

# **EXAMINING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELDERLY IN KIROMBE LIRA CITY WEST**

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**J22B15/176**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL  
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IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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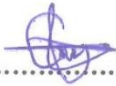
## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the study was to examine the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe, Lira City West, Northern Uganda. The research study's objectives were aimed at assessing the social challenges faced by the elderly: the economic challenges they face and whether there are any stakeholders' efforts in addressing these socioeconomic challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe, Lira City West. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. A quantitative method was used during the questionnaire approach which analyzed the numerical data of the elderly on age, household number, and percentage of health care access. A qualitative data collection method was used to collect non-numerical data through descriptive interviews with the Community Development Officer. According to a population sample N= 18 respondents, On Gender distribution 61.1% of the respondents were men and 38.9% were women. Data collected revealed that the elderly in Kirombe faced significant challenges, The social challenges included, lack of social interaction which was at 16.7%, limited mobility which was at 33.3%, lack of recreation facility was at 5.6%, poor health at 38.9% and others(discrimination, stigma ) Economically, the elderly suffer from Insufficient income which was at 44.4%, high medical expense was at 33.3%, debt was at 11.1% and others (dependence of family, high cost of living) at 11.1%.

Furthermore, in the stakeholders' efforts to address the socioeconomic challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe Lira City West, Local Council leaders, and community development officers, allocate funds through programs like Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), Parish Development Model (PDM) and the Local Council Leaders participated in mobilizing older persons to benefit from these social protection programs.

## DECLARATION

This research proposal is my original work and has not been represented elsewhere for the award of any degree in this or any other university.

SIGNATURE:  .....

DATE: 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 .....

APIO MILDRED REBECCA

J22B15/176

A97126

## **DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate this research proposal to my parents and siblings who tremendously supported, guided, and motivated me to strive hard and achieve the best in this research study. May God bless you.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I extend my deepest appreciation to my supervisor and the entire lectures of my department for their tireless direction and guidance towards this study.

I recognize the invaluable contributions of my fellow students to this study. Special gratitude to all respondents who participated in this study positively hence enabling its completion, may God bless you abundantly.

I also give thanks to the Almighty God for the knowledge, wisdom, life, and health, undeservedly enjoyed throughout my studies. May you bless the work of my hands.

## APPROVAL

This is to certify that this proposal has been written by APIO MILDRED REBECCA under my supervision and has been submitted for the award of a bachelor's degree in social work and social administration with my approval as University Supervisor.

Signature and Stamp: .....

Date: ..... 11/10/2024 .....

Mr. Fredrick Mukhwana

RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, and scope of the study. significance and

justification of the study which focuses on examining the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe Lira City West.

## **1.1 BACKGROUND**

Globally, there is increasing Inequality in health, education, and income levels of older people between top-ranked, high-income countries and bottom-ranked, low-income countries. This rise in inequality is reflected in the comparison of the average life expectancy in the ten countries ranked at the top with the ten countries ranked at the bottom. It shows that on average in 1990, people in the bottom ten countries lived 5.7 years less than people in the top ten countries. By 2012 this gap had increased to 7.3 years. Average life expectancy at 60 across all Index countries is 21 years. A case in point, People aged sixty in Japan have the highest life expectancy and live on average an additional 26 years, while people aged sixty in Afghanistan, live on average an additional 16 years. (Global Age Watch Index Insight report, 2015)

In the African Continent, another area of concern is mental health, with depression prevalence increasing with age. The researchers estimate, for instance, that in Ghana 28 percent of those over eighty experienced moderate or severe psychological distress, compared to 13 percent of those aged 20–60. However, spending on mental health in Africa is low, with government expenditure per capita being less than \$0.50 in 2020, compared to over \$50 in High Income Countries, (World Health Organization, 2020)

In East Africa (Rwanda), the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly are closely tied to the country's history and socio-economic development. Following the 1994 genocide, Rwanda has made significant strides in economic growth and poverty reduction, yet the elderly population remains particularly vulnerable. Many older Rwandans lack access to formal pension systems, relying instead on family support or small-scale subsistence farming for their livelihood (Uwamariya, 2017). The traditional extended family structure, which historically provided a safety net for the elderly, has been weakened by the socio-economic changes and the impact of the genocide, leading to increased instances of social isolation (Sundararajan ,2021). Additionally, healthcare access remains a critical issue, with many elderly individuals unable to afford the care they need, despite government efforts to expand healthcare coverage through community-based health insurance schemes (Logie, 2019).

In Uganda, there's limited coverage by the social protection program for the elderly. Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) only offers sh25, 000 per month to qualifying senior citizens (65years of age). This money is not only insufficient for the rising costs of living, but neglects a section of the elderly group below 65 years of age, (Akullu, 2017)

Northern region, Conflict leaves deep scars on a country. For more than two decades the Lord's Resistance armed conflict uprooted the people of Acholi from their homes and farms, making those affected vulnerable to insecurity, hunger, disease, and trauma. This left the vulnerable persons with the elderly inclusive to end up in poorly protected camps with limited access to basic social services, such as education, healthcare, economic independence, awareness of the community human rights and land rights laws, aspects which are essential for the survival of society. (Angom,2018)

Kirombe, Lira City West, the elderly face socio-economic challenges that are reflective of the broader issues in Uganda but also have unique local dimensions. Kirombe, a peri-urban area, has seen rapid urbanization, which has disrupted traditional community structures that once supported the elderly (Ogwang, 2019). The elderly here often lack formal employment histories, leaving them without access to pension benefits and reliant on subsistence farming or petty trade for survival (Amone, 2017). Social isolation is a significant issue, as younger generations migrate to urban centres in search of better opportunities, leaving the elderly behind with limited support. Access to healthcare is another critical challenge, with many elderly individuals unable to afford treatment for chronic conditions, and local healthcare facilities often under-resourced and difficult to reach (Kinyera, 2021). The combination of these factors makes aging in Kirombe a particularly vulnerable stage of life, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to support the elderly population. However other challenges that are vibrant on the socioeconomic wellbeing of the elderly remain neglected by researchers, the impact of care giving, Technology and Digital Divide, the living and housing conditions and inadequate legal and policy framework that will be exhausted in the justification of the study.

