



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
IOD	Institutional And Organizational Development
BTI	Budget Transparency Initiative
PDMF	Public Debt Management Framework
PDMF	Public Debt Management Framework
SAGE	Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment
ABEK	Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja
AFCODD	African Conference on Debt and Development
AFODD	Conference on Debt and Development
AFRODAD	
BLT	Budget Literacy Training
CAO	Chief Administration Officer
CBMES	Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation System
CEE	Citizen Empowerment And Engagement
COVID	
COVID 19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DRM	Domestic Resource Mobilisation,
EAC	East African Community
EAC.	
FY	
IMF,	World Bank,
LCV	Local Council
LG	Local Government
MDA	Ministries Departments and Agencies
MOES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoFPED	
PAG	Policy Analysis and Governance
PTA Bank	
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
UDN	Uganda Debt Network
UK	United Kingdom
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank

MESSAGE FROM UDN'S BOARD CHAIRPERSON

It gives us great pleasure as Uganda Debt Network – UDN's Board of Directors^[1], to update our stakeholders on developments at pertaining the organisation. Having assumed our mandate in 2021, we ought to have completed our last year in 2023 but challenges ensued that inhibited this transition, not least the impact of Covid 19 and dynamics of the partnership environment.

Yet we rejoice that we have sustained efforts of steering the organization, in accordance with fundamentals of our existence:

Vision: Sustainable Debt and Equitable Development in Uganda

Mission: To foster citizen-centered accountable management of Public debt and other Resources for equitable and sustainable development in Uganda

Management and staff at the secretariat have done a commendable job, and so have our partners both in the CSO fraternity and government at agency ministry or local government level. Along with media fraternity, Community based monitors – Our link to the grassroots have remained to be our feelers and also widely spread our shared aspirations to the wider audience locally and internationally.

Throughout the year, we did not relent regarding the cause and mandate of UDN's existence – public debt and development within the realm of citizen centred budget. And due to our multi-faceted efforts, these continued issues of national concern nationally, regionally and globally. Moving forward therefore we shall sustain efforts to ensure that national resources (borrowed or internally generated) are prudently managed.

As the board we pray for better times as we prepare for hard times, and we encourage all our stakeholders to do the same.

For God and My Country

Fred Jachan Omach – Board Chairman.



FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members, Partners and Stakeholders of Uganda Debt Network (UDN),

I am delighted to present to you the 2024 Annual report of UDN. The year 2022 was the second in implementation of UDN's Strategic Advocacy Action Programme and Plan (SAPP) 2021 - 2025 under three thematic areas: a) Governance and Rights, b) Capacity Building and Empowerment, and c) Institutional and Organizational Development.

Endeared to our Mission, UDN's advocacy and other contributions to improved social accountability work in Uganda, public policy agenda, accountability and service delivery outcomes are highlighted in this report. Overall, UDN has contributed to improved livelihoods of Ugandans through community empowerment and policy engagement at local, national, regional and international levels. UDN leveraged partnerships and nurtured the capacity of CBOs and local NGOs to be vanguards of local activism and engagement that links local policy, financing and accountability concerns to the national level platforms and processes.

UDN also leveraged advocacy for transparent and prudent acquisition and management of Aid resources (especially loans and grants) and moving towards sustainable debt that builds rather than undermines Uganda's economic development and socio-economic transformation to the various categories of citizens, especially the poor and marginalized men, women and youths.

UDN also greatly influenced the budget priorities for Uganda, including input to for FY 2021/22, and 2022 /23 budget processes; and more active participation as a member of the budget platform hosted by MoFPED. However modest, the cumulative efforts of UDN and partners cannot be underestimated as having contributed to improved accountability frameworks in Uganda and service delivery outcomes.

Finally, UDN pledges to do even better in the remaining years of the current strategic implementation period. Together we shall strive to achieve more and more of prudent management of public sector resources in Uganda for commensurate service delivery outcomes that befit the Rights holders.

Enjoy reading the report

BACKGROUND AND REPORT OVERVIEW

The year 2023 was the third in implementation of UDN's sixth Strategic Advocacy Programme and Plan (SAPP), 2021-2025. To this end, the report presents a summary of the contribution UDN made regarding her mission and Vision. Below are highlights one achievements during the year under review.

Organisational Sustainability and Resource Mobilisation:UDN Not only retained her pre-existing partners but continued to scale up her resource mobilization drive which resulted in 2 new partnership projects:

a.Increasing African voices to shape Special Drawing Rights agenda (Supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through AFRODAD

b.Improving Synergies Between Social Protection and Public Finance Management (Supported by UNICEF)

Influencing Public Policy and Programing: Continued to influence government's citizen centred planning and service delivery by taking a leading role in 34 conventional multi stakeholder budget and governance platforms

High Level Dialogues on Global Issues: UDN in partnership with AFRODAD convened the two High Level Multi Country African Conferences on debt and Development (AFODD II) – Kampala and Dakar – Senegal.

