

AgeNews

*Sharing information
to strengthen
HelpAge Network*

**Issue 22
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Inside:

- Older people's voice at the UN world conference on disaster risk reduction (DRR)
- Myanmar launches its first national universal social pension
- Balochistan approves Senior Citizens Welfare Act 2017
- Madrid International Plan of Action (MIPAA) - The third review
- Policies for rapidly ageing societies: Four considerations
- Building political will for ageing policies
- Age Demands Action: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



HelpAge

global network

Editorial

Time keeps flying and in the blink of an eye half of the year 2017 is gone!

The regional focus of our work is gradually shifting towards a more balanced perspective between older people and population ageing. The core message of our work is that all countries need to adapt to demographic change and population ageing. In this adaptation, we depart from the understanding that older people are a resource to their societies and economies. Policy development related to population ageing focuses on the adaptations in health, in care, in ensuring income security in old age (beyond only social pensions), in sustainable older people's associations (OPAs) and in building societies without age discrimination. Peter Morrison, Regional Programme Advisor, put together a clear article describing the needs for such adaptation in this issue of our newsletter.

On the institutional side, we have completed one stage of the institutional changes announced last year. Both regions, East and South Asia are now merged. The regional office, in Chiang Mai, is now completing its revised staffing structure. We are now more confident that this change will lead to a stronger network and an even more productive presence in the region. In this process, we are changing the nature of our presence in Nepal. A celebration of 5 years of HelpAge country office in Nepal was held in Kathmandu on 5 June; read our story in this newsletter on page 5.

We have several events coming up. One of them is a world-class training, Design and Implementing Social Transfer Course, 2-13 October, Chiang Mai, Thailand. More information can be found on page 9. In December, we will hold an event jointly with Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and East-West Center of Hawaii on National Transfer Accounts (NTA).

Eduardo Klien
Regional Director
Asia Pacific

Madrid International Plan of Action (MIPAA) - The third review

► Regional

The Madrid International Plan of Action (MIPAA) is the only global guiding document of the United Nations related to population ageing. It was adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. The key objective of the MIPAA is to promote a developmental approach to population ageing by mainstreaming older persons into international and national development plans and policies across all sectors, ensuring that no older persons are left behind.

Every five years, a review of the MIPAA is conducted to ensure that the document lives through time, that it is updated and relevant. This year, 2017, marks the third review of the MIPAA. UNESCAP, the UN agency responsible for conducting the review process at regional level, held a preparatory regional meeting of experts for the third regional review of the Madrid International Plan of Action (MIPAA) in Bangkok, Thailand from 14-15 June.

HelpAge network members in Asia Pacific from Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam were among 45 participants from government representatives, think-tanks, academia, civil society, independent experts and UN agencies took part in this process.

The MIPAA Review is primarily based on findings from ESCAP-administered government surveys that are structured according to the MIPAA's three priority areas, namely:

- Older persons and development
- Advancing health and well-being into old age
- Ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

The survey consists of 31 main questions, some of which are divided into detailed sub-questions.

Together with recommendations from members of civil society and views from experts, the outcome document serves as a regional framework of action to help countries to comprehensively address the remaining challenges to the effective implementation of the MIPAA within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Following the meeting of experts, the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing will be held from 12 to 14 September 2017 in Bangkok, with the following objectives;

- To review progress made in the Asia-Pacific region in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action
- To consider key priorities under each priority direction in the Madrid Plan of Action for the next implementation cycle from 2017 to 2021 in the Asia-Pacific region
- To identify key areas for regional cooperation to further strengthen the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.

We will keep you updated in our next issue.

(BM)

Sources:

<http://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-intergovernmental-meeting-third-review-and-appraisal-madrid-international-plan>

<http://mipaa.unescapsdd.org/>

Older people's voice at the UN world conference on disaster risk reduction (DRR)



HelpAge International had the privilege of being nominated as the head of the stakeholder group on older people

► Global

HelpAge International sent a delegation, led by Godfred Paul, to attend the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in Cancun, Mexico in May. The conference was attended by nearly 7000 delegates from around the world.

