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Uganda presents another example of inadequate financing of education. Even with substantial increases in nominal terms across the sector in the last two decades, financing for education in Uganda has not kept pace with the increasing enrolments and new reforms. This and more in this Weekly Edition. Read and resolve to join the campaign for increased education funding by the Government!

Uganda fails on Education Obligation



Pupils from West Nile protest the poor education facilities. Interestingly, their parents meet the highest percentage education costs than Government and yet education is meant to be free.

As part of the Privatisation and Right to Education Multi-Country Project, ActionAid last week launched a report on the Status of education funding in Uganda and three other Countries. The report which aims to shed light on how much families pay for education points to the fact that parents in Uganda pay a lot more to sustain the pupils in public schools as compared to what the Government pays.

The findings indicate that families have to pay a high percentage (33.7% in Uganda for public schools, and 25% to 173% respectively for private schools) of their income in terms of schools related costs, even when public schools are supposed to be free at primary level. Despite these costs, when all fees and levies are taken into account, private schools tend to be between 3 and 5 times even more expensive than public schools.

The report further elaborates that because of the lack of adequate financing, partly due to governments giving away excessive tax incentives and not curbing tax evasion, the perceived declining quality of public education in the country is pushing families to make hard choices to find other alternatives.

“ Private schools are growing as a result of this demand and the lack of effective regulation, creating and entrenching social inequalities and leading to the stigmatisation of public education”, the report cites.

The report cites Uganda as an example of inadequate financing of education.

“Even with substantial increases in nominal terms across the sector in the last two decades, financing for education in Uganda has not kept pace with the increasing enrolments and new reforms. The share of education as total government expenditure has declined from as 20.3% in 2004 to 11.7% in 2014 (IUS, UNESCO). The decrease shows that other sectors’ percentage of the total national budget was increasing at the expense of education,” it reads.

Facts from the National Education Accounts report (2016) reveal that Uganda only funds 45% of the total education spending. This is forcing households to contribute 55%(more than half) to have their children attain basic education.

AAU’s Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fredrick Kawooya says that this is not a good status considering the fact that the same households pay taxes to Government to finance the Education sector.

“Even with Universal Primary Education, the report indicates that parents are contributing over 65% of the total primary education subsector budget. My question is, what is the rationale for paying taxes?” he wondered in light that the Government of Uganda has the obligation to provide free primary education for all children.

This report shows that Uganda among other countries is not fulfilling her obligations to provide free and compulsory education. The findings from this multi country research show that families have to pay a high percentage of the household income to send their children to school, even in primary public schools which are supposed to be free. The effects of the systematic underfunding of education are related to high direct and indirect costs and lack of resources that in turn produce low quality of education. This is a violation of the right to education, especially when governments are giving away harmful tax incentives, whose foregone revenue would be critical to mobilise the extra funds necessary to provide free and good quality education.

[Click here for the full report.](#) And Here [for a pupils appeal to increasing funding to educa-](#)

The Inspirators are here



ActionAid has received a team of five Inspirators from Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia. These will be placed in ActionAid Local Rights Programs and Partner Organisations to provide capacity development support for different program activities.

According to Fiona Awilli, the Capacity Building and Partnerships Officer, Inspirator placement is characterized by focus on a few, short term, specific, concrete and interlinked activities.

“This is done to ensure that the Inspirators bring an external perspective to a given programme, and thereby promote shared learning,

Some of the Inspirators that will be working in Kumi, Pallisa, Gulu, Masindi and Katakwi for the next 9 months.

innovative thinking and critical reflection,” she said.

Inspirator placements are a two-way learning opportunity. While Inspirators are offering their knowledge and capacity development to partner organizations, the Inspirator programme likewise offers candidates the opportunity for international exposure, professional learning and personal growth.

While in the field and partner offices, these energetic young men and women will play multiple roles but most importantly work on ensuring a high degree of knowledge sharing and capacity development of partner organisations and key AAU staff.

The Inspirators are recruited from voluntary desire and work without a formal salary. Join me in welcoming these highly committed individuals with a strong sense of solidarity with

ActionAid to lead on GBV Response!

In a letter dated 29th August 2017, the Department of International Development (DFID) wrote to ActionAid to among others affirm its funding for the Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response services through the GBV shelters and the Start Awareness Support Action (SASA). The areas were prioritised in order to sustain the services that DFID is already offering to GBV survivors through shelters but with a stronger focus on building sustainable services over time. This includes exploring the possibility of handing over the shelters to the respective local governments by the end of the program.

The same letter informed ActionAid that it will be leading the consortium of implementing partners (MIFUMI and CEDOVIP) and hence line managing them. This communication was further emphasized in a partners’ meeting conducted last week at DFID offices.

ActionAid will be consolidating the Proposals of the three implementing partners (ActionAid, MIFUMI and CEDOVIP) and is expected to submit them to DFID for review and funding by early next month. The meeting also agreed that ActionAid recruits a technical person to manage, coordinate and over see the activities of the implementing partners. ActionAid is now planning to conduct a capacity assessment of the partners (MIFUMI and CEDOVIP).

According to the GBV Shelters Coordinator at ActionAid, Joyce Nabwire, the process will highlight the gaps in the systems and policies of the implementing partners so that they are addressed before implementation of the programs begins.

Joyce and her team are excited about the development. “As an organisation, we are proud that DFID has recognised our capacity to lead the Support to Uganda’s Response to Gender Equality (SURGE) consortium. We have demonstrated capacity to lead GBV programming and we must keep the bar high,” she said.

WEEK AHEAD:

- There is an on going CSO leaders meeting for a possible response to the Country’s several Governance challenges.
- AAU has received 5 Inspirators from Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia. These will be placed in the different AAU Local Rights Programs and Partner Organisations this week.
- The Country Director will be in Gulu at the end of this week for a meeting with the Uganda Land Alliance Verification team
- The Programs Director together with the Women Rights team will hold a meeting on Women and Governance with Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO)