

Babinyanga (88) and Kabajungu (70)

Samuel Babinyanga is 88 years old and has been married to Maga Kabajungu (70) for the last 32 years. The two beneficiaries of the Senior Citizens Grants reside in Kijanga village, Kitega Parish in Bufunjo Sub-County, Kyenjojo district.

At their home, one vividly sees the challenging conditions that the aging couple live in.

Before the Direct Income Support intervention, the couple lived in their old grass thatched house and survived on food produced in their garden.

“We are advanced in age and we do not have the energy to keep replacing the grass on our roof so that it doesn’t leak when it rains” says Babinyanga as he explains the challenges that they go through.

“We use the little money we get from weaving (baskets and mats) to meet some of our basic needs such as salt and soap...” adds Maga on their source of income prior to the SAGE intervention.

As a couple, the two agreed to use the grants to improve their house, with the local materials such as reeds, trees for timber and mud available, they identified roofing (Iron sheets) as the huddle to overcome. They hence decided to buy one iron sheet between the two of them, every payment cycle. The old couple has also invested in livestock by buying two piglets.

As a result, the couple has been able to plug one of their most disturbing conditions; replacing their grass roof with iron sheets thereby addressing the hitherto menacing challenge of having to replace the roof every so often. Today they have realized their dream of leaving the grass thatched house for a semi-permanent one.

The two, living with their 13 year old grandson, whom they provide scholastic materials for to attend his Universal Primary Education school, plan to improve the finishing of their house in future and also buy some goats to rear as income security.

*“We are grateful to the government for having thought about us, but it would be good if the government considered increasing the grant value so that we can meet more of our basic needs.....”*Concludes Samuel.