

Older People and DISASTERS

*Good practices that promote
inclusive delivery of services*

Godfred Paul

HelpAge International - East Asia/Pacific

Thailand

What is unique to older people

HelpAge
International

age helps

- Every year 26 million older people affected
- This will double by 2050.



Perumal 75, India

"Some cars came by and just threw the packets. The fastest get the food. The strong ones win. The elderly and the vulnerable don't get anything. We feel like dogs"

World Disaster Report 2007, IFRC

SIX misconceptions about older people in emergencies

- The extended family and community will protect them at all times.
- An agency will look after them.
- They can be covered by general aid distribution.
- They only have themselves to worry about.
- They are waiting to be helped.
- They are too old to work.

Lack of protocols

- Limited agency mandate
- Lack of data
- Few specific laws/
conventions/policies
- Inadequate resources



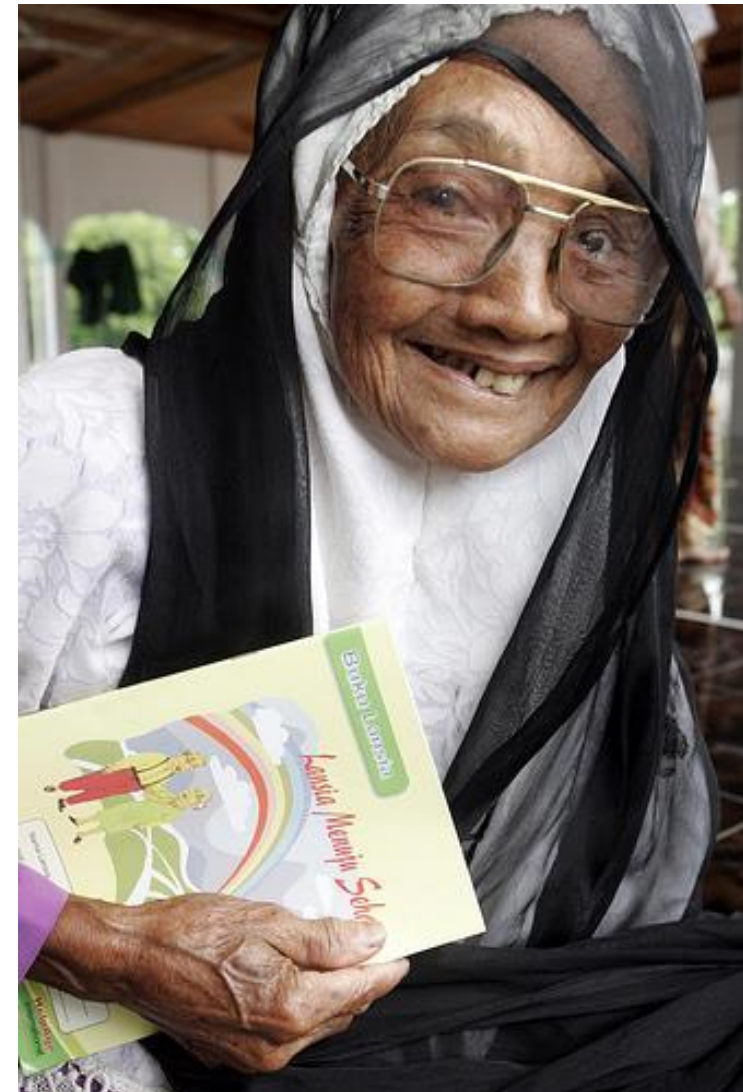
Impact of disasters on older people

- Death of family members
- Loss of property and assets
- Loss of family income
- Loss of livelihood
- Grief and trauma
- Hopelessness



Good practices – Relief phase

- Relief phase
 - Food & water
 - NFI
 - Health services
 - Temporary shelters
 - Government pension
 - Data collection



Good Practices – Recovery phase

- Data collection
- Livelihood
- Permanent shelters
- Health care services
- Home care
- Bank loans



Agencies practicing inclusion

- British Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross
- Auscare
- Merlin
- Action Aid
- The Leprosy Mission



Older people's involvement

- Medical Mobile Unit, Myanmar
- Relief delivery, Philippines
- Cash Transfers, Indonesia & Vietnam
- Flood relief in Bangladesh
- Community kitchen in India
- Community services in India
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Advocacy



Livelihoods cash grants



Mobile medical unit



Traditional knowledge



Older people's associations

What older people say in emergencies...

'I can do some work with little money. I could sell daily needs such as sugar, oil, rice in front of the barracks.'

Juned, 73, male, Ache, Indonesia

'Storing every drop of rain is the best option that we have to survive in this desert.'

75 years old mail in Rajasthan, India

'I am actively involved in social economic and religious affairs. Even though I am older than 60, I never consider myself as an older person.'

U Tin Sin, 60, Kyiak Lat, Myanmar

Thank You