UDN Represented CSOs giving input to development of Uganda's Public Investment Management Strategy 2022 where UDN chairs the Sustainable Debt Cluster

Quality Research for Evidence Based Advocacy Published:

Conducted study on COVID and Non COVID Resources utilisation and published report for use in advocacy for better utilisation and access

Conducted study on Economic Policy for Uganda's Recovery: Focus On SDRs Public Debt and COVID-19 resources

Conducted a research study on Building gender sensitive and disability inclusive social protection systems. **Commanding Heights Strategy in DLG Capacity enhancement:** Trained 160 District officials from 8 Local Governments in a) Domestic Resource Mobilisation, and b) Budget Literacy with special focus on Social Protection programming and prioritisation.

Critical Mass Consciousness Reawakening: Supported partner CBOs in monitoring service delivery eliciting issues of concern and generating reports; Organized District Dialogues involving 137 stakeholders (19M, 46F) where monitoring reports on findings were discussed for further action. Involved were representatives of CBOs, CBMs, technocrats, LG officials.

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Complementing Government's Poverty Eradication Policies and Programmes: Using home grown Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation System (CBMES) model, UDN facilitated refresher trainings and Parish Development meetings / Sub-county / Budget conferences, LCIIIs LCV council meetings; 192 CBMS (113 M, 79F) were facilitated to participate in the meetings with key LG officials and were able to share on issues highlighted in monitoring reports.

Conducted a research study on financing trends towards child focussed sectors. Based on the report, 30 district councillors (6F, 24M) from Karamoja region (Napak, Moroto and Nabilatuk) were equipped with knowledge and skills in child centric budgeting and participation in the LG and National planning and budgeting processes, and ensuring the monies thus secured is used accountably and not stolen.

Government Adopted UDN Policy Proposals: Based on the study assessing the correlation between UPE financing through capitation grants and retention of pupils at school, UDN's proposal to increase Capitation Grant was taken. As a result, government confirmed increment of capitation grant from Ugx 17,000 to 20,000; learners with special needs allocated Ugx 2000 extra, effective July 2024. The challenge that remains is ensuring that the money thus fought for reaches the last mile of the children who constitute over 70% of Uganda's population.

PIMS: Made input to Uganda's Public Investment Management Strategy 2022 where UDN chairs the Sustainable Debt Cluster where UDN makes briefs on status of Uganda's Debt and how transparency, accountability and anticorruption are adhered to during implementation.

Visibility and Mass Media Leverage to reach over 100,000 people: UDN continued her media advocacy strategy including 52 weeklies, over 100 appearances in social print and electronic media appearances – oftentimes being called upon to give expert opinions on topical issues like debt, taxation, budget accountability and anti-corruption.

Production and dissemination of assorted IEC materials to various stakeholders at both local and national levels; They helped to sensitize citizens on Government programs, policies and social accountability concerns, hence calling upon everyone to ensure public resources are well utilised.

MISSION AND VISION



MISSION

**Sustainable Debt and
Equitable Development in
Uganda**

VISION

**To foster citizen-cantered
accountable management of
Public debt and other
Resources for equitable and
sustainable development in
Uganda**



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY IN 2024

Organisational Sustainability and Resource Mobilisation – had 2 new partners

Influencing Public Policy and Programing – 3 proposals adopted

Two High Level Dialogues on Global Issues *convened*

Quality Research for Evidence Based Advocacy – 5 Studies published

Open Budget Survey – Uganda Score soars, albeit slowly (47%)

Commanding Heights Strategy in DLG Capacity enhancement – 160 HODs Trained

Government Adopted UDN Policy Proposals - UPE Capitation Grant raised from 17k to 20k, 2k extra for PWDs

Complementing Government's Programmes – 137 Community PDM Monitors Trained

Visibility and Mass Media Leverage – Over 100,000 strong audience involved in our work

A photograph of a group of people walking through a hallway. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit and a woman in a patterned dress are walking towards the camera. Behind them, several other men are visible, some in suits and others in uniforms. A sign on the wall reads 'RWIZI' with an arrow pointing left. The hallway has a tiled floor and a drop ceiling.

PROGRAMME AREA 1: POLICY ANALYSIS AND GOVERNANCE

ADVOCACY FOR INCREASED CHILD CENTRIC FINANCING SUSTAINED

In an effort to replicate knowledge and skills in Budget literacy for child centric sub programs, budget literacy training was provided for 120 (16 female & 44male) district and youth councillors. This has progressively enabled them to participate in budget consultative processes at local and national level. As such, the trained councillors can articulate key child priorities and needs during council fora and budgeting conferences. In her advocacy for increased Child centric financing UDN conducted a research study on financing trends towards child centric sectors. The study elicited trends analysis of budget allocations and expenditures towards child centric sectors with case study of four districts Moroto, Gulu, Nabilatuk and Napak and national level.

KEY FINDINGS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE REPORT:

·Early Childhood Development Education (ECD), yet it is widely recognized as a critical period in children's physical, mental and psycho-social development.

