



CSO POSITION PAPER ON THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR BUDGET FY2018/19

The paper is based on the analysis of the FY 2018/19 Ministerial Policy Statement for the Social Development Sector FY2018/19



Developed by the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group and Submitted to the Parliament Committee on Social Development sector.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the views and concerns of the poor people and gender concerns that should be incorporated into the national budget priorities for the next national budget for FY 2018/19.

1.1 About CSBAG

The Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) is a coalition of more than 50 civil society organizations (CSOs) jointly formed in 2004 by Uganda Debt Network, Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Uganda National NGO Forum and OXFAM GB in Uganda. CSBAG brings together CSOs at national and district levels to influence government decisions on resource mobilization and utilization for equitable and sustainable development. CSBAG members are committed to working together and to providing collaborative support to civil society budget work in Uganda.

1.2 Acknowledgement

CSBAG would like to appreciate Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Women and Girl Child Development (WEGCDA), African Youth Development Link (AYDL), CEDOVIP, NUDIPU and JENGA AFRIKA among others for participating in the development of the position paper.

1.3 The Social Development Sector

The Social Development Sector contributes to all NDP II objectives and strategies but is particularly focused on increasing household incomes and promoting equality, enhancing the availability and quality of gainful employment and increasing access to quality social services. Social Development entails empowerment of people to participate more in state affairs and to be able to hold leaders accountable. It applies to social protection of vulnerable persons for example women, children, the elderly and those in areas of conflict and prone to violence. The Social Development Sector works to strengthen communities' rights and provide social protection. Its major focus is to

empower communities to harness their potential through cultural growth, skills development, and labour productivity. The Sector interventions, matches with the entire Plan's proposed strategies save for "ensuring Macroeconomic stability with fiscal expansion for Front loading infrastructure investments.

The sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were approved by UN General Assembly. This has 3 main targets on social protection 1.3, 5.4, 10.4 (Poverty, inequality, gender) plus target 3.8 on universal health coverage as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8 on decent work.

The sector is comprised of state and non-state actors which include; Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, National Women's Council, National Youth Council, National Council for Children, National Council for Disability, Uganda Culture Centre, National Library of Uganda, Industrial Court and Equal Opportunity Commission, CSOs, Cultural institutions and Development partners.

It has 4 (four) core program areas namely; Community Mobilization and Empowerment, Mainstreaming Gender and Rights, Promotion of Labour Productivity and Employment, and Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups.

1.3.1 Sector mandate

The role of the social development sector is to improve standards of living, equity, and social cohesion. It focuses on empowerment of communities to harness their potential through skills development, increased labour productivity, and cultural growth. The sectors empowerment efforts target women, youth, children, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and other vulnerable persons.

2.0 SECTOR PERFORMANCE

2.1 Overview of Sector Expenditure

For the financial year 2018/19, government has allocated UGX 174.806bn constituting 0.8% of a UGX 29.2 Trillion Budget. This is down from 175.810bn allocated in

FY2017/18, representing a loss of 1.004bn for a sector already heavily underfunded. The percentage change has remained the same as last year. The Social Development Budget takes the 14th position (one of the lowest) in the national resource envelop

proposed allocations alongside other sectors such as Lands, Housing and Urban Development (0.7%), Tourism, Trade and Industry (0.5%) and Science Technology and Innovation (0.3%)

