

Annual Review

2003/2004



HelpAge
International

Leading global action on ageing



‘To be poor offends our senses, because poverty is wretched.’

Antigua and Barbuda Pensioners’ Association president, Eddie Hunte.

HelpAge International is promoting pensions for older people as part of a package of development aid aimed at alleviating chronic poverty.

Front cover photo: Worke Tessma with her great granddaughter Hawi Bekele at their home in Addis Ababa.

Photo: Polly Mathewson/HelpAge International

Putting ageing on the agenda

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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.

Living in chronic poverty

Today more than one billion people live on less than a dollar a day. One in five of these is over 60.

In less than fifty years, one-fifth of the world's population will be aged 60 or over. Already two-thirds of over-60s live in developing countries. The problem is not that there are too many older people, but that too many older people, especially older women, live in chronic poverty.

Traditionally, older people in developing countries have received support from their families in return for work in the home or on the farm. But increasingly, unemployment, migration, conflict or HIV/AIDS are making this impossible.

Moreover, younger generations are increasingly dependent on their older relatives – in southern Africa, more than half of orphans live with their grandparents.

The international community is becoming aware that achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 will require greater financial commitment and new approaches.

A new agenda focusing less on economic growth, and more on reaching those in greatest poverty, is emerging. Social protection to provide healthcare, education and income security is a clear priority.

Linking practice and policy

The adoption two years ago of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which commits governments to including older people in policies and programmes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, has given us a framework for linking the practical work we are doing at grassroots level with policy development work.

We are pleased to report some significant achievements in this respect. Older people who are caring for sick family members or orphans are now included in USAID's spending guidelines, and UNICEF's new global framework for protection and support to orphans and vulnerable children recognises the need to support older carers.

The Tanzania Government is including older people in a review of its poverty reduction strategy, and the United Nations Development Programme has asked for our help in developing a practice note on age-sensitive approaches to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Promoting social pensions

But there is a great deal more for us to do. Our research highlights the effectiveness of cash transfers to reduce older people's poverty and support multi-generational households. Promoting social pensions as part of a package of social protection measures will be a major focus of our work in the coming year.

A unique strength of HelpAge International is its network structure, connecting a wide range of organisations in many parts of the world. We will continue to work to create opportunities for these organisations to engage with governments and other organisations to develop practical solutions to the problems of older people.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all our partners, donors and staff who have worked so hard this year. Their support has enabled HelpAge International to make a real difference to the lives of older people and improve their chances for the future.

Horace Deets
Chair

Todd Petersen
Chief Executive Officer

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by 159 governments in 2002, represented a breakthrough in recognising older people's right to development. The Madrid Plan refers specifically to the Millennium Development Goals, committing governments to including older people in strategies to halve extreme poverty by 2015.

Key challenges for us are to work with international agencies, governments and civil society to turn these commitments into a reality. We are investigating the best ways to tackle older people's poverty.

Achievements

Into the mainstream

■ We advised United Nations institutions on how to involve older people in monitoring implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

■ Our partners are supporting older citizens' groups in Bangladesh (*below*), Bolivia, Jamaica, Kenya and Tanzania to monitor their governments' progress in implementing the Madrid Plan, focusing primarily on health services, with funding from DFID. We have started similar work in Ethiopia and Uganda.



Resource Integration Centre

■ Significantly, the United Nations Development Programme, which is responsible for reporting progress on the Millennium Development Goals, has asked us to help them develop a practice note on human rights, ageing and the Millennium Development Goals.



John Cobb/HelpAge International

■ With the Tanzania Government, United Nations and older people's organisations, we brought together representatives of 12 eastern and central African governments to agree ways to include ageing in poverty and other sectoral programmes. Our ongoing work with the Tanzania Government led to older people's issues and voices being included in a review of its poverty reduction strategy.

■ We are influencing European institutions to include inter-generational approaches in their development policies. This year, ageing issues are included in the European Union's new gender regulation.

National policies and research

■ We helped governments in Grenada, Namibia, Peru, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia and Sierra Leone develop national policies on ageing, and we provided advice on how to implement ageing policies in Tanzania, Uganda and Indonesia.

