



Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group

**POSITION PAPER ON
THE NATIONAL BUDGET
FOR FY 2017/18**

TESO SUB-REGION

MAY 2017



This paper was developed in close consultation with Ngora Child Development Centre, Kaberamaido Operation Save the Needy (KOSAN), Katakwi Conserve Uganda, Pentecostal Assemblies of God Planning and Development Secretariat (PAG-PDS)-Kumi, Hope After Rape, Kumi Society of People Living with HIV/AIDS Forum (KUSPHAF), and AMECET.

Teso Sub-Regional CSO Position Paper on the FY 2017/2018 National Budget: was produced by the civil society budget advocacy group (CSBAG) in close collaboration with the Teso Sub-Regional CSO Budget Coalition, supported by Democratic Governance Facility (DGF). The contents of this publication are the responsibility of CSBAG and not our Development Partners.

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1.0

Introduction

Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) is a coalition formed in 2004 to bring together civil society actors at national and district levels to influence Government decisions on resource mobilisation and utilisation for equitable, gender responsive and sustainable development. Since 2004, 85 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) under the umbrella of CSBAG have engaged Government in influencing the budget process to ensure that both the local and national budgets address the needs and aspirations of the poor and marginalised groups of people in Uganda. To this end, CSBAG works towards achieving its vision: “A Uganda with a people centred budget that dignifies humanity” through its mission: “Working towards ensuring that budgets at local and national levels are financed, designed, implemented and monitored to promote prudent and transparent allocation of national resources for the benefit of marginalised groups.”

1.1 About the Position paper

This position paper was been developed by CSOs that form the Teso Sub-Regional CSO Budget Coalition. The Position Paper highlights key budgetary concerns and recommendations that need redress and it is intended for policy makers both at national and Local Government Level

CSBAG acknowledges the contributions to the development of this paper from Ngora Child Development Centre, Kaberamaido Operation Save the Needy (KOSAN), Katakwi Conserve Uganda, Pentecostal Assemblies of God Planning and Development Secretariat (PAG-PDS)-Kumi, Hope After Rape, Kumi Society of People Living with HIV/AIDS Forum (KUSPHAF), and AMECET.

2.0

Teso Sub-Regional CSO Budget Coalition

The Teso Sub-Regional CSO Budget Coalition was formed on 20th March, 2017 following a set of engagements between CSOs and CSBAG. The Coalition is composed of CSOs from eight districts of Teso Sub-Region including; Bukedea, Katakwi, Kumi, Ngora, Soroti, Serere, Amuria and Kaberamaido¹. The Coalition aims at:

- Synergising skills and abilities for the common good of the community;
- Efficiently and effectively utilising available spaces at subnational and national levels to influence the budget;
- Creating periodic capacity building opportunities for local CSOs to monitor budget processes in their districts;
- Sharing best practices on how to resolve operating environment challenges as far as budget advocacy and monitoring are concerned; and
- Creating a common force for dialogue with Government and Development Partners on issues of the budget.

¹ The CSOs included; Ngora Child Development Centre, Kaberamaido Operation Save the Needy (KOSAN), Katakwi Conserve Uganda, Pentecostal Assemblies of God Planning and Development Secretariat (PAG-PDS)-Kumi, Hope After Rape, Kumi Society of People Living with HIV/AIDS Forum (KUSPHAF), and AMECET.

3.0

Overview of the 2017/18

National & Local Government Budget to Teso Sub-Region

According to the Local Governments Budget Draft Estimates for FY 2017/18, out of the total estimated National Budget of UGX 28,252.5bn for FY 2017/18, UGX 2,735,602,298,059 has been earmarked for direct Central Government transfers to Local Governments of which UGX 385,438,684,053 is for development budget expenditure for these Local Governments while UGX 2,350,163,614,006 will constitute the recurrent budget expenditure.

