



THE PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT POVERTY REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS ON THE LIVES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NTUNGAMO, MPIGI, KABERAMAIDO AND DOKOLO DISTRICTS.

Conducted By:

1.Namukasa Lillian

2.Atwijukire Justus

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FOREWORD

The legal mandate of the National Council for Disability is to perform the role of an ombudsman on disability issues; that is, to monitor the extent to which persons with disabilities benefit from existing legislation, policies and programmes of both Government and non-Government actors alike. In part, this is fulfilled through commissioning/conducting surveys and research projects on a cross section of disability issues. Accordingly therefore, at the beginning of 2012, the Council conducted a study on the performance of Government poverty reduction interventions on the lives of Persons with Disabilities in the districts of Ntungamo, Mpigi, Dokolo and Kaberamaido.

The purpose of the study was to generate information on the real life situations among persons with disabilities so as to ascertain the appropriate legal, policy and programme reviews required to affect their lives more positively. The study unearthed a myriad of successes, challenges and lessons regarding the participation of persons with disabilities in Government development programs like National Agricultural and Advisory Development Services, Special Disability Grants, Poverty Action Fund and other prosperity for all programs. Needless, various illustrations and expressions in this report reiterate the fact that Persons with Disabilities are still the poorest among the poor; and that both disability and poverty remain a cause and consequence of each other.

For this product, the Council wishes to thank the Government and the District local governments in the area of study for the financial, technical and moral support. Sincere gratitude is extended to all those that participated in the study at National, District and local council III levels. Council is optimistic and urges all stakeholders to use the findings and recommendations of this study to inform critical policy decisions and program interventions in relation to persons with disabilities in Uganda.

Alluta continua.

Kamya Julius
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABILITY

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CDD	Community Driven Development
CDO	Community Development Officer
CPAR	Canadian Physician Aid and Relief
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CWDs	Children with Disabilities
DPO	Disabled Persons' Organisation
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
LGDP	Local Government Development Programme
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory and Development Services
NDP	National Development Plan
NUDIPU	National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda
NUREP	Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Program
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
NUWODU	National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda
PAD	Poverty Alleviation Department
PAF	Poverty Action Fund
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PMA	Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture
PWD	Persons with Disability
SAGE	Special Assistance Grant for Empowerment
SOCADIDO	Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organisation
UPACLED	Uganda Parents Association for Children with Learning Disabilities

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study examined the performance of government poverty reduction interventions on the lives of disabled persons in Uganda. The purpose of the study was to collect information that could be used to ascertain and attribute policy reviews that affect PWDs. The study was premised on the issues raised by PWDS on how they were benefiting from government livelihood development programs like NAADS, Special Grants, PAF and Prosperity for All. Persons with Disabilities are known to be the poorest among the poor, and both disability and poverty are mutually reinforcing.

The study therefore sought to address the following specific objectives;

1. To assess the extent to which PWDs and their families have benefited from government poverty reduction programs
2. To establish how other players (CSOs) have supplemented the government income generating interventions
3. Identify factors affecting effective utilization of special grant and other income generating activities by PWDs.
4. To examine the challenges that hinder empowerment of PWDs in Uganda.
5. Suggest recommendations and strategies that can curb the challenges.

The study used both qualitative and quantitative methodologies in collecting, analysing and reporting the findings. Quantitatively, the study employed structured questionnaires to collect data which was tabulated and later quantitatively analysed; while qualitative data was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and in depth interviews with respondents identified as key informants. A three-stage process was followed in the study, namely literature review, field consultations, and internal review, analysis and synthesis. Indicated below is the summary of the data collection methodology used and the sample population.

- i. A structured questionnaire administered to 90 PWDs of 18 years and above.
- ii. 8 Focus Group Discussion involving PWD leaders, beneficiaries from government poverty reduction interventions and organised groups of both PWDs and non disabled people (mixed groups).

- iii. 42 Key informant interviews involving technical and political leadership at national, district and sub county levels

The quantitative data collected was carefully checked for completeness and accuracy, tabulated and entered into the computer. Analysis was done using Statistical Packages for Social Scientists (SPSS) to obtain statistical estimates. Qualitative data was analysed using the reduction method. This method was specifically used to make sense out of the statements from interviews and focus group discussions. Anecdotes from respondents and quotations from key informants and focus group discussion were also used to corroborate the study findings.

Findings indicated that 85.6 percent of the respondents (PWDs) had benefited from one or more of the government livelihood programmes while 14.4 percent had never. Further analysis however indicated that PWDs rarely benefited from mainstream development programmes. The study established that more than half (50.8%) of the PWDs interviewed had benefited from the special grant compared to 25.8percent of those who had accessed NAADS programme that was introduced more than ten years ago.

Results further indicate limited participation of PWDs in the livelihood programmes of the Civil Society Organisations. Most of the PWDs (64.4%) indicated that they participated in activities of Disabled Peoples Organisations (NUDIPU, UPACLED and NUWODU) and not in other mainstream civil society organisations because of stigma and discrimination.

In terms of access to NAADS programme, it was established that PWDs have benefited but mainly through mainstream groups. Respondents indicated that groups for PWDs or mainstream groups with some PWD members were given special consideration during the assessment and selection process. However, analysis of the level of participation of PWDs in the NAADS programme indicated that majority of them benefited from the food security which does not require co-funding. Very few PWDs had been considered under commercial farmers and market oriented enterprises.

The study established that only 2.5% of the PWDs had benefited from the Community Driven Development Programme (CDD) despite the affirmative action provided. In

Ntungamo district for example, one out of the 28 groups which had benefited from the programme was for PWDs. It was established that because of the introduction of the special grant, some local governments deny PWDs access to other development programmes like CDD, NUSAF etc.

Results from the study indicate that 15.9% of the respondents had benefited from the NUSAF programme. However, PWDs pointed out that there are barriers to effective participation of PWDs in NUSAF programme including proposal writing and co-funding.

On the special grant for PWDs, results from the study indicate that 66% of the PWDs have benefited while 34% have not. The study established that PWDs have directly benefited more from the special grant than any other government poverty alleviation programme. The programme is well known and most PWDs have shifted their attention to the programme to get them out of poverty and have paid little attention to other government poverty reduction interventions.

The study also established that the type of disability affects differently participation of PWDs in development programmes. Results from the study indicate that epileptic and people with physical disabilities benefited more from the special grant than any other category of disability. The least category to benefit from the special grant was those with multiple disabilities.

The study established that the special grant and other poverty reduction interventions have contributed positively in overcoming negative attitude towards PWDs through addressing the poverty levels. Results indicate that 88.3% of the respondents reported that the grant contributed to overcoming attitudinal barriers experienced by PWDs in their districts. Many PWDs who benefited from the special grant and used it well were able to support their families and meet their household basic needs like shelter, clothes, food and medical care.

A number of challenges though still hinder effective participation of PWDs in poverty reduction interventions including lack or limited access to information, public negative

attitude, co-funding, mobility challenges, high poverty levels among PWDs and severity of the disability among others.

It was also established that some groups are charged money by those who approve the funding. Allegations were specifically made against the CDOs at district and Sub-county levels, who illegally charge the groups as high as 40 percent of the grant.

In order to address the challenges and increase the participation of PWDs in government poverty reduction interventions, the following were proposed.

- I. Mobilise PWDs to form groups and to participate in development programmes of government and CSOs. Strengthening the capacity of the PWDs structures at all levels.
- II. Provide affirmative action to PWDs in all mainstream development programmes to enable PWDs benefit.
- III. Mainstreaming disability in all government programmes, sensitizing and building the capacity of technocrats and political leaders on disability.
- IV. Timely sharing of information in accessible formats about government programmes.
- V. Remove co-funding and other requirements necessary to benefit from most of the mainstream development programmes. PWDs should also be supported in writing of proposals.
- VI. Sustain and improve on the special grant allocation to each district and subsequently to each group.
- VII. Regular provisions of assistive devices to facilitate movement of PWDs and to enable them engage in productive activities.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

1.1 Back ground

In 2003, the Government of Uganda enacted a National Council for Disabilities Act, leading to the establishment of the National Council for Disability (NCD) – a body charged with monitoring the mainstreaming of disability concerns by government, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector. Without a comprehensive policy on disability, it is difficult for NCD to perform its role. Thus, the government produced a National Policy on Disability in February 2006 to provide a comprehensive legal framework that addresses disability issues and sets the benchmarks for mainstreaming disability in all other policy formulations and development programmes which would affect disabled persons development and positive improvement in their livelihoods. However, this is not well put into practice. Needless, the disability fraternity is still challenged by the fact that the National Disability policy (2006) and other disability specific laws have not been adequately publicized and implemented and, are consequently not mainstreamed in the country's development programmes.

In December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and Uganda ratified it in September 2008. The Convention is a great achievement for the World's Approach for Poverty Reduction as well as Millennium Development Goals. More people recognize the Disability Inclusive Development as a key factor for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Equal Opportunity for people with disabilities and the Right-based approach should be the main theme for PWDs livelihood improvement. At the same time 'Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Mainstreaming the Disability Inclusive Development' should be basic approaches for poverty reduction. However, the Ugandan government and the entire disability fraternity rarely have analytical foundation to address this issue. Therefore, the National Council for Disability conducted this study to provide evidence for policy planning and improved livelihoods for PWDs.

1.2 Socio-Economic Context of Uganda

Uganda is one of the poorest countries in the world. 31% of the population lives below the poverty line, lowest 20% described as chronically poor. Agriculture is the dominant economic activity; contributing about 32% of GDP, 85% of exports and 72% of total employment (Ministry of Finance, Budget framework paper, March 2007). The country's agriculture is largely subsistence, with an estimated 70% of its three to four million farmers growing predominantly subsistence crops. Women form about 80% of Uganda's agricultural labour force, and they are responsible for 70-80% of production of food crops.

