



UGANDA REACH THE AGED ASSOCIATION (URAA)

ANNUAL REPORT (JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2015)

Together we serve the Elderly and Children under their care



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

Reporting period: JANUARY 2015 TO DECEMBER 2015

Organization Information:

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Networking has been a key work approach for URAA. URAA is grateful to network partners for their contribution; these are MGLSD, MOH, UAC, UNASO, USPP, MILDMAY, ROTOM, NURRU and Organizations contributing to national and district advocacy teams and district level stakeholders.

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List of Acronyms

ADA	: Age Demands Action
HOVOPA	: Hoima Voice of Older Persons Association.
IFDC	: International Fertilizer Development Centre
IDOP	: International Day for Older Persons
IDF	: Independent Development Fund
DPWD	: International Day for People with Disabilities
JDOPF	: Jinja District Older Persons' Forum
MGLSD	: Ministry Of Gender Labour and Social Development
MOH	: Ministry of Health
NEG	: Namalemba Elders Group
NCDs	: Non Communicable Diseases
NOPSOM	: Network for Older Persons' Organizations in Masaka
OPAs	: Older Persons' Associations
OCMGs	: Older Citizen Monitoring Groups
POPSNET	: Pallisa district Older Persons' Network
SAGE	: Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment
UAC	: Uganda AIDS Commission
UNOEWGA	: United Nations Open Ended Working Group on Ageing
URAA	: Uganda Reach the Aged Association
VAU	: Voice for the Aged Uganda
WAD	: World AIDS Day

Message from the Chairman:

The year 2015 has been a great year in the advocacy history of Uganda Reach the Aged Association having witnessed the implementation of the Older Persons' (OPs) ACT 2013. For OPs and their Associations, the implementation of the Older Persons' Act 2013; having OPs elect their leaders to the Older Persons' Councils is a great milestone. Our advocacy as URAA and partners has yielded and I am optimistic that this will translate to increased voice for older persons from village to National level. The role out of the SAGE programme to 40 new districts is an additional achievement in our advocacy which will provide regular income for benefiting older persons and those in their care.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to present to you this Annual Report for 2015. During the year URAA committed 450 Million Uganda Shillings to supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan, this majorly being through projects' implementation. Volunteer support of the Board of Directors, members and partners has seen the organization engage in activities beyond the reach of available resources.

URAA's mandate being to champion the realization of a dignified quality of life for older persons in Uganda, advocacy has been key in working towards this. Notably in 2015, advocacy with the government of Uganda to support the UN Convention on older persons has continued causing government to commit itself by proposing contents of the convention. Advocacy efforts on the SDGs and the call on government to

consider people of all ages in development plans and interventions was a highlight for URAA. We have also continued to engage stakeholders by making use of key international events including the World AIDS Day, International Day for Older Persons, Human Rights Day and International Day for People with Disabilities. Our constituency for engagement now includes Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Local Governments, Private Sector, NGOs and CBOs. I am grateful to all the stakeholders for the collaboration.

Similarly, I would like to extend my gratitude to the URAA Board of Directors who in line with the constitutional mandate have invested substantially in ensuring implementation of organizational policies, participating in resource mobilization and managing the image of URAA. I also appreciate the URAA secretariat headed by the CEO for their relentless efforts in fundraising and implementing programs aimed at meeting the needs of older persons.

Lastly, I thank the development partners, MGLSD, MOH, URAA members and other stakeholders for all the support provided. The support and contributions demonstrate a strong commitment to the ageing agenda. We are highly indebted to you for this invaluable support.

David Obot

CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Message from the Chief Executive Officer.

As we conclude the year 2015, I take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the success of Uganda Reach the Aged Association(URAA) in a bid to accomplish what was set up in the strategic plan.

We appreciate the commitment and hard work of the staff at URAA, and the insightful guidance of the Board of Directors.

The contribution of our Donors, Government and members is highly commendable in pursuit of the strategic responses to promote the dignity of older persons.

The report highlights the major activities undertaken, the achievements registered, and the challenges encountered, under each of the six core Programme thematic areas namely:-

Economic empowerment, tackling the social welfare of older persons, Networking and integration, Information and communication, research, policy lobby/advocacy and to strengthen URAA institutional capacity and effectiveness.

With support from our donors, we have built the capacity of our age care member organizations and worked with them to economically empower older persons through skills development in saving and credit management, post harvest handling, and provision of soft revolving loans as startup capital for Income Generating

activities. Such initiatives have increased incomes in older persons' households as a result of increased sales, business skills, and profits in Income Generating activities. This enabled older persons to respond to the burden of caring for OVC and access basic needs including health.

We have also established community mechanisms to promote access to justice and enhanced community awareness by training of community members and older persons as paralegals and Older Citizen Monitoring Groups who advocate for justice and access to services.

We have intensified our networking and advocacy initiatives to increase the visibility of older persons in the country and ensure their issues are mainstreamed in Government policies, plans and budgets. This yielded fruits such as; the role out plan of the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment(SAGE), the inclusion of older persons' council elections in the National electoral commission election road map, accreditation of URAA by Electoral Commission to carry out civic education and appointment of URAA as the chair for Uganda Social Protection Platform.

We look forward to a better 2016, with your continued support, to promote the welfare and dignity of older persons in Uganda.

