



WESTERN REGION (HOIMA)

**PRESENTED AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET
CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS
FY2025/26, 16TH – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024
HOIMA RESORT- HOIMA
PRESENTED BY MACRIS MUGUME**

**BULIISA, MASINDI, KAGADI, KABAROLE, FORT PORTAL
CITY, KIBAALE, KAKUMIRO**



INTRODUCTION

- AS Civil Society Organizations (CSOS), We Deeply Appreciate the Opportunity to Actively Engage in the Government of Uganda's Budgeting Processes.
- Fiscal Year 2025/26 Will be The First Implementation Year of the 4th National Development Plan (2025/26-2030/31), and Will be the First Five Years of the Strategy for Growing the Economy Tenfold, from about Usd50 Billion in Fy2022/23 to Usd500 Billion by 2040
- The Ambitious Target to Grow Uganda's GDP Tenfold by 2040 Requires a Shift away from Business as usual. The Sectors that have been identified to Drive this Growth Agro-Industrialization, Tourism, Mineral Development and Science and Technology are mainly LG Sectors so take advantage.



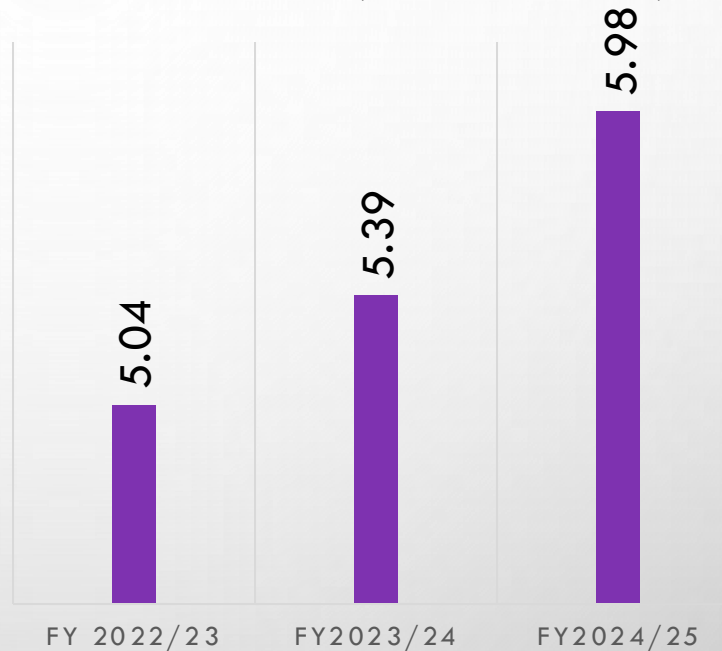
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO CSOS SERVICE DELIVERY CONCERNS RAISED IN FY2024/25

1. Increase in Funding for Local Governments: We applaud the Government for increasing the budget for Local Governments from **UGX 5.04 trillion in FY 2022/23 to UGX 5.39 trillion in FY 2023/24 to 5.98 trillion in FY 2024/25.**

The government has also provided an additional **UGX 1 billion to each district** for the rehabilitation of the declining District, Urban, and Community Access Roads (DUCAR).

This will improve connectivity, boost trade, and enhance revenue collection in Local Governments

ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT (UGX TRILLIONS)



Source; Background to the budget



2. INCREASED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT AUDIT PROCESS

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) recently launched the Citizens Feedback Platform (CFP), a digital solution aimed at empowering citizens to voice their commendations and concerns regarding the quality-of-service delivery.

