

# Ageing and Development

News and analysis of issues affecting the lives of older people

Issue 12 September 2002



Some of the older people who took part in events accompanying the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

## Plan promotes right to development

**Strategies for bringing ageing onto development agendas are being debated, following the adoption of a new International Plan of Action on Ageing in April 2002.**

The Plan was agreed by representatives of 159 United Nations member states at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid.

The Madrid Plan, which replaces the 1982 Vienna Plan, is the first international agreement to commit governments to act on the right to development of older persons.

### End to age discrimination

The Plan provides a framework for governments to end age discrimination and protect and promote the human rights of their ageing populations. It:

- specifies that ageing can and should be mainstreamed into global development agendas

and calls for the right to development for older persons

- urges governments to include older persons in national development and social policy processes (such as poverty reduction strategies and national development plans)

- contains detailed sections on growing areas of concern for older people and their families, including HIV/AIDS, violence and abuse, access to health services and social protection

- calls for effective collaboration and partnership between government, civil society, international agencies and the private sector, and older persons and their organisations, to achieve the Plan's objectives.

### 'Powerful programme'

In his final speech to the Assembly, UN deputy secretary general Nitin Desai described the Plan as a 'powerful and important programme of action...

to demonstrate... that ageing is not a burden.

'It represents a major shift in focus of social policy in many countries; it places ageing at the top of the policy agenda in the developing world as well as the developed world...

'Now ageing has to be addressed as a key issue of social policy.'

### Follow-up action

Implementing the Plan will involve action at all levels, from ensuring that ageing issues are included in strategies arising from major international conferences such as the September 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development, to the development of national policies and programmes on ageing, and support from the grassroots through monitoring and lobbying.

### More information:

Pages 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9

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## HelpAge International

Leading global action on ageing

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## Putting the plan into practice

**The successful outcome of the Second World Assembly on Ageing was the result of two years of intense negotiations, including a series of UN regional meetings and national-level lobbying and consultations with older people across the world.**

Events immediately before and during the Assembly also influenced the outcome. A research forum in Valencia, Spain brought together more than 500 researchers, educators and practitioners, to provide evidence to support decisions made in the Assembly, and propose priorities for research.

More than 4,000 people took part in the World NGO Forum on Ageing in Madrid, to discuss a wide range of issues affecting older people. A summary and declaration were presented to the Assembly.

Older people themselves played a key part in the preparations and events in Madrid (see page 9).

### Implementation strategies

The challenge now is to ensure that governments meet the commitments they made in Madrid. This includes incorporating older people's issues into national programmes – notably those designed to achieve the goal of reducing extreme poverty and hunger by one half by 2015, agreed at the Millennium Summit, which the Plan specifically refers to.

It also means ensuring older people's right to development, as

laid out by the Declaration on the Right to Development, agreed by UN member states in 1986.

UN regional commissions have responsibility for developing regional implementation strategies. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has led the way with its conference in Berlin in September – with NGOs involved in the preparatory process and conference itself.

The Asia-Pacific commission (ESCAP) met in Shanghai in September, and Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will meet in Chile in June 2003.

Ultimate responsibility for implementing the Plan rests with national governments.

### Monitoring progress

National and international mechanisms for monitoring how governments implement the Plan have yet to be agreed. These will be discussed at the UN Commission for Social Development's meeting in New York in February 2003.

As those who stand to be most affected, older people and their organisations have a vital role in



Distributing *State of the world's older people 2002* at the Assembly.

David Gonzalez/HelpAge International

getting their governments to act on their commitments, and in monitoring progress.

HelpAge International is developing 'citizen monitoring' projects in five countries – Bangladesh, Bolivia, Jamaica, Kenya and Tanzania.

The projects will support older people to work with policy makers, groups and networks engaged in policy monitoring, and publish government progress in meeting commitments made in Madrid and other development summits, especially the Millennium Summit.

A preliminary report will be presented to the UN Commission for Social Development's meeting in February 2004.

### Second World Assembly on Ageing

Email: [sidorenko@un.org](mailto:sidorenko@un.org)  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing>

### Valencia Forum

Email: [valencia@finders.edu.au](mailto:valencia@finders.edu.au)  
<http://www.valenciaforum.com>

### NGO Forum

<http://www.forumageing.org>

### UNECE conference

Berlin, 11-13 September 2002  
<http://www.mica2002.de>

### Millennium Development Goals

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>

**Declaration on the Right to Development** <http://www.unhchr.ch/development/right.html>

### HelpAge International citizen monitoring project

Sylvia Beales, Policy Development Manager, HelpAge International, London. Email: [sbeales@helpage.org](mailto:sbeales@helpage.org)

## Comment

### Bulk of the work begins

The Second World Assembly on Ageing was a great success, drawing together 159 governments. The resulting International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Political Declaration will guide the world's response to the challenges of an ageing population.

The bulk of the work now begins – lifting the Plan from paper and implementing it. This will require sustained action at local, national and international levels.

There is need for governments to mainstream ageing issues and the concerns of older persons into national development frameworks, policies and poverty reduction strategies.

Partnership with NGOs and other interested groups – including older people themselves – is critical to the implementation of the Plan. Enhanced international cooperation to complement national initiatives is also essential, since ageing affects all of us the world over.

As countries develop their national policies on ageing, the Plan will act as a guide in ensuring that the

various documents address crucial issues. In Africa, for example, several countries already have draft national policies, and a regional policy framework on ageing has been adopted by the African Union.

The formulation of a new international plan should provide the impetus needed to finalise these national policies and put them into action.

**Tavengwa Nhongo** Africa Regional Representative, HelpAge International

# Reports look at needs of an ageing society

## Reports produced for the Second World Assembly on Ageing highlight the need for policies to be designed with an ageing society in mind.

Results of consultations with older people, organised by HelpAge International, have been published in a number of country and regional reports – for example, Sudan, Jamaica, Fiji and Asia-

Pacific – and are summarised in *State of the world's older people 2002* and the campaign document *Equal treatment, equal rights*.

*The world ageing situation*, produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, looks at ageing in different situations and transitions, covering development, rural ageing, older women and inter-

generational equity. Maps, tables and diagrams illustrate demographic change and projections to 2050.

