

Ageing and Development

News and analysis of issues affecting the lives of older people

Issue 13 January 2003



Food shortages in Ethiopia make the situation for older people precarious.

Food crisis threatens millions

The latest warnings of severe food shortages in Africa come from Ethiopia, where it is estimated that 11.2 million people will need food support by early 2003.

Drought in many parts of the country has led to crop failures and the death of livestock, on which many Ethiopians depend.

Ethiopia is a chronically poor country, where food shortages are a regular feature of life. Many communities are already struggling to survive, and the situation for older people is precarious.

In the Rift Valley, older people normally drink milk if they cannot digest maize, the usual staple food. With a shortage of milk resulting from the death of livestock, older people have lost an important part of their diet.

Older women also use milk to make butter for sale. They say:

'When a drought comes to livestock it also comes to us.'

The rising incidence of HIV/AIDS and many years of war, drought and displacement have weakened family support for older people. Adult children have been moving away from their homes in search of food and employment, leaving farms and cattle untended.

Older people, especially older women, are now often the main carers of grandchildren and people who are sick.

In southern Africa, the effects of drought, chronic poverty and HIV/AIDS are expected to leave 14 million people facing hunger by early 2003. The new season's crops have been planted, but if the rains fail or the crops are washed away, six countries face an intensified food crisis.

Older people's rights

HelpAge International is urging governments and aid agencies to

include older people in their responses to the food crisis.

'In many countries in Africa, older people who have suffered a lifetime of poverty enter old age with few resources and very often in poor health,' says Sylvia Beales, HelpAge International's policy development manager.

'Older people are seen as a low priority by most humanitarian agencies, and very few develop programmes that consider their specific needs. Furthermore, the design of many emergency interventions discriminates against older people, thereby increasing their vulnerability.'

'Older people's particular needs and contributions need to be recognised and supported. This is not only their right, but is also necessary if internationally agreed goals to halve extreme poverty and hunger are to be achieved.'

inside...

- 2 **News** [World report on violence; Widowhood rights in Tanzania; Follow-up to the Second World Assembly; Boost in Latin America](#)
- 6 **Briefing** [Pensions for reducing poverty](#)
- 8 **Profile** [Claiming citizens' rights: Social-Legal Centre, Bolivia](#)
- 9 **Talking point** [Stretching the safety net: pensions in South Africa](#)
- 10 **Resources** [Publications, websites and events](#)
- 12 **Research update** [Studies in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Dominica, Thailand and Ethiopia](#)

HelpAge International

Leading global action on ageing

News round up

Developments that affect older people's quality of life

2

Hidden face of violence

Elder abuse is one of the most hidden faces of violence. Its incidence is likely to increase, given the rapidly ageing populations in many countries.

These are among the conclusions of a new report from the World Health Organization, *World Report on Violence and Health*.

The report, the first comprehensive review of the problem of violence at a global level, discusses the extent and nature of abuse, underlying causes, and methods for preventing it.

A chapter on elder abuse states that up to 6 per cent of older people report having been

abused. Elder abuse includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse, as well as neglect.

Risk factors include social isolation, depiction of older people as frail and dependent, strained relations between generations in the family, restructuring of support networks, systems of inheritance and land rights, and migration of younger family members in societies where older people have traditionally been cared for by their offspring.

Older men are at risk of abuse in about the same proportion as older women. But in cultures where women have inferior social status, older widows are at particular risk of being abandoned and having their property seized.

The report reviews national and local responses to the care and

protection of older people.

In some countries, the medical profession has played a leading role in raising public concern about elder abuse. However, many doctors do not diagnose abuse because it is not part of their training.

The report highlights education of health and social professionals and the public as important in preventing abuse and neglect. The media can also be a powerful tool for changing attitudes and reducing stereotyping of older people.

World report on violence and health

WHO, 2002. English, French, Spanish and Portuguese

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Violence in Mozambique

HelpAge International partners in Tete province, Mozambique are monitoring incidences of abuse against older people. A report from July 2001 shows family neglect and witchcraft accusations as the most frequent types, with twice as many older women as older men suffering abuse.

Type of abuse	Men	Women
Witchcraft accusation	8	33
Verbal abuse	1	3
Physical aggression	5	8
Marginalised within family	0	7
Family neglect	21	33
Forced eviction	3	3
Theft	3	1
Total	41	88



Older people in Peru stand to benefit from a new national plan.

Carlos Reyes-Marzo/Andes Press Agency

Policy progress

Peru's first National Plan for Older People, which runs from 2002-2006, has been officially presented by the newly-created Ministry for Women and Social Development.

In Bolivia, the new government has created a vice-ministry for ageing and older people, to take forward the commitments of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and Bolivia's National Plan for Older Persons, which was agreed in 2001.

The government of Tanzania has approved a national policy on ageing. The Department of Social Welfare, which is responsible for ensuring that it is implemented, has started to carry out district-level reviews of work currently undertaken to support older people.

Comment

Time to end to elder abuse

Violence against older people is an infringement of their most basic human rights. The extent and nature of elder abuse is only just becoming apparent, as older people dare to speak out, and

are being asked about it more frequently.

A new report from WHO (see above) adds to the small but growing volume of material about the extent and nature of elder abuse. HelpAge International welcomes the report for drawing attention to 'one of the most hidden faces of violence'.

Much more needs to be done to bring elder abuse into the open, and end age-discriminatory attitudes and practices that contribute towards it. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted in 2002, recognises elder abuse as a major issue, and commits governments to eliminating all

forms of neglect, abuse and violence against older people.

These commitments now need to be acted upon, through further research, law enforcement and awareness-raising of older people's rights.

