

# Ageing and Development

News and analysis of issues affecting the lives of older people

Issue 11 April 2002



The experience of older people in eastern and central Europe is being reviewed as part of the UN Ageing Plan implementation process.

## Ageing plan – the start of a process

**Ageing will be high on the public agenda in April, as representatives of UN member states meet at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid to adopt a new International Plan of Action on Ageing.**

The Assembly follows extensive preparations, including a second preparatory committee meeting in New York in February, a series of UN regional meetings, and national-level lobbying and consultations with older people across the world.

Agreeing the Plan is only the beginning of a process, however. The main challenge is to mainstream ageing issues into development processes and related international commitments.

So far, ageing is marginal in development debates. The International Development Targets and the UN's Millennium Development Goals largely ignore the question of how increasing

numbers of older people can escape chronic poverty and be included in planning for the future of communities and nations.

'The UN system needs to acknowledge the primary importance of population ageing for the 21st century,' says Mark Gorman, HelpAge International's director of policy development.

'The Plan needs to be supported by a more developed and adequately resourced programme on ageing within the UN system. This should include an enhanced role in the implementation and monitoring of the new plan.'

HelpAge International is urging that each region undertake an implementation process to ensure that action is taken on ageing, and that the UN system is accorded effective powers to monitor and report on progress made. HelpAge International is also encouraging civil society organisations to monitor government actions on ageing.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is the only region that has so far committed itself to developing an implementation strategy. A conference in Berlin in September 2002 will bring together ministers from UNECE member states and international NGOs to start developing regional policy guidelines on older people.

A meeting was held in Prague in March, to review the experience of older people in eastern and central Europe and identify areas of concern to take to the wider UNECE implementation process.

### **New report highlights age discrimination**

On the first day of the Assembly, HelpAge International will launch a report, *State of the World's Older People 2002*. The report provides new evidence on the situation of older people.

**More information:** See page 6

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## HelpAge International

Leading global action on ageing

# News round up

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## Focus on HIV/AIDS

Recent events have focused on the need to mainstream older carers into HIV/AIDS programmes.

Preliminary findings from research by the World Health Organization and partners in Zimbabwe identifies financial and practical difficulties, difficulties accessing health services, and the toll on the health of older carers as key problems affecting the provision of care by older people of people with HIV/AIDS.

The research is part of a project in four African countries (the others are Ghana, South Africa and Tanzania) to develop a methodology to examine the impact of HIV/AIDS on older carers.

The project aims to identify barriers that prevent older people from providing adequate and fulfilling care to their children dying from HIV/AIDS and, subsequently, to their orphaned grandchildren, and to feed into policy and programme development.

In December 2001, the 5th International Conference on Home and Community Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS, held in Thailand, provided a key venue for HelpAge International partners and older carers to raise issues facing older carers.

However, the conference indicated that there is much to be done to ensure that these are incorporated into HIV/AIDS programmes, since older people's issues failed to be

fully addressed in the conference or included in the summing up.

A workshop on the impact of HIV/AIDS on older people, organised by HelpAge International in Nairobi in January 2002, brought together representatives of national AIDS organisations, international organisations, HelpAge International members and partners and the private sector from nine African countries.

### New campaign

Fifteen leading UK charities, including HelpAge International, have launched the Stop AIDS Campaign, calling on the UK government to take the lead in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic worldwide.

### More information: WHO research

Robert deGraft Agyarko, *Ageing and Life Course, WHO, 20 Avenue Appia, CH 1211 Geneva, Switzerland*  
Email: [agyarkor@who.int](mailto:agyarkor@who.int)

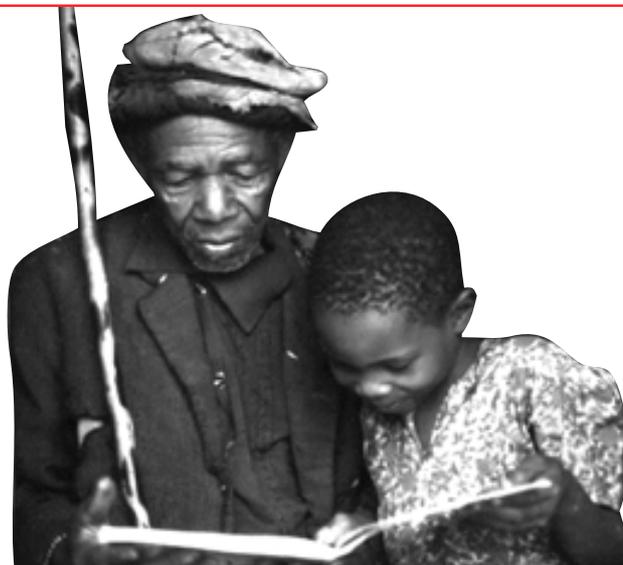
**International HIV/AIDS conference**  
Godfred Paul, *HelpAge International Asia/Pacific Regional Centre*  
Email: [goddy@helpageasia.com](mailto:goddy@helpageasia.com)

### Africa workshop

Amleset Tewodros, *HelpAge International Africa Regional Centre*  
Email: [helpage@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:helpage@africaonline.co.ke)

### Stop AIDS Campaign

<http://www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk>



Giacomo Prozzi/Panos Pictures

Issues of older carers have yet to be included in HIV/AIDS programmes.

## The world is ageing faster

The world's population of 65-year-olds and over is growing by an unprecedented 800,000 a month, according to a report from the US Census Bureau and the National Institute on Aging.

*An Aging World: 2001* looks at current and projected population in countries throughout the world, and includes comparative data on life expectancy, health status, social support and retirement. It draws mainly on data from the Census Bureau's International Data Base.

The report predicts that the phenomenon of global ageing will continue well into the 21st century, with both the numbers and proportions of older people continuing to rise.

The rate of population ageing varies widely among countries, however. In general, populations are ageing fastest in developing countries. In 1999-2000, more than three-quarters of the increase in the world's population of older people occurred in developing countries.

### Available from:

Kevin Kinsella or Victoria Velkoff, *International Programs Centre, US Census Bureau, US Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20233-0001, USA*  
<http://www.census.gov>

## Comment

### Resourcing for development

A crucial debate for all poor countries concerns the resources they have available to spend on development programmes.

Argument is rife over issues such as the merits of debt relief, and the proportion of national income which developing countries spend on

defence as opposed to social programmes.

The summit on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico in March this year, is another sign that resourcing ambitious development programmes has become a key item on the global agenda.

This debate has great importance for ageing and older people. The preparations for Monterrey

highlighted the significance of poverty in the developing world as a key target requiring substantial financing support.

Though the focus of interest was on poor children, the poverty of older people is also a major challenge. Although the conference did not address old age poverty issues directly, the Monterrey background document makes an important link between social protection and development policies.

