



UGANDA DEBT NETWORK

Review and Analysis of the National and Local Government Budgets on Public Investment in Child Centric Sectors in Uganda- FY2023/24 -2024/25



A Case Study of National Budget and Kotido, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripit, Amuru and Omoro Districts

October 2024

Table of contents

List of Acronyms	4
Executive summary.....	5
1.0: Introduction.....	6
1.1: Background.....	6
1.2: Objectives of the Review and Analysis	6
1.3: Scope and Coverage.....	7
1.4: Methodology.....	7
2.0: Key Findings.....	8
2.1: Review of National Budget.....	8
2.1.1: National Health Budget.....	8
2.1.2: National Education Budget	11
2.1.2.1: Challenges affecting the fulfillment of children’s right to education in Uganda.....	13
2.1.3: Social Development Budget	15
2.1.4: Water and Sanitation Budget	16
2.2: Review of Local Government Budgets.....	21
2.2.1: Amuru district	21
2.2.1.1: Amuru District Health sub-program	22
2.2.1.2: Amuru district Education Sub-Program Budget	23
2.2.1.3: Amuru District Community Based Services Budget	26
2.2.1.4: Amuru District Water Budget.....	27
2.2.2: NABILATUK DISTRICT	28
2.2.2.1: Nabilatuk Health sub-program Budget	29
2.2.2.2: Nabilatuk district – Education Budget.....	30
2.2.2.3: Nabilatuk District Community Based Services Budget.....	32
2.2.2.4: Nabilatuk Water Budget	34
2.2.3: KOTIDO DISTRICT	35
2.2.2.1: Kotido Health sub-program	36
2.2.2.2: Kotido district – Education Budget.....	38
2.2.2.3: Kotido Community Based Services Budget.....	40
2.2.2.4: Kotido Water Budget.....	41
2.2.4: NAKAPIRIPIT DISTRICT	42
2.2.4.1: Nakapiripit District Health sub-program	43

2.2.4.2: Nakapiripit District Education Budget.....	45
2.2.4.3: Nakapiripit Community Based Services Budget	48
2.2.4.4: Nakapiripit Water Budget	49
2.2.5: OMORO DISTRICT.....	51
2.2.5.1: Omoro Health sub-program	52
2.2.5.2: Omoro district – Education Budget	53
2.2.5.3: Omoro Community Based Services Budget	56
2.2.5.4: Omoro district Water Budget.....	57
3.0: Conclusion	58
4.0: Policy Recommendations	59
5.0: References.....	61
6.0: Annexes	62

List of Acronyms

AHSPR	: Annual Health Sector Performance Report
CRC	: Convention of the Rights of the Child
ECCE	: Early Childhood Care and Education
FDG	: Focus Group Discussion
FY	: Financial Year
GAR	: Gross Attendance Ratio
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product
IBRD	: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IMF	: International Monetary Fund
MGLSD	: Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
NAR	: Net Attendance Ratio
SDG	: Sustainable Development Goal
SCDO	: Sub-county Development Officer
SNIE	: Special Needs and Inclusive Education
UBOS	: Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UDHS	: Uganda Demographic Health Survey
UDN	: Uganda Debt Network
UGX	: Uganda Shillings
UNICEF	: United Nations Children Fund
UNESCO	: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UPE	: Universal Primary Education
USE	: Universal Secondary Education
URMCHIP	: Uganda Reproductive Maternal & Child Health Services Improvement Project
WASH	: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	: World Health Organisation

Executive summary

Overtime, the government of Uganda has made significant investment in child centric sectors such as education, health, WASH and social development. This has led to an improvement in performance of key child indicators. Despite this investment, a larger portion of the development budget for key sectors such as health and social protection is largely financed by development partners, which has serious implications on the sustainability of the initiatives being implemented. For instance, 83% of the FY 2024/25 health development budget is projected to come from development partners.

In FY 2024/25, the Ministry of Health lifted the ban on recruitment of staff in the health sector. In spite of this initiative, the budget for wage for districts such as Amuru for FY 202/25 is projected to decrease by 20.3%, implying that no additional wage has been provided to the district to cater for recruitment of staff to fill vacant positions as well as the new staffing norms recently approved by Parliament. In districts such as Kotido that have received a 67.3% increment in the wage for the health budget, no progress has been made in recruitment of additional health workers in facilities such as Kotido hospital, evidenced by the fact that no adverts have been made (to-date) by the district for the vacant positions.

A big chunk of the resources for most child centric sectors are spent at the central government level, leaving LGs (where the bulk of services are implemented) with very little. For instance, in FY 2023/24, up to 93% of the social protection resources were spent by MGLSD, while LGs spent a mere 2%. Similarly, 89% of the WASH budget for FY 2023/24 was spent by Ministry of Water and Environment)

Uganda's spending on social protection as a proportion of GDP was estimated at 0.17% in FY2023/24, which is less than the average for Lower Middle Income countries, which places the country among the lowest spenders in this category.

At LG level, funding for key child related intervention is mainly financed from external support and most of the expenditures are recurrent in nature. For instance, Nabilatuk's development budget under the community-based services department is all funded by development partners. In Amuru district, in FY 2024/25, UGX165,628,000 was allocated towards child health services all of which is to be spent on travel inland

In FY 2024/25, the Ministry of Health lifted the ban on recruitment of staff in the health sector. In spite of this initiative, the wage components for most district health budgets are projected to decline in FY 2024/25, which casts doubt on the possibility of recruitment of additional health staff to fill the existing gaps. For instance, the Amuru health wage budget for FY 202/25 is projected to decrease by 20.3%, Nabilatuk by 1.8% and Nakapiripit by 8.4%,

In all the districts under review, the special needs education budget is one of the least funded components in the education budget and all districts are projected to receive a uniform figure of UGX 3million, in spite of the disparities in the actual number of children with special needs. The allocation is less than 0.5% of the district education budget.

