



Weekly Edition

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INVESTING IN SCHOOL GARDENS IN UGANDA ADVANCES SDGS

1. PREAMBLE

Globally, under the 17 Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), SDG 2 on Zero Hunger impresses upon us to, “End Hunger, Achieve food security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture”. The dawn of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic since 2019 has, inter alia, contributed to the stunting and wasting among children (see: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2>).

Anchoring SDG 17 on Partnerships, Uganda Debt Network invites every stakeholder to renewed momentum to food security, so that the plight of health and academic conditions of the children do not, probably, worsen.

2. FUNCTIONAL SCHOOL GARDENS IN UGANDA MATTER FOR SDGS 2 AND 17

Uganda Debt Network (UDN) recalls that the financing for Universal Primary Education (UPE) Program in Uganda is rooted in the debt relief efforts, then under the global Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative coordinated by International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group from 1996 through 2000s. Uganda was the first country in the world to qualify for the HIPC. UDN was at the centre of this global HIPC call and cause. To-date, UDN contends that such a great program as UPE can be improved, for better children’s education outcomes and also worthwhile human capital development dividend.

One of the strategies to achieving the above ambition is through financing for functionality of school gardens. The national budgets and programs can invigorate support for school feeding and obtaining quality education results. In Uganda, Sections 4 and 5 of the Education Act stipulate that provision of Education and training to the children shall be a joint responsibility of the State and stakeholders. This is even more compelling under the COVID-19 context, given an erosion of household livelihoods where children hail from.

UDN appreciates support by: UDN Membership; [DCA](#); [Save the Children in Uganda](#); [OSIEA](#), [Inspectorate of Government](#); [IBP](#), [Trocaire](#) and [DGF](#).

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3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) In the spirit of SDGs 2 and 17 as well as the Education Act and other national development frameworks, the Government of Uganda, Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Development Partners should, invest more in opening up School gardens to provide the children with food while at school and develop children’s potential.
- 2) Through Uganda’s Education Strategic Investment Plan (ESIP), the National budgets, policy and programming should be more linked and mutually reinforcing to opening up school gardens, upon which to invigorate school feeding and obtaining quality education results, against COVID-19.

UDN contends that together we can improve delivery of Universal Primary Education through Partnerships and Budget resources to finance the opening up school gardens in Uganda.



ABOVE: Pupils from different schools who auditioned the UDN Infomercial. (Left Photo) Amanyang Stephen, P4 class, (Right photo) Aine Melissa, P7 class.

To watch the UDN advocacy message on opening up school gardens, please click on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/gWMSBJMqvwA>



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