topics, and field visits; the conference created a space to learn, forge and strengthen links with others, and consider what actions should be prioritised to help prepare the world for ageing societies.

The success of the conference was largely due to the relevance of the topics covered, and the strength of presenters and panellists, along with the important contributions of the wide range of experienced participants. This was the largest regional conference to date, including participants from Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Pacific. Participants represented not only HelpAge network members and partners, but also academic institutions, governments, UN agencies, INGOs and national civil society organisations.

HelpAge International’s publication on the regional conference along with multimedia, presentations, and other information can be found on our website: www.AgeingAsia.org



EU Ambassador visits HelpAge project in Chauk Mine, Myanmar

On 10 November 2014 the European Union Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Roland Kobia, visited Chauk Mine village, a settlement 6 miles from Mawlamyine in Mon State where an EU-funded HelpAge project is operating. The purpose of the visit was to observe the village's Older People's Self-Help Group (OPSHG), its processes and operation, and the outcomes of each sub-committee.

The villagers and the OPSHG members cheerfully welcomed the Ambassador and his wife and gave an introduction to the project. Explanations of the budget management and the yearly work plan were conducted by each sub-committee leader. The Ambassador introduced himself and presented the EU's current work in Myanmar, and talked freely and openly with OPSHG members and field staff about their ideas to develop the

OPSHG and the kind of support they expect from the EU. There was a very straightforward discussion between the Ambassador and the local community that was supportive of future collaborations between HelpAge and the EU.

Mr Tapan Barman, HelpAge International Myanmar Country Director, outlined HelpAge's current programmes in other regions of Myanmar and the two key HelpAge development models, Village Development Committees and OPSHGs. Finally, the Ambassador and his wife accompanied Mr Barman on a visit to the home of one HelpAge homecare beneficiary. They were very pleased to see the positive effects of the homecare and healthcare services provided by the committee and volunteers.

ALERT Workshop for HelpAge-COSE staff and support volunteers

The Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), HelpAge International's affiliate in the Philippines, held a three-day ALERT: Emergency Preparedness Workshop in Tacloban City, Leyte, from 11 to 13 November 2014.

The ALERT Workshop trained nineteen participants, including the Emergency Coordination team, the Emergency Technical Response team, and support volunteers.

The workshop developed COSE staff who may be involved in future emergencies, forming a core Emergency Response Team (ERT) that can manage any coming disasters. Participants were trained to maintain a high level of emergency preparedness so they can respond to the humanitarian needs of older people within 24 hours of a disaster.

The ERT that has been established will meet regularly. HelpAge-COSE have also created and will maintain three updated scenario-based response plans and effective updated minimum preparedness actions that enable them to deliver an immediate, appropriate and effective response.

The team is also using ALERT software to help develop new alliances and partnerships, and to effectively engage with government and the cluster system. The Philippines has been added to the ALERT software, making it the twelfth country to be included in the system.

COSE is now working on minimum preparedness actions to keep on track and ready for any future emergencies.



International date

10

10 December: Human Rights Day

The following explanation of Human Rights Day is taken from United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):

Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day in 1948 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

When the General Assembly adopted the Declaration, with 48 states in favour and eight abstentions, it was proclaimed as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", towards which individuals and societies should "strive by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance".

The Universal Declaration is now the most translated document in the world.

(PS)

(AG)



Interview

Take 5 with Annie Nut,
former Executive Director of HelpAge Cambodia

How long have you worked with HelpAge?

I have been with HelpAge Cambodia (HAC) for nearly five years. I started off as Country Programme Manager in March 2010, then became the Country Director and finally Executive Director in January 2014 for the localised HAC. Since September 2014 I have assumed the role of consultant/advisor.

What is the single greatest accomplishment from your time with HelpAge, of which you are most proud?

The official recognition of HAC as one of the best NGOs working towards the

welfare of the old, by the MoSVY (Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation) and MoH (Ministry of Health). This acknowledgement reflects our success at getting both ministries to review their policies for the elderly, our ability to localise the values and priorities of HelpAge International in Cambodia and finally our success at forming Older People's Associations (OPAs), leading to the formation of the Federation of Older People's Associations which is now the platform for the coordinated voice and action of the elderly in Cambodia.