1.0: Introduction

Over time, the government of Uganda has made some progress in improving the wellbeing of children in the country, evidenced by the investment in child focused sectors (mainly Education, Health, Water and Sanitation and Social Development/ Community Based Services among others). Also, several laws and policies that have been enacted to promote and protect the rights of children in the country. Some of these include: the Children’s Act 2016, the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (as amended), the Domestic Violence Act 2020, the Trafficking in Persons Act 2009 and the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010 among others.

In 1990, Uganda ratified the convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), which gives the country the obligation to ensure that all children-without discrimination in any form benefit from special protection measures and assistance, have access to services such as education and health care, can develop their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential, and are informed about and participate in achieving their rights in an active and accessible manner. The country also ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has enacted anti-discrimination laws guaranteeing disabled people’s access to education, community life, employment, physical space and more.

According to the 2024 census report by Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 50% of Uganda’s population, i.e 22.2 million people are children between the age of zero and 17 years. This represents an increase from 18.9 million in 2014. Also, 13% of Ugandan children have either lost one or both of their parents. In terms of child marriage, the census report reveals that 7.4% of children between the age of 12 and 17 years have ever been or are presently married, 13% from Karamoja region, 8.8% from Lango, 8.1% from Busoga and 8% from Bunyoro.

1.1: Background

Uganda Debt Network (UDN) was formed in 1996 as an ad hoc coalition of organizations and individuals to campaign for debt relief for Uganda under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative of The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). In 1998, UDN was registered as an NGO under the NGO Registration Statute and started operating. UDN membership constitutes Civil Society organizations CBOs, Academic institutional and individuals.

UDN with support from Save the Children International Uganda (SCI) is implementing a 5 year project “*Advocacy for Increased Public Investment in Child Centric Sectors in Uganda*”. The *overall Goal* is to increase public investment and responsiveness of government at national and local level towards Child centric sectors. UDN is therefore undertaking a review and analysis of the FY 2023/24 and 2024/25 national and local government budgets in the 5 districts of Amuru, Nakapiripit, Omoro, Kotido and Nabilatuk to ascertain the extent to which they are addressing the rights of children.

1.2: Objectives of the Review and Analysis

The purpose of this study is to review and analyse Child focused sub programs’ policy implementation and budget trends to support the sub programs towards attainment of child rights.

(Survival, Development, Protection & Participation). The study also reviews budget trends at local and national level for child centric sector priorities i.e. Education, Health, and Social Development (Community Based Services) Water & Environment and identifies gaps and opportunities for strategic engagement for increased public investment in Child centric Sectors and effective utilization of allocated funds under the respective sectors.

1.2.1: Specific Objectives of the Review

Specifically, the review sought to fulfil the following:

- i. To review and analyse budget priority allocations and trends for the implementation of Health, Education, Social Development in Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, Omoro, Amuru districts and National level.
- ii. To identify critical challenges and opportunities for increased public financial resourcing for child centric sectors towards in attainment of respect, protection and fulfilment of child rights.
- iii. To identify gaps and opportunities across financing for crosscutting concerns such like: child inclusion & disability and climate change adaptation
- iv. To propose recommendations, practices, actions and strategic advocacy strategy to influence increased public investment for child centered sectors at Sub County, district and national level.

1.3: Scope and Coverage

The review focused on the national level and five districts of Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, Omoro and Amuru. The review focused on child centric sectors/subprograms of Education, Health, Social Development/Community Based Services and Water. The study covered five financial years (2020/21-2024/25).

1.4: Methodology

The study/review used both quantitative and qualitative methods where both primary and secondary data were collected at both local and national levels.

1.4.1: Data collection methods

The review utilized a number of data collection methods including Document Review, Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions.

- a) Document review involved the collection and review of relevant data and analytical reports from various sources such as government, donor agencies, academia, and research institutions and from various websites.
- b) Focus Group Discussions involved in-depth moderated discussions with relevant stakeholders at local government levels including head teachers, councilors, facility in-charges and selected members on water user committees. A total of 20 people took part in the FDGs in the 5 study districts.
- c) Key informant interviews were conducted with various stakeholders at national and local government levels.

1.5: Study limitations

- Delay and difficulty in securing interviews with key senior government officials especially at central government level. Despite attempts to secure interviews at national levels, some government officials would not commit to respond before authorization from their supervisors. Some of the few respondents we managed to get wanted to remain anonymous for fear of losing their jobs.
- Access to up-to date data/information, particularly at local government levels.

