

LAPPA Annex – HelpAge International

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Part I - Progress against LAPPA Development Objectives

Progress to date against LAPPA purpose statement

To reduce poverty and inequality through empowering civil society to address social, economic and political exclusion.

Over the course of our LAPPA we believe we can point to the following list of achievements, which reduce poverty for older people and their families and narrow the gap of inequality and social exclusion. The question of attribution always arises, but we believe that we and our partners have made a significant contribution, as demonstrated in this report.

- Over 1.5 million older people in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay are benefitting (or will soon benefit) from the creation or expansion of social pension schemes with an annual transfer value of around US\$500 million. This results from political and constitutional commitments from governments to better address the needs of older people in part due to technical assistance provided by us and our partners.
- There is now an active debate in Peru for the introduction of a social pension, which if implemented has the potential to support over 2.2 million older people.
- 35,000 more older people in Bolivia now access the national health insurance scheme for older people. We contributed to the recently adopted Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Ageing and Health (2008 – 2019) of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), which national Ministries of Health (MoH) will work toward. In Bolivia, we worked with PAHO and the MOH on developing an integrated programme for older people's health. Pilot projects and studies in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador are intended to demonstrate cost effective means of improving access of older people to health services and improving quality of care, to influence national policies and programmes.
- 116,000 older people in the region are organised into formal groups which actively engage with local authorities and national decision makers to improve service provisions in terms of both access and quality.
- Greater recognition of the rights and needs of older people in a number of international agencies, including UNASUR, PAHO, ECLAC, UNFPA, ILO, GTZ, and ECHO/DIPECHO¹.
- Regional dialogue on the promotion of older people's rights, including influencing governments and regional bodies to meet commitments under the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which commits governments to include ageing in all social and economic development policies, and to halve old-age poverty by 2015, in line with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In Latin America governments committed in the Brasilia Declaration (2007) to exploring the possibility of establishing an international convention on the rights of older people.

Older people continue to face high rates of poverty, discrimination and social exclusion. Our work has proven that by working with older people, their families and communities in a rights based, integrated and intergenerational approach, older people are better able to meet their basic needs, live in dignity, and contribute to society and national development. Our work is also increasing the visibility of the impact of demographic ageing, a crucial step to working with governments to expand social protection programmes and increase access to appropriate health care for older people.

¹ South American Union of Nations (UNASUR), Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and European Commission – Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO) / Disaster Preparedness ECHO (DIPECHO).

Progress against LAPP Development Objective indicators

Indicator 1:

More accountable public and political systems for effective delivery of services and good governance in the region. (Development Objective 1)

HelpAge indicator: By 2011 at least 3 countries in Latin America have extended their coverage of social services to older people specifically in the area of health and non-contributory pensions.

Sub indicators for HelpAge:

- 40 Older Citizen Monitoring groups in three countries participate in the design and monitoring of public social services and advocate with local authorities to improve service delivery
- 20% increase in coverage of social security and health entitlements in at least three countries
- New policies and programmes in at least 3 Latin American countries ensuring equitable access to free basic health care for older people (including the establishment of 20 age-friendly Primary Health Care Centres)

Progress achieved and challenges faced

40 Older Citizen Monitoring (OCM) groups in three countries participate in the design and monitoring of public social services and advocate with local authorities to improve service delivery.

- We have funded and supported our partners to form a total of 21 OCM groups in Bolivia and Colombia up to May 2010. In Peru, our partners trained 117 older people as rights defenders in Lima and Ayacucho. In Ecuador and Paraguay older people's groups are planning to monitor the new social pensions, which they were involved in designing.
- In Bolivia, 12 rural municipal OCM groups (240 older people) resulted in more effective implementation of the national health insurance scheme for older people (SSPAM), contributing to signing of service contracts between local governments and local health services to provide primary, secondary and tertiary health care. A further 5 urban OCM groups (50 older people) monitor health delivery at a local municipal level.
- In Colombia, 4 OCM groups (80 older people) monitor access to health and the economic subsidy for older people, including older internally displaced people.

20% increase in coverage of social security and health entitlements in at least three countries.