■ In Africa, national policy development is guided by the African Union's Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing, which we helped to draft, and which was formally launched in 2003.

■ We commissioned new analysis of census data in Bolivia, giving for the first time a picture of older people's situation and comparing it with that of other age groups.

■ We conducted research on how pensions alleviate chronic poverty, with academic institutions and NGOs in the UK, Bangladesh, Brazil, India and South Africa. The findings highlight the effectiveness of non-contributory pensions as a means for development.



Hein du Plessis/HelpAge International



‘The Bonosol is some help... I bought some food and some clothes and schoolbooks for the grandchildren.’

Doña Eulogía Guzmán, who lives with her two granddaughters in the high plains of northern Potosí, Bolivia.

Social-legal centres set up with HelpAge International's assistance are helping older people in Bolivia to prove their entitlement to the Bonosol, the universal state pension.

Meeting immediate needs

Old age brings a reduced capacity to sustain a livelihood, as well as difficulties in accessing health care and other essential services, increasing the likelihood of older people becoming and remaining poor.

Some 80 per cent of older people in developing countries have no regular income. Many older people form solidarity groups, generally around some form of income-generation activity. They then use some of the profits to support other older people and dependants.

We support older people's efforts to earn an income and access healthcare services, and we provide relief in emergencies. We encourage support from other civil society organisations and government departments to sustain this work.

Achievements

Income generation

■ We started new programmes with partners in western China (*below*) and north-west India to help groups of older people improve their livelihoods, with European Union funding.



■ We supported agricultural activities in Cambodia, with local government support. We helped members of older people's associations to set up rice banks to improve food security, and to distribute aid to older people affected by floods.

■ Our partners supported income-generating activities and distributed household items to 26,000 of the poorest older people in 30 countries, with funding from Help the Aged's Adopt-A-Granny sponsorship scheme.



■ Our programme to improve older people's income security in Latin America resulted in older people being included in municipal budgets in Bolivia, Chile and Peru. We researched the effects of free trade on older farmers in the Caribbean and supported income-generating activities in four countries.

Eyesight and health

■ Our health education and eyecare programmes helped thousands of older people in India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zanzibar to retain their sight and their independence. In India, our largest eyecare programme, partners of HelpAge India screened 27,500 older people for cataracts and carried out 5,500 operations.

■ In Kurdish-administered northern Iraq, we supported the rehabilitation of 18 health centres with funding from ECHO. In Bangladesh, our partners worked with older women's groups to improve access to primary health care services.