**Frederick Ouma Bwire ,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.**

CHAPTER 1:

Introduction:

Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) was formed in 1991. URAA is a major age care organization in Uganda with membership to Help Age International, Uganda National NGO Forum, National Union of Researchers and Research Users, Uganda Social Protection Platform and Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations. URAA's membership to networks is aimed at promoting the concerns of older persons, increasing their visibility at National level.

URAA's membership is drawn from age care organizations working in different regions in the country, both CBOs and NGOs. Individual membership is also sourced from prominent citizens contributing specialized skills to the organization.

URAA's strategic plan 2012- 2016 spells out key pillars on which URAA stands and the reason for its existence.

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

The annual report serves to reflect on the processes undertaken and results by URAA towards achieving its Mission and objectives as stipulated in the Strategic plan 2012-2016.

The report focuses on activities undertaken under each strategic objective as enlisted by the strategic plan and key effects and impact of the activities implemented to the beneficiary older persons, the communities and country at large.

- a) The Strategic Objectives are namely; Programme area 1: Economic empowerment for older persons:
- b) Programme area 2: Social Justice for older persons:
- c) Programme area 3: To strengthen Networking and communication between URAA and other stake holders:
- d) Programme area 4: To carry out research, policy lobby and advocacy for older persons
- e) Programme area 5: To strengthen the capacity of URAA and its member organizations to effectively implement older persons' programs.

Contextual Issues of Older Persons in Uganda:

Uganda undertook a census in 2014 and puts the number of older persons 60 years and above at 2,500,000 out of a population of 35,000,000.

Poverty and Vulnerability: Older persons in Uganda are one of the vulnerable groups with high risk of falling into poverty traps. With 63% of the OVC being under the care of older persons (MGLSD, OVC situation analysis report 2012), meager resources are depleted in an effort to provide for the needs of these children. Land is fragmented and majority of older person households are unable to produce enough food to last the season.

Health: The World Health Organization's global status report on NCDs refers to ageing as the first of the four drivers of NCD predominance in developing countries. Most of the affected are older persons aged 60 years and above. MoH report (2015) cited that high blood pressure and heart disease are more common among female 5% than males 2-3% respectively and findings reveal that all NCDs increase with age. According to the research under taken by the Health and NCD National Advocacy Team in districts of Mayuge, Hoima and Lira, major challenges OPs face are lack of medicines at health centres, distance to the health facilities, lack of transport to reach the facilities and long queues are the greatest challenges. For those who live in rural areas they don't get any medication since medicines are only given to HC IV and referral hospital which are not in their settings. The prevailing ill health coupled with low levels of access to quality services compromise the productivity of older persons.

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 infections through uninformed care giving, traditional healing practices and as traditional birth attendants.

Key to note in the reporting period, the bigger majority of districts covered by URAA have benefited from at least one of the activity engagements especially the advocacy activities. These have translated into a greater voice for policy development and programs targeting older persons.

Of great importance to URAA, the period under review has witnessed the beginning of the roll out of the Senior Citizen Grant under the SAGE programme that began with 40 new districts in a phased manner, the countrywide election of older people councilors, and the cabinet approval of the Social Protection Policy.

CHAPTER 2:

2.0 Progress towards achieving results under Economic Empowerment for Older Persons

Older persons are among the poorest in Uganda with 90% of them engaged in subsistence agriculture. Here rudimentary methods of production are used including poor post harvest handling techniques especially poor harvesting, drying and storage which increase post-harvest losses and fetches low market prices. Older persons as well are financially incapacitated to either start own funded family level income generating activities or get access to credit. As an intervention, URAA has undertaken project initiatives to support economic empowerment of older persons working in farmer groups.

2.1.1 Agriculture and Marketing:

A matching grant was provided by IFDC with the objectives to;

- Reduce post harvest losses among small holder farmers by 50% IN 6 months.
- To increase the sales value of rice among small holder farmers by 30% within 6 months.

The project directly reached 317 rice farmers and other 500 farmers indirectly. By June 2015, ten (10) farmer groups had been formed with a total of 254 farmers (126 male, 128 female). Additionally, 163 farmers joined the groups and received training in group dynamics, gender and post harvest handling and marketing. The project led to improved livelihoods among members as they have been able to earn more money from their produce which they have used to meet basic needs like clothing and first line treatment.

The benefits of the project to the farmers included;

- The project introduced collective storage marketing which helped farmers to reduce spillage and provide safe custody to the rice of members; keeping rice at the stores made the farmers feel safe and secure.
- With project support, the price at which farmers sold milled rice rose to Ush.1800 per kilogram from Ush.1125 per kilogram for kaiso rice and from Ush.1600 per kilogram to Ush.2500 per kilogram for super rice. This was due to increased quality of rice.
- Farmers reported reduced post harvest losses that they used to suffer as a result they sold more Kilograms using own weighing scales. With this experience they testified how they had been cheated previously by buyers using poorly calibrated weighing scales.
- With the increased income, Older Persons were able to pay for school fees for their children and grand children on time, buy basic medicine and clothing. They have also started or joined saving schemes as groups of farmers. To older persons and others, savings are important for financial independence.

A key benefit of the project was the general improvement in the quality of rice produced because of drying using tarpaulins and training on post-harvest handling technologies to increase in quality and profitability; farmers signed agreements with bulk buyers to whom they later sold rice in bulk. With the improved production, availability of quality improvement machines and tarpaulins; it is hoped that these trade relations will continue.