Table 1: Past Performance and Medium Term Allocations

| | | 2017/18 | | | 2018/19 | MTEF Budget Projections | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | 2016/17 Outturn | Approved Budget | Expenditure by End Dec | | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| Recurrent | Wage | 3.437 | 3.606 | 1.633 | 4.053 | 4.458 | 4.681 | 4.915 |
| | Non Wage | 19.721 | 35.748 | 17.313 | 51.715 | 63.092 | 72.556 | 87.067 |
| Dev. | GoU | 86.003 | 117.125 | 27.105 | 114.588 | 139.797 | 167.757 | 167.757 |
| | Ext. Fin. | 0.000 | 3.775 | 0.000 | 19.288 | 35.001 | 27.834 | 27.974 |
| GoU Total | | 109.162 | 156.480 | 46.052 | 170.355 | 207.347 | 244.993 | 259.739 |
| Total GoU+Ext Fin (MTEF) | | 109.162 | 160.255 | 46.052 | 189.644 | 242.348 | 272.827 | 287.713 |
| Arrears | | 0.000 | 0.184 | 0.071 | 0.716 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Total Budget | | 109.162 | 160.439 | 46.123 | 190.360 | 242.348 | 272.827 | 287.713 |
| A.I.A Total | | 0.000 | 1.500 | 0.385 | 2.000 | 2.200 | 2.500 | 2.700 |
| Grand Total | | 109.162 | 161.939 | 46.508 | 192.360 | 244.548 | 275.327 | 290.413 |
| Total Vote Budget Excluding Arrears | | 109.162 | 161.755 | 46.437 | 191.644 | 244.548 | 275.327 | 290.413 |

Source: Social Development Sector MPS FY 2018/19

According to the MTEF, we note that the ratio of funding growth for the sector especially for development leans more towards external financing than the government. The GOU funding is expected to increase funding for development by 46.4% between 2018/19 to 2022/22 (from 114.588Bn to 167.757Bn), while external funding is expected to grow by 31.05% in the same period (from 19.288Bn to 29.504). The ratio of increment is of concern in a phase when the country is supposed to be moving towards self-reliance.

The reducing funding mentioned above comes inspite of the sector's request for additional funding of UGX 244.3Bn to address 16 critical areas in the FY2018/19 period. Key among these are; establishment of regional offices for the EOC, rehabilitation and renovation of Social Development

Institutions such as remand homes and rehabilitation centers, promotion of Green Jobs and Fair Labour Market (PROGREL), and compensation of government workers (including arrears).

We appreciate the alignment of priority areas in the sector to the priorities of the NDPII. We however note with concern the massive deficit in allocation for the social development sector for the FY2018/19 (Shs174.806Bn) and going forward, versus the targeted costing for the sector in the NDPII (Shs3,096.6Bn). The variance is glaring and begs the question as to how we hope to achieve on the targets of the NDPII with underfunding for a key sector catering to social protection of a big portion of the population.

2.2 Intra-sectoral Analysis of the Social Development Sector

It has been noted that the Ministry of Gender continues to take the largest proportion of the sector budget both in FY 2017/18 and in the FY 2018/19 projections. The ministry is projected to take at least 90% of the sector's allocation for FY2018/19 with the remaining 10% shared between KCCA, EOC, and Local Government, whose allocations have remained constant between the FY 2017/18 to FY 2018/19. The ministry of gender (vote 018) has seen an increase of Shs15.239Bn from NBFP level allocation of Shs159.567billion to now 174.806billion which is appreciated.

We particularly note that the persistent low financing to the Local Governments and the EOC will impede efforts to ensure social protection and provide effective service delivery. The limited financing also hinders the capacity of the EOC to adequately build the capacity as well assess all sectors and MDAs on the Gender and Equity Certificate. At the LG level Community Development Officers are unable to monitor service delivery to ensure the effectiveness of community development programs including Youth Livelihood Program, SAGE, Functional Adult Literacy (FAL), and Uganda Women Empowerment Program (UWEP).

There has been an increase for vote 018 (MGLSD) of 15.239UG billions from the budget frame work paper of budget of 159.567billion to now 174.806billion.

3.0 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR CONCERNS

1. Unclear outcomes in reports and medium term plans

A review of the achievements and medium term plans of the sector Ministerial policy statements does not give clear results up to outcome level for the different programs that have allocated funds.

Concern:

This makes it difficult to have an impression of the impact of the money being spent.