Fiona Clark

Policy Officer, HelpAge International



Victoria Vincent/HelpAge International

Customary inheritance laws in Tanzania discriminate against women.

Widowhood rights in Tanzania

A report from Tanzania highlights problems caused by the lack of a uniform law relating to inheritance.

A review of legal information and advice for widows and widowers in Tanzania was carried out by HelpAge International and the Women's Legal Aid Centre in urban and rural communities in four regions – Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Iringa and Morogoro.

Statutory inheritance law is based on egalitarian principles of equal distribution of property among children, regardless of their sex. Islamic law provides for a fixed share for women.

However, customary law prohibits widows from inheriting land from their husbands, even when the land is jointly owned. It also bars widows from inheriting clan land, or becoming administrators of estates. Laws and court decisions relating to widowhood have been criticised for favouring customary law.

In urban areas, many widows have

access to legal information and advice, but this does not always translate into use of services.

Women are culturally marginalised through their lack of knowledge about widows' inheritance rights, says the report. Being unable to own property also weakens women's economic base. Without a sound economic base, widows face perpetual poverty and must depend on the goodwill of their relatives.

HelpAge International is working with the Women's Legal Aid Centre to train older people as advisors about inheritance rights.

Widowhood and inheritance: the rights of older women

HelpAge International 2002

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Follow-up to the Second World Assembly

Two United Nations regional meetings have taken place since the International Plan of Action on Ageing was adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid in April 2002, to agree follow-up action.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which includes North America and Central Asia, met in Berlin in September to agree a regional implementation strategy for the Madrid Plan.

The same month, the UN Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held a seminar in Shanghai to discuss links between the Madrid Plan and the region's own Macau Plan of Action, now nearly mid-way through its initial implementation period.

Further follow-up meetings are planned for Latin America during 2003. A second meeting of leaders of older people's organisations will be held in Colombia in May. A civil society meeting in Santiago, Chile in July, hosted by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), will agree input into the regional implementation strategy. A ministerial meeting to agree the regional follow-up plan, organised by ECLAC, will be held in Santiago in October 2003.

In both Berlin and Shanghai, the outcome documents reflected many of the Madrid Plan's key themes – notably the impact of poverty on many in old age, the need to mainstream ageing into

development processes, and the urgent need to promote and realise older people's human rights.

However, disappointment was expressed by many NGOs that governments have made no firm commitments either to resourcing or tracking implementation of the new Plan of Action.

In February 2003, the UN Commission for Social Development, which is responsible for follow-up and appraisal of the implementation of Plan, will meet in New York to review progress.

HelpAge International will ensure that the outcomes of its older citizens' monitoring programme will be taken into account in the discussions.

The aim of the programme is to support older people to contribute their views and participate in mechanisms at national and international level to implement the Madrid Plan, the Millennium Development Goals, national policy development and other development programmes. A side event at the New York meeting will explore these issues.

More information:

Berlin meeting

<http://www.unece.org/ead/pau/age/conf2002frame.htm>

Shanghai meeting

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/waa/shanghai.htm>

ECLAC

<http://www.eclac.cl/>

News round up

Developments that affect older people's quality of life

4



Mbah Hari is in his early 70s (see 'Central pillars of the family'). He lives with his wife and an unmarried son in East Java. He receives a government pension equivalent to US\$50 a month. His wife occasionally works as a domestic help. At times their daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren have lived with them, depending on their son-in-law's ability to find work. Sometimes the pension has had to support the family of eight. More recently, Mbah Hari's daughter and son-in-law have moved away to find work, leaving the children in their grandparents' care.

Elisabeth Schröder-Butterfill

Central pillars of the family

Far from needing support, older people are central pillars of multigenerational families, says a new report from Indonesia.

Indonesia has a rapidly ageing population. However, there is little formal provision for older people who need support, in terms of income, healthcare or institutional care.

Research into family support networks in three villages in West Sumatra, West Java and East Java, funded by the Wellcome Trust, found that older people provided far-reaching support to their families.

Older people's accumulated wealth is important for launching younger generations into economic independence, and for underwriting their economic risks, such as unemployment, ill health and incompetence. Those with pensions often use pension

income to secure the livelihoods of whole family networks.

However, parents' generosity to their children is not necessarily matched by reciprocal support in old age, leaving many older people vulnerable. This raises important policy implications for older people's welfare and security in rural Indonesia.

'Pillars of the family' – support provided by the elderly in Indonesia

*Elisabeth Schröder-Butterfill
Oxford Institute of Ageing, 2002*

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Survival strategies in north-east Russia

Social networks are extremely important in areas where people have little interaction with governments and NGOs, concludes a study in the far north-east of Russia.

Older people in Magadan, a former *gulag*, are living on pensions less than half the state subsistence minimum. Their savings were wiped out with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In response to lack of money, older people are growing vegetables on a hill outside the town. This activity has led to social networks providing various forms of support.

Members of a social network work together to harvest their crops before the frost comes.

They take turns to guard crops, and share supplies if any member's crops fail or they run out of food during the winter.

Crucially, members support each other emotionally through the winter, mainly by phone.

The (re)creation of human capital in Russia's far north east: survival strategies of the elderly in Magadan oblast

*John Round
University of Birmingham, 2002*

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Boost in Latin America

The Inter-American Development Bank has launched a US\$1 million programme to support the development of older people's organisations and networks in four countries in Latin America.

The 15-month programme aims to increase older people's economic, social and political participation in Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, as part of an overall objective to contribute to the reduction of poverty of poor, older people.

The programme is being managed by HelpAge International and Tiempos, a regional network of organisations working with older people.

