



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



DHOs, DEOs and CSOs decry late releases of funds to Local Governments

District health officers, head teachers, district planners and district education officers decry late disbursement of funds to health, education and agriculture sectors to enhance service delivery at Local Government.



From Left is Mr. Sekyambalo Joseph Inspector of Schools Mubende District addressing the participants during dissemination of Q1 budget monitoring report FY2016/17 | Photo © CSBAG 2017

"The delays in fund release affects planning and this has forced some teachers to borrow money to address their immediate need," Akwang said.

The District Officials were responding to the CSO budget performance monitoring findings for Qtr 1 of the financial year 2016/17 that was carried out in 46 Health Centres and 206 Universal Primary Schools from 20 districts.

While presenting the budget monitoring findings, David Walakira, Budget Policy Specialist at CSBAG pointed out that education and health sectors were hit in terms of late delivery of funds which affectes timely delivery of the much needed services. It was noted that funds meant to be released by the 10th day of the first month into the quarter (July 2016) were all released and received in the last month of the quarter (September 2016)

He cited Oyam District, Adyegi HCII had 81 deliveries during the quarter, no deaths recorded, but with only one delivery bed in the first quarter. Another example was Masindi Hospital, which recorded 1,010 live births and 27 deaths between July and September 2016, and the facility had three delivery beds.

In respect to availability of health workers, only 50 medical staff were present at their duty stations at the time of monitoring, which pointed to high absenteeism on top of such a big staffing gap. In addition, from record accessed, the medical worker to patient ratio is 1: 1,578 in contrast to 1:434 recommended by the World Health Organisation. For example Adyegi HC II (Ader SC in Oyam) – 1:842 while Mawujo HC II (Kigando SC in Mubemde) – 1: 2,100.

Regarding budget information and school governance he said there was improvement at 90% and this encourages transparency.

Walakira outlined the key findings as wasteful expenditure to the tune of UGX 6.9b in 2015/2016, disparity of public service remuneration and failure to adhere to gender sector budgets. He urged the District Officials to address these concerns if service delivery is to improve.

56.5%
of the Qtr 1 funds (Jul-September) were received on 7 September 2016

On water functionality the findings indicate that 5.8% of the 206 schools had pit latrines shared among boys and girls and 80% of the schools monitored had no water points.

In his remarks, Julius Mukunda the Coordinator of CSBAG implored the District Officials to strengthen partnership with civil society so as to improve service delivery in the country.

Present was also Stephen Ojambo the Commissioner Treasury and Inspectorate in the Accountant General's Office who emphasized how Government has been implementing several PFM reforms and one of them is by establishing policies with the aim of ensuring a robust and stable fiscal and policies with an aim of achieving middle income status by 2020.

He also acknowledged CSBAG partnership with Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development on matters of ensuring Government prepares and implements a pro-poor National Budget. This helps to guarantee that public resources are utilized properly and in a transparent matter.

SNAPSHOT OF THE FINDINGS

- 92.7% of the schools had displayed budget information on the notice boards;
- 80% of the schools had no functional water points
- 5.8% of the schools had mixed toilets for boys and girls
- 76% of the HCs monitored displayed budget information.
- 56.5% of the health centres funds were received on 7 September 2016
- Only 50 medical staff were present at their duty stations at the time of monitoring
- The medical worker to patient ratio was recorded at an average of 1: 1,578 in contrast to 1:434 recommended by the World Health Organisation.

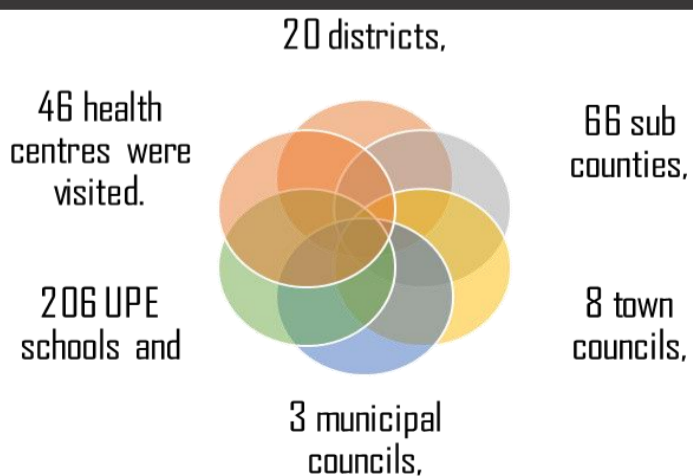
They observed that late release of funds was affecting the planning process and this affects service delivery output at the Local Government level.

According to Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) disbursement of quarterly releases to district is supposed to be on the 10th day of the first month of quarter but some districts receive at the end of the quarter. "Whenever the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development indicates that funds have been released to the districts, this remains on paper but funds have not reached to the district account," Fred Kanyemba the District Planner of Iganga said.

He observed that there is non-adherence to Public Management Finance Act (PMFA) which stipulates timely release of funds. Kayemba was supported by Dr. Ahmed Bumba and Dr. Micheal Mwangi the District Health Officers of Kibuku and Kapchorwa districts respectively who said the health sector was worst hit coupled with understaffing and absenteeism.

Lilly Rose Orem the head teachers of Anaka Primary School in Nwoya district pointed out the capitation grant/SFG reaches the school late and this hampers the planning process. She was backed by Esther Akwang the head teacher of Kijanji Primary School in Soroti district who said the disbursed of funds has led to teachers acquiring debts.

SCOPE OF THE MONITORING



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT: Policy Level Engagement on Financing PPDA and OAG

DATE: 17th March 2017

CONVENER: CSBAG

EVENT: Presenting CSO Position on the Anti-Counterfeiting Goods Bill, 2015; and the Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Bill to Parliament.

DATE: 14th March 2017

CONVENER: Parliament Committee on Trade

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