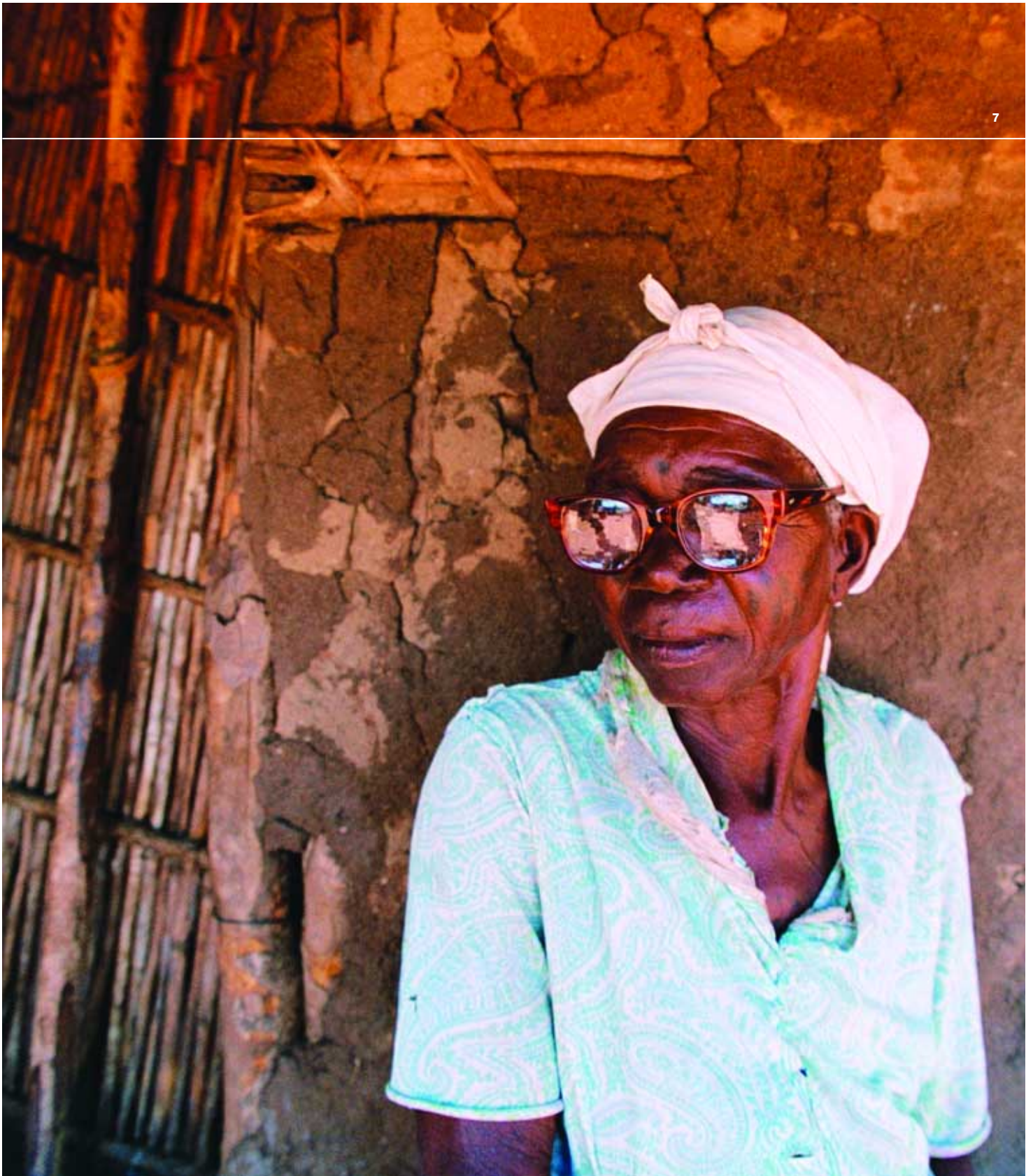
■ We completed a three-year research and training programme on older people's nutrition with universities from 14 countries in Africa and published a summary of the findings.

Emergency aid

■ Severe drought continued to affect southern Africa. Our partners provided seeds and other agricultural inputs to older people and their families in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and to older people affected by floods in Kenya. We helped to restock herds of goats in drought-affected parts of Ethiopia.

■ Our partners provided emergency relief to displaced older people in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and helped older people in Sierra Leone to produce their own food for the first time since the war.

■ The specific needs of older people, and their potential to contribute to relief efforts, are widely overlooked. We lobbied successfully for these issues to be included in revised guidelines on disaster assistance published by Sphere, an international group of humanitarian aid organisations.



‘Now I am able to do cultivation, cooking, washing and many other kinds of work.’

Mrs Mariazinha Gandar, Tete province, Mozambique, after her eye operation.

HelpAge International is working with the Ministry of Health in Mozambique to provide eye care services for older people.

Easing the impact of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is having a devastating impact on older people. More and more older people are not only losing their sons and daughters to the epidemic, but are left to care for orphaned grandchildren.

At least 11 million children have been orphaned by AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, and 1.8 million in Asia. Policy-makers need to recognise who the carers of sick people and orphans are, and provide them with adequate support. There is also a need for more data on HIV infection rates among the over-50s.

Our practical support to families affected by HIV/AIDS has increased substantially, with programmes in ten countries in Africa and Asia. Our efforts to get older people included in policy responses are achieving encouraging results.

Achievements

Recognising carers

■ Together with the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, we published an influential policy report, *Forgotten Families*. This helped to get support for older carers recognised in USAID's spending guidelines and in UNICEF's global framework for protection and support to orphans and vulnerable children.



