

HelpAge International

Annual report and financial statements

2025/26

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This report outlines the actions and progress of our work from April 2025 to March 2026.

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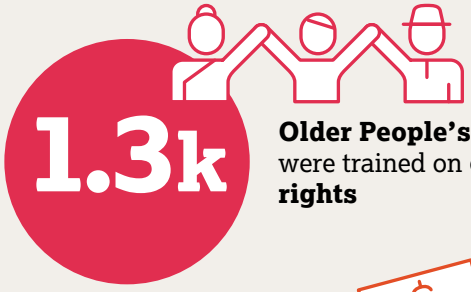
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Bui Quang Huy/HelpAge International in Vietnam

Our year in numbers

Working through the HelpAge global network and partners, we continued to advance older people's rights, inclusion, health and wellbeing across the world. Together, we supported organisations, strengthened local capacity, improved access to essential services, and helped ensure older people were included in humanitarian response and development efforts.



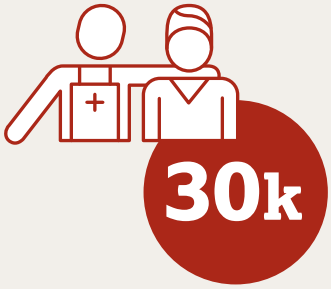
1.3k **Older People's Associations** were trained on **older people's rights**



229 organisations participated in **age discrimination and ageism initiatives**



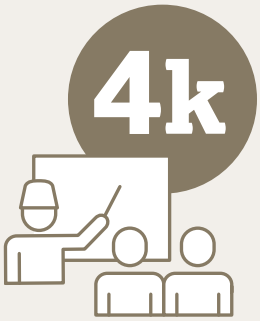
6.5k older people improved their **income security**



30k older people improved their access to **health and care services**



191k older people received **humanitarian assistance**



4k partner organisations received **training and technical support**

181 organisations from **66** countries are members of the **HelpAge Healthy Ageing Platform...**

reached **71** network members and distributed **11** grants in **10** countries to support their work to improve health services... benefitting almost **40k** older people



Oxford Institute of Population Ageing

A welcome from the Chair

Over the past two years as Chair of HelpAge International, I have been inspired by the dedication of the HelpAge team working with the global hub and network, and moved by the determination of older people and the HelpAge network members and partners, to create a better world for all.

During 2025/26, we saw important progress in ensuring that older people's voices are heard in international decision-making, while also confronting growing challenges that affect their lives and wellbeing. These developments remind us that ageing is not a niche issue affecting a small segment of society; it is a defining issue of our time.

This year, we celebrated several important advances in efforts to strengthen the recognition and protection of older people's rights. Among them was a landmark achievement at the United Nations (UN).

After years of discussion about gaps in the protection of older people's rights under international law, member states agreed to establish an intergovernmental working group tasked with drafting a legally-binding international instrument on the rights of older persons. This marks a historic turning point. For decades, older adults have experienced discrimination, exclusion and violations of their rights without a dedicated international framework to protect them. The decision to move forward with drafting a convention represents a vital opportunity to change this reality.

This achievement is the result of persistent advocacy by older people, civil society organisations, national governments and members of the HelpAge global network across the world. It demonstrates what can be achieved when robust evidence, lived experience and collective action come together around a common purpose. As this process moves forward, we shall continue working alongside our partners to ensure that older people themselves remain at the centre of the discussions that will shape their future.

Another important milestone came at the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, where older women were explicitly recognised for the first time within the global gender equality agenda. For too long, older women have remained largely invisible in international discussions on gender equality despite facing unique forms of discrimination and inequality.

Their inclusion sends a powerful message: gender equality does not stop at a certain age. It must extend across the life course and reflect the experiences, rights and leadership of women of all ages.

This milestone is a reminder that progress often begins with visibility, and that recognising older women is an essential step towards ensuring their voices, priorities and contributions are fully reflected in policy and practice.

Alongside these encouraging developments, the world continues to face challenges that disproportionately affect older adults. Climate change, conflict and humanitarian crises are increasing in frequency and severity, often placing older people at greater risk while leaving them overlooked in response efforts. Yet older adults are not simply passive victims. The knowledge, skills and leadership provided by those in later life are valuable assets which societies need to acknowledge, support and strengthen as a key contribution to tackling the world's current challenges.

I am particularly struck by the stories in the following pages from across the HelpAge network, demonstrating older people's contribution to community resilience through sharing knowledge, supporting recovery efforts and helping communities adapt to change.

These developments reinforce a broader truth. As populations age, societies must move beyond outdated assumptions and embrace a more inclusive vision of ageing. Older people are rights holders, community leaders, caregivers, workers, volunteers and agents of change. Ensuring they can participate fully in society is not only a matter of justice; it is essential to creating stronger, fairer and more resilient communities for everyone.

On behalf of the Board, I should like to thank all those who have supported HelpAge's work over the past year, our network members, partners, donors, supporters and staff. Your commitment, expertise and collaboration continue to drive progress towards a world where everyone can lead a dignified, healthy and secure life as they age. Together, we are helping to build a future in which longer lives are accompanied by greater inclusion and greater opportunity.



Professor Sarah Harper CBE
Chair, HelpAge International



Karen Hatch/HelpAge International

… and from the CEO

One of the moments that stayed with me most this year came during my visit to Ethiopia.

At the Eneredada Elder People Association, I met a member of staff whose grandmother had once been supported by the programme she now helps deliver. "I understand how it helped my grandmother", she told me. "Now I am able to support many grandmothers through this programme."

Her story was a powerful reminder of how change can reach across generations. I also met grandmothers caring for grandchildren while managing illness and financial insecurity themselves. Through the association, they had found not only practical support, but confidence, solidarity and a stronger collective voice.

I was in Ethiopia to mark the launch of **HelpAge Ethiopia** as an independent national organisation. That milestone – and the community leadership I saw through Eneredada – brought into focus the direction HelpAge is taking.

This direction was further affirmed and sharpened through two connected processes undertaken during the year: a mid-term review of our 2030 Strategy, ***Ageing in a just world*** and a review of our structure and role. Together, they helped us define where HelpAge can make the greatest contribution in the years ahead.

As a result, we are accelerating our transition from a traditional INGO delivery model to a network-led organisation that supports, connects and amplifies the work of local and national partners. This shift reflects our commitment to equitable partnerships, localisation and sustainable change, while strengthening our role as a convenor, supporter and thought leader on ageing.

This shift is taking place at a difficult time for the wider development sector. Funding pressures have intensified, resources are shrinking, and many organisations, including HelpAge and network members, have had to make difficult decisions. But those pressures have also sharpened our sense of purpose. They have reminded us that no single organisation can meet the scale of the challenges older people face. Our strength lies in working together: in shared knowledge, trusted relationships and the ability to act collaboratively while rooted in very different local realities.

We saw this clearly in humanitarian responses this year. In Gaza, Lebanon, Myanmar and Ukraine, HelpAge worked with local partners to help older people affected by conflict, displacement and disaster access cash support, healthcare, psychosocial support, protection and emergency relief. These responses were possible because of trust, proximity and long-standing relationships with communities, combined with HelpAge's role in connecting local action to wider resources, visibility and learning.

Healthy ageing has offered another strong example of what collaboration can achieve. This year, we strengthened our **Healthy Ageing Platform** as a way of bringing together network members, policymakers, practitioners, researchers and advocates to share evidence and practical experience. This work is helping to build momentum for health and care systems that recognise ageing not as a problem to be managed, but as a stage of life in which people should be able to live with dignity, autonomy and support.

The progress made this year would not have been possible without the commitment of network members, supporting members, partners, donors and supporters. I would particularly like to thank the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for its investment in the **SCORE** programme which is enabling a cohort of HelpAge network members to strengthen locally-led action and advance older people's rights. It is a powerful example of what becomes possible when funding is directed towards local organisations, with HelpAge playing a supportive and connecting role.

As we look ahead, the world faces profound challenges, from humanitarian crises and climate shocks to demographic change, while organisations across the development sector continue to navigate significant funding pressures. Yet I remain optimistic because I have seen the strength of the HelpAge global network in action. I have seen older people organising, influencing decisions and supporting one another. I have also seen local and national organisations bringing deep knowledge, commitment and creativity to some of the most complex issues facing their communities.

The coming year will require continued adaptation, collaboration and determination, but our purpose remains unchanged. Together with network members, partners and supporters, we will continue working towards a world where every older person can live with dignity, security and opportunity. Thank you for being part of that journey.



Cherian Mathews
Chief Executive Officer, HelpAge International

#ShiftThePower

HelpAge's #ShiftThePower journey is well underway. As our transition to a network-led organisation progresses, we are putting this new approach into practice by shifting greater power, leadership and decision-making to national and local organisations that are closest to older people and their communities.

Our changing role is centred on three core functions:



Supporter

Strengthening network members and partners to deliver high-quality programmes and services.



Convenor

Bringing together diverse stakeholders, sectors and expertise to foster collaboration at national, regional and international levels.



Thought leader

Working with network members, partners and allies to generate new thinking and develop practical solutions to global issues affecting older people.

Through these roles, we are strengthening connections across the HelpAge global network and supporting collective action to advance the rights, inclusion and wellbeing of older people.

Throughout this report, we highlight examples of our work across these three areas, demonstrating how our evolving approach is contributing to more locally-led development.

Section 1:

Shifting power, strengthening the network



HelpAge International

Section 1:

Shifting power, strengthening the network

Across the world, members of the HelpAge global network are increasingly leading the action needed to advance older people's rights and wellbeing.

This year, we continued our transition towards a more network-led model, strengthening local leadership, fostering collaboration and supporting network members to drive change in their own countries and communities. From the localisation of HelpAge country offices to collective advocacy and humanitarian capacity strengthening, we worked to ensure that knowledge, leadership and decision-making are increasingly rooted in the organisations closest to older people.

A connected network

Over the past year, HelpAge has undergone a significant transformation. Building on the ambitions of our 2030 Strategy and guided by the HelpAge Global Network Strategy, launched in 2025, we are evolving towards a more network-led model in which members and local partners play a greater role in shaping priorities, leading action and contributing expertise.

As part of this shift, HelpAge's role is increasingly focused on convening, connecting, enabling and amplifying collective efforts across the network.

This reflects our ambition to build a more connected, equitable and influential network, where impact is achieved through locally-led action, shared leadership and collaboration. The strategy sets out five priorities for strengthening the network:

- expanding joint programming,
- advancing collective advocacy,
- building a stronger learning community,
- supporting thriving locally-led organisations, and
- deepening member leadership and governance.

Alongside this wider transformation, we continued supporting former HelpAge country offices to become independent national organisations, strengthening locally-led leadership and long-term sustainability.



Dorcas

Localisation in action

By the end of the reporting period, nine former HelpAge country offices had completed the transition to independent national organisations with their own governance, identity and strategic direction. A further two transitions, in Ukraine and Vietnam, were also underway.

The HelpAge localisation team worked closely with country office staff and regional teams to prepare each organisation for independence as **national, locally-led entities**. This included establishing the governance arrangements, organisational structures and systems needed to operate as a nationally-led entity. Following transition, the new organisations began setting their own direction, building partnerships, influencing national policy and securing funding in their own right.



HelpAge International

Progress of localised offices in 2025/26

- **Alliance for Generations and Empowerment in Myanmar (AGE Myanmar)** re-established collaboration with the Ministry of Health, passed due diligence to access UN humanitarian funding, and expanded to over 350 community-based groups. In 2025 it received the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Outstanding Award for Social Welfare and Development.
- **The Ageing Unit in Lebanon** – sitting under AMEL Association International – strengthened its role as a research hub by actively supporting evidence generation on issues affecting older people in Lebanon. Through formal partnerships and a Memorandum of Understanding with academic and research institutions, the unit is currently facilitating two major studies on older people's rights in the country.
- **Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID), Pakistan** supported caregivers and older people across the country, improving access to knowledge, skills and caregiving equipment, while raising awareness on healthy and active ageing. FAID also reached 44,270 flood-affected people in the 2025 Buner flash floods, providing inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, mobility support and awareness activities.
- **HelpAge Advocacy Network Uganda (HANU)** has become a fully independent network, establishing governance, financial and programme systems. It successfully completed an 11-month Catalytic Village Health Teams Project, reaching 1,051 older people and training 45 village health teams. It also coordinated a governmental older people's advocacy meeting, contributing to social protection wins such as increased senior citizen grants and lower age eligibility thresholds.
- **HelpAge Ethiopia** launched as an independent national organisation in November 2025. With its own governance and strategic direction, the organisation is now strengthening partnerships with government, civil society and Older People's Associations (OPAs) to advance older people's rights and wellbeing across Ethiopia.
- **HelpAge Moldova** delivered programmes supporting more than 23,000 people with food assistance, hygiene kits and assistive devices. The team provided digital literacy training and engaged hundreds of volunteers in community activities.
- **HelpAge Mozambique** strengthened its position as an independent national organisation during the year, completing an organisational capacity assessment and beginning implementation of an improvement plan to enhance governance, leadership and institutional systems. It also deepened its engagement with government and civil society, signing a two-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Welfare and strengthening its role within national ageing networks. Through advocacy supported by the SCORE programme (see page 11), older people's groups successfully engaged local health authorities to press for improved access to healthcare and greater accountability for older people's rights.

- **HelpAge Tanzania** made notable progress in strengthening national health systems by integrating age-based key performance indicators into the government's health management system. It also contributed to key national strategies including the National Assistive Technology Strategy and Tanzania Vision 2050.
- **HelpAge Ukraine** is implementing a structured transition, moving from a direct implementation country office model to a nationally registered Ukrainian network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) focused on ageing. The transition began in 2025 following a comprehensive localisation assessment and Board approval of a Hybrid Network Model designed for Ukraine's unique context. The model brings together local NGOs and OPAs, supported by a dedicated Resource and Technical Hub that provides specialist expertise on ageing and works closely with partners and other stakeholders. By combining local leadership with shared technical support, the model enables Ukrainian organisations to lead while benefiting from ongoing strategic guidance and capacity strengthening. As the transition progresses, governance and operational leadership will increasingly be transferred to Ukrainian actors in line with HelpAge's localisation commitments.
- **Network of HelpAge Partners in Bangladesh (NHPB)** strengthened its governance and strategic direction during the year. Through a participatory process, members developed a two-year Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2026) focused on networking, localisation and advocacy for older people. The NHPB Secretariat also worked with member organisations (Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine, Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Resource Integration Centre (RIC) and Young Power in Social Action) to finalise the network's terms of reference, constitution and annual plans, providing a stronger foundation for coordinated action and long-term sustainability. Political instability and government transitions in Bangladesh led to delays in some planned activities and constrained opportunities for national-level advocacy.
- **The Vietnam Organisation for Better Ageing (VIOBA)** has become a leading social enterprise promoting healthy and active ageing in Vietnam, with a five-year strategic plan, operational protocols and strong brand visibility. It has signed multiple partnerships, joined regional and global networks, delivered consultancy services and strengthened community-based models such as Intergenerational Self-Help Clubs (ISHCs), receiving **national recognition** at the Human Act Prize 2025.



VIOBA

Building collective action



FAID, Pakistan

Supporter Convenor Thought leader

Launching SCORE

With funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), we launched Strengthening Civil Society for Older People's Rights and Engagement (**SCORE**) in 2025.

This is a three-year initiative supporting eight network members to lead locally-driven advocacy shaped by older people's priorities.

The first year focused on establishing the foundations for collective action. Representatives from all eight participating network members met at a forum in Ethiopia, where they jointly agreed SCORE's governance arrangements, priorities and ways of working.

Older people and communities in Ethiopia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Tanzania and Uganda contributed policy priorities that fed into joint advocacy for a UN Convention on the rights of older persons. Partners also began collaborating on other shared priorities, including universal health coverage.

"SCORE gave me a space to speak about the struggles older women like me face every day: poor access to healthcare, financial insecurity and feeling overlooked. Sometimes we do not need immediate solutions; what matters most is that someone listens, understands and includes us."