Mr. Opondo Oburu 70 Sharing his project experience

Mr. Obonyo had this to say “*Imagine! I used fuel for only 4,000 shillings to thresh 16 bags. I got out a lot of clean full grain rice in a one day. Before, I was threshing / beating with sticks and it would take a lot of time and moreover the rice would get broken into pieces. I would always loose so many kilo grams on the ground after hiring about 6 labourers at 24,000 shilling and feeding then with 20,000/=.* This project has really saved us a lot!” Opondo Oburu at 70 years cheerfully and assertively said, during a project review meeting (in picture above).

2.1.2. Income Generating Activities.

In Iganga, a total of 58(23M, 35F) started Income Generating Activities after receiving revolving loan funds from NEG on 19th Jan 2015. The loan beneficiaries were first inducted into business skills to increase their knowledge and enable high profitability. They began activities like produce trade, grocery outlets, charcoal trade, goat rearing and poultry. These older persons are taking care of a total of 101 OVC. They have used their profits mostly to access health services through transport fares to the health centres, buying medication, scholastic materials for OVC under their care, purchase of family basic needs such as soap, boosting their nutrition all which has contributed to their wellbeing and social economic development.

2.1.3. Savings mobilization and credit access by older persons:

With support from SIDA, URAA has worked with Namalemba Elders Group to ensure that older persons acquire capacity to enable them form and manage their own saving and credit schemes. The older persons’ group leaders and selected members were trained to undertake savings and credit in their groups. Efforts undertaken by URAA have registered 115 older persons (53female, 62 male) trained in saving and credit management. Several months after the training, key highlights of results of knowledge acquisition are;

- The beneficiaries of the saving and credit training have been able to sensitize others members on the knowledge and information learnt. 1793 older men and older women from 86 groups now have the knowledge and skills in saving and credit management.
- 56 of the groups have been registered with the Sub County Community Development Office.
- 49 of the groups included a credit component in their saving group. This has given members an opportunity to acquire credit which they use to carry out IGAs and then pay a small interest ranging from 5-10% to the group. This has also encouraged increased savings since members can earn interest on their savings thus contributing to economic security. Previously majority of groups were collecting savings and receiving lump sum at the end of the year which practice did not promote development of group members through borrowing and using the group savings for business establishment and growth. Groups as well were not growing their portfolios through charging interest.
- Some older persons began new savings and credit groups and other bigger groups sub divided themselves into smaller manageable groups; Bukaire Magezi Development Association that was composed of 1,208 members was subdivided into 32 smaller groups.
- For safety purposes of their savings and development of the group, 11 groups since opened up bank accounts with recognized financial institutions especially crane bank. The bank accounts also enable them to qualify for Government poverty reduction funds because it is a major requirement.
- The knowledge and skills from the training empowered the older persons in such a way that 5 have been able to apply for financial services from the Government, NEG and other financial institutions. The attitude towards older persons has notably changed among community members.

“Older Persons are now respected in the community. Our groups are getting stronger and marketable, even younger people now request to join our groups and yet they used look down upon us some time ago”, Palya Steven, chairperson of older persons group in Ibulanku joyfully noted.

- Participants and members of groups that were represented in the training have generally reported better income levels and economic security. They have been able to access medical services and educational services for their OVC as a result of economic empowerment.

A general improvement in record keeping was noted among groups and individuals that attended the training. 49 groups now have proper group records such as cash books, constitutions, meeting minutes and loans records. It was reported that individual members also keep records within their personal businesses for example recording expenses; purchase prices which has helped them evaluate their Income Generating Activities thus increased profitability.

More groups have opened bank accounts, are keeping proper records and increased their saving; A case in point is Kyebajatabona Elders group and Abakaire Twegaite elders group with membership of 75 and 93 older persons respectively. These have registered the following changes ever since they were trained;

- Have put in place proper saving and credit records for example savings book and loans ledgers.
- Have opened bank accounts with Crane bank.
- Have registered their groups with Government Sub county and District level. Abakaire Twegaite wrote a business proposal to two well-wishers who gave them Ox plough and

Chairs for hiring. They have used these to hire out and generate income which has boosted the group's capital and benefited all members who share the profits.

Success story 1

Namalemba Elderly group (NEG) is one of the members of Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) that received a grant from Help Age International with funding from Sweden-Norad. NEG is using the grant to loan out to vulnerable older persons to start Income Generating activities in order to improve their livelihoods and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. The Project manager spoke to one of the beneficiaries during a monitoring visit.

"My name is Mwanja Jesca and I am 61 years old widow. I live and take care of 3 of my orphaned grandchildren and my elderly grandmother aged 85. I am a member of NEG living in Busembatya town.

Before I joined NEG, I was selling only onions and egg plants with a capital of about 50,000=shillings (Sh). I would make sales of averagely 5,000sh daily and make a profit of only 2,000=sh. I could hardly save anything because I would use all the profit for feeding my family and paying school fees for my grandchildren. It was a struggle and I was always worried that I may fail to support my family's basic needs at any one point.

