

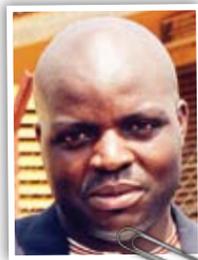


# DRT Newsletter

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## Editor's message



**W**elcome to this edition of our newsletter. Since we issued the last one, a lot of developments have taken place.

Development Research and Training

(DRT) has participated in many activities including; the pre-budget and post-budget Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) activities, the CSO Fair, carried several research, produced reports and policy briefs among others.

This newsletter highlights some of the activities we have participated in and convey voices of the poor.

Enjoy reading and your contributions are valuable.

You can get more information on our website: [www.drt-ug.org](http://www.drt-ug.org)

Contact us on [infor@drt-ug.org](mailto:infor@drt-ug.org)

*Joseph Miti*

**Information and Communication Officer**

## EDITOR'S PICK

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**Charcoal business thrives when power costs rise**

## Taxes on kerosene, water will cause environmental degradation

**F**inance minister, Maria Kiwanuka, presented the 2013/14 national budget estimates on June 13, 2013, making several controversial proposals among them being an increase of tax on kerosene by Shs200, petrol and diesel by Shs50.

The Shs13.1trillion Budget will also see an introduction of 18 per cent VAT on water for domestic consumption, VAT on wheat and flour.

The government will also impose an excise tax of 10 per cent on fees charged on transfer of money through mobile phones and other money transfer operators.

The proposal raised concerns among citizens and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who expressed fears that the new taxes will have a negative bearing on the poor.

Mr Paul Onapa, Development Research and Training deputy Executive Director, said if the budget is passed with its current proposals, it will lead to greater inequality (including gender) and social and economic exclusion of majority Ugandans, lead to welfare losses, exacerbate food insecurity and environmental degradation. It will also worsen domestic and foreign debt portfolio.

"We are not opposing paying taxes, but our main concern is whom are you taxing in the process of widening the tax base," said Mr Onapa, as he was making a presentation at Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) pre-budget conference held at Fairway Hotel, Kampala recently.

He added that government should not

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**DRT'S MISSION**

**TO CONTRIBUTE TO POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH ACTION RESEARCH**



# Taxes on kerosene, water will cause environmental degradation

## From page 1

only focus on widening the tax base alone, but it should consider reducing wastage and misappropriation of resources.

"...If a tax of Shs200 is imposed on kerosene, dealers will shift the price to consumers who will eventually put pressure on forests as they search for alternative fuel. Putting pressure on forests will force us to work backwards towards achieving environmental targets,"

While reading the Budget, Ms Kiwanuka said government opted to introduce a tax on kerosene to reduce cases of adulteration of fuel which is dangerous to diesel cars.

But, Ms Rose Mary Nyakikongolo, vice Chairperson of Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), noted that the interventions taken by the minister will negatively impact on the vulnerable groups particularly women and the girl child -who have no mandate to monitor fake undertreated fuel- than the dealers who adulterate the commodity.

"The Ministry of Finance and Uganda Revenue Authority are targeting easier managed taxes sparing the rich who always evade paying taxes," Ms Nyakikongolo said.

Ms Olivia Muwanga, a farmer from Masaka, says reinstating taxes on piped water will force people to resort to using unsafe water which will make the population vulnerable to water borne diseases hence creating a burden to the already overstretched Ministry of Health and the individuals themselves.

The water tax being reintroduced was removed in the 2011-2012 financial year with the intention of making safe water available to all people.

However, Francis Kamulegeya, PricewaterhouseCoopers Uganda Country Senior Partner, was quoted in the media saying the proposed new tax on water, fuel and spirits is not as bad as it seems.

He said to be honest the proposed new tax measures should not result in price increases unless traders and transport

providers decide to use the excuse of the budget to rip off fellow Ugandans as has always happened in the past.

"My personal view is that the re-introduction of 18% VAT on water for domestic use should not result in the price of water at the national water communal taps. Likewise the Shs 50 increase in excise duty on fuel should not result in an increase in public transport charges," he explains.

Meanwhile, the most significant new feature of the 2013/14 Budget was that for the first time, domestic resources will fund 81.1% of the total budget projected to be at Shs13.1 trillion.