Teso Sub-Region will receive UGX 160,758,487,679 in form of Grants from the Central Government of which wage recurrent expenditure will take 58% of the grants while non-wage recurrent and development expenditures will take 25% and 17% respectively. Furthermore, out of the entire development budget of UGX 28,070,913,629 for the Sub-Region, 16.3% will be externally financed as indicated on Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Local Government Allocations for FY 2017/18 for Teso Sub-Region by Expenditure Category

Vote	Local Government	Recurrent (Wage)	Recurrent (Non-Wage)	GoU Development	External Financing	Total
565	Amuria	12,650,903,705	4,314,502,248	3,972,645,731	65,113,551	21,003,165,235
578	Bukedea	12,564,827,684	4,411,969,172	2,663,188,449	48,306,254	19,688,291,558
514	Kaberamaido	9,952,191,945	3,647,778,288	2,946,058,666	71,077,441	16,617,106,340
522	Katakwi	9,592,277,824	3,332,539,760	2,865,129,458	64,475,160	15,854,422,202
529	Kumi	9,364,294,089	6,316,212,254	2,830,064,886	33,596,101	18,544,167,331
787	Kumi Municipality	3,135,984,849	1,065,586,433	218,746,246	-	4,420,317,527
603	Ngora District	7,885,091,024	3,264,058,688	1,941,607,670	53,830,727	13,144,588,108
596	Serere District	12,253,364,169	4,088,259,036	3,014,483,244	69,852,267	19,407,958,716
553	Soroti District	9,987,680,546	7,364,524,529	2,724,889,450	75,226,032	20,152,320,557
763	Soroti Municipality	5,314,811,714	2,198,716,196	321,164,612	4,091,457,584	11,926,150,105
	Total	92,701,427,549	40,004,146,604	23,497,978,412	4,572,935,117	160,758,487,679

Source: Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (2017d).

From the table, it is noted with concern that Kumi Municipality has the least transfers from the Central Government and with no component of external financing despite the fact that it was just created in 2015. We as CSOs strongly believe that such new municipalities should sufficiently be funded by the Central Government through the urban equalization grant to enable them develop their service delivery capacities. However, it is worrying to note that the grant drastically reduced from UGX. 126.5 billion in FY 2016/17 to a mere UGX. 600,000 in FY 2017/18. With this trend, it is not surprising to note that Government could only be interested in creating political units rather than administrative units which can facilitate service delivery.

4.0

CSO Sectoral Concerns and Recommendation

Under the Second Schedule of the Local Governments (1997) Act, Cap 243, Local Governments (LGs) are responsible for: primary education; primary health care; social development; water and sanitation; feeder roads; and production and marketing as far as service delivery is concerned. This section highlights key service delivery sectors under the mandate of Local Governments as well as public sector management which is responsible for political and technical oversight, and coordination of Local Government activities.

4.1 Education Sector

As a guideline in the development of this position paper, it is important to note that the overall education sector objective is to support, guide, coordinate, regulate and promote quality in delivery of Education, Science, Technology and Sports to all persons in Uganda for national integration, individual and national development. Besides, the National Development Plan (NDP) II aims at: achieving equitable access to relevant and quality education and training; ensuring delivery of relevant and quality education and training; and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of education and sports service delivery at all levels.

According to the Second Schedule of the Local Government (1997) Act, the education and sports functions and services that are under the jurisdiction of district and municipal councils include but are not limited to provision of education services, which cover pre-primary (nursery), primary, secondary, teacher education, science, technology and innovation, special needs, and technical and vocational education.

Despite the clearly articulated national education sector objectives as well as Local Government mandate in provision of education services, the sector is performing poorly most especially in Government aided schools. Key issues raised by the Teso Sub-Regional Budget Coalition in the education sector include:

Issues 1: Inadequate classrooms and other physical infrastructure like furniture

The size and number of classrooms in most schools are not enough to accommodate the ever increasing number of pupils. A case in point is Atatur Primary

School in Kumi district which has on average 250 pupils in one class more especially in lower classes of P.1, P.2 and P.3; Ocwiin and Aguru Primary Schools in Katakwi district. It should be noted with concern that a comprehensive plan has not been put in place to solve this challenge as most of the education budgets in the districts cater for wage and non-wage recurrent expenditures with dismal capital expenditure allocations.