The programme aims to build the capacity of Tiempos to support the development of national networks of older people, strengthen national networks to support organisations of older people, build and strengthen coordinating mechanisms between state and civil society, and identify possible new national projects

for governments for funding in the future.

The programme follows the recommendations of the Bank's five-year action plan to promote active and healthy ageing, agreed in 2000 (A&D 7).

'The real value of the project will lie in the new opportunity it offers to unite efforts and to link individual experiences to regional and international processes,' says Valerie Mealla, HelpAge International regional representative for Latin America.

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World Development Report 2004

The World Development Report 2004 will look at how to make services work for poor people, to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

The team preparing the World Bank report are gathering material through a series of consultations in different countries. Early in 2003, comments on the draft document will be sought via the World Bank's website.

Older people face special barriers to accessing quality services, because of discrimination, mobility constraints, lack of awareness by service providers and a bias in service provision towards the young.

Those concerned with ensuring that older people's needs and rights are addressed in the report can keep in touch with the consultation process by visiting the website.

World Development Report website:

<http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr/wdr2004/>

More information:

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Myths and misconceptions

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

Older people cannot learn

There is plenty of evidence to show that the ability to learn does not diminish – although opportunities to learn in the formal sense certainly do.

HelpAge International's programme experience shows that older people can and want to learn.

In Peru, Mozambique and Tanzania, older people have been trained as counsellors to advise other older people about their rights.

'Now I've had this training, I feel I can go to people's houses, schools and other institutions and talk about the right of older people to be respected,' said an older counsellor in Peru.

In South Africa, older people have been trained to provide literacy education to other older people. 'Now I can read the telephone accounts, stories in the newspaper, and instructions on medication bottles,' said one older learner. 'Education is second only to life itself.'

Older people continually take on new roles – for example, to cope with emergencies and the effects of HIV/AIDS. But these are often not considered relevant to learning, because of the way that learning is associated with formal education.

Lifelong access to education, training and development resources is a right and a necessity to tackle the discrimination older people face. Stereotypes that portray older people as unable to learn new skills, or being too wedded to past practices, need to be challenged.



Older people train as counsellors in Mozambique.

Briefing

Analysis of current topics in ageing

6

Pensions for reducing poverty

Can pensions in poorer countries both fulfil a welfare function and contribute to economic development? A&D examines evidence to suggest that extending social security coverage can help to reduce poverty.

Across the world, populations are ageing. In developing countries, the probability of experiencing poverty increases in later life. Rapid population ageing in developing countries will therefore have important implications for poverty levels and poverty reduction strategies.

In recent years, the international development debate has started to encompass concepts of social protection. The traditional distinction between developmental measures, which are said to engage poor people actively, and 'safety nets' distributed to passive recipients, has begun to be challenged.

Different organisations take broad or narrow views of social protection. For example, the Asia Development Bank's social protection programme covers labour market policies and programmes, social insurance programmes, social assistance, small-scale and area-based schemes (including micro-insurance, community-based social funds and disaster preparedness) and child protection.

By contrast, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in keeping with its mandate to promote international monetary cooperation, balanced trade growth and a stable exchange rate system, takes a more restrictive view. The IMF sees social protection primarily as social safety nets, compensating poor people for the negative effects of macro-economic policy interventions, such as currency devaluation.

As poverty deepens in parts of the developing world, social protection

measures to enhance poor people's capacity to manage risks and 'lift' themselves out of poverty become increasingly important. It is therefore significant that both the World Bank and IMF are addressing the social protection dimensions of their policies.

Within the World Bank, social protection is an increasingly important element in an evolving mission of poverty reduction. Traditionally, the World Bank's social protection strategies have encompassed labour market intervention, social insurance (including pensions), and social safety nets (including social funds). However, the Bank is moving towards an understanding of social protection not only as safety nets for the poor, but also as a springboard to help poor people take on higher-return activities with less concern about the risks.

This approach allows people to move out of poverty, while still providing support for those in most need. However, the World Bank does not go so far as to identify older people as a population group to be targeted for development support via social protection – it still views them primarily as requiring safety net support.

Social protection measures

Social protection can perhaps be best defined as those policies and interventions that both protect and promote the livelihoods and welfare of poor people. Measures range from labour market interventions, public unemployment or old-age insurance, and housing, food and health benefits, to targeted income support.

Social protection needs to be considered in relation to other forms of support to poor people. Of these, healthcare undoubtedly has the most impact. Older people do not wish to be dependent. When asked to identify priorities for improving their livelihoods and

wellbeing, older people in developing countries consistently refer to income security and health, recognising the critical role of good health in helping them maintain their independence.

Another key issue is proof of entitlement to health and income support, and to assets, such as land.

Research also indicates that access to credit, and to education

and literacy programmes, may well be denied on grounds of age.

Public policy is not solely responsible for the declining position of older people in developing countries. The impact of rapid demographic transition and socio-economic change has also undermined old-age security, particularly family support.

However, social policy has often exacerbated the problems faced



Older women make food to sell in India.

Old-age poverty in developing countries

- By 2050, people aged over 60 will account for 10 per cent of the population in Africa and 23 per cent in Asia and Latin America, according to United Nations estimates.
- Three quarters of the world's older people will live in developing countries by 2050.
- Fewer than 20 per cent of people aged over 60 in the developing world receive any formal social protection.
- Globalisation, changes in labour market conditions and social sector reforms have had an adverse effect on older people's livelihoods.

by older people. Denying access to health and sanitation facilities, bank loans and credit schemes, and appropriate education and information weakens their ability to participate in society.

