



UGANDA REACH THE AGED ASSOCIATION (URAA)



ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016

Together we serve the Elderly and Children under their care

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	: Age Demands Action
AJURA	: Access to Justice and Human Rights Awareness
CDD	: Community Driven Development
CEO	: Chief Executive Officer
GA	: General Assembly
HOVOPA	: Hoima Voice of Older Persons' Association
IDF	: Independent Development Fund
IGAs	: Income Generating Activities
NCDs	: Non Communicable Diseases
NCOP	: National Council for Older Persons
OCMGs	: Older Citizen Monitoring Groups
Ops	: Older Persons
OPA	: Older Persons' Association
OVC	: Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
OWC	: Operation Wealth Creation
PLHA	: People Living with HIV and AIDS
SCG	: Senior Citizen Grants
UPE	: Universal Primary Education
URAA	: Uganda Reach the Aged Association
USE	: Universal Secondary Education

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:



I am glad to present Uganda Reach the Aged Association's (URAA) Annual Report 2016.

This report reflects many improvements and achievements through the continuing efforts of providers and users of our interventions as well as other stakeholders and government oversight.

Doubtless, the conclusion of 2012-2016 Strategic Plan of action was a rewarding reflection to our reign as Board of Directors. The events over the period under review brought recognition of older persons and changes in the way communities where they live looked upon them.

URAA's desire for improvements in the welfare and quality of life of older persons and people of their care remained our major focus.

Gratitude is to the Government of Uganda specifically Ministry of Gender Labour and Social development (MGLSD) for the collaboration, technical support and guidance.

Then our members, other age care organizations, National Council for older Persons, other councilors and leaders different levels for participation and support this year.

We are especially grateful, to our development partners namely: - National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Swedish development Agency and Norwegian Agency for Development (SIDA/ NORAD) funded through Help

Age International, Independent Development Fund (IDF) and Help Age International and Uganda Social Protection Platform (USPP), who supported the organization to progress towards achieving its vision, mission, and objectives by providing financial resources and technical guidance.

Similarly we are grateful to the media fraternity for giving visibility to the plight of older persons specifically highlighting issues of elderly abuse and those fighting it and keeping the issues of social protection and promoting dignity of vulnerable populations topical in the public domain

We are also grateful to the public, various districts and local government leaders, whose positive response to older persons issues; raised in various policy and legislative advocacy forums contributed to the achievements of the organizations and members advocacy, objectives during the year.

For the year ahead we embrace our ongoing challenge to meet the overwhelming numbers of older persons in need of our support as we welcome the new strategic plan 2017-2021.

I am pleased to recognize the dedicated members of the Board of Directors both the outgoing and the new members elected at the Annual general Meeting this year; for their strategic leadership and Staff, for their focus and commitments, through whose efforts; I am confident URAA will continue to positively impact on life of older persons and people under their care.

Tobias Onweng
Chairperson Board of Directors – URAA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE.



The year 2016 was a year of high visibility for URAA and our efforts to enable elder persons and people under their care live a dignified lives found a reflection in his broader national agenda.

Because the year marked the end of 2012-2016 strategic plan, it was eventful and full of activities as URAA ended a planning season and opened a new one.

Over this period interventions focused on, Economic empowerment for older persons, Social Justice for older persons, Strengthening Networking and communication between URAA and other stake holders, Research, policy lobby, advocacy for older persons as well as building capacity of older persons leaders and strengthen the capacity of URAA and its member organizations to effectively implement older persons' programs.

The issues handled and approaches used enabled URAA to demonstrate how its scope of work impacts on the lives of older persons and people under care by a way of improving the quality of life and restoration of their dignity.

This was a year of continuous growth at both programs and capacity levels. Started a project to build capacity of older persons leaders, developed Training Materials and

Information Education and Communication materials, we started program of building capacity of councilors and improved on Monitoring and Evaluating Mechanism for the organization.

Looking ahead URAA intends to leverage its unique experience to march out to more members in addition to expanding URAA scope of learning.

The lessons and best practices will further be shared with other stakeholders and actors in Uganda and beyond in order to enhance further the world wide effort to support older persons and people under their care to live a dignified life.

During the Annual General Meeting this year, new Board of Directors were elected. We celebrate the dedicated service of the outgoing members and pay tribute to them. It is my sincere hope that the new members will continue provide the support necessary to enable URAA to continue growing.

As we enter into the planning period 2017-2021, we are rejuvenated and committed as ever before, we are thankful to the various partners and stakeholders who made it possible to URAA to move where we are right now. With timeless support of the Board of Directors and entire staff, we hope that we continue with the collaboration and commitment in the years ahead.

**Frederick Ouma Bwire,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CHAPTER 1:

1.0 Introduction:

Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) is in the final year of implementation of its strategic plan 2012 – 2016. The strategic plan provides a bold response by URAA to addressing the challenges of ageing and contributes to attainment of a dignified life for older persons and those in their care. The report focuses on achievements realized in the fifth year (2016). It also highlights lessons learned and challenges with recommendations on future actions.

URAA was established in 1991 as a national membership organization to provide voice to older persons across the country and promote networking and collaboration among association members. To date URAA's membership stands at 83 members and is spread across all regions of the country. URAA's Governance structure includes the General Assembly, Board of Directors and the Secretariat headed by the CEO.