This has resulted into congestion of pupils in classrooms and as a consequence negatively affected pupil performance due to limited attention from teachers. The Primary Leaving Examinations results of the Sub-region speak to this fact as the Sub-region has the worst performing districts (eg Amuria, Serere, Katakwi, and Kaberamaido) in the country. The trend at Uganda Certificate of Education and Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education is more or less the same.

Recommendations:

The Central Government through Local Governments should commit more resources towards construction of classrooms in affected schools. In the long run the Government should aim at having the recommended classroom to pupil ratio of 1:45. Besides, Local Governments should allocate a grant for operation and maintenance (O&M) of classrooms and furniture from their locally generated revenues. If possible in some cases parents through Parents and Teachers Associations (PTAs) should be encouraged to contribute towards maintenance cost of classrooms and other school infrastructure.

Issue 2: Low Staffing Levels in Schools

Most schools are under staffed with a very high pupil to teacher ratio more than the recommended 45:1. A case in point is Tubor Primary School in Soroti District and Atatur Primary School in Kumi district. The situation has been made worse with capping of public service recruitment of new staff by Government. To make matters worse, the Government does not recruit and pay support staff like watchmen in public schools. As such, schools have to rely on UPE Grants to pay such support staff. However, it ought to be noted that this is done outside UPE Grant guideline as it does not provide for payment of support staff.

Recommendations:

The government should recruit more teachers to fill the gaps in staffing levels. This should override other Government priorities given the fact that education is a cornerstone of development and civilization. Besides, Government should take up the recruitment and wage bill of support staff in all public schools or at a worst scenario provide a vote through the UPE, USE and UPOLET Grants for payment of support staff.

Issue 3: Inadequate Supervision of Government aided and Private Schools

We as CSOs not with much concern that district and Ministry of Education and Sports officials rarely supervise both Government aided and private schools contrary to the requisite minimum of once a term. This has negatively affected academic standards in the Sub-region. Limited supervision is attributed to limited non-wage recurrent expenditure budget specifically for school supervision allocated to the sector both at national and local levels. As a matter of fact, Government should have provided funding under conditional transfer for school inspection in FY 2017/18 budget targeting districts with the lowest academic performance. However, to the contrary there is no such funding in the budget. It is important to note that limited supervision has exacerbated teacher absenteeism which has further worsened performance.

Recommendations:

The Government should increase the budget for supervision possibly through conditional transfer for school inspection window specifically targeting districts with low academic achievements. Besides, the Government should also adequately fund and facilitate Centre Coordinating Tutor

system under the umbrella of Core Primary Teachers' Colleges to conduct school supervision. Lower Local Governments Political leaders and technocrats like the LC III, LC II and LCI, and Sub-County Chiefs and Parish Chiefs should be empowered and trained to monitor and supervise schools in addition to School Management Committees. Here we mean that their actions and recommendations should be given appropriate attention.

Issue 4: Lack of secondary and primary schools in some Sub-counties and Parishes respectively

Despite Government commitment to setting up a secondary school and primary school per Sub-county and Parish respectively, the policy like in other parts of the country is not yet fully implemented in Teso Sub-region. For instance, Ngora Sub-county in Ngora District, Palam Sub-county in Katakwi, Kakure and Labor Sub-counties in Kaberamaido do not have secondary schools. As a result there is congestion in the existing nearby schools and high levels of school dropouts due to long distances.

Recommendations:

The Government should extend the Seed Project of establishment of secondary schools to all Sub-counties in the Sub-region. Besides, the Government should consider extending its Partnership with Private schools in the provision of USE and UPOLET in such Sub-counties.

