

# HelpAge International



Rwanda

Founded in 1983, HelpAge International is a global network of non-governmental organisations with a mission to work with and for disadvantaged older people worldwide to achieve a lasting improvement in the quality of their lives. There are over 50 members throughout the world.

In a number of countries where there are no organisations working with older people, or where disasters and conflicts have created particularly acute situations, HelpAge International provides direct support to the poorest and most vulnerable older people through operational programmes. A priority of these programmes is to foster the emergence of indigenous organisations working with and for older people.

To achieve its mission, HelpAge International has three key objectives:

## The development of 'grass roots' project activity

HelpAge International funds projects which give direct support to older people in over 50 countries worldwide, most often helping small, community-led organisations. Projects focus on health, social services, residential, community and home care, income generation, advocacy and training.

## Supporting the development of organisations working with older people

HelpAge International is committed to a growth in non-profit organisations working with and for older people, especially in countries where the voluntary sector is at present less developed. It provides technical advice, training in management and fundraising, and seed-corn grants to help them progress.

## Providing a voice for older people, especially the most disadvantaged

HelpAge International draws on the expertise of its members to highlight the aspirations and needs of older people heard through advocacy of their cause.

The HelpAge International network is supported by a Secretariat based in London with Regional Development Centres in Bolivia, Jamaica, Thailand and Zimbabwe, and Special Representatives in Brussels, New York and Vienna.

HelpAge International received the first United Nations Award for Services to the UN Programme on Ageing in 1989. It is a non-governmental organisation in consultative status (Category I) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Front cover photographs:

Queuing at an eye camp in Bangladesh: *Bangladesh Drishtihin Foundation*/A home carer in Romania making her regular visit: *Alzheimer's Society Romania*/A Bolivian older woman with her grandchild: *Valerie Mealla*/Weaving a mat in a refugee camp in Tanzania: *Simone Pieterse*/The Jamaica Memory Bank Band: *Framework*



Spanish Town, Jamaica

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