Sawang Kaewkantha/HelpAge International

■ We took part in a United Nations policy workshop for eight southern African governments on HIV/AIDS and family wellbeing. We organised a regional workshop in Kenya for governments and civil society, highlighting older carers' situation and their need for social protection.

Data for policy and action

■ We collaborated with UNICEF to analyse new data on older carers. For example, in southern Africa, more than half of orphans live with their grandparents, and grandparents' responsibility for orphans is increasing as the epidemic progresses.

■ We started a WHO-funded project in Ethiopia to produce the first data on infection rates among older people.

■ With UNIFEM in Africa we carried out a study on gender aspects of care. In Tanzania we researched the impact of HIV/AIDS on older carers, highlighting families' hardship.



John Cobb/HelpAge International

Support for orphans

■ In Vietnam, older women's clubs, originally set up to support income-generating and social activities, now include HIV/AIDS education at the request of their members.



Hein du Plessis/HelpAge International

■ Our programme with UNICEF in Mozambique has helped 1,800 orphans go to school, mobilised community support and broadcast HIV/AIDS information to more than a million people.

■ We reached 30,000 people with HIV/AIDS education in Sudan and 100 older carers with practical help, and have been asked to extend this work to counter a growing number of orphanages. In Tanzania we trained older people as educators and counsellors.



**‘I do my best to look after the children...
all the children go to school.’**

Chheut, Battambang province, Cambodia, who looks after five grandchildren.

HelpAge International is supporting older people's associations in Cambodia to provide practical support to their members and extending this role to include HIV/AIDS education.

Raising awareness of rights

Social and economic change is resulting in increasing numbers of older people living without traditional means of support, whether from their families or, as in former Soviet countries, the state. Many vulnerable older people are subject to neglect or other forms of abuse.

We are supporting community-based care and older people's self-help initiatives, and raising awareness of ageing issues among the public, civil society and governments, to improve older people's situation and tackle age discrimination. Capacity-building of organisations working with older people is central to many of our activities.

Achievements

Care and self-help

■ We helped partners to set up volunteer-based home-care programmes in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, inspired by HelpAge Korea's work. We will extend this to Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

■ The Balkans includes the poorest countries in Europe and countries recovering from war. We started a programme to promote older people's rights in the region by developing a network of older people's organisations in nine countries, with support from the Big Lottery Fund and European Union.

■ We are helping to set up national networks of older people's self-help groups in Moldova and Kyrgyzstan. We organised age awareness training for NGOs in Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

Claiming entitlements

■ In Colombia, our partner CESTRA is helping ethnic-minority older people who have been displaced by civil war to protect their rights.

■ We are supporting older people's networks and strengthening links with governments in Latin America. In Bolivia (*below*), our partners helped nearly 3,000 older people, mainly indigenous older women from rural areas, to claim pensions.



Antonie Olmos/HelpAge International

■ Our partners in South Africa and Swaziland helped older people take cases of rights abuses to court. Our civic education programme in northern Tanzania, funded by Comic Relief and DFID, has reduced the number of older women accused of being witches. In north-west Tanzania (*below*) we are training older people as legal advisors, enabling more widows to retain their land.



Hein du Plessis/HelpAge International

■ In Mozambique, our partners are promoting older people's rights, so that rural older people are now eligible for the national food subsidy. In South Africa, local governments are funding home care and literacy classes, thanks to pressure from our partners.

Education and awareness

■ Our course on ageing in Africa has been adapted for a new course by Kenyatta University. We ran a workshop for TV professionals in Asia and we supported public events in many countries to mark the International Day of Older Persons (*below*). We produced materials in more than ten languages and increased visits to our website by 46 per cent.



Resource Integration Centre



‘The work is so inspiring. In the very beginning we did not have anything... now every member of our group has their own savings.’

Member of an older people's self-help group in Kyrgyzstan.