Issue 5: Inadequate Funding to the Sector

Both at the national and local levels, there is limited funding to the education sector especially on the non-wage recurrent and development expenditures. Contrary to the policy recommended UPE capitation grant of UGX. 10,000 to each pupil per year, the Government only provides, UGX. 7,000 per year. Besides, due to political propaganda, parents and guardians especially in rural areas have been discouraged from making any contribution towards education of their children to supplement the little Government transfers. This has constrained provision of education services especially in rural and urban poor areas.

Recommendations:

The Government should adhere to the set policies and provide the necessary amount of grants (UPE, USE and UPOLET) to finance provision of educational services. Besides, parents and guardians through PTAs and local

political leaders should be encouraged to contribute an affordable amount of money towards the education of their children. If possible District and Municipal Councils should enact Ordinances to effect this policy. Lastly, schools should consider engaging in income generating activities like agriculture to supplement Central Government grants.

4.2 Health Sector

According to NDP II, the health sector efforts will be geared towards attainment of universal health coverage through: strengthening of the national health systems including governance; disease prevention, mitigation and control; health education, promotion and control; contributing to early childhood development; curative services; rehabilitation services; palliative services; and health infrastructure development.

In order to contribute to the achievement of the overall health sector objectives, Local Governments are charged with operational planning, management and delivery of health services. These are executed by carrying out: health service delivery, supervision, monitoring, resource mobilisation, and allocation and enforcement of the health related laws and regulations. Districts and Municipal councils are responsible for Health Centre IV's, III's and II's facilities, and Village Health Teams (VHTs). The following issues were identified by the Teso Sub-region Budget Coalition under the health sector:

Issue 1: Non-functioning health structures and referral system

The health structures are non-functional in most districts of Teso Sub-region. This among other cases was evident during the recent distribution of mosquito nets without involvement of Village Health Teams (VHTs) who in most cases are familiar with households in their localities and as such can be instrumental in providing sensitisation on the use of the nets. Besides, the healthcare referral system is also not operational. As such hospitals are congested with patients with minor cases which could easily be handled by lower health centres.

Furthermore, the ambulance system is non-existent and as a consequence, the gap has been exploited by politicians who donate ambulances to their electorates. However, it is of concern to note that such ambulances (donated by politicians) are neither of minimum health standards nor affordable by the locals.

Recommendations:

The Government both local and national should utilise existing structures in provision of health care service to reduce the cost of public administration and improve efficiency in healthcare system. This should be accompanied with capacity building of existing structures instead of creation of parallel structures like the State House Drug Monitoring Unit. In addition, the Government should revive the Public Ambulance System and referral system to save life as well as reduce congestion in higher health facilities like Soroti Regional Referral Hospital, Kumi Hospital, among others.

Issue 2: Low staffing levels in health facilities

Most health facilities in Teso Sub-region are faced with a challenge of inadequate health workers especially medical officers. This is a common scenario at health centre IV's which as per the healthcare policy are supposed to have a resident doctor. Most affected facilities among others include; Katakwi, Atatur, Atirir and Kabong hospitals. Besides, most medical doctors are biased towards working with local government due to labour immobility (cannot easily be transferred to other districts or health facilities in the country).

Recommendations:

The Government should invest in capacity building of health workers; recruit more health workers; and introduce centralised recruitment of medical officers to attract medical doctors to districts without medical doctors. Besides, Government should ensure that all Health Centre IV's are staffed with a resident doctor to handle critical health cases and operationalise the healthcare referral system. Furthermore, the Government can also employ retired health workers on contract basis to supplement the available healthcare workforce.

Issue 3: Shortage and delayed delivery of medicines by National Medical Stores (NMS)

This is a common scenario in all health facilities in Teso Sub-region and it has negatively affected service provision. Drugs and other medical supplies like gloves and syringes are not sufficient to treat overwhelming patients especially in health centre IV's. Similarly, delayed delivery of medicines coupled with theft has worsened the health status in the districts. In most cases patients are referred to private clinics

to purchase medicines. It is of concern to note that most of these clinics are owned by public sector health workers. Besides, it is surprising to note that despite the drug shortages, NMS destroys expired medicines annually and leaves us puzzled whether the healthcare system in Uganda is operational and efficient.