Such connections also need to be built upon in the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, so that the case can be made for resourcing the development of older people as well as that of younger generations.

**Mark Gorman** *Director of Policy Development, HelpAge International*

### More information:

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>

# Caribbean concern about poverty

**Older people in three Caribbean countries have identified insufficient income as their single most important problem.**

Participatory research by HelpAge International and partners in Grenada, Jamaica, and St Vincent and the Grenadines asked older people to rank their major issues of concern.

Most older people have several sources of income, including earnings from their own labour. In Jamaica, nearly one in five older people work to earn an income, which they use to support themselves.

Older people in Grenada and Jamaica face greater economic hardships, because the cost of living is higher and indirect taxation (VAT) pushes up prices further. However, Jamaica provides some safety nets in the form of food stamps and poor relief.

In St Vincent, healthcare is provided free and is not a major concern. In Jamaica, a 'drugs for the elderly' programme subsidises specific drugs for chronic illnesses. However, less than 5 per cent of respondents say they use the

scheme, because participating pharmacies are not within their reach.

Although family support is still important, increasing numbers of older people are living alone. Older men are more likely to live alone than older women. In Jamaica, half of the older men interviewed live alone.

Violence and disrespect were mentioned as concerns in all three countries. Public violence and safety issues were most prominent in Jamaica, particularly in urban areas.

The research formed part of a poverty reduction programme in the three countries and Haiti (reported in *A&D* 10), funded by the Community Fund.

**More information:**

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In Jamaica, nearly one in five older people work for an income.

Neil Cooper/HelpAge International

## Rural poor in Vietnam

**Poverty reduction programmes in Vietnam should target older people, especially those in rural areas, says a new report.**

Research was carried out by the Institute of Sociology, Hanoi and HelpAge International in five villages during 2001, to understand older people's situation and give them a voice in policy making. It was the first research project in Vietnam to focus on poor and marginalised older people using participatory techniques.

The research throws light on definitions of old age and social

attitudes about ageing and older people, livelihood strategies, contributions of older people to family and community, key issues and concerns of older people, and support systems.

**The situation of poor older people in Vietnam**

*HelpAge International, 2001*

**Available from:**

*HelpAge International Asia/Pacific Regional Development Centre, c/o Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand Fax: +66 53 894214 Email: hai@helpageasia.com*

## New book for researchers

**Participatory research with older people should form a key element of policy-making, programme planning and advocacy.**

This is the thinking behind a new book, *Participatory research with older people: A sourcebook*, published by HelpAge International.

Drawing on the experience of HelpAge International programmes and partners, the book provides comprehensive guidelines for older people's participation in planning, carrying out and disseminating research.

It also contains case studies, participatory exercises and tools, examples of materials, and sources of further information.

**Available from:**

*Publications Orders, HelpAge International, London Email: cdobbing@helpage.org*



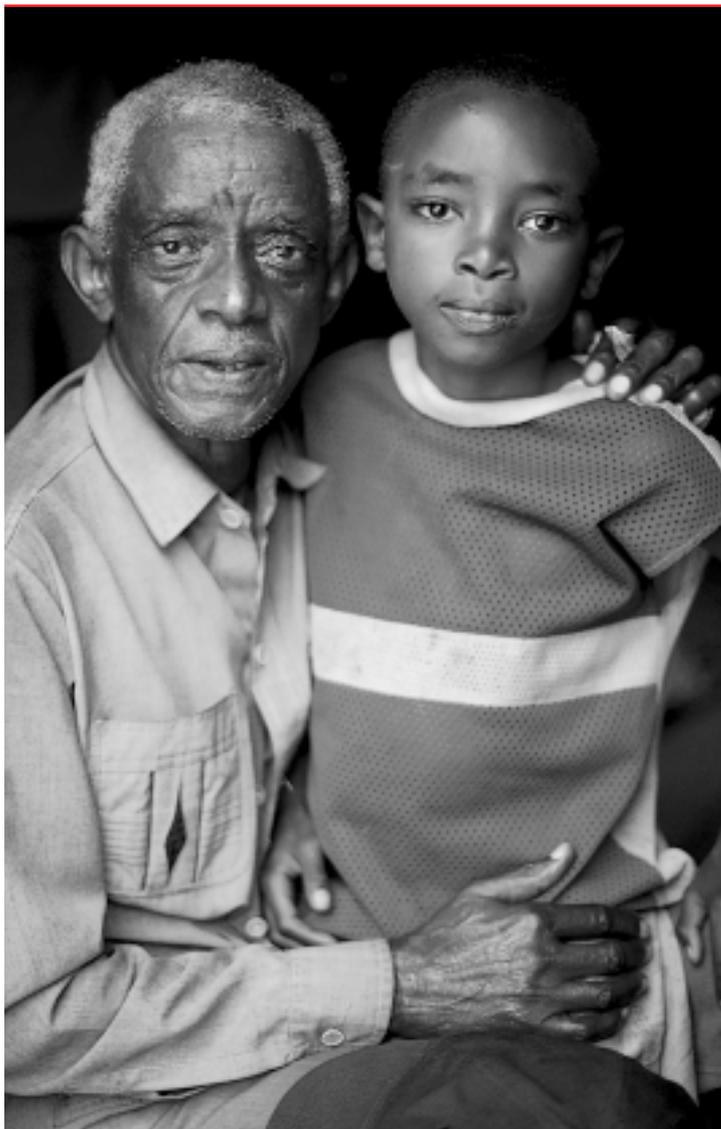
Participation – a key element.

Nicky Packman/HelpAge International

# News round up

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A policy framework on ageing has been agreed by African governments.

Giacomo Pirezzi/Panos

## AIDS will not halt ageing in Africa

**HIV/AIDS will not fundamentally affect the pattern of population ageing in Africa, claims a researcher from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna.**

In a letter in the journal *Nature*, Wolfgang Lutz and colleagues give a detailed technical analysis supporting their contention that population growth will almost certainly peak by the end of the 21st century.<sup>1</sup>

They point out that a stabilised or shrinking population will be a much older population. Globally, the proportion of the population aged over 60 is likely to increase from 10 per cent to around 22 per cent by 2050. By 2100, it will increase to around 34 per cent.

Extensive population ageing will occur in all world regions... Even sub-Saharan Africa is likely to be more aged than Europe is today.

Life expectancy at birth is predicted to rise in all regions, except in sub-Saharan Africa. There, HIV/AIDS will lower life expectancies during the early part of the century, and a very large uncertainty exists regarding future mortality conditions.

Asked how he had reached his conclusion that Africa in 2100

would be 'more aged than Europe today', given the uncertainty about mortality rates, especially relating to HIV/AIDS, Lutz replied that, due to a combination of past high birth rates and significant declines in infant mortality, there are already very high numbers of middle-aged adults in Africa who will inevitably become older.