Some people claim that government introduced such taxes to balance its books on the back of the poor to bridge a large gap left behind by the withdraw of western donor support.

Donors withdrew over \$300 million in donor budget support because of the swindling of money in the Office of the Prime Minister intended for the reconstruction of northern Uganda.

# CUTTING OF AGRICULTURE BUDGET WORRIES FARMERS

BY LOUISE NAMPEWO



**L**ike other Ugandans, players in the agricultural sector, which dominates the economy, received Finance Minister Maria Kiwanuka's maiden budget speech, with despair saying it will cause shrinkage in production as well as exacerbating current high cost of living.

In her speech, the minister said agriculture was allocated shs403.6b, which represents 3.0 per cent of the national budget, compared to 3.5 per cent that was allocated to the sector in 2012/2013 financial year.

Players, particularly, farmers say the setback in resource allocation to the sector that employs over 66 per cent of the population, will lead to greater inequality and social economic exclusion to majority of Ugandans.

"We actually don't understand why government has failed to realized the critical role of agriculture to our economy. Instead of doubling the sector's budget to support majority of our population who directly or indirectly depend on agriculture, government has choose to cut it," said Ms Olivia Muwanga, a Masaka based farmer. She was speaking at the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) post budget public dialogue, which was called to make reflections on the National Budget 2013/14, at Fairway Hotel recently. CSBAG is a coalition that brings together CSOs at national and district levels to influence government decision on resource mobilization and utilization for equitable, gender responsive and sustainable development.

Ms Vicky Elipu, a farmer from Soroti, said the move will minimize efforts to address the biggest constraints affecting farmers including crop pests and livestock diseases, provision of suitable inputs, applying appropriate technologies and vagaries of weather.

The reduction in resource, however, contradicts with some of the main priorities Ms Kiwanuka mentioned in the 2013/14 budget.

The minister said the government plans to increase agricultural support to boost production and productivity as well as create jobs.

Kiwanuka said agricultural sector output grew by 1.4 per cent last financial year, improving from a modest 0.8 per cent the previous year.

Despite that Uganda is a signatory to the Maputo convention that demands member countries to allocate at least 10 per cent of their national budget to agriculture, the country's agriculture funding has stagnated on 3 per cent for years.



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The government however argues that through a multi-sect oral approach, under-funding to the ministry of agriculture will be compensated for by spending on other sectors such as infrastructure and social sectors which are presumed to have a direct impact on sustaining Uganda's long term economic development. This will have a direct impact and are expected to support agricultural development. Uganda is currently faced with

food security threat and starvation particularly in northern and western Uganda. This goes to show that despite efforts to diversify resource allocation, expenditure on infrastructure will not be consumed or its effects felt when people are unable to provide the most basic need for survival food. Government should re-strategize and perhaps get funds from other sectors to fund infrastructure and industrialization without compromising agriculture and livelihoods.

# THE ROLE OF THINK TANKS IN POLICY MAKING

Today, there are two narratives about Africa, one which states that Africa has realized increased economic growth of 5-7% with more potential for this to be increased and sustained; the other speaks about rising poverty, income inequality, conflict and a rising burden of disease among its population. Think tanks can provide analysis that puts these two narratives into context and perspective by adding value and explaining the issues underlying these statistics.



Africa has few vibrant think tanks. African Governments don't tend to value Think Tanks and in country donors don't tend to fund them. This means the majority of African think tanks do not influence global and national policy-making processes.

At a private meeting held in the margins of the World Economic Forum (WEF) for Africa 2013, I was among other participants from think tanks, research organizations and academia. We discussed the current and potential role of think tanks in Africa and the new approaches that they can adopt to increase their effectiveness. The questions posed included asking whether existing think tanks are effectively playing their role, if not why? What role can they play in policy making processes?

There is no doubt that think tanks play a critical role in Africa's policy processes; a number of them are already doing so. But for various reasons, the role of the majority of think tanks is currently considered to be minimal. And yet, with Africa's current challenges, think tanks can provide policy options on issues that relate to peoples' lives and to those sectors of the economy that are expected to transform them.