Delegates also included Kabita Bose and Diana Hiscock from HelpAge International, as well as delegates from the HelpAge global network, including Dilip Gurung, Executive Director of Community Support Group (CSG); Dharma Raj Pathak, Programme Director of the Forum for Awareness and Youth Activity (FAYA) from Nepal; Emily Beridico from the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), and Aida Laruda from the Tolosa Federation of Senior Citizens Organizations (TOFESCO) from the Philippines.

HelpAge International had the privilege of being nominated as the head of the stakeholder group on older people. This represented a significant recognition of older people as a key group involved in DRR by the global community.

Godfred Paul delivered an official statement on behalf of older people at the official forum of governments.

Aida Laruda was chosen as the representative of the older people's sector and co-chaired a session on Health in Disasters. Her role recognised the inclusion of older persons in the conference.

The HelpAge delegation also spoke as panelists and made useful contributions from the floor at some of the key sessions. The message from the HelpAge network, that we should stop considering older people as vulnerable beings and start considering them as a major resource in DRR, response and resilience building, was widely accepted by other delegates.

(GP)

Key documents and outcomes of the Global Platform are available at <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en>

Meeting reports provided by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) reporting services can be found at <http://enb.iisd.org/isdr/globalplatform/2017/>.

Asia Venture Philanthropy Network Conference

► Regional

Being a non-profit organisation, we rely heavily on financial support from the government, corporations, the private sector and philanthropists who are interested in the work that we do. The Asia Venture Philanthropy Network Conference seems to be a good fit as it provides a platform for funders, investors and NGOs to meet.

Five HelpAge staff and a network member from COSE, Philippines were among 727 delegates from 32 countries attending this event in Bangkok, Thailand, in May 2017. Eduardo Klien joined 119 other speakers to give a presentation on the theme of the 'Silver Economy' with a focus on the participation of the community. Older people's associations (OPAs) were highlighted by HelpAge as a model that allows older people to play a leading role in their community.

The event was largely geared towards the audience and strategies for resourcing venture capital, venture philanthropies, impact bonds and social bonds. It is clear that whether you are

large or small organisation, the funding climate is moving towards resource mobilisation and a self-reliant approach at the national level.



On the fringe of the AVPN Conference, there was a Good Society Expo organised by Thai NGOs and foundations, in which HelpAge network members from Thailand, FOPDEV and forOldy also took part.

(BM)

Myanmar launches its first national universal social pension

► Myanmar

The 15th of June 2017 was a historic day not only for Myanmar, but also for its senior people of 90 years and above. It took HelpAge International Myanmar years of advocating to the government for the inclusion of older people in its national social protection strategic plan which was established in December 2014. Since two agendas for older people were in the strategic plan (the replication of older people's self-help groups and a universal social pension) with the enormous efforts of the HelpAge team, the HelpAge social protection policy team continued offering day-to-day technical support to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement by settling the project office at the Ministry. Through a series of consultations and policy workshops at both national and state/regional level with different departments and Department of Social Welfare (DSW) staff, the law relating to older people was passed in December 2016 and the national policy on ageing is currently being processed.



As an initial provision of the national social protection strategic plan, a one-time payment of 18,000 Myanmar Kyats in social pension was provided to people of 100 and above last year. HelpAge had piloted a one-year programme of cash delivery to share the operational feasibility of the delivery mechanism to the DSW and gave technical trainings to government staff in terms of delivering cash transfers and establishing a database for monitoring the system after payment. In the financial year of 2017–2018, the government approved a monthly universal pension for people aged 90 and above starting from April 2017. The payment was launched in June for its first



3-month period (April, May, and June) at the rate of 10,000 Myanmar Kyats monthly to eligible people across the country.

HelpAge will continue to support the Ministry of Social Welfare and to be involved in the monitoring process of the first payment together with the DSW to implement a better system and to minimize exclusion errors from the second payment in September. In the meantime, the HelpAge policy team will continue advocating for a cost extension to benefit larger numbers of older people and households in Myanmar.

