



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



better life chances for all

EXPANDING SOCIAL PROTECTION

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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW:

EXPANDING SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME PHASE I



Background

- In July 2010, Cabinet approved a proposal to implement the Expanding Social Protection (ESP) Programme including the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) pilot scheme. A core component of the proposal was a Senior Citizens Grant (SCG) scheme
- The SCG was designed to respond to the Constitutional obligations of the state with regards to the welfare and maintenance of the elderly, policy commitments in the National Development Plan and Vision 2040.
- With support from Development Partners (DFID, IrishAid and UNICEF), the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development implemented the SAGE pilot in 15 districts from September 2010-2015

Purpose/objectives

- The purpose of the ESP1 Programme was to embed social protection into Uganda's national planning and budgeting processes.
- Critical to this embedment is funding by the Government of Uganda to the extension and roll out of the Senior Citizens Grants beyond the initial 15 districts.
- The objectives of the pilot were twofold: First, to provide lessons from which the government could take decisions to build and expand social protection in the country. The second was to build systems to support the development of the social protection framework for Uganda.

Implementation

- The national launch of the Programme was done by the 1st Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Henry Kajura in September 2010 at the Kampala Serena Hotel. The Vice President, H. E Edward Ssekandi officially launched the Senior Citizens Grants during the International Day of Older Persons (1st October 2012)

in Kyenjojo district. H. E. President Yoweri Museveni launched the grants for Nebbi district during the International Women's Day celebrations of March 8th, 2013. The Hon. Maria Kiwanuka, then Minister of Finance, Planning & Economic Development launched the grants in Yumbe, on behalf of H. E the President on 1st October 2014

- Under the pilot, two social protection instruments were piloted; the Senior Citizens Grants that targeted older persons- 65 years (60 in the case of Karamoja), and the Vulnerable Family Grant. The Vulnerable Family Grant targeted poor and vulnerable households; these were mainly households that didn't have labour capacity, for reasons of age (old age or child headed households, physical disability, etc). (In June 2015, the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development made a decision to phase out the Vulnerable Family Grant following lessons that showed that the VFG was expensive and complicated to implement and was not clearly understood by the communities).
- Between 2010-2015, the Programme reached 123,153 beneficiaries spread around 6,028 villages in 141 sub-counties in the 15 districts: Kiboga, Kaberamaido, Kyenjojo, Nebbi, Apac, Katakwi, Moroto, Nakapiripirit Kyegegwa, Kyankwanzi, Kole, Zombo, Napak, Amudat and Yumbe
- Development partners DFID/Ukaid and Irish Aid committed 50 million British Pound between 2010-2015. Government of Uganda provided support in kind, plus counterpart funding of UGX 2 billion (2013/13) and UGX2 billion (2014/15).
- Each of the 123,153 beneficiaries, receiving UGX 25,000. A total of UGX 87.2 billion was disbursed in grants to beneficiaries over the 5 years

Key successes & Achievements

- **Systems:** The Programme established systems for delivering the service, such as payment systems, enrolment system, management information systems,
- **Evidence & impact:** The Programme generated evidence on its impacts, administrative feasibility and long-term sustainability that made the case for national roll out of the Programme
- **National Policy:** A draft national social protection policy was developed ready to be submitted to Cabinet for approval by the end of 2015
- A total of 123,153 beneficiaries was reached with monthly grants of UGX25,000 per month in 15 districts
- **Impacts:** The Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development has documented the lessons and impact of the Programme on direct beneficiaries, the wider community and economy throughout the pilot period. This includes through an independent impact evaluation, commissioned research and paypoint exit surveys. Key findings are that SAGE has:
 - ➔ **Improved the welfare of older people and their families through increased:** Food security, frequency, quantity and quality of meals, uptake of health services, uptake of education services among children living with older people, improved ability to deal with economic shocks
 - ➔ **Increased the productivity of beneficiary households through:** Investment of grants in purchase of livestock, farm inputs and the establishment of small businesses, use of grant money by older people to hire -labourers to open up their hitherto idle agricultural land
 - ➔ **Increased savings and investment:** Over 15,000 beneficiaries have formed savings and loan groups; saving on a weekly or monthly basis and then disbursing the accumulated savings on a rotational basis at agreed intervals. These savings are used to cover emergencies, to support productive investments, cultivation and meeting the education and scholastic needs of their children/grandchildren.
 - ➔ **Boosted local economic activity:** Increased purchasing power among SAGE beneficiary households has increased demand for local goods and services. This has resulted in the establishment of new business and markets to supply essential commodities such as soap, salt, sugar and paraffin and food stuffs – particularly on SAGE paydays.

- ➔ **Increased social inclusion and empowerment:** Beneficiaries, especially women, consistently report improved participation in community affairs, sense of self-esteem and empowerment. Older people report feeling less discriminated against in their communities and more valued by their families on account of their ability to make social contributions to community-based social support mechanisms which are based on reciprocity (funerals, weddings etc).
 - ➔ **Strengthened social cohesion, social contract and visibility of government to communities:** The Senior Citizens Grant has been well received by beneficiaries and the general public across the political divide as it: reflects Ugandan values of support for the elderly; builds social cohesion; and delivers services directly to beneficiaries. This is supported by statements from beneficiaries such as: *"This is one of the best government programmes that directly reaches out and touches the people"*. Strong evidence is also emerging that the grant has significantly reinvigorated local level service delivery by promoting contact between different levels of government and the community, improving coordination of service delivery, accountability and the relevance and visibility of government.
 - ➔ **Impacts on poverty:** Analysis based on the Uganda National Household Survey 2009/10, confirms that national roll-out of the SCG would: Deliver a basic level of income security to around 1.2 million older people, lift at least 1.2 million older people and household members out of extreme poverty, improve economic security for an additional 1.7 million people who are highly vulnerable to falling into poverty, benefit 3 million of Uganda's most vulnerable children.
- The SAGE pilot scheme has also clearly demonstrated that a national Senior Citizen Grant roll out is technically feasible and institutionally sustainable. Indeed strong evidence is emerging that the grant is strengthening government institutions, improving accountability and increasing contact between vulnerable and excluded citizens and the local government system.

Way forward

- The successful implementation of the pilot between 2010-2015 has registered these enormous impacts.
- It is on the basis of the success of the pilot that the Government of Uganda has decided to roll out the Programme to 40 other districts, with the ultimate plan of covering the whole country.
- It is expected that the success of the pilot will be replicated in the new districts.

For More information, please contact:

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