

**CIVIL SOCIETY
BUDGET
PERFORMANCE**
MONITORING REPORT, FY 2014/15
Quarter 1 (July-September 2014)



Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CSBAG	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
GoU	Government of Uganda
PS/ST	Permanent Secretary / Secretary to the Treasury
MFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
UPE	Universal Primary Education
SFG	School Facilitation Grant
PHC	Primary Health Care
HC	Health Centre

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We also wish to thank action aid Uganda for the support accorded to CSBAG in organizing the initial strategic meeting where a plan was drawn on how to effectively execute this work.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2014, the Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Treasury announced that Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED) had established a forum where Civil Society Organisations will publically present their findings on how Local Governments are utilizing funds disbursed to them by ministry of finance. In response, the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) undertook the Q1 2014/15 budget monitoring exercise to assess the timeliness of receipt of funds from the consolidated fund to the Spending Agencies especially the Primary Schools and Health Centres and also to verify the existence and enrolment of some of the primary schools that were queried by the MFPED.

The Districts in which the study was conducted were selected basing on the presence of a CSBAG partner within that region and in total 11 Districts and 24 sub-counties covering 37 UPE schools and 11 Health Centers were covered.

We monitored funds that are transferred directly to the service centers and in the education sector these include the Universal Primary Education (UPE), School Facilitation Grant and the Subvention Grant for the primary schools. In the health sector we monitored the PHC grant in Health Center IIs, IIIs and IVs.

Important to note is that the time of monitoring (August-September 2014) coincided with the school holiday and so the monitors did not get an opportunity to meet with some of the Head Teachers. Still, there was also a challenge of insufficient resources to facilitate data collection in all the Districts.

FINDINGS

From this exercise, several observations were made including discrepancies in UPE school enrollment, late receipt of funds by spending agencies, noncompliance to MFPED guidelines, and no alignment of funds release to school calendar. CSBAG also went ahead to make specific recommendations. Below is a highlight of the key findings:

- 1. Discrepancies in UPE School Enrollment:** Out of the 14 schools verified to exist, 9 had discrepancies in their enrollment. For example, Kamujoro primary school in Serere District has 1,283 pupils in the school yet the Ministry of Finance records show 1,584 pupils. In other Districts like Ngora, Puna primary school had 701 pupils yet the MFPED records indicated 681 pupils.

In another scenario in Sheema LG, Ministry of Finance was querying the existence of Karera Cope primary School. Our findings revealed that there are two schools both called Kiso Karera. The Bank account titles read different for both of the schools; Karera Cope Learning Centre and Kiso Karera primary school. Both accounts were in Stanbic Bank Kabwohe Branch. The enrolment in these schools is the same according to the MoFPED data with 243 male and 270 female making a total of 513. More so these schools have the same annual budget for the FY 2014/15 of UGX 3,711,968 and Q1 release of 1,237,323 was made for both schools.

Karera Cope, the school being queried by MoFPED exists in Kashozi Sub-county but the enrollment differs. There are 21 male and 23 female pupils making a total of 44 contrary to the 54 that is indicated.

These scenarios indicate a discrepancy in the numbers of students and schools available at the ministry versus the actual schools, necessitating the MFPED to routinely and regularly update its register. Other verified schools and their enrollment rates can be found in Table 1 of this report.

- 1. Late receipt of funds by Spending Agencies:** Through this exercise, we confirmed only 25% of the service delivery points sampled received funds from the consolidated fund by 24th July 2014 while up to 50% of the Spending Agencies received funds by 4th August 2014. This means that half of the Spending Agencies that were sampled could not start implementing their planned activities until after they are one Month into the quarter. On the whole, 75% of all Spending Agencies received funds before 11th August 2014; meaning they had one and a half months to implement their work plans with the received funds. This by design makes it impossible for the institution to spend all the money on the quarter's work plan but also, reporting back to the ministry before they can receive the money for the next quarter gets affected.
- 2. Noncompliance to MoFPED Guidelines:** None of the Spending Agencies that received the funds in Quarter 1 had their budget and releases displayed on the

School and Health Centre notice boards as provided for in the Ministry of Finance guidelines hence hindering access to information by the public. This is contrary to guideline 6.3 of the UPE Planning and Implementation Guidelines for Districts and Urban Councils issued in May 2007.