1.1. URAA's Vision and Mission:

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

1.2. Core Programme Areas:

According to the strategic Plan, there are 5 programme areas through which URAA delivers its mandate.

- a) 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.

1.3. Operating Context January to December 2016.

The period witnessed the presidential and parliamentary and local council elections. The presidential manifesto for the ruling NRM party promotes social protection for all and envisages a middle income nation by 2020.

The 1,400,000 older persons are viewed as one of the targets of service delivery with access to health promotion and social protection delivery through the SCG. The Government looks at strengthening UPE and USE where the OVC under the care of older persons are major beneficiaries. With the high poverty levels among older persons, these programs need to be efficient and rolled out to benefit older persons.

The reporting period marked a milestone in the lives of older persons with the election of regional representatives of older persons to the NCOP. The NCOP is now fully comprised and was inaugurated to take up its mandate. Likewise, from January 2016, the roll out process of the SCG was started and by June 2016, the 20 first benefiting districts were receiving the SCG. This benefits the 100 oldest persons in each sub county. URAA advocates for expediting the roll out process to have all districts and all older persons benefit as a right as opposed to a segmented roll out.

Health is the second most important need of older persons. NCDs continue to greatly impact on the lives of older persons reducing their ability to actively participate in the Labour force. The limiting factors to NCD management continue to be the long distances to health centers, lack of diagnostic equipment and insufficient medicines for NCDs. The expense of regularly purchasing NCD medicines by the older persons greatly reduces the household incomes for OP headed households. Ministry of Health released results of the 2015 research on NCD incidence indicated that hypertension was most predominant NCD in 80% of patients while others like diabetes and cancers were increasingly becoming common. The Government through the Ministry of health is promoting community health care where CHW will replace the existing Village Health Committees in a bid to provide better health care at home. This when implemented will reduce on the burden of walking long distances moved by older persons to health centers to receive diagnosis and treatment for illnesses that were managed at Health Centre II level.

HIV impacts on older persons as infected and careers of OVC and PLHA. The HIV strategic plan mentions older persons as a group vulnerable to HIV and its impacts and in need of social support. It is estimated that prevalence in the age group 50+ is 5.8% as compared to 6.65 in the 15-49 year age group. With the visible ageing of the epidemic and factors that place older persons at risk of HIV, there is need to integrate older persons beyond social support provision to prevention and treatment given that in old age, treatment is more strenuous and prevention regularly overlooked. HIV

prevention strategies therefore need to recognize the HIV messaging needs of the older persons and target them as sexually active and in need of prevention; treatment regimens will also need to take into account special dosage for older persons.

Internally URAA developed its next 5 year Strategic Plan 2017- 2021 that is due for approval by the Board of Directors after it was passed by the elective Annual General Meeting/ General Assembly. The General Assembly elected a new Board of Directors who effectively took office in December 2016.

CHAPTER 2:

2.0 Progress towards achieving results under Economic Empowerment for Older Persons

The strategic plan notes that poverty is a major factor that contributes to eroding older person's capacity to live descent and meaningful lives. It was also highlighted that financial institutions shun older persons and shut them off from accessing benefits such as micro finance for fear of inability to pay back. URAA's strategy is therefore to empower older persons with skills and resources to effectively participate in descent work for sustained provision of household income.

2.1. Savings mobilization and credit access by older persons:

In the period under reporting, assessments were carried out among 14 groups that had earlier benefited from the training in saving and credit management in Iganga district. These are; Bukaire namunaga, Namiganda Twegaite, Nawansega Tukulankulane, Buwabe Progressive Citezens Group, Bukoteka, Walanga Balye, Nawampendoboonabantu,Walanga bakaire benda kurya, Kagumba Bahaire Nsente, Wante, Busola twezimbe, Buwanga, Ibanko and Butalango Buligomba. These have a total membership of 424(167M, 257 F) older persons.

All the 14 groups put up group constitutions which they have presented for registration of their groups as CBOs with the Government Community Development department and therefore eligible to benefit from Government poverty reduction funds. 3 out of the 14 groups opened bank accounts with Crane bank where they are safely keeping their savings and earning interest at the same time. 44 older persons started Income Generating Activities which increased their household income through profits. 29 older persons received loans from financial institutions to boost their capital.

A total of 30 OPAs who undertook saving and credit training were mentored with support from URAA. The aim of the mentoring was to ensure coordination of their activities especially saving and credit for sustainability. In one day mentoring sessions, the OPA leaders were provided skills to monitor progress of the group activities including monitoring the saving and credit scheme, measuring of achievements and reporting shortfalls in group targets.

URAA marked sustainability practices in the groups and some of these were that the groups have successfully put up constitutions and registered their groups at sub county and district level. The subsequent follow up visits indicated that 28 out of the 30 groups had strengthened areas of weakness through carrying out cross group visits, improving documentation and strengthening the saving and credit component.

This has improved the competitiveness of the groups for community resources for poverty reduction. 80% of the OPAs mentored and their members have benefited from OWC and CDD government support.