Relatedly, there is inadequate stock/supply of ARVs and counseling services in health facilities. Due to increasing number of AIDS/HIV patients put on ARVs, there has been a challenge of timely delivery of ARVs let alone provision of counseling and testing services. This has left the life of HIV positive patients in hospitals like Atatur, Atirir and Soroti at risk.

Recommendations:

The Government should strengthen and sufficiently facilitate the health monitoring and inspection unit(s) of the Ministry of Health and district health departments instead of creating parallel monitoring units. Besides, NMS and health officials should be tasked to account for the delayed delivery of medicines on a prescribed timely basis. Furthermore, the Government should consider allocating a budget line for AIDS/HIV counseling and testing at district level.

Issue 4: Limited accommodation for health staff

This is common at Health Centre IV's, III's and II's which has constrained handling of in-patient cases at these health facilities. The situation has been worsened with the dilapidated state of the existing staff quarters.

Recommendation:

The Government should construct more staff houses at each health facility and also ensure that the existing houses are renovated and maintained in good conditions for human habitation. At least each staff member should be allocated a residential house at a health facility in the long run.

4.3 Water and Environment Sector

It is paramount to note that the overall policy objectives for the Water and Environment sector according to the NDP III are to: increase water supply coverage in rural areas from 65% (2012/13) to 79% (2019/20) while ensuring that at least each village has a clean

and safe water source; increase urban water supply from 77% (2012/13) to 95% ((100% NWSC towns) 2019/20); increase access to improved sanitation in rural areas from 69% (2012/13) to 77% (2019/20) and in urban areas from 77% (2012/13) to 100% (2019/20); increase wetland ecosystem coverage from 10.9% (2013/14) to 12% (2019/20); increase forest cover from 14% (2012/13) to 18% (2019/20); and enhance environmental compliance from 70% (2013/14) to 90% (2019/20).

According to the Local Government (1997) Act, Local Governments are responsible for delivery of water services in liaison with the Ministry responsible for natural resources and where applicable forests and wetlands. Two vote functions are used to distinguish between the budget for water and that of environmental management. In the Water sub-sector, districts are charged with a primary responsibility of constructing water facilities/points in rural areas and supporting the operation and maintenance of water services by community-based organizations such as Water User Committees. Municipalities and urban councils and districts are also responsible for the development, management and operation of urban water services, apart from those managed by the National Water and Sewerage Corporation.

Besides, Local governments are also responsible for environmental management and conservation. Issues raised under Water and Environment sector included:

Issue 01: Limited financing to the Water and Environment sector in the districts accompanied with delayed release of funds from the Treasury

Despite the importance of Water and Environment sector, there are still critical financing and coordination issues in Teso Sub-region. For instance Kaberamaido and Katakwi will receive only UGX. 418.052 million and UGX. 314.935 million for Water and Environment sector respectively. While Kumi and Amuria are earmarked to receive UGX. 526.033 million and 385.168 million respectively.

It is of concern to note that despite deplorable state of Water and Environment sector in the Sub-region, the funding to the sector has been declining. This is the same scenario at the national level where, for instance, the Water and Environment sector remains underfunded with a budget of only 699.13 billion. This has negatively affected the national targets on access to safe and clean water as well as conservation of the environment.

Recommendations:

CSBAG recommends that the Central Government should endeavour to release funds to local governments on time. Besides, districts and/or the Central Government should allocate a special vote for Water and Environment activities like WASH in Health Centres, UPE and USE/UPOLET schools. This proportion of the grant should particularly be used for WASH activities by recipients without any reallocation whatsoever.

