



REVISITING PRIORITIES: CHILD-CENTRIC BUDGETING FOR FY2023/24 AND BEYOND"



Opening Remarks by the UDN's Executive Director Mr. Patrick Tumwebaze

On November 12, 2024, Uganda Debt Network (UDN), with support from Save the Children Uganda (SCI), hosted a validation workshop at Hotel Africana, Kampala. This workshop focused on reviewing and analyzing national and local government budgets for FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25 to assess their responsiveness to child-centric sectors. Key stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance, local government planners, and parliamentarians, participated in the event.

Background

UDN, under its five-year project **"Advocacy for Increased Public Investment in Child-Centric Sectors in Uganda"**, seeks to enhance public funding and government responsiveness in sectors such as health, education, and social protection. This workshop was a culmination of an extensive study covering five districts: Amuru, Nakapiripirit, Omoro, Kotido, and Nabilatuk. The study aimed to evaluate how effectively government budgets address child rights related to survival, development, protection, and participation.

Key Objectives

The workshop centered on reviewing budget allocations, analyzing trends, and identifying critical gaps and opportunities for advocacy. Specific emphasis was placed on cross-cutting issues such as disability inclusion and climate change adaptation. The goal was to propose strategies for increased investment and efficient utilization of resources for child-centric programs.



Partners Remarks by Ms. Veslemoy Ask from Save The Children Norway

Highlights of Findings

Health

Improvements were noted in child health indicators, such as reductions in under-five and neonatal mortality rates. However, reliance on donor funding—83% of the national health development budget—raises sustainability concerns. District-level health funding also showed gaps, particularly in staffing and resource allocation. For example, Amuru district faces severe health infrastructure shortages, including a lack of mortuaries and sufficient space for maternity services.

Education

National-level education initiatives, such as Universal Primary Education, have increased enrollment, but challenges like inadequate funding for teacher recruitment persist. In districts like Amuru, the teacher-pupil ratio stands at 1:65, far above the UNESCO-recommended 1:40. Special needs education remains severely underfunded, receiving only UGX 3 million per district annually, regardless of actual needs.

Water and Sanitation

While access to safe water has improved, disparities between rural and urban areas remain stark. In districts like Nakapiripirit, only 57% of the population has access to safe water. Poor maintenance of water points exacerbates this issue.

Workshop Outcomes

Participants discussed actionable recommendations, including increasing domestic budget allocations to reduce reliance on donor funds, scaling up special needs education funding, and improving local government capacity to deliver social services. UDN emphasized the need for long-term strategies to address systemic challenges such as teacher shortages, poor health infrastructure, and climate-induced risks.

Conclusion

The validation workshop underscored the urgency of prioritizing child-centric investments to secure Uganda's future. By aligning national and local budgets with child rights, the government can foster sustainable development and improved child welfare outcomes. UDN and its partners remain committed to engaging stakeholders and advocating for the necessary policy and financial reforms.

PRESSER: FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN UGANDA



UDN with other CSOs including Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM), Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), Action Aid International Uganda (AAIU), and Transparency International Uganda (TIU) held Press conference to unveil planned activities for Uganda's 2024 Anti-Corruption Day. Scheduled events include digital campaigns, the National Citizen Integrity Awards, public forums, media engagements, and regional anti-corruption initiatives in Karamoja. For more Information read the Article below

<https://www.ugnewsline.com/civil-society-urges-campaign-finance-reform-to-curb-corruption-ahead-of-2026-elections/>



Civil Society Urges Campaign Finance Reform to Curb Corruption Ahead of 2026 Elections -... In a call for reform ahead of Uganda's 2026 General Elections, anti-corruption civil society organizations have

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