There are already 40 million persons aged 30-34 in sub-Saharan Africa, compared with 17 million in 1970. By 2030, some 25 million of them are expected to survive to age 60-64, compared with the present 11 million.

Steep declines in fertility throughout Africa will also enhance population ageing and 'AIDS will not fundamentally change this picture', though it will affect age structures to some extent in the most affected countries.

1. W Lutz et al, 'The end of world population growth', *Nature* 412 (August 2001) p543-5. <http://www.nature.com>

## African states agree policy framework

**The African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity), representing 53 member states, has established a common position on ageing for Africa.**

At a conference on ageing in Nairobi in December 2001, the African Union agreed a policy framework on ageing, to be presented at the Second World

Assembly on Ageing in Madrid in April 2002.

Representatives from member states, international and regional bodies, and employer and employee organisations, as well as older people themselves, discussed the effects of Africa's rapidly increasing older population, and issues affecting older people's lives.

The conference called for:

- legislation requiring adult children to promote support for their ageing parents – although traditional family support structures are still strong, cases of abuse and neglect are rife
- integrating a gender dimension into policies and programmes relating to older people

- recognising that HIV/AIDS and other epidemics affect older people in multiple ways.

### More information:

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African Union  
<http://www.oau-oau.org>

## Myths and misconceptions

**In this column we highlight a popular myth about older people and explain what the situation really is.**

**Have you heard anything about older people that may be a myth?**

**If so, write to the editor or email: [ctill@helpage.org](mailto:ctill@helpage.org)**

### **Developing countries cannot afford pensions**

Debates about social security in developing countries have usually

focused on the importance of enabling individuals to provide for themselves in old age. This approach, based on Western models of privatised pensions, assumes that pensions provided by the state are simply unaffordable for developing countries.

The current picture is thus one of patchy provision in many developing countries. Small numbers of ex-civil servants or military retirees receive pensions (whose value is continuously eroded by inflation); in some

countries private schemes operate with mixed results for their members.

In Chile, for example, the spectacular rises in pension funds in the early years of privatisation have not been maintained in recent times when the economy has performed less well.

However, recent evidence from developing countries with public pension systems, including those who offer universal, non-contributory coverage, indicates that public pensions at a low level

(less than 1 per cent of GDP) are fiscally affordable.

Moreover, by offering small, regular payments to very poor people, they can have a significant impact on the lives both of the recipients and their families. They are particularly appropriate for specially disadvantaged groups such as carers, who are usually women who are not in the formal workforce.

#### **Also see:**

S Devereux, *Social Pensions in Namibia and South Africa (IDS Discussion Paper 379)*. University of Sussex, 2001.

## UN report highlights risk of abuse

**A report from the UN Commission for Social Development suggests that older persons are at risk of violation in various economic, institutional, community and family settings.**

*Abuse Against Older Persons*, commissioned by the UN Secretary General as part of the preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, surveys issues on abuse of older people from a global perspective, based on studies conducted in the past twenty years.

The report notes, however, that few studies have been carried out in 'less developed' countries and in countries in social and economic transition, and that there is little documentation of older people's perception and experience of abuse.

The report highlights risks to older people and describes several areas of possible concern and policy response. However, it stops short of acknowledging that older people's rights are actually violated.

Studies by HelpAge International and others provide increasing evidence of widespread abuse of older people (see 'Talking point' on page 9).

■ The World Health Organization will present a report on elder abuse in the primary health care sector at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in April 2002.

#### **Abuse Against Older Persons**

*United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development, 2002*  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/waa/oldrep1.htm>

## Gujarat a year after

**Just over a year after the earthquake that devastated parts of Gujarat, HelpAge India is expanding its recovery programme in three of the most affected districts.**

The UK's Disasters Emergency Committee, in its assessment of the emergency response, noted HelpAge India's 'positive work, not only to assist older people but also to draw the attention of other agencies and government to this issue.'

Consultation with local communities at each stage has

been a key aspect of their work, to gain acceptance of assisting older people and their families, and to find out what older people's needs are.

In Kutch, Rajkot and Surendranagar districts, 800 more people and their families have been added to the 1,575 assisted in rebuilding their homes and restoring income-generating activities.

#### **More information:**

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Support to income-generating activities has been helpful in Gujarat.

Flora MacDonald/HelpAge International

# Briefing

Analysis of current topics in ageing

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## Action points for an ageing world

**Unprecedented demographic change – both population ageing and population growth – is a key structural issue, comparable in impact to globalisation and climate change. HelpAge International has identified ten concrete actions for governments to take as part of their commitment to the International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002.**

Social development thinking on poverty is beginning to pay attention to principles of empowerment and participation, and to the promotion and realisation of the full range of economic, social, cultural and civil, human rights for all people.

But the International Development Targets and the UN Millennium Development Goals do not reflect the impact of population ageing. Large numbers of older people, especially in poorer countries, testify to chronic poverty and exclusion (see Profile on page 8).

HelpAge International, as part of its *Action on Ageing* campaign, has identified ten concrete actions to ensure that older people across the world benefit from the full range of internationally accepted human rights. These are outlined in its campaign document, *Equal treatment, equal rights*.

### 1. Recognise the human rights of older people and the benefits of population ageing for human development

■ The design and delivery of international development and resourcing initiatives – donor aid budgets, poverty reduction strategies papers and heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) related debt relief programmes – should give priority to growing older populations in resource-poor countries.

■ The world community should specify how international development and human rights commitments, in particular the Millennium Development Goals and the International Development Targets, will benefit current and future older populations.

■ International financial and technical assistance to developing

countries and those with economies in transition is required to implement the International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 and achieve international development goals.

### 2. Allocate older people their fair share of national and global resources

■ Policies to address ageing should be included as an integral part of national and international budget strategies. Financing of all sectors, from education through to health and social development, needs to take adequate account of ageing populations.

■ The International Development Targets and the Millennium Development Goals should include a halving of old age poverty by 2015.

■ National and international policy must assert the citizenship rights of older people to a proportionate share of available resources as a matter of equity, and also support the development potential of older age groups in a systematic and targeted way.

■ Data collection at national and international level should demonstrate the numbers of older people living in poverty and how they might escape from it. Existing poverty data must be disaggregated and analysed by age. Age-based indicators must be adopted to measure progress in poverty reduction.

■ Efforts need to be made to track the intergenerational benefits of investing in older age groups.

### 3. Guarantee adequate social protection and minimum income in old age

■ Resource-poor countries should be supported financially and technically to deliver a range of social protection mechanisms including minimum income as



Action needs to be taken to ensure that older people benefit from the full range of internationally accepted human rights.

Penny Tweedie/Paros Pictures

an integral part of their development policies.

■ Financing for Development should consider the financial and development framework to deliver adequate social protection and minimum income in old age.