Key issues in population ageing that affect older poor women and men in South Africa and India are examined in *Situation and voices of the older poor and excluded in South Africa and India*, published by the United Nations Population Fund.

The report shows that the main concerns of older people relate to conditions of extreme poverty, such as inadequate healthcare, lack of national and social protection, and violence. Among others, it records the voices of older widows living alone in desperate need of better nutrition, social and medical care.

In *Active ageing: a policy framework*, the World Health Organization recommends a set of actions in three essential areas: health, participation and security. It stresses that action on healthy ageing must include a variety of sectors: education, employment and labour, finance, social security, rural and urban development, housing, transportation and justice.

# Isolation in eastern Europe

Many older people in East and Central Europe live on the edge of survival, according to a new report.

'My pension is 90 lei [US\$7 a month]. How can I pay for my services?' said an older Moldovan woman. 'I have nothing to eat. I just look at the ceiling.'

The report, *A generation in transition*, from HelpAge International, argues that the collapse of the Soviet-dominated economic and political systems and the 'shock therapy' of the 1990s have hit older people in the region hardest.

'The current generation of older people has lived through the deprivations of World War II and, for many, the impact of

mass deportations in the 1950s,' says Paul Hinchliff, HelpAge International's regional representative.

'They saved and planned for a dignified and relatively secure retirement. Now they have feelings of isolation and loss, and their contribution to society is often not recognised.'

The report was launched at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Inter-Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin in September 2002 – the first regional follow-up meeting to the Second World

Assembly on Ageing – to highlight the concerns of older people in east and central Europe and press for these to be taken into account in the regional implementation strategy.

## A generation in transition: Older people's situation and civil society's response in East and Central Europe

HelpAge International (2002)  
English and Russian  
Email: [publications@helpage.org](mailto:publications@helpage.org)  
Can be downloaded (in English) from: <http://www.helpage.org>

## More information

Paul Hinchliff, HelpAge International  
Regional Representative  
Email: [phinchliff@helpage.org](mailto:phinchliff@helpage.org)

## State of the world's older people 2002

HelpAge International (2002)  
English and Spanish  
Email: [publications@helpage.org](mailto:publications@helpage.org)  
Can be downloaded from: <http://www.helpage.org>

## Equal treatment, equal rights

As above

## World ageing situation: exploring a society for all ages

United Nations (2001)  
ISBN 92-1-130205-6  
US\$15 (academics US\$7)  
United Nations Publications,  
2 UN Plaza DC2-853 Dept. 1017,  
New York, NY 10017, USA.  
Email: [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org)  
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/textbook>

## Situation and voices of the older poor and excluded in South Africa and India

UNFPA (2002)  
ISBN 0-89714-631-X  
UNFPA, 220 East, 42nd Street,  
New York, NY 10017, USA.  
Can be downloaded from: [http://www.unfpa.org/publications/ageing\\_voices.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/publications/ageing_voices.pdf)

## Active ageing: a policy framework

WHO (2002)  
English and French  
NPH, WHO, 20 Avenue Appia,  
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.  
Fax: +41 22 791 4186  
Can be downloaded from: <http://www.who.int/hpr/ageing/publications.htm>



The concerns of older people in eastern Europe are featured in a new report.

J.C. Tordar/Panos Pictures

# News round up

Developments that affect older people's quality of life

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## Chronic poverty in South Africa

**Overall, the proportion of older people living in chronic poverty in South Africa is similar to that of the general population. But in certain categories – especially rural, black older women in female-headed households – it is much higher.**

This is one of the findings of a desk-based study of chronic poverty among older South Africans, commissioned by HelpAge International as part of the research programme of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre, with funding from the UK Department for International Development.

South Africa's non-contributory pension plays a critical role for older people and their households. Many reports argue that since older people, especially older women, use much of their pension to support their extended families, the pension makes a vital contribution to household finance.

Some show that, by contributing to household finances, the pension helps to keep older people within the family, preventing their isolation from society.

Many improvements could be made to the delivery of pensions, says the report. Some of the very poorest older people and their families live in rural areas, where the pension can be worth two to three times a person's earnings. Yet these people do not always benefit from the pension because they cannot collect it – because of distance, infirmity, or problems with transport.

### Chronic poverty and older people in South Africa (draft)

Julian May, School of Development Studies, University of Natal, June 2002.

#### More information:

Amanda Heslop,  
Training and Research Manager,  
HelpAge International  
Email: [mheslop@helpage.org](mailto:mheslop@helpage.org)

#### Chronic Poverty Information Centre

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org>

#### Staying Poor: Chronic Poverty and Development Policy

Conference details on page 11.



Hein du Plessis/HelpAge International

Queueing for pensions in South Africa – but they are often difficult to collect.

## Appeal to relieve food crisis

**HelpAge International is working to ensure that the specific needs and contributions of older people are taken into account in emergency programmes in southern Africa, funded through a major appeal to the UK public.**

In July, the UK Disasters Emergency Committee launched an appeal to raise funds for food, medical supplies, seeds and tools for 14 million people in seven countries in southern Africa facing acute food shortages, brought on by drought, floods, economic mismanagement, and post-conflict hardship.

Thirteen British aid agencies took part in the joint appeal, including Help the Aged (UK), a member of the HelpAge International network.

HelpAge International is working with partners in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe to distribute food to vulnerable older people and their families, and advocating with NGOs to include

older people in their responses – both as recipients of support, and also as contributors to the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

#### More information:

Nadia Saim, Emergencies officer  
Email: [nsaim@helpage.org](mailto:nsaim@helpage.org)

#### UK Disasters Emergencies Committee

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

# Myths and misconceptions

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

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

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

**It is not worth targeting development programmes at people over 60**

In economics, poverty among older people is accepted as the norm; in health services, routine discrimination against older people is tolerated; and in personal security, violence against older people is perceived as no one's business.

Poor people of all ages need material support in terms of cash or in-kind income and healthcare to help them combat poverty. Yet poor older people are consistently excluded from these

resources, and old-age poverty is too often presented as a matter of special pleading, rather than basic human rights.

It is worth targeting programmes at older people on the grounds of:

**Equity** Poverty, social exclusion and discriminatory attitudes towards old age violate the human rights of older people.

