



UGANDA REACH THE AGED ASSOCIATION (URAA)



ANNUAL REPORT 2013 (DRAFT)

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Message from URAA Chairman

Message from the URAA Chief Executive Officer

Acknowledgements

URAA appreciates the support from development partners which funding and technical support has enabled the implementation of the Strategic plan. To note URAA received funding from five main development partners, namely HelpAge International (HelpAge), CORDAID Netherlands, Big Lottery Fund UK, Sweden/ Norad and Germany Embassy .

The line Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has contributed to enhancing URAA's mandate as the major age care organization having signed an MOU with URAA. Other key partnerships appreciated are the URAA national advocacy teams made up of different national NGOs, the Uganda Social Protection Platform, Development Research and Training, UNASO, Mildmay, ROTOM and NURRU.

The tremendous support by the Board of Directors has ensured continuity of URAA as an organization.

INTRODUCTION OF URAA

Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) is a national, non – government organization member organizations in all the country regions. URAA is mandated by its membership to promote quality well being of older persons through its member organizations. The aim of URAA is to provide a platform for fellowship, mutual support, hope and a voice to older persons (OPs). Specifically the organization focuses on advocacy to raise awareness on OPs’ issues and fight stigma to older persons through the rights-based approach aimed at promoting dignified living by advocating and promoting equitable access economic empowerment, social welfare, treatment, care and support, and well being of OPs.

URAA has continued to grow and evolve into the older persons’ organization in Uganda. Its continued growth and effectiveness has been as a result of efforts towards understanding and articulating the needs of older persons in Uganda. URAA also recognizes that issues of older persons are only championed by collaborative efforts of different stakeholders including Government, development partners and Civil Society Organizations. URAA’s focus therefore emphasizes advocacy, policy and research, capacity building, information sharing and institutional strengthening to meeting the felt needs of Older Persons in Uganda. URAA works with several both local and international stakeholders to achieve its mission objectives. These include the Ministry of Gender, labour and social development, Ministry of Health, Uganda AIDS commission, Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations, Uganda AIDS Commission, HelpAge International, Uganda Social Protection Platform, Development Research and Training among others.

Vision: A dignified, self-fulfilled, poverty free ageing Uganda

Mission: To champion the realization and preservation of a dignified quality of life for Older Persons in Uganda.

URAA’s Core Values are:

- ⇒ Dignity and mutual respect
- ⇒ Courage of conviction
- ⇒ Integrity
- ⇒ Transparency, trust and accountability
- ⇒ Ageing, fellowship and selflessness

URAA’s Main Target Group is Older Persons and the Children under their care.

Strategic issues URAA is working on:

URAA strategic plan 2012 – 2016 identifies the issues below as key to the organizations' work and survival. These issues are the basis of URAA's programming and resource mobilization efforts.

1. Economic empowerment of older persons.
2. Tackling the social welfare of older persons.
3. Networking and integration between URAA, OPS and other stakeholders.
4. Information and communication to articulate older persons issues.
5. Research, policy lobby and advocacy for older persons.
6. To strengthen URAA institutional capacity and effectiveness.

CONTEXTUAL ISSUES OF OLDER PERSONS IN UGANDA:

Social protection; According to the Uganda National Policy for Older Persons, only 7.1% of the 2,500,000 Older Persons in Uganda have access to a pension with 60% being males. The few beneficiaries further face multiple hardships in accessing their benefits due to weak delivery systems. Currently the Government with Donor funding through Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) are implementing a cash transfer programme but this so far covers only 14 districts out of 136.

HIV and AIDS; Older Persons have been greatly impacted by HIV and AIDS. Older Persons take a disproportionate share in the care of OVC and People Living with HIV and AIDS. 60% of OVC are under the care of older persons (MGLSD – OVC situation analysis report 2009). HIV and AIDS continue to have a devastating social, economic and emotional impact on older persons. Older persons are sexually active and are at risk of infection but also get infection through uninformed care giving, traditional healing practices and as traditional birth attendants.

Health, water, sanitation and shelter; The Uganda Health Strategic investment Plan 2010/14 indicates a total of 1106 health centers and 113 hospitals in the country. Utilization of services is very low due to poor infrastructure, lack and stock out of medicines, shortage of staff and the long distances to these health facilities. With all challenges above its next to impossible for older persons to access health care, water, sanitation and shelter. The study on Social Protection in Uganda (2002) asserts that ill – health is a major source of worry and stress among Older Persons in Uganda.

Older persons' abuse and Gender Disparities; Gender discrimination continues to create more disparity between older women and older men. Access to property; right to own, inherit and dispose property remains a challenge for women including older women (Study on equal opportunities and diversity in Uganda 2006). Older Persons especially older women also suffer rape, domestic violence, property

grabbing and witch craft accusation. While laws are in place to cartel this, the high poverty levels among Older Persons make it difficult for them to access the legal services.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Expected results;

Activities undertaken by URAA under each strategic objective have an overall focus on achieving the following results.

Under program area 1: Economic Empowerment for older persons;

- ⇒ URAA member organizations trained in Proposal development, Resource mobilization, Entrepreneurial and IGA management
- ⇒ URAA member organizations linked to finance and insurance institutions facilities
- ⇒ URAA member organizations establish micro-projects for household incomes.

