



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ROLL OUT OF
THE SENIOR CITIZENS GRANT TO ALL DISTRICTS**

DECEMBER 2019

Highlights

- The rollout of the Senior Citizens Grant under the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment will speed up in the new year with the process of bringing all those aged 80 who are currently not in the scheme into the scheme.
- Training and planning is going ahead so that in early 2020 the verification, registration and enrolment of beneficiaries starts in new districts under Kiboga, Kaberamaido and Nebbi Regional Technical Support Units
- Three (3) new support units have been created in Mbale, Mbarara and Kampala to support districts in those areas to deliver the Senior Citizens Grant
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with NIRA to access and use NIRA national ID data for targeting/identifying beneficiaries

1.0 Introduction

In November 2018, the Government of Uganda took a decision to roll out the Senior Citizens Grant under the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE), to all districts in the country, starting FY 2019/20. The decision is to start by covering people who are 80 years and above (in FY 2019/20), but gradually coming down and ultimately covering all older persons 65 (60 in Karamoja region) years and above within three years. At the same time all older persons already on the Programme (since 2010) will be kept (even if they are younger than 80).

On August 29, 2019: Hon. Janat Mukwaya, the outgoing Minister of Gender, Labour & Social Development made a statement on the Floor of Parliament on the status and progress of the national roll out of the Programme. She also presented a road map developed by the Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development through the Expanding Social Protection Programme Management Unit, that will be followed to see the first payments of new beneficiaries in new districts, starting in the third quarter of the Financial Year (January-March 2020).

On October 1, 2019: The Vice President H.E Edward K. Ssekandi, who represented H.E President Yoweri K. Museveni at the International Day of Older Persons at Boma Grounds, Kumi Municipality, Kumi District, officially launched the national roll out of the Programme.

2.0 Requisite Preparatory Activities under the Programme Guidelines

To pay SAGE beneficiaries (older persons), the Ministry undertakes a number of preparatory activities. Key among these are:

- **Signing of Memoranda of Understanding** with District Local Governments (DLGs) to elaborate relationships, different roles and responsibilities, etc between the centre (Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development/Expanding Social Protection programme) and the District Local Governments (DLGs) in executing the Programme
- **Orienting DLGs to the Programme** (its rationale, mode of operation, guidelines, principles, etc)
- **Training leaders** and other responsibility bearers at different levels of local governments on their roles and responsibilities to build their capacity, skill and commitment to deliver their mandate in the delivery of the grants to older persons

- **Sensitizing the public** to inform and mobilize stakeholders on the Programme operations
- **Targeting** (that is identifying potential beneficiaries) from the NIRA National ID register i.e those who meet the criteria
- **Registration** of selected beneficiaries,
- **Verification** of beneficiaries selected from the NIRA data to ascertain that they meet the criteria, i.e that they are alive; 80 years and above; hold a valid national ID; and they don't receive any other government pension
- **Enrolment** by the payment service provider of verified beneficiaries, i.e the payment service provider captures the biometrics of the verified beneficiaries (their names & other personal details, finger prints, photos) and accounts are opened
- **Money transferred** to beneficiary account and **payments** are made

2.0 Progress on Preparatory Activities

(a) The following preparatory activities have been undertaken at the national level by December 2019

- **Payment Service Provider:** The current Payment Service Provider-PostBank- by its current contract has a limit in numbers of beneficiaries it can pay (230,000) and its contract runs only up to March 2020). The Ministry and development partners agreed to recruit a service provider for the national roll out. Preparation of the tender for the Payment Service Provider was completed, advertised, bids have been opened and evaluation of submitted bids is currently underway. It is expected that the final winner for the role of Payment Service Provider will be announced in early January 2020, in time for the new payments
- **MoUs** have been prepared and signed with all the District Local Governments and Kampala Capital City Authority
- **Regional Technical Support Units (RTSUs):** To provide technical support to the districts in implementation of the grants, the Ministry operates regional support units in the regions. Three (3) new support units have been created in Mbale, Mbarara and Kampala. These are in addition to the already existing support units in Kiboga, Kyenjojo, Gulu, Nebbi, Kaberamaido, Moroto and Kamuli.
- **MoU with NIRA:** the Ministry has already signed an MoU with NIRA which permit the Ministry access and use of the NIRA data in the National ID registry for targeting and identification of beneficiaries of the Senior Citizens Grant