Due to the absence of funding to ECD by the Government, for every shs 1,000 invested in Universal Primary Education (UPE), Government loses shs 600 because majority of the children have not accessed pre-primary education. This is due to the P1 class, mismanagement of text books by underage children, among others. Ref: <https://shorturl.at/mD27Z>

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for government to increase budget allocation to the Education sector to improve access and quality of education in the country be increased to at least 6% of GDP or 20%
- Need for MOES to urgently release the UGX 6.80bn and UGX 16.88bn that had been appropriated for aiding 28 Primary and 37 Secondary schools respectively in FY 2022/23.
- MoFPED and MoES should enhance allocations to the Inspectorate function should deliberately invest in financing ECD and Special needs education at local government levels to increase access to education by children with special needs



UDN engagement with MOES at Silver Spoon Cafe Wandegeya – Kampala. Front: Asst. Commissioner Mr. Kokoole Eric & Senior Policy Analyst Mr. Labeja Alvin



UDN's PM Esther Mufumba presents to MoES a report on community schools / ABEK centres schools due for government Coding

IMPACT OF UDN'S CHILD CENTRIC FINANCING ADVOCACY

Out of the seven UDN's policy proposals submitted in 2021 for the National School Feeding Policy, Ministry of Education adopted two: (a) promoting school gardening and (b) community commercial producer groups supply to adjacent primary schools for a sustainable school feeding and nutrition programme. UDN will continue to engage with MOES in developing interim messages on school feeding and verification of ABEK (Community) schools for government coding and aiding; and to ensure that the policy is fully operationalized.

Three National level engagement meetings were held with policy makers, focussing on crucial components of following up on rejuvenation of School feeding programmes in Karamoja and Acholi; Coding of community schools to enable them access government support programmes; and other aspects of Child support in the overarching Social Protection realm.



Promising Trends in Child Centric Financing in Uganda



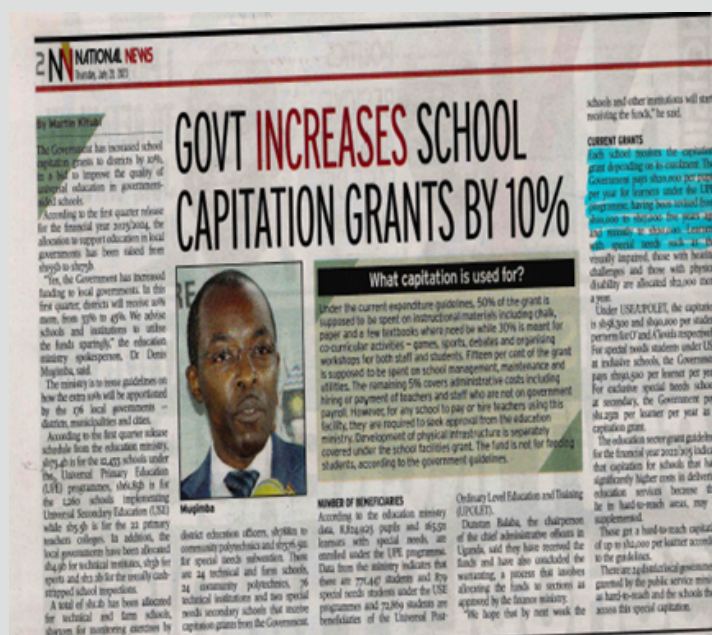
Case study of Moroto, Gulu, Nabilatuk and Napak District

September 2023

FIGURE 2: SUCCESS STORY UDN'S CHILD CENTRIC FINANCING ADVOCACY CONCERNS ACKNOWLEDGED

As a result of advocacy Initiatives under UPE, there was an increment in School capitation grant in UPE effective FY 2023/24. In 2021 UDN undertook a research study to assess the correlation between UPE financing through capitation grants and retention of pupils at school, sampling period between FY 2016/17 and FY 2020/21. From the research findings, UDN proposed to Government of Uganda to increase Capitation Grant from Ugx 13,000 to about Ugx 20,000 per capita by end of Financial Year 2022/23, under UPE program financing. To that effect, from 1st July 2023, government confirmed increment of capitation grant from Ugx 17,000 to 20,000 and learners with special needs allocated more Ugx 2000.

"One of UDN's successful advocacy has been the increase in school capitation grant. It has been a long journey for government to increase the funds and we are glad that there is an increase" Ms. Joyce Lanyo, Amuru District Education Officer.



Newspaper clip reporting on Government commitment to increase capitation grant - New Vision, 20th July 2023

UDN staff interacting with Amuru District Education Officer Ms. Joyce Lanyo during M&E outreach

BUDGET TRANSPARENCY & INCLUSIVITY

OPERATIONALIZING THE "LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND" AGENDA