## **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The elderly population in Kirombe, Lira City West, faces significant socio-economic challenges that affect their quality of life and overall well-being. Many elderly individuals in the area experience inadequate financial support, limited access to healthcare facilities, social isolation, and neglect from urban planning initiatives (HelpAge International, 2024). These challenges are exacerbated by the absence of government programs that effectively address their needs, leaving them vulnerable to poverty, poor health outcomes, and social exclusion (Mwalimu, 2023). Despite efforts such as the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) program, the lack of comprehensive financial education and insufficient healthcare infrastructure further limits the ability of the elderly to navigate these socio-economic

hardships (Overseas Development Institute, 2020). Addressing these challenges is essential to ensuring that the elderly in Kirombe can lead dignified and secure lives in their later years.

### **1.3 RESEARCH PURPOSE**

To examine the socio-economic challenges the elderly in Kirombe Lira city west face

### **1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- i. To assess the social challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West.
- ii. To assess the economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West.
- iii. To investigate if there are any efforts by stakeholders in place to address these social economic challenges faced by the elderly.

### **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This study will fill a gap in existing literature, providing a foundation for future research that may explore comparative studies or policy impact assessments across different regions. According to (Cavanaugh and Blanchard-Fields, 2018), understanding the socio-economic factors affecting the elderly is crucial for developing comprehensive academic theories that address aging in diverse socio-economic environments.

For stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and community groups, the findings of this study will be invaluable in informing the development and implementation of programs aimed at improving the quality of life for the elderly in Kirombe. Stakeholders often rely on empirical evidence to justify the allocation of resources and to design interventions that are both effective and sustainable. The insights gained from this research will enable stakeholders to tailor their efforts to meet the specific needs of the elderly, ensuring that their interventions are not only impactful but also culturally relevant (United Nations, 2017).

Government officials in Kirombe, Lira City Council especial the community service-based department, will also benefit from the outcomes of this study as it will provide data-driven insights that can guide policy formulation and public service delivery. As local governments increasingly face challenges related to aging populations, there is a pressing need for policies that address the socio-economic needs of the elderly. The study's findings will provide a critical evidence base that can help government officials prioritize and allocate resources effectively, ensuring that the elderly are not marginalized but rather supported in their later years (World Health Organization, 2022).

Finally, policymakers at both the local and national levels will find this study significant as it will offer a nuanced understanding of the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly, which is essential for effective policymaking. Policy decisions, particularly those related to social welfare and public health, must be grounded in the lived experiences of the population they aim to serve. This research will highlight the specific socio-economic issues that the elderly in Kirombe face, thereby enabling policymakers to craft legislation and regulations that are responsive to their needs, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society (HelpAge International, 2024).

## **1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This study encompasses the geographical location of Kirombe in Lira City West, the time frame of the research, and the specific content areas related to the socio-economic challenges experienced by the elderly in this community.

### **1.6.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION**

This study will be conducted from Kirombe is in Lira City West, in the northern region of Uganda. It lies approximately 340 kilometres north of the capital city, Kampala. Geographically, to the east of Kirombe is the district of Kaberamaido, which is part of the Teso sub-region. To the west is the district of Oyam, known for its agricultural activities. To the central region is the district of Lira itself, which serves as a key administrative and economic hub. To the south, Kirombe borders the district of Apac, which also features a rural landscape with significant agricultural activities.

### **1.6.2 TIME SCOPE**

The period to be considered for the study will be 3 months that is from June to August 2024, this is because during that period, elderly in Kirombe, Lira City West, face limited access to healthcare services.

### **1.6.3 CONTENT SCOPE**

The study will be limited to the socio-economic challenges the elderly in Kirombe Lira CityWest face that is to say,

- i. To assess the social challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West.
- ii. To assess the economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West.

- iii. To investigate if there are any efforts by stakeholders in place to address these social economic challenges faced by the elderly.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

This study aims to examine the socio-economic challenges the elderly in Kirombe Lira City West face. The literature will be examined in relation to the study's objectives which are: the social support networks the elderly have, the economic challenges faced by the elderly, the healthcare and housing challenges faced by the elderly, and the research gap.

#### **2.2 EXAMINING THE SOCIAL CHALLENGES THE ELDERLY FACE IN (KIROMBE) LIRA CITY WEST.**

At Global level, one major social challenge faced by the elderly in a global perspective economic insecurity is According to Many elderly individuals in Japan face economic insecurity due to insufficient pension systems and savings. Sciubba, J. D. (2020), economic insecurity is exacerbated by a weakened traditional family support system. As a result of this

challenge, many elderly people live alone or in nuclear families, leading to financial difficulties. The economic strain affects their quality of life and access to necessary services, consequently leading to increased poverty rates among the elderly and a higher dependence on government support. (Population Aging as a Global Issue, 2020)

Lastly, on the global social challenges faced by the elderly, according to (World Health Organization,2022). Social inequality in Brazil affects the elderly, particularly those from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Access to healthcare, social services, and economic opportunities is often limited. This inequality exacerbates poverty and health disparities among the elderly, leading to a lower quality of life and increased dependence on social welfare programs. (Ageing and Health, 2022)

At continental level, a study in Ethiopia indicated that many elderly individuals in Ethiopia live in poverty due to a lack of pensions and social security systems. (Challenges and Assets of Elders in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2022). Financial insecurity, and limited access to healthcare, often affect the quality of life of the elderly. (Adamek., Kotecho, Chane & Gebeyaw, 2022). According to the (Ageing and Health, 2022) study in South Africa, the elderly experience a lack of adequate long-term care facilities and services. This can result in elderly individuals not receiving the care they need, leading to deteriorating health and well-being. (World Health Organization, 2022).