Nevertheless, social policy clearly has an important role to play in combating older people's exclusion. Public support and informal systems have sometimes been seen as mutually exclusive, for fear that public transfers will 'crowd out' private support systems. A more useful approach may be to view public and private

transfers as complementary – although this leaves unresolved the question of the extent and nature of each.

Rising role of pensions

As social protection is increasingly understood to have a development dimension, pensions have begun to have a place in the development debate. The World Bank's 1994 report, *Averting the old age crisis: policies to protect the old and promote growth*, both drew attention to the implications of population ageing in the developing world, and raised the profile of pensions in the context of development policy.

Pension reform based on the World Bank model was implemented in parts of Latin America and in some transition countries of East and Central Europe. South Africa and Brazil reformed their basic pension provision to achieve near-universal coverage.

The case is now being made that pensions in low and middle-income countries can secure the aims of both social welfare and economic development. There is growing documentary evidence to show that extending social security coverage can help to reduce poverty.

In Brazil, for example, rural old-age pensions are lifting households above the poverty line, facilitating investment in agricultural production, increasing intergenerational transfers and reducing rural-urban migration.

In South Africa, the means-tested pension is recognised by the government as a critical feature of its anti-poverty programme. A number of studies demonstrate that the pension serves as an effective form of wealth redistribution, because it reaches poor households, benefits the poorest children economically, and improves the health of all members of the household. (See also Talking point on page 9.)

Research in Namibia demonstrates

the use of the pension in educating and feeding pensioners' children and grandchildren, and paying for shelter, water and housing.

It has been calculated that the revenue required to provide everyone over the age of 65 in 'least developed countries' with a non-contributory pension equal to 30 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) would be less than 1 per cent of GDP. By 2050, it would increase to only 1.6-2.3 per cent.

However, the feasibility of publicly-provided basic pensions needs to be explored further, since their ultimate impact depends on how efficiently they are administered. There is an urgent need to tackle problems related to decentralised disbursement of social protection funds in programmes of institutional reform.

For example, in Bolivia, studies undertaken by Defensor del Pueblo (the human rights ombudsman) in close collaboration with national organisations and networks of older people demonstrate that 37 per cent of people aged over 65 who are entitled to free healthcare are not receiving their benefits. A third of Bolivia's municipalities have no systems or registers to check eligibility. They also lack means of disbursement.

In India, a means-tested pension of US\$2 a month is taken up by fewer than 20 per cent of those eligible. Research by HelpAge India will examine the reasons for the low take-up, and the impact of the pension on recipients and their households. A range of measures to increase the take-up rate will be explored.

Ageing on the agenda

The case for investment in development is now firmly on the agenda of most governments, which have, in recent years, signed up to a number of international agreements to eradicate extreme poverty, hunger and social exclusion.

The Millennium Development Goals provide a framework for national and international poverty responses and associated investment regimes, including those relating to trade, environment and social sustainability.

Older people are not referred to in the Millennium Development Goals; however, subsequent agreements, including Financing for Development (Monterrey 2002) and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 recognise the urgency of addressing their needs. The Madrid Plan explicitly commits governments to including older people in programmes designed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Older people have not featured on the development agenda until very recently. Little is generally known about the impact of current development policy and related investment on their wellbeing and capacity to contribute to their families and communities. Development institutions and their multilateral and regional partners do not apply age-related measurement targets and impact indicators.

However, in the minority of developing countries that provide some social protection to older people there is some evidence that this support reduces poverty not only among older people, but across the generations. At the same time, the acknowledgement by development thinkers that social protection has a role in reducing poverty and promoting social integration is an important step forward.

This is an edited version of a paper presented by HelpAge International at a seminar, 'Population Aging and Development: New Strategies for Social Protection' in Washington DC, October 2002.

The full text of the paper (including references) can be downloaded from the HelpAge International website at: <http://www.helpage.org>

A report of the seminar will be available in April 2003.



Brent Madison/HelpAge International

- Migration and HIV/AIDS have weakened family support to older people.
- Older women are more likely to be widowed, living in poor health and discriminated against in employment and ownership of assets than older men.
- Abuse of older people is increasing, linked to increasing poverty and family breakdown.

Profile

Taking older people's interests forward

8

Claiming citizens' rights

Older people in Bolivia are being supported to claim their entitlement to pensions, free healthcare and protection from abuse by the Social-Legal Centre in La Paz, write Sonia Cuentas and Sylvia Beales.

Bolivia ranks among the poorest countries in Latin America, and older people make up the poorest sector of society. Although the *bonosol*, a small, annual pension, was introduced in 1997, and the *seguros medico gratuito de vejez*, a free healthcare scheme, was introduced in 2001, many older people lack identity papers to claim their entitlements.

Birth certificates were only introduced in the 1950s, and registering as an adult is an expensive and complicated process.

Non Spanish-speaking older people from indigenous groups in rural areas face particular difficulty, especially older women.

Research by CIPE, a Bolivian development agency, shows that older women receive as little as 50 bolivianos (US\$4) a month from their families to support themselves and children in their care. The *bonosol* would make a difference, but they are unable to claim it.

In 2002, the government adopted a national plan for older people and established a vice-ministry for ageing. However, resources have not been made available to support these developments.

The difficulty in claiming the *bonosol* was the catalyst for establishing the Social-Legal Centre. The idea took root in the wake of efforts by the Archbishop of La Paz, the older people's network, DEFAN, and HelpAge International to provide a solution to older people's difficulty in proving their age. Mediation with the government resulted in a provisional system in which older people could produce witnesses, instead of paperwork, to prove their age.

This development showed what



Indigenous older women in rural areas of Bolivia face difficulty proving their entitlement to pensions and free healthcare.