In your opinion, what are the greatest opportunities for the HelpAge East Asia/Pacific network in 2015?

The HelpAge network should continue to strengthen its expertise at regional and at country level and also expand the replication of OPAs and gradually

encourage their federation at country then regional level, so that the voice of older people in the ASEAN community will be more effective.

How do you spend your time now?

I still support HAC on a part-time basis. Currently I'm involved in a short term assignment with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and still maintain contact with the MoSVY and the MoH. I closely follow policy development and directions of these ministries on mainstream ageing and hope to have the opportunity to influence.

In your opinion, what is the one experience no visitor to Cambodia should miss?

The temples in Siem Reap. A visit there provides a great experience of the history and culture of Cambodia.

(PN)

Story from the field

In Banthi district, in the province of Lamphun in northern Thailand, a special volunteer group is promoting the rights of older people. In cooperation with the Banthi district older people's association (OPA), the Older People's Rights Promotion team of Banthi is holding workshop style meetings in villages to educate older people about thirteen critical rights and entitlements for older people in accordance with Thailand's Older Persons Act 2003. The volunteer team has been established under a project of the Foundation for Older Persons' Development (FOPDEV).

Ms Chanfong Mahamai is the president of the volunteer team. "Gathering a strong group of older people brought us the power of negotiation with key organisations such as municipal offices," she said. The workshops also brought

strength to OPAs. In the past, older people lacked useful knowledge and information for their daily lives, especially knowledge of older people's rights, access to health services, and access to the elderly fund provided by the government. Since the volunteer team was organised a few years ago, Ms Mahamai and her Banthi OPA team have been handing out information on older people's rights in monthly meetings, strengthening the OPA itself. OPA members also provide information to older people during special occasions such as Buddhist holidays.

(KT)

"I would like to inform the relevant organisations to be aware of older people's rights to access to their benefits and make us visible in society"



Vuthi Chalanun/FOPDEV Thailand

Research on the impact of the old-age allowance in Northern Thailand

Thailand has stepped into the era of an ageing society. The proportion of the population aged 65 and above will increase to more than 30 per cent in the next three decades. Over the last decade, the Thai government has paid strong attention to the old-age allowance system, which has been revised several times: from a means-tested to a universal scheme, and from a flat rate to multiple rates according to the age of the beneficiary.

To assess the impact of the old-age allowance on its beneficiaries, their households and the community economy, the Foundation for Older Persons' Development (FOPDEV) in collaboration with the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, has conducted an empirical study in three provinces in northern Thailand.

The study showed positive effects of the old-age allowance on older people, their families and, to a limited degree, on the community economy, based on older people's spending behaviour. In summary:

- The old-age allowance is the main source of income for 44 per cent of older people.
- It can reduce the poverty rate among older people and it benefits whole families as well.
- Older people tend to spend the money on food and donations as first priorities. Next, they will spend their allowance on public utilities, rent and house maintenance, medical expenses and contribution for mutual cremation expenses. Those with grandchildren often spend some of their allowance on looking after their grandchildren.

- Older people's spending contributes to their community's economy and beyond. 53 per cent of their spending circulates at least once within the community, while 17 per cent will flow out from community. 2 per cent will be used for savings and insurance.

Given the evidence showing the positive impact of the old-age allowance at different levels, the government should consider improving the system and integrating it with the broader public pension system with legislative backup.

The majority of older people have asked for an increase in the monthly allowance. Long-term sustainable funding of the old-age allowance system is also an emergent issue for the government as the population of Thailand continues to age and more people access the allowance.

(WR)

Upcoming

Regional workshop "Community-based social care: What is the role of the State?"

Demographic and social changes across East and Southeast Asia are straining traditional practices for providing social care for vulnerable and frail older people. Cost-effective, quality age care solutions that allow people to stay at home for as long as possible are urgently needed.

HelpAge sees social care as a crucial element of community-based care, which should be integrated with the health care system. This element is still overlooked and the government can be a key supporter to raise this issue into action.

