

CSBAG BUDGET NEWS



Civil Society calls for Urgent Action as Uganda's Corruption Perceptions Index drops to 25



An individual rejecting a money bribe in Uganda Source (Daily Monitor)

The release of the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) has sent shockwaves through Uganda's civic space. With the country's score falling to **25** out of **100**—down from **26** the previous year—civil society organizations (CSOs) are demanding immediate, structural reforms to rescue a worsening public sector graft crisis.

For a nation that has long struggled to translate anti-corruption rhetoric into results, the latest ranking places Uganda at **148th** out of **182** countries, far below the Sub-Saharan average of 32 and the global average of **42**. Within the East African Community, Uganda now trails Rwanda (**58**), Tanzania (**40**), and even Kenya (**30**), leaving many CSO leaders questioning whether current accountability mechanisms have failed.

According to Transparency International's 2025 report, Uganda's CPI has stagnated or worsened over the past decade. The Afrobarometer survey cited in the findings reveals that seven in ten Ugandans rate the government's anti-corruption efforts as poor. More alarmingly, over **80%** of citizens fear retaliation if they report graft.

This is not just a number. It is a reflection of the daily reality for ordinary Ugandans—bribes to access health care, ghost workers on payrolls, and procurement fraud that diverts road and water funds," said Peter Wandera of Transparency International Uganda. "CSOs have repeatedly warned that without genuine political will and protection for whistleblowers, the index will continue to slide.

Civil society budget advocates argue that corruption is not merely a moral failing but a fiscal drain that directly undermines service delivery. The government has set a target of reaching **31 points**

by 2030—a modest goal that CSOs say requires nothing short of a complete overhaul of anti-corruption institutions. For the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, this report raises critical questions about how Uganda's budget is planned and spent.

We cannot talk about the **FY2026/27** budget without addressing the leakages that rob citizens of quality education, health, and water," said a representative of the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG).

"Every corrupt shilling is a shilling stolen from a mother in a rural clinic or a child in an understocked classroom. The CPI tells us that our collective advocacy is not yet translating into systemic change.

Drawing from the CPI findings, CSOs are now rallying around different solutions including; Strengthening independent anti-corruption institutions with adequate funding and protected mandates. Passing and enforcing a robust whistleblower protection law to address the **80%** fear factor among citizens. Tackling illicit financial flows and ensuring prosecution of high-profile corruption cases without political interference. Enhancing access to justice for victims of bribery and extortion at local government levels.

As Parliament reviews ministerial policy statements for FY2026/27, CSOs are positioning the CPI as a baseline for measuring budget credibility. CSBAG and its partners plan to use the index to interrogate sectoral allocations, demanding that anti-corruption measures be costed and tracked. The fight against corruption belongs to every citizen, every CSO and every responsible leader

SOURCE: Corruption Perceptions Index 2024 - Transparency International Uganda

CSBAG IN THE MEDIA



@ubctvuganda

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, has launched a new digital E-Accounting tool.

Link: youtu.be/ZJjeETmURg
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#BUDGETINGFORADVOCACY

The CSBAG team tracking and validation of Change Stories under the Strengthening Public Accountability and Investment in Education (SPAIE) Project with an interaction with a parent of Abiriamajo Primary School to find out some of the achievements and confirm CSBAG's involvement.

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SOURCE: Corruption Perception Index 2024 Transparency International Census Uganda