Ms. Sumaira, 79, Pakistan



FAID, Pakistan

Network members and partners:

Alliance for Generations and Empowerment in Myanmar (AGE Myanmar)

AMEL Association International, Lebanon

Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID), Pakistan

HelpAge Advocacy Network Uganda (HANU)

HelpAge Ethiopia

HelpAge Moldova

HelpAge Mozambique

HelpAge Tanzania

Strengthening local leadership

Supporter | Convenor | Thought leader

Humanitarian leadership through SHAPE

Through our Strategic Humanitarian Assessment and Participatory Empowerment (**SHAPE**) framework, with funding from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP), Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Germany's Relief Coalition (ADH) through HelpAge Deutschland, we provided funding, resources and training to 20 national NGOs and community-based organisations working in areas at high risk of humanitarian crises. The support was designed to strengthen their ability to lead responses that include older people.

Over the course of the year, more than 450 people took part in monthly online **training sessions**. A further 20 humanitarian professionals from across Latin America also got the opportunity to take part in an inaugural week of in-person workshops in Bogota, Colombia. We also increased the reach of our training through the launch of an **online course** on age and disability inclusion in humanitarian action on Kaya, a free humanitarian learning platform, with the training materials translated into Arabic and Spanish.

Organisations that completed SHAPE training were invited to take part in a new peer-support pilot scheme, enabling participants to mentor new partners to the programme. This allowed local organisations to share their own knowledge and experience rather than relying solely on training delivered by HelpAge.



Ralph Dargham/IDRAAC/HelpAge International

Among 48 survey responses received, 95 per cent of partners said the support had strengthened their ability to respond to change or shocks in a timely and appropriate way. Nearly three-quarters reported adapting their programmes to improve older people's access and participation.

"SHAPE helped us build a stronger foundation for the future. We moved from a single-authority model to a robust multi-authority management system. This wasn't just a change on paper. It strengthened our governance, accountability and decision-making at every level. SHAPE has empowered FAYA. We are now a prepared, strategic and accountable organisation, ready to meet future challenges with greater impact, integrity and inclusivity for the communities we serve."

Lal Bahadur Mahara, programme director at FAYA, Nepal

Network members:

Africa Development Aid (ADA), South Sudan
Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition
Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), Philippines
Community Support Group (CSG), Nepal
Forum for Awareness and Youth Activity (FAYA), Nepal
Fundacion Haciendo Panasn (FHP), Ecuador
HelpAge Sri Lanka
HelpAge Tanzania
Hope Revival Organization (HRO), Syria
Horn International Relief and Development Organization (HIRDO), Somalia
Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC), Lebanon
Life Makers Meeting Place Organization (LMMPO), Yemen
Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organizations (MANEPO)
National Age Network of Zimbabwe (NANZ)
Pastoralist Integrated Support Programme, Kenya
Ptaha, Ukraine
SEPAS Puerto Carreno, Colombia
Support To Older People (STOP), Zambia
Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA), Türkiye/Syria
Syrian Networks League (SNL), Syria

Section 2:

Changing systems for an ageing world



Age Myanmar

Section 2:

Changing systems for an ageing world

The opportunities and challenges presented by global ageing cannot be addressed through programmes alone. Last year, we worked to influence the policies, systems and institutions that shape people's lives, helping ensure they are more inclusive, responsive and sustainable.

Together with older people and our partners, we advanced work on rights, healthy ageing, income security and climate action to create lasting change at local, national and global levels.

Rights and inclusion

Older people have the right to participate, contribute and shape the decisions that affect their lives. Across international policy forums, research initiatives and advocacy efforts, we work to strengthen the recognition of older people's rights, challenge age-based discrimination and promote more inclusive societies for all ages.

Convenor | Thought leader

Amplifying older women's voices at CSW70

Following sustained advocacy at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), member states agreed to give dedicated attention to the **empowerment of older women** at the 2026 session. We worked with network members, UN partners and older women advocates to make the most of this historic opportunity. At least 25 network members used a shared advocacy toolkit to engage their governments and encourage active participation in CSW70.

We also worked with older women advocates from Cameroon, Mongolia and Pakistan who participated in events at CSW70, with backing from network members in Rwanda, Singapore, the UK and the US. They brought their experiences of discrimination, violence and barriers to justice into discussions with policymakers.

CSW70 marked a significant advance in the recognition of older women. They were explicitly included in the UN Secretary-General's report on access to justice, were the focus of a dedicated ministerial roundtable, and were recognised in the agreed conclusions adopted by member states. Fifty countries made statements at the ministerial roundtable addressing progress, challenges and action needed to advance the equality and empowerment of older women. The discussions culminated in a Chair's summary containing clear recommendations for member states.

Network members:

AARP, USA
Age International, UK
Cameroon Association for Elderly Care (ACAMAGE)
Centre for Human Rights and Development, Mongolia
Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID), Pakistan
NSINDAGIZA Organization, Rwanda
Tsao Foundation, Singapore



HelpAge International



Nelson Tamayo/HelpAge International

Convenor Thought leader

A historic step towards a UN Convention on the rights of older persons

After more than 15 years of debate, in April 2025 the UN finally agreed that action needed to be taken to enshrine older people's rights into law.

In February 2026, the newly established Intergovernmental Working Group (**IGWG**) tasked with drafting the UN Convention on the rights of older persons held its first organisational meeting at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, laying the groundwork for negotiations on a legally binding treaty. It marked the first formal step in a process to reshape how older people's rights are recognised and protected worldwide.

To bring older people's voices directly into this process, HelpAge worked with the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) to **support five older advocates** from Bangladesh, Colombia, Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa to participate in the meeting.

We worked with the advocates to prepare interventions, deliver oral statements and engage with their countries' permanent missions in Geneva.

Together with GAROP and other civil society organisations, we called for older people to participate meaningfully throughout the drafting process and contributed proposals on ways of working with the IGWG. These messages were welcomed by the newly elected Chair of the IGWG and many member states. Their interventions during the meeting resulted in broad support for taking the process forward.

Network members and partners:

Ageing Concern Foundation (ACF), Kenya

Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID), Pakistan

HelpAge Advocacy Network Uganda (HANU)

KARIKA, Kenya

Red Colombiana de Envejecimiento Activo y Digno (RedCOENVE), Colombia

South African Older Persons Forum (SAOPF)

VIOBA, Vietnam



HelpAge International

Supporter

Testing the WHO Ageism Scale across different contexts

Following the launch of the World Health Organization (WHO) **Ageism Scale** in April 2025, HelpAge partnered with the University of Edinburgh (global research leads on measuring ageism) and national organisations in Colombia, Lebanon, Libya and Moldova to test the scale in different settings, informing its further development. The project was supported by Age International, AARP, Germany's Relief Coalition (ADH) through HelpAge Deutschland and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP).

Older people were asked about their experiences and perceptions of ageism, including how these intersected with gender, disability and socioeconomic status. Many said no one had ever asked them about this before. The research has already generated learning reports, policy/evidence briefs and produced quantitative data from four different contexts. Additionally, academic articles are in development that will contribute to global understanding of how ageism can be measured across different cultural and social settings.

Network members and partners:

Al Safwa, Libya

HelpAge Moldova

Red Colombiana de Envejecimiento Activo y Digno (RedCOENVE), Colombia

University for Seniors at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Supporter

Recognising older people's role in achieving the SDGs

We worked with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to develop the **policy brief** *Unlocking the power of older persons as partners in localizing SDG delivery* which makes the case for involving older people as active partners in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) locally. The brief demonstrated how older people's active participation can strengthen communities and accelerate progress towards the SDGs at the local level, while outlining actions governments can take to support their meaningful engagement.

As part of UN DESA's inter-agency policy brief series, it was launched at the UN in New York during events marking the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October and was shared with network members for use in national advocacy. Its recommendations also shaped HelpAge's messaging at the **Second World Summit for Social Development** in Doha, where we spoke and co-hosted sessions on social protection, gender equality, ageing, and care alongside UN agencies and civil society partners.



Partner:

UN DESA

Healthy ageing

Healthy ageing means creating the conditions for people to live longer lives in better health, with dignity, autonomy and independence as they age. Working alongside older people, network members, partners, communities and governments, HelpAge is strengthening health and care systems, expanding access to services, and promoting more inclusive, person-centred approaches that enable people to age well.

Convenor | Thought leader

Strengthening shared leadership of the Healthy Ageing Platform

With support from Age International and Sida, we redesigned the governance and coordination of the **Healthy Ageing Platform** to increase the ownership of network members and partners in shaping its direction, priorities and activities. The Platform, launched in April 2024, brings together more than 180 organisations across 66 countries as a shared space to collaborate on healthy ageing initiatives, share knowledge and collective influence on healthy ageing and care policy and practice.

Over the course of the year, we developed improved governance arrangements, strengthened regional coordination and invited organisations to contribute expertise and co-chair thematic action groups. Seventy-four organisations submitted expressions of interest, demonstrating strong demand for a more active role in shaping and leading the Platform's work and showing an openness to greater collaboration across the HelpAge global network.

Network members and partners:

More than 180 organisations from 66 countries are part of the Platform.



Ganesh Bista/Ageing Nepal/HelpAge International

Case study



HelpAge Ethiopia

Prioritising older people at Lomi Meda Health Center

Mekiya is the medical director at Lomi Meda Health Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

"My journey to improving care for older people began when I received training on Integrated Care for Older People from HelpAge Ethiopia and Tesfa Social and Development Association. The training gave me a new perspective, emphasising dignity, accessibility and person-centred services. I became determined to transform our facility into a more inclusive and age-friendly environment.

"We introduced practical changes that immediately improved the experience of older patients. We modified roads to make them safer and easier to navigate. We prioritised older people in our system, so they no longer had to endure long waiting times. A separate service window was established, and a dedicated outpatient department allocated specifically for older patients. To strengthen accountability and responsiveness, we appointed a focal person to address their concerns.

"I also worked with our teams to ensure continuity of care by promoting an integrated service delivery system. Our Family Health Teams now conduct regular home visits, reaching older people who cannot travel to the facility. We reinforced a referral system linking community-level services with our health centre and higher-level hospitals whenever needed.

"Today, I am proud that Lomi Meda Health Center, with the commitment and collaboration of our staff, provides services for more than 1,000 older people in our catchment area. Older patients now receive more respectful, timely and personalised care. They feel recognised and prioritised, and I have witnessed their trust in the health system grow significantly."

Supporter Convenor Thought leader

Bringing integrated health and care closer to older people through ALIGN

In 2025, with support from Sida, we launched ALIGN – Action for Local and Global Investment in Non-communicable Disease and Integrated Health and Care Approaches – as a time-limited project to test locally-led ways of providing older people with coordinated, person-centred health and care in their communities.

We worked with local partners in Ethiopia, Pakistan, Tanzania and Ukraine to strengthen community health networks by connecting older people, volunteers and health workers with formal health services.

Across Ethiopia, Pakistan and Tanzania, our partners reached 6,640 older people with health assessments, referrals and community-based care. Five national policies, guidelines and training frameworks in the three countries were revised to incorporate integrated care for older people and strengthen the prevention, management and treatment of non-communicable diseases among older people. In Ukraine, the work focused on research and engagement with national health authorities to support better integration of services.

- In **Ethiopia**, network member Tesfa Social and Development Association trained 28 health workers on physiological changes associated with ageing and counselling older patients. They screened 1,170 older people for diabetes and hypertension, conducted 168 eye examinations and provided community-based check-ups to 1,620 older people. The programme also strengthened referral pathways between communities, primary healthcare services and hospitals, enabling 107 older people to be referred for further assessment, treatment and follow-up care.
- In **Pakistan**, FAID trained more than 100 community volunteers and 52 health professionals to identify and respond to the health needs of older people. Through these efforts, 800 older people were assessed, nearly half of them women. Based on identified needs, 405 older people received 646 assistive devices, including wheelchairs, walking sticks, crutches, walking frames, and hearing and vision aids. A further 1,200 older people were referred to hospitals for specialised assessment and care.
- In **Tanzania**, 80 primary healthcare workers and 40 community health workers were trained in home-based care, with 85 per cent subsequently applying their learning in practice. Twenty-five Ageing Clubs brought 1,500 older people together for exercise, health information and peer support. Community health workers also conducted 4,097 health assessments, identifying 484 previously undetected chronic health conditions requiring follow-up.

  The Tanzanian government also committed to adding 17 indicators on ageing to the national health database, enabling older people's health and wellbeing to be monitored systematically for the first time.
- In **Ukraine**, ALIGN research of 240 older people and 60 caregivers and service providers helped informed engagement with the Ministry of Health and led to an agreement between HelpAge International in Ukraine and the National Health Service of Ukraine to strengthen service integration. Working with ministries of health and WHO, ALIGN partners advocated for older people's needs to be better reflected in Ukraine's national health systems.

We shared learning from the four countries through the HelpAge **Healthy Ageing Platform** to inform integrated health and care approaches in other contexts.

Network members and partners:

Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID), Pakistan
HelpAge Ethiopia
HelpAge International in Ukraine
HelpAge Tanzania
Tesfa Social and Development Association, Ethiopia



Admasu Brook/HelpAge International



Bui Quang Huy/HelpAge International in Vietnam

Supporter Thought leader

Scaling up intergenerational self-help clubs in Vietnam

In 2025, the Vietnamese government committed to establishing **12,000** new Intergenerational Self-Help Clubs (**ISHCs**) by 2035, a major endorsement of a community-led model pioneered and developed by HelpAge International in Vietnam along with local partners.

This expansion will be supported by the new national organisation established through the localisation of HelpAge's former country office, Vietnam Organisation for Better Ageing (**VIOBA**) working in collaboration with the Vietnam Association of the Elderly and the ministries responsible for health, culture and finance.

The clubs support healthy ageing by bringing older people together with younger generations, working together on health promotion, homecare, income generation, lifelong learning, voice, mutual support and participation in community life. There are now 9,000 clubs supporting around 600,000 members across Vietnam, the vast majority now operating independently of HelpAge. The expanded model will retain its core areas of activity while adding work on digital literacy, long-term care, and the green transition.

During 2025/26 HelpAge directly supported 166 clubs who delivered a wide range of activities including:

- 1,146 sessions providing information on self-care and health issues including hypertension, diabetes, stroke prevention, osteoporosis and seasonal illnesses.
- 473 exercise and sports groups, which attract high levels of participation.
- Regular monthly health checks measuring blood pressure and weight, reaching 92 per cent of ISHC members.
- Diabetes screening for members to enable early risk detection and timely medical referral and follow-up.
- The recruitment and training of 1,756 homecare volunteers.
- Delivering essential home-based care and companionship to 1,538 people in need, 74 per cent of whom were women.

The vast majority of members surveyed reported an improvement in their wellbeing since joining a club.

Income security

A secure income enables older people to meet their basic needs, participate in their communities and plan for the future with confidence. This year, we worked with partners to strengthen livelihoods, support older people's economic empowerment, and build the evidence and advocacy needed for more inclusive pension and social protection systems.

Convenor Thought leader

Revitalising Pension Watch

In 2025 we secured funding from Sida through the SCORE programme to revitalise Pension Watch, HelpAge's global data and evidence platform on social pensions. The work addresses a persistent problem: although social pensions are among the most effective tools for reducing poverty in older age, the evidence needed to inform policy and advocacy is scattered, inconsistent and often difficult to use.

We began a comprehensive analysis of the most up-to-date information available, covering every country and territory, and worked with network members and partners, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Social Security Association (ISSA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Bank to shape the new platform.

Scheduled to launch in September 2026, Pension Watch will bring together an updated global dataset, country profiles, data visualisations and a social pension cost calculator. It will give policymakers, advocates, researchers and civil society organisations accessible evidence to compare approaches, understand what works and make the case for stronger social pension systems.