Issue 02: Limited availability of water for both production and domestic use amidst a changing climate

Some parts of Teso Sub-region face water shortages due to drying up of water sources like boreholes. A case in point is Kumi, Soroti, Katakwi and Kaberamaido districts. This has been worsened by the recent prolonged drought which has left many people with no access to clean and safe water for domestic consumption and production. The Sub-region mainly depends on underground water and thus water supply is influenced by both climate change and social developments especially in the agriculture sector. It is surprising to note that climate change is one of the least funded sector issues, with an average national budget of UGX. 2.8bn for the current and next financial years. This is worse at the district levels where no funding is provided for climate change.

Recommendations:

The Teso Sub-region Local Government should provide budget allocation to climate change interventions using locally generated revenue; Government and particularly Teso Sub-region DLGs should also consider investing in water storage facilities; and the district should also provide piped water to highly populated trading centre

Issue 03: Low functionality of water facilities in rural areas resulting from limited investment in operation and maintenance as well degrading watersheds

The functionality of water sources for rural areas in Teso Sub-region is poor, partly because of low financing for operation and maintenance (O&M). Due to budget constraints, O&M is left to the local people who do not have enough expertise in the field leave alone the financial resources. There exists a similar

trend at the national level with only UGX. 2.2 billion proposed budget for O&M in FY 2017/2018. Similarly, the sector budget on Catchment management has been reduced by UGX. 4.3 billion yet the sector faces a challenge of implementing the developed catchment plans which will contribute to functionality of water sources. All these are negatively affecting access to water supply especially in rural areas which currently standing at 67% nationally with no exception of Teso Sub-region being.

Recommendations:

CSBAG recommends that the Teso Sub-region district Water sectors prioritise O&M financing for rural and urban areas by implementing internal reallocations on O&M for urban and rural water supply; locals should also be encouraged to contribute towards O&M possibly through enactment of ordinances by district and municipal councils. At national level, we propose that government should increase the amount allocated to water sector O&M budget to both the ministry and local governments.

Issue 4: Environmental degradation and garbage collection

There is an issue of environmental degradation in the Sub-region. This takes the form of tree cutting and charcoal burning, swamp reclamation for agriculture, poor disposal of garbage and over fishing. All districts are affected by this challenge and it has contributed to frequent floods which devastate economic activity in the sub-region. Surprisingly as noted above, the Water and Environment sectors in the Sub-region are insufficiently funded to carry out their functions including monitoring and conservation of the environment.

Recommendations:

Districts and municipal councils environmental authorities should step up monitoring environmental related activities by private individuals and Government to ensure compliance to accepted standards focusing on forestry, river and wetlands management. Strengthening the implementation of National Environmental Management Authority/National Forestry Authority laws as well as sensitisation of the locals can also remedy. Besides, Government should provide garbage collection services in urban centres as well as clearly mark collection centres. Through consultations, locals in urban centres should be charged a fee for garbage collection.

4.4 Production and Marketing (Agriculture Sector)

According to NDP III, the overall strategic goal of the agriculture sector is to ensure sustainable and market oriented production, food security, and increase in household incomes in the country. Specific objectives includes: enhancing agricultural production and productivity; increasing access to critical farm inputs; improving agricultural markets and value addition of the 12 prioritised commodities and strengthening institutional capacity of MAAIF and public agricultural agencies. On the other hand, the Trade and Cooperatives sector aspire to ensure the promotion of sustainable industrialisation and appropriate technological development to ensure availability of goods and services by expanding and diversifying domestic and export markets.