At the East African Region level, a case in point in Uganda, the elderly in Uganda often face neglect and abuse from younger generations. (Social Work Response to Elder Abuse in Uganda,2008) This can be due to changing social norms, economic pressures, and a lack of awareness about the rights and needs of older people. Neglect and abuse can lead to severe psychological distress, physical harm, and a sense of worthlessness among the elderly. It further isolates the elderly from society and can result in a deterioration of their mental and physical health. (Oloka-Onyango,2008).

Lira (Kirombe)

Another challenge faced by the elderly in Lira City West is inadequate medical help, as on (Tuesday, December 29, 2020), the Elderly women in lira city west appealed to govt for medical help. The women appealed for a roll-based health care system to benefit them since they are un abled to walk far distance to health facilities. Poor health can limit involvement in community, work, or hobbies, reducing social connections and opportunities. (monitor, 2020)



### **2.3 EXAMINING THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELDERLY IN (KIROMBE) LIRA CITY WEST.**

At Global level, according to Kelly, (2023) Countries with large populations of older adults depend on smaller pools of workers from which to collect taxes to pay for higher health costs, pension benefits, and other publicly funded programs. This is becoming more common in advanced economies where retirees live on fixed incomes with much smaller tax brackets than workers. The combination of lower tax revenue and higher spending commitments on health care, pensions, and other benefits is a major concern for advanced industrialized nations. (Kelly, 2023) The strain on public resources can impact the quality of life for the elderly, particularly in terms of access to healthcare and social services. (The impact of public resource allocation on elderly care,2020)

At Continental level, Housing instability and inadequate living conditions further affect elderly well-being in South Africa. (The South African Human Rights Commission, 2017) highlights issues such as substandard housing and overcrowded settlements, which increase economic vulnerability. Monnakgotla, 2020) and (Matzopoulos & Rule, 2018) report that many elderly individuals live below the poverty line due to inadequate pension benefits and limited employment opportunities.

In Uganda, Housing challenges also pose a significant barrier to the well-being of the elderly in Uganda. Many older adults live in inadequate housing conditions that do not cater to their physical or health needs. Research by (Ssewamala,2017) indicates that a significant proportion of the elderly population in Uganda resides in substandard housing that lacks basic amenities such as clean water, electricity, and sanitation facilities. These poor living conditions can lead to health problems, such as respiratory infections and injuries from falls, which are particularly hazardous for older adults. Additionally, (Ssewamala, 2017) points out that there is a shortage of age-friendly housing, such as homes with handrails, ramps, or other modifications that support mobility and safety.

(Kironde)Lira city West, the elderly in Lira City face a challenge of hunger. This was highlighted during the community distribution of relief items by Sant Egidio community Lira to people with leprosy and the elderly. (Ojok,2022) The elderly in Lira City West have faced Economic challenges in that they are forced to go begging on the streets of Lira City in a bid to meet their daily demands i.e., food, shelter, water, and health treatments for those with health issues. (Okot, 2020)

## **2.4 EFFORTS BY STAKEHOLDERS TO ADDRESS THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELDERLY.**

At Global level, according to (UNDP. Organization, 2021) Preparing for an ageing population is vital to the achievement of the integrated 2030 Agenda, with ageing cutting across the goals on poverty eradication, good health, gender equality, economic growth and decent work, reduced inequalities, and sustainable cities. Therefore, while it is essential to address the exclusion and vulnerability of, and intersectional discrimination against, many older persons in the implementation of the new agenda, it is even more important to go beyond treating older persons as a vulnerable group. Older persons must be recognized as the active agents of societal development to achieve truly transformative, inclusive, and sustainable development outcomes. Applying these principles by both the NGO's and Government workers in Lira District could lead to a more inclusive approach to empowering the elderly in the city.

At continental level (Africa), Governments should pay greater attention to issues of aging through Budgetary provisions. There is an urgent need to develop and implement coordinated national policies for this age cohort and to mainstream aging issues in national development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies. This is to address the socioeconomic needs and rights of older people and improve their well-being. One requirement is to make adequate provision in national budgets for the provision of social services for the elderly. The focus should be on the provision of shelter, healthcare, food security, nutrition, and social security schemes, among others. (Nabalambaa & Chikoko, 2011)

At East African level, Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM) is a Christian not-for-profit organization whose mission is to reach poor, older persons with the Gospel of Jesus in word and deed throughout Uganda. The ministry provides a wide variety of services including, home visits, weekly Christian fellowships and counselling, meal provision to the elderly, medical treatments, funerals, hygiene training, and housing and home renovation projects. These efforts have had life-changing and lasting impacts on the seniors served.

In Lira (Kirombe)

The Gender and Social Development Department is headed by the City Community Development Officer and is responsible for the promotion of the interest of various groups of the community, particularly the vulnerable, children, women, disabled, and elderly among others, to realize and harness their potential for purposeful and sustainable development and mobilize people for community services. The department offers CBO Registration, Labour Support and Regulation, Elderly empowerment, Women Empowerment, and Empowerment of

PWDs and OVCs. The department has programs like the Senior Enterprise Grant for Older Persons (SEGOP), Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP), Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), and many others for empowering the elderly population in Lira City. Gender and Social Development Department. (2024).

