

are mobilized to converge at locations determined and identified by the Programme where registration and enrolment take place. However, a provision has been made for beneficiaries who are infirm and have mobility challenges. Where such beneficiaries exist, the Programme has made special considerations to have them registered and enrolled at their homes. The Programme also has in place an "Alternative Recipient" provision whereby if a beneficiary with disability is unable to pick their grant money by himself or herself; they are given the option of nominating an alternate who can pick the money on their behalf. This way, beneficiaries with different disabilities are not excluded from the Programme.

(c) Scoping of disability support service providers

The ESP Programme is in the process of scoping the different disability service providers in the districts where the Programme works. The aim of this exercise is to scope and create a database of the different service providers- be they government, non-governmental organisations or private sector players who provide various services for support, rehabilitation, education, assistive devices

and/or innovations and technology that the Programme clients can be referred to for help.

(d) Referral of beneficiaries to service providers

Once the scoping is completed, the Programme will put in place a referral system; where beneficiaries who have one or other form of disability are referred and linked to the various service providers who can provide services and products that help with various disabilities.

(e) The ESP & Sight Savers Partnership

The ESP Programme and Sight Savers International are piloting a partnership to offer eye care services to the Senior Citizens Grant beneficiaries. Under this partnership, when beneficiaries come to the pay point to pick their social grant, those with eye problems benefit from eye care services where they are examined, treated, and where necessary operated on, to correct their sight problems. It is expected that bringing on board SCG beneficiaries will enhance Sight Savers outreach efforts, but will also add value to ESP/SAGE services.

Improved sight for visually impaired older persons (SCG beneficiaries) will enhance transparency and accountability, as those older persons will be empowered to see and count their own money. It may also lead to elimination of the use of alternative recipients by some older persons who will be able to pick their money by themselves. It may also reduce the cost of accessing the grant by older persons as they might be able to go to the pay points themselves and therefore eliminate a helper who they might have been paying a small fee to take them around. More importantly, it will improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries and possibly set them free to undertake a number of economic activities by themselves. The benefits are several and varied. The ESP Programme will at a future time undertake assessment of the impact of this intervention on beneficiaries and SCG outcomes.

(f) Future work

It is expected that the partnership with Sight Savers International will be rolled to all the 47 districts where the ESP Programme works, to reach all beneficiaries who need eye care. It is also hoped that the referral service will enable many more beneficiaries with disabilities to access services and equipment that will ease their impairments and enable them to maximise their potential.



EXPANDING SOCIAL PROTECTION

better life chances for all

UGANDA'S SENIOR CITIZENS GRANT Disability Response

"Disability need not be an obstacle to success. I have had motor neurone disease for practically all my adult life. Yet it has not prevented me from having a prominent career in astrophysics and a happy family life," Prof. Stephen Hawking, (1942-2018)
- Source: The World Disability Report, 2011

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The second phase of the Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP II) is implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Funded by the UK Department for International Development and Irish Aid, and managed by Maxwell Stamp in association with Development Pathways.



Photo: Sight Savers International



Photo: ESP

1.0 Introduction: The global challenge of disability and development

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that one billion of the world's over 7 billion people have one or other form of disability.¹ Of these, 2-4 per cent have a disability that renders them non-functional.² The incidence of disability increases with age, with disability reported more in older (60 years and above) than in younger people (15-59). WHO estimates that in developing countries up to 43.4 per cent of older people have disabilities (compared to 29.5 per cent in developed countries).³

People with disability generally have fewer economic opportunities, poorer health, lower education achievements and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.⁴ This is because of both lack of services available to persons with disability, and the obstacles they face in their daily lives. The number of people with disability is expected to rise globally because of the aging population and effects of chronic health conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, among others.

Yet, there is evidence of social and economic benefits of addressing disability in the population- beyond just the social justice and moral call.

“We have a moral duty to remove the barriers to participation, and to invest sufficient funding and expertise to unlock the vast potential of people with disabilities. Governments throughout the world can no longer overlook the hundreds of millions of people with disabilities who are denied access to health, rehabilitation, support, education and employment, and never get the chance to shine.”