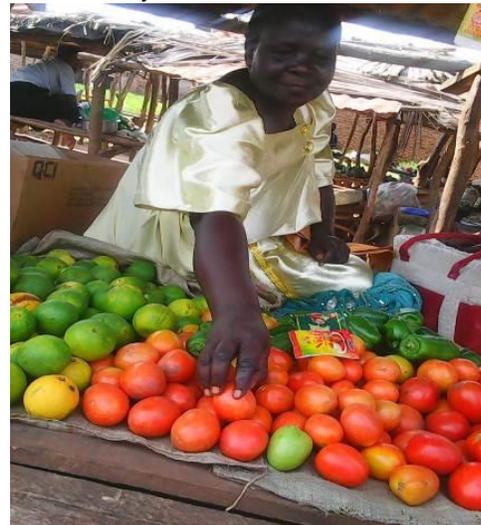
One day I attended an older persons' training workshop with URAA in Income Generating Activities. I learnt how to improve my business, save, keeping records, increase sales and marketing. I got encouraged and empowered to apply for a loan to boost my business. At first I applied for 150,000=shillings, I repaid it in time and qualified for another loan. This time I got 300,000=shillings which I used to increase stock.

I now have a bigger grocery stall where I sell tomatoes, egg plants, Irish potatoes, green pepper, cabbages, Onions, oranges, egg plants, spices, and other fruits and vegetables.

I make sales of averagely 30,000=shillings per day of which about 5,000= shillings is profit. I averagely earn 150,000 shillings monthly from my business. I spend about 60,000 shillings to meet my family's basic needs and save the rest for investment and emergencies.

The loan from URAA helped me a lot, I have boosted my business and I have generally developed. My sales and profits have increased and I have been able to buy a cow, household item such as a sideboard and I pay school fees for the orphans under my care in time.

I appreciate NEG and URAA for the support and I pray that God blesses them with more funding so that they can continue to reach us the elderly.



Jesca at her grocery stall.

CHAPTER 3:

3.0 Progress towards achieving results under Social Justice:

In the period under review, activities contributing to social justice for older persons have been undertaken in Hoima district and Iganga district supported by IDF and SIDA. In Hoima district, activities have been undertaken under the Access to Justice and Human Rights Awareness at grassroot level (AJURA) project. The aim of the initiative is to establish community mechanisms that promotes access to Justice and enhances community awareness on human rights to improve the social welfare of older persons and their families. In Iganga district, the work of OCMGs in promoting social justice for older persons has yielded tremendous results.

Activities implemented towards achievement outcomes of the URAA strategic plan include; Preliminary meeting and consultation with leaders, training and facilitation of paralegal advisors and monitoring of access to government and community services by older citizen monitoring groups.

3.1.1 Preliminary meeting with leaders and community leaders' sensitization meetings:

The preliminary meeting aimed to Increase the level of vigilance about human rights of older persons. The meeting reached 42 leaders who committed to support older persons through providing them with priority services. Additionally commitment was made to lobby for projects aimed at empowering and improving the livelihoods of older persons in their communities.

Further sensitization meetings for community leaders were held and reached 50 local leaders per Sub County in four sub counties in Hoima district. Through the sensitization meetings, 204 leaders (54 female, 142 male) were sensitized. The leaders pledged to disseminate awareness information to other community members. Other commitments related to supporting older persons qualify for CDD funds and other services through formation of organized older persons' groups with constitutions.

In Iganga district; as a result of sensitization, leaders have visited four OPAs and supported them to put up constitutions and other documents which resulted in three of the groups benefiting from the CDD funds of Ushs.2,500,000 each.

Success Story 2

In Kyangwali Sub County many of the older persons said that they were investing much in their children and other dependents and not saving anything worth to make them live a descent life after they have aged. After the presentations and experience sharing during the sensitization and preliminary consultation meetings, leaders of older persons present agreed to use and disseminate the information obtained to the other older persons within the sub county so that as they invest in their dependents, they also save and invest for their old age. One of the leaders ' Rwemera Mairane' the LC III chairperson said that, he had invested a lot on his children and other dependents and forgotten that he needed to save for his old age. He then said "I am happy that God has given me more time to start investing in my future and I am now planting trees"

He asked the older persons present to tirelessly work hard and invest in something that will enable them generate some income when they are very old and less productive.

3.1.2. Training and facilitation of paralegal advisors:

URAA identified 80 (61 male, 19 female) community volunteers who were trained as paralegal advisors. The paralegals trained demonstrated increased knowledge on legal issues qualified through post training information by the trained paralegals which indicated better knowledge on rights issues affecting older persons and legal provisions that support rights of older persons. To support their role, paralegal advisors were provided with bicycles and legal materials.

The paralegals have represented the legal voices of older persons working on key issues identified in the community but also supporting alternative dispute resolution and case referrals. The lesson is that community lay people once provided with capacity, will work to reduce rights violation for older persons, enabling them live more dignified lives and protect their property.

The paralegals convene quarterly in support forums where sharing of experience, challenges and successes is done. URAA makes use of the support forum meetings to offer required technical support and additionally collect information on paralegal outcomes.

Key outcome areas are; the number of older persons supported to resolve their cases, the number of cases referred and followed up and the number of referred cases that are concluded by courts. Other areas of paralegal support are in the area of awareness creation on rights.

Paralegals have supported alternative dispute resolution in their communities with particular focus on households of older persons. Notably cases have been resolved cases referred to courts of law and followed up and cases concluded by court. Paralegals have also created awareness on rights to number of older persons in order to increase rights protection.

3.1.3. Older Citizen Monitoring Groups and Service Delivery Monitoring:

URAA previously trained and supported a total of 80 OCMGs (49male, 31 female). A refresher training in advocacy for the OCMGs was held in November 2015. The role of the OCMGs is to increase participation of older persons in government and community programs. The bicycles provided to the OCMGs have enhanced their work with older persons through providing easy means for following up access by older persons to government services.

