



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
Ministry of Gender, Labour
& Social Development



better life chances for all

EXPANDING
SOCIAL
PROTECTION

SAGE enabled Nakigudde to re-discover her old skill to provide for herself and grandchildren



▲ Alice Nakigudde used part of her grant to buy materials to produce baskets that she sells. Through this income she's been able to build a better house and to take care of her granddaughter.

Inset: Nakigudde's new house; in the background is her old house

Until 2010, 76-year-old Alice Nakigudde did not have any source of income.

The resident of Katembu ward, Kiboga town council in Kiboga district in central Uganda would later start on a new life journey in 2010 when the Government of Uganda rolled out the Senior Citizens Grant (SCG).

Under the Scheme, older persons aged 65 years (60 for Karamoja sub-region) and above get an unconditional monthly grant of Shs25,000 (£6).

Both Nakigudde and her husband, Joseph Kasujja – above 65 years at the time, were enrolled on the grant. On her part, she invested her grant to buy materials she needed to make handcrafts, a skill she had acquired earlier in life.

Following Kasujja's death in 2012, however, life became harder for the aging Nakigudde who at the time did not even have a permanent house, and lived in a make-shift structure.

Now that she was able to buy the materials she required to make the crafts, she embarked on hand-making grocery, jewelry and decoration boxes, shopping bags and the small traditional dining baskets used to serve local food.

“I had made some savings from my crafts and the monthly money we receive. So, when my husband died, I decided to buy goats and chicken,” she says.

When the four goats she bought in 2012 had multiplied, Nakigudde decided to start constructing a more permanent house for herself. She had been residing in a single semi-permanent room, which also served as her store and kitchen.

With proceeds from selling her crafts, chicken and the goats, all thanks to Senior Citizens Grant, she built a three-bedroomed house in which she lives with her five grandchildren, all under her care.

“At the moment, I have a burden of paying school fees for these children,” she says. “Much of the money is from my crafts.”

Nakigudde is grateful to UKaid and Irish Aid for supporting the Government of Uganda to help old people in Uganda in their old age. The grant, she says, goes a long way to relieve them of old age challenges, and to give a future to children in their care.

For now, her wish in the short term is to buy a water harvesting tank to harvest water from the roof of her new house, and in the long term-for her grandchildren to get an education to enable them break the bond of poverty in the family.

About the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE)/Senior Citizens Grants

UKaid and Irish Aid have been working with the Government of Uganda since 2009 to establish a national social protection system that would support the poorest and most vulnerable. The UK and Republic of Ireland are currently reaching 154,000 Ugandan Senior Citizens with social grants, many of whom rely on the cash transfer to change their poverty status and provide opportunities for a better future for children in their care. Senior Citizens use the cash transfer to increase their food and health expenditure, provide scholastic materials children in their care, and to start small investments that further enhance their incomes. It is expected that a total of 226,000 older persons will be reached by 2020. In Uganda, about 3 million children are under the care of older persons.

With the UK and Republic of Ireland's help, Uganda will have a national social protection system that will be able to support all of those living in poverty.

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.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Expanding Social Protection Programme

Plot 9 Lourdel Road, Nakasero, Kampala.P.O. Box 28240, Kampala - Uganda

Tel: +256 312 202 050/1 Email: esp@socialprotection.go.ug

Website: www.socialprotection.go.ug

www.facebook.com/expanding-social-protection-programme www.twitter.com/@ESPprogramme