1.5 million older people in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay are or will soon be covered with increased social protection by 2011 as described below:

- In Bolivia, 35,000 new older people are now able to access health services free of charge by our support in helping them register on the national health insurance scheme (SSPAM) in 2008 and 2009. This represents about 5% of Bolivia's older population and a 16% increase in coverage compared to 2006, when around 221,000 OP (then 34% of the older population) were affiliated to the scheme. In the 19 municipalities of a PPA funded pilot project, affiliation has increased from 30% to 53% of the target population.
- In Ecuador, there will be an increased coverage of social security once the near-universal pension, agreed and included in the new constitution in 2008 and due to start in 2010, is in operation. Currently only 28% of the population of Ecuador is in the contributory pension system, which means that 72% of older people (nearly 700,000) will gain access to social security.
- In Paraguay, a basic social pension was approved in 2009 for the poorest older people (i.e. not universal) which will benefit 82,000 older people (more than 20% of over 60s) with 70 US\$ per month, due to start in 2010.

A major component of our contribution to the above is the training of government staff, partners and older people's groups on the technical and political aspects of pension design to develop their own proposals and advocacy. We have supported the learning of governments and partners

through exchange visits and by running a micro-simulation course for government representatives.

New policies and programmes in at least 3 Latin American countries ensuring equitable access to free basic health care for older people (including the establishment of 20 age-friendly Primary Health Care Centres).

- In Bolivia, work towards age friendly facilities as part of the LAPPA funded pilot project means that 95 facilities from 19 rural municipalities (out of 337 nationally) have undertaken a baseline diagnosis on the older population within their area and are planning new activities such as home visits. We signed an MOU with the MOH for 2009-11 to provide technical assistance on older people's health (including tools for monitoring older people's health), to seek financing for its programmes, and to support the development of an integrated national programme for the health of older people together with the local PAHO office. We also helped connect staff in charge of older people's health with other relevant departments of MOH.
- In Peru, 33 rural facilities (157 members of staff) from 2 regions received training in tools for self-care and geriatric evaluation. 3 guidelines are being developed by the project, (Team work for Older People's Health, Older People Evaluation Form/Training Guidelines, and Self-care Training), with the aim for adoption by the Peruvian Ministry of Health (MINSA).
- In Peru and Ecuador, training of MoH staff as well as SABE studies (focused on health and older people) with PAHO (both supported by PPA funds) strengthen the technical and evidence base management for older people's health programmes as part of national health policy.

CHALLENGES & LESSONS

- Bolivia is undergoing profound change in governance and policy, and the full political agenda makes it all the more difficult to get issues of ageing and older people onto the radar of ministers and key decision makers. This is further complicated by constant changes of staff in national departments and local authorities. In contrast, the World Bank and IADB also face challenges in introducing or expanding social protection programmes in the challenging political and economic contexts of Peru and Colombia.
- The ministries dealing with social issues and excluded groups do not have the human, financial and technical capital to gain sufficient clout in government to push through new ideas and proposals. It has therefore been more strategic to begin to work directly with ministries of finance, departments for pensions, etc, on modelling possibilities for implementation of social pensions.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

Resolution 49/8 of Executive Committee PAHO
MOU signed between HelpAge and UNASUR
Minutes of meetings between Bolivian Ministry of Health and Bolivian National Association of Older People (ANAMBO)/HelpAge/Fundacion Horizontes
Ministerial Resolutions Ministry of Health Bolivia
HelpAge internal project reports
MOU signed between HelpAge and Ministry of Health Bolivia
Ecuador: SABE report (to be published) and qualitative study protocol
Annual plans from Bolivian and Peruvian Ministries of Health
Publications by Ministries: Model of Care (Bolivia), Protocols of Care (Bolivia, Resolution August 2009) and Geriatric Evaluation Form, Self-care Health Education Flipchart in Peru
The new constitutions of Ecuador (2008) and Paraguay (2008)

Indicator 2:**Poor and marginalised people having greater voice in decisions that affect their lives.
(Development Objective 2)**

HelpAge indicator: Older people's organisations proactively engaging with policy makers and presenting policy recommendations in at least 8 countries to respond to their commitments.

Progress since 2008:

- 21 older people's organisations in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia have been trained to monitor health services designed for their use, which has generated an awareness and degree of empowerment in older people themselves that is indispensable to complement work with government.
- In Peru, provision for Centres for Integrated Attention to Older People (CIAM) to be established in every municipality in the country was included in the law for older people (2006). We have monitored progress on this commitment, and with work of partners in Ayacucho and Lima, and the Peruvian National Association of Older People (ANAMPER), have ensured the establishment of 7 CIAMS in 7 municipalities in Lima and Ayacucho by the end of 2009.
- In Peru, ANAMPER has been invited to join the national congressional committee on social security, and it presented six proposals to the government on *inter alia* social non-contributory pensions, preferential treatment for older people, the allocation of 25% of the municipal budget to CIAMs, and guaranteed work places for older people. In 2008 a discussion on a non-contributory pension would have been impossible in Peru. We have supported ANAMPER to strengthen its governance, its ability to train older people on pension proposals, and facilitate engagement with congress, parliamentarians, media, academics and key institutional allies such as UNFPA, ILO and the national platform on the fight against poverty (MCLCP). This work contributed to the greater openness to discussion of a social pension.
- In Bolivia, the law which established and regulates SSPAM (law 3323), provides for older people to monitor the implementation of the scheme as civil society. With our key partner *Fundacion Horizontes*, Bolivia's National Association of Older People (ANAMBO) now interacts on a regular basis with the MOH, informs it of levels of implementation and difficulties in the field, and informs its own affiliates of the norms and regulations provided by the law. Local organizations of older people have pushed their local governments to implement SSPAM in 40 municipalities. As a result, specific Ministerial resolutions have been obtained, one to sanction municipal governments that do not comply with the regulation of the law and to make the services available to older people in their constituency, and another allowing for the contracting of human resources under SSPAM. As the law on SSPAM will be included in a wider Universal Health Insurance Scheme in 2010, ANAMBO will work to ensure that the provision of services for older people does not suffer as a result.
- In Ecuador, the concept of universal retirement was approved in the new constitution in September 2008. We worked with our partners and the older people's network (RENPERMAE) and contributed to the introduction and design of the policy, which it is hoped will come into force in 2010.
- In Paraguay, we supported older people's lobby groups, alongside direct contact with the Paraguayan government and other key actors and agencies, to influence the new social pension and necessary preliminary studies on the conditions of older people.

CHALLENGES & LESSONS

- A key lesson is that our work is successful because we work with stakeholders at various levels to support them to perform more effectively in their role. We constantly refine that approach within the Latin American context to shift and widen social protection discussions and programmes. Recent examples include training older people to make well grounded technical proposals to government; developing evidence and research with respected academics and international agencies (ILO, UNFPA, etc.) to show the feasibility of proposals; and raising awareness with governments, key policy makers and opinion leaders (including through south-south exchange).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The older people's networks in Ecuador, Paraguay and Colombia remain weak with poor governance and national representation, which constrains their organisation and interaction with national platforms and government ministries. We are using PPA funds to work with the existing networks of older people to improve governance, representation, advocacy and influencing capacity and recognition by local and national government.
<p>List any documentary evidence of achievements</p>
<p>Constitutions of Ecuador (2008) and Paraguay (2008) and subsequent regulations on social pensions. Internal HelpAge project reports</p>

<p>Indicator 3: Increased capacity of poor people, communities and governments to reduce disaster risk and vulnerability to climate change and adapt to the impacts of climate change. (Development objective 5)</p>
<p>HelpAge Indicator: In at least 4 countries existing disaster risk reduction policies and practises are more age friendly</p>
<p>HelpAge's sub indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of HelpAge partners are trained to integrate the DRR approach in their projects. 2000 older people trained as rapid response teams and scaled up to 10 teams per country in Peru, Bolivia and Nicaragua. Policies of at least two international agencies include the needs and contributions of older people in DRR, climate change adaptation, and emergency response. Intergenerational knowledge exchange on locally appropriate climate change adaptations in a total of 30 communities in Bolivia, Peru and Nicaragua.
<p>Progress achieved and challenges faced</p>
<p>Progress since 2008: DRR and emergency response efforts in the region are still wanting in their recognition of older people as a vulnerable group with specific needs and contributions to make, and that except where we are working directly, policies and practices have not changed in the last 5 years to incorporate them in practice. Our work is beginning to make a difference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The visibility of older people in key government agencies in 3 countries has increased as a result of our work: the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence in Bolivia, the National Institute for Civil Defence (INDECI) in Peru, and Acción Social, the agency in charge of the government's programme for displaced people in Colombia, evidenced by inclusion of older people as a vulnerable group and appropriate actions in the Bolivia National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Colombian Ministry of Social Protection guidelines for older displaced people. In Bolivia, older people are included in the national strategy for emergency response and DRR, as a result of our participation in a key meeting to develop the in 2008. We are now a member of the National Emergency Committee, meaning that when a state of emergency is declared we and our partners can apply for emergency response funding. In Nicaragua, we supported a pilot project to strengthen older people's food security. The livelihoods of 70 families headed by older people and affected by the hurricane season of 2008 were recovered through the distribution of certified seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs. Crop harvest increased by 80% compared to the period before Hurricane Mitch, and the surplus was sold, increasing income for beneficiaries. Further partner mapping and exploration of engagement in Nicaragua is planned in 2010-2011. <p>In relation to HelpAge's sub indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 70% of our partners have been trained to integrate DRR into their projects in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. In Bolivia, we worked to protect older people in three areas that experience recurrent flooding. 90 older people from 30 municipalities of the tropical zone of Cochabamba, 50