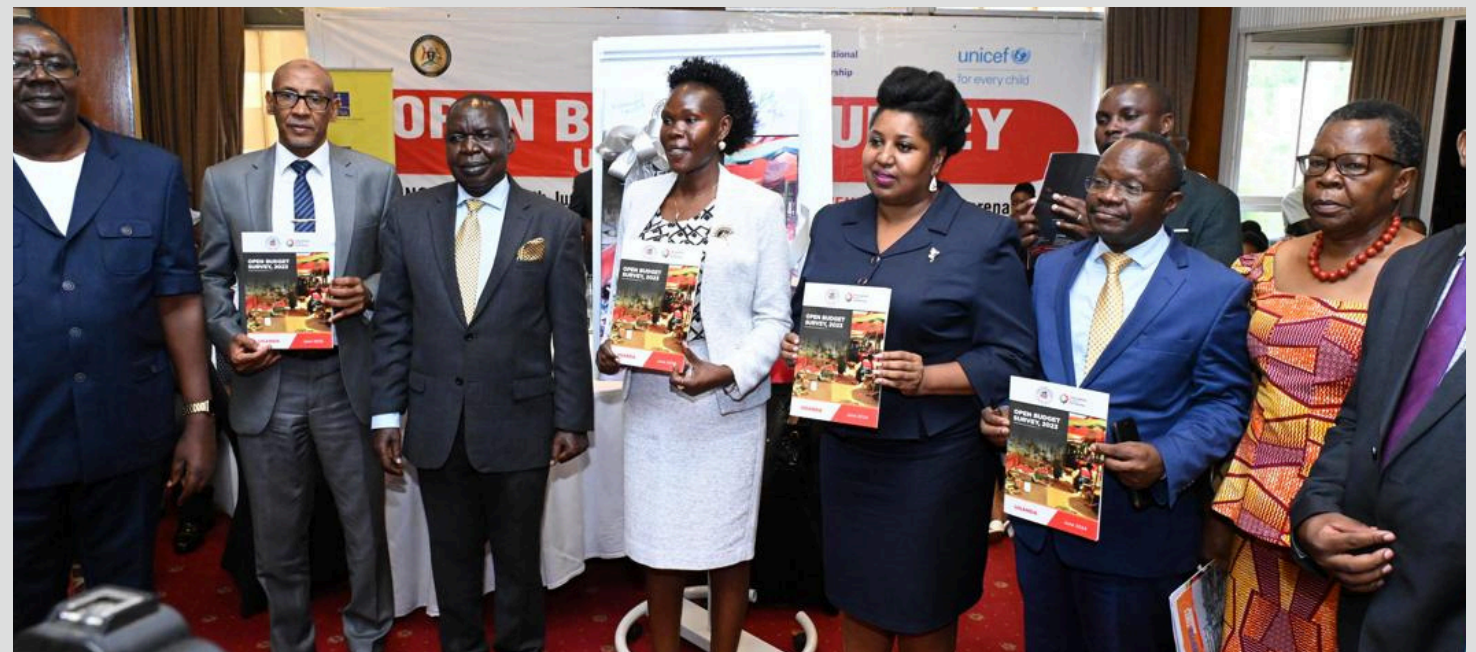
In a landmark achievement for fiscal inclusivity, UDN, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance (MoFPED), UNICEF, and the Uganda Association of the Blind, produced and launched the Braille and Audio-Visual Citizen's Guide to the Budget. Recognizing that financial literacy was inaccessible to the visually impaired, UDN translated the FY 2023/24 budget deliverables into accessible formats. This was launched in April 2024, fulfilling a critical pledge made during the previous National Budget Month. Approximately 2.5 million Ugandans with visual and hearing impairments gained the tools necessary to scrutinize government resource allocation independently for the first time.



Brendah Khasalamwa, a braille proof reader with Uganda National Association of the blind demonstrating how to use the braille version of the Citizen Guide to the budget.

GLOBAL BENCHMARKING: THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY (OBS) 2023

IUDN spearheaded the national release of the Open Budget Survey 2023. As the local partner for the International Budget Partnership (IBP), UDN convened high-level government officials, including the State Minister for Finance, Hon. Evelyn Anite, to review Uganda's global standing on budget transparency. The organization utilized the survey findings to lobby for the timely publication of in-year execution reports, arguing that transparency is moot without timeliness. Secured a public commitment from the Ministry of Finance to address the "transparency gaps" in infrastructure project reporting



STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT ON PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

UDN convened a high-level workshop bringing together Members of Parliament from the Budget, Finance, and related committees to enhance legislative oversight on public finance governance. The engagement enabled lawmakers to interrogate debt trends, national budget priorities, and emerging fiscal risks. UDN provided evidence-based analysis calling for prudent borrowing and improved alignment of budget allocations with national development priorities. The workshop reaffirmed UDN's position as a trusted technical partner supporting Parliament to uphold transparency and accountability.

Key Outcomes

- Legislators engaged in in-depth debate on fiscal risks and debt sustainability.
- Strengthened relationships with Parliament's accountability committees.
- Elevated UDN's evidence as a central reference point in fiscal oversight.



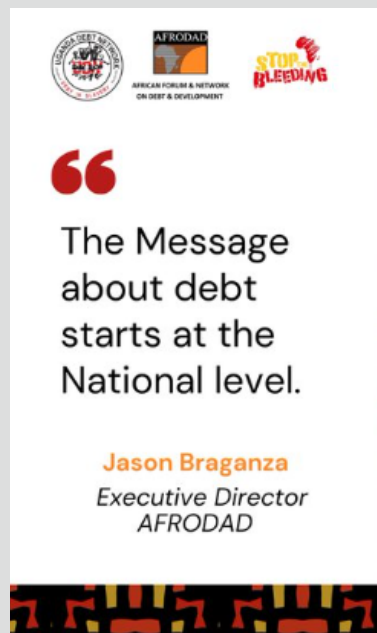
Participants for "The review of the key budget documents necessary for OBS improved performance workshop" at Impreal Royale Resort Hotel Entebbe



DEBT MANAGEMENT & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

"VOICES OF THE INDEBTED": HUMANIZING THE DEBT CRISIS

Moving the debt debate from boardrooms to the grassroots, UDN produced and premiered a documentary titled **"Voices of the Indebted"**. The organization conducted field research in Kamuli District, capturing the direct correlation between rising debt servicing costs and the deterioration of local service delivery. This evidence was presented at a National Advocacy Meeting to counter the narrative that debt is purely a macroeconomic issue. The documentary successfully lobbied stakeholders to adopt the "Stop the Bleeding" campaign principles, linking debt relief directly to the quality of health and education in rural areas.