(PS)

First Radio Broadcast of Voice of Older People (VOP)

កម្ពុជា

សំឡេងមនុស្សចាស់
Voice of Older People (VOP) Radio Program

ផ្សាយពី វិទ្យុស្តីខ្មែរ
ខេត្តបាត់ដំបង FM 98.75 MHz
ចាប់ពីម៉ោង 5:00 - 6:00 រសៀល

សម្របសម្រួលដោយ
អង្គការមេធាវីស្តីខ្មែរ

HelpAge Cambodia
age helps

096 507 1354 / 096 98 98 75
071 90 90 800 / 031 298 98 75
012 23 29 46 / 078 98 98 75

www.vskfm.com
LIVE HelpAgeCambodia

► Cambodia

HelpAge Cambodia (HAC) recently started up a radio programme called Voice of Older People (VOP) following a request from older people and the OPA's representatives who want to make their voices heard and echo their needs to the public through on-the-air broadcasting.

VOP radio is an innovative new program that was initiated by older people, for older people and about older people. The main objective of this program is to attract the attention of government, family and society to the ageing issues and the needs of older people.

Through this program, HAC has worked especially for and with marginalised older people to echo and voice their concerns and their needs for the right to health care, financial stability, social services, and the active contribution of older people towards the development of society.

After just two weeks, three representatives of older people have joined and expressed their concern about the issues and needs of older people in the communities. The scope of broadcasting covers the whole area of Battambang Province as well as some areas in Banteay Meanchey and Kampong Chhnang provinces.

The VOP radio program is planned to launch officially in October to coincide with the celebration of the National and International Day of Older People (IDOP) to proclaim the voice of older people and advocate for their rights.

(BV)

APEC Adaptation to population ageing work in Hanoi

▶ Vietnam

On 17–18 July 2017, in Hanoi, Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) in co-operation with the Vietnamese Ministry of Health held an International Workshop on Adaptation to Population Ageing. The workshop attracted 200 delegates working in different fields such as APEC economies, United Nations' agencies, research institutes and universities.

Addressing the event, Nguyen Van Tan, Deputy General Director of the General Office for Population and Family Planning, said Vietnam has had an ageing population since 2011 and there are currently around 10.1 million elderly people, accounting for 11 per cent of the population. The percentage of elderly people in Vietnam is forecast to reach

17 per cent by 2030 and 25 per cent by 2050. "This demographic transformation will have major impacts on economic growth, labour, savings, investments, healthcare, social welfare, immigration changes and infrastructure design," said Tan.

The Intergenerational Self-Help Club model (ISHC) was presented at the workshop as a community model for older people in Vietnam. During Session 5 at the workshop, Dam Huu Dac, Vice President of the Vietnamese Association of the Elderly, said: "The ISHC model is the best model for older people in Vietnam. Whereas other hobby clubs contain only one or two components, the ISHC provides eight components, which meet the demands of its diversified members, and is especially suitable for

older people in poverty or with difficulties. The ISHC model also shares with and helps government organisations (such as the Ministry of Labour – Invalid and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Education and even the Ministry of Public Security) to fulfill their political responsibilities. If those eight components are well represented, the ISHC model will bring great benefits not only for older people but also for young family members, as well as improving older people's health and reducing poverty".

(NPT)

Life story

I am an older person and I am an Entrepreneur

Abdul Hameed, 65 years old, is a Khusa (traditional shoe) maker living in Basti Tuhafapur in Muzaffargarh district of Punjab province in Pakistan.

Floods in 2014 destroyed a huge area in Muzaffargarh district, and Abdul Hameed's village was one of the worst affected areas. The flood water was 4 feet high in the village and it stayed there for some time.

He lost his belongings during the floods. All his savings were spent to survive the aftermath of the floods.

