



UGANDA REACH THE AGED ASSOCIATION

Name of organization: UGANDA REACH THE AGED ASSOCIATION (URAA)

Reporting period: JANUARY 2014 TO DECEMBER 2014

Organization Information:

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ACRONYMS

ADA	Age Demands Action
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Centre
IDOP	International Day for Older Persons
IDPWD	International Day for People with Disabilities
MGLSD	Ministry Of Gender Labour and Social Development
MOH	Ministry of Health
NCDs	Non Communicable Diseases
OPAs	Older Persons' Associations
OCMGs	Older Citizen Monitoring Groups
SAGE	Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
UAC	Uganda AIDS Commission
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
URAA	Uganda Reach the Aged Association
VAU	Voice for the Aged Uganda

INTRODUCTION:

The Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) is a national voluntary, not-for-profit, non-government organization whose **vision** is a dignified, self-fulfilled, poverty free ageing Uganda and **mission** to champion the realization and preservation of a dignified quality of life for Older persons in Uganda.

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's activities are geared towards achieving set targets and expected results in its 5 year strategic plan 2012 -2016 under set program areas. These are;

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.
- 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 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 operationalised.
- Leaders of URAA member organizations trained in communication and advocacy skills.
- Advocacy and lobby issues that concern older persons increased.

Under Programme area 5: 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.

The report covers the period January – December 2014 being the third year of implementation of the URAA strategic plan. It covers achievements for the year, learning areas, challenges but also highlights key organizational governance and Networking areas.

2.0. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS:

Below is the description of activities and achievements against the set program areas and results.

Program area 1: Economic Empowerment for Older Persons:

1. Training of Namalembe Elders Group leaders in Credit Management:

To support Namalembe Elders Group effectively manage its loan portfolio grown from capitalization funds provided by URAA, the URAA technical team led by the Chief Executive Officer trained the group on savings mobilization and credit management. The one day training held on 21st February 2014 covered areas on loan tracking, record keeping and roles of different structures in ensuring effective loan management and follow up.

As a result of the training, Namalembe Elders Group facilitated the formation of sub county loan committees with the key role of approving the proposed loan beneficiaries, supporting the beneficiaries to work on challenging areas in their IGA management and timely collection and follow up of loan repayments. This structure has greatly reduced loan default among beneficiaries and contributed to the increased rate of success of IGAs in the group.

Additional trainings were carried out for the OPAs and THP associations based in Iganga district in savings and credit management covering a total of 163 participants (66female, 97 male)

The result has been an increase in the number of village savings and loan associations and groups managed by the older persons.

2. Rice Post Harvest Handling project:

URAA received a matching investment grant from IFDC to address the following specific objectives:

1. To reduce post – harvest losses among smallholder farmers by 50% within six months.
2. To increase the sales value of rice among smallholder farmers by 30% within six months.

Project activities have targeted directly a total of 250 farmers who are members of 10 farmer groups in Mulanda sub county. The project also involves district and subcounty technical staff and political leaders for project support and ensuring continuity of initiatives. URAA and VAU as project holders provide technical input in implementing the activities but also undertake procurement, mobilization and monitoring of the activities.

Outputs of the initiative have been;

- Purchase of 250 Tarpaulins (4m x5m), 2500 gunny bags of 100kgs; Two (2) rice threshers (GM 50) with two (2) Johnston 5.5 HP petrol engines and Eight (8) Hanson weighing scales (200kg).
- Holding planning meetings and training of farmers in post harvest handling practices.

The good practice demonstrated by the project is the pooling of the rice together by farmer groups for joint marketing and selling for better bargains especially better prices.

Program area2: Social Justice for Older Persons.

1. Awareness creation for local leaders:

URAA organised an awareness creation workshop whose main objective was to sensitising on ageing issues and the National Policy for Older persons so that they could appreciate ageing issues and streamline its implementation.

This targeted Older Persons Association leaders, CSO representatives operating in the respective sub counties, Political leaders who included Local council Chairpersons and councillors, the Sub county technocrats who included Health officers, community development officers, Agricultural officers and Police officials.