**Efficiency** Despite their exclusion, older people are a vast pool of social capital – they play important

roles within their households and communities, as earners, carers and educators. In terms of healthcare, for example, older people are often viewed as simply a burden, but in fact they contribute to healthcare. Older women especially care for the sick and provide traditional healing and midwifery skills.

**Demographics** Since the world is ageing and life expectancy is growing, it would be shortsighted not to build on the capabilities and commitment of older people.

## Older Bolivians design health projects

**Older people in four Bolivian municipalities are working with local governments to design projects to address their health needs, after research revealed widespread problems with health and access to services.**

The research involved over 3,700 people aged over 60, living in mainly urban areas of El Alto, Sucre, La Paz and Coroico. It brought together older people, local communities, health services, local governments and universities.

Interviews and discussions showed that older people typically suffered from high blood pressure, malnutrition, poor mobility, blindness and deafness. At least 60 per cent had tooth decay or missing teeth, to the extent that it affected their ability to eat.

Only 30 per cent were registered with the free health care scheme for older people, run by certain hospitals in mainly urban areas. Health services were found to be discriminatory and did not specialise in older people's health.

The findings confirmed older people's poverty. About 30-40 per cent had no income and were completely dependent. Those who had an income earned it from working, but earned less than half the Bolivian average. Older people

could not afford the health security scheme and had to pay for services and transport to services.

The findings have been used to compile a database of the health needs of older people in each municipality. The databases will be used to develop policies on older people, design pilot projects and raise awareness of the situation and rights of older people.

Consultations have been held in each municipality to develop strategic plans on healthy ageing and processes for ensuring the participation of older people and civil society in the development of local health programmes. The plans are being drafted by committees made up of local governments, universities and older people's groups.

From the strategic plans, pilot projects will be developed. Ideas for these include traditional medicines, physical activity classes, an older health promoters' network, workshops on nutrition and self-care, and growing healthy foods.



Planning for healthy ageing in Coroico, Bolivia.

HelpAge International

Though not one of its original aims, the programme, which was run by the Sociolegal Centre, La Paz, with support from HelpAge International, has resulted in the formation of at least ten older people's groups. It was funded by DFID, the Community Fund through DEFAN (the Bolivian network of older people's organisations), the European Commission and WHO/PAHO.

**Municipio saludable y vejez**  
*HelpAge International, March 2002*  
Spanish-language report of the project.

*An English-language leaflet*  
**Healthy municipality and ageing**  
and videos in English and Spanish also available.

**More information:**  
*HelpAge International Latin America*  
Regional Development Centre,  
Casilla 2217, La Paz, Bolivia.  
Fax: +591 2 2410957  
Email: [helpage.bolivia@unete.com](mailto:helpage.bolivia@unete.com)

## Disability advisor for World Bank

**The World Bank has appointed its first-ever advisor on disability and development.**

Judy Heumann will lead the bank's disability work and highlight its importance. She has worked extensively with governments and NGOs since the 1970s to

contribute to the development of human rights legislation and policies benefiting disabled children and adults.

**More information:**  
<http://www.worldbank.org/sp>  
(click on Disability)

# Briefing

Analysis of current topics in ageing

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## Vision for a society for all ages

What does the International Plan of Action on Ageing say, and how can it make a difference?

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in April 2002, is a unique example of civil society input into the formulation of an international plan of such range and scope.

Older people and their organisations were involved in the processes leading up to the Assembly – through consultations, membership of technical and preparatory committee meetings, and as participants in the World NGO Forum preceding the Assembly and the Assembly itself.

The result is an agreement that recognises the potential of older people to contribute to the development of their societies, and a commitment by governments to include ageing in all social and economic development policies, including poverty reduction programmes.

### What the Plan says

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing is a 16,000-word document which lists 33 objectives and 117 concrete recommendations, grouped into three priorities:

- Older persons and development
- Advancing health and wellbeing into old age
- Enabling and supportive environments.

The priorities cover 18 areas of concern to older people. The Plan concludes with a section on implementation and follow-up. An accompanying Political Declaration summarises the key issues and commitments by governments, which are detailed in the Plan.

The Plan serves a 'route map' for governments and their partners in civil society and the private sector to deliver sustainable improvements to the lives of their increasing numbers of older citizens.

### Older people as participants

The Plan sets out a vision and values for a society for all ages. It calls for changes in attitudes, policies and practices, so that the 'enormous potential of ageing' may be fulfilled. It stresses older people's right to development, calls for an end to age discrimination, and emphasises the need to mainstream ageing into global development agendas.

The Plan calls for governments to place the specific contributions and concerns of older people in the context of the major United Nations conferences and summits, special sessions of the General Assembly and review follow-up processes, including the review process of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Plan states that older people must be full participants in the development process, and also share in its benefits. It calls for recognition of the social and economic contributions of older

people, including those made through unpaid work, particularly by women.

Older people should be enabled to continue with income-generating work for as long as they want to and can do so. The Plan refers to commitments made at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development on promoting the goal of 'decent work' and full employment.

### Eradication of poverty

The eradication of older people's poverty is highlighted as a fundamental aim. The Plan commits governments to including older people in policies and programmes to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

The Plan recognises both the vulnerability and potential of older people in emergency situations.



Elizabeth Silas Kulola of the Sukumaland Older Women's Programme, Tanzania and Zdenek Placher of Zivot 90, Czech Republic – two of the older people who spoke at the World NGO Forum on Ageing.

David González/HelpAge International

### Quotes from the Plan

'The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms including the right to development is essential for the creation of an inclusive society for all ages in which older persons participate fully and without discrimination and on the basis of equality.' (Paragraph 14)

'The struggle against poverty amongst older persons aiming towards its eradication is a fundamental aim of the Plan of Action on Ageing.' (Paragraph 46)

'A necessary first step in successful implementation of the Plan is to mainstream ageing and the concerns of older persons into national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies.' (Paragraph 105)

'We commit ourselves to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including age discrimination. We also recognise that persons, as they age, should enjoy a life of fulfilment, health, security and active participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their societies. We are determined to enhance the recognition of the dignity of older persons, and to eliminate all forms of neglect, abuse and violence.' (Political Declaration)

Older women and men should have the same access to preventive and curative care and rehabilitation as other groups. The Plan refers to the responsibility of individuals to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and of governments to create a 'supportive environment' that enables people to maintain their health and wellbeing into old age.

