

STRIDES IN ENHANCING BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INTRODUCTION



Participants

In a significant move towards fiscal openness and accountability, Uganda Debt Network in Partnership with UNICEF Uganda recently held a crucial workshop titled "Exploring The Comprehensiveness of Key Budget Documents." The event, which took place on July 23-24, 2024, at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe, brought together key stakeholders to assess and improve the country's budget transparency practices.



Group Discussions on the Indicators where Uganda underscored in the 3 parameters come up with strategies to improve the scores next year.

Uganda Debt Network (UDN), in collaboration with the International Budget Partnership (IBP), the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFPED), the Parliamentary Budget Office, and the Office of the Auditor General, spearheaded this initiative. Supported by UNICEF, the workshop built upon progress made since

2002 in promoting citizen engagement in Uganda's budget processes. Central to the discussions was Uganda's performance in the 2023 Open Budget Survey (OBS), which assesses countries worldwide on budget transparency, public participation, and oversight. Participants critically examined the country's scores, identifying both achievements and areas requiring improvement. Over the two-day event, attendees focused on three key areas:

Transparency: The workshop reviewed key indicators from the OBS, pinpointing strengths and

weaknesses in the comprehensiveness of Uganda's budget documents. Strategies were developed to enhance the accessibility and clarity of fiscal information.

Public Participation: Participants explored innovative mechanisms to strengthen citizen involvement in Uganda's budget processes. They addressed existing challenges and proposed solutions to make public engagement more meaningful and inclusive.

Oversight: The role of legislators and auditors in maintaining fiscal integrity was thoroughly assessed. Recommendations were made to bolster their capabilities, ensuring more effective monitoring of budget execution. A significant outcome of the workshop was the development of an action plan aimed at improving Uganda's score in the upcoming 2025 OBS.

This plan outlines concrete strategies to address weaknesses identified in the 2023 survey, promote comprehensive budget information disclosure, and institutionalize sustainable accountability reforms.

The Executive Director of UDN Mr. Patrick Tumwebaze (*in picture*) emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating, "This workshop marks a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to ensure that every Ugandan citizen has the opportunity to understand and influ-



Closing Remarks by Mr. Kintu Godfrey representing the Parliamentary Budget Office

ence our nation's fiscal decisions."

Building on UDN's long-standing commitment to budget advocacy since 1996, this event represents another milestone in Uganda's journey towards greater fiscal openness. Previous efforts have already yielded significant results, including the establishment of the Budget website by MoFPED and the Budget Transparency Initiative.

As the workshop concluded, participants expressed optimism about the future of budget transparency in Uganda. With renewed commitment from policymakers, civil society organizations, and international partners, Uganda is poised to make substantial progress in transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance in its financial management practices.

The success of this workshop sets a positive tone for Uganda's fiscal future, promising a more open, participatory, and accountable budgeting process for all citizens.

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

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Gilbert Musinguzi- gsuminguzi@udn.or.ug; Ishimimaana Jenice- communications@udn.or.ug

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