Network members and partners:

Ageing Nepal
Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), Philippines
Development Pathways, UK
HelpAge Cambodia
HelpAge Ethiopia
HelpAge Mozambique
HelpAge Tanzania
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Social Security Association (ISSA)
Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organizations (MANEPO)
National Age Network of Zimbabwe (NANZ)
Resource Integration Centre (RIC), Bangladesh
Support To Older People (STOP), Zambia
Uganda Reach the Aged Association
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
World Bank



HelpAge International



Malumbo Simwaka/Pairpicture/HelpAge International

Supporter Convenor

ROAR: Building income security through older people's associations

Through the Irish Aid-funded Realising the Rights of Older People (ROAR) project, we worked with Older People's Associations (OPAs) in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania to strengthen older people's financial independence while supporting them to advocate for more inclusive social welfare and pension systems. By bringing older people together around shared economic activities, the associations provided a platform for collective action, engagement with decision-makers and advocacy on issues affecting older people in their communities.

During the year, a total of 1,587 members of 53 OPAs received training in areas including entrepreneurship, business management, financial literacy, savings and business planning. We provided £25,148 GBP in start-up grants for group enterprises including horticulture, livestock and poultry farming, food processing, tailoring, fishing and soap-making. Participating groups reported an average increase of 40 per cent in their income.

The associations enabled older people to lead the initiatives themselves, while also providing a platform through which they could advocate for their rights and engage with national governments.

ROAR in action

- **Ethiopia: Diversifying livelihoods in difficult conditions**

  Grants strengthened nine OPAs, helping members develop and diversify new income sources through initiatives such as catering services, small-scale restaurants and renting out spaces. While inflation, livestock losses, limited access to land and workspace, and ageist perceptions of older people's economic potential created challenges, members increased their income and economic resilience, improving financial independence and their ability to cope with shocks and household needs.

- **Malawi: Turning grants into operating enterprises**

  All 12 participating OPAs were reactivated and are now fully operational, having completed their legal registration. Each established a self-help group that is actively running an income-generating activity: six in horticulture, five in poultry and one in goat farming. All members received training in business management, financial literacy and climate-smart agriculture. Early returns are already visible: the Kabuthu horticulture group generated approximately £200 GBP in profit from its first harvest.

- **Mozambique: Building financial resilience**

  In Gaza Province, four OPAs mobilised 246,080 Mozambican meticais (approximately £2,800 GBP) through group savings and revolving funds, in which members can borrow and repay money so that the funds can continue supporting others over time. This strengthened access to small loans via OPAs and emergency financial support for members.

- **Tanzania: Attracting further investment and influencing local support**

  The 15 participating OPAs used their initial grants to secure an additional TZS 3.3 million (approximately £920 GBP) in government funding. This enabled them to expand enterprises including horticulture, livestock and poultry farming, tailoring, fabric printing and soap-making, creating more opportunities for members to earn an income. The additional investment also demonstrated the ability of OPAs to engage with local authorities and advocate successfully for support for older people's initiatives.

Network members and partners:

African Women Aids Working Group (AFRIWAG), Tanzania
Associação Crista Interdenominacional para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (ACIDECO), Mozambique
Associacao de Proteccao do Idoso de Tete (APITE), Mozambique
Diocese dos Libombos (The Anglican Church Mozambique)
HelpAge Ethiopia
HelpAge Mozambique
HelpAge Tanzania
Jumuiya Ya Wazee Zanzibar (JUYAWAZA), Tanzania
Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organizations (MANEPO)

Supporter

Creating opportunities to earn a living in Vietnam through self-help clubs

Alongside the health and social activities featured earlier in the report, 2,476 older people across 166 **ISHCs** in Vietnam received loans to start or expand small enterprises, including vegetable growing and livestock rearing.

Members also took part in 166 training sessions on adaptive farming, livestock rearing and managing a small business. A further 1,920 economic development volunteers were recruited and trained to coach borrowers and support them to use and repay their loans effectively. Most of the volunteers were themselves older people, giving them a leading role in supporting other members.

Almost two-thirds of members surveyed said their income had increased since joining a club.



VIOBA

Network member:
Vietnam Association of the Elderly

Case study

Creating strong connections in Kabuku

In Kabuku, a small town in eastern Tanzania, 86 older people – most of them women – have built three shared enterprises and created a lively, supportive community.

Formed through the ROAR project, the Kabuku Self-Help Group received a grant of TZS 1 million – approximately £290 GBP – to invest in income-generating activities. They also received training and mentoring in business selection, record keeping, group dynamics and financial planning.

Members invested in Batik-making materials – including fabrics, dyes, wax and printing equipment – soap-making and a chair-hire service, purchasing 100 plastic chairs. Developing several enterprises gave the group multiple sources of income.



HelpAge International

"We meet twice a week to work on the business and discuss social issues. I look forward to those days because we work together, share stories, do physical exercises and laugh. Everyone plays a role in either production, sales, storage or record keeping. We feel happier and more respected than before."

The group's vice chair

The group began selling its Batik products locally and hiring out chairs for community events, meetings and celebrations. Members also used their Batik skills to produce sports uniforms for the group.

"Since we did not have sports clothes, we used our Batik skills to make our own uniforms. We now produce and sell them within the group at an affordable price. This has helped us earn income and strengthen our identity as a group."

64-year-old Sophia Sowa

Today, the group earns about TZS 280,000 – around £90 GBP – per month from its businesses. This is a major achievement for older people who previously had limited opportunities to earn, save and invest together, with members describing stronger relationships, shared purpose and greater recognition within their community.

Climate change

Climate action is more effective when it includes everyone. This year, we worked with partners and communities to strengthen age-inclusive climate adaptation, support older people to develop local solutions, and build the evidence needed to ensure their rights and priorities are reflected in climate policy and practice.

Convenor Thought leader

Advancing age-inclusive climate action through the UNFCCC

During 2025/26, HelpAge strengthened its engagement with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), positioning ageing as an important consideration in climate justice, adaptation and resilience.

Ahead of COP30 in Belém, we contributed to consultations and dialogues with civil society, climate networks and human rights organisations, helping to advance age-inclusive perspectives on adaptation, climate finance, health, gender and nature-based solutions.

At COP30, along with International Disability Alliance, we co-organised a side event and exhibit space highlighting both the inequalities faced by older people and their leadership, knowledge and contributions to climate adaptation.

Coinciding with COP30, our partner organisation, 1in6by2030, organised a photo exhibition at a renowned art gallery in Belém, helping to raise the profile of older people's experiences and contributions in climate action and attracting more than 10,000 visitors in its first two weeks.

Partner:
1in6by2030



Light Oriye/1in6by2030



Michael Goima/Fairpicture/HelpAge International

Thought leader

Strengthening influence in global climate policy and science

A major milestone was HelpAge securing official Observer Organisation status with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), strengthening opportunities to ensure older people's experiences, knowledge and capacities are reflected in future climate assessments. We also contributed ageing perspectives to global discussions on adaptation finance, loss and damage, and climate resilience, including through engagement with the Adaptation Fund, climate networks and humanitarian climate initiatives. These efforts helped strengthen recognition of ageing as a cross-cutting climate issue and reinforced HelpAge's role in connecting local evidence and older people's leadership with global climate policy and practice.

Supporter Thought leader

Building the case for age-inclusive climate adaptation

With support from Sida, we trained partners in Lebanon, Moldova, Myanmar, Pakistan and Tanzania to assess how well national climate change policies reflect the rights, experiences and priorities of older people, particularly older women and older people with disabilities.

Following the training, partners began reviewing national policy frameworks and examining who participates in decisions and who can access support during a crisis. Early analysis identified possible priorities for advocacy, including age-inclusive early warning systems, accessible disaster shelters, heat-health action plans and grants enabling older women to protect or rebuild the ways they earn a living.

The findings will inform policy memos, climate finance trackers and workshops where communities can review and validate the analysis.

Network members and partners:

Alliance for Generations and Empowerment in Myanmar (AGE Myanmar)

AMEL Association International, Lebanon

Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID), Pakistan

HelpAge Moldova

HelpAge Tanzania

Case study

Growing resilience together in Brisas del Volador, Colombia

In Brisas del Volador, a hillside neighbourhood in Bogotá, older people are helping transform their community while adapting to the impacts of climate change. The area faces increasing risks from extreme rainfall, landslides and rising temperatures, alongside challenges such as poor infrastructure, limited green spaces and social isolation.

As part of the project, a community action group of 141 people, most of whom were older people and women, came together to improve two neglected sites in their neighbourhood. Community members worked side by side to plan planting activities, organise volunteer groups and decide how the spaces should be used and maintained. Their knowledge, experiences and priorities shaped every stage of the process.

The revitalised spaces have become more than gardens. They are now places where neighbours meet, learn from one another and spend time outdoors. Older people have reported feeling more connected to their community, while also gaining new knowledge about biodiversity, climate change and environmental stewardship. The project also helped strengthen intergenerational relationships, creating opportunities for people of different ages to work, learn and take action together in support of their community and environment.

For 74-year-old Cenaida, the project has brought both learning opportunities and companionship:

"I feel very good because I really like getting out of the house, being with others, and learning new things. You can always learn."

The project has also strengthened local ownership and encouraged collaboration between residents, community organisations and local authorities. Participants say the experience has given them a greater sense of pride in their neighbourhood and confidence that they can contribute to local solutions. By placing older people at the centre of decision-making, the initiative demonstrates how communities can draw on the knowledge, skills and leadership of older people to build resilience and create positive change.

Supporter

Older people testing local climate solutions in Vietnam

In 2025, we funded a pilot led by the HelpAge team in Vietnam in Hoa Binh province, supporting older people to establish local climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction groups. Participants received training and 3,200 plants to create a collective bamboo garden, alongside producing biochar and using Effective Microorganisms to improve soil health. Bamboo was chosen as an older person-friendly, climate-resilient crop that requires relatively little maintenance, helps protect soil from erosion and can provide a sustainable source of income.

Early trials found that crops grown with biochar performed better than those using conventional fertiliser alone. Participants reported improved soil fertility and crop growth, fewer pests and lower input costs. They also held community awareness sessions, shared their experiences through local media and engaged government representatives on expanding older people-led climate action.



Duc Le/HelpAge International in Vietnam

Network member:
Vietnam Association of the Elderly



Nelson Andrés Tamayo Gaviria/HelpAge International

Supporter Thought leader

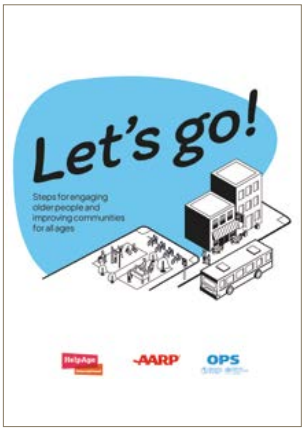
Neighbourhood champions take climate action in Colombia and Mexico

Older residents in Bogotá and Mexico City worked with local partners to design community gardens and restore neglected public spaces through our Age-friendly Cities and Communities initiative. Financed through the Global EbA Fund, the work formed part of HelpAge's wider approach to inclusive climate adaptation and included assessments of neighbourhood risks from extreme heat and flooding.

The project brought together age-friendly planning and urban climate adaptation, with older people playing a central role in neighbourhood design. The gardens and restored spaces were designed to provide more shade and greenery, reduce local climate risks and create safer places where people could meet and remain active.

Participants also used HelpAge's ***Let's go guide*** and the ***Voice training guide*** to share their knowledge and experience with younger generations.

Learning from the two cities is being documented so that the approach can be adapted and tested by other municipalities.





Partner:
Placemaking Mexico

Section 3:

Responding to humanitarian crises



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Section 3:

Responding to humanitarian crises

In 2025/26, HelpAge, network members and partners responded to rising humanitarian needs caused by conflict, displacement and climate-related disasters. By delivering age-inclusive humanitarian action across emergencies and protracted crises, we helped ensure older people could access assistance, protection and support, while advancing more inclusive humanitarian systems for all.

HelpAge has been **independently verified** against the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) since 2020. Across our humanitarian programmes, feedback and complaints mechanisms, safeguarding measures and community consultation processes are integrated into programme design, implementation and monitoring through our partnerships and programme management approach.

Within our partner-led operating model, accountability is supported through programme oversight, accompaniment and learning, helping to ensure that community feedback informs programme adaptation and decision-making. These measures help ensure that humanitarian assistance remains responsive, inclusive and accountable to older people and the communities we work alongside.

Rapid and locally-led action

Supporter

Global Emergency Fund

HelpAge's Global Emergency Fund, supported by MACP, offers rapid, flexible funding to help meet the needs of older people and their families when crisis hits.

In the course of 2025/26, the Fund provided rapid funding to network members responding to 10 disasters – including floods, droughts, earthquakes and cyclones – in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Mozambique, Myanmar, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. By rapidly releasing funding, the Fund enables locally-led responses that include older people from the outset.

In total, 71,024 people received humanitarian assistance, including 17,248 older people. Support included cash, healthcare, hygiene supplies, food, and water and sanitation. Six early-action grants also helped communities prepare for anticipated crises, while some network members used their initial grants to secure further institutional funding and expand their response.

Of the older people reached, 3,269 were people with disabilities.



Nur Mohamed/HelpAge International

Network members and partners:

Alliance for Generations and Empowerment in Myanmar (AGE Myanmar)

Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition

Community World Service Asia (CWSA), Pakistan

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh

Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID), Pakistan

HelpAge Mozambique

HelpAge Sri Lanka

Horn International Relief and Development Organization (HIRDO), Somalia

Salvadoran Humanitarian Aid Association (PROVIDA), El Salvador



AGE Myanmar

Supporter

Myanmar earthquake response

Following a **major earthquake** in March 2025, HelpAge secured support from the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) through Age International, alongside funding from Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA) which enabled AGE Myanmar, the national member of the global network, to deliver an integrated emergency response across six townships.

- More than 1,800 earthquake-affected older people and households received humanitarian assistance, including multi-purpose cash assistance, hygiene, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and kitchenware support.
- A total of 1,158 older people received cash assistance through the DEC-funded intervention, while a further 737 households were supported through the JOA-funded response.
- Hygiene, WASH and kitchenware kits were provided to 908 older people and an additional 737 households, helping families meet their immediate needs and reduce health risks.
- To strengthen longer-term community resilience, 103 volunteers and staff were trained in psychological first aid, inclusive communication, and age- and disability-awareness. People who received support reported reduced financial stress, improved wellbeing, safer hygiene and food preparation practices, and stronger social connections through psychosocial support and community activities.

The AGE Myanmar response prioritised older people and people with disabilities, including older women living alone and others with limited support networks. Rapid emergency assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake helped leverage additional funding, enabling the response to expand and reach more affected communities.

Network member:

Alliance for Generations and Empowerment in Myanmar (AGE Myanmar)

Responding to conflict and protracted crises

Conflict and displacement in the Middle East

Supporter

Delivering essential support in Gaza and the West Bank

Continued bombardment, repeated displacement and the collapse of essential services left people across **Gaza and the West Bank** struggling to access food, water, shelter and healthcare. Older people faced particular barriers, including interrupted treatment for chronic conditions and difficulty reaching services, as communities were repeatedly displaced. In the West Bank, increasing settler violence, military operations, demolitions and movement restrictions continued to drive displacement, damage homes and infrastructure, and restrict access to essential services and livelihoods.

With support from the DEC, channelled through Age International, HelpAge's network members adapted and relocated services as conditions and patterns of displacement changed, distributing food, essential household items and cash, as well as providing mental health and psychosocial support.

In Gaza, the Agricultural Development Association (PARC) provided cash assistance, food, water and essential household items and supported more than 35,000 people through community-led initiatives. In the West Bank, PARC also provided food vouchers to 4,200 people and essential household items to a further 2,500 people.

Juzoor for Health and Social Development established primary healthcare clinics in Gaza in Deir al-Balah, Gaza City and Khan Younis. These provided consultations, chronic disease management, medication, assistive devices and mental health and psychosocial support to 8,897 older people.

Alongside supporting service delivery, we strengthened the evidence base on the impact of the crisis on older people. Our report, ***Pushed Beyond Their Limits***, was one of the first assessments focused specifically on older people in Gaza. Drawing on interviews with 416 older people across four governorates, it highlighted the severe effects of displacement, food insecurity, disrupted healthcare and limited access to humanitarian assistance, helping to inform more age-inclusive humanitarian action and advocacy.