2.2. Revolving funds and effects on Household income.

URAA has continued to encourage development of Income Generating Activities among older persons, their associations and groups. From reports of member organizations, income generating activities have been a strategy for increasing income in households of the older persons; the funds to finance IGAs are sourced from group savings which group members access as loans. The average period of the loan was noted as 3 months with average interest of 3.3% per month.

Results of the IGA s include;

- Improved resilience by older persons' households to home financing challenges. The IGAs have helped older persons pay for education for the OVC under their care and support the access to health services for themselves and their households.
- In Iganga, a total of 500 older persons have benefited from the revolving fund which also includes training in IGA management for benefiting members. This has increased economic activities in OP households. 95% the households visited were undertaking at least one IGA.
- During sharing sessions in the GA, members of URAA shared that through their support, older persons are able to engage in IGAs including improved Agricultural practices and selling in bulk which has improved household income particularly in the rice growing areas.

2.3. Learning on Economic Empowerment.

URAA produces learning documents to provide information to the wider membership ad partners on results of economic empowerment activities. This being the final year of strategy implementation, URAA produced a learning brief and video documentary on "How best older persons can participate in OPAs for Development." The video shared how OPAs in Iganga embraced saving and credit and were subsequently able to undertake IGAs at household level which have multiplied and increased incomes in households. With dissemination of the learning document, members will be able to pick and implement lessons for development of their own OPAs.

CHAPTER 3:

3.0 Progress towards achieving results under Social Justice:

URAA has strengthened social justice activities with older persons. This bases on the fact that as a right, older persons should be aware and benefit from the services offered by the government. These services are in the area of social protection and Health service delivery, poverty alleviation and property rights access. While it is the right of all citizens to benefit from these services, lack of information and limited participation has led to low benefit by Ops. The strategy used by URAA to increase benefit has been through awareness, capacity support to established community volunteer structures that promote services access and ensuring that these structures are self sustaining.

3.1. Older Citizen Monitoring Groups and Service Delivery Monitoring:

The concept of OCMGs enables older persons themselves within local communities to effectively participate in Government planning process for inclusion of older persons and then monitor that the services provided by Government and other actors are adequately accessed by the older persons. URAA has supported establishment of at least 27 OCMGs in 3 districts of Kasese, Budibunyo and Iganga. During the period under review, direct support was provided to OCMGs in Iganga district; representatives of OCMGs in Kasese and Budibunyo districts benefited through regional capacity building trainings held for NCOP representatives, OPAs and OCMGs.

In Iganga district, URAA organized a one day technical support forum for OCMG members in 3 sub counties of Iganga district to support their monitoring and advocacy work in communities. A total of 83(55M, 28F) OCMG members attended the forums.

The main objectives of the forum were to Review the progress, achievements, and challenges of OCMG work, to create an opportunity for experience sharing, peer review and support and to discuss sustainability plans for OCMG. The OCMGs discussed what they felt would sustain their work. Key to the discussion was;

- That the voluntarism by the OCMGs was well appreciated and noticed by the sub county leaders and this is a motivation for them to continue working.
- The OCMG groups have been legalized through registration and all have certificates from the district.
- The groups all have instituted saving and credit in their groups and this motivates them to continue meeting and discussing how to monitor older persons' benefit in programmes.

Older Citizen Monitors have registered their groups with Government authorities and have began a saving and credit schemes that keep them together and sustain their OCM roles as they can borrow money to invest in IGAs to work and generate some income.

The OCMG members encouraged and mobilized older persons to participate in the local politics by contesting for leadership positions. Out of the 12 O/P councilors, 4 of them are OCMG members. This can also be attributed to the skills, information, self-esteem, increased community participation and capacity building imparted into the OCMG members through trainings and support forums under this project.

OCMG have mobilized fellow older persons into groups as a way of preparing them to access Government services. A total of 2 groups were formed and registered; Igombe Citizenship Group (30) and Igombe Central Elderly group (30) with a total membership of 60(27M, 33F). These groups are involved in group farming as well as savings and credit activities.

OCMG mobilized OP to participate in the HIV counseling and testing outreach in Ibulanku sub county, organized by Star EC a USAID funded HIV project working in Iganga district. A total of 99(46M, 53F) accessed the service, were counseled and tested for HIV.

They also gathered evidence on domestic violence and rights violation among older persons in the community which they used to appeal to the police officers to address issues by sensitizing the community and enacting a by-law in favor of older persons.

3.2. Community Dialogues:

Community dialogues enable older persons within their communities to engage in discussions with their leaders on effective and efficient service delivery. The older persons raise concerns on level of participation and benefit from the services in their communities and seek commitment from the leaders to increase benefits to older persons. The dialogues also provide platforms for demanding accountability from leaders and community members on processes to improve rights protection for older persons and eliminate abuse of older persons. In the period under review, community dialogues were held in Hoima district in 4 sub counties and Iganga district in 6 sub counties.

In Iganga district, the Assistant Community Development Officer (ACDO) of Buyanga sub county supported Bukaire Namunaga Elders group, an OPA composed of 47(24M, 23F) older persons to write a project proposal on ox plough that is legible for funding in the next financial year. Older persons had sited lack of technical skills to write project proposals as a major challenge that was hindering them from applying and qualifying for Community Demand Driven (CDD) funding, a poverty reduction

program. The ACDO and parish chiefs have pledged to continuously support older persons Associations with proposals and development. This will enable more Older Persons to increasingly access social protection services.