Facilitated URAA project staff, the workshop employed participatory methods such as group discussions, panel presentations, question and answer sessions and brainstorming.

A total of 85(60M, 25F) people attended the workshop of which 44 people were aged 50 years and above.13 Males were Older persons aged 60 years and above while 3 people were PWDs.

2. ADA on Health Campaign:

To mark the World Health Day, URAA participated in the world wide ADA on Health campaign that was led by HelpAge International. URAA used this campaign to highlight core challenges older persons face in accessing health service. The theme for the Campaign was **Universal Health Coverage**. Activities undertaken and their results are;

- A national level debate involving OPA/OCMG representatives, technocrats from the MOH, UAC and MGLSD was held bringing together 20 stakeholders. The topic for the debate was 'Making older persons a priority in health service delivery – Benefits Vs Costs'. The debate generated discussions between the older persons and technocrats resulting in awareness raising on health issues affecting older persons and their right to better health.
- The national advocacy team on health and NCDs together with older persons' representatives led by URAA CEO engaged into discussions with the Commissioner for Clinical Services in the MOH, Dr. Amandua Jacinto. The team presented a position paper titled 'Universal Health Coverage – addressing health services inequality among older persons in Uganda.' The commissioner committed to take action on the issues raised which included, spearheading the training on geriatrics and ensuring the MOH provides medicines for NCDs like Blood pressure, Arthritis and diabetes which are already on the essential drug list. (Below; older person representative, Mrs Margaret Kabango hands over position paper to Dr. Amandua Jacinto)



3. ADA on rights Campaign:

To mark the World Elder Abuse Day ,15th June, URAA supported by HelpAge International carried out activities that aimed to bring rights issues of older persons to the attention of the decision makers and promote rights awareness on issues of older persons.

Among the decision makers engaged by the older persons were the Head of department vulnerable groups – UHRC and the State Minister for Elderly and Disability –MGLSD.

The following commitments were a result of the ADA on rights campaign.

The head of department for vulnerable groups at the UHRC Promised to increase reporting on older persons' rights violation and abuse for increased awareness and having programmes aimed at addressing these. The Human rights annual report will therefore be expected to have reporting on rights issues affecting older persons and recommendations on how these can be addressed. The Uganda Human Rights Commission also promised to increase its participation in events that promote rights of older persons specifically the International Day for Older Persons and the World Elder Abuse Day.

The state Minister for Elderly and Disability Promised to work with the age care organizations to have a media strategy for increased visibility and coverage of rights issues affecting older persons and calling for legal frameworks to be put in place to address these issues. A media working group on rights was initiated at this meeting.



Meeting to prepare position paper on rights issues of OPs for the UHRC.

4. Dialogue forums between older persons and local leaders and CSOs.

URAA organised community dialogue forums with the objective of creating a constructive engagement between older persons and community leaders on service delivery.

This targeted Older Persons Association leaders, CSO representatives operating in the respective sub counties, Political leaders who included Local council Chairpersons and councilors, the Sub county technocrats who included Health officers, community development officers, Agricultural officers and Police officials.

A total of 174(135M, 39F) people attended the workshop of which 6 people were PWDs.

The leaders pledged to target older persons in the poverty reduction and health programs. They also promised to come up with by laws that are in favour of older persons' rights.

5. Training of Trainers in referral, counselling & testing -THPs & TBAs.

A Training of Trainers to the Traditional Health Practitioners was held with the aim of increasing the knowledge and skills of the selected THPS to be able to effectively train others and facilitate collection of monitoring information on HIV counselling, Testing, referral and collaboration.

Participants included Herbalists, Bonesetters and TBAs from the 3 sub counties of Namable , Namungalwe, and Nabitende.

A total of 30(20M,10F) people attended the workshop and one was a person living with a disability.

The main content of the training involved HIV/AIDS Prevention, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Nutrition, TB and Older persons, Drug adherence, Voluntary Testing and counseling, Referral and Collaboration, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

As a result, an average of 4 THPS for each trainer have been sensitized by the trained ToT to reduce HIV infection among older persons.