According to the OCMGs, the following are notable outcomes of their work.

- The OCMGs have formed themselves into six saving and credit groups which provides them opportunity to increase their savings and assets while continuing to undertake the OCMGs work.
- OCMGs have lobbied political leaders for support to older persons for instance Namalemba older persons received ox ploughs. This has contributed to increased participation of older persons in the NAADS and CDD programs. With the interaction between OCMGs and

leaders; 187 older persons have benefited from CDD and 184 older persons have received NAADS inputs, additionally 53 older persons (43M, 28F) received coffee seedlings.

- OCMGs have been able to collectively tackle rights violation and mediate conflicts among older persons' households. They have supported access to social justice and protection of rights of older persons. OCMGs counseled 40 older persons (19 male, 21 female), sensitized 64 older persons on rights (32male, 32 female). A total of 43 cases of rights violation of older persons were referred by OCMGs and handled by the legal department.
- OCMGs are now confidently approaching legal officials to present cases of injustice among older persons. Cases related to witchcraft accusations, inheritance issues, land conflicts and abuse of older persons have actively been handled by the police and referred to the legal department specifically the sub county court.

Other results of the OCMG work has been mobilizing older persons into support groups which have also benefited from government services. Some of these groups are; Namunyumya older persons' group, Nabirere Elders Association, Kinampere Older persons' Group, Twendhamazima Group. These are self help groups whose benefits range from providing psychosocial peer support to credit and savings activities for economic benefits.

During the election process for older persons to councils from village to district level, OCMGs were instrumental in informing older persons to effectively participate.

Key to note is that the OCMG work has increased respect by service providers and communities to older persons.

3.1.4. Community Dialogues:

URAA designed community dialogues as components of the SIDA and IDF funded projects. The community dialogues aim to map out social protection and health services including rights protection systems in order to improve access by older persons.

In Hoima and Iganga districts, the target of the dialogues was OPA leaders, CSOs and political leaders. A total of 192 (130M, 62F) people participated in the dialogues. The focus of the dialogues was to increase access by older persons to government programmes, mobilization of older persons in groups to increase benefit from the programmes and rights protection for older persons.

Registered results for the dialogues include;

- Ibulanku Sub County in Iganga district now has a designated day for older persons to access treatment.
- At least three groups of older persons have been supported to register for NAADS.

3.1.5. Radio Talk Shows and scripts airing.

As a strategy for awareness on rights protection for older persons, radio talk shows were organized in Hoima district. The radio talk shows ensure a wider reach of information on rights of older persons and access to justice. The year has witnessed up to 6 radio talk shows on Spice FM Hoima and Radio Hoima. It is estimated that 90% of the population of Hoima district and surrounding districts has had at least one messaging on older persons' rights through radio talk shows and scripts airing. Given the outstanding effectiveness of radio messaging, URAA seeks to increase the reach of the talk shows.

Chapter 4:

4.0 Progress towards achieving results under Networking and Communication between URAA and Other Stakeholders

URAA has worked towards strengthening partnerships with stakeholders that contribute to promoting the welfare of older persons. In the period under review, URAA has continued efforts of Networking with stakeholders to have a greater impact on the interventions carried out for older persons.

In the period under review, URAA has promoted Networking through the following;

- URAA has drafted partnership guidelines to guide its working relations with members and other partners. The partnership guidelines describe the different stakeholders and how URAA relates with each. The guidelines will streamline and strengthen URAA partnerships through providing explicit explanations on the implication of the partnerships. The guidelines contextualize the situation of older persons in Uganda, providing this as a basis for the coming together of all actors the rationale for partnership is explained as the need for holistic approach to OP's service delivery, limited and unsustainable resource base for OPAs and the need for advocacy for a voice. Through the guide, partners including members have their roles, responsibilities and benefits laid out. The guidelines will therefore strengthen member commitment as they will clearly understand their roles.



- **URAA CEO in a community meeting.**
- **URAA** has continued to work with UNASO in the area of HIV and USPP on issues of social protection. To this end URAA has implemented a social protection advocacy project in partnership with USPP.
- URAA participated in the 5th Annual East African Health and Scientific conference. URAA’s health advocacy group prepared a paper titled “Non Communicable diseases (NCD) and ageing: a call for immediate attention by our minister of Health in the EAC”. The paper was presented by the Chief Executive Officer to a team of health sector players and ministers of health, researchers, and members of parliament and policy makers from across East Africa. The position paper called upon policy makers to develop operational integrated specific policies and action plans to prevent and address NCD in Uganda as a priority given health complexities that come with ageing.
- URAA received accreditation by Electoral Commission to carry out voter education. The accreditation gave URAA mandate to sensitize and empower older persons all over the country to rightly exercise their voting rights. The half day voter education exercise for older persons focused on selected chapters of the voter education handbook that were prioritized to meet the information needs of older persons. This would assist the older persons as they prepare to vote national leaders and themselves as older persons are voted into positions of leadership.