With no money to buy raw materials, he could not restart his Khusa business even three months later. All he could do for a living was to polish shoes, until HelpAge International supported him with a conditional grant. He took part in a livelihood training session, which was organised for all people receiving grants to teach them how to manage small enterprises.

Abdul Hammed received 30,000 Pakistani rupees (US\$287) which he used to buy leather, threads, glue and other materials.

"Now I have enough material, customers have started visiting me again," said Abdul.

"The transitional period was really tough. I used to make only 150 to 200 Pakistani rupees a day polishing shoes, which was not enough to cover my daily living expenses."

"I am grateful to HelpAge for believing in the skills of an older man. It has not only helped me overcome life's obstacles, but also provided me hope for the future."



An evening to celebrate achievements and look forward to the future

▶ Nepal

HelpAge International had been present in Nepal for five years before its closure in July 2017. One of the highlights of the work by the Nepal Country Office was the humanitarian response after the earthquake in April 2015. HelpAge had provided emergency shelter, healthcare, eye care, cash transfers and much more to assist some of the 650,000 older men and women who were survivors of the quake.

On the evening of 5 June in Kathmandu, an event was held to share the memory of HelpAge's work over 5 years and to formally announce the closure of the office. Many network members and former staff joined the event.

Without HelpAge's presence, the work in Nepal should continue at strength through dedicated programme partners in the country. HelpAge will provide support where needed and ensure that the network in the country is strengthened and equipped with the capacity to work for the ageing population of Nepal.

(BM)

Policies for rapidly ageing societies: Four considerations

We can no longer say that Asian governments are unaware that their populations are ageing rapidly. Although the sense of urgency varies by country, most countries in the region have begun to grasp that demographic change is accelerating and will have a profound impact on their societies and economies. But how well are the new population dynamics being reflected in policy development?

To discuss that question, HelpAge together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and host governments recently organised two forums on national policies on ageing – one event in Iran and the second in Myanmar. These events made it clear that a single national policy that aims to improve the situation of older people is important but insufficient. It may be helpful to make four distinctions to clarify the policy challenges – and opportunities – that ageing societies face.

A first distinction is between old-fashioned perceptions of *the elderly* and the reality of today's *senior citizens*. The exact terms are not so important, but our perceptions of life after 60 need to be updated or else our policies will get stuck in the twentieth century. Policies on ageing may rest on an unspoken assumption that old age equals vulnerability, or even helplessness. In reality, only a minority of older people are dependent, and that minority must certainly be protected. But the majority are increasingly active and independent.

A second distinction is between *today's older people* and *tomorrow's older people*. A national policy aimed only at those who are 60 and older is out of date even before it is printed because of the rapidly changing context. Poor health and low savings at younger ages will become the crises of tomorrow's older generation. And while there will be more older people in the future than there are today, we should ensure that those individuals will be healthier, more financially secure and better educated – contributors to families and communities for as long as possible.

A third fundamental distinction is between *older people* and *ageing*. Although these two concepts are closely related, and are often lumped together without further thought, it may help to consider them separately. An older person is someone who has reached a certain age (60 years old, or perhaps 65). The term ageing, or more precisely population ageing, makes us confront the reality that the whole society is ageing. Between 2015 and 2050, the median age in Asia will rise from 30 to 40. Aside from a growing cohort of over-60s, ageing societies must face questions about the size of the workforce, the scale of future tax revenues and the number of schools needed, for example. A simple national policy for older persons will not address these wider challenges.

Which leads to **the fourth distinction, between *policies on ageing* and *policies for ageing***. In the past, many countries relied on a single national policy or action plan on ageing. That approach won't work in the twenty-first century. A national policy on ageing is important but must be only one part of a comprehensive policy frameworks on ageing. On the one hand, a policy on ageing needs to be accompanied by funding and a clear set of tools to ensure it is implemented. On the other hand, governments

must incorporate ageing into a wide range of sectoral policies, action plans and laws, which must be taken seriously by Ministries of Finance and Planning as a core consideration in national development strategies. The future of the whole society and economy is at stake.



