

Strengthening capacity of humanitarian actors to deliver age and disability inclusive response

Lead Agency: HelpAge International. **Consortium Members:** HelpAge International, Handicap International, RedR UK, CBM International and Disaster ready **Implementing / technical / interested partners:** NDMA-Pakistan, Austrian Red Cross, IFRC, Tearfund, Christian Aid, IRC, Islamic Relief, World Vision, GenCap, WRC and UNHCR **Budget:** £1,043,673 **Preliminary countries of operation:** two countries from Kenya, Pakistan or Democratic Republic of Congo **Timeframe:** Three years

Where and how did this project originate?

The skills, competencies and vulnerabilities of older people and persons with disabilities are routinely neglected in crisis response, despite this demographic constituting up to 25% of a typical disaster affected population. In 2012, HelpAge developed a training programme, **Helping Older People in Emergencies (HOPE)**, in response to a request from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to work with the international community to better deliver humanitarian assistance to older persons. This programme has been delivered to more than 500 humanitarian practitioners from over 19 countries resulting in demonstrable impacts on humanitarian practice. 70% of HOPE training participants stressed the need to maximise training outreach through different formats, and to address old age and disability in future training. An independent evaluation of HOPE funded by ECHO also recommended scaling up the initiative. HelpAge has formalised an Age and Disability (A&D) Consortium to take this forward.

Brief description

With support from the Department for International Development's Disaster Emergency Preparedness Programme, the project will train a pool of 8 specialist "Focal points" who, with the support of the A&D consortium will: a) deliver technical and training support at country level to 6 national and 2 international organisations resulting in 350 technical and field staff trained on age and disability in emergency response; b) work with 10 humanitarian organisations to integrate older people and persons with disability into their responses and organisational protocols and c) through research, support the development of a rigorous and robust evidence base on successful approaches to mainstreaming. Focal Points will also be part of a 'community of practice' – a space in which trained humanitarian actors share experience, good practice, and promote on-going learning and sustainability.

Why is collaboration fundamental to the success of this project?

The consortium-led project will benefit from internal collaboration, as well as wider collaboration with other Start Network projects and agencies to disseminate learning. Links with Government National Disaster Management Authorities (i.e. in Pakistan), the Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities Network and the International Federation of the Red Cross / Crescent provide an excellent opportunity for bringing about lasting change. Partnerships with Harvard Humanitarian Academy and University College London will ensure that the research element of this project is robust and rigorous.

What change does this project envision to achieve?

The primary objective of this project is to improve the quality of humanitarian assistance for older and disabled people in times of crisis. The goal is one of humanitarian programming that is accessible and appropriate for older people and persons with disability. This is a goal that is achieved by raising awareness and building skills of both mainstream and specialist programme staff to allow them to design and deliver response activities that address these needs. The project also demonstrates how the needs of older people and persons with disability can be integrated within the humanitarian system, both, at the local and the global level. This could transform the way the humanitarian system defines vulnerability.

What are the key activities associated with this project?

The project will develop and deliver a Training of Trainers (ToT) curriculum with sector-specific modules and an eLearning component, based on minimum standards on inclusion. The project will then develop agreements with 10 partners who commit to integrate ageing and disability into a country programme, and select the 'Inclusion Focal Points' from these partner organisations. These Focal Points will conduct age and disability mainstreaming assessments in their own organization and develop Organisational Action Plans. They will also deliver 10 national workshops for the wider humanitarian sector. The project will also publish an evidence paper with best practice examples shared with the wider humanitarian community through an international conference as part of the World Humanitarian Summit.

How will this project make a difference to people affected by crisis?

By ensuring older people and persons with disability benefit from improved access to services, as a result of recognition by humanitarian actors of their specific needs and increased capacity amongst humanitarian actors to deliver inclusive, accessible and appropriate response.



In collaboration with