## **2.5 CHAPTER SUMMARY.**

The elderly face significant economic encounters that impact on their well-being and standards of living. The income inequality gap between the elderly and the working-age population has been widening due to factors such as reduced pension coverage, increased reliance on personal savings, and erosion of traditional family support systems. This issue is evident in both developed and developing countries, contributing to financial strain and poor quality of life for the elderly. Additionally, Social inequality in countries like Uganda and Brazil affects the elderly, particularly those from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Access to healthcare, social services, and economic opportunities is often limited. This inequality exacerbates poverty and health disparities among the elderly, leading to a lower quality of life and increased dependence on social welfare programs. To add on, the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly, including lack of access to healthcare and poor housing conditions, are prevalent. The rising cost of housing, particularly in urban areas, leads to instability and potential homelessness among the elderly. Consequently, chronic conditions often go untreated, resulting in a decline in their overall health and quality of life. The controversies in literature, emphasized the role of urban planning in addressing the needs of the elderly. The literature highlights the inadequacy of urban infrastructure in accommodating the elderly. Yet, there is little consensus on how best to design cities that are more age-friendly, particularly in developing regions. Another area of controversy revolves around the effectiveness of Social Assistance Programs. There is ongoing debate about the effectiveness of programs like the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) in Uganda. While these programs provide some financial support, they have been critiqued for not including thorough financial education, lowering their long-term impact on upgrading the quality of life for the elderly.

The main research gap includes the absence of Localized Empirical Studies. There is a significant gap in the study of the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in specific urban area of (Kironde), Lira City West. Existing research often focuses on national and regional settings, thereby creating a vacuum in assessing the unique challenges faced by the elderly in smaller urban settings. Additionally, most Existing research is quantitative, lacking the qualitative depth needed to understand the lived experiences of the elderly. There is a need

for studies that provide a subtle view of the social, and economic challenges the elderly face, particularly in Uganda.

This research study aims to address the absence of localized, detailed research on the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe), Lira City West. By focusing on this Kirombe community, the research will provide empirical evidence that can inform more effective interventions tailored to the needs of the elderly in this area. The study will also explore the potential for integrating financial literacy into support programs like SAGE and propose recommendations for improving urban planning to better accommodate the elderly. This research will contribute to filling the gaps in existing knowledge and offer practical solutions to enhance the quality of life for the elderly in Kirombe, Lira City West.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the research design, area of study, sources of information, study population, sampling size, sample techniques, variables and indicators, measurement levels, data collection procedure, data collection instruments, quality control, data processing and analysis, ethical considerations of the study.

#### **3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

This study employed a descriptive survey approach to investigate the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West Uganda. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods in data collection.

#### **3.3 AREA OF STUDY**

This research was carried out at Kirombe, located in the western part of Lira City in Northern Uganda, which was a significant area due to its unique socio-economic context. Positioned in a region transitioning from rural to urban influences, Kirombe provided a representative sample of the elderly population who faced socio-economic challenges amidst these changes. The area was characterized by a mix of traditional practices and modern development pressures, which affected access to services, social support, and economic opportunities for the elderly. This made Kirombe an ideal location for researching the socio-economic challenges faced by older adults, as it allowed for a comprehensive understanding of how urbanization and modernization impacted their daily lives and well-being.

#### **3.4 SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

The information for the study was obtained from primary and secondary data collection methods. Under primary data collection the information was obtained directly from the participants and in secondary data collection, the information was obtained from published articles, journals, newspapers, and social media.

### 3.5 POPULATION AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

According to Hensen, M.C. (2017), population is the total number of units from which data can be collected. The research involved a target population of seventy-five people as follows, elderly individuals who lived in urban areas, elderly people who had low-income status, elderly people who had chronic health conditions, elderly individuals who received government pensions, elderly people who resided at assisted living facilities, elderly people who lived alone.

The researcher used the formula of Slovenes (1960) which included.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

Where: n is the sample size

N is the entire population N= 20, 1 is the constant, e<sup>2</sup> is the error in sampling = (0.05)

$$= \frac{20}{1 + 20(0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{20}{1 + 20(0.0025)}$$

$$= 19.5$$

$$n = 19 \text{ RESPONDENTS}$$

Therefore, the sample size of the study was nineteen respondents.

### 3.6 MEASUREMENT LEVELS

Several measurement levels were used to capture diverse aspects of their experiences. Nominal measurement categorized qualitative data, such as types of housing (e.g., owned, rented, or assisted living), these were seen in the questionnaires during data collection. Ordinal measurement ranked variables like the severity of financial stress or access to healthcare services, indicating varying levels of need or satisfaction. Interval measurements assessed factors such as monthly income or expenditure. Ratio measurements were used for quantitative aspects like age, number of dependents, or total medical expenses. These measurement levels provided a comprehensive framework for analyzing and interpreting the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly.

### 3.7 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

The researcher obtained a data collection letter from the Head of the Department of Social Sciences at Uganda Christian University. With this letter, the researcher travelled to Kirombe, Lira City West, to request permission to conduct research. The researcher sought permission for an appointment with the relevant authorities at Lira City Council where they discussed and

gained approval for the research study. This meeting aimed to ensure that all necessary permissions were granted and that the research could proceed smoothly, adhering to any local regulations or requirements.

### **3.8 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS**

The research study utilized a structured questionnaire to collect information from informants like the Community development officer of the Area, Local Council Official for the elderly at the Parish level. and local

### **3.9 QUESTIONNAIRE**

A questionnaire was used in researching the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly by systematically gathering data on various aspects of their lives. The questionnaire included a range of questions designed to capture information on income levels, access to healthcare, housing conditions, social support, and overall well-being. The collected responses were then analyzed to identify common issues, patterns, and correlations, facilitating a detailed understanding of the socio-economic difficulties faced by the elderly and guiding potential interventions.

### **3.10 QUALITY CONTROL**

To ensure high-quality primary data collection, clear and concise data collection plans were developed, which were, detailed checklists for tasks that prepared and scheduled interviews or surveys. Regularly the researcher backed up data to prevent loss and provided clear instructions to respondents to enhance the reliability of the collected information.