### Access to healthcare

The Plan promotes a 'life course' approach to wellbeing in old age. Linking health to broader social and economic issues, it calls for improvements in the economic and social situation of older people to improve their health as well. It also calls for universal and equal access to healthcare, and for an urgent expansion in agecare training for health and social workers working with older people.

The Plan recognises the impact of HIV/AIDS on older people and recommends ways to alleviate it, including developing policies to support older carers.

It calls for the promotion of 'ageing in place' in the community, taking into account older people's preferences and what is affordable. Governments should promote the provision of community-based care and support of family care. They should support carers through training, information, psychological, economic, social and legislative mechanisms.

All forms of neglect, abuse and violence against older people should be eliminated.

### Link with development

The Plan notes that a vital first step in implementation would be to mainstream ageing and the concerns of older people into national development frameworks and poverty-eradication strategies. It stresses that NGOs are vital in supporting governments' efforts to implement, assess and review the Plan.

The Plan calls for a substantial increase in overseas development aid to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It urges

'developed' countries to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as aid to developing countries, including 0.15 per cent to 'least developed' countries.

International financial institutions and regional development banks are invited to examine and adjust their lending and grants practices, to ensure that older people are recognised as a development resource, and taken into account in their efforts to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Plan.

Similarly, commitment by United Nations funds and programmes is important to ensure integration of ageing in their programmes and projects.

Responsibility for facilitating and promoting the Plan is allocated to the United Nations Programme on Ageing (see Profile, page 8). National responses should be delivered via national policies on key areas of the Plan, and via national policies on ageing where they exist or are in development, based on partnerships between governments, NGOs, the private sector and older people themselves.

The Plan points to the need for research on ageing, particularly in developing countries, including age and gender-sensitive data collection and analysis.

### What's new about the Plan?

The Madrid Plan differs substantively from the 1982 Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, in that it recognises fully the implications of population ageing in the developing world for policies on ageing.

It places action on ageing firmly on the international development and human rights agenda, seeking to integrate policy development on ageing into existing government commitments to social, civil, cultural and economic rights.

The Plan provides the basis for regional implementation strategies and plans, the first of which is that

adopted by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Berlin in September 2002 (see page 2).

'We welcome the Plan, especially the commitments made to mainstream issues of ageing into poverty reduction programmes,' says Sylvia Beales, HelpAge International's policy development manager. 'Action on the eradication of poverty among older persons is not only essential to end age discrimination, but would also go a long way to meet the overall target.'

### Route to implementation

A weakness of the Plan is that it provides no additional resources for implementation. Governments that made commitments in Madrid are not yet allocating resources to meet their commitments. They will need constant reminders and encouragement to do so.

The realisation of the Plan's vision will involve many areas of older citizen-focused action and monitoring at local and national level, including the involvement of older people and their organisations in civil society mechanisms designed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Millennium Development Goals do not mention age specifically. Indicators for including older people in the poverty-reduction goal will therefore need to be developed. This will require greater solidarity and collaboration, both among older people's groups, and between older people's groups and non age-focused groups working on human rights, social justice, poverty, emergencies, conflict, HIV/AIDS, sustainable development and basic entitlements such as food, water, shelter and health.

### Special issue of Ageways

*Ageways issue 60 includes a summary of the Madrid Plan, quotes from older participants in the NGO Forum, ideas for how to use the Plan, examples of follow-up activities and details of HelpAge International's citizen monitoring project.*

Email: [publications@helpage.org](mailto:publications@helpage.org)  
Can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.helpage.org>

### Issues covered by the Plan

#### Priority 1: Older persons and development

- Active participation in society and development
- Work and the ageing labour force
- Rural development, migration and urbanisation
- Access to knowledge, education and training
- Intergenerational solidarity
- Eradication of poverty
- Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention
- Emergency situations

#### Priority 2: Advancing health and wellbeing into old age

- Health promotion and wellbeing throughout life
- Universal access to healthcare services
- Older persons and HIV/AIDS
- Training of care providers and health professionals
- Mental health needs of older people
- Older people and disabilities

#### Priority 3: Enabling and supportive environments

- Housing and the living environment
- Care, and support for caregivers
- Neglect, abuse and violence
- Images of ageing

#### Implementation and follow-up

- National action
- International action
- Research
- Global monitoring, review and updating

#### Full version of the Plan

The Madrid Plan can be downloaded from the UN Programme on Ageing website as a PDF or Word document: <http://www.un.org/ageing/coverage>

Printed copies can be obtained from: UN Programme on Ageing, DESA, 2 UN Plaza, DC2-1316, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: +1 212 963 0111 Email: [sidorenko@un.org](mailto:sidorenko@un.org)

# Profile

Taking older people's interests forward

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## The people behind the plan

**The United Nations Programme on Ageing played a key role in drafting the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Its staff now face the challenge of getting the Plan implemented. Rosemary Lane describes their work.**

Many United Nations bodies deal with ageing in some way, but the Programme on Ageing, part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York, and the Ageing and Life Course programme of the World Health Organization in Geneva are the only two that are dedicated to ageing.

The Programme on Ageing was established in the lead-up to the first World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna in 1982. It has four permanent staff members:

Alexandre (Sasha) Sidorenko, chief of the programme who is from Ukraine; Rosemary Lane, social affairs officer, from the UK; Diane Loughran, social affairs officer, from the United States; and Rosa Ahmed, administrative assistant, from Ethiopia.

We have also been lucky to secure the services for a two-year period of junior professional officer, Ignacio Tornel, from Spain, who is funded by his government.

### Advancing the plan

The programme's main task is to encourage UN bodies to advance implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing – both those already working on ageing, such as the International Labour Organization, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Population Fund, regional commissions and the World Bank – and those that should be.

We also work with multilateral and bilateral agencies, civil society organisations and the private sector.

Since its inception, the programme has acted as the secretariat on ageing to UN intergovernmental legislative bodies, preparing

reports on key thematic issues on ageing as requested. We also work in advocacy, through publications, information dissemination and policy guidance.