1.1 STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON PWDs in Uganda

According to the estimates of Uganda's National Household Survey of 2009/10, 16% of the Ugandan population has a disability. Four in every 10 Ugandans (40%) of old age have a disability. Six out of every 10 people (60 %) of PWDs do not receive any kind of rehabilitation (Uganda National Household Survey 2005/2006). Disabled people of working age in developed and developing countries are 3 times more likely to be unemployed and live in real poverty. The global literacy rate for adults with disabilities is as low as 3% for men and 1% for women with disabilities

(<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/facts.shtml>)

In some communities where the growing of grains was pronounced, such as in Iganga District in Uganda for example, disabled people were sometimes confined to "keep birds away from eating seeds put out for drying". Similarly, in urban areas a number of "disabled entrepreneurs" stopped at repairing shoes at street corners. The likelihood that people who stay in a household with a disabled head live in poverty is 38% higher than the likelihood that people who stay in a household with a non disabled head live in poverty (Johannes G. Hoogeveen :*Disability and Poverty in Uganda, 2004*).

Disability does not just affect the individual, but impacts on the whole community. The cost of excluding people with disabilities from taking an active part in community life is high and has to be borne by society, particularly those who take on the burden of care. This exclusion

often leads to losses in productivity and human potential. The UN estimates that 25% of the entire population is adversely affected in one way or another as a result of disabilities. The cost of disability has three components; the direct cost of treatment, including the costs of travel and access; the indirect costs to those who are not directly affected ('carers'); the opportunity costs of income from incapacity. (Leandro Despouy, 1993, Human rights and Disabled Persons (Study Series 6). Empower PWDs to act on themselves, DFID, February 2000 reports that "a rights-based approach to disability and development implies a right to self-representation. The rights of people with disabilities are best promoted by people with disabilities themselves.

1.2: Government Policies and programmes for the Empowerment of Ugandans

The National Development Plan (NDP), formerly Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) is the overall planning framework for poverty eradication in Uganda. It aims to make central and lower government policies and sector plans more focused on reducing poverty. In spite of the importance attached to this framework, it does not specifically mention disability as a key target, or social protection for marginalized categories of the population such as the disabled. As already intimated though, all government interventions stem from the NDP; thus:

1. The Peace Recovery and Development Project (PRDP):

This is a comprehensive plan by government to eradicate poverty and improve the welfare of the people in Northern Uganda, following the 20 year old war between the Lord's Resistance Army and Ugandan government. The program was launched in 2007 and the study assessed how PWDs have benefited from the programme.

2. Special grant for PWDs:

The government of Uganda through Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) started giving out the special grant to PWDs in the 2009/10 financial year. The fund was given to the first 48 district; each benefiting district received 30 millions. The funds were given to organized groups of PWDs in different Districts. The districts include Kampala, Mpigi, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Wakiso, Sembabule, Mukono, Kalangala, Masaka, Kiboga, Rakai, and Kayunga, Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Nebbi, Yumbe, Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani, Lira,

Apac, Kotido and Moroto, Pallisa, Tororo, Busia, Sironko, Kapchorwa, Mbale, Soroti, Katakwi, Jinja, Mayuge Bugiri, and Kisoro, Rukungiri, Ntungamo, Mbarara, Kamwenge, Isingiro, Kibale, Bushenyi, Masindi, Hoima, Kabarole, and Kasese .

3. The Poverty Action Fund (PAF):

PAF resources are channelled to district level only, as conditional grants. Greater discretion has now been given to the districts for the prioritization of development plans through participatory planning. Regrettably, however, disabled people are not visible in the utilization of the PAF funds.

4. Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) and the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS):

The Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) is a strategic framework for eradicating poverty through various sectoral interventions enabling the people to improve their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. It builds on and complements available opportunities, such as strong social networks existing within the lives of poor people. By its own admission, the PMA realizes that *there is a category of the poor who have no assets and are unlikely to benefit directly from PMA interventions*. Disabled are excessively represented in this category; hence they are generally excluded from participating in the PMA. By extension disabled people who are unable to benefit from PMA are most unlikely to benefit in any way from the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS).

NAADS is one of the core programmes under the Plan for the Modernization of Agriculture (PMA). The PMA provides a framework for coordinated implementation of agricultural sector reforms aimed at the transformation of smallholder agriculture from subsistence farming to commercially oriented production. NAADS uses the group approach to access its beneficiaries. It targets poor subsistence farmers – particularly women, youth and people with disabilities to enable them to gradually transform to market oriented farming and eventually to commercial farming through groups based on specific profitable enterprises. The programme facilitates and supports these farmers: to organize in groups; to access productivity and enhance agricultural technologies, knowledge and advice for increased productivity and profitability; and to link them to produce and input markets.

PWDs being amongst the poorest of the poor, the government of Uganda is trying to involve them in NAADS program. Government also came up with a special grant for PWDs in order to improve on their livelihoods. A livelihood comprises people, their capabilities and their means of living - including food, income and assets. A livelihood is socially sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and can work against social economical shocks, and provide for future generations (Chambers and Conway (1991).

5. Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF):

NUSAF 1 ended in 2009 and NUSAF II project started in 2009, running through to 2014. It is in 40 PRDP districts in Acholi, Bukedi, Bunyoro, Elgon, Kalamoja, Lango, Teso and West Nile sub-regions. The project development objective is to improve access of beneficiary households in Northern Uganda to income earning opportunities and better basic socio-economic services.

The project has three components namely; livelihood investment support (LIS), community infrastructure rehabilitation (CIR) and institutional development (ID). The principal target beneficiaries of the project are; the poor households and social service poor communities that means communities with limited access to socio-economic services for example roads, schools, water facilities etc. Persons with disabilities are directly targeted under livelihood investment support component. Whereas the livelihood investment support provides household income support grants through community interest groups, the issue of disability is not clearly indicated in the criterion used to select beneficiaries. It only specifies that at least 50% of members of community interest group should be women.

6. Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Program (NUREP):

The program started in 2006 in Dokolo district. The activities of the program include; peace building, conflict resolution and intervention on HIV- AIDS mitigation, control, support and sensitization. The program closed in 2008. NUREP has helped the district by funding part of the district budget and the district development plan. NUREP has provided funding for the construction of a maternity ward and fencing of Dokolo health centre IV.

7. Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE):

The grant refers to government social protection programmes- designed to protect the destitute with no other means of adequate support and incapable of contributing adequately for their social protection benefits. Social assistance grant for Empowerment (SAGE) in particular is a five-year pilot project aimed at transferring cash to 95,000 households of the poor, including an Old Age Grant and a Vulnerable Families Grant , each household benefitting 24,000= per month.

8. SACCOs:

These are Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations whose members own, govern and manage the institution. SACCOs were started to improve the lives and build a better world, it plays a vital role in the economic development and stability of the communities they serve. In Uganda, there are about 4,297 SACCOs in the country. The government selected about 2,000 SACCOs through which Ugandans especially the rural poor access affordable financial services. Persons with Disabilities are encouraged to form groups so that they can benefit in SACCOs.

9. Other policies and programmes/interventions:

Other policies and programmes that have a close bearing on the lives of persons with disabilities are the Local Government Development Programme (LGDP), Universal Primary Education, and the Health Sector Strategy Plan. The Local Government Development Programme is a mechanism through which resource transfers are made from the centre to the districts. Allocation of funds among the various sectors and within the sectors is mainly based on conditionality determined at central level. It is synonymous that, the priorities follow the country's Priority Planning Areas (PPAs), including education, health, infrastructure, agriculture, etc.

2.0 RATIONALE AND METHODOLOGY FOR THE STUDY

2.1 Rationale for the study

The main purpose of this study was to collect information that could be used to ascertain and attribute policy reviews that affect PWDs. This study was aimed at assessing the needs of PWDs, challenges in order to uplift their livelihoods. The study was premised on the issues raised by PWDs on how they were benefiting from government livelihood development programs like NAADS, PEAP, and PAF, prosperity for all programs. Persons with Disabilities are known to be the poorest among the poor and both disability and poverty are mutually reinforcing.

This study was intended at causing a significant and drastic change towards the social economic welfare of persons with disability in the following ways;

(i). It is hoped that this study will help reveal the challenges affecting persons with disability and to ensure the involvement of the policy review programmes in formulation of poverty eradication plans directly targeting the disabled. This will be enforced by creating awareness amongst these policy programme managers about the vulnerability of the disabled and how they are greatly affected by poverty.

(i). The knowledge from the study will help the National Council for Disability in providing the suitable measures to ensure continued support to the persons with disability and also help organize the disabled through exploring the ways of scanning for new talent and capabilities.

(ii). The findings from this study were aimed at providing a basis for other researchers to carry out more investigations in respect to empowerment of the disabled; the study will form assumptions that will be based upon to assess the validity of the study and also trigger further research in the perspective of empowerment of the disabled is concerned.

(iii). In all, this study was aimed at providing better measure by which the positive impact of policy reviews affecting persons with disability can be achieved.

2.2 Scope and methodology of the study

2.2.1 Research design

This study used a case study research design using both quantitative and qualitative approaches because provide detailed and comprehensive knowledge on challenges that are faced by persons with disabilities and the policy attributes that target them. This study utilized a case study design because of its flexibility and suitability for both the quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. According to (Judith and Bell, 1997) a case study is concerned mainly with the interaction of factors,

The study used both qualitative and quantitative methodologies in collecting, analysing and reporting the findings. Quantitatively, the consultant used structured questionnaires while qualitative data was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and in depth interviews with respondents identified as key informants.

Process: A three-stage process was followed in the study, namely literature review, field consultations, and internal review, analysis and synthesis.

Stage 1 involved a comprehensive review of both published and grey literature on disability and government poverty reduction interventions in Uganda and how they impact on the lives of PWDs. The relevant information collected formed part of the literature for this study and informed the researchers in the construction of research instruments that were used during data collection exercise.

Stage 2 was the actual fieldwork. This was conducted in four randomly-selected districts representing the country's geographical regions of Central (Mpigi district), East (Kaberamaido District), North (Dokolo district) and West (Ntungamo District). The districts selected to a larger represented regional diversity and to capture rural and urban dimensions.

