

Namatovu Christine and her 80 year old mother

Christine Namatovu is aged 65 years. She lives in Lwamagali Village, Kikoma Parish, Butemba Sub County in Kyankwanzi District; where she has lived for the last 20 years. She had only one child who unfortunately died before the age of one. Since then, she never gave birth again. Namatovu lives with her mother Roy Nabukalu who at 80 years is also a beneficiary of the Senior Citizens Grants.

For the last three years, Namatovu has been struggling with High Blood Pressure. Before the SAGE Programme started giving the grants, it was difficult for her to get around with basic necessities for herself and her mother. She also lived in a house with a leaking roof. Her income mainly came from selling a local banana type- '*musa*' to people brewing local brew (*mwenge bigere*) from which she earned about UGx 20,000-which went to cater for her basic needs.

Unfortunately, her banana plantation was attacked by the menacing Banana Bacterial Wilt (BBW) rendering her highly vulnerable without any source of reliable income. Fortunately for her, the SAGE Programme started at that point.

As beneficiaries of the Senior Citizens Grant, Namatovu together with her mother have reliably and predictably received Ugx. 48, 000 monthly, since July 2012. With the money, she says, she is able to buy food, paraffin and salt. The money has also enabled her to access medical care for the basic management of her High Blood Pressure at Kiboga hospital, a distance away from her home. She says that much as she has lived with the condition for sometimes, she was not in the past able to pay/go for her regular medical treatment since she did not have the money. "*With the SAGE grants, at least am assured of my payment for my medical bills.*"

With two month saving, Namatovu was also able to buy a blanket at Ugx 28,000 and 2 chickens Ugx 10,000. She plans to save her money so that she can hire laborers to cultivate her garden to grow maize, potatoes and beans in the next season.

Beyond herself, Namatovu says, "Senior Citizens Grants have grown business in the community because we old people after we receive the money, we buy commodities from the nearby trading center." She adds, "You see if it was not for these grants, my mother would be a burden to me in my condition."