Today, there are two narratives about Africa, one which states that Africa has realized increased economic growth of 5-7% with more potential for this to be increased and sustained; the other speaks about rising poverty, income inequality, conflict and a rising burden of disease among its population. Think tanks can provide analysis that puts these two narratives into context and perspective by adding value and explaining the issues underlying these statistics.

Among the challenges faced, African think tanks do not have a platform to set their own agenda; they are usually funded by foreign and international agencies. They lack adequate funding to engage in long-term research programmes and so cannot provide long-term oriented policy options. Their own governments and development partners don't always have much regard to research and this affects uptake of policy options. In other instances, think tanks cannot always communicate and engage with policy makers due to political factors including Government's labeling of think tanks with political parties and opposition forces. Think tanks also often lack adequate technical capacity to respond to dynamic policy processes. They usually have limited numbers of staff to undertake research and so cannot engage on diverse subjects at the same time. In other instances, the

available staff is not well exposed to regional and global platforms to share, learn and build their analytical capacity from other like-minded institutions.

## What then should African think tanks do differently?

Firstly, they should set the agenda, build their ability to do rigorous analysis, generate credible policy recommendations and respond in a timely way with policy options including investing in building scenarios. They need to work on issues that represent the various interest groups in a country that needs policy responses to improve their quality of life and livelihood. These might include the unemployed, organized labour, emerging informal business among others. For this to happen, African think tanks need to establish domestic sources of funding, invest in communication strategies, use social media and other means to communicate to policy makers. They should build constituencies of interest groups, understand their policy issues and generate analysis on these issues. They can also build alliances with other think tanks in the global south and global north for shared learning and actions.

**By Beatrice Mugambe,  
Executive Director,  
Development Research and Training (DRT),  
bmugambe@drt-ug.org**



**“ African think tanks should set the agenda, build their ability to do rigorous analysis, generate credible policy recommendations and respond in a timely way with policy options including investing in building scenarios. They need to work on issues that represent the various interest groups in a country that needs policy responses to improve their quality of life and livelihood. ”**



One of the beneficiaries receiving money in Zombo district

# ADOPT A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR APPROACH FOR UGANDA: BEGIN WITH A UNIVERSAL SENIOR CITIZENS GRANT

BY SSANYU REBECCA



Uganda has made great strides in reducing the poverty headcount from 31% 2005/06 to 24.5% in 09/10. However, reports of persistent and extreme poverty and vulnerability among a significant number of individuals and households still abound. The 2013 Human Development Report (HDR) ranked Uganda among the poorest countries in the world, at 161 out of 187 countries, with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.456.

The Uganda Social Protection Platform (USPP) believes that the remaining poverty in Uganda will be difficult to reduce if we do not implement targeted interventions. Social protection, specifically direct social grants are one significant way of delivering such targeted

interventions to address the state of being or becoming poor.

Some argue that Uganda has a small older persons' population and that it does not need to have immediate action from the state. USPP believes otherwise. It is at this early phase in the demographic transition that Uganda needs to develop public policies that take into account the country's ageing population and include older persons as active contributors to development. With a growing older population – coupled with traditional social protection structures that are no longer able to meet needs of older persons - it is important that the state guarantees a minimum income for older persons, as part of the country's social protection floor system. In terms of contributing to national growth, a universal older persons' grant could play a significant role not only in reducing poverty, but also boosting local economies – as has already been demonstrated by the SAGE program.

In the period July 2013 to June 2014, USPP will focus advocacy on expanding social protection beyond the 14 pilot districts, both in terms of universal coverage and government commitment to financing a social protection system in Uganda. Specifically, we have chosen to focus on promoting expansion of the senior citizens grant to universal coverage as a social protection floor for the country.

**Rebecca Ssanyu is a Senior Programme Officer Social Policy and Human Dev't**

**“The 2013 Human Development Report ranked Uganda among the poorest countries in the world, at 161 out of 187 countries, with a Human Development Index of 0.456.**

# Government MUST plan for SAGE sustainability

BY BERNARD SABITI



**G**overnment needs to strategically think about continuing the social protection programs specifically the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) which is changing lives in the 14 pilot districts.

SAGE, under which the elderly receive sh24,000 a month has created an aura of expectation similar to what salaried earners have whereby beneficiaries now plan for the stipend in advance, have formed SACCOs, improved their living standards and are crediting the government for helping them live a dignified life.