■ Donor countries should commit to delivering the 0.7 per cent target of development assistance, and specify how their poverty programmes support social protection and minimum income delivery for older age groups.

■ Older people should be included in dialogue on how to deliver social protection.

### 4. Provide accessible and free health care for older people

■ Provide free health care for the over 50s.

■ Increase geriatric training and detection of chronic diseases of age.

■ Confront and change attitudes of health service providers.

■ Ensure monitoring, detection and appropriate treatment of HIV in over 49s.

■ Target rural areas for age-based programmes as many older people are left in rural areas without support.

■ Invest in older people as trainers and health care providers.

■ Ensure that global initiatives on health, including the Global Health Fund, include older people.

■ Ensure international investment in World Health Organization work on chronic disease and ageing.

### 5. Make credit, employment, training and education schemes available to people regardless of age

■ By 2015 older people everywhere should have access to basic education.

- Policy makers, development agencies, communities and older people need to confront practice and attitudes that effectively exclude people on grounds of age from education schemes.

- Age-based limits to credit, employment and training should be removed by law.

- Older women should be targeted in credit schemes.

- All education and training schemes at national level should be adapted to encourage older men and women to participate.

- Action to support older people in employment is needed. The International Labour Organization's goal of 'decent work for all' applies equally to older people, and strategies such as flexible retirement, flexible working conditions and greater provision of training and skill development for the over 50s need to be developed.

#### 6. Put an end to violence against older people

- Governments should work towards a national and comprehensive strategy to stop violence against older people, encompassing a supportive legal framework, and public education and training for professional staff in the public sector to equip them to detect and act on abuse.

- Data needs to be collected from older people themselves, and their involvement needs to be sought in

programmes to combat the violence they experience.

- Older people should be made aware of their rights and existing legal protection against abuse.

- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should appoint a special rapporteur on older people, to seek out and publish data on the violence experienced by older people on a regular basis.

#### 7. Ensure policy makers listen to and act on the views of older people

- The participation of older women and men in social development processes at national and international level that affect their wellbeing should be guaranteed.

- Consultative processes linked to poverty reduction and human rights compliance at local, national and international level must include the perspective of older age groups.

- Older people should be supported as a key social resource that is able to participate and contribute actively to solutions of their own and the wider communities' problems.

- Affirmative support is required for older people's organisations that are seeking inclusion in policy processes; indicators for participatory policy-making processes should include consultation with older age groups.

- Participatory approaches to ensure inclusion of older age groups should be adopted as a working principle by social policy experts, researchers and development organisations.

#### 8. Include and consult older people in emergency aid and rehabilitation planning after disasters and humanitarian crises

- Best practice guidelines published by HelpAge International, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Community Humanitarian Office should be implemented by all agencies involved in humanitarian interventions to ensure that older people have equitable access to food, shelter and medical care in emergencies.

- Relief responses must recognise and support both the vulnerabilities and the contributions (actual and potential) of older people in emergency situations.

- UNHCR's policy on older refugees and the International Plan of Action on Ageing's objectives on older people in emergency situations must be implemented.

#### 9. Establish international practice standards to govern public policy on ageing

- Incorporate the UN Principles for Older Persons into international human rights law.

- Incorporate human rights principles into the training and education of health care providers.

- Establish regulatory mechanisms, based on human rights standards, for the delivery of services to older people.

- Take note of and share good practice by national governments and international agencies.

- Ensure that national governments, supported where appropriate by international bodies, provide incentives for well-regulated industries providing goods and services to older people.

- Include issues of ageing as a category in human rights treaties and conventions, and ensure that standards of government compliance be monitored and reported on, in the same way as other categories of vulnerable sectors of society.

#### 10. Support older people in their role as carers

- Ensure that older carers are supported by international and national responses to HIV/AIDS, such as the Global Health Fund.

- Regular programmes of support for older carers should be established at national and international level. Such programmes could include training as carers, respite care, literacy and education provision, material support, and support for school fees.

*HelpAge International's policy watch programme will monitor how the International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 is implemented.*

#### Key facts on ageing

The proportion of people worldwide aged 60 years and older is expected to more than double, from 10 to 21 per cent, in the first half of the 21st century

The proportion of older people in developing countries is expected to rise from 8 to 19 per cent by 2050. The proportion of children is expected to fall from 33 to 22 per cent.

By 2030, three-quarters of the world's older population will live in developing countries.

#### Ageing Plan events

**Second World Assembly on Ageing**  
Madrid, 8-12 April 2002  
Email: [sidorenko@un.org](mailto:sidorenko@un.org)  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing>

**Valencia Forum**  
Valencia, 1-4 April 2002  
Email: [Valencia@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Valencia@flinders.edu.au)  
<http://www.valenciaforum.com>

**NGO Forum**  
Madrid, 5-9 April 2002  
<http://www.madrid2002-envejecimiento.org>

**UNECE conference**  
Berlin, 10-13 September 2002  
<http://www.mica2002.de>

#### HelpAge International publications

**State of the world's older people 2002**  
*Provides new evidence on the situation of older people in developing countries and in eastern and central Europe, drawing on recent statistics and research by the global HelpAge International network. English and Spanish.*

**Equal treatment, equal rights**  
*Identifies ten concrete actions for governments. English and Spanish.*

**Available from:**  
Publications Orders,  
HelpAge International, London  
Email: [cdobbing@helpage.org](mailto:cdobbing@helpage.org)  
<http://www.helpage.org>

#### Gender and ageing briefs

*Gender in an ageing world*  
*Age, gender and HIV/AIDS*  
*Participation for older women and men*  
*Humanitarian crises: hearing and understanding older people's gendered needs*  
*Violence and older people: the gender dimensions*  
*Confronting older people's poverty: gender and income security*

**Available from:**  
Email: [press@helpage.org](mailto:press@helpage.org)  
<http://www.helpage.org>

**Report on ageing in Asia**  
*To be published in April 2002 by HelpAge International's Asia/Pacific Regional Development Centre.*  
Fax: +66 53 894214  
Email: [hai@helpageasia.com](mailto:hai@helpageasia.com)

# Profile

Taking older people's interests forward

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## We want to be heard

**Listening to the voices of older people from a wide variety of backgrounds, it is hard to escape the conclusion that increasing poverty and exclusion in old age is a common experience.**

A new report from HelpAge International, *State of the World's Older People 2002*, draws on consultations with older people across the developing world. It shows that:

■ All societies discriminate directly on grounds of age, in healthcare, legal services, education, and indirectly, through widespread negative attitudes to older people. This contributes to feelings of worthlessness and powerlessness among older people.

■ Governments and policy makers ignore older people, who therefore do not get their fair share of resources in, for example, humanitarian emergencies or HIV/AIDS programmes. In countries with limited resources, these problems are more acute.