About the events:

The Regional Forum on Policy Implications of Population Ageing was held in Tabriz, I.R. Iran, 3–5 July 2017. It was organised by UNFPA Iran in cooperation with HelpAge International and hosted by Iran's Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare and State Welfare Organization.

Read the Tabriz statement and reports at <http://ageingasia.org/regional-expert-forum-iran/>



The Regional Forum on Policies on Ageing was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 20–21 July 2017. It was organised by HelpAge International in collaboration with Myanmar's Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and funded by UNFPA and the LIFT donor consortium.



(PM)

Interview

Take 5 minutes with Tengku Aizan Hamid, the Founding Director of the Malaysia Research Institute on Ageing at Universiti Putra Malaysia



Why is political will such a crucial element when it comes to policies on ageing?

Political will is crucial because the policy and law making process cannot happen without commitment from political leaders. Although population ageing is an emerging concern in many developing countries like Malaysia, public awareness of the issues involved is still limited and the key stakeholders themselves are unable to assess its true impact as so little is known of the phenomenon. In order to accurately predict future trends, we need strong data and information to look ahead of the curve.

In Malaysia, the reality is that the distribution of our older population varies by states and districts with differing economic development levels. Therefore, the design and implementation of policies on ageing must be appropriate to each context. Socio-demographic characteristics such as age, sex, ethnicity, education and marital status can alter our perception of the elderly situation in a significant way.

As such, we need strong political will to ensure that the commitment to develop suitable policies on ageing is sustainable and to ensure proper fiscal allocations are given to implement (and to periodically review) the action plans as designed. We need leading government officials to champion the issues relating to the aged population, although their influence and support must translate into programmes and services that can survive well beyond their term in office.

We need to understand that the phenomena of population ageing is unprecedented and it affects everyone, but we have little time to catch up as the rate of population ageing is much faster today. The urgency for transformations must be tempered with caution as we have no historical basis, precedents or past experience to fall back on. As such, we must be prepared to make adjustments and changes from time to time, to revise or to draft new laws and regulations as needed to address the challenges ahead.

What are the key factors in building political will?

There are several key institutions and agents that are involved in building political will. One is the international drivers of change, by which inter-governmental organisations such as the United Nations convince fellow member states to embrace and act on ratified conventions.

Secondly, the force of demographic transition in a country cannot be ignored. Governments must respond to population changes and as the proportion of the elderly in society grows rapidly, cracks in the safety net become apparent. We cannot remain indifferent to the plight of the vulnerable and victimized groups of older people, whose abuse, abandonment and poverty can upend the fabric of social justice and cohesion across generations.

For Malaysia, building bridges among key stakeholders seems to work in generating the needed political will for change. Key actors have to work together for their own mutual benefit and therefore it is important to know and understand each other's interests and goals.

The emergence of civic and professional organisations related to old age and ageing in the country is giving voice to gerontological and geriatric matters. Together with the rise of the fifth estate, these organisations serve as advocates for action on ageing that call upon the government to respond proactively to the needs of a growing older population.



In Malaysia, the government has compelled stakeholders to work together through National Blue Ocean Strategies for the common good. The tight fiscal situation calls for a review of the way the government operates and this has become the impetus for change in the way public policies and programmes are implemented.

Apart from political will, what else might be needed in policy formulation? What is the role of civil society and academia in this process?

Civil society and academia have different roles to play in the policy process. In the case of age-related policies in Malaysia, the initial players come from civil society groups representing older people in the country. Inclusive policymaking practices means that NGOs and civil society organisations, as well as members of academia and industry representatives are called upon to provide input and feedback at different stages of the policy cycle. As a case in point, numerous dialogues were held recently to solicit suggestions for the 2018 Budget in Malaysia, in which the participation of civil society and academia is a common practice.

Civil society groups and government agencies or departments are often involved in end-user delivery of services, thus forming the backbone of any programme implementation. Their capacity to serve as well as plan, manage and document becomes crucial.