### **3.11 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS**

Data analysis is the logical breakdown of the collected information so that it can be systematically reported. (Creswell, 2009). Data analysis during this research depended on whether the data was qualitative or quantitative.

### **3.12 QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS**

Quantitative data in research on the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly was analyzed by using statistical techniques descriptive statistics that is to say, (frequency

distribution), and Data Visualization (bar charts/pie charts) to uncover patterns and relationships. These processes began with data cleaning that ensured accuracy and completeness. The results were presented through graphs, tables, and charts to illustrate key findings and trends, which provided a data-driven understanding of the issues faced by the elderly.

### **3.13 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Respondents were treated with respect and their rights were protected throughout the study. This included obtaining informed consent, where participants were fully willing and were aware of the research purpose, procedures, and potential risks before agreeing to participate. The researcher was to ensure confidentiality by anonymizing responses and securely storing data that protected participants' privacy. Additionally, exceptional care was taken to avoid exploitation or harm, particularly given the potentially vulnerable status of elderly individuals. Providing support or referrals for participants who experienced challenges during the study was also crucial. These practices were therefore respected, and the well-being of every participant was promoted.

### **3.14 SUMMARY**

This study employed a descriptive survey approach that investigated the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kiroombe) Lira City West, Northern Uganda. A sample of nineteen elderly individuals were selected using stratified random sampling, and data was collected using semi-structured interviews, and questionnaires that measured social and Economic challenges using standardized tools. The study provided valuable insights into the impact socio-economic challenges on the elderly population in (Kiroombe) Lira City West in Northern Uganda.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.

#### 4.0 INTRODUCTION

As people age, they are more likely to experience a wide range of challenges. (World Health Organization, 2022). This study aimed at examining the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West. This section explored the research objectives in depth, where interviews were held with eighteen participants, which consisted of seven females and eleven males. This chapter therefore presents an outline of the demographic characteristics of the study participants. It thereafter explored the major themes that emerged from the in-depth interviews including the main source of livelihood, the main sources of support, and stakeholders' efforts that addressed the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West.

#### 4.1 PRESENTATION

##### 4.1.0 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS.

This section presents the demographic characteristics of respondents during the study on examining the socio-economic challenges faced by the Elderly in Kirombe Lira City, focusing on, Gender, age, Marital Status, Education Level, Household Size, and Living Arrangements of the respondents.

##### 4.1.1 Showing Gender Distribution of Respondents

Table 1.

A Table Showing the Gender Distribution of Respondents, N=18

|       |        | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Male   | 11        | 61.1    | 61.1          | 61.1               |
|       | Female | 7         | 38.9    | 38.9          | 100.0              |
|       | Total  | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

The study conducted in Kirombe, Lira City, on the socio-economic issues encountered by the elderly, had a gender distribution of 61.1% men and 38.9% females among the respondents. This suggested that men made up the bulk of study participants, which may influence the viewpoints and experiences obtained on the difficulties faced by the elderly in the community.

#### **4.1.2 Age Distribution of Respondents.**

The table below shows the age distribution of respondents which may influence the socio-economic challenges of the respondents.

Table Two

A Table Showing Age Distribution of Respondents, N=18

|       |                    | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | 60-65              | 8         | 44.4    | 44.4          | 44.4               |
|       | 66-70              | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 50.0               |
|       | 71-75              | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 61.1               |
|       | 76-80              | 4         | 22.2    | 22.2          | 83.3               |
|       | Eighty-one & above | 3         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 100.0              |
|       | Total              | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

The study findings as shown on the table, on socio-economic challenges faced by the Elderly in Kirombe, Lira City, found that 44.4 % the respondents were between the ages of 60 and 65. 5.6% of the population were in the 66–70 age range, and 11.1% were in the 71–75 age range.

22.2 percent of the sample's respondents were between the ages of 76 and 80, while sixteen percent were older than 81.

### 4.1.3 The Marital Status of Respondents

The table below shows the marital status of respondents which may influence the socio-economic challenges of the respondents.

Table Three

A Table Showing the Marital Status of Respondents, N=18

|       |          | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Single   | 3         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 16.7               |
|       | Married  | 11        | 61.1    | 61.1          | 77.8               |
|       | Widowed  | 3         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 94.4               |
|       | Divorced | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 100.0              |
|       | Total    | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

According to the above table showing Marital Status, 61.1% of the respondents were married, 16.7% of the population were single, 16.7% of the population were widowed, and 5.6% of those surveyed have had a divorce. This suggested that a considerable proportion of the study's older participants were still married, while a noteworthy fraction had either never been married or had lost a spouse (widowed).

### 4.1.4 The Educational Level of Respondents.

The table below presents the educational levels of respondents.

Table Four

A Table Showing the Educational Level of Respondents, N=18

|  | frequency | percent | valid percent | cumulative percent |
|--|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
|  |           |         |               |                    |

|       |                     |    |       |       |       |
|-------|---------------------|----|-------|-------|-------|
| valid | no formal education | 2  | 11.1  | 11.1  | 11.1  |
|       | primary education   | 8  | 44.4  | 44.4  | 55.6  |
|       | secondary education | 3  | 16.7  | 16.7  | 72.2  |
|       | tertiary education  | 5  | 27.8  | 27.8  | 100.0 |
|       | total               | 18 | 100.0 | 100.0 |       |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

As shown in the table above on Education Level, the majority, 44.4%, completed primary education, while 27.8% completed tertiary education. Only 16.7% of respondents completed high school, while 11.1% never attended an educational institution. According to this, the majority have at least some basic levels of education.

#### **4.1.5 The Living Arrangements of Respondents.**

Table Five.