■ Older people are not included in planning and budgeting at any level, from local level through national government to international donor agencies.

■ Families and communities rely on older people. Investing in older people delivers social and economic benefits. If their right to equal treatment and to an equitable share of resources is acknowledged and acted upon, all generations profit.

### What older people say

**'We have voices, we want to be heard and most importantly to be understood.'** *Zimbabwe*

The severity of poverty in old age is illustrated by the ways in which older people describe their deprivation. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, older people reported that 'food is our most pressing need'. In Indonesia, an older woman said that 'the good life is when I can find food'.

Adequate, safe and secure shelter is beyond the reach of many older people. In Kenya, people said it was easy to identify the house of an older person 'since it was often dilapidated'.

**'When I was young I worked hard to feed my family... Now nobody takes care of me. I sold my rice field to buy medicines when I was sick and now I do not have money to get treatment.'** *Cambodia*

Poverty prevents older people from participating effectively in society at all levels, including economic, social and political life. Social exclusion distances older people from the mainstream of their society, making them less likely to participate in decision-making and planning in their communities.

**'Ten years ago... we lived well and looked forward to a bright future. Now, we have to pay for everything and our pensions are too low. We did not expect the current situation, we did not plan for it.'** *Moldova*

Older people are less likely to be considered in the allocation of resources and more likely to lose the self-esteem and dignity that go with having a recognised role.

Older people's feelings of isolation are reflected in a sense of insecurity, exposure and lack of protection, especially among older women. In many societies, older women and men, particularly those who are isolated and unsupported, are at serious risk of violence and abuse.

**'Three or four years ago we weren't talking about rights at all. First and foremost, we mean the rights to food, care and company. But we also believe in the right to participate in all aspects of local and national life. We do not want to be left out any more.'** *Peru*

The ageing process exposes individuals to increasing risk of illness and disability. But in poor countries, lifetime exposure to health problems means that many people enter old age already in chronic ill-health. For older people, personal health consistently ranks alongside material security as a priority concern.

Despite its importance to older people, healthcare is inaccessible to many. The remoteness of hospitals as a major barrier, and treatment is often unaffordable.

Older people are more likely than younger people to have experienced emergencies and crises, such as displacement due to conflict or natural disaster. They are likely to have strategies for coping with disaster and a clear idea of their most urgent needs.

However, in practice, the experience of older people in emergency situations is largely one of neglect, both of their needs and of their potential.

**More information:**  
See page 7.



Families and communities rely on older people – investing in them would benefit all generations.

Robert Mallett/HelpAge International

# Talking point

Understanding older people's experience

9

## Abuse of older people: a global problem

**Abuse of older people is emerging as a major issue, which needs to be taken as seriously as gender-related abuse, child abuse and generalised crime. Fiona Clark looks at the evidence.**

Denial and misperceptions about the types and extent of abuse committed against older people throughout the world is leaving many older people without recourse to the support and protection they are entitled to. However, recent actions by important international players are contributing to the recognition of violence and abuse as an emerging issue.

A report launched by the UN Secretary-General in February 2002 exposes the physical, sexual and emotional abuse and financial exploitation that older persons are at risk of, and outlines different types, causes, perpetrators and potential interventions against the abuse of older persons (see news item on page 5).

A report due to be published by the World Health Organization in April 2002 presents the findings of a study among older people and primary health care workers on the types and incidence of elder abuse in the primary health care sector.

Much more is needed, however, to ensure that abuse involving older people is acknowledged, condemned and acted upon. Belief that abuse of older people is a 'Western problem' and does not occur in developing countries exacerbates misunderstandings about and denial of the problem.

In many African countries, where extended family systems are still relatively well established, it is believed that older people are cared for in their communities and by their families. Similarly, in many parts of Asia, the primacy of family values over individual ones and the ethical principles of filial piety are still strong.

Nevertheless, this protective shield for older people is increasingly under threat from societal change, increasing individualism and

independence. And beliefs by some that violence and abuse are problems of the poor and under-educated are ill-conceived, since violence and abuse is equally present in richer and educated classes.

### Mounting evidence

HelpAge International's experience shows that older people's rights are being abused in a number of under-reported and unacknowledged ways.

Older people throughout the world are subjected to physical, emotional, psychological and financial abuse and neglect by their families, communities and institutions responsible for their care and protection.

At the same time, the worsening economic situation and the onset of HIV/AIDS in many developing countries is placing new burdens and pressures on older people.

Consultations with older people in Zimbabwe in the lead-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing show that 'most older people have had their rights trampled on. Fifty-five per cent of participants reported witchcraft accusation with the majority being older women. Thirty per cent reported physical violence, while one older woman talked of rape. Neglect by family members also featured.'<sup>1</sup>

Older people in Russia have also voiced their concerns. 'Older people who live alone are often robbed in their flats. Thieves and drug users find out information about lonely older people in the district and rob them when they receive their pensions.'<sup>2</sup>

Research in St Lucia identified issues of abuse – verbal abuse, personal sense of insecurity, theft, physical abuse, and emotional abuse – as one of the top concerns for older people.<sup>3</sup>

Older people in Mozambique repeatedly cited accusations of witchcraft as a problem for older people, especially older women. The result of such accusations was often a complete breakdown in family relations and an ostracising of the older person.

### Insufficient action

Despite this growing body of evidence on abusive behaviour involving older people, little is being done to register, report and act upon it.

Older people in Ethiopia complain that they lack protection in customary and statutory laws. Experiences in Kenya show neglect of older people's rights by the justice system. 'When we report such cases of violations of our rights, the law enforcers do not take us seriously. When I reported physical assault by my son, I was told: *Mzee* (old man), these are family matters, go and sort it out with your family.'<sup>4</sup>

Violence against older people is ultimately the most extreme expression of their relative powerlessness related to factors of frailty, dependence and disability, as well as issues of gender, race, belief, ethnic origin and class.

### Key recommendations

HelpAge International is calling on national governments, the international community and organisations working with older people to put an end to violence against older people as an infringement of their most basic human rights.<sup>5</sup>

■ National governments need to develop and implement comprehensive strategies to end age discrimination and protect and promote the human rights of their growing numbers of older people.

■ Research and data collection on the types and incidence of abuse involving older people is essential



An older people's group in the Philippines uses drama to show how older people can join forces to press for their rights.

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to tackling the root problems of violence and to developing interventions to protect their rights.

■ Older people themselves need to be made aware of their rights as equal citizens of this world, and to be supported in claiming those rights and securing their entitlements.

■ The cost of violence against older people needs to be quantified and recognised as violence compromises older people's ability to participate in and contribute to the development of their families, communities and society at large.