- 3. No alignment of funds release to School Calendar:** The expenditure of the UPE grant by the schools visited was largely aligned to Section 3 of the UPE Planning and Implementation Guidelines for Districts and Urban Councils issued in May 2007, but the 37 schools visited had not received funds for second term at the time of the visit i.e. September 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Timeliness in receipt of funds:** Timeliness of receipt of funds to the Spending Agencies needs to improve to facilitate timely and efficient service delivery.
- Cash management needs to be improved.** Many Spending Agencies suffer from unpredictable cash flows, and are unable to implement their planned activities or maintain service delivery.
- Recruitment of Additional Staff:** Staffing levels for the schools and Health Centres should be boosted to match the workload.
- Eliminating ghost workers and Pupils:** Ministry of finance should issue guidelines for schools and health centers to pin up lists of teachers, health workers and pupils on each school notice boards in the fight against ghost workers and pupils
- Funds release** should be better synchronized with the school term calendar and released in a timely manner to help the schools better manage their activities.
- Regular update of register:** Ministry of Finance needs to conduct more regular and to regularly update its registers in its effort of eliminating ghost schools, pupils and civil servants.
- Compliance to publicity guidelines:** Whereas we appreciate the open budget system interventions implemented by Ministry of Finance especially at the national level, there is still needs to invest in re-enforcing the Ministry of Finance guidelines of displaying the fund releases on public notice boards and also at the service point as it limits citizens' access to budget information to ably hold their leaders accountable.

BACKGROUND

FY 2013/14 marked the beginning of the transfer of funds directly to Town Councils and Schools as well as aligning the quarterly releases with the school academic calendar for education and planting seasons for Agriculture. The FY 2014/15 would see this system (of direct transfer of funds) extended to Health Centres. These efforts are, in part, among the efforts by Ministry of Finance, to improve service delivery and reduce corruption. Related to this is the concern about the Spending Agencies not receiving the budgeted releases in time despite the announcement by the PS/ST from the Ministry of Finance, that funds are released every 10th day of the first month of every quarter. This situation is what has contributed to the poor budget expenditure performance by some Spending Agencies and thus the negative impact on services to be delivered to the people. Worse still, the Spending Agencies are riddled with ghost institutions/persons and where the institutions exist such as in the education sector, there is a discrepancy between the enrolment figures of the pupils held by the ministry of finance versus those held by some schools verified by our monitoring exercise.

As part of engaging government on prudent financial management and enhancing our role in monitoring government programs, CSBAG undertook the Q1 2014/15 budget monitoring exercise to assess the timeliness of receipt of funds from the consolidated fund to the Spending Agencies especially the Primary Schools and Health Centres and also to verify the existence and enrolment of some of the primary schools that were queried by the Ministry of Finance. This started after the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury announced that Ministry of Finance, established a forum where Civil Society Organisations on a quarterly basis will publically present their findings on how Local Governments are utilizing funds disbursed to them by ministry of finance.

It's against this background that CSBAG undertook a study to assess the timeliness of receipt of funds from the consolidated fund to the Spending Agencies especially the schools and Health Centres in selected Districts. CSBAG also undertook to verify the existence and enrolment of some of the primary schools that were queried by the MFPEd. In this study, 24 sub-counties covering 37 UPE schools and 11 Health Centers were covered and this report covering FY 2014/15 quarter 1 (July- September) was generated by Teso Anti-Corruption Coalition (TACC), Northern Uganda Anti-Corruption Coalition, Sebei Diocese Community Development and Empowerment (SD CODE), Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), and Anti-Corruption Coalition (ACCU).

INTRODUCTION

The total resource inflows for the FY 2014/15 are projected to amount to UGX 15,054 billion of which domestic sources will contribute UGX 12,321 billion representing 81.8% of the total budget resource of the year. The Uganda Revenue Authority will collect taxes amounting to UGX 9,577 billion; and Non-Tax Revenues of UGX 206 billion will be collected. The Budget will also be financed by issuing Government securities worth UGX 1,437 billion on domestic markets; and net Government drawdown from our savings of UGX 1,102 billion.