Nicky Packman/HelpAge International

could be done by joining forces. It also underlined the lack of government provision to tackle older people's vulnerability. With funding from the UK Department for International Development and the European Commission, facilitated by HelpAge International, the Social-Legal Centre was established in 1998.

The centre is housed in a room in the Archbishop's office in the centre of La Paz. It is staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of social workers and students on

placements, a part-time legal advisor, a psychologist, and members of DEFAN. It works with a range of organisations including local government, ministries, schools and colleges, and the police.

Older people from rural areas travel for days, spending their savings on transport, to use the centre's services, which are free of charge. The centre has become known as a place where older people can get together and support each other to claim their

rights. It is also the regular meeting place of Bolivia's Council of Venerable Older People.

The core of the centre's work is still obtaining documentation. However, the centre also runs training programmes to strengthen older people's groups, campaigns for policies for older people to be implemented, carries out research, and trains local authorities, service providers, the police, schools and colleges on older people's rights.

Research into older people's experiences of the legal system and health service, in collaboration with the Bolivian human rights ombudsman, Defensor del Pueblo, resulted in the publication by Defensor in 2002 of the take-up rate of the free healthcare scheme. Only 37 per cent of those eligible were found to be using it, because of difficulty accessing services and lack of documentation, particularly in rural areas.

Collaboration with the ombudsman has helped to focus attention on elder abuse. The centre is registering cases of abuse against older people, and supporting mediation between older people and the government, and older people and their families. It is tracking abusive practices towards the older poor by state and related institutions, such as banks, and developing a methodology to deal with extreme cases of abuse.

As Don Manuel, president of the older people's group, Nuevo Amanecer (New Dawn), says: 'Organising has taken off the bandages that made us blind. We understand our rights now, and can claim our new citizenship.'

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Talking point

Understanding older people's experience

9

Stretching the safety net

In South Africa, the non-contributory state pension is a vital source of family income, especially in households hit by high unemployment and HIV/AIDS, as the following three stories show.



Sarah Graham-Brown/HelpAge International

Mrs Lembe, who looks after nine grandchildren.

Mrs Lembe, who is 68, looks after nine grandchildren in Ennerdale, near Johannesburg. The children were left behind by three of her daughters, who all died of AIDS.

Mrs Lembe looked after her daughters when they were sick. Two were unmarried and one was divorced. She had to pay for transport to take her daughters to

clinics and hospitals. She received help to pay for the funerals of her first two daughters to die, but she is still paying off a loan against her pension for the funeral of the third.

Mrs Lembe, who cannot walk more than a few yards, is now bringing up her three granddaughters and six grandsons on her pension.



Maria Bapela with her family.

Maria Bapela, who is in her mid-70s, lives in Mamelodi with three younger generations of her family, including her daughter Margaret, her teenage grandson Timothy (Margaret's son), and three great-grandchildren, left behind by Margaret's two daughters who died of AIDS.

The children's fathers provide little support – one is unemployed, and the other sometimes helps, but his contributions are erratic. Margaret had a job before she and her husband parted, but the job came to an end after a long strike.

Also living in the family are three more of Maria's grandchildren, aged 19-28, who are all unemployed, and the baby of one of them.

The family of nine rely on Maria's state pension of 640 rands, plus 600 rands a month rent from rooms at the back of the house belonging to Maria, and 450 rands rent from the house that Margaret lived in with her husband.

Pauline Motaung has been looking after three grandchildren since her daughter died of AIDS two years ago – the last of her four adult children to die. 'If the parents leave the children, you just carry on with it,' she says. 'You have no choice.'

At the age of 87, Pauline finds that being a parent again is not easy, especially without her husband, who died almost forty years ago. 'It's been an uphill struggle,' she admits.

The family, who live in Mamelodi township on the outskirts of Pretoria, live on Pauline's pension of 640 rands (US\$64) a month, of which almost two-thirds goes on rent, and a foster-care grant of a similar amount, secured for her by local voluntary organisation Tateni Home Care Services.

Tateni volunteers have also brought food parcels, helped find school uniforms, cared for the family when Pauline was sick, and negotiated with the local school to waive school fees until the foster-care grant came through. At 120 rands, school fees for the three children are equivalent to almost three weeks' pension money. 'I spend every cent I have. There is nothing to save,' says Pauline.

Often, Tateni volunteers seek out aunts or other relatives who might care for children orphaned by AIDS. But usually the grandparents become carers. 'Of the 180 families we are working with right now, over a hundred are run by grandparents, usually with only their pensions for income,' says Veronica Khosa, who runs Tateni.



Pauline Motaung with her three grandchildren.

John Cobb/HelpAge International

South African economy

- More than half of South Africa's 42 million people live on less than US\$2 a day.
- Nearly 1 million jobs have been lost since 1994.
- More than a quarter of the workforce are unemployed.
- Almost the only safety nets are a child support grant for single mothers with children under age seven, and the state-funded old-age pension.
- Foster-care grants are available but are hard to obtain.
- One pension must often support jobless children and grandchildren, and in some cases extended families of more than 20 people.

Source: <http://www.globalaging.org/pension/world/SouthAfricaExper.htm>

Resources

New publications, websites, conferences and courses

10

Journal 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

National

Financial crisis, health outcomes and ageing: Mexico in the 1980s and 1990s

D M Cutler et al., J. Public Economics 84:2 (May 2002)

Ageing trends in an agrarian state – a case study of the Punjab

K P Singh, Guru Nanak J. Sociology 22:1 (2001)

Ageing in place – is home modification a viable solution for Singapore?