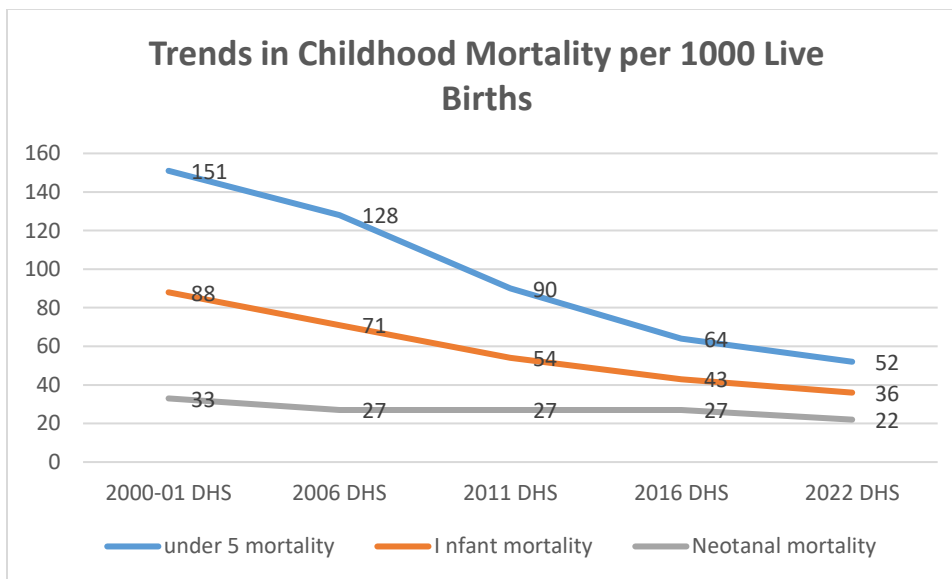
2.0: Key Findings

2.1: Review of National Budget

2.1.1: National Health Budget

Performance of Key Child Health Indicators

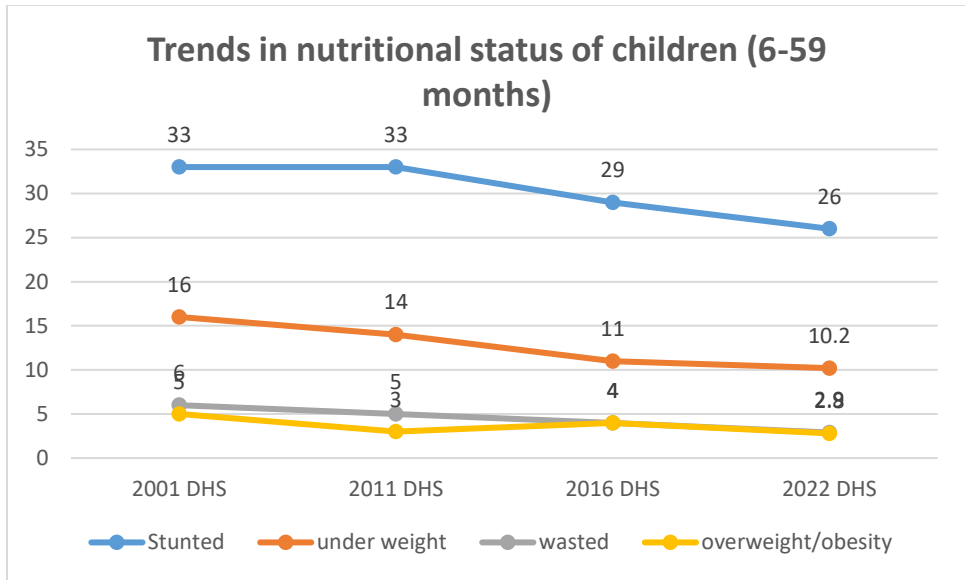
Overtime, the government investment in child health has led to an improvement in key child indicators. For instance the findings from the UDHS 2022 indicate that under-five mortality rates reduced by 18.5% from 64/1,000 in 2016 to 52/1000 live births in 2022. Likewise, infant mortality rates reduced by 16.3% from 43/1000 in 2016 to 36/1000 live births in 2022, and neonatal mortality rates reduced by 18.5% from 27/1000 to 22/1000 live births¹.



In terms of child nutrition, there has generally been an improvement in a number of nutrition indicators as follows; wasting among children under 5 years has reduced by 27.5% from 4% in 2016 to 2.9% in 2022

¹ AHSPR FY 2022/23

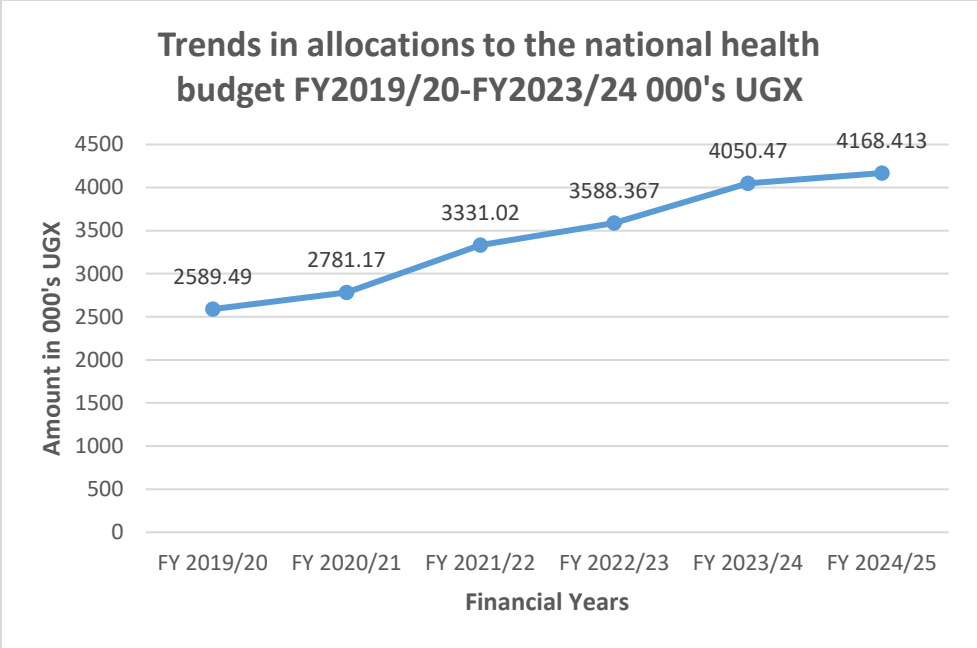
(urban 2.1%, rural 3.2%); prevalence of obesity children under 5 years has reduced from 7.5% to 3.4%, stunting in children under 5 years from 29% to 26% (male-22.9% and females 29.2%), though is still above the planned target of 23%. This was partly attributed to climatic changes, drought and food insecurity in many parts of the country.²