Stage 3 Data analysis. The quantitative data collected was carefully checked for completeness and accuracy, entered into the computer and analysed using SPSS to obtain statistical estimates. Qualitative data was analysed using qualitative techniques such as the reduction method, descriptive statistics such as mean, maximum, and maximum. The reduction method was specifically used to make sense out of the statements from interviews and focus group discussions. Anecdotes from respondents and quotations from key informants and focus group discussion were also used to correlate the study findings.

The methodology used in collecting data for this study had four components. Thus:

- ❖ The NCD structured questionnaire administered to 180 respondents.
- ❖ Focus Group Discussions involving PWDs who have benefited from the special grant and those who have not benefited from the special grant.
- ❖ Key informant interviews conducted with key policy makers and implementers at national, district and sub county level.
- ❖ Documentary analysis.

Purposive sampling was used when selecting the respondents with disabilities from four districts of Uganda, the key informants and the Focus Group Discussion. The reason was to get a cross section of views about the performance of government poverty reduction interventions on the lives of disabled persons which could be a close representative for the entire country.

2.2.2 Scope

The study conducted 90 individual interviews, 8 FGDs in the four districts (4 for PWDs only involved in IGAs and 4 for inclusive groups) and 40 key informant interviews.

Despite the fact that persons with disabilities stay in several areas of Uganda, this study was only limited to a few areas which could provide a clear synopsis of the entire population of the disabled, the areas covered included Ntungamo, Kaberamaido to mention but a few.

Table 1: Table indicating the categories of respondents that were interviewed (individual PWDs and key informants)

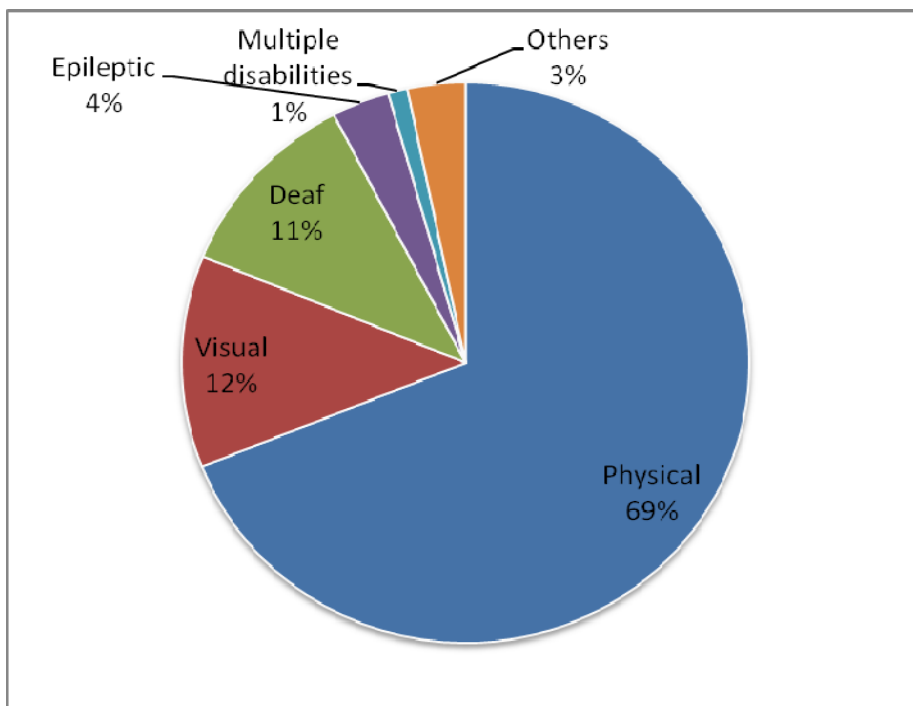
No	Category	Level	Number
1	Individual PWDs	District/S/County	180
2	Policy makers	National	0
		District	8
		S/County level	12
3	Policy implementers (Technical staff)	National	2
		District	8
		S/County level	12
	Total		222

3.0 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

3.1 Demographic Data of the respondents

This study was conducted among people with disabilities in the districts of Dokolo, Kaberamaido, Mpigi and Ntungamo. Out of the total number of respondents, 51.1% were males while 48.9% were females. In terms of disability category representation, 68.9% were physical, 12.2 % visual, 11.1% deaf, 3.3% epileptic, 1.1% had multiple disabilities while 3.3% were of other categories not mentioned.

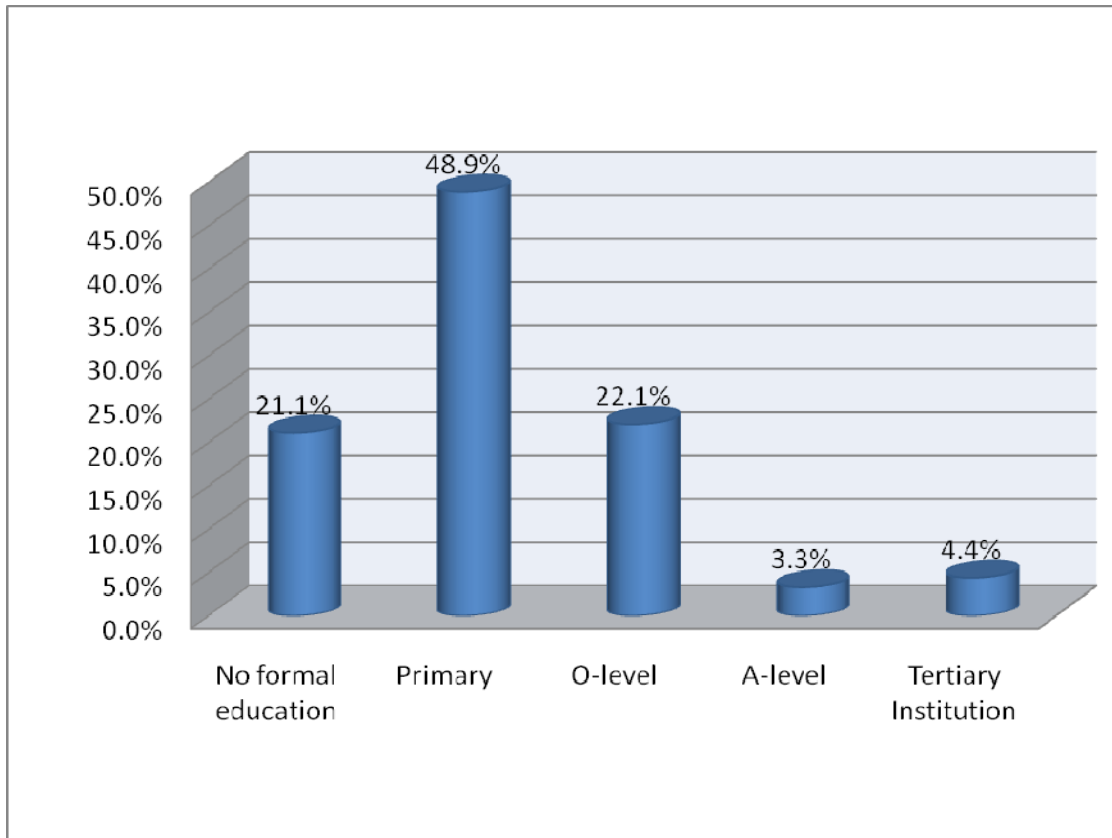
Fig.1: Category of PWDs involved in the study



According to the figure above on the education levels, 70% of the respondents had not gone beyond primary level education, 25.5 had completed secondary education while only 4.4% had attained tertiary education. In comparison with the national statistics, PWDs have limited access to educational opportunities which subsequently results into their low levels of education and literacy. According to the Uganda Household Survey 2009/2010, 17.3% of

Ugandans above 15 years have no formal education. However, results from this study indicate that 21.1% of PWDs had never gone to school.

Fig 2: Education levels of the respondents



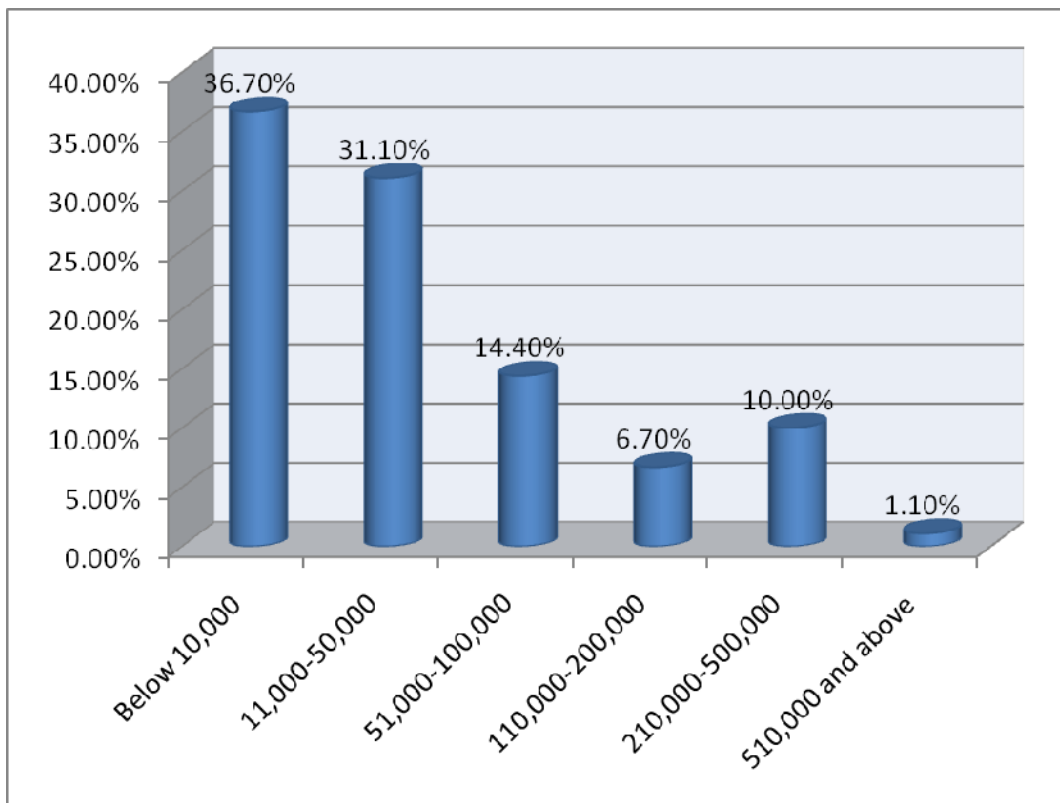
The study examined the marital status of the respondents and according to figure 2 above it established that 70% were married and living with their spouses, 18.9% were single, 3.3% divorced, 2.2 separated and 5.6 were widows/widowers. This is in contrast with the regular perception that PWDs don't get partners to establish a family.

