



# CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



162<sup>nd</sup> EDITION | 21<sup>st</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



## More Health Workers for Better Health FY2016/17

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Event:** Meeting to present the CSO position paper on the Tourism Trade and industry sector Ministerial Policy Statement 2016.

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Convener :** Parliament of Uganda

**Event:** CSBAG Annual General Meeting.

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

**Convener:** CSBAG

### CSBAG IN PICTURES



The Citizens of Uganda holding charts asking Government to increase funding to the Health sector to get more health workers to improve the health sector FY2016/17.

**According to the Health sector Ministerial Policy Statement for FY2016/17 UGX 36bn is needed as wage for 3,542 health workers for general hospitals to meet 72% target by the end of FY 2016/17**

**Table 1: Health sector Total budget by revenue source (Bn UGX)**

		2014/15 Outturn	2015/16 Approved budget	MTEF Projections 2016/17
<b>Recurrent</b>	<b>Wage</b>	273.916	330.916	330.916
	<b>Non-wage</b>	328.409	396.838	388.552
<b>Development</b>	<b>GOU</b>	69.695	86.214	86.714
	<b>Ext. Fin</b>	52.687	451.940	580.552
<b>GOU Total</b>		672.020	813.969	806.182
<b>Total</b>	<b>GOU +Ext Fin(MTEF)</b>	724.707	1,265.909	1,386.735
<b>Non Tax Revenue</b>		0.000	17.900	21.053
<b>Grand Total</b>		724.707	1,283.808	1,407.788

Source: National Budget Framework Paper FY 2016/17

**Too many tasks and responsibilities:** This is evident in most of the government centers ,midwifery and nursing staff say that they are stretched beyond the limit by too many tasks " **You have to run an antenatal clinic ,conduct deliveries ,carry out post-natal to the ward round, You have to do the counseling ,take blood ,see patients , and prescribe for them medicine "**. A fact from the District Health Officer Dr. Byabashaija Aine he said that there are only 300 health workers in the whole district of Sheema, who are not enough to serve the community, he expressed this while attending the community budget advocacy meeting held in Sheema town hall recently. The government of Uganda has registered low staffing levels in most of the health centers at national and local level. According to the National Development Plan II 2015/16-2019/20, human resources for health remain low particularly midwives and doctors as well as medical specialists.

**Which way then for the health sector? What needs to be changed?**

- The 2.5m salary increment per month set aside for the medical officers in health center IVs is a good motivation however similar pay should be extended to health workers most especially in hard to reach areas like Agago, Kibaale ,and Abim, as well as a motivation for them to serve the communities dedicatedly.
- Quick action should be taken by the government in the next budget.
- There is need for coordinated planning by the Ministry of health to improve and harmonize staff recruitment and deployment in the country.

- By allocating 36bn for recruitment of 3,542 health workers who are needed to cover the gap.
- Furthermore the health sector needs UGX13.5bn to recruit and retain 300 doctors and pharmacists, otherwise the health centers built will remain death traps.

#### Challenges faced by both the workers and patients



Fact from the health in charge Kihunda health centre 11, in Sheema District **Mr Emma Byarugaba** testified that the Health Centre is understaffed, although the health center has a total 11 staff but 9 of them are currently on leave as a result of these challenges the from the Local Government Health Workers



Mr.Okema Joseph, a patient at Alango HC II,Agago district

I have always failed to access treatment whenever I go to the Alango H/C II, the facility has only 3 staff who are inadequate to serve the many parents who come to the health Centre .There is need to motivate health workers, and increase the staff ceiling to at least 80% in each facility in all government hospitals," stated Mr Okema Joseph in Agago district.

While others say that the major challenge for Uganda health care system is posed by rapidly growing population, there are further challenges. The health sector budget for the FY 2015/16 was designed to help achieve three sector outcomes of increased deliveries, protection of children under one year against life threatening diseases, and ensuring that health facilities receive adequate stocks of essential medicines and health supplies, Nevertheless the total sector budget for these outcomes have increased from UGX 1,220.97bn in FY2015/16 to UGX 1,460.920bn in the FY 2016/17, which is a good development because a healthy population is a pre-requisite to any development .

Whereas the budget estimates for FY 2013/14 outlined some priorities in the health Sector to be included in the recruitment of health workers, improvement of infrastructure and eradicating malaria as key priorities to be considered. **According to the Health sector Ministerial Policy Statement for FY2016/17 UGX 36bn is needed as wage for 3,542 health workers for general hospitals to meet 72% target by the end of FY 2016/17.**

These are all good gestures by the Government aiming at improving health service delivery right from the local to national level. Although the country has registered many improvements in the health sector and in the health of its population, for example there has been improvements in key health indicators like life expectancy at birth level, the health sector still experiences challenges in the recruitment and retention of qualified staff county wide

According to the Briefing No. 12 (2012) from the Budget Monitoring Accountability Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, a number of major challenges affected the health sector among which included staff shortages, budget cuts for capital development, grants and inadequate funds for non-wage recruitment expenditures. Other research findings done by Ministry of health and Capacity Project Support, it revealed that the working conditions among the health workers are often characterized by poor infrastructure, lack of staff accommodation, inadequate equipment and supplies, work overload among others .These poor working conditions neither attract staff nor motivate them to stay