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1. *Grassroots consultations with older people in preparation for Madrid 2002 2nd World Assembly on Ageing: The Zimbabwean study*, unpubl. HelpAge Zimbabwe, 2001
2. *Older person, Togliatti, Russia, Grassroots consultations with older people in preparation for Madrid 2002 Second World Assembly on Ageing: Russia Report*, unpubl. HelpAge International, 2001
3. *Care of the elderly in St Lucia*, unpubl. HelpAge International Caribbean Regional Development Centre, Jamaica 2000.
4. *Report of the consultation workshop for older persons held on 28 September 2001 at Limuru conference centre, Kenya*, HelpAge Kenya, October 2001
5. *Equal treatment, equal rights: Ten actions to end age discrimination*, HelpAge International 2001.

# Resources

New publications, websites, conferences and courses

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## Articles

A round-up of what is being written on ageing issues. For journal details please write to the editor or email: [ctill@helpage.org](mailto:ctill@helpage.org)

### National

Strengthening grandmother networks to improve community nutrition: experience from Senegal  
*J Aubel et al, Gen. and Dev. 9:2 (July 2001)*

The multidimensionality of education, research and training in social gerontology – the Israeli experience  
*A Lowenstein, Ed. Ger. 27:6 (Sept 2001)*

Social comparison in Chinese older adults  
*K-L Chou and I Chi, Aging and Mental Health 5:3 (Aug 2001)*

The influence of the education profile of older people in Mexico City at the start of the 21st century  
*J B Dominguez and M del Rocmo Aguilar Bobadilla, Acta Sociologica (Mexico) 30 (2000)*

'If you got everything, it's good enough': perspectives on successful aging in a Canadian Inuit community  
*P Collings, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 16:2 (2001)*

Older adults' trait ratings of three age-groups around the Pacific rim  
*J Harwood et al, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 16:2 (2001)*

The concept of family in Brazilian geriatrics and gerontology: echoes from multidisciplinary dilemma  
*S L Guedes, Rev. Bras. de Cijncias Soc. 15:43 (June 2000)*

Does the Czech Republic need effective population and migratory policy?  
*M Kucera, Demografie 43:2 (2001)*

China's sharply declining fertility: implications for its population policy  
*J Wong, Issues and Studies 37:3 (May-June 2001)*

Ageing in a tiger welfare regime: the single elderly in Hong Kong  
*A L B Yung, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 16:3 (2001)*

Ethiopia: focus on AIDS and the elderly  
*IRIN News (7 February 2002)*  
<http://www.irinnews.org/report>

### International

Elder abuse – a hidden reality  
*F Clark, Ageways 59 (March 2002)*

Rural population ageing in poorer countries: possible implications for rural development  
*L Stloukal, Bold 11:4 (August 2001)*

The ageing of Africa's populations  
*C J Mbamaonyekwu, Bold 11:4 (August 2001)*

Swift action needed on global ageing  
*Lancet (Sept 2001)*

The end of world population growth: population numbers are predicted to fall, but the number of elderly will still increase  
*W Lutz et al, Nature vol. 412 (Aug 2001)*  
<http://www.nature.com>

Getting older in a changing world  
*S Graham-Brown, The Courier 185 (Mar-Apr 2001)*

Study says world to be older and poorer  
*Populi (UNFPA) 28:1 (April 2001)*  
[http://www.unfpa.org/modules/populi/issues\\_2001/april/news3.htm](http://www.unfpa.org/modules/populi/issues_2001/april/news3.htm)

### Economic

Pensions, savings and capital flows: from ageing to emerging markets  
*H Reisen, Fin. and Dev. 38:1 (2001)*

Which fiscal policy in an aging economy? The case of Japan and some theory  
*P Artus, Rev. d'Economie Politique 3 (2001)*

Population ageing and pension systems in Latin America  
*J Bravo, CEPAL Review 72 (Dec 2000)*

Housing and the elderly in Singapore – financial and quality of life implications of ageing in place  
*K A Wong, J Housing and the Built Env. 16:2 (June 2001)*

Money matters: Bai Juyi's self-image as a septuagenarian  
*Y Xiaoshan, Monumenta Serica 58 (2000)*

### Gender

White saris and sweet mangoes: ageing, gender and body in North India  
*F Alikhan and E Mawdsley, Gender, Place and Culture. 8:3*

Age, gender and knowledge revolutions in Africa and the United States  
*C C Robertson, J. Women's History 12:4 (Winter 2001)*

### Health

Spiritual healing in elderly psychiatric patients: a case-control study in an Egyptian psychiatric hospital  
*E S S Youakim, Aging and Mental Health 5:4 (Nov 2001)*

Ageing and mental health in a developing country: who cares? Qualitative studies from Goa, India  
*V Patel and M Prince, Psych. Med. 31:1 (2001)*

Psychological well-being Asian style: the perspective of Thai elders  
*B Ingersoll Dayton et al, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 16:3 (2001)*

A comparative study on socio-demographic changes and long-term health care needs of the elderly in Japan and South Korea  
*I K K D Maeda, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 16:3 (2001)*

Vietnamese-Australian grandparenthood: the changing roles and psychological well-being  
*J V P L Rice, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 15:4 (2000)*

### Cross-cultural

Financing to foster community health care: a comparative analysis of Singapore, Europe, North America and Australia  
*J Duff, Current Sociology 49:3 (May 2001)*

The nature of support from adult *sansei* (third generation) children to older *nisei* (second generation) parents in Japanese Canadian families  
*K M Kobayashi, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 15:3 (2000)*

Understanding of successful ageing in the context of migration: the case of Iranian immigrants in Sweden  
*S Torres, Ageing and Soc. 21:3 (May 2001)*

## Papers

Pension reform revisited  
*World Bank (June 2001)*  
<http://www.worldbank.org/development/news/stories/html/060801a.htm>

New ideas about old age security: toward sustainable pension systems in the 21st century  
*J Stiglitz and R Holzmann World Bank (2001)*  
[http://www.wds.worldbank.org/pdf/content/00009494601021705482946/multi\\_page.pdf](http://www.wds.worldbank.org/pdf/content/00009494601021705482946/multi_page.pdf)

Women, children and older refugees: the sex and age distribution of refugee populations with a special emphasis on UNHCR priorities  
*UNHCR (July 2001)*  
<http://www.unhcr.ch>

Sexual activity among the older population in Thailand: evidence from a nationally representative survey  
*J K N Chayovan (May 2000)*  
<http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/pubs/>

Older people in transition economies: an overview of their plight in the ECA region (1999)  
*Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Group*  
<http://www.worldbank.org>

Engendering development – through gender equality in rights, resources and voice

*Gender and Development Group, PREM and the Economic Research Group in DEC (2001). A co-publication of the World Bank and Oxford University Press.*  
<http://www.worldbank.org>

Pension reform and gender: the Argentina and Chile experiences  
*F Bertranou, Latin America and Caribbean Region, World Bank (2000)*  
<http://www.worldbank.org>

