

To cite this output:
 Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus
 ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL IMPACT REPORT



For awards ending on or after 1 November 2009

This Impact Report should be completed and submitted using the **grant reference** as the email subject to **reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk** on or before the due date.

Completion of this Impact Report is mandatory. It will not be possible to edit this Impact Report at a later date, as it is designed to provide a statement of the impacts of your project to date 12 months after your grant ends.

Please note that the Impact Report will only be accepted if all sections have been completed in full. If a section does not apply to you, please enter 'n/a'. Grant holders will not be eligible for further ESRC funding until the Report is accepted. (Please see Section 5 of the ESRC Research Funding Guide for details.)

Please refer to the Guidance notes when completing this Impact Report. In particular, the notes explain what the ESRC means by 'impact'.

Grant Reference	RES-167-25-0191		
Grant Title	Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, social networks and support amongst older people in Central Asia and the Caucasus		
Grant Start Date	1 st August 2007	Total Amount Expended:	£249,004.07
Grant End Date	Original end date: 31 st Jan 2009 No cost extension to 31 st December 2009		
Grant holding Institution	University of Southampton		
Grant Holder	Prof Jane Falkingham		
Grant Holder's Contact Details	Address	Email	
	School of Social Sciences University of Southampton Southampton SO17 1BJ	j.c.falkingham@soton.ac.uk	
		Telephone 02380 593192	
Co-Investigators (as per project application):		Institution	
Prof Maria Evandrou		University of Southampton	

To cite this output:

Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus
ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

1. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

A Please **summarise** below the scientific impact(s) your project has had. [Max 250 words]

The main scientific impact of the project has been an **improved empirical understanding** of the well-being of older people living in the poorest countries of the former soviet union, most notably Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan, where the in-depth qualitative research took place. It highlighted the **limited role played by public transfers and the significance of private transfers**, especially remittances, in providing a safety net. Intergenerational exchanges however operate in both directions, with grandparents providing support for grandchildren.

The project made an important **methodical contribution** in highlighting the **sensitivity of the measurement of older people's well-being to assumptions regarding the unitary model of the household** and economies of scale. The standard per capita approach to measuring household well-being may disadvantage the most vulnerable households. The finding is especially significant as single older people had been identified as being at less risk of poverty than other groups in key World Bank publications.

The project highlighted the **'value added' of a mixed methods approach**, with in-depth qualitative data providing important insights into the role played by social networks and the experience of minority groups which were not visible in the quantitative data, particularly ethnic Russian elders living in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The project findings are being used as a case study in mixed methods in a PGT Research Methods module for the new MSc in Gerontology at Southampton.

The project also impacted upon the **research capacity** in the region through the training of local researchers in both academia and NGOs.

247 words

B Please outline the **findings and outputs** from your project which have had the scientific impact(s) outlined in 1A. [Max 250 words]

Key Findings:

- The proportion of older people living below \$2.15 PPP a day varies within the region from under 5% in Azerbaijan to over 50% in Kyrgyzstan.
- The risk of old age poverty is highly sensitive to the choice of equivalent scale. In Tajikistan, using a per capita measure of household expenditure results in a relative risk of poverty for lone pensioner households of 0.32. Introducing moderate economies of scale ($\theta = 0.7$) changes the relative risk to 0.81 and strong economies of scale ($\theta = 0.5$) to 2.28. The latter concurs with evidence from the qualitative study, where pensioners living outside extended households were identified by older people themselves as being amongst the most vulnerable.
- Qualitative research highlights that many older people have difficulties in making ends meet. Out of pocket costs for health care are a particular concern.
- The role of remittances in keeping older people out of poverty is important. In Moldova where out migration has been high, 10% of older people live in household where remittances constitute the main source of income.
- The adequacy and efficiency of formal pension systems in the region vary

To cite this output:

Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) *Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus*
ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

significantly, with social pensions often payable at a level insufficient to life vulnerable older people out of poverty.

Outputs:

- The empirical findings from the project have been published in discussion papers and submitted to journals (see below).
- Training in qualitative research methodology was provided to researchers in the three focus countries of Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan.

249 words

C Please outline **how** these impacts were achieved. [Max 250 words]

Scientific impacts were achieved through presentations at workshops, learned conferences, submission to peer review journals and training activities.

Publications include:

- Falkingham et al (2009) *Left behind in transition? The well-being of older people in Tajikistan* Centre for Research on Ageing Discussion Paper 0901. University of Southampton. Revised version submitted to *Development & Change*. Currently under revision to incorporate analysis of the 2007 TLSS.
- Grant et al (2009) *The impact of adult children's migration on wellbeing in later life: voices from Moldova*. Centre for Research on Ageing Discussion Paper 0902. University of Southampton. Revised version submitted to *Ageing & Society*, accepted subject to minor revisions.
- Falkingham, J. and Vlachantoni, A. (2010) *Pensions and Social Protection in Central Asia and South Caucasus: developments in the post-Soviet era*. Centre for Research on Ageing Discussion Paper 1002. University of Southampton. Revised version to be published in Spring 2011 in the Asian Development Bank study on *Tackling the Challenge of Rapid Aging: Social Pensions in Asia*.