The purpose of transfers to Local Governments for agriculture services is to support services that increase the level of agricultural production and productivity of priority agricultural commodities and promote bulk marketing and trade. Issues raised under the production and marketing (agriculture) sector include:

Issue 1: Poor structure of markets for produce coupled with sanitation challenges

This is the case of among others in; Bukedea market in Bukedea district, Otuboi market in Kaberamaido, Atatur market in Kumi, Arapai market in Soroti, Ochapa market in Serere, and Ocorimongin market in Katakwi. The structures in these markets are not developed and in most cases traders use makeshift infrastructure to conduct business. Businesses are severely affected during rainy market days. Besides, some of the available improved markets constructed under the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture have been disserted due to poor locations (located in places with no business activity)

Recommendations:

The Government through the commercialisation of agriculture programme should consider constructing and improving market structures with consultation with locals. Big Teso Sub-region markets like Bukedea, Otuboi and Arapai should be given priority. Besides, in the meantime, Local Governments in Teso Sub-region should use part of the proceeds from market dues to improve the sanitation

in these markets mainly focusing on garbage collection and clearance of drainage channels.

Issue 2: Lack of water for production

The whole of Teso Sub-region does not have a functioning irrigation scheme and as such this has constrained farming during dry seasons making the Sub-region vulnerable to hunger. Besides, as noted under water subsector, the urban and trading centres are not adequately supplied with water for both consumption and production which in turn has undermined trade and commerce. The region is most hit during dry seasons.

Recommendations:

In the long run Governments should consider setting an irrigation scheme in the Sub-region to facilitate all year agricultural production. This could take the form of gravity flow Scheme with water obtained from slopes of Mt. Elgon (in districts of Bulambuli and/or Sironko). Under ground water sources could also be considered as an option.

Issue 3: Inadequate electricity especially in rural areas which have not benefited from the rural electrification programme

Most rural areas are not connected to the national electricity grid despite the continued Government spending on the implementation of the Rural Electrification Programme. Most affected districts are Serere, Kaberamaido, Katakwi and Ngora. This has hindered agricultural industrialization and value addition. Besides, agricultural produce storage facilities like silos and granaries are non-existent in the Sub-region. As result, farmers have been left to the whims of middlemen who exploit them during harvesting periods.

Recommendations:

Government should extent its Rural Electrification Programme to cover all parts of the Sub-region in addition to ensuring consistent availability of power. Besides, CSBAG strongly believes that investment in agricultural storage facilities like Government silos and warehouse receipt system can go a long way in reducing wastage and hunger as well as farmer exploitation by middlemen.

Issue 4: Inadequate supply of farm inputs under Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) Programme

Farm input supplied under OWC are inadequate and of substandard quality. For instance a household is supplied with 5kg of maize and beans without consideration of transport costs to the collection centres which in most cases outweigh the monetary value of inputs collected. In addition, the programme is marred with corruption and distribution of low quality products given the fact that award of supply contracts in most cases is politically motivated. The programme is also implemented by the UPDF with little or no technical knowledge on agricultural extension services. This has left the farmers as the net losers in the entire programme.

Recommendations:

The Government should increase the input allocations to each farmer under OWC programme to at least 50kg of inputs per household if the programme is to increase production and productivity. Besides, qualified extension workers should be hired and facilitated to do the work instead of the Army.

4.5 Works and Transport Sector (Roads and Engineering)

NDP II aims at increasing the stock and quality of strategic infrastructure to accelerate the country's competitiveness. Under the Local Government (1997) Act, Local Governments have the responsibility of delivering road services including; the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads which are not under the Central Government. Roads under Local Governments are classified as District, Urban, or Community Access Roads (DUCAR). Below are the issues that were raised under the Works and Transport sector:

Issue 1: Poor quality of roads and lack of value for money during project implementation

Most roads constructed and maintained by districts in the Sub-region are in a poor state due to poor quality services during construction process. An example is Pallisa-Kumi road. This is worsened by the fact that in some cases, the contractors are connected to political leaders and technocrats in the districts which hampers

supervision and hence compromises the quality of services delivered by such contractors; as such there is no or little value for money for the roads constructed.

Recommendations:

The districts and municipal council contracts committees should blacklist contractors with shoddy work. Besides, the bidding process should be made transparent through enforcement of open bidding procedures as well as dealing with political influence.