Network members:

Juzoor for Health and Social Development, Palestine

Agricultural Development Association (PARC), Palestine

Supporter

Expanding access to health and protection in Lebanon and Syria

Continued conflict and displacement left many older people, people with disabilities and other at-risk groups in Lebanon and Syria struggling to access essential healthcare and protection services. In response, with support from the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) through HelpAge Deutschland, we worked with partners in Syria, and in Lebanon who support people displaced from their homes, refugees and members of host communities.

The response reached 31,147 people through home-based healthcare and transport for people who struggle to reach services.

- 5,408 older people received mental health and psychosocial support, including access to a hotline designed to reach people experiencing isolation.
- 12,568 older people were given access to protection support services, including case management, access to safe spaces and legal awareness services.
- 8,952 older people and people with disabilities were able to access essential healthcare and were provided with assistive devices.
- We also provided specialist technical support to more than 375 humanitarian stakeholders. This strengthened their capacity to deliver age-, gender- and disability-inclusive programmes. This work also influenced humanitarian coordination systems, helping to make cluster strategies, frameworks and tools more age inclusive.

Network members partners:

Action for Humanity (AFH), Syria

Hope Revival Organization (HRO), Syria

Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC), Lebanon



PARC



Lies Ouwerkerk/Shutterstock

Supporter

Making older people visible in Sudan's humanitarian response

As the conflict in Sudan entered its third year, millions of people remained displaced and struggling to access humanitarian assistance. Older people, particularly those with limited mobility and those living in remote areas, faced additional barriers to fleeing attacks and reaching food, healthcare and other essential support.

In 2025/26, supported by Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP), we worked with the Inclusion Task Force and the Protection Cluster in Sudan to **produce a report** examining the experiences of older people affected by the conflict and the extent to which humanitarian assistance was reaching them. It documented significant gaps in aid programmes and called for older people's needs and rights to be more systematically included in the humanitarian response.

Following discussions with UN OCHA, the Inclusion Task Force was renamed as the Age and Disability Working Group (ADWG) and was formally integrated into the humanitarian coordination structure.

HelpAge's Age Inclusion Specialist engaged with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), the Protection and Food Security and Livelihoods Clusters, and other humanitarian actors to help ensure responses better reflected and addressed the needs of older people and persons with disabilities.

We also assessed the work of eight local organisations delivering gender-based violence (GBV) programmes to understand how well older people are being included, identified gaps in their responses and areas for improvement, and provided training to strengthen coordination and support. We also worked to strengthen the inclusion of data on older people in Sudan's Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.

Partners:

UNFPA
UNHCR
UN OCHA
WFP

Supporter

Humanitarian action in Ukraine

As the war in Ukraine continued into its fourth year, older people remained among those most affected by displacement, isolation, poor health and barriers to essential services.

HelpAge International in Ukraine delivered age-inclusive humanitarian assistance across eastern and western Ukraine in partnership with local organisations. The response was supported by funding from the DEC, Global Affairs Canada, the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) and Aktion Deutschland Hilft, and implemented with the support of Age International, HelpAge Canada and HelpAge Deutschland. Together, we helped older people maintain their health, independence and dignity while strengthening local organisations and systems for longer-term recovery.

Key achievements in 2025/26

- More than 15,400 older people received home-based care and support.
- Over 16,700 people received hygiene kits and essential daily living support.
- More than 1,800 people were connected to legal, medical, nutrition and other specialist services through referral support.
- Nearly 2,400 people received multipurpose cash assistance to meet urgent needs.
- More than 6,000 people received assistive devices to improve mobility and independence.
- More than 8,500 older people received adult incontinence products.
- Over 5,400 older men and women attended community safe spaces where they were provided with psychosocial support.
- HelpAge trained and mentored local organisations, including 18 community-based NGOs in the Dnipro and Kharkiv regions, strengthening local humanitarian response capacity.
- Through the Age and Disability Technical Working Group, HelpAge's Age Inclusion Specialist strengthened the capacity of 415 participants from more than 70 humanitarian organisations to deliver age- and disability-inclusive responses. The working group also influenced wider humanitarian coordination efforts by providing technical guidance and evidence-based tools, helping to ensure that older people in all their diversity were better reflected in the Ukraine response.



Mariia Kytynska/HelpAge International

Our humanitarian response combines meeting immediate needs with building sustainable, community-led protection systems. Tailored home-based care and case management services provide regular support to house-bound and internally displaced older people, delivering hygiene kits, incontinence products, assistive devices such as walkers, wheelchairs and hearing aids, and connections to specialist services. Ahead of winter, older people also received winterisation support, including warm clothing, bedding and other essential items to help them cope with harsh conditions and power outages.

A key feature of our approach is strengthening local capacity. Through training, mentoring and ongoing support, HelpAge helped establish community initiative groups and peer-to-peer networks that now play an active role in supporting at-risk older people. These groups carry out home visits, identify emerging needs, provide practical and emotional support, and help reduce isolation among those most at risk. Community Safe Spaces further promote wellbeing and social inclusion, with activities ranging from choir singing and Nordic walking to handicrafts and community events, helping older people remain connected, active and engaged within their communities.

Network members and partners in Ukraine:

Centre for Humanitarian Aid
Pomogaem Charitable Foundation
Right to Protection
Volunteer 68

Case study

Cascading knowledge in Ukraine

Local organisations are at the heart of sustainable recovery. Over the past 18 months, HelpAge has worked alongside Pomogaem, a Ukrainian charity delivering humanitarian and social support programmes, to strengthen local leadership and build a more resilient, community-led response for older people affected by the war.

The project began with a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) to equip Pomogaem with the tools to lead regional humanitarian efforts independently. Together, we then developed a joint mentoring programme to support smaller, grassroots organisations.

Pomogaem launched a call for proposals that drew 33 local applicants from which five small non-profits were selected for support. Pomogaem successfully designed and launched its own comprehensive five-day training for these organisations, passing down knowledge in survivor and community-led response, humanitarian inclusion, ageing, advocacy and mental health support. The smaller organisations received microgrants so they could begin activities including humanitarian assistance, psychosocial support, rehabilitation services and housing recovery support.

Each of the five newly-empowered organisations used their microgrants and tailored mentoring to support at least 400 older people in their respective communities, collectively engaging with and bringing essential care to a minimum of 2,000 people. The result is a resilient, self-sustaining network of community-based organisations led by the needs of older people.

"The most valuable outcome of this partnership has been the transfer of knowledge and leadership to local organisations. With HelpAge's support, we were able to train, mentor and invest in grassroots groups that understand their communities best, creating a stronger and more sustainable network of support for older people across the region."

Maryna Perederii, Director, Pomogaem Charitable Foundation



Mariia Krytynska/HelpAge International

Supporting people affected by displacement and migration

Supporter

Protecting people affected by conflict and displacement in Ethiopia

Many regions of Ethiopia struggle with political violence, conflict and displacement. With support from the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO), we worked with communities, local authorities and partners to map the biggest threats facing older people affected by displacement, including internally displaced people and older refugees, across the high-risk regions of Afar, Amhara and Tigray. Assessments revealed severe, compounded risks: escalating gender-based violence (GBV), psychological distress, risks from explosive ordnance, movement restrictions, arbitrary detention, and family separation. These crises disproportionately affected women-headed households, older people and people with physical disabilities.

HelpAge Ethiopia transformed these findings into adaptive programming and rapid field interventions.

- Teams provided tailored protection support and case management to 1,070 people, alongside direct cash assistance to 996 people. A further 1,638 families received a package of psychosocial support, health referrals and essential household items.
- 35 families living in particularly difficult conditions at displacement sites received emergency shelter kits containing tarpaulins, mosquito nets, mattresses and jerrycans.
- Working with local Older People's Associations (OPAs) and organisations of people with disabilities, we held workshops on violence, discrimination and protection, helping people understand their rights, available support services and how to report concerns. The workshops involved 3,508 community members. Partners subsequently recorded increased reporting of GBV, indicating greater awareness of how and where to seek support.

Network members and partners:

Federation of Ethiopia Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FEAPD)

HelpAge Ethiopia

Humanity and Inclusion in Tigray

Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO), Ethiopia



Tewodros Hailemichael/Shutterstock



Pedro Pinilla Seijas/HelpAge International

Supporter

Reaching older people affected by displacement and migration in Colombia and Venezuela

Economic crisis and displacement continue to shape the lives of millions of Venezuelans, including older people. With support from the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) through HelpAge Deutschland, HelpAge worked with network members and partners to support older people, migrants, host communities and indigenous populations across key mobility corridors in Colombia and Venezuela.

We provided age-inclusive humanitarian assistance to people on the move in La Guajira and Vichada in Colombia, and in Bolívar State and Delta Amacuro in Venezuela. By integrating older people's needs into assessments, targeting, referral systems and service delivery, we helped ensure humanitarian assistance was more accessible, relevant and responsive to people of all ages. Older people actively shaped our approach. By leading consultation meetings and managing feedback, older people identified what their communities needed, steering real-time adjustments to ensure the response was relevant, safe and culturally appropriate.

As a result:

- 3,664 older women successfully accessed health and food security services customised to their needs.
- 2,439 older people with disabilities reclaimed independence through physical, communication and structural adjustments designed to reduce daily access barriers.
- The creation of accessible distribution points, community-based support networks and prioritisation systems empowered people with reduced mobility to access critical WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and health services on their own terms.

Network members and partners:

Convite A.C., Venezuela
Fundación Dones de Misericordia, Colombia
Fundación Salvemos al Medio Ambiente, Colombia
Vicariato Apostólico de Puerto Carreño, Colombia

Influencing humanitarian policy and practice



Victor Para/Age International

Supporter | Convenor | Thought leader

Embedding age inclusion in humanitarian responses

Across Ethiopia, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Türkiye, Ukraine and Venezuela, with support from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, HelpAge's Age Inclusion Specialists worked alongside UN agencies, international NGOs and government partners to strengthen the inclusion of older people in emergency responses. They provided practical guidance and tools, contributed to humanitarian planning and delivered more than 70 training sessions involving staff from over 100 organisations.

Research published by the Nossal Institute for Global Health in May 2025 found that embedding specialist expertise within humanitarian responses increased the visibility of older people and strengthened organisations' capacity and confidence to address age inclusion. The findings provide evidence to support the expansion of the model and its use to influence humanitarian standards and funding.

"Too often, older people are expected to adapt to systems that were not designed for them. Reversing this logic and making it normal to ask 'is this accessible, respectful and dignified for an older person?' would naturally improve inclusion across disability, gender and protection priorities. In my experience, when dignity and accessibility are taken seriously, age inclusion follows almost automatically."

Nataliia Nechyporuk, Age Inclusion Specialist, Ukraine



Nataliia Nechyporuk

Network members and partners:

Convite A.C., Venezuela

HelpAge Ethiopia

HelpAge International in Ukraine

NADA ELAZHAR for Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development (NADA), Sudan

Nossal Institute, University of Melbourne

Syrian Expatriates Medical Association (SEMA), Türkiye/Syria

Convenor Thought leader

Exposing gaps in humanitarian funding and inclusion

With the support of MACP, we published ***Funding for older people in humanitarian crises*** examining the extent to which older people are included in humanitarian funding and programming. The report was launched at **What now for inclusion?**, a public online event co-organised with the ODI Global's Humanitarian Policy Group, which explored the future of inclusion amid major changes to the humanitarian system. To extend its reach, we also produced a Spanish edition for partners and advocates across Latin America and Spain.



We also completed research, again funded by MACP, on the application of the *Humanitarian Inclusion Standards* in practice. Scheduled for publication in late 2026, the findings informed the revision of the Sphere Standards, which set global benchmarks for the quality and accountability of humanitarian responses.

Working with network members in Somalia and Zimbabwe, we began a study examining how ageism, ableism and sexism intersect in climate change and disaster risk reduction. Its findings will inform our advocacy for more inclusive disaster risk reduction policies and practice.

Network members:

Convite A.C., Venezuela

Horn International Relief and Development Organization (HIRDO), Somalia

National Age Network of Zimbabwe (NANZ)



Usman Ghani/HelpAge International

About HelpAge International:

Values, network and supporters

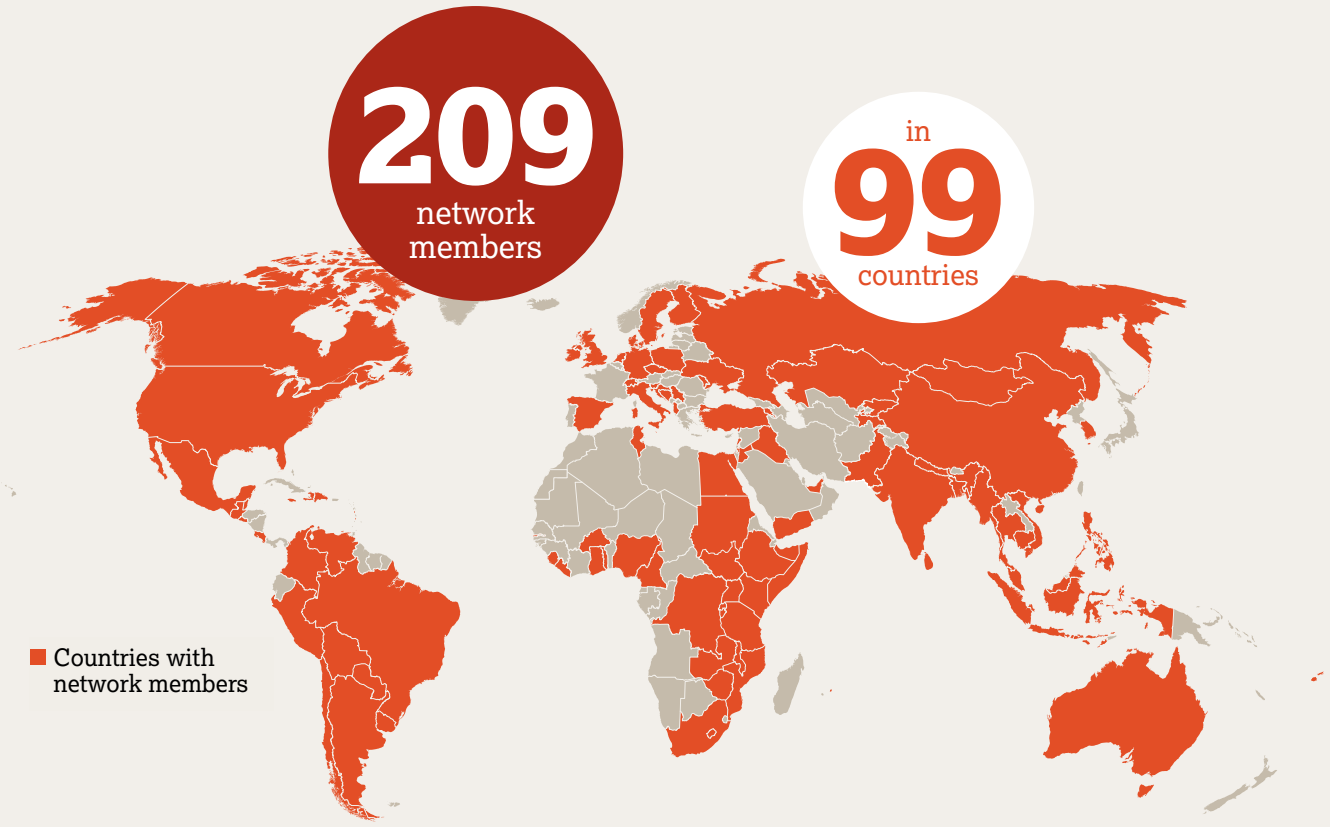


Dorcas

HelpAge global network

The HelpAge global network lies at the heart of our mission, bringing together 209 organisations across 99 countries committed to advancing the rights, wellbeing and inclusion of older people. By sharing knowledge, building influence and collaborating across borders, network members drive change at local, national, regional and global levels.

In 2025/26, we welcomed the Agricultural Development Association (PARC) in Palestine to the global network. We subsequently paused membership recruitment as part of the transition to a network-led model, focusing on strengthening support for the 209 organisations already in the network rather than expanding membership.