*Prof. Stephen Hawking (1942-2018),
Foreword to World Disability Report, 2011*

2.0 The disability challenge in Uganda

The 2016 Uganda Bureau of Statistics National Household Survey shows that prevalence of disability in Uganda stands at 12.4 per cent. This means that about 4.5 million Ugandans report one form or other of disability. The Uganda Population and Housing Census 2014 showed that disability was more prevalent amongst women (15 per cent) than men (10 per cent); higher in rural areas (15 per cent) than in urban areas (12 per cent). Like elsewhere in the world, disability in Uganda is proportionally more prevalent in the older population. A disability assessment by the Expanding Social Protection Programme of the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development found that nearly 84 per cent of beneficiaries of the Senior Citizens Grant, reported one or other form of visual impairment. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics National Household Survey (UNHS) 2009/2010 showed that poverty rates in households with a person with disability were 30 per cent higher than in households without a person with disability.

This points to the challenge that persons with disability in Uganda face including exclusion and stigmatisation. As a result, and like elsewhere in the world, they have higher poverty rates, lower educational achievements, few economic opportunities, poorer health, among others.

3.0 The disability response under the Senior Citizens Grant

3.1 About ESP and SCG

About the ESP Programme

Uganda's Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development (MGLSD) started the Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme in 2010 with support from UKAID and Irish Aid. The Programme is aimed at embedding a national social protection system that benefits the



A man with disability receives his payments at the PostBank mobile bank

poorest as a core element of Uganda's national planning and budgeting processes. Under this Programme, the Government of Uganda implements the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) through which a social grant, the Senior Citizens Grant, is delivered to older persons of 60 years and above.

About the Senior Citizens Grant

The Senior Citizens Grant (SCG) is designed to reduce old age poverty by providing a minimum level of income security to older people. As a social grant, the SCG responds to public concerns on the welfare of older persons-which reflects Ugandan values of support for the elderly. The SCG does not only reduce poverty among the elderly and their families but also build social cohesion and are effective at reaching other vulnerable groups, e.g. persons with disabilities, orphans. The SCG is simple, cost-effective, and scalable.

For the period it has been implemented in Uganda, there is evidence that the SCG is popular among older persons, their families, communities, and it has the support of many Ugandans, especially Members of Parliament.

Under the SCG scheme, older persons receive Shs. 25,000 every month (about US\$7, £5), but paid out every two months hence beneficiaries receive Shs 50,000 (US\$14, £10) every two months. By June 2018, the scheme reached just over 153,000 beneficiaries in 47 districts.

Although the SCG targets older people, the grants benefit more than only the senior citizen beneficiaries. A majority of the older persons have disabilities. The SCGs have significant impact on development outcomes as older people tend to invest a portion of their grant money in meeting their grandchildren's nutritional, health, education needs. The

grants also increase access to health and education services amongst older people and children in their care, respectively. The grants have been shown to boost rural employment both through the stimulus that the cash payments provide to the local economy and through the employment of youth by older people to work on their land.

3.2 The response to disability in the Senior Citizens Grant

The ESP Programme has taken deliberate action to factor disability consciousness in its work to achieve better programmatic outcomes.