K M Grace Wong and K Addae-Dapaah, Int. J. Housing Science and its Applications 26:1 (2002)

Living arrangements and socio-demographic conditions of older adults in Cambodia

Z Zimmer and S Kiry Kim, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 16:4 (2001)

Community-based service for the frail elderly in China

J C B Leung and Y C Wong, Int. Social Work 45:2 (April 2002)

Poverty and single elders in Hong Kong

A La Grange and B Y Lock, Ageing and Society 22:2 (2002)

Care services for frail older people in South Korea

K M Oh and A M Warnes, Ageing and Society 21:6 (2001)

Attitudes towards aging among Pacific Islander health students in Fiji

S Gattuso and A Shadbolt, Educ. Gerontology 28:2 (February 2002)

A time ignored? About the role of the Soviet period biographies of older Estonians

A Koresaar, Ethnologia Fennica 29 (2001)

International

Life expectancy is consistently underestimated, say researchers

C White, BMJ 324 (18 May 2002)

Population ageing and rural development in poorer countries

L Stloukal, BOLD 12:3 (2002)

Population ageing in the ASEAN countries

Y M Teng, BOLD 12:2 (2002)

Ageing population is increasing, warns UN secretary general

The Lancet, 9314 (2002)

Globalization, population, aging and ethics

L Polivka, J. Aging and Identity 6:3 (Sept 2001)

Population ageing and demographic transition in Asia

M B Concepcion, Philippine Quarterly of Culture and Society 29:1 (2001)

Health

Compression of morbidity and active ageing: key priorities for public health policy in the 21st century

A Kalache et al., World Health Organization Bulletin 80:3 (2002)

Prevalence of sleep complaints and associated factors in community-dwelling older people in Brazil: the Bambui health and ageing study (BHAS)

F L Rocha et al., Sleep Medicine 3:3 (2002)

Prevalence of visual impairment, blindness and cataract surgery in the Hong Kong elderly

J J Michon et al., British J. of Ophthalmology 86:2 (February 2002)

Health status of the rural elderly

V Kumar et al., J. Rural Health 17:4 (2001)

Ageing and medicine

J Grimley Evans, J. Int. Medicine 249:s741 (February 2001)

Ageing of populations and the future of health care plans

J F Outreville, BOLD 12:3 (2002)

Lifespan does not measure ageing

A Kowald, Biogerontology 3:3 (2002)

HIV/AIDS

How HIV/AIDS affects older people

G Paul, Ageways 61 (December 2002). Special issue on HIV/AIDS and older people.

Demography

Broken limits to life expectancy

J Oeppen and J W Vaupel, Science 296 (10 May 2002)

Ageing in the 21st century

Social Development Review 6:1 (Dec 2001/March 2002)

Cultural/cross-cultural

Care and inheritance: Japanese and English perspectives on the 'generational contract'

M Izuhara, Ageing and Society 22:1 (2002)

An excess of culture: the myth of shared care in the Chinese community in Britain

S Chiu and S Yu, Ageing and Society 21:6 (2002)

'We mourn a young person but celebrate the full life of an old one': comparative observations on the funeral rites of a young and an old Bura

C Y Mtaku, Borno Museum Society Newsletter 46/47 (2001)

An eco-demographic study of two culturally and occupationally different tribes: the Khampati and Miju Mishmi of Arunachal Pradesh

D K Adat and B K Mandal, Vanyajati 49:4 (2001)

Family issues

Ageing and the changing role of the family and the community: an African perspective

N Apt, Int. Social Security Review 55:1 (Jan-Mar 2002)

The kindness of mothers: ideals and practice of Buddhist filial piety

K-T Sung, J. Aging and Identity 6:3 (Mar 2002)

Family caregiving of the elderly in Botswana: boundaries of culturally acceptable options and resources

S Shaibu and M I Wallhagen, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 17:2 (2002)

Lateral and vertical intergenerational exchange in rural Malawi

A A Weinreb, J. Cross Cult. Ger. 17:2 (2002)

Kinship structure and care of the aged in Bangladesh

P C Sarkar and L Ghosh, South Asian Anthropologist 1:1 (2001)

Gender

Determinants of living arrangements of Lesotho's elderly female population

J M Chuks, J. Int. Women's Studies [online] 3:2 (May 2002)

Knowledge and beliefs of breast cancer among elderly women in Puerto Rico

M S Ayendez, Puerto Rico Health Sciences J. 20:4 (2001)

Different ways to hurt: an elderly woman's narrative of suffering

H K Black, J. Aging and Identity 7:1 (Mar 2002)

Sexual activity among older Thais: the influence of age, gender and health

J K N Chayovan, J. Cross Cult. Geront. 16:2 (2001)

Survival strategies of the elderly in Gwembe Valley, Zambia: gender, residence and kin networks

L Cliggett, J. Cross Cult. Geront. 16:4 (2001)

Socio-economic-psychological problems of aged women in India

A K Kardigudda, Man in India 81:3/4 (2001)

Effect of income, education and religion on the life satisfaction of the elderly retired women

S S Rayanagoudar et al, Man in India 81:3/4 (2001)

Prophets and profits: gendered and generational visions of wealth and value in Senegalese Murid households

B A Buggenhagen, J. Religion in Africa 31:4 (2001)

Economic

Formal social protection for older people in developing countries: three different approaches

P Lloyd-Sherlock, J. Soc. Policy 31:4

Social policy and population ageing: challenges for north and south

Peter Lloyd-Sherlock, Int. J. Epidemiology 2002:31

'Crowding in' care, security and micro-enterprise formation: revisiting the role of the state in poverty reduction and in development