As is the case with every entirely donor funded project however, Donor fatigue will matter-of-factly set in and government will be expected to fulfill its obligations by contributing significantly to the fund. Currently, DFID and Irish aid fund Uganda's social protection program to the tune of over 98 percent. That means that if donor's priorities were to change, the programme would almost suddenly collapse, with far reaching consequences:

First, the program has become an economic safety net for the elderly, a demographic government had otherwise ignored from its core programming. Both politically and economically, the elderly who constitute about 5 per cent of the population according to the 2002 census, have always been a footnote in most policy documents. Politically, they are not represented at any level of the government and despite carrying much of the country's dependency burden in terms of caring for HIV orphans and other vulnerable children, government, until SAGE came in, had not, to any meaningful degree, funded special programs designed for them. For the beneficiaries, any possibility

of the cessation of the program doesn't even register in their minds. Government should therefore find a way of continuing the programme if donors, as is inevitable, start to gradually pull out.

The political ramifications of discontinuation of the cash grant shouldn't be understated. The grant has helped many of the beneficiaries buy books for orphans under their care who are enrolled in the UPE programme. While the programme is free, for the chronically poor like total orphans other vulnerable children, a book or lack of it is the difference between education and lack of it. The amount, however small, helps grandparents of these children meet the cost of scholastic materials.

Politics in Uganda being a give and take affair, there are beneficiaries who unfortunately have misconstrued the grant to be a reward from political leaders and the latter have not helped correct this misconception by trying to get political capital from the program. Already, the local politicians who are lucky and the areas they represent in the districts councils are benefiting are emphasizing that their lobbying skills brought SAGE to their areas. Those who have been unfortunate to represent uncovered areas which sometimes border those that are covered are facing the ire of their voters.

Politics aside however, the sustainability of the programme should be in the government's interest, if only for her social obligation to her citizens. Uganda's welfare programs have been notorious for sounding well on paper but lackluster in implementation, most of this due to poor funding and mismanagement. The Ministry of gender, under which most of the social programs fall is the least funded MDA in Uganda, being allotted just 0.5 percent of the budget in 2010/11 financial year. Yet with the social ills bedeviling the country, this is almost outrageous. District community development offices are poorly facilitated, with most CDOs having no transport to monitor the poorly

funded programs for the youth, elderly and women.

In other countries, the elderly are treated with courtesy simply because while they are in the evening of their years, they worked hard in their prime. Therefore government's obligation to them is earned. They deserve to age with grace and dignity. This is not just an issue of social responsibility but it is only human and inherently proper for any community to take care of its ageing population.

Government can start now, rather than later, to plan for the sustainability of the SAGE program by perennially increasing its share of the budget to the grant by a specific amount every financial year. Analysts say this, while it may look like too much money is actually good for the country's fiscal responsibility initiatives in the long run. When these beneficiaries receive the money, most of them invest it in areas which might save government more money in the long haul. For example, when an old woman gets timely medical care using part of the monthly stipend which in the end prevents a health catastrophe or disability, she won't be a burden to the government or her benefactors by seeking specialist care for a complication that arises from seeking treatment too late. The income generation activities the beneficiaries are involving in using SAGE money like piggery and other small holder farming increases their self reliance and economic fortunes which in the end reduces their dependency on handouts. This is not to mention the impact this money is having as a result of being injected in the local economies of these districts! All this increases people's social and economic outlook and hence more confidence in their government's concern for them

The sustainability of the SAGE program is therefore not just good policy but good politics too

**Bernard Sabiti is a Program Officer at DRT**



# DRT introduces new strategic plan to engage the EAC

**D**evelopment Research and Training has developed a new strategic plan to enhance its involvement in the East African Community (EAC) integration.

Ms Beatrice Mugambe, DRT Executive Director, says the strategic plan 2012-2016, will consolidate and coordinate the organisation's efforts to lead in action research, training and policy analysis at local, national and regional levels.

"This strategy is a reference document that aims to reinforce research and training in policy development and implementation at all levels across Uganda and in the East African region" Ms Mugambe says.

She adds: "It will strengthen partnership development between DRT and other partners particularly funding partners, government agencies and the NGO community."