To stimulate discussion on the role of government in promoting community-based care for older people, with an emphasis on social care, the HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific Regional Office, in collaboration with the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, will host a regional workshop on **27 and 28 January 2015**.

We expect at least 50 participants, mainly from middle income countries in the region (Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam). Representatives from other countries and sectors are welcome.

For more information, please contact:
Ms Usa Khiewrord
HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific
Chiang Mai, Thailand
usa@helpageasia.org or call (+66 53) 225440

Community Driven Development training for development practitioners

From **12 to 16 January 2015**, HelpAge International Vietnam (HAIV) will organise a one-week capacity building programme with field exposure visits to foster sustainable community driven development. This training is an opportunity for development practitioners, change agents and community members to understand various approaches to community driven development and to

develop the proper tools and abilities to put the knowledge into practice.

With more than two decades of experience, HAIV staff have developed their expertise in capacity building of development practitioners at national and international levels. This expertise will be shared and transferred to 30 participants from 13 countries using participatory approach, case studies and group focused learning, including the field visits to demonstrate how the concepts are applied to achieve sustainable results.



**Helping community to
help themselves**



“Only if the universal approach is employed in social protection programmes can it be certain that the intended benefits will reach people who are most in need. Evidence has proved it and we can learn from each other to achieve our common goal – social protection for all”.

Usa Khiewrord

Poverty, inequality and the Social Protection Floor

In November 2014 Regional Programme Manager Ms Usa Khiewrord participated in the Universal Social Protection Advocacy Tour, organised by Solidar, Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Universal, at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Since June 2012, the global community has adopted the International Labour Organisation Recommendation No. 202 (ILO R.202) concerning national floors of social protection. Through this, governments have committed to ensuring universal access to essential services and protection against the risks of sickness, unemployment, and poverty for their citizens. However, more than 70 per cent of the world’s population is not covered by social protection today. With this

background, the Universal Social Protection Advocacy Tour was organised.

The tour aimed to raise awareness among EU decision makers about the role of social protection floors to fight inequality and recommend concrete actions that they can take to support the full implementation of ILO R.202.

The Tour consisted of a series of bilateral meetings between EU officials, government representatives, and delegates from eight countries, including Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya, Zambia, Argentina, India, Philippines, and Thailand.

During the debate on whether social protection matters in development cooperation, Ms Khiewrord presented the

universal social pension scheme from Thailand, which is one of the world’s breakthrough success stories of universal social pensions.

The European Union is providing support to HelpAge affiliate FOPDEV for their project to strengthen the capacity of civil society to promote consolidation and expansion of the right to income security for marginalised and vulnerable older people in Thailand.

HelpAge promotes the right to social protection of older people and we believe that the universal approach to social protection is vital to achieving our goal.

(PN)



25 years of partnership with older people in the Philippines

The Coalition of Services of the Elderly was born on 26 November 1989 through a consultation between HelpAge International, represented by Graeme Jackson, and Lita Domingo of the University of the Philippines Population Institute. It was first named ‘Coalition for Services of the Elderly’ but later on changed to its present name to recognise

the capability of older people and COSE’s approach of working hand-in-hand with them.

The organisation started its work in Metro Manila in the Barangay of Commonwealth, Quezon City, where there is a large concentration of urban poor. It collaborated with an existing organisation called Sama-Sama. Older people started to recognise that they have worth in society, have rights and privileges to enjoy, and deserve respect. As a result, the movement expanded from Quezon City to the Greater Manila Area and to

nearby provinces, and has now organised 330 Older People Organisations (OPOs) throughout the Philippines.






























Looking back the past 25 years, the situation of older people has improved greatly. COSE, together with older people, has been laying a solid foundation to ensure that coming generations will be recognised as a valuable, respected and active members of society. As long as there are concerns to be addressed, gaps to be filled, and rights to advocate, COSE will be an active and vigorous member of Filipino civil society.