Some of the media appearances where UDN gave expert input to Pre- and Post-Budget national discourse



THE CONTINENTAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC DEBT DISCOURSE



The third African Conference on Debt and Development (AFCODD II) was convened in partnership with AFRODAD under the 4R theme “Re-imagining, Rethinking, Reorganizing, and Remobilizing the Global Financing Architecture”. The hybrid conference brought together 65 (38 males and 27 female) participants physically while 87 attended virtually – that is Members of Parliament, Ministries, Agencies and Departments, CSOs, media and academia from 8 countries. The conference provided a rich platform to discuss core challenges arising from the management of public finances that is public Debt, local revenue, SDRs among others in Uganda.

Following the Kampala AFCoD II, UDN in collaboration with regional like-minded CSOs held the Continental AFCODD III session in Dakar under the theme “The 4Rs for Africa Rule-Maker”. At this platform, UDN shared Uganda’s public debt and US\$491.5m SDR utilisation to boost her reserves and budget support under the Health, Education, water and sanitation sub programs in FY 2022/23. Countries represented included, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana.



THE CONTINENTAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC DEBT DISCOURSE

A comprehensive research was conducted, entitled Economic Policy for Uganda's Recovery: A Focus On Special Drawing Rights, Public Debt and Covid-19. The study brought out the following advocacy issues.

The SDR allocation of 2021 was beneficial for the global economy. It helped meet the long-term global need for reserves as well as support fiscal and external needs, including needs related to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, management of Uganda's debt policies faced notable challenges, hence the country faced a sharp decline in revenue due to economic disruptions, increased healthcare expenditures, and reduced economic activity.

To address the impacts of the pandemic, Ugandan received funds from various external sources, including international financial institutions and bilateral partners. Over 98% of Uganda's COVID-19 response funds came from the IMF, World Bank, PTA Bank and Stanbic Bank. The notable challenges and irregularities in Transparency, accountability for COVID recovery funds[2] which were castigated by CSOs and media[3] are highlighted in the callout 1 below.

Some best practices (quite similar to situations in Countries like Mexico and Argentina) were recommended regarding implementation and optimization of benefits from SDRs, contributing to sustainable development and economic stability (Callout 2).

- *Absence of established clear guidelines and procedures for the allocation, disbursement, and management of COVID-19 funds.*
- *Absence of parliament in implementation of COVID initiatives*
- *Gaps in the debt management policies especially regarding Uganda's forex reserves and future SDR holding*
- *Limited Integration of SDRs into Monetary and Fiscal Policies*

- *Adherence to transparency, accountability, and targeted use.*
- *Transparent and accountable allocation especially targeting social service sectors*
- *Engage with IFIs for Capacity building and technical assistance*
- *Collaboration, coordination and experience sharing among global south economies in utilization of SDRs*
- *Instituting robust monitoring,*

The Report concluded that by leveraging SDRs and addressing the impact of COVID-19, Uganda can navigate its way towards sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, and the attainment of its development goals in the post-pandemic era.

DEEPENING KNOWLEDGE ON SDRS AND THEIR RAMIFICATIONS ON DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

Following the launch of SRD study, a workshop was organised for 32 CSO Representatives to equip them with deeper understanding on complexities of debt issues and harnessing SDR allocations as sustainable financing options for EAC. Relatedly, a total of 106 stakeholders from Government Ministries, Development Agencies, CSOs, Academia development partners and media were engaged through capacity building sessions, round table discussions on SDR utilization, rechannelling Public debt management. Position papers emanating from these discourses continue to serve as a basis for seeking suitable SDR options by Uganda as a country.



PUBLIC DEBT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (PDMF) POLICY STRENGTHENED

As a build-up on a series of sustainable Public Debt initiatives, 4 policy engagement workshops were organized to review the 2018 Public Debt Management Framework (PDMF). Ultimately a CSO[1] position paper was generated with 11 proposals for input to the new PDMF.