Under Programme area 2: Social Justice for Older Persons

- ⇒ Prevalence and impact of HIV&AIDs on older persons reduced.
- ⇒ Health facilities accessible equipped with medicines and specialized personnel for old age diseases.
- ⇒ Community rights awareness of Social Protection and HIV and AIDS entitlements 3 follow up meetings were conducted from 16-17 October 2013 in Namalemba Buyanga Ibulanka & societies of Iganga district with a total of 29 participants
- ⇒ The meetings were a follow up on trained ops for success and lessons learned out of the implementation of activities as a result of the awareness, the rights and communities land
- ⇒ Visited up to 51 ops living with hiv assisting them with treatment adherence but also providing social support in caring for their families other
- ⇒ Reports from rights communities indicate increased nos of ops going for hiv testing and treatment services up to 310
- ⇒ Abuse and violation of older persons rights reduced
- ⇒ Older persons comfortably access physical facilities and services.

Under Programme area 3: To Strengthen Networking and Communication between URAA and other Stakeholders.

- ⇒ URAA active in relevant national, regional and international networks.
- ⇒ A vibrant national and regional older persons association network in place.
- ⇒ Under programme area 4: To set up an effective information and communication system and data base that articulates older persons issues.
- ⇒ A communication and advocacy strategy developed and operationalized

⇒ Leaders of URAA member organizations trained in communication and advocacy skills.

Under Programme area 5: To carry out research, policy lobby and advocacy for older persons.

⇒ Data on issues of older persons are more available and accessible.

⇒ A communication and advocacy strategy developed and operationalized.

⇒ Leaders of URAA member organizations trained in communication and advocacy skills.

⇒ Advocacy and lobby issues that concern older persons increased.

Under Programme area 6: To strengthen the capacity of URAA and its member organizations to effectively implement older persons' programmes.

⇒ URAA financial base adequately diversified.

⇒ URAA mandate effectively achieved

⇒ Structures, systems and policies that enable URAA to achieve its mission are in place and functional.

⇒ URAA member organizations vibrant and sustainable.

Projects that have contributed towards achieving the above results are;

1. Supporting multigenerational households to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV on older persons funded by the Big Lottery Fund.
2. Strengthening Older Persons' Associations for improved service delivery by duty bearers funded by CORDAID.
3. Strengthening social protection to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS and poverty in sub Saharan Africa funded by Sweden/Norad.
4. Improving the economic status of 60 older persons funded by Germany Embassy.

PROGRESS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

4.0. Activities Implemented during the reporting period:

The activities implemented overall fit under specified strategic objectives of the URAA strategic plan. A six month workplan January to June was produced to guide and track the implementation of the activities. Overall the activities are on track with few adjustments.

a) Under Programme area 1: Economic empowerment for older persons:

1. Bicycle provision for older persons in Pallisa District:

To enable older persons be involved in gainful employment and improve access to markets for their products, 60 older persons (35M, 25F) received bicycles.. The bicycle provision event was attended by 200 people including a member of the URAA Board of Directors, URAA CEO, URAA P.O, the District

Community Development Officer, District Health Educator, the District Senior Labour Officer, the coordinator of Pallisa Civil Society Organizations Network and Older Persons. The highlight of the bicycle provision was the key commitments by the district officials to support older person;

- ⇒ The District Community Development Officer committed to increase support to older persons by considering proposals from older person groups.
- ⇒ The District Health Educator promised to continually recognize and prioritize the special care needs of older persons.

By the end of the reporting period, it was reported that the bicycles have improved access to markets for older persons through transport of produce, crafts, pottery and food stuffs to markets; increased household income through transport business; improved access by older persons to Health facilities and social events.

URAA Board member hands over bicycles to beneficiaries

Photo 1 Can be put in the final

2. Support supervision for Older Persons' Associations(OPAs) in management of income generating activities and financial management:

In a bid to strengthen financial systems of OPAs and support sustainable income generation, URAA finance team has made capacity support visits to OPAs in 15 districts of Mityana, Wakiso, Mubende, Mpigi, Masaka, Bushenyi, Mitooma, Rukungiri, Rubirizi, Sheema, Iganga, Pallisa, Budaka, Kasese and Mayuge.

The support supervision focused on building the strength of the group in view of documents available, leadership structure, record keeping and financial status.

As a result of the support, up to 17 groups have started IGAs and savings and credit schemes. All the OPAs have been provided with stationery including cash books, stamp pads, carbon papers, box files and counter books to enhance authentic record keeping.

In Iganga, follow up monitoring visits were conducted from 22-26 October 2013. This indicated improved loan recovery and an increase in the loan amount provided in October 2013. This was attributed to the fact that Older Persons have to belong to a community group who seconds and monitors their loan

Success Story 1:

CAPACITY BUILDING IMPROVES ON OLDER PERSONS WELFARE

Lack of skills in managing group savings and credit schemes affects management of the groups and schemes of older persons. This hinders growth and progress as there are always a few benefits and to a few people. URAA while working with paralegals noted that they did not have skills in managing their group savings and credit scheme. To improve on this situation, URAA trained 45 groups of older persons from 15 sub counties of Kasese district in Savings and Credit Management and Management of Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

The training focused on record keeping, budgeting for viable income generating activities, saving, loan management, group leadership, marketing, banking to mention a few. Following this training, 3 groups from each of the 15 sub counties were provided with a start up group fund of 600,000 (Ushs. Six hundred thousand only). In Karusandara sub county, Kanambababwe Older Persons group with 32 members used the fund provided to purchase 3 female pigs, for a project called 'Send a pig Project'. Each member who receives a female pig after delivery, gives away a female piglet to the next beneficiary. One of the members visited, who is a widow aged 58 years, had 3 mature female pigs and 9 piglets. The project has enabled her to pay school fees for her 5 orphans under her care.