- DIPECHO recognised us as a potential partner in their last two calls for proposals in the region, in part as a result of the work and learning of the two pilots in Bolivia and Peru. Learning from the pilots enabled an alliance in Bolivia with PPA partner OXFAM GB and two new local partners, FUNDEPCO and Fundacion Beni, to work with older people in participatory urban planning for DRR and climate change adaptation.
- In Colombia, we established a national office to develop a Colombia country strategy and work with local partners for the implementation of projects with the internally displaced population with support from PPA funding. ECHO is now funding its first project in Latin America specifically targeting older people as a vulnerable group through us. The project provides improved humanitarian assistance and protection to the population affected and displaced by Colombia's internal conflict in a district of the city of Cali, Aguablanca, with a particular emphasis on older displaced people and their families. Activities include socio-legal advice; psycho-social support; and raising awareness of older people's rights with local authorities.
- Also in Colombia, the Ministry of Social Protection is developing specific guidelines on how to assist older people affected by displacement, with support from us and UNHCR, as part of a series of guidelines developed for different vulnerable groups (children, indigenous and afro communities, women and disabled people under Constitutional Court ruling T-025). These are due for publication in August 2010.
- In Peru, older people are benefiting from a PPA funded pilot project to mitigate the effects of climate change in the Andes. 130 older people in Ayacucho were provided shelter and clothing, 30 affected houses refurbished to withstand the cold, and high yielding variety seeds were distributed in the communities. The results of this work were shared in a regional meeting on "Older people and cold waves in Ayacucho" with participants from 43 organisations. The Peruvian Ministry for Women and Social Development (MIMDES) and UNFPA were among the participants committing to develop more projects in favour of older people based on the model of the pilot project. Authorities in Ayacucho are now more aware of the situation of older people in relation to DRR and climate change adaptation methods, and it is hoped the model can be replicated to have greater impact at a national level.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

- Inadequate funding of disaster management institutions such as the civil defence.
- Constant change at local and national levels of government makes it difficult to lobby for concrete changes on older people's rights and inclusion in emergency situations and DRR measures.

List any documentary evidence of achievements

Bolivian National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
 Colombian Ministry of Social Protection guidelines on how to assist older people affected by displacement (to be published in August 2010)
 DIPECHO calls
 ECHO project documents and publication and video
 Forthcoming UNHCR/MPS guidelines on older displaced people
 Internal HelpAge report on winterisation pilot project in Peru and FUNDEPCO climate change adaptation project
 Project proposal documents for integrated waste management proposal with OXFAM GB and FUNDEPCO

