



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



better life chances for all

EXPANDING
**SOCIAL
PROTECTION**



Eflazia Kabahuma with her granddaughter

**For Kabahuma, the grants helped
offset the impact of the banana wilt
contagion**

Eflazia Kabahuma stays in Igunda A, Migongwe parish, Kakabara sub county, Kyegegwa district, in western Uganda. At 76 years, Kabahuma had a banana plantation which she tended to for years, and from which she had eked out a living. Unfortunately, the banana wilt disease- a pandemic bug that affected banana plantations across many banana-growing areas in Uganda wiped out the plantation.

Kabahuma had another test- she had the responsibility to raise her 12-year-old granddaughter, whose father (Kabahuma's son) died. The girl is only in primary four (fourth grade of schooling).

Ordinarily, at her age, life would have ground to a halt without any other options. But with the Senior Citizens Grants that she received, Kabahuma was quick to change strategy- away from farming. She started a business- a small village shop where she stocked and sold salt. She sells the salt- a basic household item that every household spends on every month- to fellow women in the village.

With part of her grant, Kabahuma increased her capital for stocking salt that she sells. From the salt business, she earns between Shs 5000/= to 10000/= (about £2) as profit every month. It is this profit that she uses to take care of her households needs-like salt, sugar, soap and scholastic materials, food, medical care.

Kabahuma says she is grateful to UKaid, Irish Aid and the Government of Uganda for giving her that safety net without which the banana wilt would have pushed her back into hopeless extreme poverty.

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.



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