

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME AS A NEXUS OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN UGANDA

1. INTRODUCTION

There has been considerable concern for some time in regards to poor feeding of learners in school most especially those in government sponsored institutions that is both UPE and USE. This has in turn affected their ability to perform well academically.

Uganda Debt Network, in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Sports and Save the Children Uganda, convened a dialogue at Hotel Africana focusing on:

1. **Possible causes of schools' inability to adequately provide meals for their students.**
2. **Potential remedies and redress mechanisms for school feeding related inadequacies.**



2. IMPLICATIONS OF ABSENCE OF SCHOOL FEEDING IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM



Above: UDN's Jenice Ishimimana, giving a presentation during the school feeding meeting at Hotel Africana on 9th September 2022.

Based on UDN's fieldwork research that was carried out in selected UPE schools in the sub-regions of Karamoja (in Nabilatuk and Moroto districts) and Acholi (Amuru, Gulu and Nwoya districts), it was discovered that 66% of learners attend classes hungry because of lack of access to meals even with land being readily available which is not utilized to carry out gardening. Due to poor feeding, children are seen to be anaemic and struggle to progress in their academic studies. This situation at hand calls for political leaders and school governing bodies to institute bye - laws that can facilitate stakeholders to play their part in upholding school feeding programmes.

To demonstrate how effective school feeding programmes are part of the magic bullet, government structures that were supported to help deliver nutrition services using a multi-sectoral approach in 15 districts of northern Uganda under the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) resulted in children who dropped out returning to school, while some pupils from the surrounding schools have also joined because of this incentive.

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

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Gilbert Musinguzi - gsuminguzi@udn.or.ug; Priscilla Naisanga- communications@udn.or.ug

3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS SCHOOL FEEDING RELATED INADEQUACIES.

- 1) There should be a multi-sectoral approach that allows districts to tackle nutrition challenges in communities and schools as cross-cutting issues that require all sectors to work together.
- 2) Sensitization of parents should be made a priority especially when it comes to changing their attitudes to support government programmes that seek to implement access to food and how this would improve their overall performance in school.
- 3) As we await the long-in-coming school feeding policy, districts should prioritize provision of farming implements like hoes, seeds, etc, coupled with revitalization of practical agriculture as part of basic school curriculum to promote Sustainable School Gardening.
- 4) Community Commercial Producer Groups (CCPGs) should also be considered to help enhance Uganda's domestic market for maize, beans and cassava.
- 5) A multi stakeholder consultative meeting should be held to agree on mechanisms for fast tracking the finalization of the government school feeding policy, and its urgent implementation, with attendant milestones.

4. CONCLUSION

If we do not address the question of school feeding which has been proved to be a king pin of public primary and secondary school system, Uganda's future may be bleak, going by what Malcolm X said: ***"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."***



Above: Mr. Cleophas Mugenyi (Commissioner, MoES) making a few remarks regarding the issue of school feeding at the meeting.



UDN together with media documenting Early Child Development learning (ECD) in the hills of Kakingol parish, Katikikile sub county Moroto district. In the pictures are some of the learners during a class session .

Please visit/ talk to us at; Uganda Debt Network ,
P.O. Box 21509, Kampala -Uganda,
Plot 153/155 Ntinda—Nakawa Road , Tel +256-414-533840/
543974

Website: www.udn.or.ug