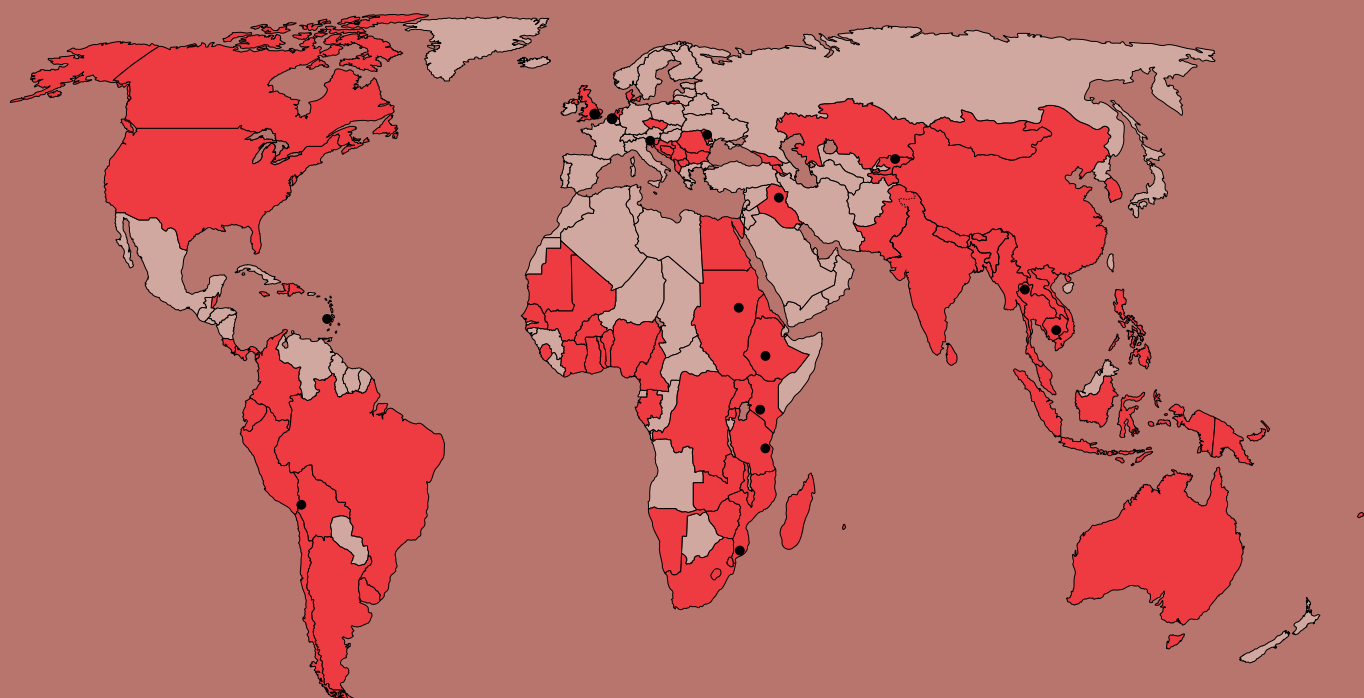
HelpAge International is working with partners to reintegrate marginalised older people into Kyrgyz society by strengthening civil society organisations and their engagement with government.

HelpAge International network

HelpAge International is the only worldwide network of organisations working to improve the lives of disadvantaged older people.

With 67 affiliates in 48 countries, and a wide range of other partners, from grassroots older people's associations to national NGOs, academic institutions, governments and international agencies, the HelpAge International network brings together more than 1,000 organisations in 95 countries.

The network worked this year with around 620,000 older people and their families and communities on practical programmes, reaching 1.6 million people, and benefiting older people more widely through our advocacy and policy work.



Where we work

- Countries with affiliates or other partners
- HelpAge International offices

Affiliates

Caribbean

Action Ageing Jamaica
 Extended Care Through Hope and Optimism (ECHO), Grenada
 Haitian Society for the Blind
 HelpAge Barbados/Barbados National Council on Aging
 HelpAge Belize
 HelpAge St Lucia/National Council of and for Older Persons
 Old People's Welfare Association, Montserrat
 REACH Dominica
 Society of St Vincent de Paul, Antigua

