



## PRESS RELEASE

### NEBBI DISTRICT STARTS GIVING SENIOR CITIZENS GRANTS

**Nebbi, March 8, 2012:** Nebbi district today became the fifth to start disbursing Direct Income Support to older persons under the Senior Citizens Grants. Nebbi is part of the cohort of Apac, Moroto, Katakwi and Nakapiripirit that will start disbursing the grants under the Expanding Social Protection Programme by end of June 2012.

Kaberaido, Kiboga and Kyenjojo districts started implementing the Senior Citizen's grants and Vulnerable Family Grants in September 2011. Already 3,500 beneficiaries have been covered in the three districts.

On the choice of Women's Day to launch the grants in Nebbi-also the venue for national celebrations- Stephen Kasaija, Head of the Social Protection Secretariat said, "Both the Senior Citizens Grants and the Vulnerable Family Grants are skewed towards the woman. This is because we recognise that women-including older women- play a critical role in providing basic needs for their families, especially grandchildren."

Minister of State Women & Culture, Rukia Nakadama said, "The Senior Citizens Grant complements Government's efforts to empower women and address their unique vulnerability and needs. In particular, the Grant supports older women to empower their granddaughters to access good quality health, education and sanitation services. These services are vital to their reproductive health and rights, human capital development, economic wellbeing and dignity; thereby inspiring the girl child to effectively participate in and benefit from Uganda's Socio-economic transformation."

MTN said....

Senior Citizens Grants and other forms of social protection programmes are now recognised all over the world as a critical component of national development strategies and key to achieving all inclusive, equitable development and social transformation.

The Social Assistance Grants are being implemented under the Expanding Social Protection Programme supported by DFID, Irish Aid, UNICEF and the Government of Uganda.

Under the SAGE scheme senior citizens in 14 pilot districts receive monthly grants of Ugx 23,000 per month through mobile money.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Note to the editors:**

- SAGE is a component of the Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP) supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Irish Aid and UNICEF.
- SAGE is being piloted in 14 districts of Apac, Kole, Amudat, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Katakwi, Kyegegwa, Kaberamaido, Kyenjojo, Nebbi and Zombo.
- Over the next 5 years, the programme will give Ugx23, 000 (US\$8) every month to over 600,000 people under two types of grants; the Senior Citizens Grants (for people 65 years and above; 60 and above for Karomoja) and the Vulnerable Families Support Grants (for households with low labour capacity and high dependency). This amount will however be revised to cater for inflation in order to keep the value of the amount.
- As a pilot project, 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 to the whole country.