From this project she is also able to meet her savings obligation to this group, from which she can also access a loan to meet working capital requirement in her business, for now and in future to continue boosting her business.

b) Under programme area 2: Social Justice for older persons:

Program Quarterly meeting and support supervision: Program monitoring was undertaken from 16-18 October 2013. This aimed to further collect information for evidence on program progress and effectiveness to inform future programs but also provide experiences to learn from as an organization. The monitoring that mostly covered Older Persons' Associations (OPAs) and traditional health practitioners revealed enthusiasm within the THPs that has led to group formation, referrals of up to 61 people to health centres for HIV services and professional treatment of difficult cases. OPAS have provided forums for HIV awareness and sensitization which has led to increased testing among op HHs with up to 310 going for testing

Quarterly technical support to THPs and their associations: A total of 176 THPs aggregated at Sub County level from 6-8 November 2013. The technical support was in areas of data collection, partnership development and monitoring of service delivery. From the forum, noted outcomes were; A district association for herbalists formed and 100 herbalists have been registered.

THP training on packing, hygiene, nutrition and HIV and AIDS: 40 THPs (25M, 15F) were trained from 25-26 November and 12-13 December 2013. The training was for THPs that had not participated in training before and covered topics on minimum standards of care, conservation of medicinal plants, mixing of herbs, safety and ethical issues, HIV&AIDS &TB among others. As part of the training, THPs undertook a community outreach to sensitize communities on HIV&AIDS, disease control and engage the BHPs. The community outreach enabled THPs understand community needs in regard to HIV service delivery but also streamline community perceptions on THP work.

District Traditional Health Practitioners (THP) and Basic Health Practitioners (BHP) conference on learning and collaboration: Older persons are affected by HIV as sexually active individuals but also as they care for the sick. Older persons also have other age related ailments like hypertension and diabetes that render them chronically ill. Given the stigma associated with HIV in old age and the unavailability for non communicable disease medicines, older persons have majorly resorted to the use of THPs for alternative treatment.

To promote access to basic health care for OPs through referral by THPs, URAA conducted a one day conference that brought together 50 THPs and BHPs (20F, 30M). The conference was attended by THPs, Clinical Officers, TBAs, District Health Officer, District Community Development Officer among others.

The conference discussed complementary Medicines and General Health System strengthening in Uganda. The conference presented an opportunity to encourage THPs to appreciate referral system for optimized patient care, support and treatment.

Older Citizen Monitoring Group (OCMG) support forum: The trained OCMGs in Iganga district were brought together in 6 forums from 18th to 20th February 2013 and 18th to 20th June. A total of 186 OCMGs (90F, 96M) participated in the 6 forums.

The objectives of the forums were to support OCMGs review monitoring tools, discuss successes and challenges of their work. From the monitoring and advocacy undertaken by OCMGs, there has been reported increased support from youth to older persons through being involved in house construction and sanitation activities for older persons.

The OCMGs have collected data on older persons and shared with leaders for consideration in planning. The OCMG strategy has encouraged mobilization of older persons into groups which has enabled them to benefit from the National Agricultural Advisory Services and Community Driven Development by applying for the funds whose conditionality is for the beneficiaries to be organized and registered community groups.

Other forums were conducted from 16-17 October and with a total of 69 people participating in the forums. From the data reviewed in the forums, 1354 older persons have reported increased access to health care services, 59 older persons have accessed poverty reduction funds including NAADS. Of

interest to note is an older person in Namalemba Sub County and who is a member of the procurement committee and has ensured equal treatment of Older Persons' groups in accessing government services

c) Under programme area 3: To strengthen Networking and communication between URAA and other stake holders:

HelpAge International Quarterly Review Workshop: To improve quality of project implementation with partners and affiliates, HelpAge organized a 3 day review workshop from 13th to 15th May 2013 with 24 (6F, 18M) participants. The workshop involved sharing and learning sessions, assessment of progress made so far, challenges faced and gaps identified in the course of project implementation and drawing recommendations. The objectives of the review workshop were;

- ⇒ To review program progress against work plans
- ⇒ To review financial and narrative reporting and challenges encountered.
- ⇒ To review the partnership and its relevance to all our work.
- ⇒ To review M&E tools, indicators and agree on action points.

Key issues discussed were in the area of report writing and reporting, harmonization of M&E tools, resource mobilization, financial management and advocacy.

Prioritized actions included; the dissemination of the National Policy for Older Persons, Conducting donor mapping by CEOs, improving quality of financial and program reports, harmonization of M&E tools and M&E capacity building.

Visit to His Eminence Cardinal Emmanuel Wamala: In February 2013, a delegation of 4 people including 2 URAA founder members, 1 staff and the Chairperson URAA Board of Directors visited the Cardinal as a key figure in the founding of URAA. The purpose of the visit was to inform key founders of URAA's urgent need for resources to achieve its mandate. The plan for house construction was shared with the Cardinal; URAA's need for finances was also shared. Key outputs of the meeting were:

- ⇒ The Cardinal pledged to support URAA morally and provide any other support.
- ⇒ The founders of URAA were brought on board again with the Cardinal promising to visit URAA in a bid to reacquaint himself with the organization.