They also committed to monitor and report on the number of older persons referred for testing, number of older persons sensitized on HIV prevention and number of other THPs sensitized.

6. Training in Medicinal Packaging, Labelling, Record Keeping & Marketing.

URAA organised a training for Traditional Health Practitioners to equip them with more skills and knowledge in packaging, labelling record keeping and marketing.

Participants included Herbalists, Bonesetters and TBAs from the 6 sub counties of Namable, Namungalwe, Nabitende, Namalemba, Ibulanku, and Buyanga.

A total of 167(105M, 62F) people attended the workshop of which 3 people were living with disability. Only 105 participants had attended formal THP training by URAA and the 62 had been informally trained by the trained THPs.

The main content of the training included packaging, Labelling, minimum standards of health care, marketing and record keeping.

The training resulted in THPs have formed groups and registered at sub county level. These groups bring them together to share information on the herbal medicine as well as saving and credit for sustainability.

- THP and birth attendants were able to recall what they had learnt in the previous project phase. A good number is implementing the good practices.
- 71% have improved of their personal hygiene and primary health care.
- 81% have sensitised older people(clients) about HIV prevention,
- 67% have planted herbal gardens.
- 48% have referred people for VCT.
- 100% have referred patients for general laboratory tests.
- 100% are counseling their patients.
- 70% have an increased number of clients.
- 58% are packaging their medicine,
- 20% have labeling their medicine,

- 83% keep records.
- 48% have cupboards and drawers for storage of their medicine.

7. Technical support to THPs.

URAA in conjunction with THETA conducted a one day training in two sub counties of Iganga District. This training is a supplement to the series of training to THPs that have been conducted for the past two years. The former trainings have been centered on Hygiene, referral, conservation, STIs prevention among others. In order to further build their capacity in provision of quality care, there was need to receive technical support to help them address their challenges and also get advice on how to overcome the challenges they continue to face. The purpose of this training was therefore aimed at providing Technical Support to Traditional Herbal Practitioners (THP) and Traditional Birth Attendants TBA so as to enable them improve the quality of their services in order to create a positive impact in their communities. This report highlights a detailed account of the training process.

A total of 56(17F, 39M) attended and had their skills and knowledge improved to effectively carry out traditional medical practice while reducing HIV infection in the community.

8. Strengthen Older Citizen Monitoring Groups and Follow Ups (OCMGs) and group quarterly support forum.

URAA organised a technical support forum for all the OCMGs with the objective of supporting the OCMG to effectively support older persons through, networking, monitoring and advocacy for social protection and HIV programs and services.

A total of 80(49M, 31F) people attended the workshop of which 2 people were PWDs.

A total of 60 Assistant OCMGs received bicycles on 23rd September 2014 at Namalembe Health centre grounds. The bicycle distribution event was attended by URAA CEO and local council leaders of respective sub counties. The renewed commitment and support by URAA was greatly appreciated by the local leaders. Both URAA and the local leaders urged the OCMGs to be role models in the community as well as deliver what they are expected to do. As a result the following has been realized.

- All OCMGs have mobilised themselves into saving and credit groups for sustainability purposes. These groups mainly save and share the money as a cash round monthly.

- OCMGS have been able to collectively tackle rights violation and mediate domestic conflicts among older persons' households.
- OCMGs have gone an extra mile to support vulnerable older persons to improve their hygiene by construction of plate drying racks in Namalembe Sub County.
- OCMGS have lobbied political leaders for support for example in Namalembe sub county where they were given ex plough and cement as a contribution towards construction of NEG office.
- Increased number of Older Persons' groups formed and supported to register at Sub County.