Global network members

Africa

Africa Development Aid (ADA), South Sudan

Afro Ethiopia Integrated Development Association (AEID), Ethiopia

Age in Action, South Africa

Ageing Concern Foundation (ACF), Kenya

Ageing with a Smile Initiative (ASI), Gambia

AgeWatch Africa Foundation (AAF), Kenya

Almanar Voluntary Organization (AMVO), Sudan

Association for Community Development Action in Sofala (ASADEC), Mozambique

Association of Retired Persons Mozambique (APOSEMO)

Cameroon Association for Elderly Care (ACAMAGE)

Center for Community Advancement and Family Empowerment (CECAFE), Liberia

Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN)

Community Based Rehabilitation Alliance (COMBRA), Uganda

Community Development Volunteers for Technical Assistance (CDVTA), Cameroon

Country Trackers Elderly, Kenya

Current Evangelism Ministries (CEM), Sierra Leone

Droits Humains Ocean Indien (Dis-Moi), Mauritius

Elim Hlanganani Society for the Care of the Aged, South Africa

Ethiopia Elderly and Pensioners National Association (EEPNA)

Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria

Fondation Moje, Cameroon

Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment (FOCESE), Malawi

Foundation for Community and Capacity Development (FOCCAD), Malawi

Grandmothers Consortium (GMC), Uganda

Health Nest Uganda (HENU)

HelpAge DRC

HelpAge Ghana

HelpAge Kenya

HelpAge Tanzania

HelpAge Zimbabwe

Horn International Relief and Development Organization (HIRDO), Somalia

Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC), South Sudan

Humanitarian Association for Support to Older People (VUKOXA), Mozambique

Human rights and forest brain Africa (HURIFBA), Cameroon

Integrated change agent, Burundi

Joncaring Foundation, Ghana

Kaalmo Relief and Development, KRD, Somalia

Kenyan Aged People Require Information, Knowledge & Advancement (KARIKA)

Kenya Pro Ageing Organization

Kenya Society for People with AIDS (KESPA)

Kibera Day Care Centre for the Elderly (KDCCE), Kenya

Kulmiye (or District) Pastoral Association (DPA), Kenya

Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC)

Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organizations (MANEPO)

Mang'u Integrated Community Project (MICOP Kenya)

Maseru Senior Women's Association, Lesotho

Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association (MFPWA)

Mujejeguwa Loka Women Development Association (MLWDA), Ethiopia

Muthande Society for the Aged (MUSA), South Africa

National Age Network of Zimbabwe (NANZ)

National Senior Citizens Organization of Liberia (NASCOL)

NSINDAGIZA Organization, Rwanda

Organization for Sustainable Development (OSD), Ethiopia

Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU)

Pamoja Community Based Organization, Kenya

Promo-Femmes/Development Soldarite (PFDS), Burkina Faso

Reach A Hand Uganda (RAHU)

Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM), Uganda

Regional Center for the Welfare of Aging Persons in Cameroon (RECEWAPEC)

Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RaDO), Ethiopia

Relief to Development Society (REDESO), Tanzania

Rift Valley Children and Women Development Organisation (RCWDO), Ethiopia

Saidia Wazee Karagwe (SAWAKA), Tanzania

Senior Citizens Association of Zambia (SCAZ)

Senior Citizen's Council of Mauritius

Senior Women Citizen for Change, Kenya

South Sudan Older People's Organization (SSOPO)

Sudanese Society for the Care of Older People (SSCOP)

Support To Older People (STOP), Zambia

Tanzania Mission to the Poor and Disabled (PADI)

Tesfa Social and Development Association, Ethiopia

Tiphedzane Community Support Organization (TICOSO), Malawi

Uganda Reach the Aged Association

Univers de solidarité et de développement (UNI.SOL.D.), Togo

Voice of the Elderly, Uganda

Women for Dementia Africa (WFDA), Kenya

Asia and Pacific

Ageing China Development Centre (ACDC)

Ageing Nepal

Alliance for Generations and Empowerment in Myanmar (AGE Myanmar)

Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM)

Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition

Centre for Ageing Support and Community Development (CASCD), Vietnam

Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD), Mongolia

China National Committee on Ageing (CNCA)

Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), Philippines

Council on the Ageing (COTA), Australia

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh

Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Fiji Council of Social Services (FCSS), Fiji

Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID), Pakistan

Foundation for Older Persons' Development (FOPDEV), Thailand

Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS), India

HelpAge Cambodia

HelpAge India

HelpAge Korea (HAK), South Korea

HelpAge Sri Lanka

Helping Hand Hong Kong, China

Help without Frontiers Thailand Foundation

Instituto de Acção Social, China

Mongolian Association of Elderly People (MAEP)

National Council of Senior Citizens Organisations Malaysia (NACSCOM)

National Senior Citizen Federation (NASCIF), Nepal

Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN)

Pakistan Medico International Social Welfare Association (PMISWA)

Resource Integration Centre (RIC), Bangladesh

Senior Citizen Chautari (SCC), Nepal

Senior Citizens' Council of Thailand

Society for Women's Initiative for Ageing Successfully, Singapore

Tsao Foundation, Singapore

Vietnam Association of the Elderly

Yayasan Emong Lansia (YEL), Indonesia

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), Bangladesh

Eurasia and Middle East

Agricultural Development Association (PARC), Palestine

Albanian Association of Geriatry and Gerontology (AAGG)

Alzheimer's Association Lebanon (AAL)

AMEL Association International, Lebanon

Ardager, Kazakhstan

Babushka Adoption, Public Charitable Foundation, Kyrgyzstan

Central Asia Gerontology Center, Tajikistan

Center for Studies on Ageing (CSA), Lebanon

Dobroe Delo, Russia

El Wedad Society for Community Rehabilitation (WSCR), Palestine

Golden Years Foundation for Community Development, Egypt

HelpAge Moldova

Hope Revival Organization (HRO), Syria

Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC), Lebanon

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, Iraq and Syria

Juzoor for Health and Social Development, Palestine

Kadirat Women Empowerment, Tunisia

King Hussain Foundation/ Institute for Family Health (KHF/iIFH), Jordan

Life Makers Meeting Place Organization (LMMPO), Yemen

Mission Armenia NGO

OSMIJEH, Association for Psychosocial Help and Development of Voluntary Work, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Palestinian Center for Communication and Development Strategies (PCCDS)

Red Cross of Serbia (RCS)

Resource Center for Elderly (RCE), Kyrgyzstan

Right to Protection, Ukraine

Social Research Center (SRC), Egypt

Solidarity Is Global Institute (SIGI), Jordan

Starenki, Ukraine

Syrian Expatriates Medical Association (SEMA), Türkiye/Syria

Syrian Network League, Türkiye/Syria

Turbota pro Litnix v Ukraini (TLU), Ukraine

Turkey Retirees Association

University for Seniors at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA)

4get-me-not Alzheimer's, United Arab Emirates

Latin America and Caribbean

Asociación Alianza de Salvadoreños Retornados (ALSARE), El Salvador

Asociación Central de Funcionarios Públicos y Docentes Jubilados del Paraguay

Asociacion Cultural Casa Del Nino (ACCN), Colombia

Asociación Gerontológica Costarricense (AGECO), Costa Rica

Asociación Mutual de Protección Familiar (AMPF), Argentina

Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA), Argentina

Asociacion Uruguaya de Animadores y Auxiliares Gerontologicos (AUDAAG), Uruguay

AVU Innovación, Mexico

CADENA, Argentina

CADENA, Guatemala

Caritas Chile

Centro Gerópolis – Universidad de Valparaíso, Chile

Consejo Distrital de Sabios y Sabias, Colombia

Convite A.C., Venezuela

Coordinaion Group of Older People, Peru

Dominica Council on Ageing (DCOA)

Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), Brazil

Fundación Acción Familiar Alzheimer Colombia (AFACOL)

Fundacion ISALUD, Argentina

Fundación Navarro Viola, Argentina

Fundación Yamuni Tabush, Costa Rica

Haitian Society for the Blind (SHAA), Haiti

HelpAge Belize

HelpAge St. Lucia National Council of and for older persons

Horizons Foundation, Bolivia

La Coalición Nacional para la Dignidad de las Personas Mayores (CORDES), El Salvador

Lador Vador, Argentina

Mexican Alzheimer's Center

NTD Foundation, Republica Dominicana

ONG Sumaj Punchay, Bolivia

Pro Vida Colombia

Pro Vida Perú

RAFAM Argentina Foundation (Physical Activity Network for Older Adults)

Red Colombiana de Envejecimiento Activo y Digno (RedCOENVE), Colombia

Rizhome Center for Migrants, Mexico

Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID), Republica Dominicana

SIDOM Foundation, Argentina

Sociedad Argentina de Gerontología y Geriatría (SAGG), Argentina

St. Catherine Community Development Agency (SACDA), Jamaica

Surcos AC, Argentina

North America

AARP, USA

HelpAge Canada

HelpAge USA

Europe

Age Action Ireland

Age International, UK

Beauty of Help Foundation, Czechia

Bonum Vitae, Poland

Caritas Malta Foundation

Centre for Policy on Ageing, UK

Croatian Red Cross City of Valpovo, Croatia

Dane Age, Denmark

Dorcas Aid International, Netherlands

Globale Seniorer, Denmark

HelpAge Deutschland

HelpAge España

HelpAge Italia

Kwa Wazee , Switzerland

PRO Global/Pensioners without Borders, Sweden

Slovene Philanthropy, Slovenia

The Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM)

The Union for Senior Services – VALLI, Finland

Zivot 90, Czechia

Our values



Supporting members

Supporting members are a distinct group within the HelpAge global network that provide sustained financial, advocacy and strategic support to our collective work. Alongside advancing older people's rights in their own countries, they strengthen the wider network through fundraising, public engagement, policy influence and partnerships. Their contribution helps mobilise resources, amplify older people's voices and advance shared efforts to promote the rights, wellbeing and inclusion of older people worldwide.

Age International

As the UK-based member of the HelpAge global network, **Age International** mobilises funding, public support and policy influence for older people worldwide.

During 2025/26, it supported humanitarian responses in Ethiopia, the Middle East, Myanmar, South Sudan and Ukraine, alongside longer-term programmes in countries including India, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania. This support advanced older people's rights, healthy ageing and protection, while helping communities respond to conflict, displacement and climate-related emergencies.

Age International also strengthened global advocacy on older women's rights, contributed to the Healthy Ageing Platform and continued to champion a UN Convention on the rights of older persons. Together, these efforts increased the network's capacity to respond to immediate needs while driving lasting change for older people. In addition, Age International provides core grant funding that enables HelpAge to sustain essential functions, strengthen the global network and direct resources where they are needed most.

HelpAge Canada

HelpAge Canada strengthens the HelpAge global network through fundraising and community partnerships across Canada, while advancing advocacy and policy action both nationally and internationally.

During 2025/26, it contributed to HelpAge's response in Ukraine, supporting older people affected by the conflict to access care, protection, assistive products and community-based services. This work helped strengthen local organisations and contribute to more sustainable systems for longer-term recovery.

It also supported an assessment of malnutrition risks among older people in Gaza, helping build the evidence needed for a more age-inclusive humanitarian response. As HelpAge Canada marked 50 years of action, its continued support advanced the network's shared commitment to dignity, inclusion and locally-led solutions for older people.



Aron Simeneh/HelpAge International/1in6by2030

HelpAge Deutschland

HelpAge Deutschland strengthens the HelpAge global network through fundraising and public engagement in Germany, alongside advocacy and influencing efforts in Germany and internationally. It also plays an important role in advancing efforts towards a UN Convention on the rights of older persons, helping to strengthen global action to promote and protect the rights of older people.

During 2025/26, it supported age-inclusive humanitarian and recovery programmes for older people affected by conflict, displacement and emergencies in Colombia, Libya, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela. Its contribution helped advance age-inclusive health services, humanitarian assistance, supported living and economic empowerment for displaced older people.

HelpAge Deutschland also supported SHAPE, helping humanitarian organisations better recognise and respond to the rights and needs of older people in emergencies. Through this work, it expanded the network's reach and strengthened locally-delivered support that enables older people to live with greater dignity, independence and security.

HelpAge España

HelpAge España strengthens the HelpAge global network through advocacy, research, public engagement and international cooperation. As a leading voice on the rights of older people in Spain, it works to tackle ageism, promote equality and advance policies that enable older people to live dignified, healthy and secure lives.

During 2025/26, it contributed to the HelpAge global network's work on healthy ageing and age-inclusive humanitarian action. It also continued to champion a UN Convention on the rights of older persons and raise awareness of ageism through research, publications and its Ageism Observatory, a flagship initiative dedicated to understanding, monitoring and challenging discrimination against older people. Through these efforts, HelpAge España helps strengthen both national and global action to protect the rights and wellbeing of older people.

HelpAge USA

HelpAge USA advances the HelpAge global network's work through fundraising, advocacy and partnership-building in the United States.

During 2025/26, it contributed to global advocacy on the rights of older women, including through engagement at the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women and wider network activities. This work helped amplify older women's voices and strengthen international attention to equality, participation and justice in older age.

HelpAge USA also supported an inclusive recovery project in Syria, helping the network respond to the needs of older people and their communities in a crisis-affected setting.

Alongside its wider focus on healthy ageing, financial security, climate justice and humanitarian response, HelpAge USA helped build support for a world in which older people are included, protected and valued.

We are deeply grateful to the donors and funding partners whose support makes our work possible. Their investment enables HelpAge and the wider network to respond to urgent needs, strengthen locally-led action and advance the rights and wellbeing of older people worldwide.

We thank the following organisations for their valued support during 2025/26:

- AARP
- Aktion Deutschland Hilft (German Relief Coalition)
- Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP)
- Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)
- European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO)
- German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)
- Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Global Affairs Canada
- Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA)
- Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH)
- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP)
- Novo Nordisk
- Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
- Start Fund
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Swedish Postcode Foundation
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls (UNTF)
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Volant Charitable Trust
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Governance and finance

Financial statements 2025/26

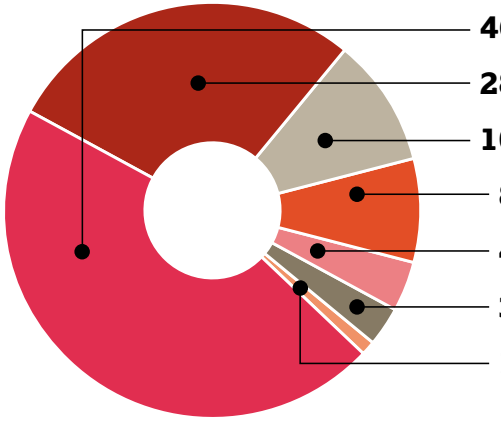


Ganesh Bista/Ageing Nepal/HelpAge International

Financial overview 2025/26

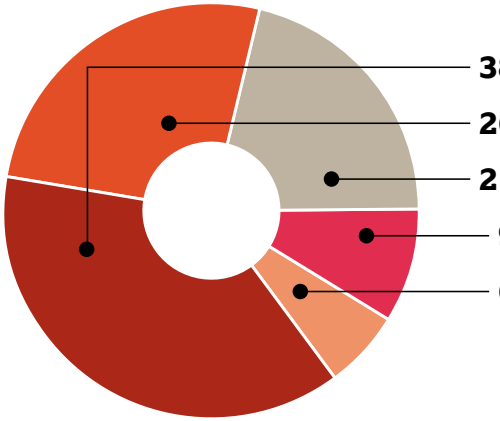
Income and expenditure at a glance

Where the money came from
£17.6m



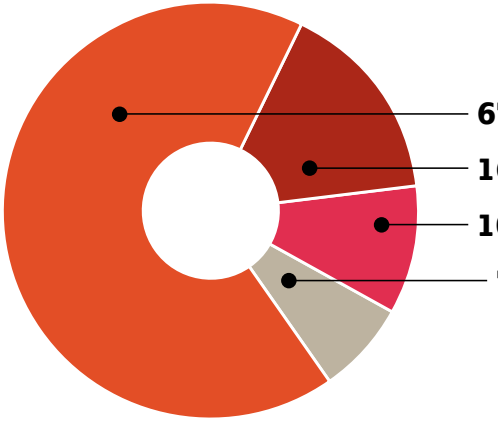
46% *United Kingdom*
28% *Germany*
10% *Sweden*
8% *Other countries*
4% *Canada*
3% *Ireland*
1% *USA*

Where we spent this money
£21.9m



38% *Eurasia and the Middle East*
26% *UK and others*
21% *Africa*
9% *Asia*
6% *Latin America and the Caribbean*

How we spent this money
£21.9m



67% *Improving safety and security*
16% *Enabling a secure income*
10% *Making older voices heard*
7% *Health and care access*

Financial overview 2025/26

Highlights of our financial performance

	Year ended 31 March 2026 £m	Year ended 31 March 2025 £m
Income		
Restricted	14.2	26.2
Unrestricted	3.4	5.9
Total income	**17.6**	**32.1**
Expenditure		
Restricted	(16.2)	(27.4)
Unrestricted	(5.7)	(6.6)
Total expenditure	**(21.9)**	**(34.0)**
Net restricted income / (expenditure) for the year	(1.8)	(1.2)*
Net unrestricted income / (expenditure) for the year	(2.4)	(0.8)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	**(4.2)**	**(2.0)***
Actuarial (losses) / gains on final salary pension	–	(0.1)
Net income / (expenditure) including actuarial gains / (losses) on final salary pension	**(4.2)**	**(2.1)***
Funds at the start of the year	6.9	9.0*
Total funds carried forward including pension liability	2.7	6.9*
Pension liability	–	–
Funds excluding pension liability	**2.7**	**6.9***
Funds		
Restricted	1.6	3.4*
Unrestricted general	1.1	3.5
Funds excluding pension liability	**2.7**	**6.9***

* During the current year, it was identified that partner balances of £1.02m relating to restricted donor-funded programmes had not been recognised as debtors as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2024 in the prior year financial statements. The comparative figures have therefore been restated to correct this prior year omission. The restatement increases prior year debtors by £1.02m with a corresponding increase in restricted funds of £1.02m at both year-ends. There is no impact on total net assets.

