

## Press release

22 August 2014 – UNISDR 2014/19

# UN LAUNCHES SURVEY ON OLDER PEOPLE AND DISASTERS

**22 August 2014, GENEVA** – The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in partnership with Help Age International, today launched a survey to solicit the views of older people on how they cope with disasters. A matching attitudes survey targeting governments and other agencies on the inclusion of older people in disaster management planning has also been placed online.

Margareta Wahlström, UNISDR Head, said: “This year’s International Day for Disaster Reduction on October 13 will focus on older people, including their needs and what they contribute to better planning and understanding of disaster risk in their communities. We know from grim experience in both developed and developing countries that older persons often die in disproportionate numbers in disaster events.”

A recent survey carried out by Help Age International and the Coalition of Services of the Elderly following Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines found that 27% of older people received no shelter assistance with single women aged 80 years or more, the most excluded group. Large percentages of older people also struggled to meet other needs such as food and medicine.

This is the fourth year of UNISDR’s Step Up Campaign which has previously focused on children, women and girls, and the disabled.

The surveys are available in English, French and Spanish can be accessed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OlderPersonsIDDR14>

<https://fr.surveymonkey.com/s/OlderPersonsFrench>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OlderPersonsSpanish>

The following are the links to the perceptions survey for governments and other disaster management actors:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PerceptionsIDDR14>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PerceptionsFrench>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PerceptionsSpanish>

**About UNISDR:** UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* which seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.”