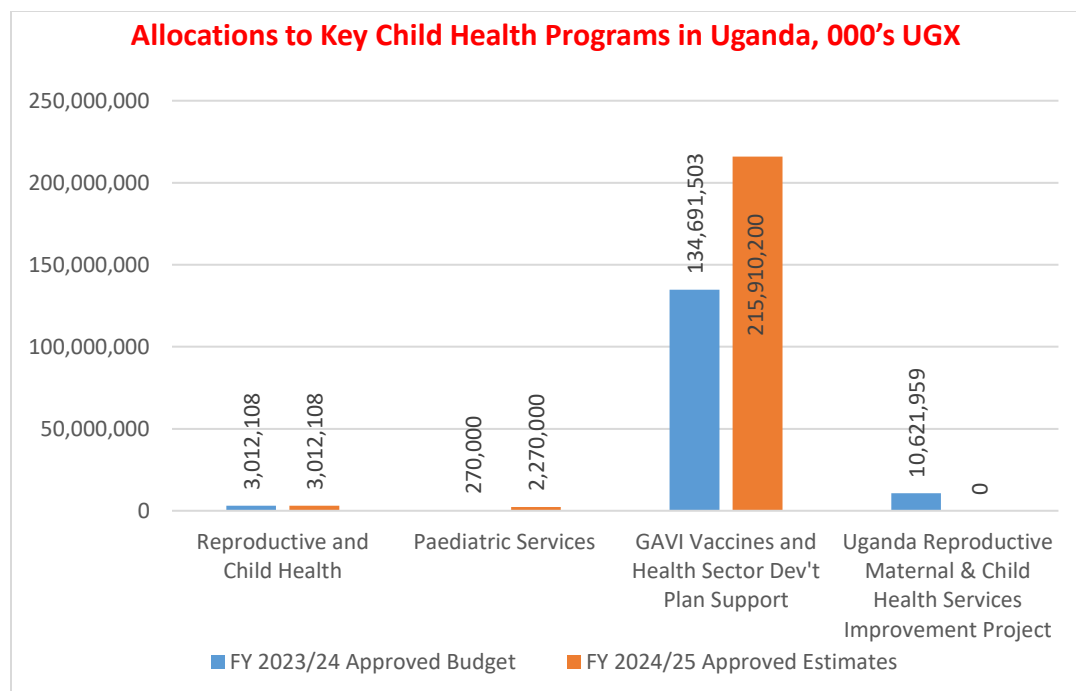
National Health Budget Allocations

Overtime, allocations towards the national health budget have been steadily increasing (in absolute terms) since FY 2020/21. Despite this increase, a largest portion of the health development budget has continued to be financed from external sources. Currently, 83% of the health development budget is financed by development partners, which places the country’s health development projects in a very precarious situation since donor funding is very unreliable and unsustainable in the medium and long-run.

² AHSPR FY 2022/23



As part of its initiative to promote child health, the government of Uganda has been implementing a number of programs and projects that directly benefit children. Some of these programs/projects include the Reproductive and Child Health program, Uganda Reproductive Maternal & Child Health Services Improvement Project (URMCHIP) and GAVI among others. However, most of these programs are largely financed by Development partners, whose financing is very un-predictable and unsustainable in the long run. Financing for all these programs is also channeled through the Ministry of Health.



“In FY 2023/24, funding for key programs such as URMCHIP came to an end, which has negatively affected implementation of some child focused activities, particularly at local government levels. For instance in FY 2024/25, no funds have been made available for key activities such as support supervision to health facilities (on issues infant and maternal health), training for specialists such as neonatologists. stenographers.”
MoH staff

Source: Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, Central Govt votes, FY 2024/25

2.1.2: National Education Budget

In a bid to promote education for all, the government of Uganda has made substantial investment in a number of programs and has enacted laws and policies aimed at promoting basic education. Some of these include: Universal Primary Education (UPE), Universal Secondary Education (USE) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy (2024), Special Needs and Inclusive Education (SNIE) Policy (2020) and the Non-Formal Education Policy (2011) among others.

In 1997, the government launched UPE with the aim of providing free and compulsory primary education to all children of school going age in the country. As a result, significant progress has been registered on some key education indicators. For instance, the literacy rates have increased

from 69% in 2006 to 74% in 2024³, the mean years of schooling increased from 3.9 years in 2000 to 6.2 years by 2022⁴. The total primary school enrolment has grown from 2.5 million pupils in 1996 to 10.8 million in 2019 while secondary enrolment increased from 814,087 in 2006 to 2 million learners by 2019⁵.

Table 1: School Attendance Ratios

	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Primary School						
	Net attendance ratio			Gross attendance ratio		
Region						
Kampala	74.6	71.6	73.1	102.2	93.5	97.8
Buganda	66.2	73.1	69.6	93.0	96.0	94.5
Busoga	77.9	80.7	79.2	120.6	116.6	118.8
Bukedi	64.5	85.8	85.1	118.1	107.3	112.5
Elgon	84.5	85.8	85.1	138.3	127.6	132.9
Teso	85.0	87.3	86.1	143.2	138.4	140.8
Karamoja	56.3	46.6	51.1	79.1	58.5	67.9
Lango	57.8	62.2	60.1	104.8	93.3	98.8
Acholi	77.0	79.4	78.2	127.2	126.0	126.6
West Nile	80.1	79.4	79.7	131.7	118.1	124.9
Bunyoro	75.0	72.2	73.6	109.0	101.1	105.0
Toro	58.4	59.7	59.1	91.2	88.4	89.8
Ankole	66.2	72.8	69.5	100.4	105.3	102.9
Kigezi	73.2	79.0	76.0	113.8	112.9	113.3

