

Uganda's Gender Based Violence Fight Hampered by **Chronic Underfunding**



A group picture of participants during the dissemination of a critical new report analyzing budget expenditure analysis on Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Harmful Practices on 28th April 2026. Source (CSBAG)

Only the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and the Uganda Police Force allocated over UGX 1 billion across the three financial years. Critically, no MDA dedicated more than 5% of its budget to preventing GBV and harmful practices. "Policy on paper does not always translate into protection in real life," Lukwago noted

Civil Society Organizations, Government Officials, and Development Partners convened in Kampala today for the dissemination of a critical new report analyzing budget expenditure analysis on Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Harmful Practices (HPs) in Uganda for the Financial Years 2023/24 to 2025/26.

The event, organized by the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), brought together stakeholders to address a recurring challenge: while policies exist, financing

remains dangerously inadequate.

Financing Gaps Undermine Protection

In his welcoming remarks, CSBAG Executive Director Julius Mukunda expressed gratitude to all participants, emphasizing that stronger financing is crucial to ending GBV, securing SRHR, and eliminating harmful practices. He specifically appreciated UN Women Uganda, District Local Government officials and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for encouraging evidence-based reporting backed by citizen-generated information.

The UN Women Uganda Representative, Juliet Nakato Odoi, appreciated CSBAG for convening the meeting and advancing budget accountability on issues affecting women and girls.

"Strong policies alone are not enough," Odoi stressed. "Progress on GBV and SRH depends on how well priorities are translated into implementation and real outcomes."

Alarming Budget Trends

Lead consultant Daniel Lukwago presented the study's findings, which cover eight Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and six local governments, including Yumbe, Arua, Terego, Tororo, Kasese, and Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) ward councillors.

The budget analysis revealed: **UGX 32.16 billion** allocated across eight MDAs in FY2023/24, **UGX 30.76 billion** in FY2024/25 and **UGX 70.82 billion** in FY2025/26

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"Policy on paper does not always translate into protection in real life," Lukwago noted. While systems for GBV response exist and are gradually improving, overall financing levels remain far below expected standards.

Consequences on the Ground

The study found that limited financing is directly affecting prevention efforts, response systems, survivor support services, and community awareness.

In a troubling observation, the report noted: "It's deeply troubling that some homes have shifted from respect to fear—children running away instead of welcoming their fathers. This signals a serious societal problem."

Local governments were urged to take action by developing and enforcing bylaws and ordinances as a powerful starting point to address GBV. The study also highlighted the need for holistic planning to accommodate GBV survivors, while acknowledging that many male victims do not report abuse, hurting overall progress.

Lydia Nairuba, Legal Officer at the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), pointed out that districts receive very little funding to address GBV, forcing reliance on development partners—particularly in the West Nile region. She called on the Ministry of Finance (MOFPED) to increase funding toward ending GBV.

Richard Obia, District Planner for Terego, raised a critical concern: "I have noticed that the data does not highlight at what rate we are responding to GBV in terms of integration."

Akello Dorine, representative from the Uganda Prisons Service noted that they use available resources to rehabilitate sexual and gender-based offenders and train prison staff on GBV programs reinforcing the urgent need for sustained action.

The study highlighted the value of leveraging existing government programs and national policies to advocate for increased financing of GBV and related interventions. As the meeting concluded, the consensus was clear: without dramatic increases in budget allocations and stronger implementation, Uganda's women and girls will remain vulnerable.