The primary objective of the Citizens Feedback Platform is to facilitate data collection and analysis, informing the planning, execution, and reporting of audits, while also improving public access to audit products and enabling citizens to actively follow up on audit issues



Some of the CSO Participants trained on the use of the Citizen Feedback Platform by CSBAG and the OAG in Mbarara, Sept 2023. Photo: @CSBAG

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE IN PICTURES



Nyambindo-Kitwetwe(7.6kms) road- Masindi District



A two-classroom block constructed at Nyambindo Primary School- Masindi



A 5 stance VIP latrine constructed at Kibambura P/s- Buliisa District



Constructed Butiaba Health Centre III, Butiaba S/C- Buliisa District

3. HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES ADDRESSED



1

FUNDING FOR COMMODITIES

Increased from UGX **544 BN (30%)** in FY 2021/22 to UGX **740 BN (36%)** in Fy 2024/25

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

HSC integrated in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development budget circular and MoLGs circular to DLGs



Supply chain Challenges addressed through a multisectoral approach.



6 HSC GOVERNANCE

IMTF instituted and coordinated by OPM, MOH approved 6 HSC policy frameworks documents



5 HEALTH COMMODITY WAREHOUSING

Completion of the NMS warehouse at Kajjansi.



4 HSC HUMAN RESOURCES

New HSC positions instituted in HFs i.e Senior Pharmacists, Assistant Medical Records Officer, ICT officers, Health Records officers.



- ✓ **1,434** facilities provided with digital supply chain infrastructure.
- ✓ **1,947** facilities ordering electronically.
- ✓ **53** facilities using the GOU EMR.
- ✓ National Data Warehouse developed with supply chain dashboards.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS & PROPOSALS FOR FY 2025/2026

Health Supply Chain Issues for Consideration (HCD).



Human resource for the health supply chain: Gaps at all levels, new structures approved for supply chain management at all levels but not yet implemented.

Recommendation

DSC should prioritise the recruitment of critical staff for Health Supply Chain



Financing gaps for commodities: 46.4% funding gap for all Essential Medicines and Health Supplies.

Recommendation:

1. Incorporate Health Supply chain activities in District Budgets
2. Engage in resource mobilisation for Health supply chain



Pharmaceutical waste management: Funding gaps for safe disposal of expired and obsolete commodities.

Recommendation.

1. Use of up-to-date data for commodity ordering to address expiries and stock-outs
2. Allocate resources for the construction of pharmaceutical waste disposal facilities in HC



Supply chain digitalization: only 40% of health facilities stores are digitalized.

Recommendation

Allocate resources for IT infrastructure in health facilities. This will make the process of managing health commodities efficient

CITIZENS CONCERNS & PROPOSALS FOR FY 2025/2026

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

INADEQUATE AND POOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS

- According to the MoES education standards, most primary schools have limited infrastructure, leading to overcrowded classrooms. for instance, Kisiabi Primary, with 1,071 students, has only 5 class blocks and insufficient desks.
- Inadequate and dilapidated staff quarters in primary schools and health centers. These cause teachers to arrive late and leave early, negatively impacting their performance and student outcomes. for example teacher's quarters at Paraa primary school- Ngendo s/c

Recommendation

- 1) Allocation funds for provision of critical infrastructure (construction and renovation) specifically teachers quarters and classroom blocks
- 2) Government should consider allocation of resources for provision of desks to improve pupil learning conditions

INADEQUATE AND POOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS & HCs



*On the left, an overcrowded classroom and pupils learning from under a tree at Kisiabi and Kibambura Primary schools respectively in Buliisa District.
On the right, a dilapidated ceiling due to a leaking roof at a ward in Bwijanga Health Centre IV Masindi districtt*

CITIZENS CONCERNS \$PROPOSALS FOR FY 2025/2026

LOW STAFFING LEVELS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Districts have been operating with minimal staff way below the recommended average of 55%. for example, Buliisa's department of education has only 4 out of 31 head teachers substantially appointed. in addition, Kyatiri and Nyambindo primary schools in Masindi district have 1800 & 800 pupils with 21 and 9 teachers translating into 1:86 and 1:88 teacher-pupil ratio respectively way over the recommended ratio of 1:40. this compromises service quality and affects educational standards.
- The salary disparities between science and arts teachers in secondary schools have also led to some of the arts teachers opting for early retirement hence widening the staffing gap.