(AS & AG)






International Day of Older People: regional events

In the past seven years, Age Demands Action has become a reputable and respectable worldwide campaign where the HelpAge network brings older people to voice their concerns with decision makers. The past two years have also seen the Global AgeWatch Index released on 1 October, which has increased the awareness of ageing in the mainstream media.

Here's a quick round up of what happened on International Day of Older People 2014 in this region.

	 Top news	Campaign activities	 Campaigners
	"Income security in old age"		52
	"Jakarta, Age friendly City"	  	1,000
	"GAWI Ranking of Philippines"	    	400
	"ROK's placement on Global AgeWatch Index"	    	50-100
	"Government reaction/response on the IDOP"	  	500
	"Bright Eye Program for older people"	   	5000

 Workshop  March  Forum discussion  Media engagement (TV, Radio)  Performance  Petitions

Promises	<p>Greater commitment from government bodies on older people's rights, funding for social pension advocacy and improved legislation</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term care included in the National Health Strategy 2015-19 • Jakarta to be an age friendly city • Support for convention on the rights of older persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social pension definition review and revision of social pension intake form • Additional increase of social pension budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of poor ID to older people • Review of national policy on ageing • Better support of older people's associations at grassroots level 	<p>Greater consideration on care for older people and the issue of rights of older people</p> 
-----------------	---	--	---	--	---

Disaster Preparedness in Vietnam

On 13th October, the **International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)**, an event was organised in the city of My Tho, in Tien Giang province, one of the provinces in the Mekong Delta, to celebrate disaster risk reduction (DRR). The event was coorganised by Save the Children and the Tien Giang People's Committee, with support from the Disaster Management Working Group and active collaboration of CARE, HelpAge international, Plan International, Vietnam Disaster Management Centre, UNDP and financial support from the European Commission and Prudence Foundation.

The event began with a parade of around 800 people, including older people, children, youth, people with disabilities, the media, government staff and people from different organizations and agencies. Presentations and a performance by

children and older people followed, with more than 200 participants.

A number of older people were invited to the event, and leaders of the Vietnam Association of the Elderly attended and gave a presentation about older people and DRR. In addition, a group of ten older people and local partners from HelpAge's project in Thanh Hoa and two staff from HelpAge International Vietnam also attended the event. Using a cultural performance of songs, poems and drama, a project photo display, and a presentation about community-based DRR activities conducted through the Intergenerational Self Help Clubs (ISHCs), the role of older people and ISHCs in community-based DRR was clearly demonstrated.

(TBT & HT)



The situation of older people in IDP camps in Kachin State, Myanmar

The conflict in Kachin State and northern Shan State in Myanmar intensified in 2011, resulting in the displacement of nearly 100,000 people and their resettlement in Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps. People in the camps depend on aid provided by the UN and other humanitarian agencies for food and basic services. HelpAge International Senior Regional Programme Manager Godfred Paul recently visited nine IDP camps together with the UNHCR to investigate the situation of older people and make recommendations for improvement.

The mission identified several protection gaps:

- Shelter and living arrangements – crowded shelters and lack of privacy, and insufficient warm clothing and bedding for the winter
- Health – health problems, particularly non communicable diseases and vision impairment, and access to health services
- Water, sanitation and hygiene – distance between shelters and toilet and bathing facilities, and the uneven paths to reach these facilities which have caused several dangerous falls in older people
- Food and nutrition – difficulties queuing and receiving food assistance, inadequate nutrition
- Livelihood – lack of opportunities to participate in livelihood activities, restrictive environment of camps often prohibits activities like raising chickens
- Quality of Life – isolation and exclusion, few opportunities for productive and engaging activities in the camps, older people are not included in decision-making in the camps

Speaking with older people in the camps highlighted many aspects of their quality of life and how their lives in the camps can be improved.

The meetings with older people also reaffirmed the resourcefulness and willingness of older people to take on



responsibilities to make camp life better. Older people are keen to contribute if they are included in consultations, planning and implementation.

Older people can form into Self Help Groups to take on many different activities to increase family income and support the development of the camp. They are also an excellent group to engage with the host community to foster greater integration, understanding and peace building.