### Need for a new plan

One of the programme's main activities has also been monitoring implementation of the Plan of Action. Under the Vienna Plan in 1982, a monitoring mechanism was established, in which member states, UN bodies and NGOs were asked to complete a questionnaire every four years.

The programme analysed the responses and reported to the Commission for Social Development. However, the 1997 report concluded that the response rate was too low to make an informed analysis. Many developing countries pointed out that this could be due to the fact that the Vienna Plan was more oriented towards ageing in developed countries.

Discussions about the monitoring process led to a call for a revised Plan of Action, and in 2000, the General Assembly called for a Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002.

The Programme on Ageing was asked to establish a technical committee to provide advice with revising the Plan. The programme's three professional staff started drafting the new Plan.

The first draft was submitted to the Commission for Social Development (designated as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly) in February 2001. In response to extensive comments from member states, civil society and UN bodies, we began redrafting the Plan for a meeting of the

preparatory committee in December 2001.

Civil society was involved in three ways – through representatives on the technical committee, formal statements from various organisations to preparatory committee meetings, and liaison between the Programme on Ageing and HelpAge International's regional consultations with older people.

We received reports from the consultations and actually took part in a consultation in Peru. This gave us first-hand information on what people at the grassroots level thought should be in the new Plan, and, as a result, new elements were added to the text.

It was at the December 2001 meeting that member states began formal negotiations on the text, which lasted about twenty days. The negotiations meant that member states discussed the document several times, paragraph by paragraph, and came to an agreement on every word, while we amended the text

'live' on a computer hooked up to a huge screen, so that all delegates could see and agree the changes as we went along.

One of the programme's priorities now is to 'mainstream' ageing into the wider development agendas of the United Nations and away from the traditional welfare approach. We will focus on partnerships, both within and outside the UN system, to assist in implementing the Plan of Action at national level, and in monitoring its implementation.

We feel proud to have produced a document in which most of the original ideas, objectives and recommendations made it through to the final version, and are pleased that the linking of ageing to the wider development agenda has been fully endorsed by governments. We feel that the Madrid Plan provides a much sounder basis to proceed and opens up new areas for research and action.

### More information:

Alexandre Sidorenko, United Nations Programme on Ageing, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, NY 10017, USA.  
Fax: +1 212 963 0111  
Email: sidorenko@un.org  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/index.html>



Consultation in Peru, in which the UN Ageing Programme learned what older people from Latin America and the Caribbean wanted in the new Plan of Action.



# Talking point

Understanding older people's experience

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Neil Cooper/HelpAge International

At home in Dominica – the interdependence of people from different age groups is becoming more recognised.

## Closing the generation gap

Older people and their organisations had a big presence at the World NGO Forum on Ageing, which preceded the Second World Assembly in Madrid in April 2002. But seats that might have been taken by non age-focused NGOs remained largely empty, writes *Sylvia Beales*.

The Forum's 'Ageing in a developing world' workgroup included sessions on participation, chronic poverty, HIV/AIDS, emergencies and conflict, and ageing and the international development framework.

The sessions were packed, and they provided invaluable opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience.

More than 60 older people and representatives of organisations in the HelpAge International network took part in the Forum. They spoke vividly about the roles they played in their own communities, as well as their experiences of chronic poverty, healthcare, hunger, violence and abuse, isolation and HIV/AIDS.

Older people and those who accompanied them said these exchanges gave them a sense of solidarity, and a broader appreciation of the social,

economic and political situation of older people.

The Forum helped them to recognise the role that older people themselves could play in influencing policy makers. It inspired them to talk to other older people, the media and governments on their return home.

### Wonderful experience

'It was wonderful to meet so many older people from different continents,' said Anibal Choy Toyco of the Chancay Third Age Club and Marvellous Age Network, Peru. 'I am relaying my experience of the Second World Assembly to the two organisations I belong to. We may not be able to harvest the seeds we are sowing at present, but our children and grandchildren will reap this harvest.'

However, given that one of the strengths of the Madrid International Plan of Action on

Ageing is its emphasis on mainstreaming ageing issues into global development agendas, there was a noticeable scarcity of non age-focused NGOs at the Forum.

Paragraph 105 of the Plan of Action states: 'A necessary first step in successful implementation of the Plan is to mainstream ageing and the concerns of older persons into national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies.' In his closing speech, UN deputy secretary general Nitin Desai highlighted this point. 'Now ageing has to be addressed as a key issue of social policy,' he said.

International Action Against Child Poverty (now named Grow up free from Child Poverty), CAFOD, Caritas and the Red Cross/Red Crescent were among a handful of non age-focused organisations that took part in the Forum and Assembly.

A side-event at the Assembly on 'Intergenerational approaches to achieving the Millennium Development Goals', organised jointly by the Grow up free from Child Poverty campaign and HelpAge International, demonstrated how inter-generational policies and practice are essential for progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

There is a slowly-growing recognition of the interdependence of people from different age groups, and the need for intergenerational approaches to development. For example, projects targeting young people with sexual health education have started to recognise the need to target parents and elders as 'information gatekeepers', if they are to be effective in reaching young people.

These points now need to be more widely recognised and taken forward by the campaign for the Millennium Development Goals, announced earlier this year by the UN Development Programme.

The campaign will also encompass the preparation of country-specific Millennium Development Goals reports, which are to be prepared at regular intervals at national level with the support of UN agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme.

*Sylvia Beales is policy development manager, HelpAge International*

**More information:**  
**Grow up free from Child Poverty**  
(International Action against Child Poverty)  
<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/pressrels/260202.html>

**Millennium Development Goals campaign**  
<http://www.undp.org/mdg/campaign.html>

**Millennium Development Goal reports**  
<http://www.undp.org/mdg/countryreports.html>

# Resources

New publications, websites, conferences and courses

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## Articles

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

### National

Doomed elderly people in a booming city: urban redevelopment and housing problems of elderly people in Hong Kong  
*E Chui, Housing, Theory and Society* 18:3-4 (2001)

Generations in touch: linking the old and the young in a Tokyo neighbourhood  
*L L Thang and S W Ellis, Ageing and Society* 21:5 (Sept 2001)

Elderly people: how do they feel?  
*N G Kovaliova, Sotsiologicheskie Issledovaniia* 7 (2001)

A study of demographic changes under sustained below-replacement fertility in Hong Kong SAR  
*P S F Yip et al, Soc. Sci. and Med.* 53:8 (Oct 2001)

McAunties and McUncles: older crew members in Singapore's fast food industry  
*A A Pereira, Res. Sociology of Work* 9 (2000)

Wedding of calm and wedding of noise: aging performed and aging misquoted in Tuareg rites of passage  
*S J Rasmussen, J. Anth. Res.* 57:3 (Autumn 2001)

Self-image and daily life among older people in Mexico City: survey, 1997-1998  
*S J Arellano and R M Santoyo, Acta Sociologica (Mexico)* 30 (Sept-Dec 2000). Also in Spanish.