The EAC is the regional intergovernmental organisation of five countries, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

While attending their meeting in Kampala in June 2013, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) members expressed concern over increasing poverty

in the region. They called for special focus on poverty alleviation for the majority of the citizens.

DRT, a local Ugandan-based not-for-profit organisation established in 1997, is a renowned organisation which undertakes policy research and analysis that informs pro-poor policies and programmes. The organisation's overarching objective is the elimination of all forms of poverty particularly chronic poverty.

With this strategic plan, DRT will pursue four strategic objectives including; reducing income inequality and increase livelihood options for the chronically poor, and increasing the number of the chronically poor people accessing and benefiting from social policies and programs.

It will also peruse enhancing effective service delivery to the chronically poor through promoting open, transparent and accountable governance structures as well as creating a vibrant team of both state and non-state actors with capacity to influence and effectively implement pro-poor policies and programs.

The objectives will be achieved through

the organisation's four broad programme areas namely; Social Policy and Human Development (SPHD); Governance and Transparency (GT); Economic Policy and Livelihoods (EPL) and Capacity Building and Institutional Development (CBID).

For over 15 years now, DRT has provided evidence-based analysis on poverty and related socio-economic issues affecting the poor, especially those who are in extreme and chronic poverty.

Some of the processes where DRT's evidence has been applied include; the formulation and review of the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) in 2004 and 2006, contribution on social protection issues during development of the National Development Plan (NDP) for 2010/11 – 2014/15 and coordinating the GTF Mwananchi project, a multi-country project which is piloting open governance models that work for poor people.

It is also the coordinating organisation of Uganda Social Protection Platform (USPP) and the chair to the Uganda National NGO Forum board



Mwananachi partners attending Mwananach Learning Event at Makerere University

# The Mwananachi programme COMES TO AN END

**M**wananachi programme, an action research project aimed at enhancing the access to, and the understanding and application of information and communication as a basic resource, process and strategy for good governance has come to an end.

The five year governance programme has been running in six African Countries namely Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Ghana. It has been funded by DFID-UK.

Andrew Kawooya, the Uganda programme coordinator, says the programme intervention sought to strengthen citizens' voice and accountability at all levels of governance through strengthening and empowering governance actors (citizens, media, CSOs, traditional leaders and the elected leaders).

"There are many gaps in the governance area in this country and some of those gaps are to do with accountability by duty bearers, but also citizens don't ask for accountability from their leaders. Such gaps have caused misappropriation of funds and shoddy works among others," says Mr Kawooya.

He adds; "We have completed five years. We know the problems have not been

solved, but we have learnt a lot from this pilot. We have managed to identify models, which we think can work for the poor,"

The programme has been implemented in six districts of Lira, Kalangala, Luwero, Kibaale, Masindi, and Kapchorwa by 10 local organisations coordinated by Development Research and Training (DRT). The 10 partners included; Lira NGO Forum (LNGF), Masindi District Education Network (MADEN), Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Kibaale Civil Society Network (KCSO), Kalangala District NGO Forum (KADINGO), Kapchorwa Civil Society Alliance (KACSOA), World Voices Uganda (WVU), Cross Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU), Masindi District NGO Forum (MDNF) and Community Development and Child Welfare and (CODI).

The partners have tested and tried various approaches and models of good governance which have demonstrated citizens' voice and accountability and implementation.

Of the 10 partners, three organisations; FOWODE, KCSO and CODI followed the implementation of two government programmes – National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and Community Driven Development (CDD).

KADINGO, KACSOA and MDNF tested

models intending to improve health services in Uganda, while LNGF and MADEN focused on introducing models that can retrieve the country Universal Primary Education.

WVU and CCFU introduced Bataka (Informal) Courts and Clan leader's charter respectively.

In Uganda, the programme ended with a learning event that was organised at Makerere University in April. The event was an opportunity for partners to share and discuss their models they have tasted over the last five years, learn from each other as well as map out ways to replicate the mechanisms. The partners presented papers, shared project reports, stories of change and success and project documentaries.

However, the learning event for all implementing countries was in Johannesburg in May.

Meanwhile, one of the key concerns for Mwananachi programme remains on sustainability after phase-out of DFID funding.