Health and ageing: a discussion paper  
*Department of Health Promotion, Non-communicable Disease Prevention and Surveillance, WHO (2001)*  
*Prepared for Second World Assembly on Ageing, 2002.*  
<http://www.who.int/hpr/ageing/ageingdiscussion.pdf>

Gender, old age and social security: evidence from Chile and Argentina  
*E James, Latin American and Caribbean Region, World Bank (2000)*  
<http://www.worldbank.org>

Wages, employment and economic shocks: evidence from Indonesia  
*J Smith et al, Rand Center for the Study of Aging (2000)*  
<http://www.rand.org/labour/dru.html>

Gender and aging: Asian evidence  
*J Knodel, MICDA (2000)*  
<http://micda.psc.isr.umich.edu>

The impact on nuclear family and individual migration on the elderly in rural Bangladesh: a qualitative analysis  
*R Kuhn, Rand Center for the Study of Aging (2001)*  
<http://www.rand.org/labour/dru.html>

Never far from home: parental assets and migrant transfers in Matlab, Bangladesh

*R Kuhn, Rand Center for the Study of Aging (2001)*  
<http://www.rand.org/labour/dru.html>

Population ageing in developing societies: how urgent are the issues  
*Examines expected trends in population ageing, at the regional and country levels, up to 2050.*

*A Marcoux, Sustainable Development Department, FAO/SD Dimensions (2001)*  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/2001/PE0403a\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/2001/PE0403a_en.htm)

Health sector planning in Indonesia  
*J Mann and G Melnick (2000)*  
<http://www.rand.org>

Consumption expenditure and female poverty: a review of the evidence  
*Background paper for Engendering Development*  
*J A Lampetti and L Stalker (2000)*  
<http://www.worldbank.org>

New ideas about social security  
*R Holzmann and J Stiglitz (2001)*  
<http://www.worldbank.org>

Rural population ageing in poorer countries: possible implications for rural development

*L Stloukal Sustainable Development Department, FAO/SD Dimensions (2001)*  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/2001/PE0501a\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/2001/PE0501a_en.htm)

## Papers on HIV/AIDS

The elderly, HIV/AIDS and sustainable rural development

*Jacques du Guerny, Sustainable Development Department, Food and Agriculture Organization (January 2002)*  
[http://www.fao.org/sd/2002/PE0101a\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sd/2002/PE0101a_en.htm)

Caring for carers: managing stress in those who care for people with HIV and AIDS

*UNAIDS case study (May 2000)*  
[http://www.unaids.org/aidspub/publication\\_all.asp](http://www.unaids.org/aidspub/publication_all.asp)

AIDS and the elderly of Thailand: projecting familial impacts  
*K W Wachter et al (May 2000)*

The impact of the Aids epidemic on the health of the elderly in Tanzania  
*M A J Dayton, World Bank (2001)*

## Conference report

Population health and aging – strengthening the dialogue between epidemiology and demography.

*Result of 'Demography and Epidemiology: Frontiers in Population Health and Aging' conference, 8-10 February 2001, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA. New York Academy of Sciences (December 2001)*  
ISBN 1-57331-372-6

## Research reports

Parent-child co-residence in two developing countries

*J D Vanzo, National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (2000)*  
<http://www.rand.org>

Economic reforms and intergenerational support in China  
*Y Xie, MiCDA (2001)*  
<http://micda.psc.isr.umich.edu>

Living arrangements and support relationships among elderly Indonesians: case studies from Java and Sumatra  
*V B Y Kunharibowo, Rand Center for the Study of Aging (2000)*  
<http://www.rand.org/labour/dru.html>

Health and well being among older-old in the US and Japan  
*J Liang, MiCDA (2001)*  
<http://micda.psc.isr.umich.edu>

Intergenerational transfers in Malaysia  
*L Lillard, National Institute on Aging (2000)*  
<http://www.rand.org>

Tradeoffs between public and private economic support of the elderly: results from natural experiment in Taiwan  
*A Biddlecom et al, MiCDA (2001)*  
<http://micda.psc.isr.umich.edu>

The effect of health on transitions in living arrangements among elderly persons in the United States and Japan  
*J Winfield Brown, MiCDA (2001)*  
<http://micda.psc.isr.umich.edu>

Individual and census tract level socioeconomic factors in the health of Latino elderly

*M Haan, MiCDA (2001)*  
<http://micda.psc.isr.umich.edu>

Methodologies for obtaining, administering and distributing confidential data in the Pacific Rim and Pacific Basin – a pilot evaluation  
*S Panapasa, MiCDA (2001)*  
<http://micda.psc.isr.umich.edu>

Foreign guest workers as caregivers to the elderly in Singapore: a preliminary study  
*T Sobieszczyk, MiCDA (2001)*  
<http://micda.psc.isr.umich.edu>

## Research directory

A directory of ageing research in Africa since 1995 is being compiled by the World Health Organization, covering a range of fields, including epidemiologic, demographic, social, medical/health and economic.

A form for entering research details can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.who.int/whosis/mds>  
Contact: Paul Kowal, Department of Evidence for Health Policy, WHO, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
Fax: +41 22 791 4839  
Email: kowalp@who.int

## Publications

Policies for healthy aging in Latin America  
*PAHO (2002)*  
<http://www.paho.org>



Medicina tradicional: una experiencia en Bolivia y Perú  
*HelpAge International (2001). In Spanish. Describes how traditional medicines have both a practical and cultural value to older people, and how universities and pharmacies are collaborating with older people's groups. HelpAge International Latin America Regional Development Centre, Casilla 2217, La Paz, Bolivia*  
Fax: +591 2 410957  
Email: [helpage.bolivia@unete.com](mailto:helpage.bolivia@unete.com)

Building a better future: older people in Serbia  
*HelpAge International (2001) English and Serbian. English version also available at: <http://www.helpage.org>*

Social aging in a Delhi neighbourhood (1999)  
*J W N Chada*  
ISBN 0897 896750

World population data sheet  
*Population estimates, projections, and other key indicators for all geographic entities with populations of 150,000 or more and all members of the UN. Population Reference Bureau (2000)*  
<http://www.prb.org/pubs/wpds2000/>

## Journal

Intergenerational Programming Quarterly  
*To be launched in early 2003 for academics, practitioners, policy makers, educators and advocates, covering research, practice and policy initiatives. Contact: Sally Newman, Editor, University Center for Social and Urban Research, University of Pittsburgh, USA*  
Fax: +1 412 648 7155  
Email: [newmans@pitt.edu](mailto:newmans@pitt.edu)

## Websites

Pension Watch  
*Global Action on Aging project monitoring worldwide changes in pensions*  
<http://www.globalaging.org/pension/world/index.htm>

Older workers  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/skills/older>