CSO consultative meeting on the development of indicators for the national score card for HIV and AIDS responses: URAA participated in a one day meeting on 9th July 2013, organized by Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations (UNASO) on the national score card on HIV and AIDS. This is a tool that empowers communities to rate and report on the quality of services provided to them and how the targets of the National HIV strategic plan and millennium development goals are being met. From the meeting, the 8 elements that were agreed are; Data collection, focus on most at risk population, treatment, prevention, coordination, financing and human rights mainstreaming. URAA feels that implementation of this country wide project will ensure better access to HIV services by older person households who are the major carers of PLHA but also are infected with HIV.

Visit by HelpAge International Regional Representative for East ,West, Central Africa Regional Development Centre (EWCARDC): On 17th July 2013, the regional representative of HelpAge International EWCARDC visited URAA to discuss among others national advocacy, affiliation to HelpAge, nominations to the HelpAge International Board of Trustees, Fundraising and working in emergencies. The meeting was attended by selected URAA Board Members, URAA staff and the Country Director HelpAge.

Key issues discussed in the meeting were:

- ⇒ The regional representative noted that URAA has a strong relationship with HelpAge.
- ⇒ The technical and funding support by HelpAge was appreciated by URAA.
- ⇒ URAA and HelpAge need to strengthen fundraising as a consortium since both work on similar issues.
- ⇒ Need to work on keeping existing donors even as new ones are sought.
- ⇒ Need to work on sustainability for advocacy structures.

The requirement for the URAA Board to agree on affiliation by URAA member organizations to HelpAge. The meeting was of great importance to URAA as it provided a platform for face to face discussions and consultations between URAA and HelpAge.

Validation Meeting on the National HIV and AIDS Score Card: URAA participated in the validation meeting that aimed to share and solicit input into the preliminary findings of the National score card and to build consensus on the findings and recommendations. The exercise that took place in November and December 2013 presented an opportunity for URAA to highlight the contribution of older persons to HIV and AIDS fight. It was noted that older persons are increasingly being included in policy making processes. A key input by URAA into the score card was the need to recognize the role of THPs in providing complimentary services to PLHA and monitoring access to service delivery.

A summary of other Networking meetings URAA has engaged in is;

1. Uganda Social Protection Platform (USPP) Activities:

The USPP is a loose coalition of Civil Society Organizations that promote social protection. URAA as a member of the USPP participated in the AGM held on 22 August 2013. The objectives were; to review USPP performance 2012 and elect new members to the USPP steering committee. A key outcome of URAA involvement is that the organization was re elected to the USPP steering committee.

URAA was also nominated to participate in the East and Central Africa learning event organized by the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) that took place in Dar es Salaam Tanzania from 29th -30th August 2013. The theme of the event was 'Grassroots participation in social protection'. Outputs of the learning event were;

- ⇒ The country work plan and strategy on enhancing grassroots participation was developed.
- ⇒ Sharing of the training needs of the USPP with the APSP for support.

d) Under programme area 4: To set up an effective information and communication system and data base that articulates older persons issues.

Communication and advocacy strategy document in place: URAA secretariat with the assistance of a consultant developed a strategy document to guide its communications and advocacy agenda. The document lays out priority issues for advocacy and communication which include ill health, HIV and AIDS, poor access to services and utilities, lack of political representation among others. This document was approved by the Board of Directors in March 2013 and is in use.

URAA staff mentorship in communication: A team of consultants hired by HelpAge International and HelpAge communication staff provided URAA with hands on support in improving the quality of communication in the organization. This entailed discussions and advise on the messages URAA was producing to depict her work, the selection of pictorial presentations and the colours used.

e) Under programme area 5: To carry out research, policy lobby and advocacy for older persons.

Evaluation of the Big Lottery funded project:

The five year (2008 – 2013) Big Lottery Funded project portfolio; “Preventing HIV and AIDS and alleviating its impact in Multigenerational Households” was evaluated in March 2013.

The key results to highlight were that;

- ⇒ All the projects implemented were relevant in communities in Kasese district.
- ⇒ Project 1 (Mainstreaming Ageing into HIV and AIDS) was successful in mainstreaming older persons’ issues at national and Kasese district level including in key HIV strategies, policies and guidelines.
- ⇒ Project 2 (Data disaggregation) was successful in advocating for data collection to be extended to include disaggregated data for older persons.
- ⇒ Project 3 (Preventing HIV in older persons) through peer education programme effectively increased knowledge and awareness of HIV of the target communities.
- ⇒ Project 5 (Supporting multi generational households to protect the inheritance rights of OVC) was effective in developing the capacity of paralegals and memory book and will writers to help older persons obtain the inheritance rights of their OVC.

Though the project ended in June 2013, the impacts of the project remain and sustainability of these is a key issue for URAA. To this end, URAA has supported Community Aged Foundation- its partner in Kasese with 2 bicycles and a motorcycle to enhance monitoring and support to the volunteer groups and older persons Associations structures established by the project.

Feedback from Community Aged Foundation (CAFO) who is taking on the project initiatives indicates that the volunteer groups have mostly mobilized themselves in saving clubs and this has kept them

together to continue supporting older persons. A case in point is that the paralegal advisors have continued to meet monthly and provide reports to CAFO on the legal support they are providing to older persons. The revolving fund beneficiary groups continue to use the funds provided by URAA to provide loans to older persons.

Success Story 2:

LOSS OF PROPERTY BY OVC AFTER LOSS OF PARENTS REDUCED

A large number of orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) have been left homeless and helpless due to rampant land and property grabbing in Kasese district. In a bid to reduce such disasters, URAA trained 360 paralegal advisors in 15 sub-counties to create awareness and build capacity of multigenerational households (MGHs) to be able to protect inheritance rights of OVC.