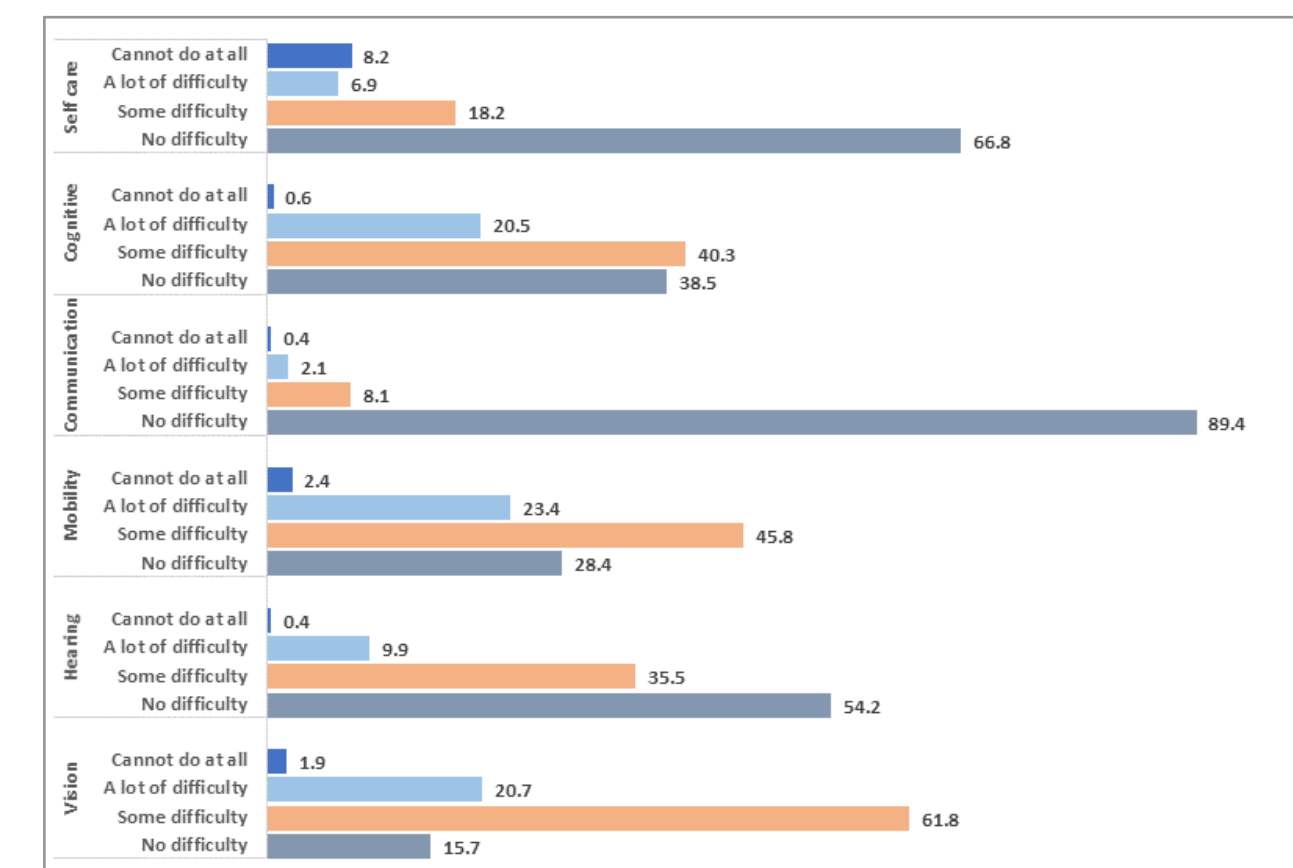
(a) Disability Assessment

The ESP programme commissioned a disability assessment of beneficiaries of the Senior Citizens Grant. The aim was to understand the magnitude of disability amongst beneficiaries to inform programming decisions, referrals

and policy development. The survey covered five forms of disability: Sight, hearing, mobility, communication (speech), cognitive and self-care. The emerging data from this exercise is startling. The findings indicate that about 84 per cent of beneficiaries of the Senior Citizens Grant have visual impairment; about 54 per cent have hearing difficulty; 72 per cent have mobility difficulty; 10.6 per cent of the beneficiaries have communication difficulty; 61.5 per cent have cognitive difficulty, and 33.2 per cent have self-care difficulty. The chart below presents the summaries of proportions of disabilities by forms.

(b) Disability consciousness in Programme implementation

Given the proportion of disability among the target clients, the Programme is creating a general disability consciousness in its work. Specific interventions are being put in place to take care of beneficiaries with disabilities. For example, during registration and enrolment to the Programme, eligible beneficiaries



Source: ESP Disability Assessment (2018)

¹ WHO, World Bank, (2011), World Disability Report. Geneva. p.7

² Ibid., p.25

³ Ibid., p. 28

⁴ Ibid.,