The ACDO of Namalemba sub county committed to subsidize the registration fees for OPAs from 30,000= UGX to 10,000=UGX. This is an affirmative action that will make the registration process of OPAs affordable and thus provide increased opportunities to access Government social protection services.

During one of the radio programmes, a Sub County Counsellor of Namalemba Sub County called upon Iganga citizens to respect and support older persons. He donated a sauce pan and 15 plastic chairs to Abakaire Twegaite Elders group. They hire out the items received and share the income to support their families on basic needs as well as boosting their group savings.

"We hired out the chairs and saucepan 3times last month and got 7,500= every time they were hired out; totaling to 22,500UGX as group income that month. We bought a box of soap and each of the members happily walked away with a piece!" the group chair narrated.

Atambura Empora Elders group composed of 30(18M, 12F) that previously got CDD funds from the Government were among groups monitored. They received 2,500,000=UGX and bought 30 goats in August 2015. The goats have multiplied with an average of 2 kids each. Some of them have been sold off and older persons have used the money to pay scholastic materials for their OVC, start up Income generating activities and meet domestic basic needs such as salt and soap. This has therefore generally improved their incomes and wellbeing.

Platform for Labour Action's office in Iganga has begun to support Namalemba Elders Group by providing technical support on dealing with group credit and loaning systems through utilizing their community legal advocates.

In Hoima district, 800 community members have participated in community dialogues and conversations during 2016. The dialogues' agenda is to have leaders and community members discuss the implementation of community consensus documents on rights protection for older persons. Feedback shows that community leaders are progressively using consensus documents to support older person in protecting their rights in the four sub counties. The leaders have implemented part of the commitments as a result of dialogue meetings; This includes assisting older persons to demarcate their land for prevention of land grabbing and including the older persons while providing agricultural inputs. 434 male and 526 female were sensitized on land rights , land demarcation and older persons rights by the leaders in Kitoba Kyangwali , Kiziranfumbi and Kigorobya sub county

In Kiziranfumbi sub county, two of the three land cases referred to paralegals have been resolved. One case was on boundaries and another was on sharing the land.

3.3. Paralegal Work and support to rights access by older persons:

Paralegals as community volunteers provide uncosted support to older persons and their households on access to Justice and claiming their rights. Paralegal technical support forums bring together paralegals and URAA staff to share experiences and best practices. A key issue in the period was the sustainability of the paralegal associations and the work. A total of 77 (55M, 22F). Paralegals have started saving and credit schemes for purposes of sustainability of the initiative. Paralegal have greatly contributed to the rights access for older persons in their communities; during the period under review, the following have been documented.

- Paralegals resolved 89 land cases
- The paralegals sensitized 448 (234 F, 214M) older persons on land rights.
- 54 family disputes were resolved through mediation.
- 205 (96M, 109F) older persons received legal advise.

A key milestone in the period under review is that URAA was appreciated by its Donor IDF for undertaking quality and innovative work on using paralegals to support rights protection and access to legal services for older persons.

3.4. Radio Talk Shows and scripts airing.

Radio talk shows are a strategy for URAA to reach a wider beneficiary group and stakeholders than those engaged through face to face interactions. In Bunyoro region, 20 radio talk shows were aired. 12 (one per month) Scripts for on spot messages were also produced and aired. Radio talk shows were hosted with panelists including paralegals, human rights activists, District coordination committee members, HOVOPA and URAA. The radio talk shows covering ageing and rights issues including land rights ensured older persons were more aware of their rights and could therefore adequately protect them. The community members listening in received information on rights issues and how to protect the rights of older persons. Through radio talk shows, we have reached at least 65% of the population through listening, a number of the listeners were able to call in and directly engage the presenters. Community members engaged with have indicated that they have accessed rights information through the radio talk shows. Approximately, the radio talk shows reached 30,000 people in Bunyoro region.

Chapter 4:

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

URAA has improved networking efforts over the period. A key strategy has been ensuring visibility in National networks so that issues of older persons are well articulated by the existing networks. URAA has been active as chair of the National Social Protection Platform, member of NURRU and UNASO. This has promoted issues of older persons in these networks.

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

- Launch of the Uganda Social Protection Policy: URAA participated in the launch of the Uganda National Social Protection Policy on 2nd March 2016. The launch was presided over by the Vice President of the republic of Uganda, H.E. Edward Ssekandi. He noted that the well being of the population should be the main focus of socio- economic development. He said social protection interventions effectively reach those vulnerable to poverty. The social protection policy strengthens the implementation of social protection interventions including the Senior Citizens' Grant in the case of older persons.
- Launch of the Equal Opportunities Commission Members, Logo and Toll free line: URAA participated in an event to introduce the new commission members of the Equal Opportunities Commission, a constitutional body that fights to works to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of individuals and to take affirmative action against marginalized groups. A toll free hot line was also set up for citizens to report cases of discrimination, inequalities and marginalization in various parts of the country and allow victims to receive immediate assistance. URAA will publicize the helpline among its members so that older persons and those under their care can report cases of discrimination and marginalization and get redress.
- National Council for Older Persons: URAA, Help Age International Uganda and other age care organizations held a meeting with the Minister of State in Charge of Elderly and Disability in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The meeting discussed the need for designating a budget for implementing the National Council for Older Persons and supporting the district councils. The Minister of State agreed that monitoring inclusion and participation of older persons in policy and programme implementation will only be possible if their councils are facilitated. The Minister promised to discuss with the permanent secretary but also sent a delegation of older persons to meet the permanent secretary. The Permanent Secretary met URAA, Help Age International and the older persons' representatives and promised to consider a budget for implementing the National Council for Older Persons for the financial year2016/2017.

