

REFLECTING ON THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY PROCESS

1. INTRODUCTION

UDN in partnership with International Budget Partnership (IBP) organized a meeting to discuss an action plan to prepare Uganda to have a better score in the next round of OBS survey on 30th August, 2022 at Golf Course Hotel in Kampala. The 2021, the OBS assessment exercise covered over 120 countries, on 12th July 2022, UDN in partnership with UNICEF Uganda, IBP and MoFPED, alongside National budget month partners launched the OBS assessment report for Uganda on 12th July, 2022 at (MoFPED) Conference Hall and Uganda's Minister for Finance, Hon. Matia Kasaija presided over the function.



L-R: Ms Laura Castillo, (Program Officer, IBP), Mr Julius Mkunda (ED, CSBAG), Mr Julius Kapwepwe (DOP, UDN), panelists at the post open budget survey planning meeting.

2. KEY TAKE A WAYS FOR PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT IN OBS SCORE FOR UGANDA.

Whereas the OBS 2021 results show that there is some improvement in the budget oversight, public participation and transparency have been declining over the years.



Ms Imelda Namagga (Economist) said, open budgeting is very essential and called upon MoFPED, legislature and other line ministries to include information on Debt resources, rather than citizen's knowing about what government has borrowed, a parliamentary report.



Ms. Josephine Nakitto from (MoFPED) further mentioned that Uganda's score on budget transparency is low because the information is not published in a timely manner. She says the timely release of information will increase scores.

UDN appreciates support by: UDN Membership; [DCA](#); [Save the Children in Uganda](#); [UNICEF OSIEA](#), [IBP](#), [Inspectorate of Government](#); [TDDAP](#) and [NDI](#), among others.

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With Uganda's Public Participation score—19 out of 100, Ms Laura Castillo, (Program Officer, IBP) said that linking OBS ratings to service delivery and ownership of government programmes will lead to improvement in the Open Budget Survey (OBS) and can only be done through coordination between ministries.



Considering that MoFPED uploads budget documents on their website, UDN's Julius Kapwepwe advocated for an evaluation on the number of people who access online service especially those that provide viable information on the budget. He then called upon Government to lower data tariffs with steady internet & smart phone penetration to increase the number of citizens who access internet.



Ms Fariya Mohiuddin (Senior Program Officer, IBP) called for the creation of Spaces for dialogue among civil society actors and citizens needs as well as continuously sensitizing communities about the planning and budgeting cycle.



Mr. Tawanda Chimembiri noted that UNICEF as an organization will continue to show support for the MoFPED and Civil Society Organizations as a way of creating a well functioning system that contributes to an efficient use of public resources that benefit all citizens especially children.

In his closing remarks, Mr Julius Mukunda, ED, CSBAG stipulated the need for a report with a road map and matrix that highlights performance and that would help improve the OBS score.



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