Stories from the field, handicraft production, and Mexican national patrimony: a lesson in translocality from B Traven  
*W Warner Wood, Ethnology* 39:3 (Summer 2000)

From decline of fertility to transition of age structure: ageing and its policy implications in China  
*Q Xiaochun, Genus* 42:1 (2001)

Growing old: the plight of the elderly  
*P Falby and Lon Nara, Phnom Penh Post* (10-23 May 2002)

### International

Encouraging agencies to pay attention to the needs, knowledge and experience of older people  
*HelpAge International, Forced Migration Review* 14 (July 2002)

International migration: one solution to low fertility and growing ageing  
*J Gierveld, Bevolking en Gezins* 29:3 (2000)

Elderly living arrangements in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Romania  
*S DeVos and G Sandefur, Eur. J. Pop.* 18:1 (2002)

### Economic

Counting the cost of an ageing population  
*A Heslop, Developments (First quarter 2002)*

Ages as a factor determining income inequality in Sri Lanka  
*H D Karunaratne, Developing Economies* 38:2 (June 2000)

Japanese social security for the elderly from a viewpoint of life cycles  
*M Masuda and K Kojima, Rev. Pop. and Soc. Pol.* 10 (2001)

The economic situation and income inequality among the older people in Japan: measurement by quasi public assistance standard  
*A Yamada, Rev. Pop. and Soc. Pol.* 10 (2001)

Labour market participation of the elderly  
*Z M Nasir et al, Pakistan Dev. Rev.* 39:4(2) (2000)

### Gender

Policy issues of inclusion and exclusion in relation to gender and ageing in the South  
*C Risseeuw, Eur. J. Dev. Res.* 13:2 (Dec 2001)

The gender age gap: marriage and rights in the Cote d'Ivoire.  
*R Tiemoko, Development* 44:2 (June 2001)

'Beer used to belong to older men': drink and authority among the Nyakusa of Tanzania  
*J Willis, Africa (Edinburgh)* 71:3 (2001)

The food of elders, the 'ration' of women: brewing, gender and domestic process among the Samburu of northern Kenya  
*J Holtzman, American Anthropologist* 103:4 (2001)

### Health

Preventing early mental ageing  
*G S Nikiforov and L I Augustova, Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo Universiteta no. 4:30 (Dec 2000)*

Mental aging  
*G S Nikiforov and L I Augustova, Vestnik Leningradskogo Universiteta* 3:22 (Dec 2000)

A comparative study of adiposity and central body fat distribution of normotensive and hypertensive older Bengalee Hindu women of Calcutta, India

*K Bose and K DasChaudhuri, Collegium Antropologicum* 25:2 (December 2001)

From rights to recognition: mental health and spiritual healing among older Pakistanis  
*L Froggett, Psychoanalytic Studies* 3:2 (June 2001)

Dualism in the utilisation and alternative medical and health services amongst the Nkuna of Ritavi  
*L C Pienaar and J B Hartman, S. African J. Ethnology* (2000)

Perception of quality of life by Chinese elderly persons with stroke  
*A Lau and K McKenna, Disability and Rehabilitation* 24:4 (March 2002)

The effect of Jewish religiosity of elderly Israelis on their life satisfaction, health, function and activity  
*T Shkolnick et al, J. Cross Cult. Ger.* 16:3 (2001)

Financial strain and life satisfaction in Hong Kong elderly Chinese: moderating effect of life management strategies including selection, optimization, and compensation  
*K-L Chou and I Chi, Aging and Mental Health* 6:2 (May 2002)

Incidence of sickle cell haemoglobin among the Kolams of district Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh  
*K N Saraswathy et al., Anthropologist* 3:2 (2001)

A comparison of physical activity levels in two contrasting elderly populations in Thailand  
*C J K Henry et al., American J. Human Biology* 13:3 (2001)

Age and sex variations in adiposity and central fat distribution among elderly Bengalee Hindus of Calcutta, India  
*A Ghosh et al., Annals of Human Biology* 28:6 (2001)

APOE polymorphism in a rural older population-based sample in India  
*B K Thelma et al., Human Biology* 73:1 (2001)

### Cultural/cross-cultural

Older Russian immigrants to the USA: their utilization of health services  
*T R Fitzpatrick and A O Freed, International Social Work* 43:3 (July 2000)

Migration and old age: Japanese women growing older in British society  
*M Izuhara and H Shibata, J. Comp. Family Studies (Autumn 2001)*

Strategic adjustments of elderly Asian Americans: living arrangements and headship  
*V C Phua et al, J. Comp Family Studies* 32:2 (Spring 2001)

Narrations of shifting Maya identities  
*P Hervik, Bull. Latin American Res.* 20:3 (2001)

### HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS and older women in Zambia: concern for self, worry over daughters, towers of strength  
*C Baylies, Third World Quarterly* 23:2 (April 2002)

Multiple impacts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the aged in rural Uganda  
*A Williams and G Tumwekwase, J. Cross Cult. Ger.* 16:3 (2001)

AIDS and the elderly [letter]  
*M Gorman, New Internationalist* 348 (August 2002)

Grandparents take the place of generation lost to AIDS  
*J Cobb, Daily Telegraph,* 24 August 2002

### Family issues

Contesting the rhetoric of 'black family breakdown' from Barbados  
*C Barrow, J. Comp Family Studies* 32:3 (Summer 2001)

Ageing in India: drifting intergenerational relations, challenges and options  
*A K Bhat and R Dhruvarajan, Ageing and Society* 21:5 (Sept 2001)