Ref: <https://archive.finance.go.ug/content/public-debt-management-framework>



Meeting to develop joint CSO Position paper on PDMF at Hotel Africana – 26th July, 2023



CSO Retreat over 2023–24 BFP at Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe



UDN Team meet IMF's Ms. Izabella Karpowicz to discuss Uganda's Public Debt Ramifications



UDN and SEATINI were hosted on Smart TV to discuss ramifications of World Bank's suspension of AID to Uganda over Anti Homosexuality Act. Right: A press conference was held on the same hot topic with CSBAG



SOCIAL SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY

CHAMPIONING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY



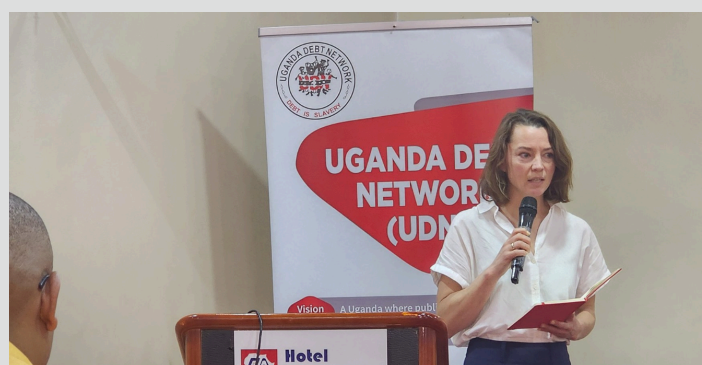
UDN's Executive Director Patrick Tumwebaze (in white) attending the Southern - Led CSO Global Meeting on Debt held in Bogotá - Colombia



UDN, working alongside the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), achieved a significant policy win regarding child welfare and education retention. Leveraging World Bank data indicating a potential 29% increase in enrollment due to school meals, UDN engaged the media and parliamentarians to push for a state-funded feeding program. The Government of Uganda committed to rolling out a Nationwide School Feeding Program by 2026, a direct contribution to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 4 (Quality Education).

CHILD-CENTRIC BUDGETING IN KARAMOJA AND ACHOLI SUB REGION

UDN concluded an extensive study on budget responsiveness to child rights in the sub-regions of Acholi and Karamoja (specifically Amuru, Nakapiripirit, Omoro, Kotido, and Nabilatuk districts). The organization convened district planners and LCV chairpersons to validate findings that exposed severe gaps in funding for child protection services. Produced a validated "Call to Action" policy paper used to lobby the Parliamentary Budget Committee for ring-fenced funds for child welfare in the FY 2025/26 budget.



GLOBAL INFLUENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

SOUTHERN - LED CSO GLOBAL MEETING ON DEBT IN COLOMBIA

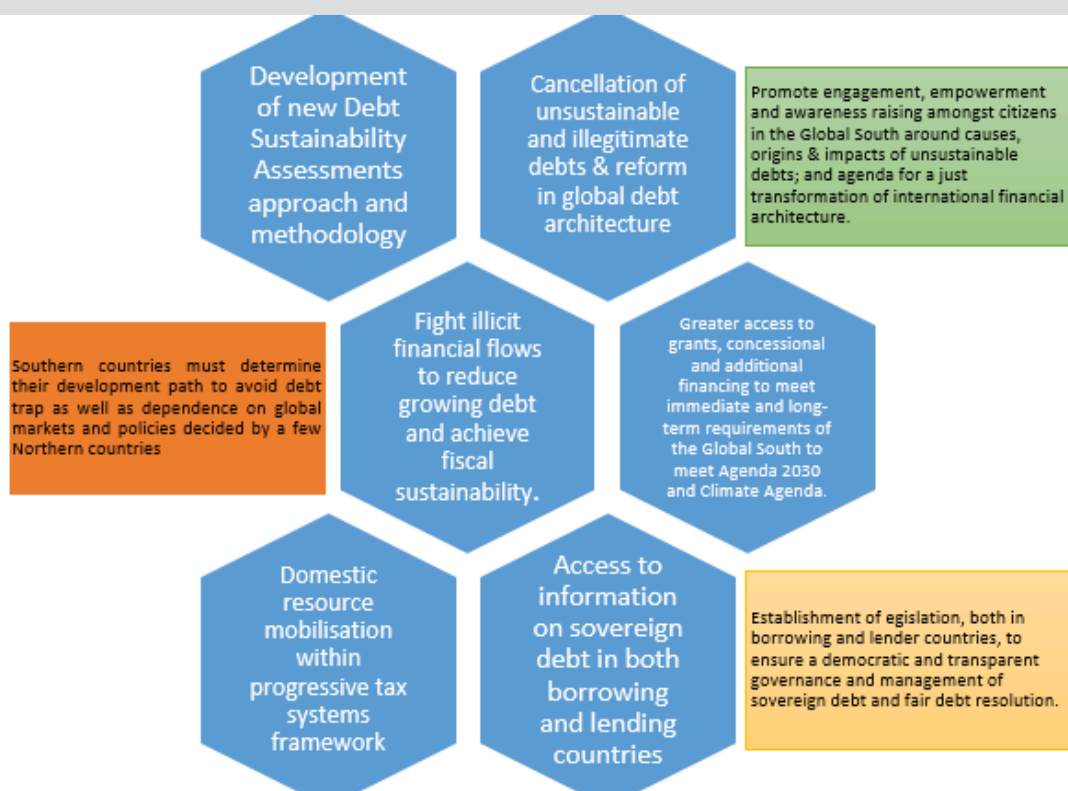


UDN's Executive Director Patrick Tumwebaze (in white) attending the Southern - Led CSO Global Meeting on Debt held in Bogotá - Colombia



UDN with 70 experts and activists from civil society organizations, social movements, and networks across the globe held a Southern - Led CSO Global Meeting on Debt. The meeting addressed issues rising trend burden on of southern country economies; ever-growing list of countries defaulting; vicious circle that prioritises debt servicing over other urgent needs and vulnerabilities such as social protection, health, education, and climate; asymmetries between North and South, and between creditors and debtors within the framework of a financial architecture that favours the most developed countries; and social movements that work for justice within the debt architecture.

