

CSBAG trains district CSOs on budget performance, monitoring and advocacy



This was during the TOT training of community leaders and CSOs about budget analysis and advocacy at Pope Paul Memorial Hotel | @CSBAG

“The Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) has trained members of district community based organizations on how to track budget performance and on issues of lobbying and advocacy.”

This was during a three-day training from **28th-30th July 2016** held at Pope Paul Memorial Hotel which attracted participants from Kibuku, Agago, Kibale, Shema, and Abim districts. The training was attended by 53 participants.

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In the training, trainers were taken through the basics of budget analysis, the legal institutional framework for citizens’ participation. Other topics discussed include introduction to participatory monitoring and evaluation, understanding Local Government planning and budgeting, collaboration and partnership between Local Government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as well as lobbying and advocacy. “Monitoring and evaluation are crucial in that it brings to the attention policy makers what action to take,” Jude Odaro a facilitator said.

The CSBAG coordinator Julius Mukunda urged the participants to put in practice skills learnt to improve service delivery at the Local Government district level.

The trainees agreed to make action plan for the next month among them holding Radio Talk Shows of critical issues affecting service delivery so that the district leaders would take action. Others are bringing together the sub-county chiefs, community district officers and others leaders to discuss issues of budget monitoring and advocacy.

Regarding monitoring feeder roads, the participants were told to pay much attention to the coverage in terms of square kilometers covered in relation to amount allocated for the activity. “Monitoring must be undertaken of all activities of the feeder road works to ensure that guidelines for construction and maintenance are followed,” Odaro told participants.

The trainees were also asked to ensure that display of budgets at public notice boards for public consumption is done and follow up with procurement processes and contract service guidelines.

In conclusion, the community based facilitators were equipped with skills in budget monitoring and advocacy that they shall pass on to the participatory budget clubs that they shall form in each of the sub counties where CSBAG operates in districts of Kibuku, Agago, Kibale, Shema, Abim.