- URAA participated in government meetings including the presentation of Equal Opportunities Commission Annual Report and the presentation of Uganda Human Rights Commission Annual Report. The two reports highlight the inequalities and rights issues faced by older persons. The Human Rights report recommends a roll out the Senior Citizen Grant to cover the whole country and highlights the need for a convention on older persons.
- URAA also participated in a meeting called by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to discuss the process of developing a manual to train the older person councilors. URAA shared its experience in advocacy and OCM that will form part of the curriculum.
- Participation in the International Day for Older Persons in Pader District as a way of increasing visibility for social protection needs of older persons was a major networking event. The health camp facilitated by URAA, Help Age International and the District health personnel passed on the key message of need of better health service delivery for older persons. Over 300 older persons accessed treatment. The guest of Honour, His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni promised to have older persons represented in the parliament and also ensure better laws are in place to protect older persons against abuse and discrimination. He directed the Ministry of Health to provide special treatment for older persons in accessing health services.

District Coordination Committee: As a sustainability strategy for district level projects, URAA establishes coordination committees made up of stakeholders relevant to provide project support. In Hoima district, the coordination committee is made up of 7 members including the DCDO, NAVODA, HOVOPA, and Sub-county CDO for four project sub counties and URAA staff. Meetings have been held for the coordination committee on quarterly basis and discussions have been on ensuring integration of older persons in the Government programmes including access to legal services. Committee reports from the two meetings provide that 103 older persons have received tree and fruit seedlings. In Iganga district, a coordination committee of 11 members (3 Female, 7 Male) was established comprising of the District Community Development Officer (DCDO) as the chairman, Community Development Officer, THP representative, OCMG representative, Iganga District Older Persons' Association (IDOPA) representative, District Older Person Counsellors (2), Iganga Forum for Persons Living with HIV and AIDS, District Health Office representative. The coordination committee has come together to provide support to project structures; already the committee has convened two meetings where they have agreed on linking with the sub county level OCMGs to ensure older persons continue to benefit from the existing programs. The committee chaired by the DCDO have incorporated the District Council for Older Persons' representatives who will ensure that the sub county and district budgeting processes include older persons; these will report back

to the coordination committee. A key indicator of commitment is that the coordination committee members contributed Ushs.5000 each and agreed to regularly do this to ensure they can facilitate their work. As a project sustainability structure, the coordination committee has shown commitment and in partnership with the Namalemba Elders Group, technical support to project structures is envisaged.



Participants of the HIV/AIDS Working Group



Chairperson Parliamentary Committee for HIV/AIDS Addressing participants of the HIV/AIDS Working Group

CHAPTER 5:

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

URAA has ensured research that provides evidence for advocacy is undertaken at all levels. The advocacy for policy inclusion and implementation is the main force behind this objective. URAA desired to set up an effective lobby and advocacy intervention which it has achieved through the establishment and facilitation on National and District Advocacy groups with thematic focus on social protection, HIV and AIDS and Health.

5.1 Advocacy teams and national policy influencing:

The advocacy groups approach initiated by Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) with support from SWEDEN and NORAD through Help Age International was adopted by Civil Society Organizations to implement a five (5) year project (2012 -2016) titled “Strengthening Social Protection to prevent and mitigate the Impact of HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa” which was a major breakthrough in the resourcing for implementation of this strategic objective. The advocacy groups drew their membership from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Older Persons Associations (OPAs) and the government institutions that are keen to develop and implement advocacy and policy influencing strategies which address the impact of HIV and AIDS on older persons in Uganda. Three (3) theme advocacy groups were established with aim of influencing policies at national and district level to alleviate the impact of HIV and AIDS on older persons related to HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support, treatment and health, social protection and livelihoods. The three thematic advocacy groups are

- i. The Social Protection and Livelihoods Advocacy Group. This is composed of Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Help Age International, National Network of Organizations for Older Persons of Uganda, Platform for Labour Action, Reach One Touch One Ministries, Community Hive Organization, and PEFO.
- ii. The Health and Non Communicable disease Advocacy Group. The membership includes Mildmay, HENU, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Happy lives, Ministry of Health, Geriatric Respite Care Foundation, Uganda Reach the Aged Association and Ambassador.
- iii. The HIV Advocacy Group comprises of Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations, National Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS, The AIDS Support Organization, ADD International, and THETA.

The three thematic advocacy groups in Iganga district are implementing the interventions through Namalemba Elders Group (NEG). The district level advocacy groups are linked to the national level groups in way that all have the same aim of existence and also they generate evidence that feeds into the national level advocacy strategies.