<p>Indicator 4: Latin America to have a strengthened role in regional and South-South lesson learning</p>
<p>HelpAge is working towards this target under output 4 of its Expression of Interest (EOI), although it does not have a specific indicator under this development objective assigned in the Partnership Framework. The target in the EOI is as follows: <i>Experiences and lessons learned are exchanged and disseminated effectively between partners and other development organisations in the region.</i></p>
<p>Progress achieved and challenges faced</p>
<p>Results in this area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Ageing and Health (2008–2019) by the Ministries of Health of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), which promotes action in three areas: primary health for older people, training of human resources, and undertaking research to address non-communicable disease. Our regional health adviser contributed to the strategy and has been invited by PAHO to sit on the advisory committee for its implementation. This strengthens our ability to act as a resource on ageing and health in the region, allowing us greater leverage with Ministries of Health to ensure their health policies are in line with the PAHO plan, and thereby ensuring more effective delivery of services to older people throughout the region. • Sharing successful country experiences (such as the Bolivian social pension Renta Dignidad) with other regional governments through study visits by government officials in Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Bolivia. Also, we organised a micro-simulation course on social pensions in La Paz, Bolivia in October 2009, with the technical support of South Africa’s Economic Policy Research Institute, a long-standing HelpAge partner on training and pensions. Financial support was provided by DFID LAPP, IFKO (a Dutch foundation) and UNFPA. Government pension experts from Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru participated. One outcome of the training was that Paraguay requested technical support from the Bolivian government (based on the experience of the social pension Renta Dignidad) for input on the design of its new social pension. • We initiated an alliance with the ILO and UNFPA in Peru to write a chapter on social pensions in the region as part of an influential publication on the need for a social pension in Peru. • We successfully lobbied for a regional conference on social pensions. It was held in Lima, Peru in November 2009, organised by ECLAC and GTZ, and will result in the publication of a book in 2010 on social protection in Latin America. ECLAC has since invited us to present at several policy events on social protection for older people, and to submit a chapter to the above book on this subject which will be a reference point in the region. • We signed an MOU with the South American Union of Nations (UNASUR), along with UNFPA, UNDP and UNIFEM, for 2010 to work with its secretariat for social development on promoting social policy and social protection for older people in South America. This enables us access to governments beyond our current programmatic reach and allows for greater south-south learning and replication of successful social protection and social pension models. A social development meeting of UNASUR in March 2010 focused entirely on policies for social protection of older people as a result of our lobbying and technical support. • The concepts of active ageing, life cycle, and rights based approaches are now used by ministries of health and social protection, PAHO, UNFPA and other key actors in discussions on older people’s health and social protection without our needing to push for them; but the challenge remains to have these approaches made explicit in policy and official documents.
<p>List any documentary evidence of achievements</p>
<p>Internal HelpAge project reports Reports by participants of micro-simulation course “Experiences of non-contributory pensions in Latin America” published by HelpAge International in “Ageing with Dignity: Non-contributory pensions for Poverty Reduction in Peru” (Caritas Peru, UNFPA, HelpAge, Mesa de Concertación y OIT, Lima, April 2009).</p>

Part II – Progress against LAPP Partnership Objectives

What lessons are being learned from LAPP?

Flexible funds make it possible to achieve much with relatively little money.

The following points demonstrate the value of flexible funds in our key areas of work, all of which were supported by LAPP funds. Across the areas, flexible funds have enabled us and our partners to gain access to government and international organisations at a higher level than before, with concrete results as described above in the indicators.

- In social protection, we provided technical assistance to both partners and governments and brought in international organisations with other specific expertise to design new and improve existing social pensions. This area is a moving target, and classic project funds would make it difficult, if not impossible, to remain flexible to make the most of new opportunities and contexts. In Peru, it became clear we needed to invest more than originally anticipated given the resistance of government to even consider a social pension. After our efforts together with other national and international organisations, the government is now more open to discussion. In Paraguay and Ecuador, when new governments committed to reaching older people as a vulnerable group came to power, we were able to invest in providing technical assistance to government and provide training to leaders of older people's organisations on how best to input into the social pension design.
- In health, flexible funding enabled us to provide technical assistance to the Ministries of Health in Peru and Bolivia, and as with social protection, which would have been challenging or impossible without flexible funding. LAPP funding also made it possible to support pilot studies to demonstrate how health staff at local levels can better plan the use of health resources in order to respond more adequately to older people's needs.
- In DRR and climate change, our experience in the region was limited prior to LAPP. The flexible funds allowed us to invest small amounts strategically to raise the issue of ageing into the wider climate change discussions and to build our capacity and understanding on these issues. Learning from the pilot projects described under indicator 3 enabled us to forge new alliances and establish new models of working with older people in these areas.
- The PPA has enabled us to develop thematic expertise in all the above areas. Prior to LAPP, staff in the region managed different projects with a mix of themes, but we lacked specific regional advisers in the key thematic areas. The continuity and expertise that has come with the regional advisers helped develop relationships in a way previously impossible. It has meant a significant change to the level of our programming, helping us become more strategic and flexible in our approach, and helping us to engage at higher levels.

LAPP has enabled additional funds to be leveraged from other donors

Donor funding in the region is increasingly scarce. LAPP funds have enabled us to develop relationships with new donors, including bi-laterals such as the Spanish, Canadian, Belgian, Italian, and Dutch governments; multilaterals such as the Inter-American Development Bank; and some private foundations. Our greatest successes have been to secure i) an ECHO contract and funding from IrishAid to work on the issue of older people displaced by the conflict in Colombia, and ii) a partnership agreement for four years with SIDA to implement a comprehensive strategy in Bolivia including issues related to rights and governance, climate change, social protection and access to health. LAPP support has also enabled us to partly co-fund an EC project that is directly related to the relevant indicators in the LAPP performance framework.