The theme for the FY 2014/15 is "Maintaining the Momentum: Infrastructure for Growth and Socio-Economic Transformation." The strategies to achieve this theme in the FY 2014/15 were set out to be: Improving the Business Climate by undertaking key economic infrastructure investments, while maintaining peace, security, and macro-economic stability; Leveraging Government limited resources to support Agriculture, Agribusiness, Agro-processing, Tourism, Industry and Services such as ICT; Improving the Productivity of Uganda's Human Resource by enhancing provision of quality education, health and water services with appropriate performance indicators and monitoring systems; and Strengthening Institutional

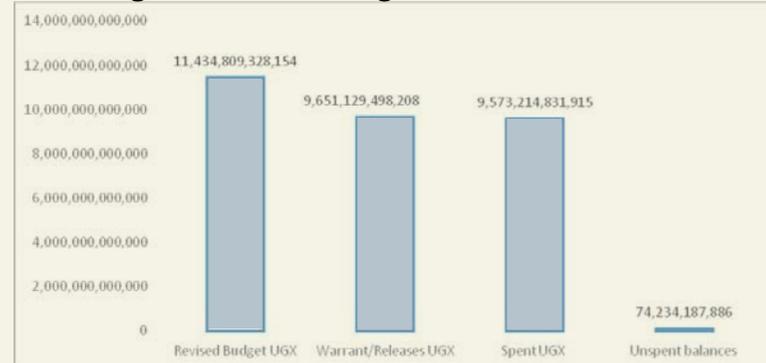
Governance, Accountability and Transparency in Government operations or government related operations.

The strategies above can only be achieved if the funds allocated in the budget are realised by the revenue collection of domestic taxes but also and most importantly that they are released to the Spending Agencies in time. Anything short of this will aggravate the already shaky absorption capacity of most of the Spending Agencies. Timely receipt of funds also guards against the habit of Spending Agencies where money is spent in a hurry to beat deadlines as well as to prevent their budgets from being cut in the next periods.

1.1 NATIONAL BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR THE FY 2013/14

With regard to GoU expenditure performance, a total of UGX 10,009.42 billion (excluding Karuma and Non-resource taxes) was released by the end of the financial year against a budget of UGX 9,673.87 billion, reflecting an over performance of UGX 335.55 billion equivalent to 103%.

Figure 1: National Budget Performance 2013/14



Source: Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development

For the Financial Year 2013/14, the GOU Approved and Revised budget was UGX 11.434 trillion including expenditure on Karuma which was not expended. A total of UGX 9.65 trillion was released to the Spending Agencies of which UGX 9.57 trillion was utilized. This gives UGX 0.0769 trillion as unspent balances representing about 1% of the funds released. However it is critical to note that the funds released and actually spent includes the UGX 2,264,102,518,620 released as direct transfers to Local governments and hence treated as an expense on the part of Central Government. A clear picture as to whether the LGs actually spent all that money transferred to them as conditional grants will be ascertained by the end of October 2014 when they are required to refund all uncommitted spent funds in accordance with the Appropriation Act 2013.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

The Districts in which the study was conducted were selected according to the presence of a CSBAG member in the vicinity. In the Districts where CSBAG members were, random sampling of the sub-counties and Spending Agencies was done. Data collection tools (questionnaires) were developed during an inception meeting that was organized by CSBAG. The questions on the tools were guided but in other instances multiple choice selections were used as a way of extracting the desired information from the field. The collected data was analyzed with the use of statistical packages like SPSS for Windows from which descriptive statistics were derived.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

A total of 11 Districts and 24 sub-counties were sampled during the study with 37 schools and 11 Health Centres visited. The grants that were considered were UPE, SFG and Subvention for the primary schools while the PHC grant was considered for the Health Centres. The Health Centres considered were II, III and IV in the sub-counties that were visited.

1.4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To verify the existence and enrolment of primary schools queried by the MoFPED
- To assess the timeliness of receipt of funds in selected primary schools and Health Centres

1.5 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The time of monitoring coincided with the school holiday so the Head Teachers were hard to get hold of thus making access to the schools budget information hard since it wasn't displayed on the notice boards of most schools visited. There was also a challenge of insufficient resources to facilitate data collection in all the Districts and schools that were queried by the MFPED.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2.1 CONFIRMATION OF SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS QUERIED BY MFPED

Out of the 88 Districts that had schools that were queried in the Daily Monitor dated 8th July 2014 by the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, CSBAG members managed to reach 11 Districts. Table 1 below show the schools that were reached but also their total enrolment recorded.

Table 1: Primary Schools verification in selected Districts (Sub-counties)

Local government	School Name	Status of school (exists or not)	Enrolment from school	Enrolment recorded at MoFPED
Bukedea	Kacox New P/S	School exists in Malera Sub-county	271	218
	Kgoloto P/S	School exists in Kolir Sub-county	282	258
	Acomai P/S	School exists in Kolir Sub-county	156	156
Bukwo	Kapsekek P/S	Not verified		
Serere	Kamurojo P/S	School exists in Kyere Sub-county	1,283	1,584
Ngora	Puna P/S	School exists in Mukura Sub-county	701	681
	Omiriana	School exists in Kapir Sub-county	340	241
Sheema	Nyakojo P/S	School exists in Masheruka Sub-county		266
	Nyakashara P/S	School exists in Kigarama Sub-county	239	266
	Nyakambu P/S	School exists in Masheruka Sub-county		464
	Nyamiyaga P/S	School exists in Kabwohe Itendero TC Sub-county	151	213
	Kyarukunda P/S	School exists in Bugongi Sub-county	534	508
	Karera Cope	School exists in Kashozi Sub-county	44	54

From table 1 above, it is clear that there are discrepancies even in the verified schools. Some schools like Kamujoro primary school in Serere District has 1,283 pupils in the school yet Ministry of Finance, records showed 1,584 pupils, implying wastage of funds. In other Districts like Ngora, Puna primary school had 701 pupils yet the Ministry of Finance, records showed 681 pupils, implying under funding of schools. None of the two scenarios is desirable making it imperative for Ministry of Finance, to take this exercise regularly and thoroughly.

2.2 TIME PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THE SPENDING AGENCIES RECEIVED THE FUNDS FOR Q1 2014/15

The date received statistics show the divergence between the official media press statement read every 10th day of the first month of the quarter and the actual date of receipt of funds by the schools and Health Centres sampled.

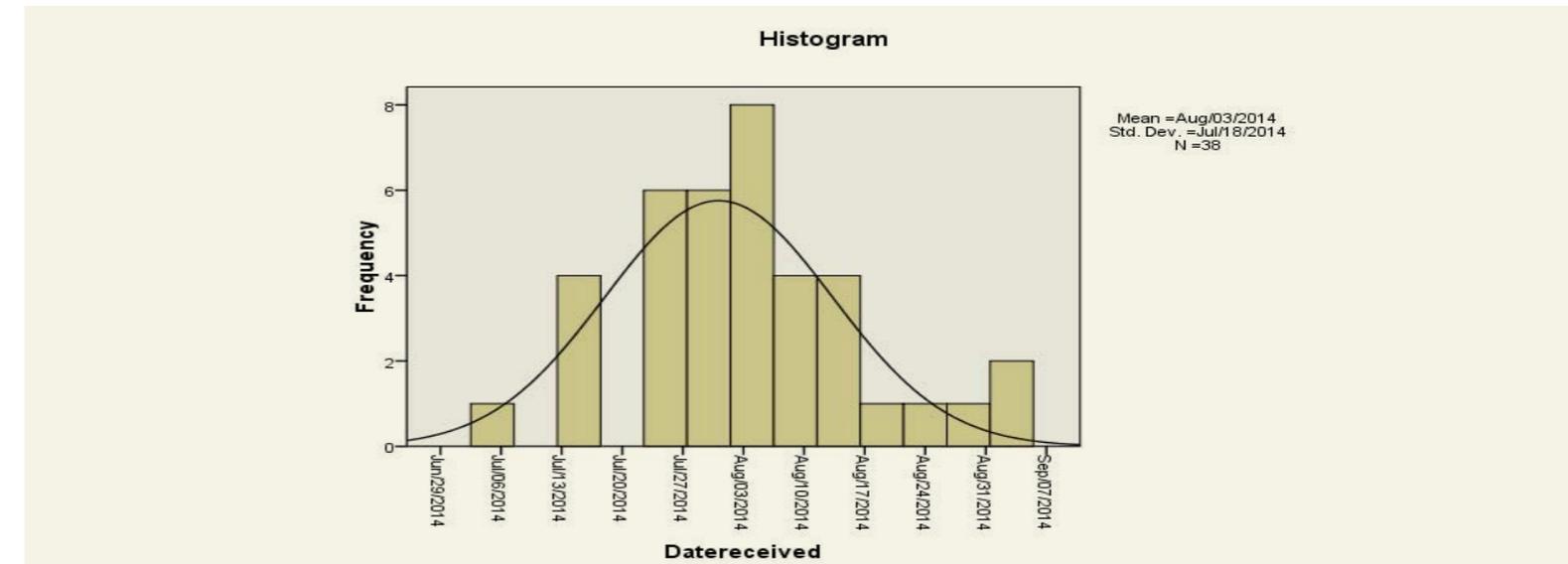
From the study, the earliest date on which a given institution received funds was 5th July 2014 and the latest date reported as to when funds were received was 1st September 2014.

Table 2: Percentile distribution of the Date received data

		District	Sub county	Service delivery Point	Date received
N	Valid	11	24	48	38
	Missing	0	0	0	10
Mean					03-Aug-2014
Percentiles	25				24-Jul-2014
	50				04-Aug-2014
	75				11-Aug-2014

From table 2 above, only 25% of the service delivery points sampled received funds from the consolidated fund by 24th July 2014 while up to 50% of the Spending Agencies received funds by 4th August 2014. This means that half of the Spending Agencies that were sampled could not start implementing their planned activities until after they are one Month into the quarter. This situation makes service delivery very hard to be executed as planned and it also further aggravates the poor budget performance at these centres. On the whole, 75% of all Spending Agencies received funds before 11th August 2014; meaning they had one and a half months to implement their work plans with the received funds. This by design makes it impossible for the institution to spend all the money on the quarter's work plan but also the reporting back to the ministry before they can receive the money for the next quarter gets dragged longer.

Figure 2: Histogram normal distribution curve for Date Received data



From figure 2 above, the date received statistics fit the normal distribution curve with an average of 03rd August 2014. This further shows that most of the schools and Health Centres received their funds after 20th July 2014.

2.3 FUNDS RELEASED AND OUTPUTS FOR Q1 2014/15

Generally, of all the Spending Agencies that received the funds in Q1, none of them had their budget and releases displayed on the school and Health Centre notice boards as provided for in the Ministry of Finance guidelines.

In **Kibuku District**, three Health Centre IIs of Dodoi, Nalubembe and Kabweri, in Kadama, Kibuuku Rural and Kabweri sub-counties respectively, were visited and they had all received the allocated funds at the time of the visit except for Nalubembe HC II. When the in-charge was contacted to find out why no funds were received for the quarter, they said that the unit is not yet considered by the Ministry. Biseta HC III, in Buseta sub-county, was also visited and they had received UGX 1,200,000 of which UGX 700,000 was spent by the time of the visit.

The funds were spent on support staff like cleaners and night watch men as wages, allowances to the HC staff and community immunization outreaches. Also to note was that some the Health Centres visited had staff shortages as shown in table 3 below:

Table 3: Staffing level of selected Health Centres in Kibuku District

Name of HC	Approved staffing level	Available staff (enrolled at time of visit)	% of approved Vs. available staff
Dodoi HC II	10	4	40
Buseta HC III	20	11	55
Kabweri HC II	Not established	6	N/A

From table 3 above, the staffing gaps cannot permit the HCs to fully perform their duties.

Also, two primary schools, i.e. Midiri P/S and Buseta P/S were visited in Kibuku District and they had all received the budgeted funds, UGX 2,000,000 and UGX 2,756,000 respectively, at the time of the visit. The schools had only received the UPE grant and none had received the SFG at the time of visit. The funds received were spent on scholastic materials and payment of staff like matrons, cooks and the **askaris**.

In **Bukedea District**, the three primary schools of Acomai, Kagoloto and Kacoc New were all verified to exist but with discrepancies in the enrolment of pupils as highlighted in table 1 above. None of these schools received any allocation for the Q1 in the FY 2014/15 and they said that they solely depended on handouts by parents to operate.

In **Bukwo District**, 7 primary schools were visited and they had all received funds for Q1 by the time of the visit. None of the schools received their funds before 23rd July 2014 and the school that received funds last among those visited was Kapyoyon P/S. It received funds on 19th August 2014.