COMMUNIQUE FROM SOUTHERN - LED CSO GLOBAL MEETING ON DEBT HELD IN BOGOTÁ - COLOMBIA



Detailed Communique here: <https://latindadd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/outcome-document.pdf>

PROGRAM AREA 2: CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT AND ENGAGEMENT



COMMANDING HEIGHTS STRATEGY IN DLG CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

Trainings were facilitated for 163 (76F; 87M) District officials from 8 Local Governments[1] focusing on Domestic Resource Mobilisation, and b) Budget Literacy with special focus on Social Protection programming and prioritisation. The officials included CAOs, Planners, Finance Officers, Community Development Officers LCV Chairpersons, and Councillors. This enhanced increased awareness and prioritisation of social protection financing in the budget system and process for governance and all major policy areas; generating and developing District Resource Mobilization Plans; identification of additional / potential revenue sources to supplement recurrent Social Protection Financing sources; mainstreaming and sustenance of Social Protection financing within their jurisdiction.



Social Protection Budget Literacy and Resource Mobilisation Trainings for LG Officials

SOCIAL PROTECTION FINANCING CALLS GAIN TRACTION

MPs Engaged in Social Protection fact finding District Outreaches

Key National policy makers (drawn from MGLSD, MoFPED, Parliament of Uganda, NPA and OPM) were facilitated to traverse 8 selected District and establish the status, challenges opportunities for strengthening Social Protection service delivery in local governments. That is Napak, Moroto, Kapelebyong, Kiryandongo, Kamwenge, Tororo, Kamuli and Isingiro. This was followed by a climax national validation convention to collate findings and input to SP policy strengthening.

The resultant high level dialogue focused on reporting on the status of investment in social protection systems, aspirations for universal social protection coverage in Uganda.



Hon. Sylvia Bahairera addresses Social Protection focussed LG officials meeting in Kamwenge

UNICEF Uganda country director Dr. Munir and Makerere University Chancellor Prof Suruma addresses on social protection



HIGH LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER AND DISABILITY INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN UGANDA



Gender Labour & Social Development Minister Hon. Betty Amongi
Officiated at the High Level Forum on Social Protection

Two CSO position papers on Health financing were generated from the study report and presented to relevant Parliamentary Committees (Gender, Labour & Social Development committee and the health Committee). Out of the 7 CSO recommendations one was taken on and reflected in the FY 2023/24 national budget. The CSOs partnership was vital in building synergies to generate evidence that informed engagements with policy makers and ultimately, uptake of some CSO recommendations in the FY 2023/24 budget. The Members of Parliament committed to introduce a supplementary budget for community based services which finances social protection service delivery in the Local Governments, yet was scraped off in the FY2023/24 budget

A hybrid symposium was organized focusing on the theme Building Gender-Sensitive and Disability-Inclusive SP Systems in Uganda. Attended by 92 decision makers (72 from National and 16 sub National level) this symposium was premised on the research report on the state of social protection financing in Uganda – positive developments and existing gaps. The national Social Protection policy was appreciated as a good guiding tool, and implementation challenges were highlighted and most revolved around inadequate financing.

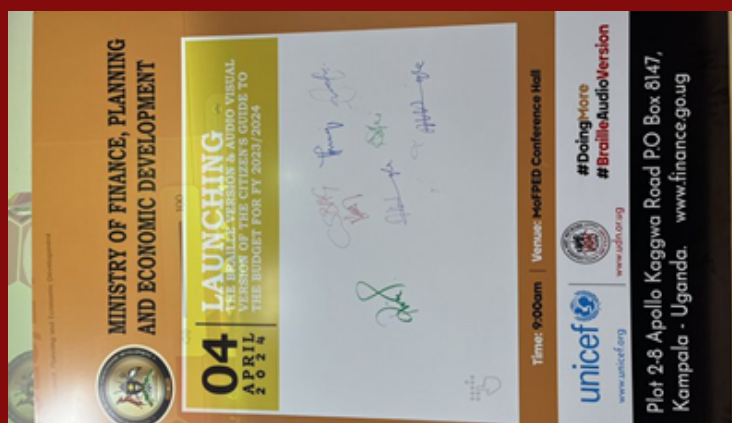
The 80-year threshold for accessing Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) was deemed high, requiring revision, especially for disadvantaged communities. Government (MGLSD) committed to lower the threshold for persons with disabilities accessing SAGE grants to 60 years in view of the numerous risks and challenges that they face.



Gender Labour & Social Development Minister Hon. Betty Amongi
Officiated at the High Level Forum on Social Protection



Ms. Brendah Khasalamwa, a Braille Proof Reader with Uganda National Association of the blind demonstrates how to use the braille version of the Citizen Guide to the budget at its launch



PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY IN NATIONAL BUDGET PROCESSES

Considering that Uganda had ranked 43 of 120 countries in the 2021 Open Budget Survey (OBS) Report, UDN spearheaded processes of collaborating with government to improve performance in the next Bi-Annual OBS report of 2023.