Part III – Progress against LAPPA Partnership Objectives

Partnership with DFID: progress, challenges and lessons

The LAPPA partnership model has many strengths and has enabled an effective partnership with DFID and other LAPPA agencies. The LAPPA model has good lessons for other PPAs, especially the partnership arrangement and a formalised engagement with DFID that goes beyond the administration of the contract into joint work. The LAPPA partner and steering committee meetings in London and the learning events in the region provide a forum which enables agencies and DFID to coordinate knowledge sharing, influencing and policy activities.

A strength of the LAPPA partnership model has been the clear TORs and objectives for the partner group and steering committee. It has been challenging to maintain input from the region into LAPPA discussions, largely as a result of the structure of the LAPPA partner and steering committee meetings. One attempt to address this was to include a regionally based LAPPA member on the steering committee, and this experience should be built on further in future for greater representation of staff in the region.

The LAPPA Partnership Objectives

1. **Knowledge sharing and lesson learning:** LAPPA formalises a regular exchange of knowledge between the LAPPA partners. We have contributed to all regional and London based events and meetings, and were able to contribute to events and discussions on the economic crisis, social exclusion and social policy based on our experience in social protection. We presented an overview of the work of the 12 LAPPA agencies at the LAPPA policy meeting on Social Exclusion at DFID in April 2010. The exchange with other LAPPA organisations on climate change in the region was timely and informative while and is helping to refine our climate change strategy. We are the only NGO working to include the needs and contributions of older people in the climate change debate. HelpAge participated on the Steering Committee in the role of Secretary from June 2009 – June 2010.

2. Communications:

- We contributed to two joint LAPPA communications with the IDB. The first was a joint letter to the IDB president in July 2009 regarding the IDB strategy for the 9th General Capital Increase (GCI-9) highlighting inequality, poverty and climate change as areas LAPPA partners agree should be central to the strategy. The second joint communication was comments on the detailed GCI-9 strategy.
- In Latin America we coordinate a network of some 35 partner organisations with a focus on ageing and maintain a Spanish language website as well as the global English language website. The Spanish site has created a blog for partners and staff to raise issues, report on new developments, meetings or other activities. We developed an electronic bulletin which brings together different articles from the mainstream media, and news on ageing issues and our work from us and our partners. This keeps the network on ageing in Latin America connected and able to access information and contact others doing similar work to share knowledge and lessons.

3. Increased influence and voice of the LA partnership on UK development policy:

The existence of a coordinating function within DFID in London has, we feel, enabled the LAPPA to be more effective than the general PPA which relates to DFID CSD. However, we believe that there is more work to be done by us and other agencies linking programmes in the region and the partners groups and Steering Committee which will strengthen the provision of evidence, and assist the process of influencing UK development policy.

Partnership with other LAPPAs agencies: progress, challenges and lessons

In Bolivia, we are part of a LAPPAs agency coordinating body on climate change, together with CARE, OXFAM, Christian Aid and CAFOD. We have agreed to commit funds to produce a publication showcasing the impact of our work in this area. Discussions are under way with LAPPAs agencies in Peru to do something similar. Also in Bolivia, we worked on DRR with Oxfam, a national NGO (FUNDEPCO) and local government in the town of Trinidad in the Bolivian lowlands to strengthen preparation and response to regular flooding. The increase in flooding is deemed to be an impact of climate change. Working together in this area led to a joint proposal to the EC, currently pending, to work on waste management in Trinidad, and improving livelihoods opportunities connected to waste management activities for women and older people.

With Plan International staff in Bolivia and Colombia, we have held meetings to establish areas of common direction for future collaboration between the two agencies for an integrated and intergenerational approach to reduce poverty and social exclusion. Areas discussed include health, education, DRR, and governance/human rights, and support to displaced populations in Colombia, with an intention to look for areas where approaches overlap, intergenerational activities can have an impact and be expanded, and capacity building with governments from local to ministerial level can be implemented. Together we prepared a joint proposal on age as a contributing factor to social exclusion for the LAPPAs policy meeting on Social Exclusion in April 2010.

Beyond coordination between individual agencies and participation in regional LAPPAs events, more consistent coordination amongst partner NGOs in the region has been a weak area. A lesson could be that in future regional PPAs, consideration be given to establishing a mechanism for local partner groups and/or steering committees in countries or sub-regions (such as Central America, Andes, Brazil, Southern Cone) to formalise and facilitate further coordination amongst LAPPAs organisations within the region, to explore possible joint programming, and to provide rich information on context, process and outcomes to the LAPPAs steering committee in London. Clear TORs and objectives would be important to encourage regional input and coordination in the most effective way.