Recommendation(s)

All the vote reports of achievements and medium term plans should include outcomes for a clear indication of the value for the funds spent, but also in line with the transition from output to programme based budgeting.

2. Poor implementation framework for the social protection programs

The Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) as well as the Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Program (UWEP) for example, have had issues with implementation based on poor expectations as well as poor repayment by the beneficiaries which negatively impacted the performance of the sub programs. Despite the over whelming demand for these social protection programs across the districts, these programs have suffered limited funding over the years, coupled with corruption at the district level. The other challenge has been the poor attitudes of some youths who abandon good programs in the middle of the rollout making it hard to achieve intended outcomes.

Recommendation(s):

- Review the implementation of these programs to include adequate prior training of potential beneficiaries on financial literacy and management programs before disbursement of funds.
- Enhance CSO role in the monitoring process of service delivery and reporting corruption to relevant authorities as a way of taking civic and legal action against the abusers of these programs.

3. Uncertainty surrounding the SAGE Program

UK is funding SAGE and the pilot has stopped pending GOU matching funds. We appreciate the intent and success stories of the program.

Concern:

However we are concerned about the government paying Lip Service to the program as the MPS FY2018/19 doesn't show any funds committed to the program.

Recommendation(s):

- The review, revamping and scaling up of the SAGE program to support the elderly who are a growing section of Uganda's population will be important in showing government's commitment and meeting the needs of this social protect group.

4. Unclear framework for supporting traditional leaders

For the FY 2017/18, 14 traditional leaders were given a facilitation of 30m each totalling to UGX 420 m to mobilize communities for development. There is a proposed increment of this money to UGX 60 m per traditional leader annually for the next three financial years between 2019 - 2022 which would add up to UGX 2.5 Bn.

Concern:

Kingdoms receive the same amount of money irrespective of the size of the kingdom. This equal treatment of unequal kingdoms in terms of size and population leads to inequalities. There are also unclear guidelines on reporting progress for the support given to traditional institutions. The other challenge is political influence in the

creation of new kingdoms, which creates instability in these cultural institutions.

Recommendation(s):

- Review the support frame work for traditional leaders.
- Clarity on outcomes and utilization of resources in these institutions.

5. Poor planning for and mainstreaming of GBV

The National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention was rolled out in only eight local governments and no considerations were made for 2018/19 for the remaining 100+ districts.

Concern:

In spite of this limited achievements there are no plans for the medium term to roll out the GBV nation policy and action plan to the rest of the LGs. It is also not clear what "Rolling out" involves.

Recommendation(s):

- Electronically share the national action plan and policy with all LGs to create awareness
- Finance the roll out of the national policy and action plan for at least 2-3 financial years to cover the remaining local governments.

6. Huge disparities in the payment of government civil servants

According to the EOC report 2017 on discrepancies in salaries of public servants, there is a revelation of gross disparities between different public service posts and those of statutory agencies or even within these agencies themselves. For example the highest paid civil servant is the bank of Uganda governor with UGX 53,300,000 per month while the Head of Public Service earns UGX 4,952,059 per month. Observations reveal that some top

officials earn three-to-twenty two times more than their counterparts in other public institutions. For example, Solicitor General earns about 9 per cent of the salary for Commissioner General in URA or 7 percent of what is earned by the Governor of the Central Bank.

Concern:

Discrepancy in pay of public servants who have similar qualifications and or similar public service pay scales is a source of demotivation and the cause of poor performance in service delivery.

Recommendation(s):

- Designate EOC in conjunction with ministry of public service to carry out the salary review.
- Do not renew all contracts for persons who earn huge salaries and re-advertise the positions under new terms in order to ensure equal pay for equal work.
- There is need to take back agencies of government and other para-statals under the control of public service.
- Expedite the institution of salary review commission.

7. Unclear Reflection of the EOC role in the National Budget Calendar

According to the 2017/18 assessment report of the MPS of the government of Uganda, it was indicated as one of the challenges the unclear indication of the EOC role in the budget cycle especially before the assessments of the NBFP and the MPS of sectors.