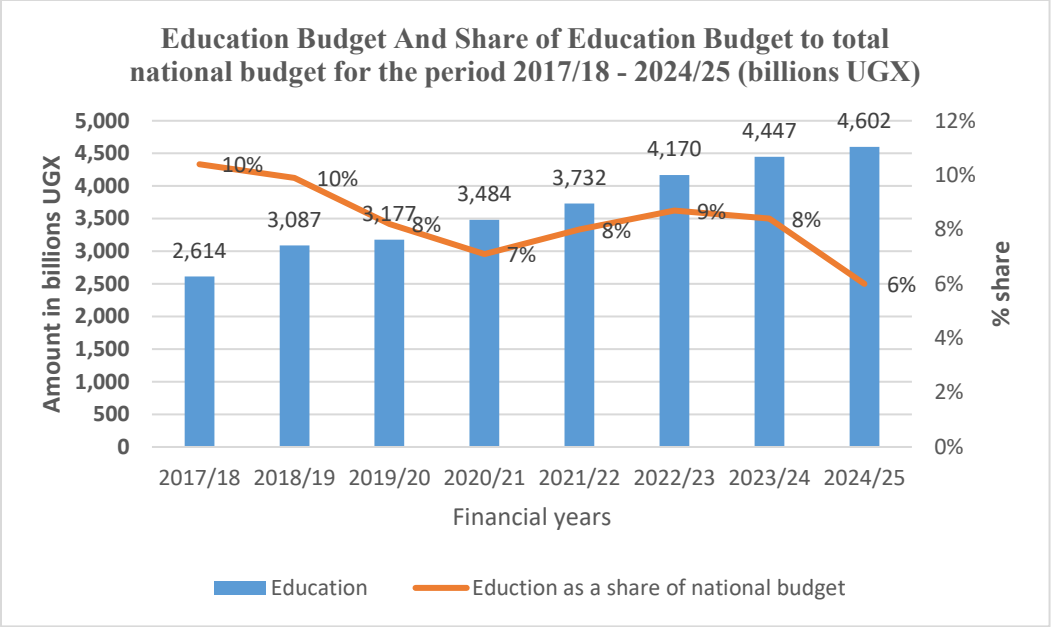
As indicated in the table above, the Karamoja Region has the lowest Net and Gross Attendance ratios for primary schools in the country. According to the UDHS 2022, Karamoja region has a Primary School Net Attendance Ratio (NAR⁶) of 51.1 and a Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR⁷) of 67.9. The highest NAR and GAR of 86.1 and 140.8 (respectively) was registered in the Teso region.

³ UBOS 2024 Census report

⁴ UNICEF 2024; Overcoming the Challenges of Education in Uganda

⁵ UNICEF 2024; Overcoming the Challenges of Education in Uganda

- ⁶ NAR for primary school is the % of the primary-school age (6-12 years) population that is attending primary school
- ⁷ The GAR for primary school is the total number of primary school students, expressed as a % of the official primary-school-age population.



Although the education budget (in absolute terms) has been increasing for the past years since FY 2017/18, the share of this budget to the total national budget has been declining since FY 2022/23, implying that the growth of the education budget has not kept pace with the growth of the total national budget.

School feeding programs are positively linked to school attendance, particularly in public primary schools and have partly contributed reduced school drop-outs in primary schools. This is mainly evident in regions/sub-regions regions such as Karamoja and northern Uganda that are considered to be food insecure. Indeed, recent studies reveal that some parents fear to send their children to school because they fear they will starve. The contribution of parents towards their children’s feeding at school is very minimal as most of them have **relegated** this function to third party players such as development partners. In districts where school feeding programs have been introduced, a reduction in the numbers of school dropouts has been registered. For instance, UNICEF in collaboration with other development partners introduced the Early Child Nutrition (ECN) program in districts such as Kotido in Karamoja sub-region. This has positively impacted on school attendance, particularly in primary schools.

2.1.2:1: Challenges affecting the fulfillment of children’s right to education in Uganda

i). Inadequate staffing in schools

While the education reforms have led to an increase in the number of children enrolled in both primary and secondary schools, this increase has outpaced the number of available trained teachers, creating a shortage of teachers in some schools, particularly in rural areas. Currently, the teacher-pupil ratio stands at 1:65, which is way above the UNESCO recommended benchmark of 40 students per teacher, which is considered essential for achieving SDG 4. This situation is further

exacerbated by the limited education budget, particularly the wage component to recruit more teachers to fill the existing gaps. According to the World Bank (2023), by 2040, Uganda will need 48,000 more primary teachers, 35,000 more primary classrooms, and 6.2 million more primary textbooks over that period. This would cost an additional US\$89 million at the primary level and US\$50 million at the secondary level each year. Similarly, the country will need US\$1.1 billion by 2040 to increase investments to improve quality in line with Education Sector Strategic Plan⁸.

ii). Low remuneration of teachers

The low remuneration provided to teachers (particularly primary school teachers) has partly contributed to the low attraction and retention of teachers in the country. According to a Circular Standing Instruction 14 of 2024 recently issued by the Ministry of Public Service, the gross salary of a primary school head teacher is between UGX 980,211 and 777,512 per month, a Senior Education Assistant between UGX 613,486 and 605,100 while an Education Assistant (Grade III Teacher) earns between UGX 568,166 and 499,684. Teachers on trial terms earn UGX 261,326 while the Non Formal Education teachers earn a monthly salary of UGX 228,612. These amounts are inadequate to for these staff to effectively meet all the basic needs as well of those of their families. This has pushed some of the staff into doing other odd jobs to supplement their incomes, partly contributing to their absenteeism in schools.

iii). Limited funding for inspection and monitoring

Although the government of Uganda is committed to improving the quality of education in the country through regular inspection and monitoring, there is weak monitoring and inspection to enforce standards and delivery of quality education. This is mainly attributed to the inadequate funding for school inspection. Furthermore, the poor infrastructure such as roads and transportation facilities, further impede the ability to conduct regular school inspections.

iv). Climate Change on education in Uganda are stark and disruptive. Uganda is ranked 37th out of 163 countries by Children Climate Risk Index (CCRI) an assessment on the risk of children vulnerable to climate change estimate of 17 million children affected by the diverse effects of climate change with millions having their education disrupted every year because of disasters exacerbated by climate change, and this number continues to increase. Extreme weather events for example drought, heavy rainfall effect on school attendance during negative rainfall shocks, there is an increase in the likelihood of school absenteeism. Similarly periods of prolonged droughts lead to water shortages.

v). Child labour. National estimates in Uganda suggest that 18% of children aged 5 to 17 years are engaged in child labour in various economic activities and 51% of them are working under conditions that are considered illegal, hazardous, or extremely exploitative. Financial constraints often push families to prioritize income generation over education, especially in rural and impoverished communities where child labor is more prevalent.