The trained paralegal advisors provide legal advice and redress to MGHs to compliment the work of local leaders in mediating community conflict. Over the past five (5) years, about 9,148 households in 15 sub-counties received paralegal support. This capacity and involvement of paralegals has led to reduction in inheritance conflicts and domestic violence which used to be a common occurrence with cases on weekly basis. In May 2013, the DPC of Kasese reported less congestion in prisons and cases handled per year from 7,300 in 2007 to about 4,000 in 2012. This great reduction is greatly attributed to the work of paralegal advisors supporting project efforts.

Success Story 3:

ENSURING PROPERTY RIGHTS PROMOTES RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Joan Tumusime, a 15 year old orphan living in Nyakasanga suburb at the foothills of Mount Rwenzori in western Uganda lost her parents 2 years ago and was left to her stepmother. Later, her stepmother stopped paying her school fees yet her father had left some property (photo I) rented out at UGX 50,000 (20 USD) monthly. All the income was used by the stepmother and when she appealed to her paternal uncles for support, she was directed to get married to some identified man which she turned down in preference to education. With the support of URAA trained paralegals and local leaders, Joan's stepmother was summoned to a meeting to explain why she was not in school.

Samson Nzoboli (paralegal advisor) holding a copy of Uganda's constitution in his hands (photo II) with enthusiasm says, "I intervened in the matter with my paralegal skills. I sensitized the neighbours and family members about inheritance rights of children. I talked to the community leaders and we held a dialogue with Joan's stepmother. It was agreed that the monthly rent be used to cater for school fees for the young girl."

The stepmother accepted and paid school fees for her out of the rent from the house. Joan is very appreciative to paralegals and community leaders for this turnaround of events. Joan continues going to school as a result of this intervention.

Photo 2- House left by deceased parents

Photo 3- Paralegal advising the OVC

ANTI RETROVIRAL THERAPY (ART) Study: HelpAge and URAA undertook an ART study in May 2013. The objective of the study was to assess access to ART by older persons including the quality of services to older persons. 5 districts namely Gulu, Kasese, Iganga, Hoima and Luwero were selected as data collection sites given the health advocacy work that URAA and HelpAge had done in these districts.

The ART study looked at older persons initiated on ART within 1 year period and the CD4 cell count at initiation compared to other age groups. It also considered the number of older persons falling off ART (loss to follow up) and deaths as compared to other age groups. The results of the study once shared by HelpAge will be used to further advocacy for improved delivery of HIV services to older persons.

District consultative meeting on mainstreaming Ageing into HIV and AIDS policies and strategies:

URAA held a one day consultative meeting with HIV and AIDS stakeholders in Kasese on 30th April 2013. The meeting aimed to share project experiences and seek partnership for continued support of the project at phase out. The meeting that was attended by URAA CEO and Projects Officer also provided a forum to discuss the closure of the project funded by Big Lottery Fund.

Emerging issues at the meeting included;

- ⇒ Sustainability of the project interventions requires CAFO's continued monitoring and support of peer education and OPAs.
- ⇒ Older persons are more vulnerable to the effects of HIV since they offer care and support to PLHA and OVC.
- ⇒ The efforts of the District Health Officer and District Advocacy Group have led to change in attitudes of health workers in dealing with older persons.
- ⇒ Health centres in a number of sub counties have set up separate service points for older persons.

During the meeting, the district authorities pledged continued support to URAA and CAFO's work. The district health department having secured funding for HIV services committed to target older persons in HIV programmes. The CSOs who are members of the district advocacy team have mainstreamed older person issues in their organization work.

District Consultative meeting on the rights of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC):

URAA organized a one day consultative meeting on the rights of OVC in Kasese district on 29th April 2013. The meeting that was attended by 60(17F, 43M) participants aimed at analyzing laws and policies relating to OVC property rights and discussing practical measures for upholding the rights of OVC to family property. The meeting emphasized the role of the district leadership and cultural institutions to protect the rights of OVC. Recommendations revolved around the need to support paralegals to continue their noble role; harmonizing cultural practices on inheritance with the law and the need to have free legal services for OVC whose rights are being violated.

Chief Executive Officers' Breakfast Meeting:

URAA in partnership with HelpAge held a CEO breakfast meeting which brought together 20 CEOs from organizations that had assigned staff to the URAA national advocacy groups.

The meeting aimed at;

- ⇒ Sharing with the CEOs the outcomes of the advocacy efforts supported by their organizations.
- ⇒ Seeking further partnership for continued advocacy for mainstreaming ageing into Government policies and strategies.

The CEOs committed themselves to two issues which are;

- ⇒ To continue supporting the advocacy agenda on older person integration.
- ⇒ To support URAA in taking forward thoughts on the sustainability issues regarding the advocacy group strategy.

National consultative meeting on mainstreaming ageing into HIV&AIDS responses: URAA in partnership with HelpAge held a national consultative meeting on mainstreaming ageing into HIV&AIDS responses from 7th to 8th May 2013. The meeting brought together a total of 30 participants who included advocacy team members, CSOs, Government representatives and staff from URAA and HelpAge. The objectives of the meeting were;

- ⇒ To review progress on recommendations from previous national consultative meeting
- ⇒ To share outcomes, successes, challenges of advocacy and policy influencing and programme implementation activities of the Preventing HIV&AIDS and Alleviating its Impact in Multigenerational Households Programme
- ⇒ To share external evaluation findings of the Programme
- ⇒ To identify strategies, actions, way forward, next steps for replication and scale up of programme models and good practices including advocacy and policy influencing.

