



## **Development Partners Provide Equipment to Boost SAGE Implementation**

The Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) and Irish have delivered vehicles, motorcycles, computers and accessories to support the implementation of social protection interventions under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The Development Partners have supported the SAGE since inception in 2010, when the Programme was piloted in 15 districts namely; Amudat, Apac, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Kiboga, Kole, Kyankwanzi, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Nebbi, Yumbe and Zombo. The Programme has since evolved and now covers all districts across the country, benefiting over 304,555 older persons who receive Ug.Shs25,000 per month, to mitigate various forms of vulnerability.

The Ministry received the last vehicle of the 9, to support the work under the department of Disability and Elderly Affairs. Handing over the vehicle to the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Aggrey David Kibenge, The Team Leader DAI, Gregg McTaggart, on behalf of Development Partners, said the equipment are to support the supervision and monitoring of Programmes implemented under the Ministry. The handover took place at the ESP Programme Offices, along Lourdel Road in Kampala. The motorcycles and computers will be distributed among 135 districts in the country to enable Programme efficiency.

The Permanent Secretary lauded Development Partners for the technical and financial support which has enabled the Programme to positively impact lives of older persons and their communities. He urged officers to effectively utilize the equipment for the good of the Programme and the Ministry.

The Director Social Protection in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Mr. James Ebitu acknowledged the support by Development Partners adding that it has enabled the Programme to achieve great milestones over the years. “we are where we are because of the support from Development Partners”, he said.

The ESP Programme Head, Mr. Stephen Kasaija said the support eased the implementation of the national roll out of SAGE payments, amidst the COVID 19 pandemic. Mr. Kasaija reported that the Programme is critical and hoped that Government would consider additional allocation of resources to safeguard continuity of the SAGE Programme.

## **Pictorial**



*Mr. Stephen Kasaija walks the PS and Director Social Protection around the ESP PMU offices*



*Team Leader, DAI, Gregg McTaggart speaking before handing over the car keys to the PS, MGLSD (2<sup>rd</sup> Left). Looking on is Mr. James Ebitu and Mr. Stephen Kasaija.*



*The PS gives remarks in the main boardroom at ESP PMU Offices*



*PS, Director Social Protection, Head PMU, Team Leader DAI, with Programme Staff after the meeting*



*The vehicle that was handed over to the Ministry*



*The PS, gets into the start the car, as a sign of appreciation.*