9. Celebrations to commemorate the International Day of older Persons:

URAA participated in the celebrations to commemorate the International Day of older persons on 1st October 2014. The national celebrations were held in Yumbe district in the western Nile region of Uganda. The chief guest was the President of the Republic of Uganda who was represented by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development Hon. Maria Kiwanuka. Approximately 800 older persons attended the function. URAA with support from Kampala Pharmaceutical Industries (KPI), organised a health camp at the venue where a total of 310 older persons were given treatment and medication for different ailments. In his speech, the president pledged roll out of the Social protection programme (Senior citizens grant) in the near future. IDOP increased visibility of older persons and issues affecting them. The media covered more issues of older persons for example the Observer national newspaper published an article titled " CSOs call for establishment of National Council for the elderly" which was derived from an interview with the URAA SIDA Project Manager and the Advocacy and policy adviser for HelpAge Uganda. It is believed that such media coverage will lead to increased targeting of older persons in Government plans, policies and programmes.

10. Celebrations to commemorate the World AIDS day.

URAA joined the rest of the country and the world at large to commemorate World AIDS because HIV/AIDS is one of the biggest challenges of older persons. URAA's specific objectives were to create awareness about the fact that older persons are also infected and greatly affected by HIV&AIDS and to encourage Government and other stakeholders to target older persons in different programs, strategies and policies.

The CEO and a URAA board member participated and a total of 30 older persons were facilitated by URAA to participate.

Program area 3: To strengthen Networking and Communication between URAA and other stakeholders:

URAA has prioritized working with other stakeholders through networks and forums to ensure that issues of older persons are mainstreamed in government and other organizations' programmes thereby having the needs of older persons effectively addressed.

A networking highlight of the year has been the appointment of a URAA member, Mrs. Margaret Kabango as Global ADA Ambassador. She is responsible for communicating and sharing with the selected Global ADA team issues affecting older persons in Uganda with the aim of supporting global level advocacy for older persons.

Other noted Networking activities undertaken by URAA include;

1. URAA participated in the SGBV manual pretesting workshop on 26th March 2014 as a partner of HelpAge Uganda. To URAA, the workshop was to provide knowledge and increase understanding on working with refugees. From this participation, URAA shared information on the rights issues affecting older refugees including the difficulty in accessing legal aid in case of SGBV especially for the female refugees. A key area of sharing and learning was that human rights apply to all individuals and human rights organizations need to develop holistic support and referral programs appropriate to all ages and gender.

2. URAA participated in the National Civil Society Fair that was hosted by Uganda National NGO forum at Hotel Africana from 26th to 27th June 2014 under the theme “Celebrating our East African Citizenship” at . The fair brought together about 150 Civil Society Organisations and URAA was able to show case of older person’s issues by sharing age related IEC materials. This increased the visibility of older persons and some of the people that visited the stall promised to mobilise older persons into self help groups and register them with URAA.

3. URAA participated in a meeting on 15th July 2014 that was aimed at reviewing and agreeing on a common position for Uganda on the need of a convention on older persons to be presented at the UN OEWSGA session. As a result of this meeting, a final draft of Uganda’s position was produced and sent to the Permanent Secretary MGLSD and Ministry of foreign affairs for signing. The position was presented at the 5th UN OEWSGA conference with country recommendations on the need for a convention on older persons especially given the level of rights abuse and neglect for older persons.

4. URAA participated in the review and development of National Policy and Strategic documents specifically the National Social Protection Policy and National HIV strategic Plan. The mind behind the participation was to ensure that all themes address concerns of older persons. The result of this was the explicit mention of older persons as part of the target vulnerable groups and including interventions that target them.

5. Complementing its participation in policy reviews and formulation, URAA participated in the 8th HIV and AIDS partnership forum organized by Uganda AIDS Commission. Participants were from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Parliament, Private sector, People Living with HIV and AIDS, Civil Society, Faith Based Organizations, Media and Development Partners among others. The forum held on 14-15 October 2014 received and deliberated on the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2015/16 -2019/20 and made several commitments in working towards reducing the notably high national HIV prevalence (7.3%) and high rate of new infections (137,000 in 2013).

6. URAA participated in the HelpAge Uganda partners' planning meeting held on 27th November 2014. The meeting shared progress in implementing the HelpAge Uganda annual plan 2014 – 2015, shared outcomes the HelpAge 2020 strategy paper and sought to appoint members to the regional thematic working groups. URAA agreed to participate on the social protection and HIV/AIDS thematic working groups.