(b) The following activities have been undertaken in all 134 districts + Kampala by December 2019:

- **Inception meetings** with the political and technical leaderships of all District Local Governments and Kampala have been completed
- **National technical training** of Master Trainers from various Government departments and local Governments undertaken on how the Programme works and different expectations, roles and responsibilities
- **Regional technical training** for all Programme staff in the regions on how to support DLGs
- **District stakeholder orientation** where all stakeholders- district (technical and political), civil society, cultural, religious, opinion leaders has been undertaken

3.0 The following are the outstanding last mile activities expected to be executed between January-March 2020

- **Sub county technical training:** This is training provided to sub county level technical officers on how to undertake various activities of the Programme. This training is for sub county CDOs, parish chiefs,
 - **Mass sensitization** through the mass media and all available channels of the public on the roll out of the Senior Citizens Grant
 - **Verification** of names generated from the NIRA register to confirm their eligibility (to confirm they meet the criteria),
 - **Registration** of those confirmed are eligible
 - **Enrolment** (capture of biometrics and opening of accounts with the Payment Service provider)
 - **Payment** of verified and enrolled older persons
- **Note: This update applies to only NEW districts. Old districts receive their payments as already scheduled.** The new districts in the national rollout of the Senior Citizens Grant are: Arua, Budaka, Bududa, Bugweri, Buhweju, Buikwe, Bukedea, Bukomansimbi, Bukwo, Bulambuli, Buliisa, Bunyangabo, Bushenyi, Busia, Butaleja, Butambala, Buvuma, Buyende, Gomba, Hoima, Ibanda, Iganga, Isingiro, Jinja, Kabarole, Kalangala, Kaliro, Kalungu, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kapchorwa, Kazo, Kibuku, Kiruhura, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kitagwenda, Kyotera, Lira, Luuka, Luwero, Lwengo, Lyatonde, Madi-Okollo, Manafwa, Maracha, Masaka, Masindi, Mbale, Mbarara, Mitooma, Mityana, Mpigi, Mukono, Namisindwa, Namutumba, Ngora, Ntoroko, Ntungamo,

Obongi, Nwoya, Oyam, Rakai, Rwampara, Rubirizi, Rukungiri, Serere, Soroti, Sironko, Tororo, Wakiso.

- **The old districts include the 15 pilot districts:** Amudat, Apac, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Kiboga, Kole, Kyankwanzi, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Nebbi, Yumbe and Zombo. **It also includes the 45 districts** that the Programme rolled out to between 2016-2018: Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, Koboko, Gulu, Pader, Agago, Lamwo, Amolatar, Pallisa, Amuria, Kween, Namayingo, Mayuge, Kamuli, Kayunga, Nakasongola, Kibaale, Kisoro, Bundibugyo, Kitgum, Nakaseke, Kabale, Bugiri, Amuru, Dokolo, Sembabule, Kasese, Sheema and Mubende, Alebtong, Adjumani, Otuke, Moyo and Kumi. **The old districts also include districts that broke away from the earlier ones:** Kagadi, Kakumiro (from Kibaale), Kapelebyong (from Amuria), Rubanda and Rukiga (from Kabale), Nabilatuk (from Nakapiripirit), Butebo (from Pallisa), Pakwach (from Nebbi), Kalaki (from Kaberamaido), Karenga (from Kaabong), Kasanda (from Mubende), Kwania (from Apac), Omoro (from Gulu).

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WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020