



## PRESS RELEASE

*(For Immediate Release)*

### LAST SIX DISTRICTS SIGN IN TO SAGE

**Kampala, October 14, 2011:** Six more districts have today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development to implement the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE). The six: Napak, Kole, Amudat, Zombo, Kyegyegwa and Kyankwanzi.

This brings to 14 the number of districts covered under the Ministry's cash transfer scheme, implemented by the Expanding Social Protection Programme. Kaberamaido, Kiboga, Kyenjojo, Apac, Kole, Amudat, Moroto and Nakapiripirit earlier signed the Memoranda).

Under the agreement, the districts committed to mainstream SAGE to local government structures, provide staff to support it and ensure smooth implementation according to agreed guidelines. The districts also committed to manage and supervise the SAGE Programme at the district and lower levels under the Chief Administrative Officer's office.

Speaking at the signing ceremony today the Minister of Gender Labour & Social Development, Syda Bumba said "today is an important day as it represents another major milestone in our collaboration with the ministry of Local Government and the selected District Local Governments in the implementation of the Expanding Social Protection programme.

Adding that Social Protection is now recognised all over the world as a critical component of national development strategies and key to achieving all inclusive, pro-poor, equitable development and social transformation.

She pledged her ministry's commitment to provide overall strategic leadership and supervision of SAGE implementation.

Bbumba challenged the local governments to advocate for adequate prioritization of the district Community Services Departments within local governments and to support the full integration of SAGE within local government systems and structures.

**For more information, please contact:**

Simon E. Omoding, Communications Manager, Expanding Social Protection Programme,  
Tel: 0752 665 775, E-mail: [simon.omoding@socialprotection.co.ug](mailto:simon.omoding@socialprotection.co.ug)

Phionah Kesaasi, Communications Officer, Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment  
(SAGE), Tel: 0712 282 142, Email: [phionah.kesaasi@socialprotection.go.ug](mailto:phionah.kesaasi@socialprotection.go.ug)

Website: [www.socialprotection.go.ug](http://www.socialprotection.go.ug)

## **Some facts about SAGE**

- SAGE is a component of the Ugshs 160 billion Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP) supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), Irish Aid, and UNICEF.
- It is to be piloted in 14 districts of Apac, Kole, Amudat, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Katakwi, Kyegegwa, Kaberamaido, Kyenjojo, Nebbi and Zombo).
- It is expected that the roll out which starts in three districts this month will be completed in all 14 districts by early 2013
- As a pilot SAGE is aimed at generating evidence and testing mechanisms, principles to support the formulation of the social protection policy framework in Uganda so that social protection is expanded in the whole country.