Academia is not only important as an independent third party for monitoring and evaluation, but also as a testbed for new ideas and innovative practices that need to be piloted carefully.

You can read the full interview at <http://ageingasia.org/resources/features/>.

Balochistan approves Senior Citizens Welfare Act 2017

► Pakistan

In recent years, the government of Pakistan has shown progress towards legislation for the protection of the rights of older people. Senior Citizens Acts were approved in 2014 by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and by the government of Sindh in 2016. Recently, the government of Balochistan formulated a law for the protection of the rights of older people and approved the “Balochistan Senior Citizens Welfare Act 2017.” This is first ever legislation to provide wellbeing, comfort and social security to older people (for the protection of the rights of older people) in the province. It is estimated that there are around 1 million older men and women living in Balochistan.

The key features of the act include:

- Establishment of the Senior Citizens Welfare Council - The council will play a key role in the implementation of the act and will also formulate new policies. The chairperson of the council will be an older person. The council will include representation from the government, civil society and academia.
- Financial support for families who look after their older people
- Counters for older people in hospitals, banks, railway stations and other public places



- Medical wards for older people and concessions for medicine and medical charges
- Inclusion of geriatric studies in the curriculum
- Establishment of senior citizen homes
- Free entry for older people to public museums, libraries, parks and recreation facilities

To facilitate the approval of this act and to speed up its implementation, the HelpAge Pakistan Country Office organised a workshop in the provincial capital Quetta to discuss population ageing, the rights of older people and the implementation of the act. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Department of

Social Welfare, Special Education and Human Rights.

Representatives from different departments and ministries participated in the event. Members of the provincial parliament, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Welfare, the Secretary for Social Welfare and the Director General of the Public Relations Department were also among the participants, as well as representatives from the media, academia and civil society.

(WO)

Events

The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)

12–14 September 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

Fifteen years after the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), the third global review and appraisal of the MIPAA will be conducted in 2018.

In preparation for the global review, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) will hold the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing from 12 to 14 September 2017 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

Participants will share their achievements in the implementation of the MIPAA and discuss the challenges that remain. The outcome of the meeting will represent the Asia-Pacific input that will be submitted to the global review of the MIPAA in early 2018.

Find out more:

<http://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-intergovernmental-meeting-third-review-and-appraisal-madrid-international-plan>

HelpAge events:

- **Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes**
2–13 October, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- **Community-Driven Development Training**
16–20 October, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **Disparities in ageing in the context of population ageing across Asia**
5–6 December, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Implementing a new project for older people's organisations (OPOs) in Leyte, Philippines



► Philippines

With support from MISEREOR Germany, the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) started a three-year project called “Strengthening Older People’s Organisations” last August, in 10 Leyte Province communities. They are the same areas that were supported in the Typhoon Haiyan Project (2013–2015).

The project aims to strengthen the municipality/city federations of older people as these serve as umbrella organisations of barangay/village-level OPOs.

The first year of the project has created opportunities for COSE to reconnect with and evaluate organisations that COSE worked with on a previous project that had already ended, and for OPOs to

enhance their capacity to lead and sustain the organisation.

“We were curious about what had happened to these organisations after the Typhoon Haiyan project ended and COSE/HelpAge left the communities. This was one of the reasons why we decided to choose the same areas for our new project,” says Emily Beridico, Executive Director of COSE.

In its first year of implementation, COSE found that:

- Most Older People’s Organisations feared that they would be disbanded after the project ended.
- Each OPO had maintained their committees, leaders and structure, but capacity-building opportunities had

been limited for them since COSE and HelpAge left the communities in 2015.

- Although some organisations have successfully sustained programmes introduced during the Typhoon Haiyan Programme, their leaders wanted to access new training and other capacity-enabling activities to strengthen their foundations.
- The interventions in the previous project/programme increased the capacity and awareness of community-based organisations more than the municipal/city-level organisations also known as federations. This finding has strengthened COSE’s resolve to engage with federations and increase their capacity as the main coordinating and older people-based, project-implementing bodies in local communities.