Considering the average monthly incomes, 36.7% of the respondents earned less than 10,000 shillings per month, 45.5% earned between 11,000-100,000 shillings, 16.7% earned between 110,000-500,000 while only 1.1% earned over 510,000 shillings. It was established that majority (71.1%) of the PWDs interviewed depended on agriculture for their livelihood

while 8.9% did not have any source of income. Other sources of income included; Civil service (6.7%), Business (6.7%), Casual labour (3.3%).

The Uganda National Household survey 2009/2010 indicated that forty percent of the PWDs aged 14–64 reported that they were affected all the time in their ability to work. This explains partly why majority (82.2%) of the PWDs interviewed were earning less than 100,000 shillings per month with 36.7 percent earning less than 10,000 shillings.

Fig 3: Respondent’s average monthly income



Despite the low incomes, majority of the respondents had many dependants who relied on them for survival and provision of basic needs. Results indicate that 78.9% of the respondents had 4 or more dependants. This puts a big burden on PWDs and continuously lowers down their economic recovery a condition that has kept majority of the PWDs in Uganda in a vicious circle of poverty.

Comparison between the category of disability and income

Further analysis to establish the relationship between the category of disability and monthly income was done to establish the relationship. The results indicated that people with multiple disabilities were earning less than 10,000 per month compared to other categories of disabilities like physical and visual. The reason given was that people with multiple disabilities are less productive and depend on their families for survival. Table 2 below provides detailed information on the relationship between disability and earnings of an individual.

Table 2: Results from the cross tabulation between category of disability and the average monthly income

Category of disability	Average monthly income						Total
	Below 10,000	11,000-50,000	51000-100,000	110,000-200,000	210,000-500,000	510,000+	
Physical	32.3%	38.7%	12.9%	6.5%	8.1%	1.6%	100.0%
Visual	36.4%	18.2%	18.2%	18.2%	9.1%	-	100.0%
Deaf	50.0%	20.0%	30.0%	-	-	-	100.0%
Epileptic	66.7%	-	-	-	33.3%	-	100.0%
Multiple disabilities	100.0%	-	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Others	33.3%	-	-	-	66.7%	-	100.0%

3.2 Participation of PWDs in government poverty reduction interventions

The government of Uganda has implemented a number of poverty reduction interventions to uplift the standards of people. The Poverty eradication action plans (PEAP) 1997-2008 and the current National Development plan 2010/11-2014/15 provided a framework for the implementation of poverty eradication programmes which included; Universal Primary Education, Universal secondary education (USE), Plan for modernisation of agriculture (PMA), NAADS, NUSAF, PRDP, Community Driven Development among others. These programmes targeted all Ugandans without specific consideration of PWDs. In the financial

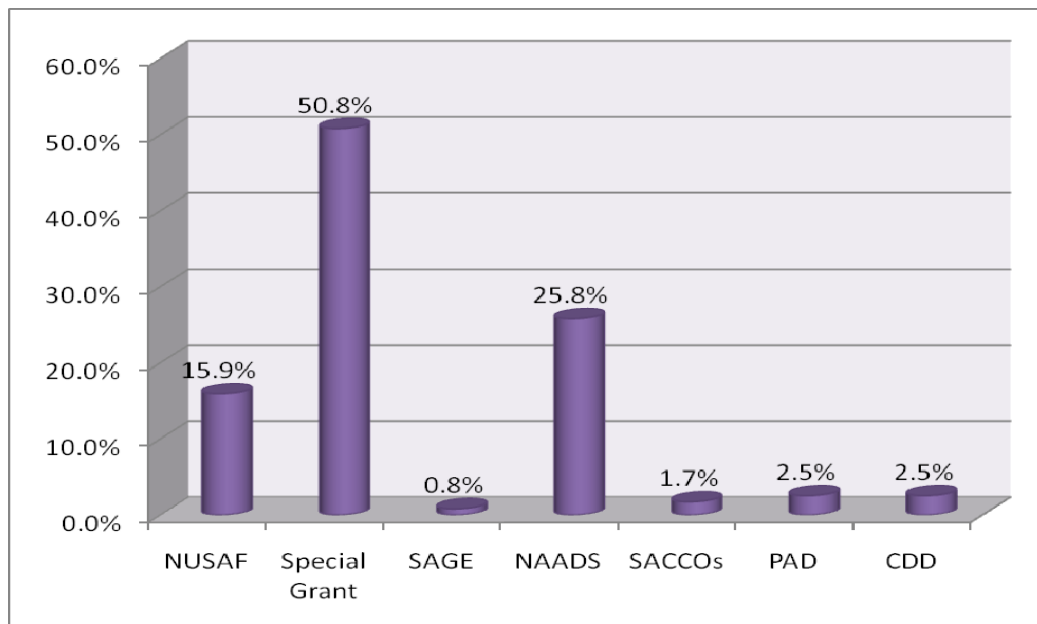
year 2009/2011, the government introduced the Special grant under the ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The grant was intended to support PWD groups in establishing income generating activities in order to improve their livelihoods.

This study sought to assess the participation of PWDs in the mainstream programmes and those targeting PWDs. Findings indicate that 85.6 percent of the respondents had benefited from one or more of the government livelihood programmes while 14.4 percent had never.

Results further indicate limited participation of PWDs in the livelihood programmes of the Civil Society Organisations. Most of the PWDs (64.4%) indicated that they participated in activities of Disabled Peoples Organisations (NUDIPU, UPACLED and NUWODU). This is because other than DPO's, most CSO's have not mainstreamed disability in their programs. Secondary, PWDs have lack initiative to engage in inclusive programs.

Analysis of the participation of PWDs in the mainstream development programmes indicated that PWDs rarely benefit from these programmes. PWDs have instead focused on the special grant introduced by the government in 2009.

Fig 4: PWDs access to government poverty eradication programmes



The study established that half of the PWDs interviewed had benefited from the special grant compared to 25.8percent of those who had accessed NAADS programme. The least accessed programmes were the Special Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), SACCOs and CDD. However, for the SAGE programme, it was noted that only two S/Counties of Bululu and Kaberamaido, Kaberamaido district had received the funds. This programme was only in Kaberamaido district.

The study also established that the type of disability affects differently participation of PWDs in development programmes. Results from the study indicate that epileptic and people with physical disabilities benefited more from the special grant than any other category of disability. The least category to benefit from the special grant was those with multiple disabilities. This also partly explains why most people with multiple disabilities earned less than ten thousand shillings a month.

Table 3: Results from the cross tabulation between the category of disability and access to special grant for PWDs

Category of disability	Have you ever received special grant for PWDs?		Total
	Yes	No	
Physical	64.5%	35.5%	100.0%
Visual	63.6%	36.4%	100.0%
Deaf	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Epileptic	100.0%	-	100.0%
Multiple disabilities	-	100.0%	100.0%
Others	100.0%	-	100.0%

3.2.1 Participation in NAADS programme

The National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) was established with the objective of promoting food security, nutrition and household income through increased productivity and market oriented enterprise. It is a semi-autonomous body formed under NAADS Act of

June 2001 with a mandate to develop a demand driven, farmer-led agricultural service delivery system targeting the poor subsistence farmers, with emphasis to women, youth and people with disabilities. Its development goal is to enhance rural livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity and profitability in a sustainable way.

The NAADS Act 2001 and the implementation guidelines provides for the representation of PWDs on the Board of Directors and S/County Farmers Forum. Attempts have been made to ensure that PWDs are represented however in some of the S/Counties the S/County Farmers Forum have no representative of PWDs. It should also be noted that because of the provisions of the NAADS Act on the composition of the District Farmers Forum and the National farmers Forum, PWDs are hardly represented. The NAADS act provides that the district farmers' forum should be composed of Chairperson of sub-county NAADS farmers' forum while the National farmers' forum should be composed of the district chairpersons. It is very rare to find a person with disability elected as the chairperson of sub-county or district farmers' forum.

Under NAADS programme, a group is the point of entry in a community. The NAADS Act also demands that for purposes of benefiting from NAADS services people should form groups, register them with the sub-county and be issued with a certificate of registration. The group members should be having a Common farming interest and must be engaged/ involved in a common farming activity. This could be, for example, growing a similar crop or rearing a particular category of livestock. This however was observed as a stumbling block in accessing NAADS services especially for PWDs in the mainstream groups who don't have the capacity or interest in engaging in the preferred farming activity by the group. This has compelled some PWDs to form their own groups in order to select an enterprise they can manage.

In terms of access to NAADS programme, it was established that PWDs have benefited but mainly through mainstream groups. Respondents indicated that groups for PWDs or mainstream groups with some PWDs members were given special consideration during the assessment and selection process. This has enabled PWDs to secure food, generate income and access basic needs.

NAADS has been beneficial to us PWDs. I received 300 banana suckers and bee hives which helped me to generate income, pay school fees for my children and get enough food to feed my family. My life has changed and I am no longer worried about what to feed my children.
(Narrated by a woman with disability from Dokolo district who benefited from NAADS programme)

However analysis of the level of participation of PWDs in the NAADS programme indicated that majority of them benefited from the food security which does not require co-funding. Very few PWDs have been considered under commercial farmers and market oriented enterprises.

