

## **PRESS NOTE**

The Editor,

Greetings from HelpAge India!

HelpAge India is a national level secular, apolitical, non-profit and non-government organization working for the cause and care of disadvantaged older persons. We endeavour to improve their quality of life and have been doing so far the last 37 years.

The cause of the Elderly needs attention because we are a society in transition with changing values, which has led to the breakdown of the joint family, resulting in lack of security for the Elderly. Moreover with rising longevity, the number of Elderly in society is also increasing at a phenomenal rate. From 112 million today the grey population is expected to rise to 177 million by 2025. At present 60+ populations, 90% have no social security, 40% are below poverty line and 39%. As a result of the current ageing scenario, there is growing need for care of the older persons especially in terms of finances and health.

Even in Mumbai the ageing scenario indicates a requirement for proper and more health services for the Elderly since

- Ø 65-75% depend on son and daughter-in-law at the time of sickness.
- Ø 63% of the Oldest Old have either poor or very poor health condition.
- Ø Body Pain, Eyesight, Diabetic, Hypertension and Asthma are the major health problems.
- Ø Only 17% are aware of any government health related welfare schemes.
- Ø About 38% are aware of any health insurance schemes.
- Ø Only 15% are aware of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.
- Ø Only 8% are covered under any health insurance scheme.

It is important to provide health services to needy, poor and destitute Elderly at their doorstep. HelpAge India, hence started Mobile Medicare Unit (MMU) and covering 32 locations in Mumbai city. This unit is supported by Legal & General and IndiaFirst Life Insurance. This MMU providing health services to 1000 beneficiaries and helping them to live a healthy life. MMU also conducts special health camp and provide counseling to their families.

On 17th February, Mr. Graham Precey, Head of Group, Corporate Responsibility & Ethics, Legal & General visited MMU site at Kala Killa, Dharavi and interacted with beneficiaries. Handing over the cheque from Legal & General and IndiaFirst to HelpAge India, he said, "I am happy to witness that beneficiaries are getting medicine on regularly basis, bringing positive changes in their life." He also spoke with MMU team and appreciated their commitment to this cause.

Thanking at the event, Mr. Prakash N. Borgaonkar, Director HelpAge India, said "We are grateful to Legal & General and IndiaFirst Life Insurance for contributing to this noble cause. This contribution from Legal & General and IndiaFirst Life Insurance has impacted lives of 3000 beneficiaries in over 5 years."

Legal & General alongwith IndiaFirst Life Insurance, gave a cheque of Rs. 23,71,300.00 to support this MMU.

Sincerely,

Prakash N Borgaonkar  
Director- HelpAge India

**For further queries, please contact**

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