During this reporting period, the advocacy groups have extensively focused on policy implementation under the following objectives;

1. The Social Protection and Livelihoods Advocacy Group:

- a) The advocacy groups both at national and district level focused on increasing the number of older persons benefiting from government programmes (specifically NAADs and CDD), demand for the national roll out of Senior Citizens Grant to all districts in Uganda, adoption of social protection policy and the establishing the National Council for Older Persons through pressing for regulations of electing older persons.
- b) Achievements: In Iganga district at least three (3) older persons' groups are considered for CDD grants on quarterly basis. Additionally, a number of older persons have accessed National Advisory Delivery Services (NAADs) such as hoes, goats and banana suckers and the district will benefit from Senior Citizens Grants in Expanding Social Protection Phase II.

At the National level the results included, development of road map, guidelines, participation of older persons in the 2016 elections, and election of older persons' councils that resulted into availability of older persons' committees from village to national level and engagements on the functionality of the National Council for Older Persons as well as inclusion of older persons in NAADs programme.

2. The Health and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Advocacy Groups:

- a) The national and district level advocacy groups aimed at influencing health service delivery for older persons. Specifically, accessibility to health units, availability of NCD drugs and diagnostic equipment for older persons, training of health workers in geriatric medicine, special days and desk for older persons in health units, positive attitude towards older persons, identification of knowledge, attitudes and practices of Ugandan around NCDs, identify policy and regulatory frameworks, as well as more financial allocations to the Ministry of Health to finance older persons' health needs.
- b) Achievements: In Iganga district the main key outcome was improved attitude of health workers towards the older persons while accessing health care in public units.

While at the national level the results were sharing guidelines and recommendations on improving health services for older persons with key stakeholders within Ministry of Health for health workers to improve services for all older persons, geriatric medicine training module at Mild may, and inclusion of list of foods for NCD patients in the Nutritional Strategic Plan.

3. The HIV and AIDS, prevention, Care and Support Group:

- a) The advocacy groups aimed at influencing the inclusion of older persons in the HIV and AIDS policies and strategies and HIV messaging for older persons as well as increased number of older persons accessing HCT services, treatment and care for HIV and AIDS in older persons.
- b) Achievements: Increased number of older persons accessing HCT services in Iganga district since January 2015.

The outcomes at national level included inclusion of older persons in the data collection tools used by the Ministry of Health and Uganda AIDS Commission, Policy, inclusion of older persons in the HIV and AIDS policies, strategies and Plans including the revised HTS Policy, National HIV and AIDS Strategy, Policy on Information and Knowledge Management, and HIV Bill as well as influencing HIV messaging for older persons in Uganda.

The Health and NCD Advocacy team also took lead in preparation of the Age Demands Action Campaign for the World Health day focusing on Diabetes. From their policy brief, a statement on older persons' health issues was extracted and presented to the Minister of Health. The Minister, accompanied by commissioners for clinical services and one for NCDs, appreciated the need to improve the health of older persons in Uganda. He made several commitments including ensuring that special day and desk for older persons be established at all health centers in Uganda, sensitizing health workers on attitude towards older persons, and ensuring that NCD drugs and facilities are available at community level.

Overall, all the thematic advocacy groups have ensured that targeted audience ensures that older persons are a priority within the government planning, budgeting and programmes. This is evidenced by the change in the policies as mentioned above. Additionally, number of older persons at national and district level have been empowered with advocacy skills. These are now faces of other older persons and have always advocated on behalf of their fellows at different foras.

5.2 Working with Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs):

Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) are the preferred and most accessible health care providers by Older Persons (OPs) in some parts of Uganda. They are far more in number than the modern health practitioners and are widely accepted in

the society as the first level of contact and trusted health care providers. However, they usually lack the requisite knowledge on HIV Transmission and Prevention; skills in working with OPs; and referral of OPs for HIV counseling and testing (HCT). Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) therefore worked with THPs to promote access to HIV and AIDS services in six (6) sub-counties of Iganga District.

According to the monitoring information gathered, the THPs have carried out HIV/AIDS sensitization to a total of 469(288M, 181F) and referred 168(107M, 61F) clients to Bio medical health centers.

The health centre VCT data collected from Iganga shows that a total of 3886(1139M, 2747F) accessed HCT of which 280(111M, 169F) were older persons. 100(33M, 67F) were HIV positive out of which 18(9M, 9F) were older persons. An increase in the number of older persons that accessed HIV testing services was noted. This can be attributed to the fact that more outreaches were carried out and vigorous mobilization and sensitization of older persons was done by THPs. Older persons composed 7.2% of the general population that was tested. The older persons that tested positive comprise of 18% of the general population that were tested positive this quarter. This indicates a high prevalence of HIV among older persons and thus need to increasingly target them in all HIV/AIDS programs and policies. However, it should also be noted that the majority of the persons that were tested positive are in the age cohorts of 50-59 which indicates the ageing of the epidemic.