PWDs have joined mainstream groups to benefit from NAADS because it's difficult to mobilise PWDs in a parish or S/County to form a group for PWDs. This is a good idea however the challenge is that PWDs in those groups are the last to benefit. For example if NAADS is to give goats, able bodied people are the ones to benefit first. Yet PWDs should be given the first priority since they are more disadvantaged. Group members always give excuses of inability to take care of the items given like goats because of the disability
(Narrated by a physically disabled person in Ntungamo district)

NAADS is a “demand-driven client oriented and farmer-led agricultural service delivery system” yet majority of the PWDs are not proactive to seek and demand for such services., secondly, NAADS targets the active poor; the reason being that the President is very concerned and if impact is not seen penalties are heavy on the focal point persons. As a result, the focus has been on those who are already doing something that can be improved upon to produce results (NAADS Coordinator- Dokolo district). Most PWDs fall outside this category and that explains why very few PWDs have benefited from commercial farmers and market oriented enterprises.

3.2.2 Participation in CDD programme

The Government introduced the Community-Driven Development in 2010 funded by the International Development Agency and the Government. The programme is implemented by the local governments and groups are selected from S/Counties. Although the programme benefits all categories of people, it was established that vulnerable groups like women, youth and PWDs are given a priority during the assessment and awarding of the grant. This however has not increased PWDs access to the grant. The study established that only 2.5% of the PWDs had benefited from the Community Driven Development Programme (CDD) despite the affirmative action provided. In Ntungamo district for example, one out of the 28 groups which had benefited from the programme was for PWDs. It was established that because of the introduction of the special grant, some local governments deny PWDs access to other development programmes like CDD. PWDs are always referred to apply for the special grant which is exclusively for PWDs. It should also be noted that PWDs are more informed of the special grant than any other programme justifying their inadequate participation in other poverty alleviation programmes.

Secondly, majority of the PWDs are not informed about the programme, requirements to benefit and the procedures to follow. It was also identified that requirements to benefit from CDD discourages most of the groups from applying.

CDD has a lot of requirements which must be fulfilled by the members of the group like good sanitation, house, and attending Functional Adult Literacy classes among others. Meeting all the requirements is hard more especially to PWDs. Secondly, the application form is hard to fill and yet Community Development Officers (CDOs) do not want to help.
(Reported by a PWD in Anyara S/County Kaberamaido district)

3.2.3 Participation in NUSAF programme

To support the achievement of the overall goal of consolidating peace and security, laying the ground for recovery and development in Northern Uganda, the government of Uganda introduced NUSAF programme under the special Programmes under the PRDP. NUSAF2 is a five-year multi-sectoral community driven project supporting the PRDP's implementation. It

covers all current 40 PRDP districts in Acholi, Bukedi, Bunyoro, Elgon, Karamoja, Lango, Teso and West Nile sub-regions.

The programme has 4 components which include;

- Community Development Initiatives (CDI) – to finance demand driven community based initiatives to construct and rehabilitate small-scale socio economic infrastructure guided by a sub project menu that conforms to the specific sector policies and norms.
- Vulnerable Groups Support (VGS) – to provide support to vulnerable groups; local authorities, community service organizations, non-government organizations and community-based organizations and institutions that directly work with the groups.
- Community Reconciliation and Conflict Management (CRCM) – to provide support to traditional and non-traditional approaches to peace building and conflict management.
- Institutional Development (ID) – to support the staffing of small autonomous NUSAF Management Unit (NUMU), capacity building and training, IEC, M&E/MIS for different sets of stakeholders.

PWDs are supposed to benefit directly from the vulnerable Groups Support (VGS) component and although the study did not cover much of the northern and eastern regions, there was an indication that PWDs benefited from the programme. Results from the study indicate that 15.9% of the respondents had benefited from the NUSAF programme.

It was also noted that PWDs by proxy (as members of community) had benefited from NUSAF interventions especially in areas of education, roads and other community development programmes. For example in the education sector, NUSAF initiated a project for Special Needs Education (SNE) in Dokolo through the construction of Angwecbangi centre an all inclusive education centre /primary school with a unit for Children with disability. Over 45 million shillings was injected in the project to facilitate learning of children with Hearing impairment (HI) and Visual impairment (VI) among others.

However, PWDs pointed out that there are barriers to effective participation of PWDs in NUSAF programme. The requirements deter most PWDs from benefiting from the programme. For a group to benefit from NUSAF, they must fulfil the following conditions;

1. Co-funding of 10% of the proposed project cost
2. All members of the group must have pit latrines, sanitation facilities like racks for plates
- 3 Decently built houses (smeared houses) whether grass thatched or iron sheet roofed.

To many PWDs especially the poorest of the poor, these conditions are difficult to fulfil by all the group members. This has consequently limited effective participation of PWDs in the programme.

3.2.4 Participation of PWDs in NUREP programme

On the benefits received or realized by PWDs from Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Programme (NUREP), members reported that the programme distributed iron sheets for resettlement of war victims, which was meant to include PWDs. However very few PWDs benefited for various reasons ranging from the stringent criteria to discrimination. Beneficiaries were meant to build brick walls and apply for iron sheets for roofing. Most PWDs could not afford the cost of making bricks and building walls. However, it was established that NUREP programmes especially on health and education benefit PWDs in the community indirectly.

3.2.5 Participation of PWDs in the PRDP programme

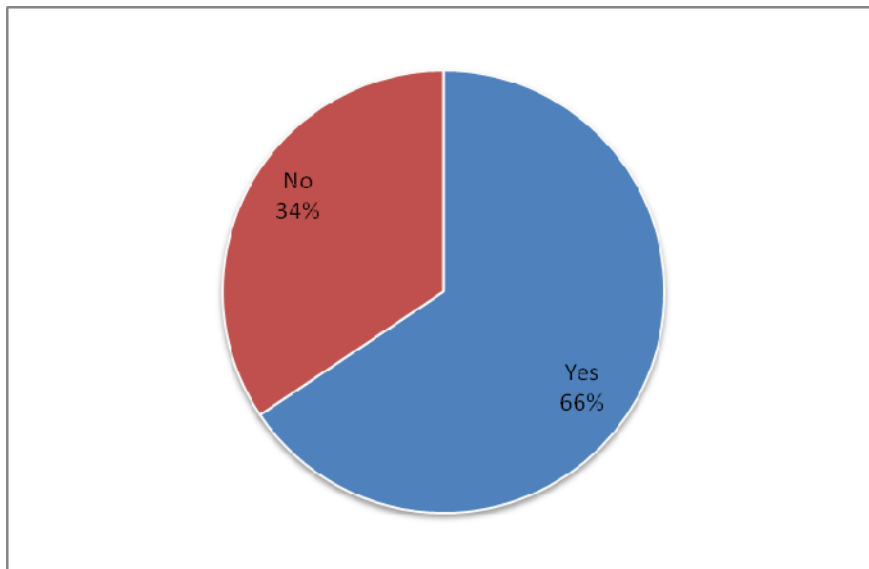
On the benefits received or realized by PWDs from Peace Recovery and Development Programme (PRDP), members acknowledged that PRDP has helped in the general community projects, health units and schools, to build ramps. PWDs did mention the benefits accruing from this program because its community development program that focuses on community development projects not individuals.

3.2.4 Participation in the Special Grant programme for PWDs

The government of Uganda in 2009 introduced the special grant for PWDs, the objective of the grant is to improve incomes of disabled persons through creation of employment and increased productivity. The funds which initially benefited 48 districts has since then been expanded to cover all the 112 districts and increased the fund from 1.5 billion to 3.0 billion annually. The special grant is intended to benefit the most vulnerable people with disabilities who have formed groups. The groups are required to prepare proposals which are submitted to the district disabled persons special grants committee for vetting.

Results from the study indicate that 66% of the PWDs have benefited from the special grant while 34% have not. The study established that PWDs have directly benefited more from the special grant than any other government poverty alleviation programme. The programme is well known and most PWDs have shifted their attention to the programme to get them out of poverty. In all the districts visited, PWDs were aware of the programme and indicated their willingness to join groups and benefit from the programme.

Fig 5: Participation of PWDs in the special grant programme



It was however established that some people formed “fake” groups in order to benefit from the programme while others took it as a token from the government. This resulted into

ineffective utilization of the fund. The districts have however strengthened the selection and monitoring system which has improved the utilization of funds.

At the district level, Ntungamo district had the highest number (80%) of PWDs who had benefited from the special grant compared to Mpigi district where only 46.7% indicated that they benefited. In Muduuma S/County Mpigi district, it was noted that PWDs have not accessed the special grant because of transport challenges, lack of advocates and information.

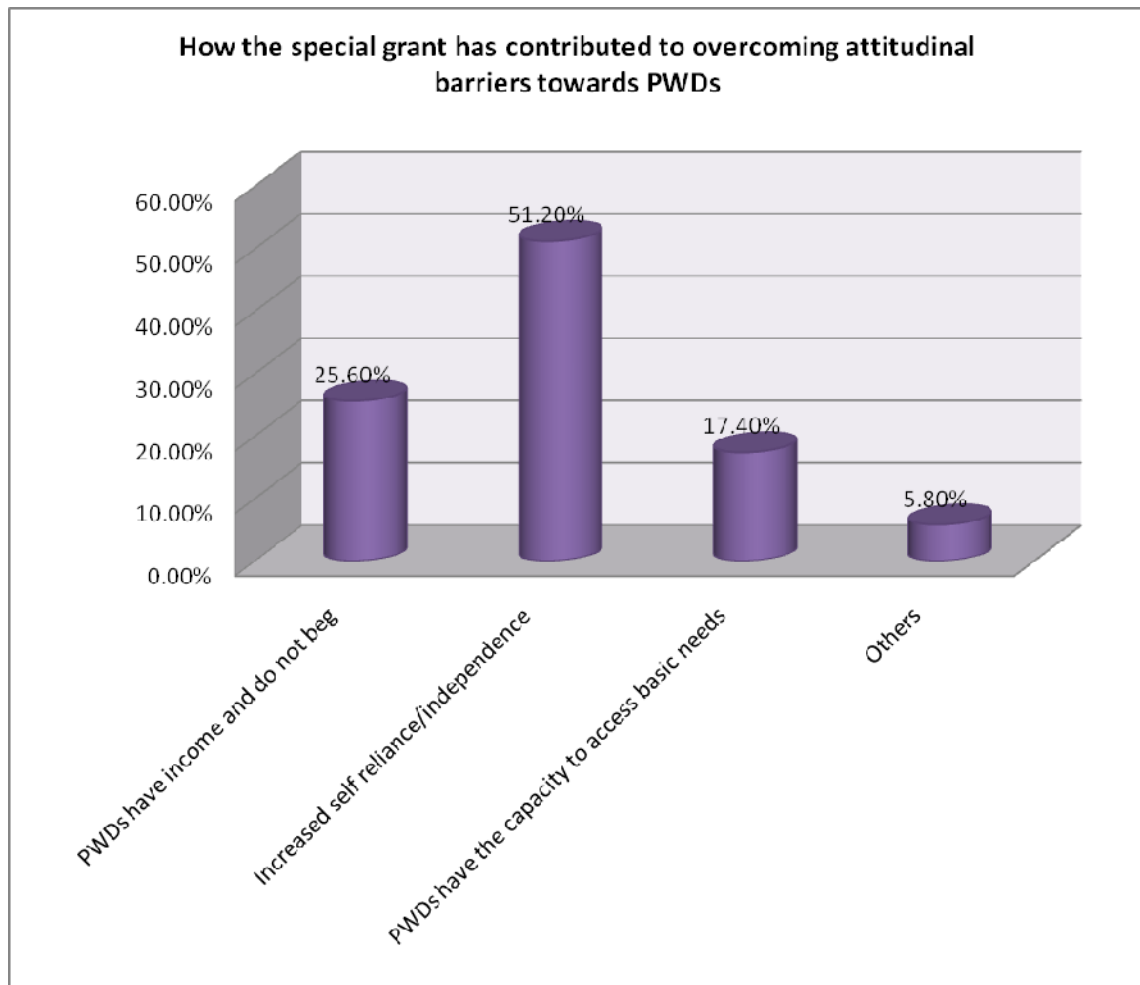
Table 3: Results from the cross tabulation between district and access to special grant for PWDs