##### **1) A Table Showing the Living Arrangements of Respondents., N=18**

The table below outlines the living arrangements of respondents, highlighting their household structures and potential support systems.

|       |                      | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | With spouse          | 6         | 33.3    | 33.3          | 33.3               |
|       | With Children        | 10        | 55.6    | 55.6          | 88.9               |
|       | With other relatives | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 100.0              |
|       | Total                | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

The finding in the table on Living Arrangements show that 33.3% of elderly respondents live with their spouses, and 55.6%, live with their children. While 11.1%, live with other relatives. This implies that most older people depended on family assistance, especially from their offspring, which may reflect the socio-economic difficulties they could be facing standing on their own.

#### 4.1.6 The Household Size of Respondents.

Table Six

A Table Showing the Household Size of Respondents, N=18

|       |       | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | 3.00  | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 5.6                |
|       | 4.00  | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 16.7               |
|       | 5.00  | 3         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 33.3               |
|       | 6.00  | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 44.4               |
|       | 7.00  | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 55.6               |
|       | 8.00  | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 66.7               |
|       | 9.00  | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 72.2               |
|       | 10.00 | 3         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 88.9               |
|       | 11.00 | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 94.4               |
|       | 14.00 | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 100.0              |
|       | Total | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

According to the table above on Household Size, the senior respondents in Kirombe, Lira City, had a wide range of household sizes; the majority (16.7%), lived with only five individuals. (11.1%) lived with four, six, seven, or eight people. While 5.6% lived with Three, nine, eleven, and fourteen people in their households.

#### 4.2 OBJECTIVE ONE: EXAMINING THE SOCIAL CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELDERLY IN (KIROMBE) LIRA CITY WEST.

According to John Stewart Mill, a British Philosopher of the 19th Century, A social issue, also known as a social challenge is a state of affairs that negatively affects the personal or social lives of individuals or the well-being of communities or larger groups within a society. The social challenges faced by the Elderly in Kirombe included a lack of social interaction, Limited

Mobility, Lack of recreational facilities, and Poor Health which hindered the Elderly from participating in social Activities.

#### 4.2.1 Awareness of community groups.

Table Seven.

Table Showing Awareness of Respondents on Community Group. N=18

|       |       | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes   | 10        | 55.6    | 55.6          | 55.6               |
|       | No    | 8         | 44.4    | 44.4          | 100.0              |
|       | Total | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

According to data in table Seven on community group knowledge, 55.6% of the elderly were aware of community groups, 44.4% were not. The finding that 44.4% of senior citizens were unaware of community groups pointed to a lack of access to services and social assistance by significant numbers of the elderly. This unawareness could have been a factor in their social exclusion, limited access to essential resources, and general challenges in meeting their socioeconomic requirements. Closing this awareness gap is essential in enhancing the community's senior citizens' social well-being.

#### 4.2.2 Participation of respondents in social activities.

According to (Scope,2023) Social and community participation refers to the active involvement of individuals within their communities and broader society. The frequency of participation of respondents in social activities was investigated and findings were as shown in the table eight below. This was assessed weekly, monthly, and rarely.

Table Eight

A table showing the participation of respondents in social activities. N=18

|       |         | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Weekly  | 4         | 22.2    | 22.2          | 22.2               |
|       | Monthly | 4         | 22.2    | 22.2          | 44.4               |
|       | Rarely  | 8         | 44.4    | 44.4          | 88.9               |
|       | Never   | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 100.0              |
|       | Total   | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

According to data in Table Eight, 44.4% of the elderly in Kirombe participated in social activities, 11.1% of people never engaged in social activities at all. The low rate of regular participation in social activities among the elderly in Kirombe suggested that the elderly of Kirombe are socially isolated which can pose a threat to older adults' well-being.

#### 4.2.3 Feeling of Isolation by Respondents.

Isolation is the experience of being separated from others. (Good Therapy, 2018). Isolation was one of the social challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe which affected the socio-economic well-being of the elderly.

Table Nine

A Table Showing a Feeling of Isolation by Respondents. N=18

|       |           | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Always    | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 11.1               |
|       | Often     | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 16.7               |
|       | Sometimes | 9         | 50.0    | 50.0          | 66.7               |
|       | Rarely    | 5         | 27.8    | 27.8          | 94.4               |
|       | Never     | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 100.0              |
|       | Total     | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

Based on information gathered from senior respondents in Kirombe, as seen in Table Nine above, 50% of respondents, sometimes felt isolated, while 27.8% rarely felt isolated, which shows that they are surrounded by a caring community.

#### **4.2.4 The Main Social Challenges Faced by the Respondents.**

The respondents of Kirombe faced a range of social challenges and the findings are as shown in the table below.

Table Ten.

A Table Showing the Main Social Challenges Faced by The Respondents, N=18

|       |                               | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Lack of social interaction    | 3         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 16.7               |
|       | Limited Mobility              | 6         | 33.3    | 33.3          | 50.0               |
|       | Lack of recreational facility | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 55.6               |
|       | Poor Health                   | 7         | 38.9    | 38.9          | 94.4               |
|       | Other (please specify)        | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 100.0              |



|       |    |       |       |  |
|-------|----|-------|-------|--|
| Total | 18 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
|-------|----|-------|-------|--|

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

According to data shown in Table Ten above, (38.9%) of the respondents of Kirombe had poor health, (33.3%) had limited mobility, and 5.6% and 16.7% lacked recreational opportunities and social connection respectively. These data showed that Kirombe's senior population faced several social obstacles that affected their day-to-day existence and highlights the need for focused initiatives to improve health care, mobility support, and social inclusion to improve their quality of life.

#### **4.2.6 The Main Health Challenges faced by respondents.**

Health challenges refer to various obstacles or difficulties that affect an individual's or a population's overall health and well-being. (Smith, 2024). The Elderly in Kirombe faced health challenges such as limited access to health care, high-cost medication, lack of health insurance and others.