Corporate governance report

Managing change

HelpAge International's main objective is to protect the wellbeing, dignity, and rights of older people, particularly those in low- and middle-income countries.

Five years into the implementation of our 2030 Strategy, 2025/26 marked an important shift in our approach. We undertook an organisation design process alongside a mid-term review of progress against the strategy. Together, these processes sharpened our focus and reshaped how we work. We are now a leaner, more flexible organisation, working in collaboration with partners and network members to deliver change for the people we serve.

The risks to achieve our strategy and future prospects

During 2025/26, civil society organisations faced an increasingly challenging and uncertain environment. Shrinking civic space and declining international aid added to financial and operational pressures, while more frequent disasters and prolonged conflicts increased humanitarian need and made programmes more difficult to deliver safely. For HelpAge, these external pressures coincided with significant organisational change, creating a complex range of strategic, financial and operational risks.

Our governance arrangements provide oversight of these risks and ensure that emerging issues are identified, monitored and addressed. During the year, particular attention was given to managing the implications of the organisation design process, financial uncertainty and our continued operations in conflict-affected areas.

Senior leadership and Trustees actively manage organisational risks following our established risk management policy. This includes identifying emerging risks and regularly reviewing those listed in our risk register to ensure they remain within our defined risk appetite. We also ensure that effective mitigation strategies are in place. Our risk register outlines key security, strategic, operational, and financial risks facing the organisation.

The transition to partner-led programming is central to achieving our strategy and has therefore been a focus of risk management during the year. The localisation of our country offices is an important part of this approach: 10 of our 12 country programmes have either become independent national organisations or transferred their work to locally-led organisations, with the process continuing in Vietnam and Ukraine. HelpAge continues to support these organisations, with a particular focus on their institutional and financial sustainability.

Income

In the year ended 31 March 2026, our total unrestricted income was £3.4 million, a reduction of £2.5 million from £5.9 million in the previous year. Of this reduction, £609,000 reflects a change in the reporting of income from the Sponsor a Grandparent programme, which is now classified as restricted rather than unrestricted income.

More broadly, as country offices have become independent national organisations or transferred their work to locally-led organisations, the programme income they previously managed is no longer recorded as HelpAge income. This accounts for much of the reduction in our overall income and organisational size.

Through the organisation design process, we aligned our structure and cost base with this new operating model. We also strengthened our approach to securing future income by renaming the Business Development team as Fundraising and Strategic Partnerships and broadening its remit to build relationships with supporting members and strategic partners and develop new income opportunities.

We negotiated four-year agreements with HelpAge's three supporting members, Age International, HelpAge Deutschland and HelpAge Canada. These agreements provide a clear framework for working together and greater certainty over income in the years ahead. Building on our long-standing relationship with Sida, we also secured new multi-year investment that enabled us to establish the SCORE and ALIGN programmes.

Programme delivery and compliance

This new operating model has also changed the nature of the risks associated with programme delivery and compliance. While we continue to assess these risks as moderate, we are strengthening our compliance and oversight system to mitigate the risks and properly manage incidents. This includes investment in more responsive systems and increased staff capacity.

We remain committed to effective oversight as a key component of our compliance framework. We are adapting how this function is delivered to reflect the new operating model and the changing nature of our work, while maintaining a clear focus on effective assurance and risk management.

Safety and security

HelpAge staff, network members and partners continue to work in contexts affected by conflict, political instability and restrictions on humanitarian access. Russia's continuing war against Ukraine presents an ongoing threat, particularly in the centre and east of the country. In the Middle East, regional instability has heightened security risks, while restrictions on

humanitarian access make programmes more difficult to deliver. Elsewhere, security conditions remain volatile in countries like Ethiopia and Myanmar where we support programmes.

This operating environment creates risks to the safety of staff and partners, as well as to humanitarian access and the continuity of programmes. HelpAge manages these risks through ongoing security monitoring, location-specific risk assessments, travel security procedures and staff security training. We have also introduced policies to support the safety and security of staff based in, or travelling to, high-risk locations.

We are reviewing our policies to ensure that we meet our obligations and duty of care to partners and provide appropriate support as security conditions change. We have also introduced a policy to support the wellbeing of staff working in conflict-affected locations, recognising the particular pressures they face.

Going concern

Our financial performance in 2025/26 reflects a period of strategic and organisational transition. The year-end results were significantly affected by the reduction in reported income following the localisation of country offices, alongside the one-off costs of country office closures and wider organisational restructuring.

The year closed with a net deficit of £2.4 million on unrestricted activities, compared with a projected deficit of £0.9 million. The variance reflected unrestricted income being lower than budgeted, together with balance sheet adjustments arising from the localisation of 10 country offices. At year end, net unrestricted reserves stood at £1.05 million.

As part of the preparation of the 2025/26 financial statements, management undertook a review of HelpAge's going concern status. The assessment considers the organisation's financial position, cash flow forecasts, income outlook, reserves position and principal risks.

Current forecasts indicate that the organisation will maintain positive cash balances over the next 12 months. A large part of our unrestricted income budget has been secured for the next three years, and approximately 82 per cent of restricted income budgeted for 2026/27 is already contracted.

Although unrestricted reserves have reduced to £1.05 million, management considers this level of reserves sufficient to support continued operations and meet foreseeable obligations.

Employee involvement

Employee consultation is central to our decision-making processes. This is done through line management channels and engagement with the Staff Council. In the UK, we recognise the union, Unite. Representatives of Unite and the Staff Council meet the Board's People Committee every six months to raise issues and concerns affecting staff.

During the year, these arrangements supported consultation on the organisation design process, alongside formal consultation with employees directly affected by the proposed changes.

During 2025/26, we conducted an audit of our internal communications and used the findings to introduce new channels and refine existing approaches. We keep staff informed through team briefings, regular updates from the CEO and a fortnightly news digest. Our Global Team chat provides an informal space for staff to share updates and connect with colleagues across the organisation. Monthly global staff meetings bring colleagues together online, while additional all-staff sessions provide opportunities to discuss major developments and strategic direction with the CEO and other senior leaders.

Equal opportunities

HelpAge remains committed to diversity, inclusion and equality. Our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Policy has been in place since 2022, and training on diversity, inclusion and equality is mandatory for all line managers.

Our geographically distributed workforce includes staff based across all the regions in which we work, reflecting our commitment to operating as a truly global organisation. The breadth of perspectives and experience this brings enriches our work and strengthens our understanding of diverse local contexts.

We are committed to diversity and equity across our workforce, including within leadership. Women make up around 60 per cent of HelpAge staff and 75 per cent of the Leadership Group. Within the Leadership Group, 42 per cent of members are from Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) backgrounds.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains a priority for HelpAge and is actively monitored by the Executive Leadership Group. We have a Safeguarding Working Group that includes a Safeguarding Adviser who provides strategic and advisory support to the organisation on safeguarding matters. The working group provides oversight of the management of incidents and ensures the implementation of all safeguarding policies and practices. We also continue to provide mandatory safeguarding training for all new staff, as well as training on the Code of Conduct and how to report serious incidents.

As HelpAge transitions to a partner-led programming model, we are creating tools to further support our partner organisations in establishing and maintaining robust safeguarding standards.

Structure, governance and management

Status and governing document

HelpAge International is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19 October 1983 and registered as a charity on 17 November 1983.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which sets out the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its Articles of Association.

Network and partnerships

HelpAge serves as the focal point for a global network of member organisations dedicated to addressing issues related to individual and population ageing. Membership of the HelpAge global network is open to any legitimate organisation involved in ageing-related work. Some network members collaborate with HelpAge at an operational level, implementing specific projects.

Much of our work is carried out in partnership with members of the HelpAge global network, as well as Older People's Associations (OPAs), community development organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Their experience of national policies informs collective advocacy at the global level, amplifying the voices of older people. These partnerships also create opportunities for shared learning and capacity strengthening, including through training.

We also collaborate closely with academic institutions on research, and with local and national governments and international agencies to ensure that ageing is central to development policies.

Trustees

HelpAge is governed by a Board of Directors who serve as the Charity's Trustees. They are responsible for overseeing the overall management and strategic direction of the organisation.

The Articles of Association allow for a minimum of eight and a maximum of 15 Directors, at least six of whom are nominated by network members and up to nine appointed by the Board of Directors for their qualifications and skills. The gender and geographical composition of the Board is also considered. The current Board consists of 14 Trustees, including six nominated by member organisations.

Trustees serve an initial term of three years, with the option to be reappointed for a second three-year term. After completing two terms, they may seek reappointment for a final three-year term, but cannot be reappointed beyond this.

New Trustees are either nominated by members or recruited with the help of external agencies. Candidates undergo an interview process with the Governance Committee, and recommendations are then presented to the Board for approval. Upon appointment, new Trustees complete a comprehensive induction, meeting key staff across the organisation.

Trustees actively support and promote HelpAge in various ways. The Board meets twice a year and is supported by six permanent sub-committees: Executive, Risk and Audit, Governance, People, and Fundraising, Development and Communications. These sub-committees meet at least twice a year and provide specialised support as needed between Board meetings.

Fundraising

HelpAge does not raise funds in the United Kingdom from the public. Age International raises funds in the UK, which form part of its strategic grant to HelpAge.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have adopted a reserves policy they consider appropriate to ensure the continued ability of the Charity to meet its objectives. The policy is reviewed regularly taking account of the level of risks associated with current operations and future plans. The Trustees consider that unrestricted reserves should be at the level of 3–4 months of unrestricted expenditure. On 31 March 2026, the level of the unrestricted general fund, was £1.05 million which translate to 2.5 months of unrestricted expenditure. This is below the target reserves level. Management has put in place plans to rebuild the reserves to the target level.

On 31 March 2026, the Charity held total funds of £2.7m (2025: £6.9m) of which £178,000 (2025: £343,000) were held in fixed assets.

Restricted funds held at the year-end were £1.63m (2025: £3.4m). These are project funds held to carry out specific donor requirements and include funding received in advance to finance ongoing programmes planned for current and future years.

Pensions

HelpAge is a participating employer in the Help the Aged final salary pension scheme. The Scheme was closed to new members from 31 July 2002 and to future accrual on 30 September 2009. The employer's financial contribution towards the fund deficit is a cost to the Charity, and full details are included in the annual accounts.

In accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, HelpAge has obtained an actuarial valuation for the Help the Aged defined benefit scheme and no pension gain has been recognised in the accounts. No future contribution are due in accordance with the terms of the pension scheme in light of advice from the actuary and based on the results of the last full triennial valuation of the pension scheme carried out as of 31 March 2025.

HelpAge was a participating employer in the Pensions Trust Growth Plan Series 2, 3, and 4. HelpAge withdrew from the Growth Plan with effect from 30 June 2014 and all employees previously on the Growth Plan were moved to the Pensions Trust Flexible Retirement Plan. All existing employees who have opted for a pension scheme now participate in the Pensions Trust Flexible Retirement Plan.

Public benefit statement

HelpAge has developed its aims and strategic plans to ensure that we provide public benefit and achieve the objectives set out in our governing document.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

Trustee and staff remuneration

Trustee remuneration

Trustees do not receive remuneration in their position as Trustees or for any services rendered to HelpAge. They are reimbursed for travel, accommodation and incidental expenses when attending Board meetings and other meetings or programmes on behalf of HelpAge.

Staff remuneration

HelpAge employed about 180 staff on average around the world last year. Staff salaries and benefits are set in the countries where they work. A variety of factors are taken into consideration when setting terms and conditions, including national employment laws, cost of living considerations, and salary benchmarking against other charities.

Statement of the responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also Directors of HelpAge International for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees, including the strategic report and the financial statements, in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income or expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the charitable company's assets and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

As far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- Trustees have taken all required steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and establish that they are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information, including on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Each member of the Charity guarantees to contribute an amount not exceeding £5 to the assets of the Charity in the event of winding up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member. The total number of such guarantees as of 31 March 2026 was 14 (2025:14). The Trustees are members of the Charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the Charity.

Auditors

Our auditors for the financial year 2025/26 is Sayer Vincent.

The report of the Trustees, which includes the strategic report, has been approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Helen Mealins
Trustee (Treasurer)

5 October 2026

Independent auditor's report to the members of HelpAge International

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of HelpAge International (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on HelpAge International's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.
Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' annual report including the strategic report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out in the Trustees' annual report, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: **www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities**. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Noelia Serrano
Senior statutory auditor

6 October 2026

For and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP,
Statutory Auditor, 110 Golden Lane,
London EC1Y 0TG

Financial statements

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2026

(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Year ended 31 March 2026 £00	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 £000
Income							
From donations and legacies							
Gifts, fees and donations	2	45	4	**49**	53	1	**54**
Donations and legacies	2	3,764	2,755	**6,519**	6,665	4,237	**10,902**
Total donations and legacies		**3,809**	**2,759**	**6,668**	**6,718**	**4,238**	**10,956**
Grants for international programmes	3	10,401	649	**11,050**	19,551	1,491	**21,042**
Investment income		5	16	**21**	–	124	**124**
Total income		**14,215**	**3,424**	**17,639**	**26,269**	**5,853**	**32,122**
Expenditure							
Charitable activities							
Enabling a secure income		3,092	365	**3,457**	851	499	**1,350**
Health and care access		1,251	252	**1,503**	1,298	2,428	**3,726**
Improving safety and security		10,471	4,293	**14,764**	18,504	3,292	**21,796**
Making older voices heard		1,350	789	**2,139**	6,767	421	**7,188**
Sub-total		**16,164**	**5,699**	**21,863**	**27,420**	**6,640**	**34,060**
Transfer (to) / from fixed asset fund		(135)	135	**–**	–	–	**–**
Total expenditure	4	**16,029**	**5,834**	**21,863**	**27,420**	**6,640**	**34,060**
Net (expenditure) / income for the year		(1,814)	(2,410)	**(4,224)**	(1,151)	(787)	**(1,938)**
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	15	–	–	–	–	(126)	**(126)**
Net movement in funds		**(1,814)**	**(2,410)**	**(4,224)**	**(1,151)**	**(913)**	**(2,064)**
Reconciliation of funds							
Funds at the start of the year		3,444	3,464	**6,908**	4,595*	4,376	**8,971***
Total funds carried forward including pension liability		**1,630**	**1,054**	**2,684**	**3,444***	**3,463**	**6,907***
Pension liability		–	–	**–**	–	–	**–**
Funds excluding pension liability		**1,630**	**1,054**	**2,684**	**3,444***	**3,463**	**6,907***

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 14 to the financial statements.