District	Have you ever received special grant for PWDs?		Total
	Yes	No	
Dokolo	72.2%	27.8%	100.0%
Kaberamaido	62.1%	37.9%	100.0%
Mpigi	46.7%	53.3%	100.0%
Ntungamo	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%

3.2.5: Contribution of the special grant in overcoming attitudinal barriers towards PWDs

Culturally in Uganda, poor persons are not recognized, let alone expected to make sound decisions in the community. Poor people with disabilities therefore face double discrimination resulting from the disability and poverty levels. The study established that the special grant and other income generating projects have contributed positively in overcoming negative attitude towards PWDs through addressing the poverty levels. Results indicate that 88.3% of the respondents reported that the grant contributed to overcoming attitudinal barriers experienced by PWDs in their districts compared to 11.7% who said it did not.

Fig 6: How the special grant has contributed to overcoming attitudinal barriers towards PWDs



Deeper analysis indicated that the special grant has improved incomes of PWDs, enhanced their self reliance/independence and access to basic needs. PWDs that benefited from the special grant and used it well were able to support their families and meet their basic needs. For example Mr.Rwakabale from Ntungamo district received goats from special grant and was able to save money from the sale of goat offspring to pay schools for his children that in boarding school and to renovate/expand his house.

Plate 1: Plate show PWD who received Goats from special Grant



Mr.Rwakabale- Councillor LCV representing PWDs in Ntungamo District

During the focus group discussion in Ntungamo district, PWDs noted that because some PWDs are poor and entirely depend on the family members and community, they are not respected and are taken as useless family members. However, PWDs who have sustainable incomes are respected and considered as useful members of the community. The special grant has supported income generating activities of the most vulnerable PWDs in the community, increased their incomes and the quality of life. This has partly contributed to the recognition and respect accorded to PWDs in the communities.

It was established that as more PWDs engage in income generating activities, their self esteem will improve. “ The attitude of PWDs (low self esteem) will change as they get more engaged in income generating activities, reducing their dependency behaviour to enable the community appreciate what they do, respect and recognise them as they are” CDO-Mpigi district.

On whether the special grant has increased employment opportunities and labour market access of PWDs, it was established that this was yet to be realised. The Community Development Officer Dokolo district observed that the improved mobility (through provision of assistive devices) and goat rearing will enable the PWDs to be more market oriented and be more involved in Income generation ventures. In Mpigi district, the special grant enabled the District Union to expand on their candle project which has increased their incomes and provided employment opportunities to PWDs. The impact however is yet to be seen.

Plate 2: Candle project in Mpigi District



The candles in the picture are produced by Mpigi district Disabled persons Union

The notion of ensuring that PWDs should form groups in order to benefit from government programmes have brought them together creating strong cohesion to address their unique needs and to advocate for their rights. PWD groups are now common in almost all the parishes and S/Counties in the country. This provides PWDs with an opportunity to access government and CSOs development programmes.

3.2.6: Achievements registered by PWDs from participating in government development programmes

Majority of the PWDs acknowledged that their livelihood has improved as a result of the government interventions. Table 2 indicate that 85.6% of the respondents had benefited from the government livelihood programmes compared to only 14.4% who had not benefited. As earlier noted however, majority of the PWDs have benefited from the PWDs special grant and NAADS under food security.

Table 4: How PWDs have benefited from government livelihood programme

Have you benefited from any of the government livelihood programme in your district?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	154	85.6%
No	26	14.4%
Total	180	100.0

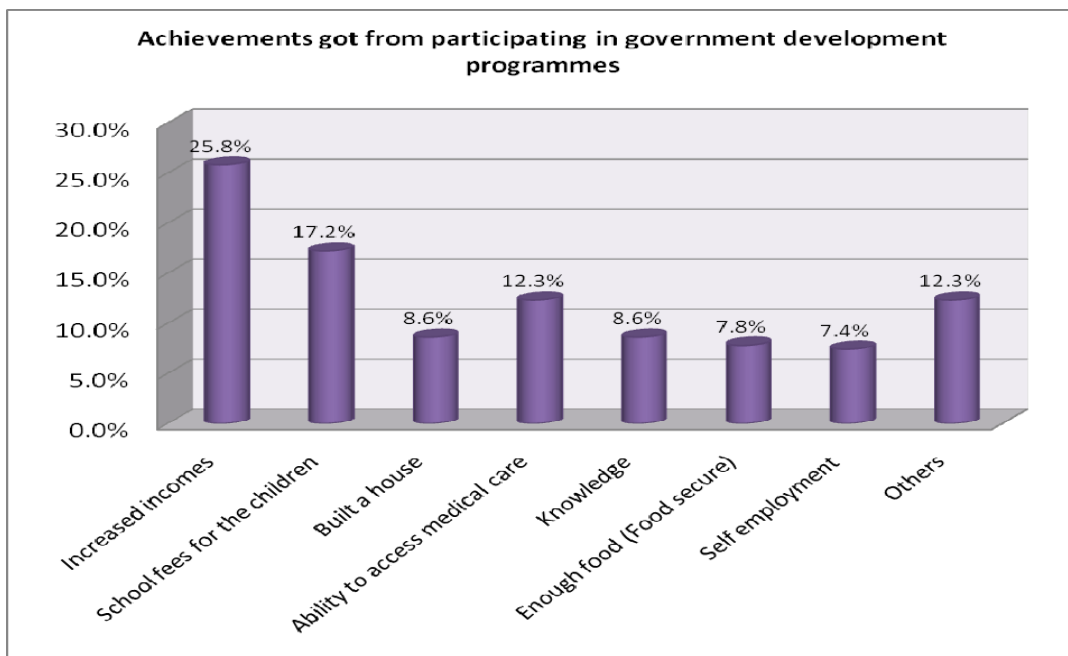
The study established that PWDs have benefited from the government development programmes through increased incomes (25.8%), payment of school fees for their children (17.2%), Accessing medical care (12.3%) and building a house (8.6%) among others. Other achievements noted were access to enough food (food security), knowledge and self employment. With increase in incomes, PWDs are able to access basic necessities like food, shelter, clothing and medical care. The capacity of the PWDs to start income generating activities and support themselves has increased their self esteem, reduced community's stereotypes and negative attitude towards them.

Plate 3: A person with multiple disabilities in a white flowered dress benefited goats from Special grant



The goat offspring's were sold and used the money to buy clothes, beddings and roofing the house.

Graph7: Achievements PWDs have registered from participating government programmes



3.3 Participation of PWDs in CSOs programmes

Uganda has a number of civil society organisations targeting vulnerable people including PWDs. The civil society organisations complement the work of the government in provision of services and poverty alleviation strategies. The role of Civil Society Organisations in the country's development cannot be underestimated. Currently, PWDs are considered among the poorest of the poor and therefore more vulnerable however, most Civil Society Organisations have not specifically targeted PWDs including those that target most vulnerable people. The study found that 66.7% of the respondents had never benefited from the programmes of the civil society organisations compared to only 33.3% who had benefited. Further analysis indicated that most of the PWDs who had benefited from the activities of the Civil Society Organisations had benefited from disabled peoples organisations including NUDIPU, NUWODU and UPACLED.

Table 5: Participation of PWDs in CSOs programmes

Have you ever been involved in CSOs programmes?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	56	33.3%
No	112	66.7%
Total	168	100.0

More than half (57.1%) of the respondents had participated in NUDIPU programmes, followed by CIPA (28.5%). Other CSOs where PWDs have participated in their activities include; NUWODU, UPACLED, SWARWU and SOCADIDO.

Results indicate that there is limited participation of PWDs in CSOs programmes because of the negative attitude, accessibility and communication barriers. Although CSOs do not deliberately discriminate against PWDs, the planning and implementation of programmes do not address the unique needs of PWDs.

Table 6: Participation of PWDs in programmes of CSOs

Participation of PWDs in programmes of CSOs	Frequency
NUDIPU	32 (57.1%)
CIPA	16 (28.5%)
SOCADIDO	2(3.6%)
SWARWU	2 (3.6%)
NUWODU	2 (3.6%)
UPACLED	2(3.6%)
Total	56(100.0%)

Results indicate that most PWDs prefer to seek services from disabled peoples' organisations (DPOs) ignoring other CSOs operating in their locality. It was established that PWDs lack information on existing CSOs and their programmes. Little efforts have been made by the PWD leaders to advocate for service provision from CSOs. Besides, very few CSOs for example World Vision have taken an initiative to mainstream disability in their programmes.