Table 4: Release of Funds and dates received for selected primary schools in Bukwo District

Name of school	Sub-county	Amount received (UGX)	Date received
Kapyoyon P/S	Suam	1,937,522	19/08/2014
Tulel P/S	Tulel	1,567,292	23/07/2014
Aryowet P/S	Tulel	839,000	27/07/2014
Suam P/S	Suam	2,106,500	7/08/2014
Kwirwa P/S	Suam	4,983,507	25/07/2014
Kabokwo P/S	Chesower	1,394,000	23/07/2014
Chemuron P/S	Tulel	1,680,000	23/7/2014

Of all the schools that were visited in Bukwo District, only Cherumon primary school received a subvention grant worth UGX 2000,000 on 7th/08/2014. The school spent the funds received on a number of activities and items that included: scholastic materials, facilitation of management meetings for the schools management and finance committees, repairs of furniture and latrines, fencing school compounds and motivation of staff.

In **Sheema District**, 6 schools were visited and they had all received funds by the time of visiting the schools.

Table 5: Release of Funds and dates received for selected primary schools in Sheema District

Name of school	Sub-county	Amount received (UGX)	Date received
Nyakashara P/S	Kigarama	899,680	04/08/2014
Nyakayojo P/S	Masheruka	1,056,223	06/08/2014
Karera Cope	Kashozi	1,900,000	
Kyarukunda P/S	Bugongi	1,315,595	04/08/2014
Nyamiyaga P/S	Kabwohe Itendero TC	743,136	01/08/2014
Nyakambu P/S	Masheruka	1,220,441	04/08/2014

All the schools that were visited in Sheema District received the funds for Q1 of the FY 2014/15 at the beginning of August. This once again means that many of these schools will not be able to spend all the funds for the quarter in accordance with the guidelines set by MoFPED because they could want to hurriedly spend it to avoid sending it back at the end of the quarter.

In **Serere District**, 6 schools and 1 HC III were visited. Five (5) of the schools received funds from the Ministry in August while the other did so at the end of July. The Health Centre that was visited, Kyere HC III, in Kyere Sub-county, had not yet received funds at the time of the visit. The in-charge said that the account was having a problem so the money had not reached and thus nothing was spent in Q1 of 2014/15. The Health Centre still had to however figure out how to pay the over-strained 9 staff that worked there since the recommended staffing level is supposed to be 19.

Table 6: Release of Funds and dates received for selected primary schools in Serere District

Name of school	Sub-county	Amount Received	Date Received
Kamurojo Kakor P/S	Kyere	1,750,000	04/08/2014
Adoku P/S	Olio	1,636,891	August
Olio P/S	Serere T/C	1,561,153	23/07/2014
Abuket P/S	Kyere	1,740,000	15/08/2014
Kyere P/S	Kyere	1,378,600	16/08/2014
Kamurojo P/S	Kyere	2,411,400	08/08/2014

Olio Primary School had not spent any of the funds that were released by the time of the visit i.e. 09/09/2014 and the reason given was that the money had not yet been picked from the bank. Other schools spent the money on scholastic materials, school administration, co-curricular activities and contingency among other things.

In **Soroto District**, 2 schools and one Health Centre were visited. The schools visited all received funds by the end of July 2014; Kamuda Primary School in Kamuda Sub-county and Mukura Primary School in Asukut Sub County received UGX 1,567,500 and UGX 1,850,455 on 30th and 15th July respectively.

The funds received in these schools were spent on scholastic materials, management of the schools and on co-curricular activities. According to the Head Teacher of Mukura Primary School, the teachers had not been paid salary for the last four months. Delayed payment could result into the unpaid teachers attending to other issues like boda-boda riding, gardening to fend for survival as opposed to teaching without pay. This further worsens the aggravated staffing challenge in the schools.

Kamuda HC III did not avail the financial records because the records assistant was not in office at the time of the visit.

In **Dokolo and Lira Districts**, four Primary Schools were visited in total including Angai and Amatiburu Primary Schools in Dokolo while Aduku and Amuca primary schools were in Lira District.