Table Eleven

A Table showing the Main Health Challenges faced by the respondents. N=18

|       |                              | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Limited access to healthcare | 7         | 38.9    | 38.9          | 38.9               |
|       | High cost of medication      | 9         | 50.0    | 50.0          | 88.9               |
|       | Lack of health insurance     | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 94.4               |
|       | Others (please specify)      | 1         | 5.6     | 5.6           | 100.0              |
|       | Total                        | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

According to findings shown in Table Eleven above, the two most prevalent challenges faced by the elderly of Kirombe were restricted access to healthcare (38.9%) and expensive medications (50%).

### 4.3 OBJECTIVE TWO: EXAMINING THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELDERLY IN (KIROMBE) LIRA CITY WEST.

According to (Study smarter,2024), economic problems are fundamental challenges facing all societies, which is how to satisfy unlimited wants and needs with limited resources. The economic challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe were, insufficient Income, High Medical expenses, Debt, and others.

Table Twelve

A Table showing the main Economic Challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe Lira City West. N=18

|       |                        | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Insufficient income    | 8         | 44.4    | 44.4          | 44.4               |
|       | High medical expenses  | 6         | 33.3    | 33.3          | 77.8               |
|       | Debt                   | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 88.9               |
|       | Other (please specify) | 2         | 11.1    | 11.1          | 100.0              |
|       | Total                  | 18        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*Source Primary Data September 2024*

According to the Research findings shown in the Table Twelve above, the biggest financial obstacle for the elderly in Kirombe, Lira City West, was inadequate income, as stated by 44.4% of respondents. This was followed by 33.3% of medical expenses.

### 4.3 OBJECTIVE THREE: STAKE HOLDER'S EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING SOCIOECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELDERLY IN (KIROMBE) LIRA CITY WEST.

#### Introduction

This section tells us what is being done to address the socioeconomic challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe specifically by a Community Development Officer and a Local Council one chairman of the Kirombe Area

Through several initiatives, stakeholders in Kirombe, Lira City West made substantial efforts that alleviated the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly.

According to (Anono,2024) a Primary source, who is a community development Officer at Lira District, Community Development Officers (CDO) instituted two initiatives which were, the Special Enterprise Grant for Older Persons (SEGOP), which encouraged income-generating activities to improve financial self-sufficiency, and secondly, the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), which offered financial support to senior citizens 80 years of age and above. Furthermore, the CDO involved senior citizens in community discussions, gatherings, and Home Visits to ensure their opinions were considered throughout planning processes by their delegates on local councils.

Additionally, a collaboration with Centenary Bank makes it easier for SAGE beneficiaries to be paid out smoothly. As a commitment to enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of the elderly in Kirombe, the DCDO suggested extending these initiatives by reducing the recipient age for SAGE from 80 to 75 and increasing investment in income-generating activities. (Anono,2024)

Also, (Ogwang,2024) a Local Council One mentioned the role of LC'1 chairperson in making sure that the elderly are engaged in the social protection programs, even in the face of difficulties in mobilizing older people.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.0 INTRODUCTION**

The major purpose of the study was to examine the limitations of implementation. This chapter focuses on the summary of the findings, conclusion, and recommendations. Finally, the chapter ends with suggestions for further research.

#### **5.1 SUMMARY**

Elderly residents of Kirombe, Lira City West, encountered substantial socioeconomic challenges that impacted their overall quality of life. Social problems included neglect, loneliness,

psychological trauma, and generational divides that cause social isolation. Economic difficulties were caused by a lack of resources, a lack of access to healthcare, and a lack of funding, which are made worse by urban planning that ignored these issues.

Stakeholder initiatives, such as the government's Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) program, helped to some extent, but the program was deficient in more extensive support networks and thorough financial education. Local leaders and community development officers had a part to play, yet many older people were left exposed because of their programs' lack of long-term viability and fragmentation.

## **5.2 CONCLUSIONS**

According to the primary data, A wide range of intricate social and economic challenges lower the quality of life for the elderly in Kirombe, Lira City West. Economically, they struggled to get access to necessary healthcare, financial support, and technology, Socially, they suffered from social isolation brought on by neglect and a lack of community involvement. Although the SAGE program provided some financial support, it narrowed focus and lacked financial management instruction compromising its long-term efficacy. Despite their presence, stakeholder initiatives fell short of addressing the underlying socioeconomic problems. Community leaders, governmental organizations, and civil society were not working together to develop long-term, sustainable solutions that meet the requirements of the aged in the short and long terms.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

the elderly in Kirombe face challenges that impact on their socio-economic wellbeing, these challenges include, Limited access to Health care, Limited financial support, limited access to technology, Social Isolation, and lack of community involvement therefore, we need to take a diversified approach to mitigate these challenges. First, the SAGE program ought to be expanded to offer access to more substantial financial resources as well as training in financial literacy. The elderly should have more access to health services, such as inexpensive medicines and routine screenings. Initiatives in the local community should concentrate on fostering ties between generations to close social divides and fight loneliness. To develop an inclusive urban design that considers the requirements of the elderly, including public areas and assistive technology, stakeholders must work together. Finally, ongoing community education about the value of respecting and caring for the elderly can help prevent abuse and neglect and provide a more supportive atmosphere for them.

## **5.4 AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH**

Investigate the alternative financial support systems that are tailored specifically to support the elderly of Kirombe Lira City West.

The roles of community-based Organizations, Traditional Leaders, and Religious Leaders in tackling social isolation as a common challenge faced by the elderly in Kirombe Lira City West.

Lastly, the Effectiveness of government social protection Programs which are meant to improve on the wellbeing of elderly people, should be assessed.