* During the current year, it was identified that partner balances of £1.02m relating to restricted donor-funded programmes had not been recognised as debtors as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2024 in the prior year financial statements. The comparative figures have therefore been restated to correct this prior year omission. The restatement increases prior year debtors by £1.02m with a corresponding increase in restricted funds of £1.02m at both year-ends. There is no impact on total net assets.

Balance sheet at 31 March 2026

Company number: 1762840

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2026 £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	178	343
Current assets			
Debtors	10	1,732	3,276*
Short-term deposit		–	300
Cash at bank and in hand		1,515	3,768
		3,247	**7,344**
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts due within one year	11	(619)	(484)
Net current assets		**2,628**	**6,860**
Total assets less current liabilities		**2,806**	**7,203**
Provisions	12	**(122)**	**(296)**
Net assets excluding pension liability		**2,684**	**6,907**
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	15	–	–
Net assets including pension liability	13	**2,684**	**6,907**
The funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	14	1,490	3,182*
Restricted fixed asset fund	14	140	262
Total restricted funds		**1,630**	**3,444**
Unrestricted reserves			
General funds		1,054	2,958
Designated funds		–	505
Total unrestricted funds excluding pension liability		1,054	3,463
Total funds excluding pension liability		**2,684**	**6,907**
Pension liability		–	–
Total Charity funds	14	**2,684**	**6,907**

* During the current year, it was identified that partner balances of £1.02m relating to restricted donor-funded programmes had not been recognised as debtors as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2024 in the prior year financial statements. The comparative figures have therefore been restated to correct this prior year omission. The restatement increases prior year debtors by £1.02m with a corresponding increase in restricted funds of £1.02m at both year-ends. There is no impact on total net assets.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 5 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Helen Mealins
Treasurer

Cash flow statement at 31 March 2026

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2026 £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 £000
Reconciliation of net outgoing resources to net cash flow from operating activities			
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net income / (outgoing) resources		**(4,224)**	**(1,938)**
Depreciation charge	*9*	107	170
Increase / (decrease) in debtors	*10*	1,544	1,455
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	*11*	135	(2,194)
Disposal of tangible fixed assets	*9*	81	49
Changes to provisions	*12*	(174)	(169)
Investment income		(21)	(124)
Defined benefit pension scheme			
Impact on net incoming resources before gains and losses	*15*	–	24
Employer contributions paid	*15*	–	–
Change in the effect of the asset ceiling	*15*	–	–
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		**(2,552)**	**(2,727)**
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest receivable		21	124
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	*9*	(22)	(141)
FX gain / (loss)		–	(150)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		**(1)**	**(167)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(2,553)**	**(2,894)**

	At 1 April 2025	Cash flows	At 31 March 2026
Analysis of movement in net funds			
Cash at bank and in hand	3,768	(2,253)	1,515
Short-term deposit	300	(300)	–
Total	**4,068**	**(2,553)**	**1,515**

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation: The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

b) Statutory information: HelpAge International is a charitable company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. Registered office address: Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB.

c) Fund accounting:

c.1: Restricted funds are used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure that meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

c.2: Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and includes general funds, designated funds and pension reserve as follows:

General funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund are set out in the notes to the financial statement.

c.3: Pension liability The scheme is in net surplus position as the year-end, the asset is not recognised in the balance sheet as it is not expected that the surplus will be realisable by the Charity.

d) Public benefit entity: The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

e) Related charities: Since May 2016 when Age International became an independent UK-based network member of HelpAge Network, HelpAge does not have any connected charity.

f) Foreign exchange: Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the average rate of exchange in the month of the transaction. All exchange rate differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

g) Income recognition: Income is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

In applying this policy, HelpAge recognises income from grants when claims are made to donors in accordance with its individual funding agreements and reporting and other contractual conditions are met and income entitlement.

Donation of gifts, services and facilities Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the Charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the Trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the Charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Interest receivable Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Bank interest is the amount receivable for the year.

h) Resources expended: Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. The cost of support, management and administration of each activity is apportioned on the basis of an estimated time allocation against each theme.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the Charity, including meeting all constitutional and statutory requirements.

Grants payable are accounted for in line with the payment schedule stipulated in the agreement, providing the conditions set have been met.

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the Charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the Trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the Charity. Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable. Grants payable are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled.

i) Allocation of support costs: Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the basis of expenditure by different activities.

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the Charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the Charity's activities.

j) Operating leases: Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

k) Debtors: Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l) Cash at bank and in hand: Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

m) Creditors and provisions: Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third-party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n) Financial instruments: The Charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Fixed assets and depreciation: Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as revaluation reserve in the balance sheet. The deprecation rate in use was: Computer equipment, 4 years; Office equipment, 4 years; Overseas project assets, 4 years; Motor vehicles, 4 years.

Overseas project assets are expensed in the year of purchase. However, acquisitions made on or after 1 May 2005 are included in the balance sheet and a restricted fund shows the net book value of these items. The restricted fund reflects the change in net book value during the year as a transfer for SOFA. Assets with a cost of over £250 are capitalised.

p) Terminal benefit provision: Most staff employed in offices overseas on local contracts are eligible to a service-related terminal benefit for each full year of service when they leave HelpAge. International staff on a UK contract are eligible for a service-related relocation allowance. These benefits are accrued during the years of service.

q) Pension costs: HelpAge is a member of the Help the Aged defined benefit scheme. The amounts charged in resources expended are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the profit and loss account if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The interest cost and the expected return on assets are shown as a net amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the other recognised gains and losses.

The Help the Aged defined benefit scheme is funded, with the assets of the Scheme held separately from those of the group, in a separate Trustee-administered fund. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis, using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high- quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the Scheme liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The resulting defined benefit asset or liability is presented separately after other net assets on the face of the balance sheet. The interest cost and the expected return on assets are shown as a net amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest.

The costs related to the defined contribution scheme (Pensions Trust Flexible Retirement Plan) are charged in resources expended on accrual-based accounting principles.

2. Donations and legacies

Core grants for international programmes

	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Year ended 31 March 2026 Total £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total £000
Age International[A]	3,764	2,755	**6,519**	6,665	4,237	**10,902**
Membership fees	30	–	**30**	29	–	**29**
Donations	–	4	**4**	–	1	**1**
Gifts in kind	15	–	**15**	24	–	**24**
Total	**45**	**4**	**49**	**53**	**1**	**54**

	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Year ended 31 March 2026 Total £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total £000
A. Income from Age International						
Strategic funding	1,320	2,728	**4,048**	570	3,840	**4,410**
Appeal and other restricted funds	761	–	**761**	184	–	**184**
Disasters Emergency Committee[B]	1,683	–	**1,683**	5,911	397	**6,308**
Total	**3,764**	**2,728**	**6,492**	**6,665**	**4,237**	**10,902**

	Year ended 31 March 2026 Total £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total £000
B. Income from Disasters Emergency Committee via Age International		
Ukraine Humanitarian Response – DEC Phase I – Poland	611	3,171
DEC-PAK Inclusive Humanitarian Response Flood 2022	–	532
DEC Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Response Appeal – Phase 2	51	500
DEC Afghanistan Appeal 2021 Phase II	–	932
DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal – Phase 2b – Moldova	–	338
DEC Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Appeal – Phase 2	–	370
DEC Collective Initiative: As Local as Possible	–	332
DEC CI Ukraine Humanitarian Response	47	125
Provide Essential Humanitarian Support To Flood Affected Areas – Pakistan	–	8
DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal – Phase 2	527	–
DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal Response – Phase 1	185	–
DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal Response – Phase 2	158	–
DEC Collective Initiative: Locally-Led Anticipator	104	–
Total	**1,683**	**6,308**

3. Incoming resources from charitable activities

Grants received for international programmes

	Note	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Year ended 31 March 2026 Total £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total £000
Age International		720	1	**721**	6,358	140	**6,498**
HelpAge Deutschland		4,233	150	**4,383**	7,581	251	**7,832**
US Agency for International Development		–	–	**–**	5	1	**6**
BMZ Germany		459	9	**468**	493	10	**503**
Sida – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency		1,456	231	**1,687**	–	729	**729**
European Commission		522	–	**522**	165	10	**175**
HelpAge Canada		776	21	**797**	1,159	34	**1,193**
HelpAge USA		237	20	**257**	603	44	**647**
World Bank		–	–	**–**	115	–	**115**
UN agencies		18	(18)	**–**	895	64	**959**
Irish Aid		528	29	**557**	683	67	**750**
Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP)		777	85	**862**	653	65	**718**
Asian Development Bank		1	–	**1**	122	–	**122**
Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration		–	–	**–**	140	21	**161**
KOICA – Korea International Cooperation Agency		73	–	**73**	260	–	**260**
Other agencies (less than £300,000)		499	83	**582**	246	35	**281**
Total	*16*	**10,299**	**611**	**10,910**	**19,478**	**1,471**	**20,949**
Other income		102	38	**140**	73	20	**93**
Grand total		**10,401**	**649**	**11,050**	**19,551**	**1,491**	**21,042**

4a. Total resources expended

Current year (2026)

	Staff-related costs (Note 7) £000	Programme costs £000	General office costs £000	Travel and related costs £000	Grants (Note 5) £000	Legal and professional fees £000	Fixed asset fund £000	Total £000
Activities:								
Enabling a secure income	1,198	552	111	74	1,505	17	–	**3,457**
Health and care access	1,415	17	–	3	46	22	–	**1,503**
Improving safety and security	4,579	3,289	620	229	5,861	188	–	**14,764**
Making older voices heard	443	38	14	71	1,480	26	–	**2,072**
Fixed asset fund	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**–**
Year ended 31 March 2026	**7,635**	**3,894**	**745**	**377**	**8,892**	**253**	**–**	**21,796**

The following UK support and governance costs are allocated based on expenditure by different activities

Support costs	**1,951**	**3,153**	**217**	**96**	–	**166**	–	**5,583**
Governance costs	–	–	**12**	**33**	–	**23**	–	**68**

4b. Total resources expended

Prior year (2025)

	Staff-related costs (Note 7) £000	Programme costs £000	General office costs £000	Travel and related costs £000	Grants (Note 5) £000	Legal and professional fees £000	Fixed asset fund £000	Total £000
Activities:								
Enabling a secure income	611	600	53	66	–	20	–	**1,350**
Health and care access	2,521	771	83	147	210	(6)	–	**3,726**
Improving safety and security	5,436	14,645	1,086	393	108	128	–	**21,796**
Making older voices heard	2,328	4,026	323	196	311	4	–	**7,188**
Fixed asset fund	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Year ended 31 March 2025	**10,896**	**20,042**	**1,545**	**802**	**629**	**146**	**–**	**34,060**

The following UK support and governance costs are allocated based on expenditure by different activities

Support costs	**3,343**	**2,466**	**285**	**90**	–	**30**	–	**6,214**
Governance costs	**94**	–	–	**20**	–	–	–	**114**

5. Grants paid to members and partner organisations

	Number of grants	Year ended 31 March 2026 £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 £000
HelpAge Ethiopia	11	923	–
Hope Revival Organization (HRO) – Syria	3	466	1,195
AGE Myanmar	6	435	–
Rapid Needs Assessment of Older People – Venezuela	3	372	682
Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC) – Lebanon	3	360	479
HelpAge Tanzania	11	344	593
African Development Aid (ADA)	2	319	–
Al Safwa – Libya	2	317	217
Palestinian Agricultural Development Association	2	312	54
NSA Tajikistan	1	292	–
Right to Protection (R2P) – Ukraine	1	278	–
Fundación Salvemos El Medio Ambiente, Funambiente – Colombia	4	230	–
Vicariato Apostólico de Puerto Carreño – Colombia	2	228	301
Juzoor for Health and Social Development – Palestine	2	223	190
HelpAge Sri Lanka	3	213	79
Foundation For Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID) – Pakistan	5	209	57
Aye Min – Myanmar	2	209	–
HelpAge Vietnam	7	207	–
HelpAge Moldova	3	192	3,914
HelpAge Mozambique partner	3	176	–
University of Colombo	1	171	–
Humanitarian Aid Center (Volunteer 68) – Ukraine	3	158	–
AMEL Association International – Lebanon	3	147	–
Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organizations (MANEPO)	4	123	72
Pastoralist Integrated Support Programme (PISP) – Kenya	3	117	–
POMGEM – Ukraine	3	112	58
Horn International Relief and Development Organization – Somalia	1	91	–
Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC) – South Sudan	1	91	47
Charitable Organization Charity Fund Memory 86 – Ukraine	2	84	–
Handicap International EME (HI) – Jordan	1	77	–
Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS) – India	1	74	138
Rift Valley Children and Women Development Organisation (RCWDO) – Ethiopia	1	72	196
HelpAge Advocacy Network Uganda (HANU)	2	68	–
Relief to Development Society (REDESO) – Tanzania	1	65	67
National Age Network of Zimbabwe (NANZ)	2	65	1,193
Fundación Haciendo Panas (FHP) – Ecuador	2	64	–
Fundación Dones de Misericordia – Colombia	1	61	43
Nossal Institute Limited – Australia	1	47	–
Support to Older People (STOP) – Zambia	1	45	–
Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh	1	43	–

5. Grants paid to members and partner organisations *(continued)*

	Number of grants	Year ended 31 March 2026 £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 £000
Christian Aid	–	–	157
Syrian Expatriates Medical Association (SEMA) – Türkiye/Syria	–	–	620
Community Aged Foundation (CAFO)	–	–	110
CADENA Foundation, Colombia	–	–	287
Resource Center for Elderly (RCE) – Kyrgyzstan	–	–	107
HelpAge India	–	–	96
Relief Society of Tigray, Ethiopia	–	–	106
Ultimate Concern of the Deprived (UCD) – Ethiopia	–	–	102
Associação Humanitária de Apoio à Velhice – Mozambique	–	–	71
NTAE – Vietnam	–	–	52
Mujejeguwa Loka Women Development Association (MLWDA) – Ethiopia	–	–	96
Action for Humanity – UK	–	–	318
Resource Integration Centre (RIC) – Bangladesh	–	–	56
Afghanischer Frauenverein e. V. (AFV) – Afghanistan	–	–	51
Plan Colombia	–	–	45
Hung Yen Association Of Elderly – Vietnam	–	–	43
World Vision, Colombia and Venezuela	–	–	96
Community Development Foundation – Pakistan	–	–	57
Gouteburg University – Myanmar	–	–	129
GOAL, South Sudan	–	–	89
Echami A Ito – Kenya	–	–	44
Yoma Social Development Association – Myanmar	–	–	57
SOS Sahel – Ethiopia	–	–	122
Coalition of the Services of the Elderly (COSE) – Philippines	–	–	118
Afro Ethiopia Integrated Development Association (AEID) – Ethiopia	–	–	245
Organisation for Sustainable Development (OSD) – Ethiopia	–	–	220
Other small grants (less than £40,000)	–	812	879
		8,892	**13,948**

6. Net incoming resources for the year

	Year ended 31 March 2026 £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 £000
This is stated after charging / crediting:		
Other finance income:		
Expected return on pension assets	262	246
Interest cost on pension scheme liabilities	262	246
Net other finance (loss) income from pension scheme	**524**	**492**
Depreciation	107	170
Exchange rate gain / (loss)	24	135
Trustees indemnity insurance	–	–
Trustees' expenses	45	13
(Loss) / gain on disposal of assets	–	–
Auditors' remuneration (fees for Moore Kingston Smith)		
Annual statutory audit	32	42
Total	**32**	**42**

During the period, no Trustee received any remuneration. Trustees' expenses are for the reimbursement of travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs for 12 Trustees' attendance (2024/25: 12 Trustees) at all meetings.

The UK office is licensed from Cafod at a commercial rent of £28,000 per annum.

