



# CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



## Civil Society challenge health sector financing priorities, service delivery

“We are concerned about the disease burden. Despite having many Health Centres they are not sufficiently equipped...”



CSO representative, Brian Atuhaire (middle) delivers the CSO statement during a media briefing on the state of the health sector financing that was held at the CSBAG offices in Kampala. On the left is CSBAG Budget Policy Specialist, David Walakira while on the right is Diana Tibesigwa, the Policy and Campaigns Officer at World Vision Uganda. | @CSBAG2019

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) under the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) have decried poor service delivery in the health sector and underfunding saying that government should review the public private partnership policy to achieve universal health coverage. Addressing a press briefing at the CSBAG headquarters in Kampala on Sunday March 17, 2019, the CSOs argued that the health sector currently requires a lot amount of money which needs unconventional measures of fundraising for health. The Civil Society actors were giving their perspective on the state of health service and financing. They said government should fund the completion of Mulago Hospital to a tune of UGX9.6b and provide human resource as well as equipment to combat Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) which are becoming a huge burden.

### Disease burden

Brian Atuhaire, Advocacy Manager PATH who presented the CSO statement pointed out that 2.7 million patients are suffering from NCDs according to Ministry of Health reports of outpatients department hospital visits. "We are concerned about the disease burden. Despite having many existing Health Centres and Hospitals, they are not sufficiently equipped to deal with NCDs," Atuhaire said. The CSOs criticized Parliament for approving a loan of UGX1.4 trillion towards the construction of Lubowa International Hospital in Wakiso district suggesting part of the money should be channelled to complete Mulago Hospital which requires only UGX9.6b.

The Civil Society paper was in response to last week's state of health service delivery report which was delivered to Parliament by the Minister of Health Dr Ruth Acheng. The CSOs observed that the health sector is pivotal in ensuring a healthy population that guarantees increased production and productivity hence accelerating Uganda's efforts in achieving Vision 2040.

### Effect on economy

Atuhaire was flanked by David Walakira CSBAG Budget Policy Specialist, Diana Tibesigwa Policy and Campaigns Officer at World Vision Uganda, Simon Richard Mugenyi Advocacy and Communications Manager at Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) said the malaria disease burden is not only a challenge to human development but economic development. He said this affects the country's gross domestic product as malaria accounted for 29.5% of all out patients department attendance representing 11.6 million patients.

The Civil Society however, noted that Uganda's budget towards health sector has grown from UGX779b in FY 2011/2012 to UGX2.3 trillion in the FY 2018/2019 and is projected to increase to UGX2.4 trillion in the coming financial year but more needs to be done. Other issues of concern raised by the CSOs included disparities in salary allocation to teaching professors and senior consultants, inadequate vaccines supplies, delay of tabling national insurance bill before Parliament and the inadequate number of ambulances in the country available for emergency services, governance, understaffing and others.

### Emergency response

In regard to ambulances, the CSOs said Uganda needs 400 ambulances for basic emergency response compared to the 173 that are currently available. The Civil Society statement was put together and issued jointly by CSBAG, World Vision Uganda, PATH Uganda and Reproductive Health Uganda.

## OUR WORK IN PICTURES



CSBAG Budget Policy Specialist, Sophie Nampewo (extreme left) with other officials at the launch of Analytical Report on Gender Based Violence, asset ownership and employment status in Uganda last week.



Participants from the media and other officials attending a CSO press briefing on the state of health service delivery and financing. The event was held at the CSBAG offices in Ntinda yesterday. | CSBAG2019



Participants including CSO representatives drafting a charter through which the Humanitarian Platform will operate during a meeting in Kampala recently. | CSBAG2019