Mr Kawooya says Mwananachi implementing partners promised to continue with their work by harnessing local resources to go forward and to continue sharing the success stories as well as the challenges.

# LOW ABSORPTION OF BUDGET FUNDS NEED TO BE INVESTIGATED IN ANALYZING BUDGET



**I**n a recent Afrobarometer survey, majority of Ugandans expressed concern and dissatisfaction over government's responsiveness to public priorities. About 74 per cent of the population complained about the government's lacklustre response in addressing problems in social service delivery such as education, healthcare, water and infrastructure among others.

Despite that there are considerable declines over time in how citizens feel government is handling these issues, the latter has continuously boasted of increasing budget allocations for all sectors.

The mismatch has always raised questions as people ask what exactly the money does and how it is spent. In a recent Aid and Budget analysis training organised by Development Research and Training (DRT) and Development Initiatives (DI), it was brought to light that a big proportion of monies released for development work each year returns to the treasury after spending agencies fails to put the funds into proper use. Unfortunately, this money is not reflected in the new financial year.

The budget monitoring and accountability unit of MFPED during their quarterly monitoring in December 2012 found that some agencies had not spent one third of the development funds allocated to them in the national budget, pointing to the likelihood that less than half of the money will be used by June at the close of 2012/13 financial year.

Ms Margaret Kakande, Head of Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit at Ministry of Finance said billions of development funds were lying idle on spending agencies' accounts as thousands of projects remain in limbo for lack of financing. "Karamoja sub-region had spent zero shillings although districts had received funds for two quarters at the time of the monitoring. The money was lying idle on the districts' accounts," said Ms Kakande, as she skilled participants on budget implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The training attracted Civil Society Organisations (CSO) operating at the national level and those from five districts of northern and north eastern Uganda which advocate for aid and development effectiveness. It was held on April 17-18 at Esella Country Hotel in Kampala.

The aim of the two-day training was to skill CSOs to effectively influence resource allocation processes for improved outcomes through enhanced skills in aid and budget data collection, analysis and use for advocacy. Kakande said that although low absorption is greatly attributed to an acute shortage of human resources and procurement challenges, monitors should include low absorption capacity among the key issues for probing while monitoring and evaluating the budget.

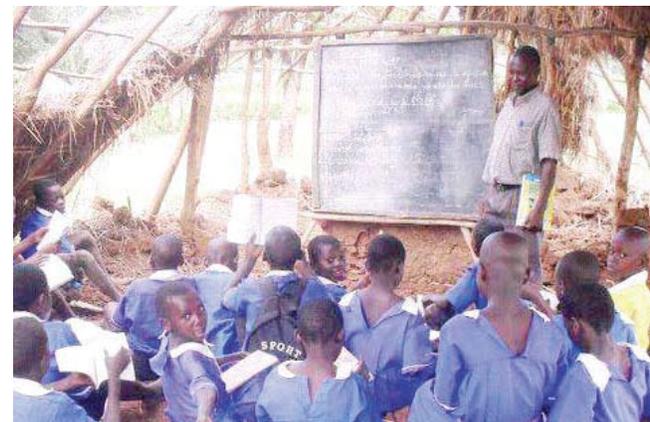
"If a spending agency cannot spend the funds, probe it. Some people may be using this tactic to create leakages.

It can be a form of corruption,"

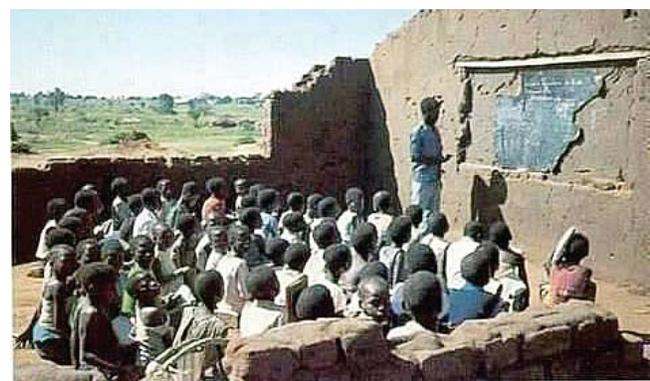
Delays in disbursements and spending have had serious negative implication on inputs since there is an opportunity cost as money loses value with time. Similarly, on several occasions, government has been forced to pay interests for failing to honour the timeframe in contracts. In 2009, government paid Shs173million as interest payments on Dokolo-Lira road.