⁸ UNICEF 2024; Overcoming the Challenges of Education in Uganda
Ending Child Labour and Ensuring Education in Uganda
Violence against children and child labour in Uganda: what evidence exists?

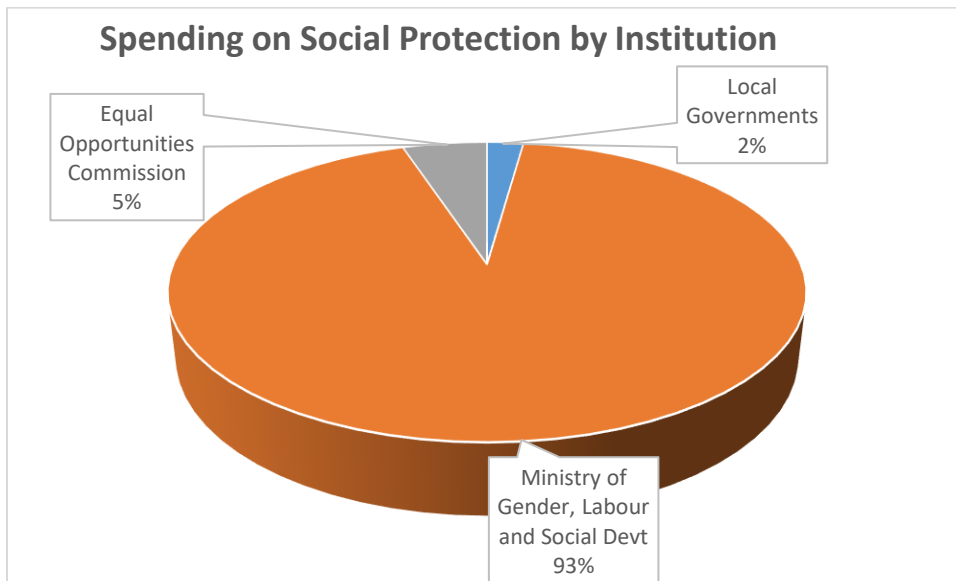
2.1.3: Social Development Budget

The Social Development subprogram places emphasis on the promotion of social protection, equality, equity, human rights, culture, suitable working conditions, employment and the vulnerable groups such as women , children , unemployed youth and the elderly. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is the lead agency in the Social Development sector/sub-program. At local government levels, these activities are coordinated by the Community Based Services department.

Social Protection for the vulnerable groups such as children is provided through public investment programmes and projects such as Youth and Children Affairs Programme; Expanded Social Protection Programme (ESPP) and Promotion of Children and Youth (PCY) project.

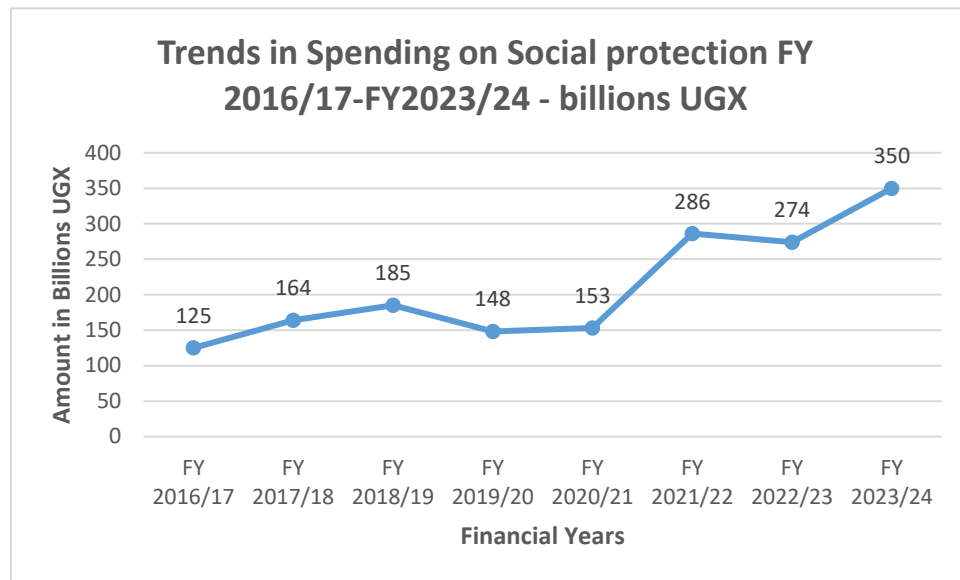
Spending on Social Protection

Nearly all resources for social protection are spent at the Central Government level (Mostly the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD). Local governments continue to be deprioritized for social protection programme delivery despite being primary agents for programme delivery at the local level⁹. In FY 2023/24, up to 93% of the social protection resources were spent by the MGLSD. The Equal Opportunities Commission on the other hand accounts for 5% while a mere 2% is spent at Local Government levels. Also, the per capita spending on social protection has remained low, currently at \$4.31 per annum. In FY 2023/24, Uganda’s spending on social protection as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated at 0.17%, which is less than the average for Lower Middle Income countries, which places the country among the lowest spenders in this category.