Africa

Associação dos Aposentados de Moçambique (APOSEMO)
 Current Evangelism Ministries, Sierra Leone
 Elim Hlanganani Society for the Care of the Aged, South Africa
 HelpAge Ghana
 HelpAge Kenya
 HelpAge Zimbabwe
 Maseru Women Senior Citizen Association, Lesotho
 Mauritius Family Planning Association
 Muthande Society for the Aged (MUSA), South Africa
 Regional Centre for Welfare of Ageing Persons in Cameroon (RECEWAPEC)
 Senior Citizens' Council, Mauritius
 Sierra Leone Society for the Welfare of the Aged
 Sudanese Society in Care of Older People (SSCOP)
 Uganda Reach the Aged Association

Asia/Pacific

Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition
 China National Committee on Aging
 Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), Philippines
 COTA National Seniors Partnership, Australia
 Foundation for Older People's Development (FOPDEV), Thailand
 HelpAge India
 HelpAge Korea
 HelpAge Sri Lanka

Helping Hand Hong Kong
 Instituto de Acção Social de Macau
 Mongolian Association of Elderly People
 NACSCOM, Malaysia
 Office of Seniors Interests, Australia
 Pakistan Medico International
 Positive Ageing Foundation, Australia
 Resource Integration Centre (RIC), Bangladesh
 Senior Citizens Association of Thailand
 Senior Citizens Council of Thailand
 Singapore Action Group of Elders
 Tsao Foundation, Singapore
 USIAMAS, Malaysia

Europe

Age Concern England
 Caritas Malta HelpAge
 Centre for Policy on Ageing, UK
 Cordaid, Netherlands
 DaneAge Association, Denmark
 Elderly Woman's Activities Centre, Lithuania
 Help the Aged, UK
 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
 Mission Armenia
 Slovene Philanthropy
 Zivot 90, Czech Republic

Latin America

Asociación Gerontológica Costarricense (AGECO), Costa Rica
 Caritas Chile
 CooperAcción, Peru
 Fundación Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones del Trabajo (CESTRA), Colombia
 Mesa de Trabajo de ONGs sobre Personas Mayores, Peru
 Pro Vida Bolivia
 Pro Vida Colombia
 Pro Vida Perú
 Red de Programas Para al Adulto Mayor, Chile

North America

AARP
 Help the Aged (Canada)
 West Virginia University Center on Aging

Regional centres

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 Email: hai@helpage.org

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 Email: helpage.brussels@skynet.be

Finance

Income for the year was £9.6 million, an increase on the previous year. Although Help the Aged, our largest donor, reduced its grant, our income from other sources increased. In particular we had a significant increase in funding from the EU, from £1 million in 2003 to £2 million in 2004. In addition, we attracted new funding for HIV/AIDS work from various donors. We also increased our fundraising via international offices, in response to the decentralisation of many key donors.

Our charitable expenditure was £9.6 million. We used this to fund programmes in health, social care and training, emergency relief and rehabilitation, income and livelihoods, information and advocacy, and organisational development.

At the year end we had reserves of £1.2 million for our programme work in 2004/2005, and £0.3 million in general reserves, in line with our reserves policy.

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 30 April 2004

	£ 000	£ 000
	2004	2003
Income		
Grants for international programmes	9,529	9,115
Donations and other income	48	39
Total income	9,577	9,154

Expenditure

Cost of generating funds	271	269
Charitable expenditure		
Grants to partner organisations	3,962	2,989
Operational programmes	4,584	4,757
Support costs	724	679
Administration	291	279
Total charitable expenditure	9,561	8,704
Total expenditure	9,832	8,973

Directors' statement

This is a summary of information extracted from the annual report and accounts of HelpAge International and may not contain enough information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full statutory annual report and accounts, the auditors' report on those accounts and the annual directors' report can be obtained from HelpAge International at the address on this page and on our website: www.helpage.org

The annual accounts were approved on 6 September 2004 and have been delivered to the Charity Commission and to the Registrar of Companies. The accounts have been audited by an independent auditor who gave an unqualified audit opinion.

On behalf of the Board

The Baroness Greengross of Notting Hill
Director

Dalmer D Hoskins
Director

6 September 2004

Independent auditors' report

We have examined the summarised financial statements set out on this page.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors The directors are responsible as trustees for the preparation of the summary of financial statements. We have agreed to report to the directors our opinion on the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to the directors on 6 September 2004.