UDN thus held a follow up meetings with the MoFPED and Parliamentary Budget Office over implementation of recommendations from the 2021 Open Budget Survey (OBS) Report. During the meeting, Ministry of Finance reiterated their pledge to strengthen the 3 key OBS areas of Transparency in all Budget Processes Namely Increased Public Participation; Oversight Institutions (parliament and Auditor General) and Transparency. UDN in collaboration with International Budget partnership started the 2023 Open Budget Survey consultation process.

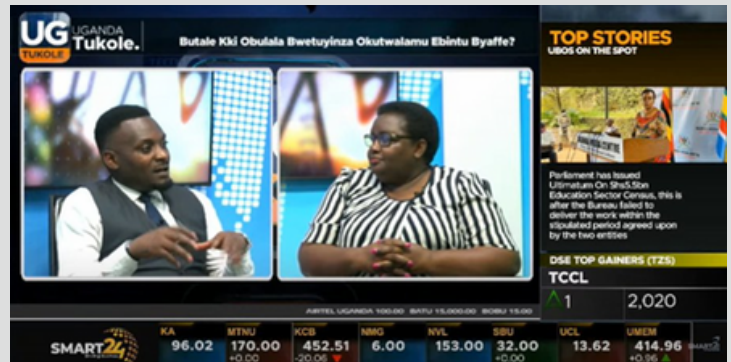


PROGRAMME AREA 3: INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANISATIONAL SUSTENANCE

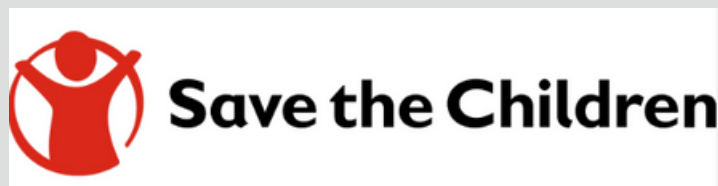
The 5 year UDN Save the children in Uganda (SciU) partnership came to a close and preparation started for the successor NORAD intervention. There was a SciU led comprehensive assessment covering all policy and programming aspects of the organization. Through this Core Operational Safeguarding Activities (COSA) Assessment exercise UDN was found to be highly credible in terms of Child Safeguarding capabilities for continued partnership.

MEDIA APPEARANCES



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FOR THE YEAR 2023

UDN has had various development partners and networks. The following DPs gave direct Financial Contribution for UDNs work during the reporting period



FINANCIAL REPORT

Uganda Debt Network

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023

	Fully performing	Past due but not impaired	Past due & impaired	Total
	UGX	UGX	UGX	UGX
31-Dec-23				
Debtors and Prepayment	10,000,000	-	-	10,000,000
Cash and bank	152,079,804	-	-	152,079,804
Total	162,079,804	-	-	162,079,804
31-Dec-22				
Debtors and Prepayment	-	-	-	-
Cash and bank	84,993,500	-	-	84,993,500
Total	84,993,500	-	-	84,993,500

The maximum exposure of the UDN to credit risk as at the statement of financial position date is as follows;

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Organisation will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Board of Directors have not developed a risk management framework for the management of the Organisation's short, medium, and long-term liquidity requirements.

The table below summarizes the maturity analysis for financial liabilities to their remaining contractual maturities. The amount disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

	Fully performing	Between 1-3 month	Over 12 months	Total
31-Dec-23				
Accruals and Payables	33,017,190	-	296,356,076	329,373,266
Bank loan	198,577,422	-	-	198,577,422
Total	231,594,612	-	296,356,076	527,950,688
31-Dec-22				
Accruals and Payables	119,346,698	-	296,356,076	415,702,774
Bank loan	88,280,346	-	99,550,176	187,830,522
Total	207,627,044	-	395,906,252	603,533,296

3. Grant Income

	2023 UGX	2022 UGX
Dan Church Aid	106,911,713	263,373,373
Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)	-	143,329,727
Save the Children -Norway	230,000,240	257,704,533
International budget policy project	18,400,000	-
AFRODAD	366,935,763	35,999,011
TDDAP	-	2,686,000
UNICEF	823,217,414	317,205,706
NDI	-	220,995,040
IBP - Advocacy on OBI 2008	-	27,202,560
Total	1,545,465,130	1,268,495,950

FINANCIAL REPORT

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023

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TEAM EXPERTISE



**Patrick
Tumwebaze**

Executive Director



**Christine
Byiringiro**
Program
Manager (PAG)



**Peace
Namboze**
Finance & Admin
Manager



**Gilbert
Musinguzi**
Quality Assurance
Manager



Esther Mufumba
Program -Officer
(CEE)



**Jenice
Ishimimaana**
M & E/Communications
Officer



Grace Kobusingye
Program Assistant
(CEE)



Tumuhe Hilda
Research
Associate

TEAM EXPERTISE



George Matovu

Driver



Ronah Ninsiima

Accounts
Assistant



Kenneth Okello

IT Consultant



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www.udn.or.ug



info@udn.or.ug



[@ugandadebnet](https://www.instagram.com/ugandadebnet)