Further papers are under development.

In order to maximise scientific impact in the region, seminars were presented at University departments in all three focus countries. Scientific dissemination continues to take place, with project team members actively engaged with relevant groups in both the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), academic think tanks in the region, including Foundation "Health Policy Analysis Center" Bishkek. Members of the team have also participated in meetings with OECD Health Division and WHO.

242 words

D Please outline **who** the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can include specific academics/researchers through to broader academic groups. [Max 250 words]

In the broadest sense, the project has had an impact on academic researchers from the disciplines of social policy, gerontology, sociology and demography interested in the well-being of older people. More specifically the research is of direct relevance to those working in the area of social protection within Central Asia and the south Caucasus.

To cite this output:

Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus
ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

Project papers have recently been requested by Dr. Franziska Gassmann at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance as background for research she has been commissioned to undertake for UNICEF.

Through their engagement with the project, the research has had an impact on the researchers working in the Social Research Center, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan (lead contact: Dr Mehriqul Ablezova) and the Central Asia Gerontology Center, Dushanbe, Tajikistan (lead contact Dr Saodat Kamalova).

Following training provided by the team in Kyrgyzstan, the Social Research Center at the American University of Central Asia, working with Help Age International carried out their own research into the impact of migration on elderly people, focussing on grandparent-headed households.

See http://src.auca.kg/images/stories/files/migration_elderly_people_eng.pdf

171 words

2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

A Please **summarise** below the economic and societal impact(s) your project has had.

[Max 250 words]

The key impact has been in raising awareness of the welfare of older people in the Central Asia and the South Caucasus. The impact has been both locally (within country) and also internationally (within international NGOs and IDIs).

The research highlighted the limited role that **public pensions are playing in lifting older people out of poverty** and the **urgent need to reform the system of social protection**. The research team are currently participating in a study examining the role of social pensions in the region under the auspices of the Asian Development Bank and are also working with the ECAPOV team at the World Bank.

The research also highlighted the **critical role played by out of pocket payments for health care**, with both qualitative and quantitative data confirming the negative impact of such payments on older people's welfare. In Kyrgyzstan in 2007, 21% of older women and 18% of older men had sought health care in previous 30 days. However, a further 36% of older women and 16% of older men reported that they had 'needed assistance but not sought it'. **The introduction of the reforms in Kyrgyzstan have reduced the proportion paying for health care, but average payments have increased**. The research team are engaged with WHO and OECD Health Division to further this research.

It is too early to identify tangible changes to policy and practice that have resulted from the project. However, it is gratifying to see the well-being of older people rising up the policy agenda.

250 words

To cite this output:

Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus
ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

B Please outline the **findings and outputs** from your project which have had the economic and societal impact(s) outlined in 2A. *[Max 250 words]*

These are largely the same as outlined in section 1B&C above.

In terms of impacting upon policy, we would highlight that the work around the efficiency & adequacy of the pension system, combining administrative data with evidence from household surveys will inform the Asian Development Bank study on *Tackling the Challenge of Rapid Aging: Social Pensions in Asia*.

Findings on older people's well-being and the impact of out of pocket payments for health care have been provided as background evidence to the *WHO Strategic Review of Health Inequalities Post 2010* and an academic paper for submission to a peer review journal is under preparation. Preliminary results were presented as a conference paper: Falkingham, J. *Health, health care and informal payments: older people in Kyrgyzstan* (PowerPoint uploaded on ESRC Society today website).

131 words

C Please outline **how** these impacts were achieved. *[Max 250 words]*

At an early stage the research team contacted Help Age International (London) and during the fieldwork the team were kindly provided with office space within HAI offices in Bishkek and Chisinau.

During visits to the region, the research team gave seminars at Help Age International offices in Moldova and Kyrgyzstan and lectures at the University in Bishkek and Dushanbe. In addition, the team visited a number of local NGOs, including the 'Resource Center for Elderly People' in Bishkek (contact: Mrs Bashtovenko) and the 'National Association of Civil Society Support Centers in Tajikistan' in Dushanbe (contact: Nodira Davlatova).

Additionally the research team have engaged with country offices and poverty and social protection sector teams at the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The project team visited Washington at start of the project in early 2008 and again in September 2009, where they presented the results of the first stages of the fieldwork. A further visit is planned for April 2011 where further quantitative analysis will be presented.