F Lund, J. Int. Dev. 14 (2002)

Old-age labour supply in the developing world

L A Cameron and D A Cobb-Clark, Applied Economics Letters 9:10 (15 August 2002)

How well does a partnership in pensions really work? The Israeli public/private pension mix

J Gal, Ageing and Society 22:2 (2002)

Thinking about ageing issues

D D Hoskins, Int. Social Security Rev. 55:1 (Jan-Mar 2002)

Investing public pensions in the stock market: implications for risk sharing, capital formation and public policy in the developed and developing world

D Lucas, Int. Rev. Finance 2:3 (Sept 2001)

The challenge of ageing for social security

R Sigg, Int. Social Security Rev. 55:1 (Jan-Mar 2002)

Pressed by the poor, South Africa studies a welfare system

J Jeter, Int. Herald Tribune 10 July 2002

Migration issues

Replacement migration, or why everyone is going to have to live in Korea: a fable for our times from the United Nations

D A Coleman, Philosophical Transactions: Biological Sciences 357 (29 April 2002)

Population ageing and the role of immigration

G Withers, Australian Econ. Rev. 35:1 (March 2002)

Retirement migration and transnational lifestyles

P Gustafson, Ageing and Society
21:4 (2001)

The social and psychological effect of an adult child's emigration on non-immigrant Asian Indian elderly parents

H B Miltiades, J. Cross Cult. Geront.
17:1 (2002)

Wellbeing

Respect and reciprocity: care of elderly people in rural Ghana

S van der Geest, J. Cross Cult. Ger.
17:1 (2002)

Struggling to be happy – even when I'm old

M Gullan-Whur, J. Applied Philosophy
19:1 (2002)

The uncharted waters of emotion: ethnicity, trait emotion and emotion expression in older adults

N S Consedine and C Magai, J. Cross Cult. Geront. 17:1 (2002)

Age differences in perceived positive affect, negative affect, and affect balance in middle and old age

M Pinquart, J. Happiness Studies 2:4 (2001)

A strategy for active ageing

A Walker, Int. Social Security Rev. 55:1 (Jan-Mar 2002)

Reports

The Brazilian pension system: recent reforms and challenges ahead

M Bonturi, OECD (2002)
[http://appli1.oecd.org/olis/2002doc.nsf/linkto/eco-wkp\(2002\)26/\\$FILE/JT00130533.pdf](http://appli1.oecd.org/olis/2002doc.nsf/linkto/eco-wkp(2002)26/$FILE/JT00130533.pdf)

Coping with population ageing in Hungary

A Burns and J Cekota, OECD (2002)
[http://appli1.oecd.org/olis/2002doc.nsf/linkto/eco-wkp\(2002\)24/\\$FILE/JT00130370.pdf](http://appli1.oecd.org/olis/2002doc.nsf/linkto/eco-wkp(2002)24/$FILE/JT00130370.pdf)

Trends in international migration: SOPEMI 2000 edition

OECD Paris (January 2001)

Ageing and AIDS in Africa

R deGraft Agyarko, Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization, Research Update (April 2002)
<http://www.who.int/hpr/ageing/hivimpact.htm>

Impact of AIDS on older people in Africa: Zimbabwe case study

World Health Organization
<http://www.who.int/hpr/ageing/hivimpact.htm>

Plan consulta: estrategias para formular programas de desarrollo par personas mayores en Argentina

Plan consulta sobre la situación de las personas mayores en Chile [both Spanish only]

HelpAge International Latin America Regional Development Centre, Casilla 2217, La Paz, Bolivia
Email: helpage.bolivia@unete.com



Electronic magazine

Voices on Ageing

The Drum Beat 150 (24 June 2002)
http://www.comminit.com/drum_beat_150.html

Website

AARP (formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons) has launched an international section of its website:

<http://www.aarp.org/international>

Conference report

Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of proceedings, political declaration and final version of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/waa/index.html>

Books

Family change and housing in post-war Japanese society: the experiences of older women

M Izuwara
Ashgate Publishing Ltd (2000). 196 pp. ISBN 0 7546 1284 8

The spiritual dimension of ageing

E MacKinlay
Jessica Kingsley Publishers (2001). 304 pp. ISBN 1 84310 008 8

Reforms for an ageing society

OECD (2000). 220 pp.
Also in French and electronically.
<http://www.oecd.org>

Voices from the mountain

Oral testimonies from Cerro de Pasco, Peru, and south-west and north-east China (two more in series)
£5 (free to developing countries)
Panos Institute, 9 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD, UK.
Email: kellyh@panoslondon.org.uk
<http://www.panos.org.uk>

Africa and Asia in comparative economic perspective

P Lawrence and C Thirtle (eds)
Palgrave Publishers (2001)
Includes chapter on 'Population ageing and care of the elderly: what are the lessons of Asia for sub-Saharan Africa?' by M Messkoub
ISBN 0 333 79029 4

Events

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/geriatricsafrica.html>

Staying Poor: Chronic Poverty and Development Policy

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

Healthy Old Age

1st International Congress, AMECA
21-25 April 2003, Havana, Cuba
Teresa Huerta Losada
Email: longevidad2003@infomed.sld.cu

Protecting Every Generation

2nd World Congress on Family Violence
21-26 June 2003, Prague, Czech Republic
<http://www.wcfv.org>

Global Ageing: Partnering in Service Solutions

5th IAHSIA International Conference
23-25 June 2003, Sydney, Australia
Reem Siddiqi, IAHSIA, 2519 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington DC, 20008-1520, USA.
Tel: +1 202 508 9468
Fax: +1 202 220 0041
Email: rsiddiqi@eahsa.org
<http://www.iahsa.net>