Older persons in Mayuge district attending voter education

- URAA has established new partnership with ULGA and successfully carried out advocacy activities on the national roll out of the SCG with ULGA national secretariat and regional ULGA members. These combined voices yielded into government commitment to roll out the SCG to twenty more districts and consistently add five districts annually over five years.
- URAA was invited to attend the launch of the Equal Opportunities Commissions' 2014 Annual report on the state of equal opportunities in Uganda. The report highlighted older persons as a major marginalized group in Uganda and the research findings mainly focused on 4 marginalized groups including older persons. URAA has gone ahead to inform older persons about the services of the commission and older persons with issues of marginalization will be referred to the commission and supported to resolve such cases.
- URAA was elected as the next Chairing Organization for the Uganda Social Protection Platform for the year 2015/2016. This gives URAA an upper hand in the decisions and management of the activities of the platform and offers an opportunity to advocate for social protection policies in favour of older persons in Uganda.
- URAA worked with the National NGO Forum, Older Persons' Associations and other NGOs to design the Citizens Manifesto and Older Persons' Manifesto; these documents describe expectations of older persons from political leaders. The Older persons' manifesto was launched by the prime minister at national level with over 2000 citizens and leaders attending. During the political campaigns, citizens and older persons will be requiring the prospective leaders to commit to addressing the demands in the Manifestos.
- URAA contributed to the review process of the Ministry of Health strategic plan as a member of the social support and protection thematic working group. Contributions were on areas government had made progress and recommendations on actions to ensure better outcomes in the second half of the strategic plan implementation. A key area of improvement was in the area of reporting on the social support interventions for careers of PLHA.

- URAA participated in a workshop organized by the MGLSD on building the economic case for investment in social protection in Uganda. Evidence was provided to show that building synergies between project beneficiaries and other services, programmes and non-government services is an effective way of strengthening impact and costs effectiveness. In some districts Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) beneficiaries have started savings and credit schemes where they have opportunities to learn more and practice savings credit and investments in small scale businesses, invest in high yielding inputs for agricultural as well as buy livestock. The groups also provide social support to members. This is a point of reference for this project. Also participation builds social capital and leads to improved livelihoods among the older persons which URAA is encouraging in a bid to ensure economic returns of social protection in the mid and long term.
- URAA participated in an APSP conference in Kigali under the theme ‘Role of Social Protection in the Development Agenda’ on 24th – 25th October 2015 and shared the Social Accountability in Social Protection Project in Uganda that was undertaken by the Uganda Social Protection Platform where URAA is a member. The conference also provided opportunity for sharing the SDG and AU Agenda 2063 and the role of CSOs in supporting the goals and ensuring commitment by governments in taking this forward.
- Through project partnerships, URAA has strengthened collaboration with implementing member organization by signing of MOUs to guide joint responsibility in project success. The implementing member organizations have also benefited from capacity development through coaching and mentoring. Regular face to face interactions with members has improved their skills in advocacy, reporting, financial management and organizational governance and project management. HOVOPA, NEG, VAU, POPSNET, JDOPF are member organizations that mainly benefited from partnership projects in the year 2016.

4.1.2 Participation in International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPWDS)

Celebrations

The celebrations aimed at promoting an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and wellbeing of PWDs. Thus the day is to promote an understanding of disability issues Similar to IDOP for Older persons. It is also noted that some members of these vulnerable groups are older persons.

During the celebrations the Chief Guest (Minister for Gender Labour and Social Development, pledged that the government will increase the budgetary allocation for special grants for Persons With Disabilities from Ug Shs 100 Million to Ug Shs 500 Millions The increment to help government support PWDs to engage in income generating activities. The Minister also, called upon policy makers and service providers to ensure that they include PWDs in their various development activities

Lesson for Older Persons: To continue advocating for inclusion, participation and services to Older Persons some of whom face a double discrimination of having disabilities in Old Age

Chapter 5:

5.0 Progress towards achieving results under Research, Policy lobby and Advocacy for older persons:

Many of the challenges older persons are faced with are a result of poor or weak policies. Other challenges are related to lack of awareness by the general community about older persons issues.

5.1.1 Advocacy teams and national policy influencing:

In the period under review, advocacy has been undertaken by URAA to promote integration of older persons in policies and programs. A key strategy has been working with advocacy groups at National and district level. The advocacy groups are in the areas of social protection, HIV Prevention and NCDs. These have been replicated at district level for learning and grassroots evidence generation. The advocacy at national level has been reinforced by designating advocacy weeks on key calendar events through the ADA campaigns. Advocacy strategies for the year 2015 focused on Fast tracking the establishment of the National Council for Older Persons and passing of the social protection policy; increase access to age friendly HIV messaging and services, increased access by older persons to health facilities with NCD medicines available. Policy briefs, position papers and statements with advocacy issues and messages have been utilized for advocacy at national and district level.

Results of advocacy for the period have been;

- A commitment by the Ministry of Health to develop health guidelines for older persons.
- The guidelines for formation of older persons' councils were completed with push from the social protection team and the election roadmap included older persons' elections. Presently older person's country wide have elected their leaders from village to district level.
- At district level, results of advocacy include older persons increasingly benefiting from the CDD and NAADS programmes; older persons are prioritized in access to medical facilities, treated with respect by the medical personnel and community members. In Ibulanku Health Centre III - Iganga District, a special day (Friday) every week was allocated for treatment of older persons; the older persons are provided first priority on this day. During the other week days, a special waiting bench for older persons is assigned. The DHO has committed to have this practice replicated in other health centers in the district.

5.1.2 Working with Traditional Health Practitioners:

Traditional health practitioners including herbalists, bonesetters and traditional birth attendants (TBAs) have clearly been identified as advocacy structures to promote access to the different existing services. THPs are the first point of contact in health seeking behaviors for majority of the population. The THPs when trained have been instrumental in reducing risk of HIV/AIDS and TB transmission through referrals and collaboration with biomedical practitioners.