However, information from the Ministry of Finance indicated that government might soon consider reducing budgets of poor budget spenders and allocate the resources to those who can spend. This may affect implementation of some key activities and delivering better services.

Kakande further advised the analysts to be clear in interpreting financial information i.e. which data is considered-budgeted expenditures, appropriated funds or actual releases by the Finance Ministry and received funds by implementers. It was noted that monitors must know the flow of funds from the treasury to the end users so as they can be able to monitor activities, inputs, outputs and intermediate outcomes in their respective regions and/or areas of concern. Knowing how funds flow helps to know whether funds are being used for the intended purpose, identify leakages and other corruption tendencies and give feedback on efficiency and effectiveness of resources during budget implementation.



**Pupils under conditions unsuitable for learning.**



“  
74%”

**About 74 per cent of the population complained about the government's lacklustre response in addressing problems in social service delivery such as education, healthcare, water and infrastructure among others.**



Community tracker reading information on the notice board at Panyangara Sub-county in Kotido district

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SETS AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

BY DOREEN ABALO

For a long time, communities have been using feedback mechanisms to hold their leaders accountable and tracking resources allocated to them.

Feedback is a two way process, which involves sharing information among two or more parties to inform the implementation of development or community projects as well as influencing policies at national and grass root level.

It involves the ability of communities to follow up on development projects, seek clarity and where possible give their own input for the betterment of the project. Although structures do exist in communities to aid information sharing, the rural poor are yet to fully utilize the systems probably because of ignorance and inability to access relevant information. Concerned leaders are also reluctant to share out information concerning communities, making it impossible to hold them accountable.

However, involving the beneficiaries whom are directly affected by the projects implemented in their localities from the on-set helps communities to own the schemes and therefore achieve sustainability.

This will also promote checks and balances as well as limiting loopholes that encourages widespread of corruption especially in government departments.

Of the late, Uganda has been in spotlight of corruption and mismanagement of public funds scandals, even with President Museveni advocating for zero-tolerance to corruption. The recent scandal was in the office of the Prime Minister and one convict was sentence to five years in prison for the disappearance of over \$50 million (about 130billions) meant for the reconstruction of Northern Uganda. The convict still has cases to answer in High Court.

Meanwhile, to promote transparency and feedback mechanisms, practices like displaying public notices for example at sub-county and parish notice board must be encouraged and where possible, disciplinary actions taken in cases where it is not being adept.

Furthermore, information pinned to notice boards must be translated in local dialects to enable community trackers and the communities understand it. This will promote community participation and ownership, reducing incidences of mistrust. On the other hand it will also help in building trust among duty bearers and citizens and it will ensure that resources from central and local governments are channelled to the rightful people without compromising.

Besides, using notice boards, feedback methods like radio talk shows, suggestion boxes are effective methods which communities can be encouraged to use

without necessarily meeting with their leaders. However, the communities need to be assisted in funding and arranging talk shows. This therefore calls for partnership with liaising with other development actors interested promoting community participation in resource flow and tracking. The introduction of "Baraza" a platform that brings people together to discuss issues that affect their community and seek redress is another good initiative that communities can take advantage of to communicate with their leaders and seek possible avenue to involve themselves in decision making processes and be able to influence. However the platform only covers fewer districts in the country, there is need to increase its coverage to other parts. Communities have also complained that they take long to get feedback from their leaders even after collecting information from them. Therefore the Baraza could be organized in such a way that district official with technical expertise in a particular sector are invited to give technical overview of that particular sector, this helps reduce on time wasting.

Effective feedback on resource flow involves the participation of every individual group within the community, but it is also based how accessibility of information, how much information should be given and its relevancy for the particular community.



**Development Research and Training (DRT),  
Off Ggaba Road, Mutesasira Zone, Kansanga  
P.O Box 22459, Kampala  
Tel: +256 (0) 312 – 263629/30,  
+256 (0) 414 - 269495  
Email contact: [info@drt-ug.org](mailto:info@drt-ug.org)  
Website: [www.drt-ug.org](http://www.drt-ug.org)  
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