General recommendations from the national consultative meeting were;

1. There is need to reach out to the retired civil and public servants to volunteer as peer educators and counselors for older people
2. The advocacy groups and organizations working on issues affecting older people should engage in collective advocacy to ensure the inclusion of older peoples issues in district budget and work plans
3. Identification and documentation of cases in relation to stigma affecting older people
4. Lobby for the inclusion of social protection policy
5. Advocacy groups should consider registering as advocacy coalitions under the legal frame work to attain legality to be used during fundraising
6. Lobby for the establishment of the national council for elderly persons

Support to Advocacy groups: URAA facilitated a meeting with each of the 3 Advocacy groups from 13-16 November 2013. The meeting aimed to share progress on implementation of advocacy strategies and

also develop new work plans for November-April 2014. Key achievements noted by the advocacy groups included submission of abstracts and presenting papers on older persons in national conferences and recognition of older persons in national HIV and AIDS and social protection programs.

World AIDS Day 2013 National Commemoration: URAA together with the National Advocacy Group on HIV Prevention, Care, Support and Treatment participated in the national event to mark World AIDS Day in Mbarara District with over 1500 pple attending the commemoration.

The chief guest was Hon Erioda Tumwesigye, MOH representing the president. The theme for the commemoration was "Re-arranging Communities for Effective HIV Prevention and slogan 'accelerating community action towards zero new infections'.

Activities included;

- ⇒ A 1km match to create community awareness on HIV prevention with key awareness messages on Older Persons as carers of People Living with AIDS.
- ⇒ Exhibitions from CSOs and Government to show case progress in the HIV fight.

Celebration of the International Day for Older Persons (IDOP): On 1st October 2013, URAA joined the rest of the country to celebrate the IDOP in Kaberamaido district under the theme Social protection for older Persons. URAA was led by the CEO with the key activity led by URAA being the provision of free health services to the older persons and the community through a health camp. The medicines for the Camp were donated by HelpAge Uganda and Kampal Pharmaceutical industries. The camp was manned by the district health team with a doctor and two nurses who diagnosed and provided treatment to the older persons. Up to 300 older persons and their families accessed treatment.

The Guest of Honour at the IDOP celebrations was the Vice president Hon Edward Sekandi who represented the president. Other participants included up to 500 older persons, the State Minister in charge of Elderly MGLSD, ESP secretariat, OPAs and district stakeholders. A key event to mark the day was the launch of the social gerontology manual, a community workers' manual on older persons.

Age Demands Action Campaign.

URAA participated in the world wide advocacy campaign code named "Age Demands Action". The objectives of the campaign were;

- ⇒ To influence inclusion of older persons and their dependants in local government policy processes and programs.
- ⇒ To raise awareness on the needs, Rights and entitlements of older persons and their dependants.
- ⇒ To empower older persons groups in the community to demand for their rights and entitlements.
- ⇒ The stakeholders met were from the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development. Commitments made by the stakeholders included;

- ⇒ Prioritizing the rights of older persons;
- ⇒ Pressing for the implementation of the policy for older persons.

e) Under programme area 6: To strengthen the capacity of URAA and its member organizations to effectively implement older persons' programs.

HelpAge Country exchange and learning visit (Uganda/Zambia): URAA represented by the CEO and the Vice Chairperson of URAA Board of Directors participated in an exchange/ learning visit regarding the implementation of “Strengthening social protection to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa” project. The URAA representatives visited Zambia to carry out a study in June 2013. The study aimed at establishing the extent to which awareness creation on rights of older persons, People with Disability and OVC has contributed to the inclusion of older persons and other vulnerable populations into basic service delivery in the last 5 years.

The learning exercise established that older persons are now more knowledgeable on their rights and entitlements. Older persons are more aware of the existence of health programmes, IGA support and paralegal services. The urban educated were however more aware about their rights than the rural older persons. Service providers too had a good level of awareness on the rights of older persons and this in some cases translated into policy change.

The study recommended among others, Governance and capacity development for partner organizations and OPAs; Standardization of rights awareness with workshops having smaller numbers of participants; Increase in the range of services available to older persons.

To URAA, the exchange and learning visit was good for comparing the two countries in relation to the level of service delivery and learning from Zambia’s strengths and weaknesses how to strengthen the impacts of awareness creation activities.

THP Training on group formation, management and monitoring: URAA conducted a training on group formation, management and monitoring for THPs in the three sub-counties of Namalembe, Buyanga and Namungalwe. In every sub-county, the training lasted for two days and brought together a total of 126 people (88 males and 38 females). Facilitators were URAA staff including Project Manager, Volunteer Project Assistant, AFR605 Project Officer and Namalembe Elders Group Coordinator.

The training was purposely conducted to organize THPs in associations in order to effectively address challenges faced by the sector (e.g. develop code of conduct to self-regulate their trade, increase accountability of traditional healers to their clients and the profession, take legal action against “quacks” through de-registration, certify those who are recognized as practicing within the law and to undertake joint advocacy to enhance THPs role in supporting district health strategies). These associations are expected to facilitate recognition of THP work at district level by government. It was also aimed at

enhancing further learning and sharing between and amongst THPs in Iganga District to sustain good practices of health service delivery and reciprocal learning and sharing.