Issue 2: Substandard equipment delivered by the Central Government for road works and maintenance

Most of the equipment delivered by the Central Government (Ministry of Works and Transport) to Local Governments (Roads and Engineering Departments) have since stopped working barely two years after their delivery. Affected districts include; Katakwi, Serere, Ngora, Soroti and Kumi. This has constrained the districts' efforts in maintaining roads under their jurisdiction.

Recommendations:

The Government should provide sufficient funding to Local Governments for O&M of road equipment. Besides, in the short run districts and municipal councils should use part of their locally generated revenue for O&M.

4.6 Social Development Sector (Community Based Services)

The Social Development Sector provides community level activities to reduce poverty and plays a pivotal role that creates the necessary conducive environment for the other sectors to effectively deliver services to all sections of the population. The key role of the sector is to promote the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized groups and catalyse them to appreciate, demand and uptake social services.

Under the Local Government (1997) Act, Local Governments have the responsibility of services relating to social rehabilitation, labour matters, probation and welfare, street children and orphans, women in development, community development, youth affairs, and cultural affairs. Given this, the

Social Development sector aims to promote gender equality, women's empowerment, increase protection of workers, and expand social protection. With these roles in mind, the following issues were raised as far as the Social Development sector is concerned.

Issue 1: Limited coverage of SAGE and YLP Programmes and funding of Social Development Sector

No district in Teso-Sub-region is covered by the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) yet there are many elderly (senior citizens) in the Sub-region. This has left the older persons vulnerable. Besides, the funding to the social development sector is significantly low, for instance, at only UGX 38.677 million, UGX 68.054 million, UGX 52.904 million, UGX 42.429 million in Kumi, Amuria, Soroti and Katakwi respectively in FY 2017/18. Other districts and municipal councils in the region have similar allocations to the social development sector which has hindered the provision of community based services.

Recommendation:

The Government should extend the SAGE Programme to cover Teso Sub-region and in addition, funding for community based services should be increased at least to UGX. 150 million in each district and municipal council for a FY

4.7 Public Sector Management and Accountability Sector

The Departments of Administration, Finance, Internal Audit, the Planning Unit and statutory Bodies are responsible for political and technical oversight and coordination of the Local Government in these areas. Their vote functions and associated mandates are: coordination of LG activities, monitoring, organisation; human resource management; records management; revenue mobilisation, budgeting, financial management and accountability; processing land rights/land administration issues for the case of Land Boards; and procurement and disposal of goods and services. Issue raised under public administration and accountability sector are:

Issue 1: Corruption and nepotism as well as Low staffing and facilitation levels

Most districts in the Teso Sub-region like in other regions of the country are affected by corruption and nepotism. This is rampant among District Service Commissions (DSCs) and contracts committees. In most cases jobs and contracts are awarded to inefficient people and contractors respectively due to corruption and nepotism. Besides, some districts as noted earlier do not have all key staff for effective functioning. Common among most of them are medical doctors at Health Centre IV's.

Recommendations:

The Government should centralise recruitment of district heads of department and key staff above salary scale U3 so as to reduce on corrupt tendencies during recruitment. Besides, the Government should also consider hiring of external human resource firms to conduct recruitment of key district staff instead of DSCs.

5.0

CONCLUSION

We as CSOs in Teso Sub-region strongly believe that the above recommendations if considered and implemented by Government and respective Local Government will go a long way in improving service delivery in the region. We acknowledge the fact that it could be impossible or extremely difficult to implement the entire package in a single financial year, however, we shall be grateful if Central Government and Local Governments show commitment towards implementation of these policy options with a defined time frame as we strive to achieve a people centred budget that dignifies humanity.

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VISION:

A Uganda with a people centered budget that dignifies humanity.

MISSION:

CSBAG works towards ensuring that budgets at local and national levels are participatory, pro-people and address the needs and aspirations of all Ugandans especially the poor and voiceless.



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