“The HelpAge-COSE Typhoon Haiyan Programme served as an eye-opener for older people to organize ourselves and create a support group for our needs. We are very happy that they are continuing their assistance to our organisations through the MISEREOR project. It creates more opportunities to enhance what we have learned in the past,” said Rosalina Erasmo, Secretary of Mansalip Senior Citizens’ Association in the Municipality of Matag-ob, Leyte.

COSE hopes that by the end of this project, older people’s federations and organisations will be able to engage with local government units and create sustainable, harmonious partnerships to help them respond to the needs of their members.

(HG)

A course for policymakers, government officials and practitioners around the world

Chiang Mai, Thailand
2 - 13 October 2017

Training course: Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes

2-13 October 2017

Find out more:

<http://ageingasia.org/social-transfer-programme-training/>

Contact:

Caitlin Littleton, asiacourse@helpageasia.org

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Ageing and pension systems:
Inclusive and sustainable pensions in an ageing world

Age Demands Action on Rights: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Age Demands Action (ADA) works at the grassroots level to bring about change for older people and provides a platform for their voices to be heard through the HelpAge global network. Each year, 15 June marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), a time when ADA campaigners and older men and women come together to raise awareness about elder abuse and to campaign for a new convention to protect older people's rights.

This year, the 8th session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) was held at UN headquarters in New York, and for the first time, governments discussed two areas of rights:

1. Equality and non-discrimination

Older people living in different social and economic contexts continue to be discriminated against in various aspects of their lives including health care, property ownership, employment and financial services. These discriminations result in harmful ageist attitudes and discriminatory practices.

2. Freedom from violence, abuse and neglect

With less than one-third of governments worldwide having implemented any type of approach to combat the problems of elder abuse and inequality, response to the problem is highly inefficient.

Violence, abuse and neglect can take many different forms, and have varying kinds of perpetrators, settings and contexts such as at home, in public, or at health centres. These acts could be against individuals or groups, or could be systematic structural violence.

ADA on Rights 2017 used these two themes as the focus for their campaign. Campaigners and partners demanded equality for older people by having equal rights under the law, including equal access to services and opportunities, and most importantly, the right to participate in decision-making processes and to freely express their opinions.



Tri-partite meetings with older people and governments

ADA campaigners set up tri-partite meetings between older people and governments to discuss the areas of rights and encourage their governments to attend this year's OEWG.

- **Bangladesh** campaigners convened over 60 participants for their tri-partite meetings. They recommended the need to launch a Department of Geriatric Medicine at both the district and division level, and the need for the Health and Social Welfare Ministry to pay more attention to the plight of older people.
- In **Vietnam**, at a meeting with the Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Welfare, and with the Vietnam National Committee on Ageing, investing in the protection of older people's rights was discussed.
- **Nepal** went a step further and aired their tri-partite meeting on live radio. Older people and government representatives discussed the HelpAge 'Entitled' report and Nepal's efforts to call for a new UN Convention for Older People's Rights to be supported by their government.
- **Sri Lanka** met with the Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare to encourage their government to attend the OEWG meeting. He asked HelpAge Sri Lanka to assist them in preparing their proposals for the OEWG.



A report by HelpAge International 'Entitled to the same rights' was also published. The report collated consultations from 250 older women in 19 countries on the two areas of rights. The report was used at the OEWG in early July and provided a resource for partners to use all over the world.



Awareness raising activities

- **The Philippines** held many events including the distribution of brochures, creating two awareness campaign videos, workshops, meetings with policy makers, and a radio interview on elder abuse.
- **Nepal** held a sticker-pasting event, pamphlets were produced and distributed to the public, a street rally, and delegation meetings took place in which a petition and the HelpAge 'Entitled' report was handed to ministers. They also held four workshops involving 230 participants, which included informed discussions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and elder abuse.
- Our network member, GRAVIS, in **India** organised workshops in villages across Rajasthan and provided medical screening for older people in Jodhpur. HelpAge India held street theatre performances in Delhi, and engaged with various TV news stations including ZEE News and CNN.
- **Vietnam** held a workshop in Ninh Binh province with 60 participants from five districts and they encouraged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend the 8th OEWG in New York.
- In **Cambodia**, meetings were held with the Office of The High Commissioner For Human Rights (OHCFHR), at which representatives of OPAs/ Federations were present to discuss elder abuse and the rights of older people in the region.
- HelpAge **Sri Lanka** (together with the National Secretariat for Elders, the Minister of Social Empowerment and the Minister of Welfare) conducted a sticker campaign at Colombo Central Bus Station.