7. The Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in a bid to harmonise activities of various departments and or vulnerable groups say invited Older Persons and Representatives of Age Care Organizations (ACO) to participate in the IDPWDS celebrations (3rd December) to have an understanding of PWDs issues and the concerns on their plight among others. The venue of the celebrations was Kitimbwa Church of Uganda in Kayunga district and the guest of honour was His Excellency the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The day was celebrated under the theme *“Technology for Persons with Disabilities; Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Development”*. Lessons for Older Persons including their concerns were noted as;

- To utilise the health services in the country to prevent disabilities in Old Age
- To take care of their health as some people become disabled due to carelessness, accidents resulting from reckless driving and riding. As OPs can also get affected due to this.
- To make full use of health facilities to access health services.
- OPs and ACO should in future focus on the theme for celebrations and have considerations for their future activities.

Program area 4: To carry out research, policy lobby and advocacy for older persons:

1. Regional debates on social protection:

To contribute to this program area, URAA has carried out national and regional level advocacy activities majorly supported by the Uganda Social Protection Platform (USPP) to which URAA is a member. The activities carried out across the month of June 2014 aimed at increasing advocacy for the national roll out of the SCG. The activities have involved meeting of older persons and other stakeholders to debate the need for the national roll out of the SCG, the debates being held in the North, West, East and central regions of Uganda.

The specific objectives of the regional debates were to:

- Create awareness on the senior citizen's grant (SCG)
- Engage various stake holders to appreciate and demand for the roll out of the SCG.

The debates culminated into actions for further advocacy for the roll out of the SCG. These actions were;

- Older person representatives meeting with their district speakers.

- Older persons and their representatives meeting with and petitioning the president of Uganda to roll out the SCG.
- Older persons and their representatives meeting with their Members of Parliament to get their support for the roll out of the SCG.

The above actions have led to increased demand for the roll out of the SCG with voices of older persons and their leaders being raised from all regions calling for budget allocation to enable the national roll out of the SCG.

Specific results of the regional debates and engagements by the older persons have been;

- Older persons have met with their MPs at regional level and discussed the need for the roll out of the SCG with promise from the MPs to support the motion when it comes to the floor of parliament.
- Older persons from all regions of the country met with the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga and presented a petition on social security for older persons. The petition was accepted, read in the parliament and handed to the social services committee for discussion.



Western Region round table debate

2. Training of Advocacy Group members.

URAA organised a 3 days training workshop for the existing national advocacy groups; HIV&AIDS Prevention care and support, Social Protection and Livelihood Group and Health (NCD and Nutrition) and one District Level Advocacy Group. A total of 53(32M, 21F) participants were trained in advocacy, of which 26(19M,7F) members were trained at district level in Iganga and 27(13M,14F) at national level.

The training aimed at refreshing participants' understanding of advocacy and its components and improving their skills on how to develop an effective advocacy strategy based on evidence and learning from previous advocacy work in the country, developing new advocacy strategies, plans and budgets.

Following the training, participants were able to effectively develop advocacy strategies for the next 8 months. The members work as a team, to influence policies and programs to mainstream issues of older persons. The advocacy teams advocate for both national and district HIV&AIDS, poverty, health and Social Protection policies and strategies to ensure inclusion of older persons' concerns and issues and as well as attending to their needs.

Members have also been met for review meetings to fast tract their strategies and ensure uniform reporting and accountability.

Program area 5: To strengthen the capacity of URAA and its member organizations to effectively implement older persons' programmes.

With support from CORDAID, URAA had undertaken one year long activities that resulted in formation of district and regional networks/associations of older persons. In the reporting period, CORDAID further supported URAA undertake follow up activities specifically to;

- Follow up on the work done by the Networks as per previous plans
- Identify capacity gaps and provide support.
- Work on challenging areas including conflict resolution for improved management and running of the Networks.
- Identify opportunities for promoting the Networks and taking forward their work.
- Review strategies for future success in Networking and partnership with likeminded organizations.
- To meet OPs participating in savings mobilization so as to get insights on how OPs benefiting from SAGE are promoting savings mobilization initiatives within OPs networks.
- Assess progress of Older Persons' Network.