4.0 CHALLENGES THAT HINDER EMPOWERMENT OF PWDS IN UGANDA

PWDs unlike other people in the community face a lot of challenge in accessing and participating in government and civil Society Organisations development programmes. These challenges hinge on policy, attitude, mobility as well as access to information. Indicated below are the challenges identified by PWDs during the study.

4.1 Lack or limited access to information

The findings from the study indicate that the biggest challenge hindering PWDs from participating in development programmes is lack of information. 35.3% of the respondents reported lack of information (refer to figure. 8) It should be noted that PWDs have different forms of communication which most of the time are not provided for in the implementation of government programmes. For example in Ntungamo district, the NAADS Coordinator admitted that their trainings do not involve Sign Language Interpreters for the deaf or Braille for the visually impaired persons. The same scenario was noted in Mpigi, Kaberamaido and Dokolo. This therefore leaves out the deaf and visually impaired persons from benefiting from government programmes. In addition, most PWDs do not access the information in time so that they can participate in the programmes. They also observed that the community leaders who are most of the time involved in the delivery of information overlook or discriminate PWDs.

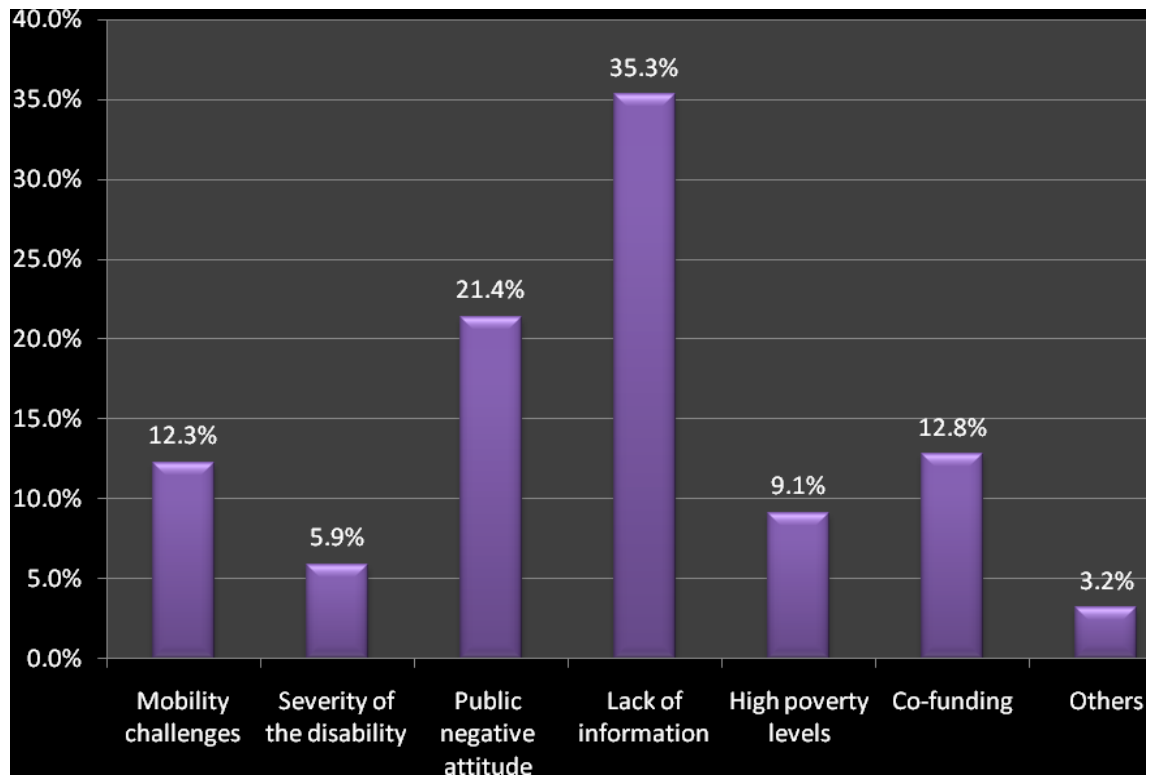
PWDs noted that most trainings and meetings are held far from the community which makes it difficult for PWDs to participate. In addition, most of the training centres and meeting places are not accessible which negatively affects the effective participation of people with disabilities.

4.2 Public negative attitude

Graph.8 indicates that 21.4% of the respondents mentioned public attitude as one of the stumbling block to full participation of PWDs in the development programmes. Although there has been community sensitization on the rights of PWDs, some community members still have negative attitude towards PWDs. Respondents observed that when PWDs join mainstream groups, they are most of the time the last to benefit. NAADS emphasizes that

farmer groups should integrate equity concerns for gender, youths and active persons with disabilities. ‘Farmer groups are the core grass roots institutions of the NAADS programme, for their effective participation and subsequent empowerment will be the principle determinant of success of NAADS and Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture.’¹ One respondent observed that many PWDs had joined mainstream groups but very few persons with disabilities had been actively involved in NAADS interventions, a person with disability said “we are included in NAADS programs just to fill the numbers but in reality we rarely benefit’. One of the key factors contributing to this was the negative attitude from the group members who feel that PWDs cannot engage in agricultural activities.

Graph 8: Challenges faced by PWDs in getting involved in government and NGOs programmes



The government of Uganda has initiated a number of programmes aimed at poverty alleviation however from the perspective of disability; the criteria used to select the

¹ NAADS guidelines pg 29.

beneficiaries of these projects discriminate persons with disabilities. For example under the NAADS programme, one of the considerations is the individual's capacity to handle the items given under the technical demonstration sites. This means that you should have a defined acreage of land which majority of persons with disabilities do not have. In addition, these programs require beneficiaries to work in groups and persons with disabilities have been looked at as incapable people to perform meaning that few people are willing to have them as group members.

It was also noted that PWDs are discriminated by the family members especially in access to resources such as land and property. It was noted that in some families, PWDs who receive items like goats, cows, piglets or chicks are never supported by the family members to ensure that the project succeeds and benefits the family.

4.3 Co-funding

Co-funding is one of the key requirements to access most of the government funds such as NAADS. According to the study, 12.8 percent of the respondents identified co-funding as a limiting factor in accessing government programmes. PWDs pointed out that to benefit from NAADS programme of market oriented or commercial farming co-funding is very high and PWDs cannot afford such money. In addition, PWDs observed that most of the items given for example under NAADS like exotic cows are bought expensively yet it's a requirement that the beneficiary has to pay back part of the money used to purchase the item. This therefore puts the beneficiary at a disadvantage to pay back as well as look after the given item.

However, interaction with the technical staff in the districts indicated that PWDs do not want to co-fund. Most of the groups have failed to register and to benefit from government programmes because of co-funding. PWDs prefer free things. They don't even want to participate in training (advisory services) organised by the NAADS programme which is a basis for consideration in selection of the beneficiaries.

Further analysis of the situation indicated that most PWDs and the general public have not appreciated the need to co-fund. They lack information on the purpose of co-funding. One

of the groups visited in Ntungamo district acknowledged that some members contributed but three years passed without getting support. Only two of their members benefited and all the two cows died. The concerns of the members were; what will happen to other members? How will they benefit? This has partly contributed to community's negative attitude towards co-funding and participation in government programmes.

4.4 Mobility challenges

Mobility challenge was identified as one of the factors limiting effective participation of PWDs in government programmes. As earlier noted, most PWDs find challenges in accessing training venues, meetings and follow up. Whereas non-disabled people may not find it as a challenge to walk 2-3 kilometres, PWDs find it a big challenge. "Imagine someone crawling or using a wheel chair to move 2-3 kilometres to attend a meeting. By the time the person reaches there, the meeting will be over" said of the respondent.

To make matters worse, PWDs find it very hard to access assistive devices like wheel chairs, white canes and crutches among others. PWDs rely on NGOs and charity organisations since they are very expensive to be afforded by an ordinary person with disability.

4.5 High poverty levels among PWDs

PWDs are considered among the poorest of the poor and this notion is held by majority of the PWDs in Uganda. The study established that one of the key challenges affecting participation of PWDs in government development programmes is poverty. This was raised in respect to co-funding and recognition in the community. PWDs observed that very many would be willing to participate in the market oriented and commercial farmers programme under NAADS but they lack the capacity. Secondly because of poverty, most PWDs fail to join groups or register them.

4.6 Severity of the disability

Results from the study indicated that 5.9 percent considered the severity of the disability as one of the challenges facing effective participation of PWDs in government programmes. PWDs observed that severe physical disabilities, mental challenges and people with learning difficulties could not participate in development programmes which require them to join

groups and contribute towards group activities. It was further observed that due to negative public attitude, such people may not be accepted to join groups. However, it was established that in some districts, care takers of such people would be allowed to join groups on their behalf and fulfil group obligations in order to benefit from government programmes. An interesting example was found in Ntungamo district; Kikoni Barema tweyambe group which included a person with learning disability represented by his mother. The group later benefited from the special grant and he was given two goats. The mother became a role model in looking after the goats given and she used the proceeds to buy basic needs of his son including bed sheets, clothes and medical care. The goats continue to multiply and her plan was to construct a house for him.

In families where people with severe disabilities are not valued, accessing development programmes is equally to impossible.

4.7 Other challenges

Illegal charges on the grants given (bribery). The study established that some groups are charged money illegally by those who approve the funding. Specific mention were the CDOs at district and S/county level who charge groups as high as 40 percent of the grant and yet force them to sign and account for the full amounts of money. Although this was denied by the technical and political leadership, PWDs revealed that the vice was rampant. It was revealed that some groups which receive the grants and refuse to give back are threatened never to be given money any more. This was mentioned to be common in the Special Grant programme, CDD and NUSAF.

Lack of effective formal disability structures at all levels (district, Sub-county, parish and at village level). NUDIPU established the District Unions but they are not strong to advocate for the rights of PWDs and influence service delivery in favour of PWDs. This could be due to lack of capacity in terms of knowledge, skills and logistical support and technical support.