URAA previously trained 223 THPs. These have been able to improve their hygiene in order to protect their clients from infections. The THPs have also transferred this knowledge and skill to

others. The THPs have correctly treated 764 people, sensitized 1921 on HIV/AIDS prevention and referred 307 people to biomedical health centers for testing.

As a result of THP collaboration with medical personnel, 667 (277 male, 390 female) older persons have accessed HIV/AIDS and VCT services.

5.1.3. Advocacy for the national roll out of the SCG:

URAA was supported by the USPP to implement advocacy activities aimed at enhancing grassroots' demand for the national roll out of the SCG.

One of the key objectives of the advocacy was to promote increased awareness on social protection among key stakeholders CSOs, policy makers, politicians, local governments, professionals and the general public in Uganda on social protection.

Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) as a member of USPP led on implementation of regional dialogues in five regions of Uganda i.e. North, Busoga, Central, Bunyoro and Teso regions. The purpose of the regional dialogues was to stimulate discussion and demand for inclusion of the SCG as a core priority in district plans. It was also to stimulate participants from non SAGE benefiting districts to heighten their demand for the national roll out of the SCG. Other advocacy activities to achieve the above objective were undertaken by the Jinja Older Persons' Forum and Pallisa Older Persons' Network ; these engaged directly with communities and formed community action groups. Radio talk shows were also aired to ensure the call for a national roll out of the SCG reaches a bigger audience.

A total of 515 participants (152 female, 363 male) attended the regional dialogues while 200 participants attended the action group meetings.



Busoga regional dialogue on social protection

Actions from the dialogues and Action groups included;

- District chairpersons passed resolutions in their council meetings supporting the national roll out of the SCG.
- ULGA was assigned by district leaders to include advocacy for social protection specifically SCG roll out on their advocacy agenda.
- Action groups were formed at community level to continuously remind their leaders of the need to integrate older persons' issues in district plans.

It is acknowledged that the national wide regional meetings and radio talk shows mounted pressure on decision makers including the President, Cabinet, Ministry of finance and parliament to allocate 10 billion Uganda shillings for the roll out of the SCG to 40 more districts with regional considerations in selection.

5.1.4. Action 2015 Campaign:

URAA led a campaign code named Action all ages which focused on combined awareness by both older persons and younger people on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With a 10 member team of older persons, MGLSD, CSOs, URAA, Network of Young People Having HIV/AIDS and Organization of African Youth, the focus of the campaign was on three development goals. These were; Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries and Goal 16: Peaceful and Inclusive societies for sustainable development.

The campaign combined use of social media and celebrity engagement for increased awareness; it climaxed with a National Dialogue held on 17th September 2015 prior to the UN summit on SDGs. The celebrity selected was Ms Joanitta Kawalya a musician with Afrigo band and



development activist who through her message called on government to commit to putting people of all ages at the centre of development and support the SDGs.

Participants of the national dialogue on SDGs.

The campaign registered high social media engagement with more than 300 messages sent reaching more than 1000 twitter and facebook users and making more than 126,773 impressions. This translates to visibility of URAA and older persons. The campaign saw URAA engage with new partners especially the youth; the learning was that intergenerational approach to advocacy is important in addressing needs of older persons. URAA aims to continue partnerships with young people for increased advocacy.

5.1.5 Celebrations to commemorate the International day of older persons (IDOP)

Under the theme, Social protection for older persons: a pre-requisite for sustainable development, Uganda celebrated IDOP in Bundibugyo on 1st October to recognize the contributions of older persons in the country, create awareness of their needs and take stock of what has been achieved, the gaps and possible solutions. The day was also used to officially launch the roll out of an older person's Government social protection program; the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) to the second phase of the 10 districts.

URAA as a national age care organization actively participated in organizing the celebrations. URAA and Help Age International sponsored the 2 days health camp which was a key activity of the event. The function was attended by about 1000 people who comprised of older persons, Government officials, service providers, school children, representatives of age care organizations and other civil society Organizations.

A total of 343(77M, 266) older persons received free medical care which included general checkups, diagnosis, and treatment. This contributed to the health and wellbeing of older persons who lamented that they rarely get drugs at public health centers.

The 2nd phase of the SAGE programme roll out to the 10 districts was launched. This social protection programme will enable older persons in the selected districts to cope with adverse shocks to provide a secure platform upon which they can build productive and sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty. It will be rolled out in 40 districts in the next 5 years in a phased manner. The president pledged that the whole country will eventually be covered.

5.1.6. Commemoration of World AIDS Day (WAD) 2015.

URAA in partnership with the National Advocacy Group for HIV Prevention, Care, Support and Treatment (NAGOP) participated in the National event to mark the World AIDS Day on 1st December. The decision to select Kasese was due to the prevailing high prevalence of HIV at 8.2% much higher than the national prevalence.

URAA was represented by the Chief Executive Officer, Projects Officer and Vice Chairperson URAA Board of Directors. A total of 28 Key older persons and paralegals carried a banner and wore T-shirts for visibility.

The theme for the WAD event was; **getting to zero my responsibility.**

The event engaged Political leaders, government technical officers, development partners, Cultural leaders, religious leaders and representatives of AIDS support organizations. The chief guest was Hon Kabwegyere, Minister for General Duties who represented the president. An approximate 800 people attended the World AIDS Day commemoration event.



