



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Malaria cases on the rise, Budget reduced by 54%

“...Ministry of Finance should consider undertaking a situational analysis on the new prevalence of malaria cases and urgently establish the magnitude of the problem.”

for the malaria drugs and clearly people will die if no emergency or supplementary budget is considered,” said Dr. Clever Gamukama, the In Charge at Kasambya HC III.

Ms Namukasa Rosemary, a Nursing officer at Nyamaarwa HC III also reported that in the month of May 2019, the health centre received over 900 patients yet the available drugs could only treat 570 patients in one month.

Wasteful expenditures

Further analysis of the Health Budget for FY2019/20 indicates wasteful expenditures that would efficiently be utilised to scale up supplies of essential medicines to the benefit of the poor. Specifically, the Ministry of Health vote has a total budget of UGX1.9bn for printing and photo copying, and a total of UGX7bn for travel abroad. This implies that the Ministry’s planned expenditure towards administration is relatively high and eating up the budget for actual service delivery, to the disadvantage of the citizens.

In 2018, under the ‘Chase Malaria’ campaign, the Ministry of Health successfully distributed mosquito nets to households across the country. However, the current malaria prevalence rate depicts low uptake of mosquito nets especially in the rural communities.

CSO recommendations

Ministry of Health should consider undertaking a situational analysis on the new prevalence of malaria cases and urgently establish the magnitude of the problem and thereafter submit a supplementary budget to increase purchase and supply of anti-malaria medicine and other essential medicines to reduce danger of poor people dying of malaria especially in rural areas.

for the poor and vulnerable people who cannot afford healthcare services from private health care providers.

Increased malaria prevalence in rural Uganda

Findings from the CSO budget monitoring report in health centres for Quarter 4 of FY2018/19 show that there is increased prevalence of malaria cases among communities. For example, in Kasambya HC III in Kakumiro district, the malaria cases were averaging at 30 cases per month last year. However, the facility receives over 300 cases of malaria per month this year. Similarly, at Nyamaarwa HC III in Kibale district, malaria cases rose from 60 patients per month in February 2019 to 900 malaria patients in May 2019. This affected the health centre’s effectiveness to address these increasing malaria cases.

“In FY 2018/2019, malaria cases had reduced to about 30 cases per month but all of a sudden malaria prevalence has increased to about 300 cases per month. We already sent a low budget

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



CSOs during a reflection meeting on CSO engagement FY2019/20 and strategies for joint budget monitoring for FY2019/20 on 24th July. © CSBAG 2019



Tanzania, Chad, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Chad, and Uganda pose for a group photo after a learning and exchange meeting at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development offices in Kampala on 25th July. © CSBAG2019



CSBAG’s Executive Director Julius Mukunda (R) handing over the CSO Budget monitoring report for Quarter 4 of FY2018/19 to the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Keith Muhakanizi (L) while Godfrey Semugooma- Director Financial Management and Technical Advisory Services at Ministry of Finance looks on 25th July 2019. © CSBAG 2019



Patients waiting for treatment at a crowded Health Centre. CSO budget monitoring in health centres for Quarter 4 of FY2018/19 revealed increased prevalence of malaria cases among communities.

Malaria is a major public health problem associated with slow socio-economic development and poverty. Malaria is also the most frequently reported disease at both public and private health facilities in Uganda. Clinically diagnosed malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, accounting for up to 50% of outpatient visits at health facilities, 20% of all hospital admissions, and up to 20% of all hospital deaths. 27.2% of inpatient deaths among children under five years of age are due to malaria.

A significant percentage of deaths occur at home and are not reported by the facility-based Health Management Information System (HMIS).

Despite the danger paused by malaria, the FY2019/20 budget for malaria was cut by more than 54% of the total budget for malaria.

For example, close scrutiny of the National Medical Stores vote under the health sector shows the budget for supply of Anti-Malarial Medicines (ACTs) to accredited facilities was cut from UGX 10.2bn to 4.7bn in the FYs 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively registering a 54% reduction. This spells danger