

INCREASED UPE FINANCING STILL CRITICAL FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA

1. PREAMBLE

The introduction of UPE program in Uganda in 1997 was one of the strategic interventions towards improved education and human development endeavors.

UPE has contributed to having Uganda's literacy levels increase from 43% in 1997 to 76% in 2018. Even numerically, UPE enabled enrollment of children from 3.1 million in 1997 to 7.4 million in 2010 and 10.7 million pupils in 2019.



ABOVE: Pupils of Uganda School of the deaf, giving a presentation on children's rights during the UDN national stakeholders conference on UPE capitation financing in December 2020.

2. MORE FINANCING STILL CRITICAL



Picture taken during one of the UDN monitoring visits at Acomai Primary School, in Amuria district.

There is need to re-energize momentum for improved UPE performance in the broader human development imperative. One key intervention that still faces challenges in this regard is the limited financing under the Capitation Grant.

While Capitation Grant was at Shs 7000 in 1997, it came to Shs 13,000 in 2019. This pupil per capita expenditure remains way below what is duly required at current market prices, to enable a child through the primary education cycle in Uganda.

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. RECOMMENDATION

- 1)UDN invites the Members of Parliament during this process/ phase of scrutinizing the National Budget Framework Paper to provide for increased Capitation Grant from the current Shs 13,000 to at least Shs 20,000 per capita, for improved UPE program financing and outcomes.
- 2)Ministry of Education and Sports still has an opportunity to provide for increased Capitation Grant from the current Shs 13,000 to at least Shs 20,000 per capita, under the Education Sector's Budget and Ministerial Policy Statement of the Ministry.

4. CONCLUSION

In spite of challenges, Uganda has achieved a lot in Human development, through Universal Primary school under the UPE program. A little more financing will get the country even better socio-economic dividend as the country implements the Annual Fiscal priorities, Vision 2040 and Sustainable Development Goals.



Right photo: UDN's ED, Mr Patrick Tumwebaze making remarks during the National stakeholders conference on UPE capitation financing in December 2020, left photo: are some of the participants.

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