INTRODUCTION:

We mark the end of the first three months in 2017 with thanks giving for what the Lord has enabled us to achieve. The year began with different planned activities where some have been implemented while others are in progress. The seniors are really grateful for all because in the beginning they thought ROTOM wasn’t to last long but to their surprise they are seeing a lot of impact upon their lives. However the most challenging experience for this quarter has been drought that has left so many homes without food for survival.

FRIENDSHIP SUPPORT:

The number of supported seniors has risen to 32 seniors and more others are still on the waiting list and we regret for the death of one senior UG004/017 Erumbi Afrasia. The friendship support enables seniors in the program to benefit directly majorly through the following objectives:

1. To Promote Christian Faith among older persons.
2. To improve the overall health of older persons.
3. Improve food and income security of older persons.

Major Activities:

Objective One: To promote the Christian Faith among older persons and those under their care:

This is a key objective in ROTOM and it is done to help seniors build and strengthen their personal relationship with Christ Jesus. This was done through home visits, bi-weekly fellowships and home cell fellowships.

Biweekly fellowships:

It is always a great joy and happy faces are seen during the fellowships. Senior’s get to put aside their problems, illnesses and then get to sing, dance and hear the word of God that has really changed their way of living and perceiving of things. Besides that they always share a delicious meal that is enjoyed by everyone at the fellowship. Not so many seniors miss the fellowship but even still the few who are not able attend their meals are packed and delivered either by their fellow seniors or volunteers. The picture above shows seniors sharing a meal together at the fellowshipping center. This quarter we managed to conduct 6 fellowships and the attendance of seniors amounted to 175 times and they shared meals 188 times.
Visitations:

Visitations were carried out majorly by the Field Assistant, village volunteers and the staff. The seniors are always filled with joy and hope when they get to see staff and field assistant at their homes. This makes them feel loved and cared for. Further still a lot is shared in the home visits the senior’s get to share the word of God, their challenges achievements and gives them a chance for personal prayer. This also helped the staff and field assistant and village volunteers to get to know much deeper about the seniors and also get to know about the care givers of the seniors. A total number of 168 home visits were carried out by the field assistant and staff.

Objective Two: To improve the overall health of older persons

Our focus under this objective is to ensure seniors access the medical treatment as required, improve the hygiene and sanitation and provide food supplements to those who are bedridden and those with no any relative to give a hand.

Medical Treatment:

We had one medical outreach that was conducted. The senior’s are always grateful for this opportunity because the distance from their village to ROTOM Health Center is quite long for them so when the team goes to the village they are always happy for it. We had one senior who was new into the program and he was found to have a strangulated hernia which was operated on short notice and he is now recovering.

Hygiene and housing improvement: Three houses were renovated. Among those Florence Mutonyi’s house almost looked new and she is so grateful for ROTOM and her friend who raised the funds.

"Who am I to receive such a beautiful house, the lord is so good. I can now receive visitors and sleep without any worry. No more leaking.....Those were Florence’s words” Others included Nyapendi Madeline’s and Janet Kabaseke.
On the right it is the old house for UG004/005 Florence and on the left Florence standing beside her new renovated house with joy.

On the left it is UG004/033 Madeline Nyapendi’s house before renovation and right after renovation. She is no longer worried of the falling walls and leaking roof.
Extra gifts distributed.

The senior’s received water drums/rain barrels and these totaled up to 22 and 17 mattresses were distributed to the seniors that didn’t have. The rain barrels help the seniors to collect rain water which they use at home. This helps them a lot since most of them are weak and cannot fetch water from the water sources since they are all far. Below are some of the pictures after distribution.
Special donations:

One senior was blessed to have received special donation and that was UG004/041 Antoniyo Kiregeya and below is the picture of him very happy and grateful after receiving his gifts. The staff visited him before to confirm his basic needs and then she helped to purchase and delivered them.

Objective three: Improving the food and income security of older persons and those under their care:

Under this objective seniors received planting materials but unfortunately due to poor season the harvest was so poor. Therefore it has been so hard for the seniors to get what to eat and this left so many sleeping without a meal.
We had planted some corn at one of the Village Outreach Centers and all the produce was given to this group because there were the most affected. Each one of them received five Kilograms of Corn flour. We also bought some beans and each one received three kilograms. Though what they received was like a drop in an ocean.

Figure 5: Seniors after receiving the groceries that included 5 kilograms of corn flour and 3 kilograms of beans.

**Conclusion:**

We want to thank you and all the Friends for the continuous support rendered to the seniors because the seniors are now really living a dignified live compared to how they lived before joining the program. Also we are grateful for all the partners who work tirelessly and raise funds and facilitate the good communication.