## **APPENDICES**

### **A RESEARCH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR EXAMINING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELDERLY IN (KIROMBE) LIRA CITY WEST.**

Introduction.

Dear Respondent

I am APIO MILDRED REBECCA, a student at Uganda Christian University.

Introduction

This study aims to assess the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West. Your participation in this data collection is crucial, as it will provide accuracy that will help us understand the current State of the elderly in Kirombe Lira City West. Please answer all questions to the best of your ability, as responses will significantly contribute to the success of our study. Thank you!

The aim of this research is on

1. To examine the social challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West.
2. To examine the economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West.
3. To examine if there are any efforts by stakeholders to solve the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in (Kirombe) Lira City West.

Note

Participants have a right to withdraw at any time during the interview if they don't feel comfortable, participants should also note that this activity can improve the status of the elderly in the future. Participants may experience emotional break down during the activity and have a right to withdraw during the interview, Confidentiality will be maintained during and after the interview. In case of any inquiries please feel free to contact me,

Researcher 's Details

Apio Mildred Rebecca

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0741806808

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR EXAMINING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELDERLY IN (KIROMBE) LIRA CITY WEST.SPECIFICALLY FOR THE AREA LOCAL COUNCIL ONE CHAIRPERSON, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AND THE TARGET GROUP (ELDERLY PEOPLE)

AREA LOCAL COUNCIL ONE CHAIRPERSON.

1. What are the major socioeconomic challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe, Lira City West?
2. How does the local council currently support the elderly in Kirombe?
3. How does the local council engage with the elderly community in Kirombe, and what mechanisms are in place for their participation in decision-making processes?

4. Are there any additional resources or support that the local council's need to effectively address the socioeconomic challenges faced by the elderly in Kirombe?

#### Conclusion

Is there anything else you would like to add or any other insights you would like to share?

*Thanks for your time and participation.*

## INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

### Introduction & consent

#### Section 1: Background Information

1. Name:.....  
...
2. Title:.....

#### Section 2: Understanding the Community

1. Are you certain of Kirombe located in Lira City West?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No

2. What are the main socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly in this community?

### Section 3: Community Engagement

1. What strategies do you use to engage with the elderly in the community?
2. How do you ensure that the voices of the elderly are heard and considered in community planning?

### Section 4: Program Development and Implementation

1. What programs or initiatives have you implemented to address the socio-economic challenges of the elderly?
2. How do you measure the success of these programs?
3. Have you faced any challenges in implementing these programs, and how did you overcome them?

### Section 5: Collaboration and Partnerships

1. Do you collaborate with other organizations or stakeholders to support the elderly? If yes (HOW)
2. Can you provide an example of a successful partnership that has positively impacted the elderly in Kirombe?

### Section 6: Future and Recommendations

1. What are your future plans for addressing the socio-economic challenges of the elderly in this community?
2. What recommendations do you have for improving the socio-economic well-being of the elderly in Kirombe?

### Conclusion

Is there anything else you would like to add or any other insights you would like to share?

**Thanks for your time and participation.**



## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ELDERLY.

### Section 1: Demographic Information

#### Gender

- 1) Male
- 2) Female
- 3) Other

#### Age

- 1) 60-65
- 2) 66-70
- 3) 71-75
- 4) 76-80
- 5) 81 and above

### Marital Status

- 1) Single
- 2) Married
- 3) Widowed
- 4) Divorced

### Education Level

- 1) No formal education
- 2) Primary education
- 3) Secondary education
- 4) Tertiary education

### Living Arrangement

- 1) Alone
- 2) With spouse
- 3) With children
- 4) With other relatives
- 5) In a care facility

### Household size (Number)

### Section 2: Economic Challenges

What is your primary source of income?

- 1) Pension
- 2) Savings
- 3) Family support
- 4) Government assistance
- 5) Other (please specify)

Do you find your current income sufficient to meet your basic needs?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

What are the main economic challenges you face? (Select all that apply)

- 1) Insufficient income
- 2) High medical expenses
- 3) Lack of employment opportunities
- 4) Debt
- 5) Other (please specify)

How often do you have to rely on others for financial support?

- 1) Always
- 2) Often
- 3) Sometimes
- 4) Rarely
- 5) Never

### Section 3: Social Challenges

Do you know of any community groups or support networks for the elderly in this community?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

How often do you participate in social activities?

- 1) Daily
- 2) Weekly

3) Monthly

4) Rarely

5) Never

Do you feel isolated or lonely?

1) Always

2) Often

3) Sometimes

4) Rarely

5) Never

What are the main social challenges you face? (Select all that apply)

1) Lack of social interaction

2) Limited mobility

3) Lack of recreational facilities

4) Poor health

5) Other (please specify)

Do you feel that your community provides adequate support for the elderly?

1) Yes

2) No

#### Section 4: Health and Well-being

Do you have access to adequate healthcare services?

1) Yes

2) No

What are the main health challenges you face? (Select all that apply)

- 1) Limited access to healthcare
- 2) High cost of medication
- 3) Lack of health insurance
- 4) Other (please specify)

Section 5: Stakeholders efforts in addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly.

Are you aware of any efforts made by stakeholders to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly.?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

Has/ have this program or service effectively improved your life?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

Section 6: Recommendations

What improvements would you suggest addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by the elderly?

*Thanks for your time and participation.*

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
UNIVERSITY**

*A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa*

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

This is to introduce to you **APIO Mildred Rebecca** Registration number **J22B15/176**, a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in *Social Work and Administration*. She is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above mentioned award.

Topic: "Examining the Socio-economic Challenges Faced by the Elderly in Kironde Lira City West."

The purpose of this communication is to request your office to allow her collect data from your organization. Any assistance rendered to her will be highly appreciated.



Doreen Kukugiza  
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