Members of the team are also participating in ADB *International Regional Workshop on Social Protection for Older People in Asia*, Manila, 24-25th February 2011.

Team members participated in a meeting at OECD in Paris on 8th June 2010.

Finally, members of the team are in discussions with WHO concerning providing evidence on the well-being of older people to the Task Group 4 of the *WHO Strategic Review of Health Inequalities Post 2010*, being led by Sir Prof Michael Marmot (contact: Peter Goldblatt, UCL).

250 words

To cite this output:

Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus
ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

D Please outline **who** the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can be at a broad societal level through to specific individuals or groups. *[Max 250 words]*

Following the project, **Help Aged International** have conducted a number of their own studies of the role of migration and remittances on the well-being of older people (contact: Eppu Mikkonen-Jeannere, Regional Representative, Eastern Europe and Central Asia).

The **Asian Development Bank** currently have a programme of work around Social Pensions (contact: Babken Babajanian, Social Development Specialist, Poverty Reduction, Gender, and Social Development Division, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank).

The **WHO** are also drawing on the research findings.

It is hoped that the findings may eventually impact on the national governments in the region.

3. UNEXPECTED AND POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPACTS

A Unexpected Impacts

Please note which, if any, of the impacts that your research has had were *unexpected* at the outset of the research, explaining where possible why you think this was the case. *[Max 250 words]*

None

B Potential Future Impacts

If you have a clear idea of the impact your research is likely to have in the future please detail these below. *[Max 250 words]*

Impact on policy and practice is difficult to gauge and may take several years. However, the team is actively engaging with key policy actors in the region. As analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data and dissemination of the project findings continues, the project has the *potential* to impact on the reform agenda in the region, both in terms of pensions policy and also health care financing and co-payments exemptions policy.

To cite this output:

Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus
ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

4. IMPACT LIMITATIONS

A Limited scientific impact

Please state below any major scientific difficulties that have limited the scientific impact of your research. The statement should refer to an effect on *impact* rather than simply detail research difficulties. [Max 250 words]

As detailed in the end of award report, the project experienced significant changes in staffing. This meant that some of the dissemination activities planned in the region did not take place and/or were delayed.

There was also a delay in negotiating access to the World Bank ECAPOV data; however this has had the *advantage* that the project is using the most up to date data for the region including data from the 2008 round of surveys.

The team have continued to analyse both the quantitative and qualitative data following the formal end of the award and several more outputs are under development.

B Limited economic and societal impact

ESRC recognises that some of the research it funds will not have an economic or societal impact in the short term. Please explain briefly below if this is the case for your project, and refer to your grant application where relevant. [Max 250 words]

See above.

The team has a good (and growing) level of engagement with non-academic public and third sector organisations so some economic and societal impact is anticipated.

C No impact to date

This project has had no impact to date

Please note that ESRC projects are evaluated on the basis of their scientific and/or economic and societal impact. Grant holders are expected to report any future impacts as they occur using the Impact Record, downloadable from the ESRC Society Today website.

If you have no impacts at this stage, please give reasons below. [Max 250 words]

N/A

To cite this output:

Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus
ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

5. DECLARATIONS

Please read the statements below. Submitting this Impact Report to **reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk** confirms your agreement.

- i) This Impact Report is an accurate statement of the impacts of the research project to date. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the Report.
- ii) Details of any subsequent impacts will be submitted via an Impact Record as they occur.

Thank you for completing this Impact Report. Your Impact Report will be considered along with your End of Award Report in the evaluation of your research.

You are now invited to complete the confidential Nominations form, which will assist with the evaluation of your project.

To cite this output:

Falkingham, JC, et al (2011) Left Behind in Transition? Poverty, Social Networks and Social Support amongst Older People in Central Asia and the Caucasus
ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0191. Swindon: ESRC

NOMINATED OUTPUTS

Please nominate a maximum of two outputs from your research which you would like to be considered as part of the evaluation.

Output type (eg journal article, book, newspaper article, conference proceedings)	Publication details (eg author name, date, publisher details)	Uploaded to <i>ESRC Society Today?</i> (Yes/No)
Discussion paper (revised version)	Grant et al (2009) <i>The impact of adult children's migration on wellbeing in later life: voices from Moldova</i> . Centre for Research on Ageing Discussion Paper 0902. University of Southampton.	Yes
Discussion paper	Falkingham, J. and Vlachantoni, A. (2010) <i>Pensions and Social Protection in Central Asia and South Caucasus: developments in the post-Soviet era</i> . Centre for Research on Ageing Discussion Paper 1002. University of Southampton.	Yes

Please email your completed Impact Report, including the Nominations section, to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk, using your **grant reference number** as the email subject.