As indicated in the figure below, spending on social protection interventions has been increasing since FY 2016/17. However, between FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20, there was a slight decline, which later increased sharply in FY 2021/22, mainly on account of COVID-19 interventions by both government and development partners. Despite this increase, most of the interventions being implemented mainly benefit particular interest groups such as the youth and elderly, leaving very little support towards the children and

persons living with disabilities.

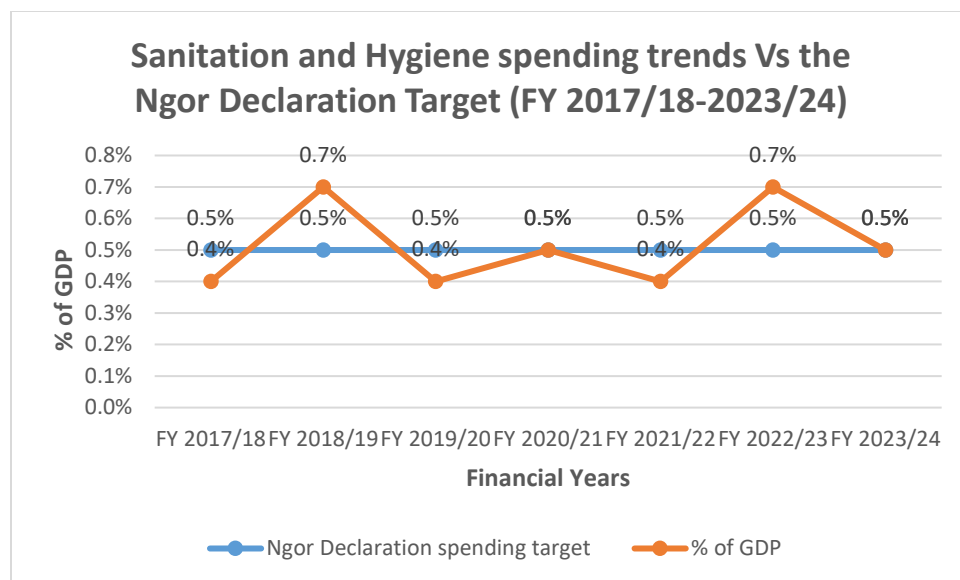


2.1.4: Water and Sanitation Budget

The Water and Sanitation sector is housed under the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme of National Development Plan (NDP) III. This sector aims to “Increase access to quality safe water and sanitation facilities for rural, urban and water for production uses”. In Uganda, more than 3,300 children under the age of five die every year from diarrhea caused by dirty water, poor toilets and no hygiene facilities¹⁰. According to the Global Health Statistics report 2023, mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, sanitation and lack of hygiene (WASH) has reduced from 54 per 100,000 population to 28.1 per 100,000 population. This is a result of the improved sanitation coverage from 19% in 2019/20 to 44% by 2024 (Census Report 2024), and improved hand washing facilities from 34% in 2019/20 to 47% in 2024 (Census Report 2024).

In 2015, African Ministers (including those from Uganda) at the 4th African conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (AfricanSan), adopted the Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene, where they committed to “Establish and track sanitation and hygiene budget lines that consistently increase annually to reach a minimum of 0.5% GDP by 2020. Sofar, Uganda has been able to meet this target. (see graph below)

¹⁰ Water AID UK



Access to safe water and Sanitation

In Uganda, 62% of the population has access to safe water. Of these, 65% are in rural areas while 55% in urban areas. In terms of functionality, 84% of water sources in rural areas are functional while 85% of those in urban areas are functional.

Table 2: Access to safe water coverage and Functionality in Uganda

Location	Access to Safe Water (%)	Functionality of point water sources %)
Rural	65 %	84 %
Urban	55 %	85 %
Total	62%	%

Source: Water supply Atlas

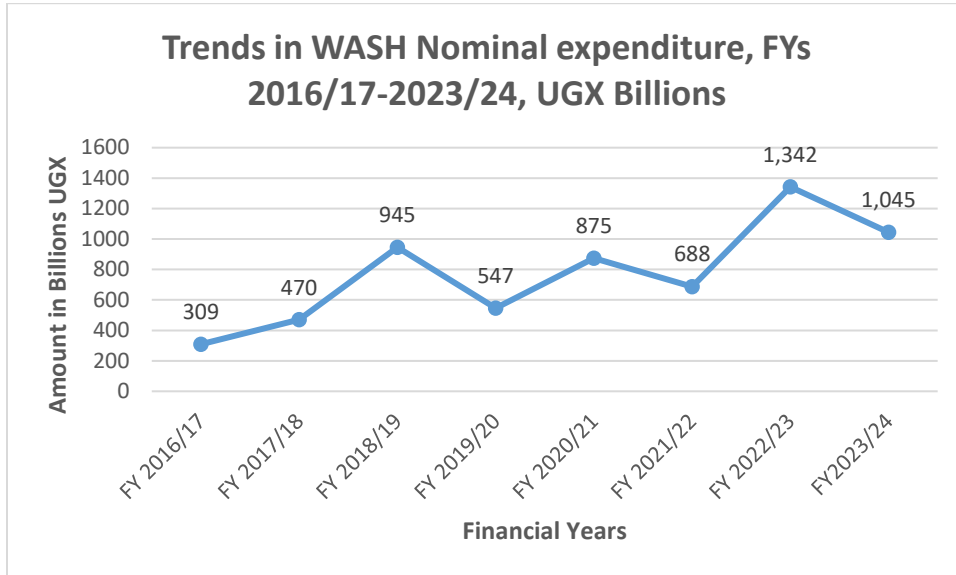
Under the sanitation component, the county has registered an improvement in the use of improved toilet facilities from 19% in 2017 to 44%. More still, 50% of use unimproved toilet facilities while 5% of the households in the county had no toilet facility. In terms of hand washing facilities, only 14% of households in the country had hand washing facilities with water and soap while only 12% had a functional hand washing facility with water only¹¹