5.3. Information Education and Communication Materials' Production:

Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials have been used to enhance awareness for the older persons, community members and the leadership. URAA provides the IEC in selected local languages for the target region. In the period under review, URAA produced IEC materials in English, Lusoga and Runyoro Languages mainly targeted to the Busoga and Bunyoro regions; the English versions were shared across the country ; 3000 policy briefs on Human rights, 1000 posters on property rights, 1500 leaflets on rights of older persons, 500 posters on HIV and older persons, 500 posters on health care for older persons, 1000 copies of project brief on Strengthening Universal Access to HIV and Social Protection services were produced and disseminated. These materials have contributed to increased awareness on rights and entitlements of older persons. “ These materials enable older persons better understand their rights” The AJURA project evaluation report notes on effects of the IEC

5.4. Age Demands Action Campaigns:

Age Demands Action campaigns are undertaken by URAA with support from Help Age International. These campaigns make use of calendar events to bring concerns of older persons to the notice of policy makers, implementers and the community. In the

period under review URAA organized the Age Demands Action Campaign on Human Rights Day, on World Health Day and part of the funds also supported the commemoration of the International Day for Older Persons (IDOP).

Human Rights Day: URAA called a press conference to communicate rights issues of older people and how older people's rights are being violated in the country. At the press conference, the over 20 older people that participated called on government to prioritize rights protection for older people through better laws. Older people also called on the government to stop discriminating older people by including them in all policies that affect them. As a right, older people called for the national coverage of the Senior Citizens Grant which is being provided to a few districts at the moment. A press statement was presented by Mrs. Sylvia Ntegyereize, a retired older person from civil service who called for ending violence against older people and address discrimination especially in service delivery.

World Health Day: URAA led 100 older people, staff from Older people Organizations, representative from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, National advocacy group on Health and Help Age Uganda in a 4 km march in the city led by a brass band and displaying an advocacy message "AGE DEMANDS ACTION; Prevent and Manage Diabetes and NC Ds in Older Persons". The Older Persons had an assembly at the Ministry of Health Compound where they met with the Minister of Health, Hon. Elioda Tumwesigye , Commissioner Clinical Services and Commissioner NCDs and read out a statement with policy asks which they handed to the Minister of Health. The Minister in turn addressed the older people and OPA leaders. Some of the commitments made were;

- Promised to have diabetes medicine at Health Centres IV which are at county level and nearer to the older people. Presently treatment is at district hospitals.
- Promised to give more priority to having adequate medicines for non communicable diseases to benefit older persons.
- Ministry of Health is sourcing funds to have community health workers at each parish who will undertake diagnosis of NCDs and other illnesses at homes of community members – he noted that the biggest beneficiaries of this arrangement are older people.
- As Minister and Member of Parliament, the Minister of health promised to push for screening at village level and better services at local health centres.
- Asked the commissioner clinical health services to initiate discussions with the medical school to include geriatric courses in the medical curriculum.

Picture Gallery for Activities on ADA



Members of Gaitakibi Older Persons Association in the Conscience Raising Meeting



Members of Katabi Older person Association in the Conscience Raising Meeting



Members of Katabi Older person Association in the Conscience Raising Meeting



Members of Katabi Older person Association in the Conscience Raising Meeting



Members of Bugonga Older person Association in the Conscience Raising Meeting



Members of Bugonga Older person Association in the Conscience Raising Meeting



Members of Bugonga Older person Association getting a health check for Pressure during the Conscience Raising Meeting



Members of Bugonga Older person Association getting a health check for Pressure during the Conscience Raising Meeting



Bukadde Magezi Older person Association pose for a photo after the Conscience Raising Meeting in Luwero



Members of another Older Persons Association in Namakwa village, Namayuba Parish in Nakisunga Sub County in Mukono District



Members of another Older Persons Association in Namakwa Katuba Village Namayuba Parish.



Members of another Older Persons Association in Katuba Namayuba Parish in Nakisunga Sub County in Mukono District



Drug Dispensing during IDOP



Mr. Ndarugiriye Joseph & Wandera Emmanuel from Katuba Namayuba Parish in Nakisunga Sub County in Mukono District in the Conscience Raising Meeting.



IDOP URAA & HelpAge International Health Camp Tent



An older person getting prescriptions from a Nurse during IDOP Celebrations in Pader Northern Uganda



An Older Sick Person being assisted to access the dispensing table during IDOP

CHAPTER 6: Progress towards achieving results under capacity strengthening of URAA and its member Organizations to effectively implement Older Persons' Programs:

6.1. Capacity building in project areas for OPAs, OCMGs, Paralegal groups and THPs.

Sustainability plans and compilation of monitoring information were the main focus the period under review. Noting that these community groups continue overseeing and supporting the structures established by the project, URAA held in depth discussions on how to ensure these structures continue to operate. Areas that promote sustainability that were agreed upon as;

- Have a well elaborated loan tracking schedule that will enable organization to identify the total repayment, interest, repayment rate. Interest will then be used to provide support supervision to the project structures and support NEG administration.
- Provide loans on demand to older persons who have a good repayment history as a way of improving their incomes through boosting businesses. This will also provide interest to NEG for administration.
- Continue to follow up on results using the monitoring tools and provide Quarterly reports to URAA.