Elder care and intergenerational relationships in rural Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*I N Keasberry, Ageing and Society* 21:5 (Sept 2001)

Culture and dementia: accounts by family caregivers and health professionals for dementia-affected elders in South Korea  
*Y K Chee and S E Levkoff, J. Cross Cult. Ger.* 16:2 (2001)

Family care of the elderly: abuse, neglect and abandonment  
*T G Vaswani, Indian J. Social Work* 62:3 (July 2001)

Abuse and neglect of elderly in families  
*S Srinivas and B Vijayalakshmi, Indian J. Social Work* 62:3 (July 2001)

Status roles, authority and values in the family: three examples from the region of the Balkans  
*M Benovska-Suebikova, Bulgarska Etnologia* 27:2 (2001)

Human, ancestors and spirits: ambiguity and heteronomy of dreaming among Inuit elders in the Canadian and eastern Arctic  
*F Laugrand, Etudes Inuit* 25:1/2 (2001)

Perception of second generation towards old age problems

*D Punia and S Punia, Anthropologist 3:1 (2001)*

Generation and transaction processes in the spirit ritual of the Baka Pygmies in southeast Cameroon

*D Tsuru, African Study Monographs. Supplementary Issue 27:103-23 (2001)*

### Pensions

Pensions as a development issue  
*Ten articles in Insights 42 (June 2002)*  
<http://www.id21.org/insights/insights42/index.html>  
Email: id21@ids.ac.uk

Pensions for life? The rise of pensions as a development issue

*Armando Barrientos, Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester*

The challenge for India: do new initiatives go far enough?

*Robert Palacios, World Bank*

Pensions in development: stimulating dialogue?

*Roger Charlton, School of Social Sciences, Glasgow Caledonian University and Roddy McKinnon, International Social Security Association*

Africa in crisis: hazards rise for prime-age adults

*Richard Disney, School of Economics, University of Nottingham*

Asia – success or failure?

Provident funds governance  
*Mukul G Asher, Public Policy Program, National University of Singapore*

Reforming the reform?

Towards recovery in Latin America  
*Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Economics and Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh*

Politics of reform: the spread of radical change

*Katharina Müller, German Development Institute*

Future uncertain: social pensions in Southern Africa

*Stephen Devereux, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex*

The spread of benefits: alleviating poverty in Brazil

*Helmut Schwarzer and Guilherme Delgado, Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada*

Poverty and pensions: the rights of older people

*Mandy Heslop, HelpAge International Also at <http://www.helpage.org>*

## Publications

Ageing in search of its identity

*S D Gokhale and Nirmala Pandit (eds) International Federation of Ageing, Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme, India and Ameya Publishers, India (2002)*  
*Research papers on approaches to ageing*  
ISBN 81 86172 75 0  
US\$10 or Rs450 plus postage from  
*Ulhas Latkar, Proprietor, Ameya Prakashan.*  
Email: latkar@ip.eth.net

Economic status of older women

*Examines trends in women's activity in 56 nations and reviews five countries.*  
<http://www.ilcusa.org/pub/books.htm>

HIV/AIDS and older people: the African situation

*Leaflet produced by HelpAge International, PO Box 14888, Westlands 00200, Nairobi, Kenya*  
Fax: +254 24 441052  
Email: helpage@africaonline.co.ke



Older people and HIV/AIDS in Asia  
*Posters, leaflet and brochure produced by HelpAge International, c/o Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand.*  
Fax: +66 53 894214  
Email: hai@helpageasia.com

Impact of HIV/AIDS on older populations

*Factsheet produced by UNAIDS*  
[http://www.unaids.org/fact\\_sheets](http://www.unaids.org/fact_sheets)

Africa's Common Position on Ageing  
*Drafted at the Organization of African Unity conference in Nairobi, December 2001. Available in English and French from HelpAge International, Nairobi (see above).*

## Events

Learning and Education for and with All Ages (Talis 2002 seminar)  
21-23 October 2002,  
Wuhan University, China  
Email: whlndx@public.wh.hb.cn  
<http://www.wuhanua.org>

Maturity Matters: 6th Global Conference on Ageing

27-30 October 2002, Perth, Western Australia  
Email: IFA@congresswest.com.au  
<http://www.congresswest.com.au/IFA>

4th International Aged Care Housing Summit

6-8 November 2002,  
Melbourne, Australia  
Email: nnew@bigpond.net.au

Geriatrics Africa '03

6-8 March 2003,  
Cape Town, South Africa  
*Janet Sirmongpong, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town*  
Fax: +27 21 406 6330  
Email: jsirmong@curie.uct.ac.za  
<http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/pgc/geriatraxafrica.html>

Staying Poor: Chronic Poverty and Development Policy

7-9 April 2003, *Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester, UK*  
Deadline for abstracts: 2 December  
*David Hulme, Institute for Development Policy and Management.*  
Fax: +44 161 273 8829  
Email: david.hulme@man.ac.uk

5th International Conference and Exposition of the International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing

23 - 25 June 2003,  
Sydney, Australia  
IAHSA, 2519 Connecticut Avenue NW,  
Washington DC,  
20008-1520, USA.  
<http://www.iahsa.net>

Old age and poverty  
September 2003

*Oxford Institute of Ageing (formerly Oxford Centre on Population Ageing)*  
<http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk>

7th Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology

24-28 November 2003, Tokyo  
International Forum, Japan  
<http://www.convention.co.jp/aorc7>

## Website

ELDIS

*Gateway to development information, with an 'Ageing populations' section. Articles include: Demographic transition, intergenerational contracts and old age security; Pension reform in Russia; Impact of AIDS on older people in Africa; Parents providing care to adult sons and daughters with HIV/AIDS in Thailand.*  
Edited by the Institute of Development Studies.  
<http://www.eldis.org/ageing>

## Directory

International Directory of Research and Researchers in Comparative Gerontology

*Edited by Jay Sokolovsky and Dena Shenk*  
*Researchers whose work has been completed since 1994 or begun before June 2002, and fits stated criteria are invited to submit details for the revised 2001 edition.*  
Contact: Prof. Jay Sokolovsky,  
University of South Florida - Bayboro Campus,  
Division of Arts and Sciences,  
140 Seventh Ave South, DAV 258,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-501, USA.  
Fax: +1 727 553 1526  
Email: jsokolov@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu  
<http://www.stpt.usf.edu/~jsokolov/form.htm>