Table 7: Release of Funds and dates received for selected P/Schools in Dokolo & Lira Districts

District	Sub County	Name of school	Amount received	Date received
Lira	Lira	Amuca P/S	3,069,137	3 rd /08/2014
	Central Division	Aduku Road P/S	866,258	1 st /09/2014
Dokolo	Kangai	Angai P/S	1,914,697	5 th /8/2014
	Kangai	Amatiburu P/S	1,365,810	6 th /8/2014

The funds received in the two Districts were majorly spent on paying debts incurred during term II. They further lamented that managing the schools is increasingly becoming hard as their suppliers charge them more especially when they do not carry out cash transactions. The cost of managing and maintaining the schools then definitely rises and so value for money is hard to achieve.

In **Ngora District**, 4 primary schools and 2 HC IIIs were visited and the findings are as below.

Table 8: Release of Funds and dates received for selected primary schools in Ngora District

Name of school or HC	Sub-county	Amount received	Date received
Omuriana P/S	Kapir	894,000	-
Agu P/S	Ngora	1,600,000	11 th /08/2014
Ajeluk P/S	Mukura	1,000,000	-
Agu HC III	Ngora	920,000	30 th /08/2014
Ajeluk HC III	Mukura	1,180,518	24 th /07/2014
Puna P/S	Mukura	1,650,000	12 th /09/2014

In Ajeluk primary school, UGX 1,000,000 was received on the school account but had not yet been withdrawn by the time of the visit, 12/09/2014, pending approval from the School Management Committee. This means that Q1 could end without expenditure yet the school has recurrent costs. This scenario erodes the confidence suppliers have in supplying goods on credit when the school has genuinely not received money. The Head Teacher therefore did not indicate the date when the funds were received onto the school account.

In Omuriana primary school, the Head Teacher went to the bank and found a credit of UGX 894,000 but was later advised by the DEO that the money had been returned to the MoFPED. The circumstances under which the funds were bounced back were not clear to the Head Teacher as the DEO did not explain much. In a related case, Agu primary school did not receive funds for Q4 of the FY 2013/14 according to the Head Teacher. This means that the funds received for Q1 of the FY 2014/15 were all used to pay the debts incurred and so the school limps on in debt.

The funds received by the schools were generally spent on scholastic materials, co-curricular activities, management and administration.

2.4 OTHER ANOMALIES IN THE SCHOOLS INFORMATION

In Sheema LG, Bugongi Sub-county, there is a scenario of two schools both called Kiso Karera. The Bank account titles read different for both of the schools; Karera Cope Learning Centre and Kiso Karera primary school. Both accounts were in Stanbic Bank Kabwohe Branch. The enrolment in these schools is the same according to the MoFPED data with 243 male and 270 female making a total of 513. More so these schools have the same annual budget for the FY 2014/15 of UGX 3,711,968 and Q1 release of 1,237,323 was made for both schools.

Karera Cope, the school being queried by MoFPED exists in Kashozi Sub-county but the enrollment differs. There are 21 male and 23 female pupils making a total of 44 contrary to the 54 that is indicated. Nyakasharara PS, in Kigarama Sub-county, actually has 239 pupils (133 male and 106 female) contrary to the 293 (144 male and 149 female) reported in the budget release documents for the District.

Nyamiyaga PS in Kabwohe-Itendero Town Council has 151 pupils (76 female and 75 male) contrary to 213 reported by MoFPED and 191 reported in the District records. Kyarukunda PS in Bugongi Sub-county exists and has 252 male and 282 female pupils contrary to the 508 recorded by MoFPED (possibly implying under funding to the school).

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- The schools and HCs visited received the allocated funds about one and a half months into the quarter and over 50% of these institutions did not receive all the funds budgeted for.
- There is a shortage of staff especially in the Health Centres that were visited.
- The expenditure of the UPE grant by the schools visited was largely aligned to Section 3 of the UPE Planning and Implementation Guidelines for Districts and Urban Councils issued in May 2007.
- The schools visited did not display information as required by guideline 6.3 of the UPE Planning and implementation guidelines for Districts and urban councils issued in May 2007.
- The schools visited had not received funds for third term at the time of the visit i.e. September 2014.

3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Timeliness of receipt of funds to the Spending Agencies needs to improve to facilitate timely and efficient service delivery.