Basis of opinion We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2004.

Sayer Vincent
Auditors, London

28 September 2004

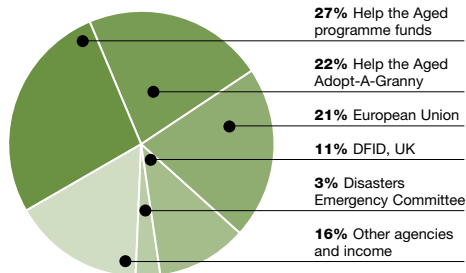
The information on these pages is a summary of our financial activities. The aim has been to present it clearly and to be as accountable as possible to donors. For a copy of our full audited report and accounts please contact:

HelpAge International
PO Box 32832
London N1 9ZN, UK

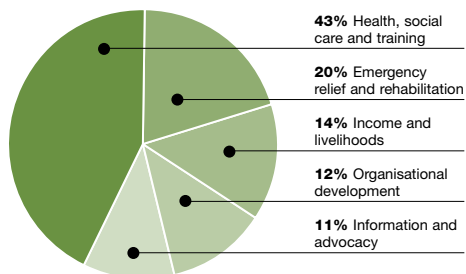
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Email: hai@helpage.org
Web: www.helpage.org

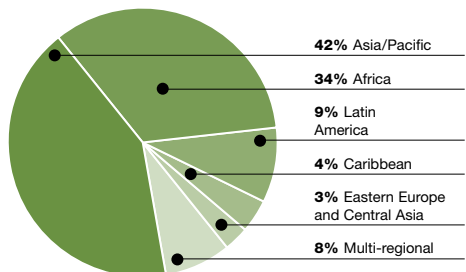
Where the money came from:



How the money was spent: by type of work

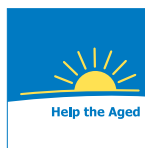


How the money was spent: by region



We are grateful to the following donors for their support:

AARP
 AusAid
 Band Aid Trust
 Big Lottery Fund
 British Embassy, Sudan
 Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
 Christoffel Blindenmission
 Comic Relief
 Commonwealth Foundation
 CordAid
 Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe (DSUF)
 Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI)
 Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Foundation
 Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)
 Elton John Aids Foundation
 European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)
 European Union
 Finnish Government, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
 Global Giving Foundation
 Help the Aged
 Horizontes Foundation
 Inter-American Development Bank
 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 INTRAC
 International Organization for Migration
 Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee
 Japan Foundation
 Mercury Phoenix Trust
 Netherlands Government, Social Policy Division
 Oud in Afrika
 Refugees International Japan
 Rockefeller Foundation
 St Christopher's Trust
 States of Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee
 States of Jersey Overseas Aid Committee
 Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
 Swiss Embassy, Sudan
 Swiss Red Cross
 UK Government, Department for International Development (DFID)
 UNAIDS
 UNICEF
 UNIFEM
 United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
 University of Manchester
 USAID
 World Bank
 World Health Organization
 Our thanks also go to our individual donors for their generous support.



Help the Aged provides core funding to HelpAge International and is also a leading member of HelpAge International's global network of not-for-profit organisations.





Antonio Olmos/HelpAge International

‘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...’

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002.

HelpAge International is working with older people's organisations, governments and international agencies to turn the Madrid Plan into a reality.

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Registered charity no 288180
Company limited by guarantee
Registered in England no 1762840

The Annual Review is also
available on our website.

Board of Directors

as at September 2004

Horace Deets

Chair

Canaan Dube

Vice-chair

Professor Gary Andrews

Professor Nana Apt Van-Ham

The Baroness Greengross of Notting Hill

Dalmer Hoskins

Arun Seth

Vindrani Shillingford

Edith Sayo Skweyiya

Dr Kanwaljit Soin

María del Pilar Trujillo Uribe

Chief Executive Officer

Todd Petersen

Departmental Directors

Malcolm Barter

Jo Elms

Mark Gorman

Adam Platt

HelpAge International

Leading global action on ageing