Support to District Associations / organizations of older persons: To provide capacity support to manage their associations, URAA held meetings with 8 Older Person Associations (OPAs) in eight districts of Masaka, Kiboga, Hoima, Palisa, Soroti, Lira and Mbarara. The meetings conducted by the advocacy and communication officer agreed upon the following;

- ⇒ To put in place work plans for the next six months.
- ⇒ To Process registration at the sub-county and district level.
- ⇒ Agreed that OPAs first strengthen district networks then form the regional networks

The leaders of the OPAs committed to put more effort and increase visibility of their organizations. A key commitment was to improve reporting and transparency in governance.

Follow up support visits were made in the month of November and December 2013 by the URAA CEO and Advocacy officer.

Success story 4

Photo

Older people designing an advocacy strategy

Through organizational assessment of URAA member organizations; conducted in 2010 it was noted that the groups had low capacities both to fulfill the needs of their group members and demand for their rights from different duty bearers. The limited capacity is characterized by poor governance, absence of systems, procedures, structures and policies for smooth running of their groups, group conflicts. Absence of strong older people' institutions implies lack of a united stronger voice for older people and perpetuates older people' marginalization and vulnerability, inadequate resources for conceptualising and implementing group activities which are beneficial to older people and those under their care as well as well as poor management of the groups thus these OPs groups lack many skills including basic financial management, advocacy, leadership, communication and resource mobilization.

Due to this an empowerment programmes being implemented to address these issues and contribute to improvement in living standards of older people in the Uganda. The capacity building training intervention to strengthen older people association was on the following topics:- Ageing in the 21 centaury-global and Ugandan situations, leadership, Governance, Community and Collaboration, Human Rights linkage with Local Governance, Public budgeting and decision making processes at district level. The participants are mainly leaders of older people organisations who are older people men and women. The trainings are carried out by URAA staff. The skills imparted included:-Leadership skills, advocacy skills IGA management skills, mobilization skills and knowledge on local government

processes, Human rights and community collaboration skills. Feed back through review workshops reveals that older people associations that were not registered then have registered at the district for example Kakoro older person association in Palisa district it has also opened up account, members have started a SACCO which has already saved seven hundred thousand shillings (UGX 700,000). Some groups have changed leadership something that has not been happening before. The groups have started reaching out to duty bearers and service providers at the district. Over this period eleven (11) districts associations have been build and strengthened. Two hundred and twenty (220) older people their capacities have in various areas have been build.

URAA General Assembly: URAA held its General Assembly on 27th July 2013 with a National older persons' conference preceding this event. The theme of the conference was 'Nothing about us, without us'. Participants were URAA members from OPAs with facilitators coming from the MGLSD and URAA staff.

- ⇒ The objectives of the conference were;
- ⇒ To bring older persons together to review issues in their constituency as older persons.
- ⇒ Develop strategies for policy advocacy at National level.
- ⇒ Networking and strengthening partnerships amongst older persons and stakeholders.

Outcomes of the meeting included;

- ⇒ Taking stock of the plight of older persons in Uganda.
- ⇒ Developing messages for older persons to engage with other stake holders.

Recommendations centered around the need for a legal framework to better protect older persons, need for capacity building of CDOs in social gerontology, need to develop and share an advocacy agenda for older persons and mapping ways older person poverty, dependency and vulnerability.

The main Agenda items of the General Assembly were; the reading and discussion of the chairman's report, audited accounts, minutes of previous meeting and finally the election of the new URAA Board of Directors. The chief Guest was Prof. Maggie Kigozi who encouraged older persons to continue to work to come out of poverty.

Nine members were elected to the URAA BoD with one ex official from the MGLSD. To note, Mr. David Obot was elected as the Chairman of URAA.

The elected members of the Board of Directors were brought together with the outgoing BoD for a one day orientation meeting that took place in Jenny Guest House Iganga on 18th September 2013. The objectives of the orientation were;

- ⇒ To prepare Board members to fulfill their governance role.
- ⇒ To provide documentation, familiarization and socialization to Board members.
- ⇒ To improve communication between the Board, Staff and stakeholders.

Key items of discussion were;

- ⇒ Background of URAA
- ⇒ Government programmes for older persons.
- ⇒ Brief on the organizational set up and priorities.
- ⇒ Brief on the URAA constitution.
- ⇒ Presentation on integrity.
- ⇒ Brief on the administration and management aspects of URAA.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The Board and management have provided monitoring and support supervision to URAA as an institution. The annual audit was undertaken in June 2013 and report was presented and approved by the Board in July 2013. Four Board meetings and four Board committee meetings were held quarterly. The Chief Executive Officer undertook monitoring and support visits to the two project areas of Kasese and Iganga holding meetings with the staff, partners, beneficiaries and District level stakeholders. Other staff also undertook project based monitoring for support, data collection and reporting. Senior management meetings and staff meetings were held on a monthly basis to discuss among others office administration, fundraising, communications, departmental reports and Board of Directors feedback to secretariat.

General Administration and Human Resources: In the reporting period, URAA recruited a new Chief Executive Officer. URAA administration has been based at head office, branch and project area level. The URAA Kasese Branch had 3 staff with one contract staff and two volunteers. This office has since July closed with the end of the donor support to the area. The assets both fixed and cash in form of loans were handed over to the management of Community Aged Foundation(CAFO) which is the URAA member in Kasese. URAA continues to provide technical support. The head office (secretariat) has a total of 8 staff with 7 contract staff and 1 volunteer with the Chief Executive Officer as team leader.

Resource Mobilization, Partnerships and Networking: Resource mobilization has been the main staff engagement over this period in a bid to take URAA to the next level. We have not been able to realize much. By the close of the year URAA had received a draft MOU from DRT / ESP for training older persons Associations for eight months from February 2014. We have also submitted a proposal to the Office of the Prime Minister and the World Bank – for strengthening OPAs to monitor service delivery. However we have received regrets from USAID and International Fertilizer Distribution Centre on proposals submitted last year.