## CD-Rom

The Living Maya

*Anne-Michelle Marsden, 2001/2002*  
*Documentary about Mayan culture in southern Belize, containing more than 500 pages of text and 1,000 pictures linked to a website. Represents older people as keepers of the culture. Includes role of village elders, intergenerational caring between family members, end of life, village leadership, and elder stories.*  
<http://mayaviewkeeper.com>

## Courses

Social Gerontology

3-14 March 2003  
Closing date: 31 January  
*Rosette Bonello, International Institute on Ageing, 117 St Paul Street, Valletta, VLT 07, Malta.*  
Fax: +356 230 248  
Email: rbonello@inia.org.mt  
<http://www.inia.org.mt/demographic.html>

Economic and Financial Aspects of Ageing

31 March - 11 April 2003  
Closing date: 21 February  
*Rose Bonello, INIA (see above)*

In-situ training programmes

*In 2003: India, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Singapore, Tunisia, China*  
*In 2004: Qatar, China, Singapore*  
Prof. Joseph Troisi,  
INIA (see above)  
Email: rofj.troisi@inia.org.mt

# Research update

Major new projects

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## Pension payments in India

A study of how pensions are administered in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh is to be carried out by HelpAge India in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Public Administration and HelpAge International.

Three schemes operate in Uttar Pradesh: a state pension for people aged 60 and over who have no family support or income from employment; a national pension of Rs75 (US\$1.6) a month, for people aged 65 and over who are living below the poverty line; and the 'Anapurna', a monthly allowance of 10kg of grain or rice for older people who are eligible for either a state or national pension, but who do not receive one.

The state government manages a budget to deliver state pensions to an agreed number of older people. It also distributes the 'Anapurna'. The national government administers the national pension. Therefore, in terms of budgeting, targeting and delivery, quite a complex picture begins to emerge.

The research aims to understand how the schemes are administered and investigate older people's experiences of access. It will include a literature review, questionnaire interviews with 1,000 people aged over 60 in four rural and urban communities in the Varanasi District of Uttar Pradesh, and interviews with other interested groups, including state and national level government officials, social workers, village heads, NGO workers and donors.

The study is expected run for six months from October 2002 with co-funding from the World Bank.



HelpAge India is to study pension payments in Uttar Pradesh.

### Contact:

Shubha Soneja, Head of Research, HelpAge India, C-14 Qutab Institutional Area, South of IIT, New Delhi 110016, India.  
Fax: +91 11 6852916  
Email: [helpage@nde.vnl.net.in](mailto:helpage@nde.vnl.net.in)

Amanda Heslop, Training and Research Manager, HelpAge International, PO Box 32832, London N1 9ZN, UK.  
Email: [mheslop@helpage.org](mailto:mheslop@helpage.org)

## HIV/AIDS in Thailand

Three new reports from the project 'Socio-demographic impact of AIDS on the elderly' in Thailand, funded by the US National Institute on Aging, have been published.

*The impact of an adult child's death due to AIDS on older-aged parents: results from a direct interview survey (PSC research report 02-498, April 2002)* by John Knodel, Im-em Wassana, Saengtienchai Chanpen, Mark VanLandingham and Jiraporn Kespichayawattana shows considerable differences in the extent to which parents are impacted. Even when a parent is a main carer, other family members often assist. Only a minority of the older parents in the study had fostered orphaned grandchildren. Sustained social stigma directed at parents of persons who died of AIDS is far from universal. Sympathy and support is reported more frequently.

*The economic consequences for parents of losing an adult child to AIDS: evidence from Thailand (PSC research report 02-504, May 2002)* by John Knodel and Im-em Wassana highlights the considerable range of vulnerability that exists among older people who lose a child to AIDS, and calls for programmes to take this into account and target those are particularly susceptible to resulting economic hardship.

*Older aged parents: the final safety net for adults sons and daughters with AIDS in Thailand (PSC research report 02-503, May 2002)* by John Knodel and Saengtienchai Chanpen looks at the 'significant but limited' formal safety net of

health and welfare services for people with HIV/AIDS and their dependants and points to older age parents as the ultimate safety net in the context of the Thai AIDS epidemic.

### Contact:

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

The reports can be downloaded from <http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/pubs> (click on 'Search for PSC publications') or obtained from: PSC Publications, Population Studies Centre at the address above.

## Rights in Lesotho

Participatory research into the situation of older people in Khubetsoana, Lesotho is being carried out by the Maseru Women Senior Citizens Association.

The research covers definitions and numbers of older people, their living situation, role in the family and community, sources of income, problems facing them and causes, awareness of their rights, support needed to access their rights, and community resources used by older people which could be strengthened.

The findings, due in September 2002, will feed into the development of good practice guidelines on work with older people whose rights are violated. The project forms part of a rights programme run by HelpAge International's Africa Regional Development Centre.

### Contact:

HelpAge International, Africa Regional Development Centre, PO Box 14888, Westlands, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya.  
Fax: +254 2 4 441052  
Email: [helpage@africaonline.co.uk](mailto:helpage@africaonline.co.uk)

Chairperson, Maseru Women Senior Citizens Association, PO Box 828, Maseru, Lesotho.  
Fax: +266 92 66 31 14 14  
Email: [mpu@lessoff.co.za](mailto:mpu@lessoff.co.za)

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

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

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

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

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

Editor: Celia Till

HelpAge International  
PO Box 32832  
London N1 9ZN, UK

Tel: +44 20 7278 7778  
Fax: +44 20 7713 7993  
Email: [hai@helpage.org](mailto:hai@helpage.org)

A&D email: [ctill@helpage.org](mailto:ctill@helpage.org)

Registered charity number: 288180

## Regional centres

### Africa

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

### Asia-Pacific

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

### Caribbean

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

### East and Central Europe

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

### Latin America

Email: [helpage.bolivia@unete.com](mailto:helpage.bolivia@unete.com)

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ISSN 1466-1616

Front cover photo:  
David González/HelpAge International