(JM)

Pru Youngster Spirit: Volunteer power



► Thailand

Every year FOPDEV arranges a volunteer camp called "Pru Youngster Spirit" to contribute to older people and vulnerable people. This year, the camp was held on 16-19 June 2017 at Wat Taku village, in the countryside of Ayutthaya Province in central Thailand, which floods every year for few months. The camp was supported by the Prudential Life Assurance and brought around 40 young volunteers from all over the country.

The programme activities were built upon the main idea of giving and sharing. The young volunteers came not only to share and contribute but they also came to learn about older people from older people in communities since most of them are from cities and this is an experience that they will never learn in the classroom. This was the third year of the camp, at which some participants were new and others had joined at least once before. By

learning from older people, the volunteers learned about living status, how to live with floods and seasonal activities such as making "Kra Ya Sart" - a Thai dessert - and taking it along to visit older people at home. As a contribution, they helped the community craftsman to build a Centre for Disaster Awareness. The six by three meter shelter was built to replace a small rotten one that had been made of galvanized iron. The new one was built next to the local road and raised up higher than the flood level. It will be used during floods for watching and guarding cars and motorbikes in this village of 50 houses.

This year the floods came a month earlier than usual, just two weeks after the building was finished. Now, a new and strong shelter will help villagers till the end of this year and continue serving the community for many years.

(WW)



Congratulations!

Our newest Thailand network member "forOldy" was selected as one of seven outstanding NGOs to receive the Social Venture Network (SVN) Award 2017 in the category of Young Social Enterprise for its charity shop selling and renting assistive devices (such as wheelchairs, beds and walkers) to older people.

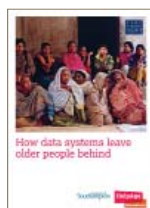
Website: <http://foroldy.com>
Facebook: Foroldy

Resources

Publications



Entitled the same rights
HelpAge International



How data systems leave older people behind
HelpAge International



Older people's access to healthcare in Myanmar
HelpAge International



Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
United Nations, HelpAge International and AARP

HelpAge International is a global network of organisations promoting the right of all older people to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives.

AgeNews aims to highlight issues of ageing and the rights of older people in Asia Pacific as well as share experiences of the network working with and for older people.

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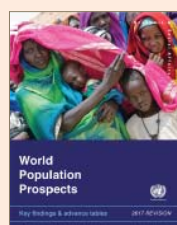
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World Population Prospect 2017: Key findings and advance tables
United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division

The 2017 Revision builds on previous revisions by incorporating additional results from the 2010 and 2020 rounds of national population censuses as well as findings from recent specialised sample surveys from around the world. The 2017 Revision provides a comprehensive set of demographic data and indicators to assess population trends at the global, regional and national levels and to calculate many other key indicators commonly used by the United Nations system..

https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_KeyFindings.pdf

Blogs

5 ways we effectively engaged the Myanmar Government with ageing and social protection policy
(<http://bit.ly/2vknLLe>)

Sarabe Chan, HelpAge International

From victims to game changers: older people can transform disaster risk reduction
(<http://bit.ly/2tpAA1W>)

Godfred Paul, HelpAge International

How Ageing Nepal campaigned on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (<http://bit.ly/2f0GxR3>)

Sanju Thapa Magar, Ageing Nepal

All HelpAge publications are available to download. Please refer to resources section on our website. You can access our blogs from above URLs.

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