Pensions in India

June 2003, Oxford, UK
Oxford Institute of Ageing
<http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk>

Old Age and Poverty

September 2003, Oxford, UK
Oxford Institute of Ageing (see above)

Latin American Gerontology Congress
3-6 September 2003, Santiago, Chile
Email: ppmarin@med.puc.cl

7th Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology

24-28 November 2003, Tokyo
International Forum, Japan
<http://www.convention.co.jp/aorcg7>

Courses

Ageing in Africa

17-21 March 2003, Nairobi, Kenya
US\$400 (US\$150 non-residential)
HelpAge International Africa Regional Development Centre, PO Box 00800, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya.
Email: helpage@africaonline.co.uk

Economic and Financial Aspects of Ageing

31 March-11 April 2003, Malta
Closing date: 21 February
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>

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: roj.troisi@inia.org.mt

Ageing, Health and Well-being in Older Populations

7-11 April 2003, London, UK
£575 (excluding transport, accommodation and meals).
Deborah Curle, Course Administrator, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP, UK.
Email: deborah.curle@lshtm.ac.uk
<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk>

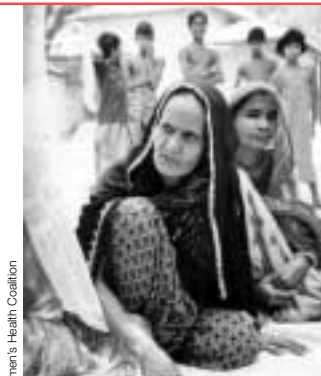
Meeting the Challenge of Population Ageing: Public Policy and Service Provision for Older People

30 June-11 July 2003, Norwich and Sheffield, UK
£2,700 (including accommodation)
Training Office, Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK.
Email: odg.train@uea.ac.uk
<http://www.uea.ac.uk>

Research update

Major new projects

12



Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition

A study in Bangladesh is researching primary health care services for older people.

Primary health care in later life

A project aimed at improving the quality of life of older people in rural communities in Bangladesh and Vietnam, by improving primary health care services, is being carried out by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), the Health Strategy and Policy Institute, Vietnam, the Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, and the University of East Anglia, UK.

The project includes researching quality of life and primary health care services for older people, and developing, implementing and evaluating interventions, including training and awareness-raising of health workers, carers, older people themselves and local communities.

The project runs from October 2002 to September 2005, with funding from the European Commission.

Contact:

Priti Biswas, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK.
Tel: +44 1603 593678
Fax: +44 1603 591170
Email: p.biswas@uea.ac.uk

Dr Zarina Nahar Kabir
Karolinska Institutet
Email: zarkab@ki.se

Old age in Dominica

The Caribbean has one of the fastest-growing older populations in the world. Second to Barbados, Dominica has the largest population of older people in the English-speaking Caribbean, at 12 per cent of the total population.

Research into the needs and views of older people in Dominica has been carried out by HelpAge International and the University of West Indies. The researchers used semi-structured interviews with about 130 older people and 20 others in eight communities. The findings are due in early 2003.

Contact:

Jeff James, HelpAge International Caribbean Regional Development Centre, PO Box 1260, c/o HelpAge St Lucia, Castries, St Lucia.
Tel: +1 758 456 0471
Fax: +1 758 456 0618
Email: helpage@candw.lc

HIV/AIDS in Thailand

Two 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:

Health impacts of co-residence with and care giving to persons with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) on older parents in Thailand (PSC research report 02-527, September 2002) by Kespichayawattana Jiraporn and Mark VanLandingham finds that many parents experienced anxiety, insomnia, fatigue, muscle strain, and head and stomach aches while caring for their ill children.

Community reaction to persons with HIV/AIDS and their parents in Thailand

(PSC research report 02-530) by Mark VanLandingham, Im-em Wassana and Saengtienchai Chanpen finds community reaction to be variable but overall much more positive than one might conclude from existing research on the topic.

Contact:

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

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

Barriers to eye care services

Research commissioned by HelpAge International in Ethiopia has investigated the reason for low uptake of eye care services by older people, where services exist.

Interviews and discussions with 105 older people and others in Axum, Jimma and Hosanna zones showed that low uptake was common, although the reasons varied.

The major barriers were lack of information about services, lack of knowledge about eye care and lack of counselling. In addition, many older people could not afford services, or did not have papers to prove their entitlement.

Reasons given by women included not wanting to spend time away from the household, having less access to resources, and feeling they would be unable to find anyone to accompany them.

The study concludes that community eye care services should not be limited to service delivery, but should also focus on socio-economic dimensions of eye care, including promoting eye care awareness more widely in the household and community.

Identification and analysis of socio-economic barriers to access eye care services by the elderly in Ethiopia

Abiyi Seifu, March 2002

Contact:

Peter Bofin, Programme Manager, HelpAge International, PO Box 3384, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Tel: +251 1 631021
Fax: +251 1 611563
Email: hai@telecom.net.et

Non-contributory pensions

The comparative study of how non-contributory pensions contribute to poverty prevention in South Africa and Brazil, being carried out by the Universities of Manchester, East Anglia, Rio de Janeiro, Western Cape and Rhodes, and HelpAge International (A&D 8) now has a website.

<http://idpm.man.ac.uk/ncpps>

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

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

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

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

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Africa

Email: helpage@africaonline.co.ke

Asia-Pacific

Email: hai@helpageasia.com
<http://www.helpageasia.com>

Caribbean

Email: helpage@candw.lc

East and Central Europe

Email: phinchliff@helpage.org

Latin America

Email: helpage.bolivia@unete.com

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