HelpAge was able to make several practical and innovative actions to address the protection gaps and to build capacities of older people, including:

- Formation of an older people's group in every camp
- Development of inter-generational activities for income generation as well as for transfer of knowledge from the old to the young
- Initiate meaningful group activities for older people like physical exercise and gardening
- All camp clinics to be provided with a digital blood pressure instrument and volunteers trained to carry out regular monthly checks of older persons



- Include older people in camp meetings, and take their input on board
- Acknowledge and support older people in their roles as caregivers to grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Our visit also highlighted that durable solutions could only take place in the scope of broader approaches to rural development in Kachin State.

Resources

Publications



HelpAge Network Asia/Pacific Regional Conference 2014
Older people in Ageing Societies: Burden or Resource?
HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific



Typhoon Haiyan one year on: older people key to recovery
HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific

Global AgeWatch Index 2014
HelpAge International

Disaster resilience in an ageing world: How to make policies and programmes inclusive of older people
HelpAge International

Minimum standards checklist: Including older people in disaster risk management
HelpAge International

Community-based care in Lao PDR (Lao language)
HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific

Films and Blogs

Highlight - HelpAge Asia/Pacific Regional Conference 2014
<http://youtu.be/bHPfd284z4g>

Typhoon Haiyan: One year on
<http://youtu.be/nGYgP8AeAfw>

World Aids Day 2012: Older women's stories
<http://vimeo.com/46083458>

All HelpAge publications are available to download from www.helpage.org/resources. You can access our films and blogs from above URL as well.

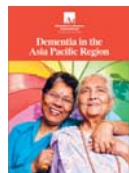
Blogs

25 years of empowering older people in the Philippines
Fransis Kupang

International Day for Disaster Reduction: Resilience is for Life
Godfred Paul

Ten years after the Indian Ocean Tsunami
Godfred Paul

Other sources



Dementia in the Asia Pacific Region
Alzheimer's Disease International-ADI
www.alz.co.uk/dementia-in-the-asia-pacific



Communications with Communities (CwC)
OCHA
<http://bit.ly/1t3xedM>



Mind, Society, and Behavior
World Bank Group
www.worldbank.org

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 working with and for older people.

HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific
6 Soi 17 Nimmanhemmin Road
Suthep, Muang, Chiang Mai 50200
THAILAND

Tel: +66 53 225440, 225081
Fax: +66 53 225441, 894 214
hai@helpageasia.org
www.helpage.org

Contributors

Aura Sevilla (AS)
Bridget Sleep (BS)
Caitlin Littleton (CT)
Eduardo Klien (EK)
Godfred Paul (GP)
Hazel Ayne Garcia (AG)
Hoang Thuy (HT)
Jinhyang Kang (JK)
Justine Marshall (JM)
Khunikorn Thumyom (KT)
Le Minh Hai (LMH)
Panitee Nuykram (PN)
Phyu Sin Thant Lu (PS)
Teerapong Laptwan (TL)
Tran Bich Thuy (TBT)
Wajee Ruangphornwisut (WR)

Registered charity number: 288180
Copyright © HelpAge International 2014
Any parts of this publication may be reproduced for non-profit purposes unless indicated otherwise.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License. To view this licence, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>

Sign up for our e-Newsletter: www.AgeingAsia.org/about

Follow us



www.facebook.com/HelpAgeAsia



twitter.com/HelpAgeEAPRO

Share your ideas with us: We welcome your opinions, ideas and suggestions. Let us know what you think about AgeNews and how we can improve.

In addition, we welcome articles for consideration. Please send articles at any time to:

AgeNews Editor
HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific
6 Soi 17 Nimmanhemmin Road
Suthep, Muang, Chiang Mai 50200 THAILAND
hai@helpageasia.org

AgeNews is published three times per year by HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific. Copies of AgeNews are available free of charge to people working with older people. You can also download AgeNews as a PDF from our website: www.AgeingAsia.org

With funding from



AgeNews published under the regional project "Strengthening the civil society network on ageing in Southeast Asia", funded by the European Union.