



# CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



## Plan to recruit additional 22,000 teachers in FY 2019/20 applauded by CSOs

“Due to budgetary constraints, the recruitment will be done in four phases; 6,000 teachers for the first phase, 6000 for the second and...”

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have applauded government efforts to recruit additional primary school teachers to bridge the existing teacher to pupil ratio gap. Under sector budget strategy FY 2019/20, the education sector plans to do a phased recruitment of 22,000 primary school teachers. Diana Tibesigwa, the Policy and Campaigns Officer at World Vision-Uganda, says that government’s plan to recruit more teachers will bridge the pupil to teacher ratio in primary schools, which was reported at 1:85 in 2018, against the ideal 1:53 ratio. She adds that the total enrolment in primary schools increased from 8,655,924 (4,294,473 male, 4,361,451 female) in FY 2016/17 to 9,047,531 (4,466,283 male, 4,581,248 female) in FY 2017/18, which creates the need for more teachers. The ideal teacher-pupil ratio is ignored in most schools as some teachers attend to three times the number of pupils that they ought to teach.



Students and their teacher in a congested classroom. Government plans to recruit more teachers to bridge the pupil to teacher ratio in primary schools which was reported at 1:85 in 2018, against the ideal 1:53 ratio. | @CSBAG2019

per school, more than 13,000 government funded primary schools are currently operating with a limited and insufficient number of teachers. The Education Ministry uses the allocation formula to consider both the big and small schools such that if a primary school has 370 pupils, it qualifies for seven teachers. However, some schools cannot get the seven or required number of teachers hence the need for more teachers to cover the gap.

### Blocked attempts

In 2018, the Education Ministry carried out a study in all the local governments of Uganda to reveal staffing gaps in primary schools. The study revealed that the ministry needed to recruit additional 22,000 teachers to bridge the teacher to pupil ratio gap in all local governments. However attempts made to carry out the recruitment were blocked by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), arguing that there was no money. However, the Finance Ministry

has since lifted the ban. Starting with the 2019/2020 financial year, the ministry will hire 22,000 teachers in 4 different phases. The total nominal allocation for the education sector is projected to decrease from UGX 2781.1 billion in FY2018/19 to UGX 2685.5 billion in FY2019/20. CSOs are concerned that since the wage bill is stagnant at 1,626.44bn however, the 22,000 phased recruitment may not be able to start in FY 2019/20.

### Teachers threaten

The proposed recruitment of teachers comes at a time when teachers under Uganda National Teacher Union (UNATU) are threatening to strike over salary enhancement. A total of about 140,000 primary school teachers in public schools across the country want government to increase their salaries as promised in 2014. Mukasa says that 62% of the education ministry’s budget is spent on wages only, leaving only 38% for both non-wage and development.

## OUR WORK IN PICTURES



CSBAG ED, Julius Mukunda (extreme right) together with other officials handing over certificates of competence to Gender and Equity budget national trainers in Kampala recently. | CSBAG2019



CSBAG’s Rama Omonya (standing) facilitating a session on Gender and Equity case studies in Kamuli, Eastern Uganda last week. | CSBAG2019



CSBAG’s Siragi Magara delivering opening remarks during a community dialogue meeting about Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Kamwokya recently. | CSBAG2019