Concern:

The NBFP is supposed to be submitted to Parliament by 15th November while the MPS by 15th March of every financial year. However when the EOC is not given a clear timeline on the budget calendar, it makes its work unscheduled and

unclear especially that some sectors and votes bring their BFPs and MPS late for assessment.

Recommendation(s):

- Designate a clear timeline for the EOC on the Budget Calendar within the Framework of the Public Finance Management Act 2015 as amended
- Further training of MDAs and Local governments on gender & equity compliance, to help expedite the process of assessment.

Disability Concerns

8. Delayed Review of relevant legal framework

The Persons with Disability Act 2006 was passed by Parliament under its mandate in Article 35 of the 1995 Constitution before Uganda’s ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability. The PWD Bill 2014 therefore seeks to domesticate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability which among others seeks to abolish derogatory language that describes Persons with Disability in the laws of Uganda, and incorporate aspects of reasonable accommodation. It further intends to strengthen the National Council for Disability through strengthening the mandate of the Council. We note with concern the recall of the Persons with Disability Bill 2014 in February 2018 due to the existence of a new bill that is currently being drafted.

Recommendation

- CSOs and Disabled Person Organizations therefore recommend that the revised Bill be tabled on the floor of Parliament in consultation with the relevant stakeholders as a matter of urgency to provide for Persons with Disability.
- Furthermore, we recommend that the National Policy for Disability likewise be reviewed and institutionalized
- We commend the increment of the number of PWDs that are trained from 170 PWDs to 200 PWDs.

9. Inadequate attention to the ensuring conducive and safe working conditions

Injuries at the workplace and accidents are a critical source of disability. The Social development MPS highlights the increasing number of accidents and injuries at workplaces as a critical challenge. The ministry reported investigation of 8 workplace accidents in the FY 2016/17; (Annual Budget Performance Report) while the 2018/19 MPS highlights investigation of 6 accidents thus far.

The financing for Occupational Safety and Health remains stagnant at UGX 2.052bn between FY 2017/18 and FY 2018/19. It is therefore imperative that Government allocates adequate financing towards monitoring workplace conditions to curb the increasing accidents as well as potential injuries and disabilities that may occur. This is because these injuries may result in lower employment opportunities after the injury as well as significant losses in income.

Recommendation(s):

- The Workers' Compensation Act 2000 provides for compensation to workers who are injured or disabled through industrial accidents by Government as well as private employers. The requisite financing should thus be allocated to financing compensation of workers who have been injured or disabled through industrial accidents.
- Likewise more financing should be allocated to ensuring occupational safety and health at the workplace through increased monitoring and supervision.

10. Lumping Disability and Elderly Persons' Resources Together

This sub-program for issues of disability and elderly reflected the way it is with lump sum amounts of money for disability and elderly makes the tracking of funds for either vulnerable category difficult. The resources for this program have remained the same for the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19 being proposed.

Recommendation(s):

- Let the elderly and persons with disabilities have their own programs each to enable tracking of spending and impact of each sub-program.
- Increase the money in each sub program to cater for the increasing needs and numbers in each sub-category.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The social development sector continues to provide key services to the most vulnerable sections of the Ugandan population such as the youth, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly

and yet it continues to get of one lowest budget allocations. Many of its activities end up as unfunded. The other challenge is the institutional and implementation framework for the social protection programmes which makes them unable to impact meaningfully the lives of the intended beneficiaries. The ministry and sector needs to review the implementation framework of all its programmes for meaningful achievement of gender and equity objectives.

References:

Ministerial Policy Statements of the Social Development Sector 2018/19

National Budget Framework Paper 2018/19

National Development Plan II

EOC Study Report on Salary Disparities in Public Service 2017

EOC Assessment Report on Compliance of Ministerial Policy Statements with Gender and Equity Requirements Financial Year 2017/2018

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