Part of the older persons who participated in WAD 2015.

Key issues to note are;

- The World AIDS Day event brings all actors together and is an opportunity for creating linkages with key stakeholders in HIV and AIDS programming.
- The impact of HIV and AIDS on older persons as a population at risk of infection as well as the care burden imposed needs to be better understood by all actors.

5.1.7. Commemoration of Human Rights Day:

Human Rights Day provides opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on rights of the people especially the vulnerable groups and commit to protection of these rights.

In the period under review, URAA with support from IDF held an activity in Hoima district, Kiziranfumbi Sub County to commemorate Human Rights Day on 10th December 2015. The expected result was to create awareness and increase vigilance by all actors in protecting rights of older persons. The day brought together stakeholders in rights protection including the Human Rights Commission, Politicians, older persons, community volunteers and CSOs including URAA and HOVOPA.

Key messages were provided in regard to rights protection for older persons with sharing from paralegal advisors in areas of rights violation for older persons.

A health camp was conducted to illustrate the right to health for older persons. A total of 164 (53 Male and 111Female) older persons received treatment. To the health providers in Kiziranfumbi,

the learning provided was that NCD medicines need to be provided and advocacy for this is required. To URAA, the Human Rights Day commemoration focusing on older persons provides visibility of issues affecting older persons.

Chapter 6:

6.0 Progress towards achieving results under capacity strengthening of URAA and its member Organizations to effectively implement Older Persons' Programs:

The capacity of URAA staff and partners has been enhanced in order to manage and implement programmes for older persons but also ensure sustainability of URAA as an organization. Participation in capacity building and learning events has been the major mode of passing on skills among staff and partners. During the reporting period, the following have been noted capacity building events.

- URAA programme staff participated in training workshops held by Help Age International workshops held by Help Age in Mombasa. This provided opportunity to increase knowledge on project deliverables and other programme issues including monitoring, gender analysis, financial management, behavioral change communication and OCMG management.
- URAA communication and administration staff were trained in website management

To enhance project progress and learning, URAA held an annual review meeting for the AJURA project in Hoima district in November 2015. The objective was to share project outcomes with leaders and receive feedback for better implementation. In the same vein, a project evaluation for the SIDA NORAD project was undertaken in November and results will guide future implementation of similar projects. In both events, stakeholders included the beneficiary older persons, community volunteer groups, government technocrats and political leaders, CSOs and URAA partners

CHAPTER 7:

7.0 Governance

7.1.1 Annual General Meeting 2015

URAA with the aim to fulfill its mandate called the Annual General Meeting for the year 2015. The AGM that was well responded to, among others; discussed and adopted the chairman's and auditors' reports. The chairman's report majorly highlighted the role the Board had played in providing governance oversight, accreditation of URAA to the UNOEWGA and the Electoral Commission. The AGM also adopted the reviewed fees structure for membership and subscription fees.

7.1.2. Board of Directors Meetings:

URAA has held 3 (three) Board meetings which have discussed and approved among others, the annual report, annual work plan, asset disposal, audit report 2014 and prepared for the AGM.

7.1.3. Staff meetings.

URAA held monthly staff meetings to discuss organizational running, project implementation, staff development and fundraising.

8.0. Financial report.

**THE UGANDA REACH THE AGED ASSOCIATION
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2015

Particulars	Note	2015	2014
		Ushs	Ushs
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3.5	515,826,140	108,517,317
Total		515,826,140	108,917,317
Current Assets			
Receivables	2.9	1,923,104	1,320,166
Cash & Bank	3.1	78,534,999	15,725,702
Total		80,457,803	17,045,868
Total Assets		596,083,943	125,963,185
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity and Reserves			
Fund balances		180,380,052	190,380,052
Revenue Reserves		283,052,878	(157,606,033)
		473,442,930	32,784,019
Current Liabilities	3	122,641,013	93,179,166
Payables		122,641,013	93,179,166
Total Equity reserves and liabilities		596,083,943	125,963,185

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 07/12/2016 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Chief Executive Officer

.....
Board Chairperson

Appendices

(i) List of BoD members 2015

1	David Obot	Chairperson
2	Sylvia Ntegyereize	Vice Chairperson
3	Kenneth Mugayehwenkyi	Treasurer
4	Sarah Kakaire	Member
5	Fidelis Babugura	Member
6	William Wilberforce Magera	Member
7	Peter Nyakatura	Member
8	Jackson Oyugi	Member
9	Ruth Kakungulu	Member
10	Titus Ouma	Member

(ii) List of Staff 2015

	Name	Title
1	Frederick Ouma Bwire	Chief Executive Officer
2	Edith Ndyewolwa Nambi	Finance & Administration Officer
3	Kezia Mukasa A.	Projects Officer
4	Ann Gonda Wangira	Accounts and Administration Officer
5	Emily Kemigisha	Project Manager – SIDA
6	Albert Wabyona	Project Officer – AJURA
7	Jaliat Kusima	Results and Communication Officer – AJURA
8	Abemerick Omita	Project Officer – IFDC
9	Aramathan Mutebi	Field Extension Worker – IFDC
10	Jafali Kakembo	Driver
11	Asaba Freddie	Volunteer Field Officer AJURA

12	Esther Angom	Volunteer
13	Micheal Obata	Volunteer
14	Gloria Kiconco	Casual Worker