A special story

Ms. Khvek Dieb, a 73 year old widower, shared with us that she was and is very excited to see improvement of her daily living situation, after becoming an OPA member. Through the support of the OPA and HAC’s projects, Ms. Khvek Dieb has had the opportunity to learn more about sustainable farming techniques that matched the climate conditions of her village. She is now able to both secure her daily food, and afford her health care.

Beneficiaries

- 160 OPAs
- 8 OPA Federations
- 3,635 households
- 17,932 family members (60% of which are women)

Our Mission

To work for and with marginalized older people, echo and voice their concerns and needs for rights to healthcare, social services, economic and physical security, while promoting older people’s active contribution and equal participation in society.

Our Vision

A society in which all older people can lead a dignified, active, healthy and secure life.

Organization Profile

HelpAge Cambodia (HAC) is the leading agency on ageing in Cambodia. HAC has worked together with older people in Cambodia for over 28 years, through Older People’s Associations (OPAs). OPAs are a proven safety net association, led by older people to improve their lives and the lives of future older people.

Our History

1991 Initially registered as “Help the Aged International”, an international NGO registered under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1992 Became “HelpAge International”

2012 Registered as a local NGO under the Ministry of Interior, named “HelpAge Cambodia”

2014 Begin operations as a local NGO.

2014 Officially recognized as an affiliate of HelpAge International.

Our board

Ms. Nut Annie, Chairperson
Ms. Uk Toptossedesa, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Chann Savoeung, Treasurer
Mr. TUM Vira, Executive Director

Contact us

House No. 390, Group 27 Chrey Kaong, Sla kaet, Battambang, Cambodia
+855 53 953 797
info@helpagecambodia.org
www.helpagecambodia.org
HelpAge Cambodia
HelpAgeCambodia

HelpAge Cambodia (HAC) is the leading agency on ageing in Cambodia. HAC has worked together with older people in Cambodia for over 28 years, through Older People’s Associations (OPAs). OPAs are a proven safety net association, led by older people to improve their lives and the lives of future older people.

Our Vision

A society in which all older people can lead a dignified, active, healthy and secure life.

Our Mission

To work for and with marginalized older people, echo and voice their concerns and needs for rights to healthcare, social services, economic and physical security, while promoting older people’s active contribution and equal participation in society.
Introduction

Older people in Cambodia are survivors of three decades of conflict. In Cambodia, one of four older people live below the poverty line (1.25$ per day) and over 80% of older people live in rural areas. Older people of Cambodia face struggles like being unable to read and write, especially older women. Many older people are vulnerable to health problems associated with aging that can, if not attended to can cause disability. Older people can become isolated and left behind by younger generations, especially if their children are required to migrate for work, or if the older person is too unhealthy to leave their home.

Many countries around the world are experiencing an aging population and Cambodia is no exception. In 2015, the number of people in Cambodia aged 60 and above was estimated to be 1.3 million, this is 8.3% of the total population. The number of older people is forecast to reach 5 million by 2050, increasing to 21% of the total population (provided by National Institute of Statistics 2013). Yet older people in Cambodia are a largely neglected group, in terms of both their needs and appreciation of their valued contributions to community.

In Cambodia, there is currently no pension or other form of social benefit system for the general working population. So unless an older person receives the support of their family, there is no financial security when they can no longer work.

What we do?

1. Assist and develop a social safety association that aims to empower Older People

HAC focuses on establishing Older People’s Associations (OPAs), which are community based organizations, led by older people to improve the welfare of older people, as well as their families and their community. The OPA model is recognized by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

OPAs and OPA Federations are a body and association for inter-generational community consultation and engagement, aimed at promoting support among older people and their communities, reducing their isolation, vulnerability, and improving quality of life.

HAC and partners have established 160 OPAs and 8 OPAs Federations.

2. Supporting local communities in a number of areas

Healthcare

- Provide self and home care, in active ageing programs.
- Provide basic health intervention at community levels.
- Outreach health camps.
- Referrals and assistance to access health services.
- Water and sanitation (WASH).

Income security and livelihood

- Assist with micro-credit (revolving fund program).
- Age-friendly livelihoods and income generation.
- Cow and rice banks.

Social participation and activities

Promoting participation of older people in community and cultural activities such as Sangkahak Tean, bathing, and other religious ceremonies.

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

- Training/awareness raising on climate change and disaster risk reduction, emergency planning.
- Training and equipment to improve sustainable and resilient farming practices.

3. Voice and policy advocacy

- Educating the community and government on age discrimination.
- Supporting communities by voicing and echoing the concerns of older people.
- Working with Government to develop policies that support older people.