6.2. National Council for Older Persons' Association and Older Persons leaders' Training:

National and District Councilors for Older Person's in Uganda were recently voted into Office throughout the country. However, Older Person Association leaders and Older Citizen Monitoring Group representatives had varied skills and capacity in governance, lobby and advocacy as well as knowledge of government as well as their respective District Budget processes to inform evidence based policy and budget advocacy. The major skills gap identified was varied/mixed knowledge among the leaders on their respective roles and responsibilities, as well as existence or availability of relevant International/National Legal and policy frameworks pertaining to older persons. Other identified skill/knowledge gaps were in National/District planning, budgeting and electoral processes. Development of strategies of engaging decision makers in advocacy and policy as well as contents of an advocacy strategy guided by the Advocacy cycle and their linkage with older persons needs in Uganda was another skills gap identified by the facilitators. It was against such a background that training events for Older Person's Representatives were organized with objectives being;

- To strengthen the capacity of 24 District Councilors of Older Persons District Councilors (two from 12 districts) and 8 members of the National Council of Older

Persons enabling them to effectively represent older persons in the district councils.

- To strengthen Older Citizen Monitoring Groups and Older Person Association leaders in the same 12 districts enabling them to hold duty bearers accountable, and to track and monitor access and participation of older persons in service delivery and democratic processes.
- To increase awareness and understanding of the government's policies for older people among older people, policy implementers and the general public in the project area.

Three trainings for 56 (23F, 33M) Older Person Representatives (8 NCOP, 24 DCOPs, 12 OCMGs and 12 OPA leaders) were conducted in Hoima, Iganga and Lira with each training having an average of 19 trainees.

The training content included: Governance (roles and responsibilities of Older Persons' Representatives); legal frameworks governing Older Persons' leadership in Uganda; situations of Older Persons; inclusion of Older Persons in service delivery, policy lobbying and advocacy.

As part of the way forward, trainees developed their respective action plans for implementation which will be monitored in follow up meetings.

As an immediate result, respective older persons' leaders acknowledged that they were now familiar with the relevant OP legal policies for effective lobbying and advocacy in addition to increasing their knowledge. They testified that their roles were now clear and they were ready to start working.

".... I can now face the district leaders with confidence because I have what to tell them"
Said Doreen Odongtho, DCOP from Nebbi District.

".... Now I am going back to the district with confidence" as said by Canon Selemia Okethwengu, OPA Chairperson from Nebbi District

"....we are thankful to you people (URAA), we pray that you get more funds and continue with the good work ..." Abilo Jane, DCOP from Soroti District.

Picture gallery for Capacity Building for Older Person Leaders



Training in Session



Training in Session



Ambassador Ignatius Katetegyire Chairperson NKOPA OPA stressing a point



Training in Session



Training in Session



Training in Session



DCOP Group work



OCMG & OPA Group work



NCOP Group work



OCMG & OPA Action Plan Presentation



DCOP Action Plan Presentation



NCOP Action Plan Presentation



L-R Members of NCOP and Extreme Right is the Lira Male DCOP



Group photo Participants and Facilitators



A District OP Councilor sharing their group work



An National OP Councilor sharing their group work



DCOP OCMG & OPA Group work



NCOP Group work



DCOP, OCMG & OPA Presentation



DCOP Action Plan Presentation

OCMG & OPA Action Plan Presentation



NCOP Action Plan Presentation



Trainees & Facilitators group Photo



Group photo Participants and Facilitators

CHAPTER 7:

7.0 Governance

7.1. Board of Directors Meetings:

Three Board meeting were called with key agenda items being the approval of the annual report, review and approval of the audited accounts and management letter, approval of timelines for General Assembly and receiving of management reports.

7.2. Staff meetings.

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

7.3. General Assembly:

URAA held a General Assembly (GA) on December 9th 2016. The GA brought together over 50 members of URAA and discussed among others the chairman's report, CEO's report. The GA approved the audit report 2015 and auditors for 2016. Also the new strategic plan was presented. A new Board of directors was elected and assumed office on the same day. These are;

8.0. Financial report.

Audit report is attached

APPENDICES

(i) List of BoD members 2016 (from 9th December)



Tobias Onweng – Chairperson



Bishop Hannington Bahemuka - Vice
Chairperson



Frederick Ouma Bwire – Secretary Ex-official



Peninah Kagino - Treasurer



Dr. Fidelis Babugura – Member



Claudia Kamyia – Member



Sarah Kakaire - Member



Nkambwe Isa – Member



Margaret Kabango - Member



William Wilberforce
Magera - Member



Sam Wekesa Masaba -
MGLSD Representative



The Outgoing BoD Chairpersons Mr. Obbot David handing over to the New BoD Chairperson, Mr. Onweng Tobias and other New BoD Members



Members of URAA General Assembly in a group Photo

(ii) List of Staff 2016



Frederick Ouma Bwire
Chief Executive Officer



Edith Ndyewolwa Nambi
Finance & Administration Officer



Kezia Mukasa Abenakyo
Projects Officer



Ann Gonda Wangira
Accounts and Administration Officer



Emily Kemigisha
Project Manager – SIDA (left April)



Were Wataga Emmanuel Fred
Project Manager – NED



Albert Wabyona - Project Officer – AJURA



Peter Byakuyamba - Results and Communication Officer – AJURA

<p>Cranmer Asiimwe Results and Communication Officer – AJURA (left February 2016)</p>	
	<p>Jafali Kakembo - Driver</p>
<p>Asaba Freddie - Volunteer Field Officer AJURA</p>	<p>Gloria Kiconco Casual Worker</p>
<p>Miicheal Obata - Volunteer</p>	

End