REPORTING OF RESULTS (OUTPUTS / OUTCOMES):

Planned Activity	Target	Progress on achievement of targets	Outcome achieved/ remarks
Review workshop for memory book	1 review workshop	1 review workshop held	90% of the beneficiaries have written memory books as a way of

participants			rights protection for OVC
Paralegal support forums (2)	Hold 2 paralegal forums	2 paralegal forums held	Paralegals have formed saving clubs for sustainability of their work. A total of 43852 cases out of 4124 cases identified were resolved by the paralegals.
Formation of Regional Networks for Ops	4 regional networks to be formed	3 regional networks are in place	Regional networks for OPs have been formed in Greater Masaka, Mid North and Rwenzori regions.
OP and OVC National Conference and AGM	1 national conference and AGM	National conference and AGM were held in July 2013	
Review workshop for health advocates	2 review workshops in Kampala and Mbale	2 review workshops held	OPAs have undertaken health advocacy in their districts with successes reported in the area of special recognition of older persons at health centres and improved care for OPs by medical personnel.
Documentary of case studies	2 documentaries to document Cordaid and Big lottery project successes	2 documentaries were produced	Documentary for Big lottery has been shared with HelpAge.
Community rights awareness on HIV&AIDS and SP entitlements	1 day awareness workshop in 4 subcounties in Iganga	1 day awareness workshops held in August 2013	
OCMG quarterly support forums	2 OCMG forums to be held	2 OCMG support forums held in Iganga	OCMGs have collected information on number of older persons accessing government programs; Up to 15 more groups of older persons in Iganga have accessed CDD funds in the 6 months.
Community dialogue between THPs and BHPs	community dialogues in 3 subcounties	3 community dialogues were held in 3 subcounties in Iganga	Action was on improved referral by THPs of older persons for better care and support
Organize and conduct	1 training for	1 training was	THPs have formed community level

training for THPs	THPs conducted in group management	held for 126 THPs.	groups to address challenges of HIV and AIDS in their communities.
District THP and BHP conference on referral discussions	1 conference to be held	-1 conference was held in September	
Participation in National and District HIV policy review meetings	Participate in at least 2 reviews	Participated in the review of the community accountability framework and development of the national score card for HIV and AIDS	
Conduct Research/ Study on Traditional medicine, OPs, HIV&AIDS and NCDs	1 study undertaken	-	Study was put on hold by HelpAge so that it is combined with upcoming HIV research.
Feedback and Review meetings at National Level for advocacy groups	1 review meeting held	1review meeting was held at National level	Plans were developed for next 6 months.
Support to the individual advocacy groups at National and District Level	Ush. 6,000,000 provided for each of the 3 advocacy teams to undertake advocacy work.	Each advocacy team was provided with Ushs. 6,000,000	Advocacy strategies have been implemented as planned.
Mainstreaming ageing into HIV&AIDS Policies and programs	one mainstreaming meeting held	one national level mainstreaming meeting was held.	Commitment from Uganda AIDS Commission and other actors to include issues of older persons in programming
National HIV & AIDS and Livelihood review workshop	One meeting held at regional level	One meeting was held for Kampala and Mbale.	The review indicated an increase in knowledge on impact of HIV on older person, there is increased advocacy for inclusion of older persons in health and livelihood
Financial Audit	Audit undertaken	Financial Audit was completed in	Audit recommendations are being implemented.

		June 2013	
Evaluation of Big Lottery Project	Project evaluated	The project was evaluated in February 2013	Findings of the evaluation were disseminated at national and regional level.
Staff Meetings	Hold 6 staff meeting	7 staff meetings were held	Proposal development and other fundraising methods have been emphasized. At least 13 proposals were submitted.
Board Meetings	Hold 4 Board meetings and 4 board committee meetings	4 Board meetings and 4 Board committee meetings were held	Annual Budget and annual work plan were approved. Financial manual was approved.

EMERGING ISSUES

Need to increase URAA's resource base to enable the organization meet its targets and provide adequate support to members.

Need for capacity development of OPAs to be able to effectively run their organizations and stay relevant.

Need to increase partnership building efforts to enable URAA have strong strategic partners.

CHALLENGES

A key challenge in the period under review has been the reduced level of financial resources for the organization to operate effectively. The organization is appealing for support to its work through proposal development and approaching development partners.

Human resource capacity gaps still remain as key organogram positions are yet to be filled. In the mean time, the existing staff has taken up additional roles to operationalize the staffing structure.

Capacity gaps in the older person associations that require URAA intervention to enable partner organizations operate effectively to meet member expectations.

GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors: This exercises decision making powers on behalf of the General Assembly; the Directors are elected from bona-fide members of the Association at the Annual General Assembly. The current Board is composed of 10 members. The role of the Board is to approve policies and give strategic direction to the organization.

Four Board meetings and four Board committee meetings were held quarterly. The Board among other issues approved organizational policies including human resource manual, finance and governance, whistle blowing policy, procurement policy, protection policy for older persons and children under their care, Transport and vehicle management policy, HIV and AIDS at the work place policy.

The Secretariat: This is manned by employed staff, headed by a Chief Executive Officer. It offers technical advice and is responsible for the implementation of policy and execution of programs approved by the Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Attached is the financial report for the period under review.

Appendices:

List of BoD members

List of members organizations

List of Individual members