- Many Spending Agencies suffer from unpredictable cash flows, and are unable to implement their planned activities or maintain service delivery.
- Staffing levels for the schools and Health Centres should be boosted to match the workload.
- Ministry of finance should issue guidelines for schools and health centers to pin up lists of teachers, health workers and pupils on each school notice boards in the fight against ghost workers and pupils
- should be better synchronized with the school term calendar and released in a timely manner to help the schools better manage their activities.
- Ministry of Finance needs to conduct more regular and to regularly update its registers in its effort of eliminating ghost schools, pupils and civil servants.
- Whereas we appreciate the open budget system interventions implemented by Ministry of Finance especially at the national level, there is still needs to invest in re-inforcing the Ministry of Finance guidelines of displaying the fund releases on public notice boards and also at the service point as it limits citizens' access to budget information to ably hold their leaders accountable.

CONCLUSION

The budget performance is greatly correlated to the time of release of the funds to the Spending Agencies. More so, service delivery has an even bigger correlation with timely release of the budgeted funds to the Spending Agencies. The observation from the 37 primary schools and 11 Health Centres visited is that money was received on average, one-and-a half months after the quarter had begun. Even then, there were glaring discrepancies in the enrolment of pupils in the schools making it hard to achieve value for money for the little funds that come late. The guidelines for expenditure are being followed mockingly by some schools but in reality they do not fully comprehend the gist of the matter since they are after high numbers of enrolled pupils so that they can get more allocation for the capitation grants. The question of quality of education is not mirrored in the management practices observed.

All in all, the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development still has a big challenge regarding the timely release of budgeted funds, monitoring the expenditure done by the schools and HCs, as well as building the capacity of the school and health unit management to effectively manage school funds.

LISTS OF SCHOOLS

District	Sub-county	Name of School
Amuria	Wera	Angole Wera PS
Lira	Lira	Amuca PS
Lira	Central Div	Aduku PS
Mityana	Banda	Banda CU PS
Mityana	Banda	Banda R C PS
Mityana	Banda	Banda Umea PS
Dokolo	Kangai	Angai PS
Dokolo	Kangai	Amatiburu PS
Ngora	Mukura	Puna PS
Ngora	Ngora	Agu PS
Ngora	Kapir	Omiriana PS
Ngora	Mukura	Ajeluk PS
Sheema	Masheruka	Nyakambu PS
Sheema	Kabwohe Itendero TC	Nyamiyaga PS
Sheema	Bugoni	Kyarikunda PS
Sheema	Masheruka	Nyakayojo PS
Sheema	Kigarama	Nyakashara PS
Sheema	Kashozi	Karera Cope
Bukwo	Chesower	Kabokwo PS
Bukwo	Suam	Kwirwot PS
Bukwo	Suam	Suam PS
Bukwo	Tulel	Aryowet PS
Bukwo	Tulel	Tulel PS
Bukwo	Suam	Kapyoyon PS
Bukwo	Tulel	Chemuron PS
Bukedea	Malera	Kacoc New PS
Bukedea	Kolir	Kagoloto PS
Bukedea	Kolir	Acomai PS
Kibuku	Buseta	Buseta PS
Kibuku	Buseta	Madiri PS
Soroti	Asurut	Mukura PS
Soroti	Kamuda	Kamuda PS
Serere	Kyere	Kamurojo PS
Serere	Kyere	Kyere PS
Serere	Olio	Adoku PS
Serere	Kyere	Kamurojo PS
Serere	Serere TC	Olio PS
Serere	Kyere	Abuket PS

LIST OF HEALTH CENTRES

District	Sub-county	Name of Health Centre
Mityana	Banda	Mpongo HC II
Mityana	Banda	Lusaalira HC II
Ngora	Ngora	Agu HC III
Ngora	Mukura	Ajeluk HC III
Kibuku	Kabweri	Kabweri HC II
Kibuku	Buseta	Buseta HC III
Kibuku	Kadama	Dodoi HC II
Kibuku	Tirinyi	
Kibuku	Kibuku rural	Nabulembe HC II
Soroti	Kamuda	Kamuda HC III
Serere	Kyere	Kyere HC III



Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) is a non-partisan Women's



SEBEI DIOCESE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SD-CODE) with headquarters based in Kapchorwa



Teso Anti-Corruption Coalition of indigenous civil society organizations based in Soroti



Watching you always, for Better Results! Northern Uganda Anti-Corruption Coalition is a Non-Governmental Organization based in Lira



The Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) is a national umbrella membership of 9 regional networks based in Kampala.



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