The Key activity outputs were;

-Three regional Networks and 14 district networks/associations were supported.

- URAA held meetings with the following Networks and associations.

- Mid North Regional Network – Lira ; 12 OPs(8 male,4 female)
- Soroti District Older Persons’ Network (SODOPEN); 14 OPs (11male, 3female)
- Tororo District Older Persons’ Network(TODINOPU); 14 OPs (12 male, 2 female)
- Iganga District Older Persons’ Network(IDOPA); 7 OPs (4 male, 3 female)
- Network of Older Persons’ Associations in Masaka(NOPSOM); 14 OPs(4 male, 10 female)
- Rwenzori District Older Persons’ Network; 17OPs (15 male, 2 female)
- Pallisa Older Persons’ Network (POPSNET); 12OPs (10 male, 2 female)
- Nkore Older Persons’ Association(NKOPA); 13 OPs (13 male)
- Community Aged Foundation (CAFO); 7 OPs(5 male, 2 female)
- Luwero Bukadde Magezi Older Persons’ Association; 9 OPs (5 male, 4 female)
- Namutumba District Older Persons’ Association; 8 OPs(4 male, 4 female)
- Namalemba Older Persons’ Group; 16 OPs(9 male, 7 female)
- Divine Waters Uganda and Hope for the Elderly (HOFOTE) – Lira; 3 people (3 male)
- Kiboga Bakadde Twegatte Association (KIBTA); 10 OPs (6 male, 4 female)
- Hoima Voice of Older Persons (HOVOPA); 13 OPs (11 male, 2 female)
- Bundibugyo Civil Society Organizations’ Network; 9 people (8 male, 1 female)
- Jinja District Older Persons’ Association; 8 OPs (6 male, 2 female)

The following key issues were noted as applying to all Networks and Associations met.

- All organizations were struggling with resource mobilization with a feeling that no work could be undertaken without cash resources.

- All organizations felt that their continuity depended on fund provision by URAA.
- Majority of the Networks formed have committees dominated by older persons,
- Some organizations had leadership conflicts which translated to ineffectiveness of the networks and failure to convene meetings.
- Many of the Networks had incorporated savings mobilization and credit provision in their organizations but with minimum skills on management of savings and credit.
- Many of the organizations led by older persons, though weak and resource constrained have committed leadership and are optimistic about future successes.
- There was disconnect between the district and the Networks with many of the committees not aware of prospects of resources at the district and available technical support in these districts.

Additional Information was provided by URAA. This particularly related to resources mobilization, the upcoming census, formation of councils for older persons, the National identity card registration and the Senior Citizens Grant.

- The organizations and Networks met were encouraged to create awareness among older persons on the need to participate in the upcoming census. Effective participation in big numbers would provide accurate information on the actual population of older persons and demographic issues regarding older persons.
- The possession of National identity cards by older persons would facilitate easy and better access to services including health services and the income support programme.
- The Senior Citizens Grant (SCG) has high chances of a National roll out and OPAs were encouraged to take forward local level advocacy for the roll of the programme to cover the whole country. The voices of older persons need to be heard in demanding for the National roll out of the SCG.

3.0 ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

In the reporting period, URAA has held one Board meeting and committee meetings. The Board meetings majorly discussed organizational sustainability, resources mobilization and passed organizational policies.

Monthly Staff meetings have been held at the URAA office. Key issues included;

- Proposal development

- Organization sustainability
- Improvement of financial and program accountability.
- Enhancing communication effectiveness.

Staffing of the organization increased at project level with the recruitment of two project managers and two field officers.

4.0. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A financial report is attached

Conclusion:

URAA has carried out a wide range of activities to contribute to its strategic objectives. The period has however witnessed financial constraints which have called for critical thinking on sustainability of initiatives.