People's Movement for Human Rights  
*Includes a section on 'Human Rights and Aged Persons', summing up international agreements under which older people's rights are protected and should be promoted. It also connects with main development issues around livelihoods, food, poverty, refugees and discrimination, and provides links to African and Asian learning institutions for human rights education.*  
<http://www.pdhr.org>

International Association of Gerontology  
*New website includes a calendar of international gerontological and geriatric conferences and events.*  
<http://www.sfu.ca/iag>

## Conferences

Gerontovida 2002  
3rd Central American and Caribbean Congress on Gerontology and Geriatrics  
6-7 May 2002, Havana, Cuba  
*Dr Osvaldo Prieto Ramos*  
Fax: +53 7 33 3319  
Email: [gero2002@infomed.sld.cu](mailto:gero2002@infomed.sld.cu)

Bridging the gaps  
30th International Conference on Social Welfare  
24-28 June 2002, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Fax: +31 30 2306490  
Email: [icsw2002@nizw.nl](mailto:icsw2002@nizw.nl)  
<http://nizw.nl/icsw2002>

21st AIUTA Conference  
2-5 October 2002, Geneva, Switzerland  
*International Association of Universities of the Third Age*  
<http://www.unige.ch/uta>

Maturity Matters  
6th Global Conference on Ageing  
27-30 October 2002, Perth, Western Australia  
Email: [IFA@congresswest.com.au](mailto:IFA@congresswest.com.au)  
<http://www.congresswest.com.au/IFA>

## Course

Meeting the Challenge of Population Ageing  
*Introduction to public policy and service practice issues specifically related to the quality of life of older people.*  
23 September – 4 October 2002  
Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK  
Tel: +44 1603 456410  
Fax: +44 1603 505262  
Email: [odg.train@uea.ac.uk](mailto:odg.train@uea.ac.uk)  
<http://www.odg.uea.ac.uk>

# Research update

Major new projects

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Lynette McGowan/HelpAge International

A study in Asia focuses on older people and the media.

## Spotlight on the media

Surveys of older people's views on the media are to be carried out in ten countries in Asia/Pacific during 2002, including older people's views on how they are portrayed in the media, how well the media serves them, and how it can be improved.

The research forms part of a two-year project by HelpAge International and partners, funded by the UK Department for International Development, to sensitise television and radio broadcasters, education and training institutions and development NGOs to the implications of population ageing and the contributions of older people.

The findings will feed into activities including television, radio and video workshops, production of training videos, the establishment of a media resource centre, and regional and global dissemination.

### Contact:

Asia Regional Training Centre on Ageing (ATCOA), c/o Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand  
Fax: +66 53 894214  
Email: hai@helpageasia.com

## HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean

Research focusing on social and emotional support for older people living with HIV/AIDS is being carried out by HelpAge International and partners in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The study involves older people living with HIV/AIDS, older people at risk of HIV infection, and older people providing care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

It aims to identify the socio-demographic characteristics of those surveyed, identify behaviours associated with the risk of HIV, assess the knowledge of carers of people living with HIV/AIDS, and assess attitudes to people living with HIV/AIDS.

### Contact:

Jeff James, HelpAge International Caribbean Regional Development Centre, PO Box 8300, Kingston CSO, Jamaica  
Fax: +1 876 7547642  
Email: helpage@cwjamaica.com

## HIV/AIDS in Thailand

Four new reports from a major study in Thailand on the effects of HIV/AIDS on older people, funded by the US National Institute on Aging, have been published.

*AIDS and older persons: the view from Thailand* (PSC research report 02-497, February 2002) by John Knodel and Chanpen Saengtienchai, assesses the impact of the AIDS epidemic on older adults, based on recent research.

*AIDS and older persons: an international perspective* (PSC Research Report 02-495, January 2002) by John Knodel, Susan Watkins and Mark VanLandingham highlights the place of older people in dealing with the epidemic, and calls for a broad concern encompassing those who are affected by HIV/AIDS through the infections of others, rather than a narrow concern with those at risk or infected themselves. The report will be published in a special issue on AIDS and ageing in *JAIDS (Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes)*.

*Parental bereavement: heterogeneous impacts of AIDS in Thailand* (PSC Research Report 01-493, November 2001), by Kenneth Wachter, John Knodel and Mark VanLandingham points out that new, lower projections of the HIV/AIDS epidemic still imply that

8 per cent of Thais over the age of 50 in 1995 will lose one or more children to HIV/AIDS before their own deaths. The report will be published in the *Journal of Econometrics*.

*Return migration in the context of parental assistance in the AIDS epidemic: the Thai experience* (PSC research report 01-492, November 2001), by John Knodel and Mark VanLandingham, examines the extent of return migration of adults with AIDS and explores how this is linked to residence with and care by older parents. The findings suggest extensive return migration among people living with HIV/AIDS, to seek parental care during the final stages of their illness.

### Contact:

John Knodel, Population Studies Center, PO Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248, USA.  
Email: jknodel@umich.edu

The reports can be downloaded from: <http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/pubs> (click on 'Search for PSC publications') or from: PSC Publications, Population Studies Center of the University of Michigan, PO Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248 USA.  
Fax: +1 734 998 7415  
Email: psc-pubs@umich.edu

## Attitudes in Ghana

A survey of attitudes towards ageing and older people in Ghana will be carried out by HelpAge Ghana and the Centre for Social Policy Studies of the University of Ghana, involving older and younger people in three communities where HelpAge Ghana works.

### Contact:

Ebenezer Adjetei Sorsei, HelpAge Ghana, PO Box 051803, Osu, Accra, Ghana.  
Fax: +233 21 778896  
Email: helpage@ghana.com

We welcome brief details of current research. Please write to the editor or email: [cstill@helpage.org](mailto:cstill@helpage.org)

HelpAge International is a global network of not-for-profit organisations with a mission to work with and for disadvantaged older people worldwide to achieve a lasting improvement in the quality of their lives.

*Ageing and Development* aims to raise awareness of the contribution, needs and rights of older people and to promote the development of laws and policies supporting older people. It is published three times a year by HelpAge International, with funding from Help the Aged (UK).

Copies are available in English and Spanish, free of charge on request to policy makers, programme planners and researchers. Please contact us with brief details of your work. If requesting multiple copies, please explain who these are for and how they will be distributed.

*Ageing and Development* is also available on the web at: <http://www.helpage.org>

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## Regional centres

### Africa

Email: [helpage@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:helpage@africaonline.co.ke)

### Asia-Pacific

Email: [hai@helpageasia.com](mailto:hai@helpageasia.com)  
<http://www.helpageasia.com>

### Caribbean

Email: [helpage@cwjamaica.com](mailto:helpage@cwjamaica.com)

### East and Central Europe

Email: [chall@helpage.org](mailto:chall@helpage.org)

### Latin America

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