Recommendation

- MoFPED should prioritize providing the wage bill for local governments to recruit staff, especially for critical departments such as health and Education. In addition, Staff members who have been in acting positions for over 6 months should be confirmed.
- The government should also consider enhancing the salaries of Arts teachers to improve their morale and stop the mass exodus of Arts teachers leaving the profession.

POOR PERFORMANCE OF UGANDA INTERGOVERNMENTAL FISCAL TRANSFERS (UGIFT) PROGRAM (HYBRID PROCUREMENT).

For example, in the Financial Year 2022/23, the government of Uganda contracted Bertllanz Engineering Ltd to construct twin staff quarters at Kihungya HCII Kihungya sub-county and Avogera Health Center iii in Ngwedo sub-county Bulisa District. the work was supposed to be completed by November 2022 and January 2023 respectively however, the work has since been abandoned.

Recommendation

All contracts for local projects should always be awarded by local procurement authorities for easy monitoring and supervision.

ABANDONED STAFF QUARTERS AT KIHUNGYA AND AVOGERA HEALTH CENTERS



*On the left is a abandoned Avogera staff quarters.
On the right, abandoned site at Kihungya health Centre II*

INADEQUATE AND POOR STATE OF WASH IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

- 38.8% of health facilities have limited or no access to safe water, 81.5% have limited, and 9.7% have no sanitation access. while 20.9% of the facilities have no or limited safe disposal of medical waste

Recommendation

- ❖ Local Governments should integrate the WASH in HCF costed plans in their District plans to facilitate resource mobilization and allocation.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and the Local Government Finance Commission should progressively review the PHC grant guidelines to improve financing health promotion, environmental health and community health services.



Poor hygiene of the borehole at Kinywamurara Primary School- Masindi District



CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENCY OF STATUTORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN LGS

Several studies indicate structural and operational gaps in the functionality of various accountability organs at the local government. These include the DSC, DLB and Igpac. a study by ACODE on the functionality of the statutory bodies of councils conducted in selected 35 districts showed that these boards have;

- Irregular meetings of the boards and commissions
- lack of office spaces, appropriate furniture equipment and tools
- Irregular monitoring, and undertaking site or field visits due to lack of transport etc
- lack of independence of the statutory bodies
- These are exacerbated by failure to implement the recommendation of statutory boards and commissions
- In addition, most of the boards and commissions in most districts have been implicated in corruption scandals.

Recommendation

- Prioritising and allocation of resources in the budget for induction of members of statutory bodies through the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)
- Enhance and Prioritizing financing for operations of statutory boards and commissions
- Foster the independence of the statutory bodies

PDM- Implementation challenges that need attention

We are supportive of the Parish Development Model (PDM) as a flagship implementation approach for local economic development in Uganda. However, studies by the Equal Opportunities Commission and NGO forum have identified challenges that need attention:

- The guidelines for implementing PDM that ring-fenced quotas for special interest groups (i.e. 30% youth, 30% women, 10% elderly, 10% disabled), are not being followed
- Each beneficiary is supposed to get UGX. 1M, however, some beneficiaries have received less than UGX. 1M
- Some Local Governments do not have enough Parish Chiefs, CDOs and Agricultural extension workers who are crucial for the implementation of PDM
- Corruption especially where people were required to pay before being registered as beneficiaries

Recommendation

- Harmonise the guidelines and clarify quotas for special interest groups to encourage inclusivity of the model and emphasize the 1 M disbursement to beneficiaries.
- Priorities the recruitment of Parish Chiefs, CDOs and Agricultural extension workers in sub-counties where there are few to enhance the delivery of the model
- Put measures in place to curb corruption

CONCLUSION

- We commend government for availing the CSOs space to contribute to the country's development agenda through participation in the regional budget consultation workshops.
- Through these workshops, as CSOs our participations continues facts which contributes to influencing improvement in service delivery at local government and national level. We commit to share notable service delivery achievements and concerns in local governments for redress.