7. Staff costs and numbers

	Year ended 31 March 2026 Staff	Year ended 31 March 2025 Staff
a) Average number of employees on full cost per person basis during the year was as follows:		
Corporate Transformation	3	7
Global Impact and Resourcing	13	66
Corporate Support	19	48
Total staff on UK payroll based in the UK	**35**	**121**
Staff on UK payroll based outside the UK	50	34
	85	155
Non-UK staff on local contracts	41	239
	126	**394**

7. Staff costs and numbers
(continued)

	Year ended 31 March 2026 £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 £000
b) Staff costs were as follows:		
UK paid staff:		
Salaries and wages	2,423	3,042
Redundancy	229	226
Social security costs	227	226
Pension contributions towards defined contribution scheme	153	198
	3,032	**3,692**
Non-UK-based national staff on local contracts	4,029	6,768
Other staff-related costs	574	662
	7,635	**11,122**

Other staff-related costs include staff training and workshops (£50,781), contractors (£240,335), recruitment (£99), employer contribution towards defined pension (£150,000) and other non-salary costs.

	Year ended 31 March 2026	Year ended 31 March 2025
c) The number of staff whose emoluments fell within each of the following bands, excluding National Insurance, were:		
£60,000 – £69,999	2	9
£70,000 – £79,999	3	0
£80,000 – £89,999	1	1
£90,000 – £99,999	2	2
£100,000 – £109,999	1	1

Remuneration excludes employer's pension contributions of £55,395 (2024/25: £85,736) paid into pension schemes for all 9 (2024/25: 13) higher-paid staff members.

The salaries and benefits, including pension contributions and employer's National Insurance contributions for the key management personnel (three directors) were £434,797 (2024/25: £474,923, five directors) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

8. Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax, as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable expenditure.

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Unrestricted fixed assets £000	International restricted fixed asset £000	**Year ended 31 March 2026 Total assets £000**	Unrestricted fixed assets £000	International restricted fixed assets £000	Year ended 31 March 2025 Total assets £000
Cost						
At the start of the year	200	949	1,149	176	1,291	**1,467**
Additions	11	12	23	26	115	**141**
Disposals	–	(613)	(613)	–	(459)	**(459)**
At the end of the year	211	348	559	202	947	**1,149**
Depreciation						
At the start of the year	121	685	806	88	958	**1,046**
Charge for the year	33	74	170	33	137	**170**
Disposals	–	(532)	(532)	–	(410)	**(410)**
At the end of the year	154	227	381	121	685	**806**
Net book value						
Computers	57	–	57	73	128	**201**
Other office equipment	–	–	–	7	23	**30**
Motor vehicles	–	–	–	–	105	**105**
Fixture and fittings	–	–	–	1	6	**7**
At the end of the year	57	121	178	81	262	**343**
At the start of the year	81	262	343	88	333	**421**

10. Debtors

	31 March 2026 £000	31 March 2025 £000
Other debtors	1,073	1,163
Partners	967	1,328*
Provisions	(806)	(670)
Pre-payments	74	12
Accrued income	424	1,744
	1,732	3,577*

* During the current year, it was identified that partner balances of £1.02m relating to restricted donor-funded programmes had not been recognised as debtors as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2024 in the prior year financial statements. The comparative figures have therefore been restated to correct this prior year omission. The restatement increases prior year debtors by £1.02m with a corresponding increase in restricted funds of £1.02m at both year-ends. There is no impact on total net assets.

11. Creditors: amounts due within one year

	31 March 2026 £000	31 March 2025 £000
Taxation and social security	46	54
Accruals	363	336
Other creditors	210	94
	619	**484**

A provision of £508,800 was made for debt owed by Crown Agents following liquidation of the company.

12. Provisions

For terminal benefits

	31 March 2026 £000	31 March 2025 £000
At the start of the year	296	465
Charged for the year	121	30
Utilised in the year	(295)	(199)
At the end of the year	**122**	**296**

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year (2026)

	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	140	179	**319**
Net current assets less provision	1,490	875	**2,365**
Net assets at the end of the year	**1,630**	**1,054**	**2,684**

Prior year (2025)

	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	262	81	**343**
Net current assets less provision	3,182*	3,382	**6,564***
Net assets at the end of the year	**3,444***	**3,463**	**6,909***

* During the current year, it was identified that partner balances of £1.02m relating to restricted donor-funded programmes had not been recognised as debtors as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2024 in the prior year financial statements. The comparative figures have therefore been restated to correct this prior year omission. The restatement increases prior year debtors by £1.02m with a corresponding increase in restricted funds of £1.02m at both year-ends. There is no impact on total net assets.

14. Fund movement

Current year (2026)

	At the start of the year £000	Income and gains £000	Expenditure and losses £000	Transfer and actuarial valuation £000	At the end of the year £000
Restricted funds:					
Africa	568	4,546	4,333	–	782
Asia	747	1,430	1,991	63	250
Latin America and Caribbean	1,470	7,133	8,180	–	423
Eurasia and Middle East	353	992	1,449	72	(32)
UK and others	17	114	61	–	70
Fixed asset fund	290	–	150	–	140
Total restricted funds	**3,444**	**14,215**	**16,164**	**135**	**1,630**
Unrestricted funds:					
General reserve	2,958	3,425	5,194	(135)	1,054
Designated reserve	505	–	505	–	–
Total unrestricted funds	**3,463**	**3,425**	**5,699**	**(135)**	**1,054**
Pension reserve	–	–	–	–	–
Total funds	**6,907**	**17,640**	**21,863**	**–**	**2,684**

Prior year (2025)

	At the start of the year £000	Income and gains £000	Expenditure and losses £000	Transfer and actuarial valuation £000	At the end of the year £000
Restricted funds:					
Africa	692	5,058	5,707	–	43
Asia	410	2,027	2,733	–	(296)
Latin America and Caribbean	833	1,375	1,752	–	456
Eurasia and Middle East	1,541	16,428	16,441	–	1,528
UK and others	761	1,381	690	–	1,452
Fixed asset fund	359	–	97	–	262
Total restricted funds	**4,595***	**26,269**	**27,420**	**–**	**3,444***
Unrestricted funds:					
General reserve	3,531	5,853	6,300	126	2,958
Designated reserve	845	–	340	–	505
Total unrestricted funds	**4,376**	**5,853**	**6,640**	**126**	**3,463**
Pension reserve	–	–	–	–	–
Total funds	**8,971***	**32,122**	**34,060**	**126**	**6,907***

* During the current year, it was identified that partner balances of £1.02m relating to restricted donor-funded programmes had not been recognised as debtors as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2024 in the prior year financial statements. The comparative figures have therefore been restated to correct this prior year omission. The restatement increases prior year debtors by £1.02m with a corresponding increase in restricted funds of £1.02m at both year-ends. There is no impact on total net assets.

14. Fund movement
(continued)

Purposes of restricted funds and unrestricted funds

The Charity has various funds for which it is responsible and which require separate disclosure, which are as follows:

Restricted funds

Income where the donor specifies the purposes within the overall aims of the organisation. Restricted funds will generally be utilised during the next financial year on agreed programme activities according to contracts with different donors.

Fixed asset fund

The fixed asset fund represents the net book value of assets held overseas that were purchased with restricted income. The full purchase cost is included within total resources expended as this is consistent with the basis of reporting to donors. The change in net book value is credited against expenditure in SOFA.

Unrestricted funds

General reserve: Unrestricted funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity. In addition to expenditure directly on international work, such funds may be held in order to finance working capital

Designated reserve: Unrestricted funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the specific purpose for which they have been designated. Funds designated in previous years for activities related to the organisational change process and system changes were partly spent during the year.

15. Pensions

Help the Aged Final Salary Scheme

FRS 102 disclosures for accounting period ending 31 March 2026

The Scheme is a defined benefit (final salary) funded pension scheme. The Scheme is closed to new entrants and to future accrual of benefits but has retained the salary link for active members.

The employer contribution for the year of £150,000 (2025: £150,000) is based on the triennial actuarial valuation of the Scheme as at 1 April 2026, which includes an allowance for administration expenses and Pension Protection Fund (PPF) levies.

The Scheme assets neither include investments issued by HelpAge nor any property occupied by HelpAge.

At 31 March 2026, the Scheme showed an asset of £466,000 (2025: Asset of £343,000). In line with FRS 102, the asset has not been recognised as it is not considered to be recoverable.

The overall expected rate of return of the Scheme assets has been based on the average expected return for each asset class, weighted by the amount of assets in each class. The Scheme has no contingent assets or liabilities.

The Scheme holds quoted securities, and these have been valued at the current bid price.

Employee benefit obligations

	Value at 31 March 2026 £000	Value at 31 March 2025 £000
Present value of funded obligations	(4,624)	(4,633)
Fair value of Scheme assets	5,090	4,976
(Deficit) / surplus in the Scheme	**466**	**343**

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

Administration expenses	17	24
Past service cost (including curtailments)	–	–
Net interest on defined benefit liability	–	–
	17	**24**

The current service cost includes the cost of administration expenses and PPF levies.

Actuarial gains and loss

(Loss) / gain on Scheme assets	(24)	(404)
(Loss) / gain on Scheme liabilities	26	511
Change in the effect of the asset ceiling	(123)	(233)
Net accumulated (loss) / gain recognised in the other comprehensive income	**(121)**	**(126)**

15. Pensions

Help the Aged Final Salary Scheme *(continued)*

Reconciliation of present value of Scheme liabilities and assets

Change in the present value of the defined benefit obligation	Value at 31 March 2026 £000	Value at 31 March 2025 £000
Opening defined benefit obligation	4,633	5,159
Interest cost	262	246
Actuarial gains / (losses) on Scheme liabilities	(26)	(511)
Benefits paid (including expenses)	(245)	(261)
Closing defined benefit obligation	**4,624**	**4,633**

Change in the fair value of Scheme assets	Value at 31 March 2026 £000	Value at 31 March 2025 £000
Opening fair value of Scheme assets	4,976	5,269
Expected return on Scheme assets	262	246
Actuarial (losses) / gains	(24)	(404)
Employer contributions	138	150
Benefits paid (including expenses)	(262)	(285)
Administrative costs incurred	–	–
Closing fair value of Scheme assets	**5,090**	**4,976**

Assets in the Scheme as a percentage of total Scheme assets	At 31 March 2026 %	At 31 March 2025 %
Matching assets including Gifts and Bonds	77.4	70.6
Equities	5.1	9.8
Diversified growth	0.0	0.0
Infrastructure	13.6	13.1
Cash	3.9	6.5

Actual return on Scheme assets	2026 £000	2025 £000
Interest income on Scheme assets	262	246
(Losses) / gains on Scheme assets	(24)	(404)
	238	**(158)**

15. Pensions

Help the Aged Final Salary Scheme *(continued)*

Assumptions

Principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date	At 31 March 2026 % pa	At 31 March 2025 % pa
Financial assumptions		
Discount rate	5.95	5.80
Rate of increase in salaries	3.30	3.10
CPI inflation subject to a maximum of 5.0% pa	2.85	2.60
CPI inflation subject to a maximum of 2.5% pa	1.90	1.85
Rate of revaluation of deferred pensions in excess of GMP	0.00	0.00
Inflation assumption (RPI)	3.30	3.10
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.75	2.65

Demographic assumptions	2026	2025
Mortality	**100% of S3PMA base tables for males and 100% of S3PFA_M base tables for females projected by year of birth assuming future improvements in line with CMI 2022 projections (with parameters Sk = 7.0, A = 0.25%, w2020/w2021 = 0% and w2022 = 25%) and a long-term improvement rate of 1.25% pa.**	100% of S3PMA base tables for males and 100% of S3PFA_M base tables for females projected by year of birth assuming future improvements in line with CMI 2022 projections (with parameters Sk = 7.0, A = 0.25%, w2020/w2021 = 0% and w2022 = 25%) and a long-term improvement rate of 1.25% pa.
Cash commutation allowance	**Allowance has been made for all members to exchange 70% of the maximum cash allowance available upon retirement.**	Allowance has been made for all members to exchange 70% of the maximum cash allowance available upon retirement.
Life expectancy for male currently aged 65	**21.7 years (age 86.7)**	21.7 years (age 86.7)
Life expectancy for female currently aged 65	**23.7 years (age 88.6)**	23.6 years (age 88.6)
Life expectancy at 65 for male currently aged 45	**23.0 years (age 88.0)**	23.0 years (age 88.0)
Life expectancy at 65 for female currently aged 45	**25.1 years (age 90.1)**	25.1 years (age 90.1)

Other assumptions are the same as those used in the preliminary results of the Trustees' Scheme Funding valuation as at 1 April 2026. A full valuation of the Scheme at 31 March 2026 is currently in progress.

15. Pensions

Help the Aged Final Salary Scheme *(continued)*

Assumptions *continued*

Gains and losses	2026 £000	2025 £000	2024 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000
History of experience gains and losses					
Defined benefit obligation	**(4,624)**	**(4,633)**	(5,159)	(5,110)	(6,729)
Scheme assets	**5,090**	**4,976**	5,269	5,199	6,623
Surplus / (deficit)	**466**	**343**	110	89	(106)
Experience adjustments on Scheme liabilities	**–**	**–**	–	–	–
Experience adjustments on Scheme assets	**(24)**	**(404)**	(87)	(1,530)	404

This refers to the expected rate of return on assets as at the beginning of each period presented.

16. Related party transactions

There are no donations from related parties which are outside of the normal course of business.

17. Operating lease commitments

Total future lease commitments under operating leases are as follows for each of the following periods:

International offices	Property / office lease 2026 £000	Property / office lease 2025 £000	Equipment / vehicle lease 2026 £000	Equipment / vehicle lease 2025 £000
Less than one year	39	115	–	–
One to five years	24	46	–	–
Over five years	–	–	–	–
	63	**161**	**–**	**–**

London office	Property / office lease 2026 £000	Property / office lease 2025 £000
Less than one year	4	28
One to five years	–	–
Over five years	–	–
	4	**28**

This figure relates to the UK office leased from Cafod at a commercial rent of £28,000 per annum. The lease is renewable annually.

Legal and administrative details

Status	The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19 October 1983 and registered as a charity on 17 November 1983.
Governing document	The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which sets out the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its Articles of Association.
Company number	01762840
Charity number	288180
Registered office and operational address	Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB

Board Trustees

Sarah Harper *(Chair)*	*Independent*
Alexandre Sidorenko *(Vice-Chair)*	*Independent*
Sandra Aponte*	*Fundacion NTD Ingredientes (departed 31 March 2026)*
Ben F. Belton	*Independent (appointed 1 April 2025)*
Graham Bennet	*Independent*
Sonia Di Mezza*	*COTA Australia (appointed 1 April 2025)*
Rose Gahire*	NSINDAGIZA Organization, Rwanda *(appointed 1 April 2025)*
Professor Jacobus (Jaco) Hoffman*	*Age-in-Action, South Africa (appointed 1 April 2025)*
Peter Kaldes*	*HelpAge USA*
Victoria Márquez-Mees	*Independent*
Mika Marumoto	*Independent*
Cecilia Mbaka	*Independent*
Helen Mealins	*Independent*
Martine Najem*	*Center for Studies on Ageing (CSA) Lebanon (appointed 1 April 2025)*
Samir Sinha*	*HelpAge Canada*

**Trustees nominated by HelpAge network members*

Senior staff

Cherian Mathews	*Chief Executive Officer*
Rhea Tariq	*Director of Global Impact*
Olugbenga Coker	*Director of Finance and Business Support / Company Secretary*
James Hardiman	*Director of Business Development (departed 31 October 2025)*
Ruth Baker	*Director of Fundraising and Strategic Partnerships (appointed 1 October 2026)*

Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, 1 Pall Mall East, London SW1Y 5AX
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP, Second Floor, 3 Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2JB
Auditors	Sayer Vincent LLP, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors, 110 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0TG



Ralph Dargham/IDRAAC/HelpAge International

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

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Front cover photo: Dioselina Angulo, 65 years old, tending a community urban garden in Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá, Colombia.
Nelson Andrés Tamayo Gaviria/HelpAge International

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