Low self esteem and lack of assertiveness from PWDs. The study established that PWDs lack self confidence and ability to demand for services from service providers. The low self

esteem has limited the capacity of the PWDs to occupy leadership positions especially in mainstream groups.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The government of Uganda has put in place legal framework to promote and protect the rights of PWDs. This include the ratification of the UN Convention on the rights of PWDs, provision of disability friendly clauses in the 1995 Constitution, the Local Government Act 1997, Equal Opportunities Act 2007, PWDs Act 2006 and National policy on PWDs 2006. The government has also allocated resources to meet specific needs of PWDs which include the Special Grant for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the National Council for Disability Grant. In addition, mainstream Local Government programmes like Community Driven Development (CDD), NAADS, NUSAF, PRDP, Luwero - Rwenzori project e .t. c have also benefited PWDs.

The study established that 71.1% of the PWDs depend on farming for their livelihood and source of income. A small percentage of the PWDs (6.7%) were employed as civil servants. The reliance on subsistence farming resulted into less incomes for PWDs. Results from the study show that 67.7% of the PWDs earned less than 50,000 shillings per month. Only 11.1% of the PWDs were earning more than 210,000 shillings per month. This is an indication that PWDs are still among the poorest in Uganda as portrayed by Lwanga Ntale in his book chronic poverty and disability in Uganda “Poverty and disability are similar and mutual. If you are disabled you must be poor, because you are incapacitated and cannot look after yourself, yet the conditions around you (environment) may not be favourable. You cannot grow crops because you are physically weak to cultivate. You also cannot do skilled work because you did not go to school. If you are poor, it is similar to being disabled in many ways - body and soul. You cannot feed yourself, and if you have children, they all become disfigured and physically disabled due to bad feeding (malnutrition and under-nutrition)².

² Charles Lwanga Ntale 2003; Chronic Poverty and Disability in Uganda. Pg. 8.

The study established that people with multiple disabilities were the most marginalised and affected PWDs in terms of access to resources and incomes. The implication is that such categories of people are likely to miss opportunities in education, health and development interventions hence increasing their vulnerability.

Although it was established that the government has put in place mechanisms and measures to eradicate poverty among Ugandans, the analysis indicated that PWDs benefited more from programmes that directly target them. Results from this study show that more than half (50.8%) of the PWDs had benefited from the programme that started in 2009 compared to only 25.8% and 15.9 % who had benefited from the NAADS and NUSAF programmes that started more than 10 years ago with a lot of investment. The implication is that PWDs still face a lot of challenges in accessing mainstream programmes. These challenges range from the negative attitude of the implementers to the guidelines and procedures followed during the implementation. Specifically, the challenges identified included; lack of information, public negative attitude, co-funding, mobility challenges, high poverty levels and severity of the disability among others.

The study established that PWDs focus on the programmes of government and CSOs that are designed specifically to benefit them. The assumption given was that in such programmes there was less competition and implementers fully understand their needs unlike in mainstream programmes where the implementers are less informed about disability. It was also noted that the introduction of the special grant has negatively affected PWDs from accessing other government programmes like CDD. This is because PWDs whenever they applied would be encouraged to apply for the special grant and leave CDD to other groups. It should be noted that the introduction of the special grant was to ensure that PWDs access grants to establish and improve on their income generating activities to enable them compete favourably with non-disabled people in other development programmes. Denying them a chance to access such development intervention further alienates them from participating in mainstream programmes.

Results indicate that there was limited participation of PWDs in CSOs programmes because of the negative attitude, accessibility and communication barriers. Although CSOs do not

deliberately discriminate against PWDs, the planning and implementation of programmes do not address the unique needs of PWDs. CSOs discriminate indirectly because of limited knowledge and lack of facilities that enable disabled people to participate in their programmes. For example most CSOs apart from the disabled people's organisations lack the capacity to handle the deaf, deaf-blind or those with visual impairments while others lack disability mainstreaming guidelines.

Whereas the government of Uganda has enacted disability friendly laws and policies and established poverty alleviation programmes, there are no clear disability mainstreaming mechanism and assessment processes that measure the benefits and involvement of PWDs in the national development programmes being implemented. Local governments lack the tools to track the involvement of PWDs in the development interventions and as a result information on participation and benefit of PWDs in government programmes is scanty.

In conclusion, a number of issues emerged from the study as summarised below;

- I. PWDs have benefited minimally from mainstream development programmes like NAADS, NUSAF and CDD among others.
- II. PWDs face various forms of exclusion, isolation and neglect by the family members and the community and this negatively affects their chance to access development intervention of government and CSOs.
- III. Different categories of disabled people have different needs and are differently affected by the development interventions.
- IV. Existing mainstream poverty eradication programmes are inadequate in addressing the needs of disabled people with respect to poverty eradication. Most programmes do not provide affirmative action and mechanisms of supporting PWDs to benefit from those programmes. The requirement for co-funding and writing of project proposals in order to be funded deter most PWDs who are poor and illiterate.
- V. Disability has not been mainstreamed in all government programmes and management information systems and reports on poverty eradication do not comprehensively capture information PWDs. Absence of such information makes it

difficult to assess the inclusion, participation and benefit of PWDs in government and CSOs poverty reduction programmes.

5.2 Recommendations

- VIII. Mobilise PWDs to form groups and to participate in development programmes of government and CSOs.
- IX. Provide affirmative action to PWDs in all mainstream development programmes to enable PWDs benefit.
- X. Government should sensitize and build the capacity of technocrats and political leaders on disability to enable them appreciate the need to include PWDs in all government programmes.
- XI. Timely sharing of information about government programmes. The information should be provided in accessible formats to different categories of disabilities.
- XII. Remove co-funding and other requirements necessary to benefit from most of the mainstream development programmes. PWDs should also be supported in writing of proposals.
- XIII. Sustain and improve on the special grant allocation to each district and subsequently to each group. This will enable PWDs groups to initiate projects which benefit all the members simultaneously and make the groups more sustainable.
- XIV. Regular provisions of assistive devices to facilitate movement of PWDs and to enable them engage in productive activities.
- XV. Disability should be mainstreamed in all government programmes and management information systems and reports should comprehensively capture information on PWDs.
- XVI. MGLSD should strengthen the interface between the centre and the lower structures and strengthen district and s/county councils to deliver on their mandate.
- XVII. There is need for NUDIPU to strengthen the PWDs structures at district and sub county level to advocate for the rights of PWDs and influence service delivery in favour of PWDs.
- XVIII. With the opening up of the regional market through integration, there is need to brake the information asymmetry pertaining the existence of market for output produced by the disabled through different projects. This will tremendously improve

on their incomes and consequently impact on their economical well being, accessibility to markets where there is scarcity and high need of products such as the demand for goats in Arab nations leads to a better price fetched.

- XIX. Civil society organisations need to be recognised and appreciated by the government for their pivotal role in improving and shaping the livelihood of persons with disabilities and their critical contribution to the social, economical and intellectual development. This is so because civil society work is extremely challenging for example In circumstances were they have to work with communities with high rates of poverty and also high rate of violence and discrimination against persons with disability. Recognition and appreciation takes many forms ranging from the word “thank you”, or a letter to recognise ones work and it could either be an award for better performance. When these organisations are recognised it acts as an impetuous to put in more efforts.
- XX. There is need for greater efforts and structure for social dialogue right from grass root so as to enable the disabled persons raise issues that directly affect them. It should be noted that disabled persons are stake holders in matters concerning them.

5.3 limitation of the study

During the course of the study, a number of limitations were encountered and these include the following;

- i. Given the fact that the civil society and local government districts are autonomous organisation in nature, the results of this study can only be generalised to other civil society organisations and districts
- ii. Finances required to carry out this study were insufficient. This forced the proponents of this study to narrow down the scope of the study. However through the funds mobilised the researchers were able to draw a significant sample of the entire population from which the required inferences were made.
- iii. In addition during the course of the study some respondents for example the administrators in many government projects such as NAADS expressed fear to disclose information freely. The researcher therefore took a remarkable time convincing them to participate like their counterparts.

- iv. During the course of gathering data for example face to face interviews, some participants were not easily accessible. Appointments were often postponed, which delayed the whole process of data collection since the researcher had to make sure that all the required responses are captured.

5.4 contribution of this study

- i. On the basis of the study findings, we can conclude that the research was able to examine the government poverty interventions on the persons with disability. Most of the policies examined except a few had a positive impact to the livelihood of the persons with disabilities, the findings show how important government projects are towards the social economic wellbeing of the disabled, although there are some impediments in the systems that limit accessibility to the funds provided, with advise this may be improved.
- ii. The study has added onto the literature concerning empowerment of persons with disability by the government. The researchers believe this could be among the first studies to be carried out concerning the poverty intervention of government on persons with disabilities and will provide good baseline information for further studies
- iii. The study has identified weaknesses in the government policy attributes and projects, for instance in most of the projects the persons with disability are often excluded from the mainstreaming processes. Human resource processes such as recruitment highly ignore the disabled persons hence worsening their vulnerability.
- iv. Lastly this study has established new findings that never existed before and hence adding to the body of knowledge. The study now offers empirical verification to poverty intervention programmes of government and how they impact on the poor

5.5 Areas for further study

The researchers carried out a study on the performance of government poverty reduction interventions on the lives of persons with disabilities in Ntungamo, Mpigi, Kaberamaido And Dokolo districts, the following areas for further research were suggested.

- i. The research study was based on a small study area and sample, subsequent attempts may be made to cover a wider area and large sample so as to enrich this area of study or through more light on the issues of performance of government poverty intervention on the persons with disability.
- ii. Further study can be done in none government organisations to asses other ways of assessing the performance of poverty reduction programmes and their impact to the disabled. There is needed to look in as many areas so as to come up with a comprehensive conclusion.
- iii. Further research can be carried out on other variables such as isolation among the disabled, leadership behaviour among the disabled, human resource policies and their subsequent impact to the disabled could be established. These are among the interesting variables to be looked at by other researchers since they seem to make a great variation in the performance of government poverty intervention policies geared towards supporting person with disabilities.

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