2.1.4.1: Trends in Spending for the WASH Sector

Overtime, spending in the WASH sector has been very inconsistent, registering a number of increases and decreases in nominal expenditure. In spite of this, WASH expenditure has more than tripled for the last 8 years increasing from UGX 309 billion in FY2016/17 to UGX 1,342 billion in

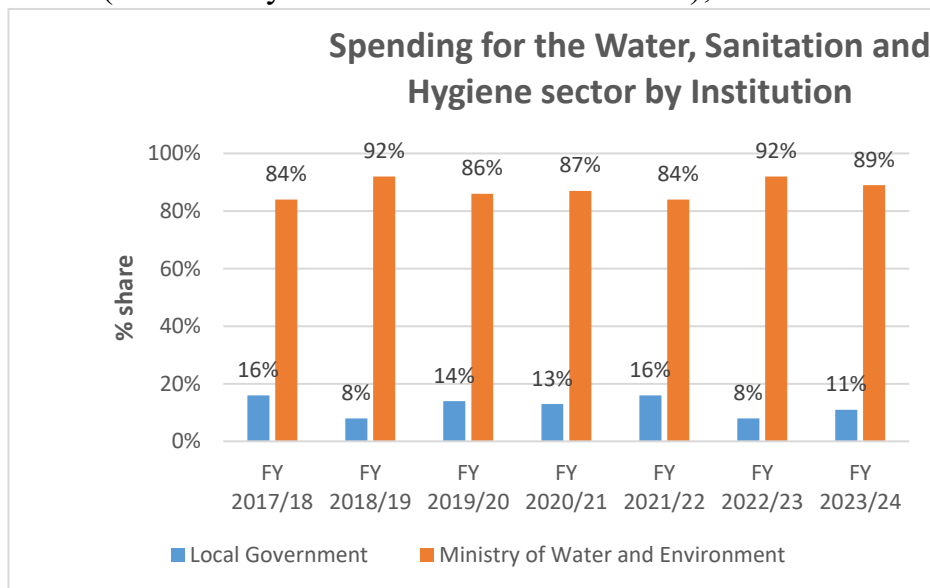
¹¹ National Service Delivery Survey 2021

FY 2022/23 before dropping to UGX 1,045billion in FY2023/24. This decline, if not urgently addressed could negatively impact on the country’s commitment to achieve the NDP goal of Increasing access to safe and clean water to achieve 85% coverage in rural areas and 100% in urban areas by 2025”.



2.1.4.3: Spending for the WASH by Institution

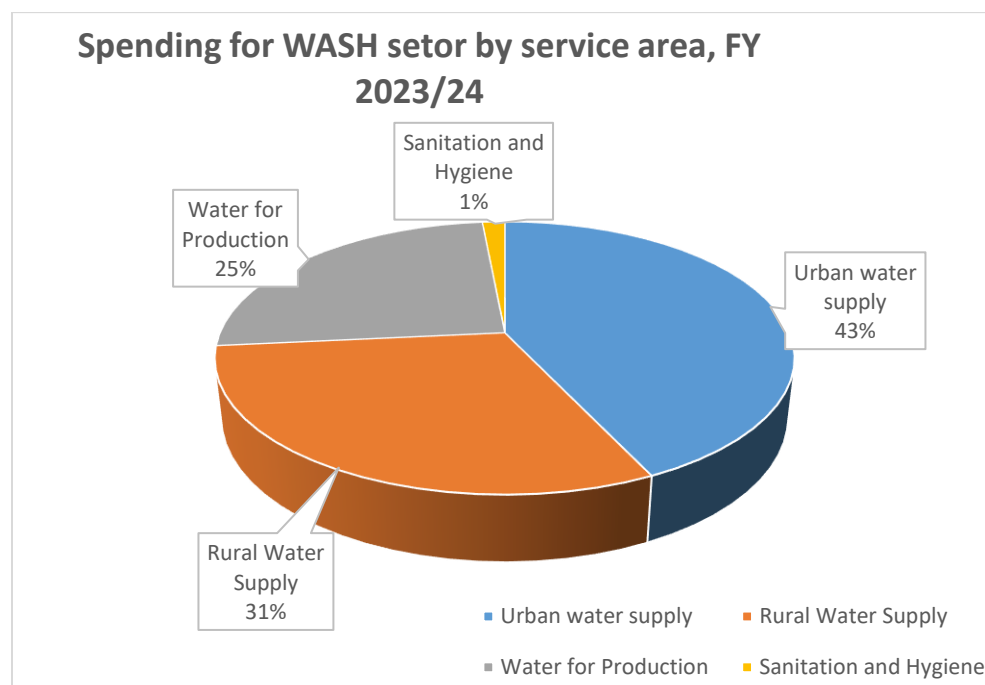
The spending for the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector is largely dominated by the centre (i.e Ministry of Water and Environment), which took a whopping 89% of the



entire budget in FY 2023/24. This however leaves only 11 % of the entire budget to be shared among the rest of local governments. However, there was a slight improvement from 8% in FY 2022/23.

Spending for WASH sector by service area

Under the WASH sector, a bigger portion of the budget goes towards urban water supply, which takes 43% of the sector budget. Sanitation and hygiene on the other side takes only 1% of the budget.



2.1.4.2: Challenges in the WASH sector

- Poor functionality of safe water points, mainly attributed to the frequent breakdown of water equipment. This is further exacerbated by the inadequate budget allocated for the maintenance of these equipment.
- Climatic change (particularly prolonged drought), which threatens to reverse progress in improving access to WASH. This at times contributes to water scarcity in some regions of the country including Karamoja and Northern Uganda.
- Lack of a policy framework for financing water, sanitation, Hygiene, environment and climate change programs in the country yet they contribute substantially to the country's socio-economic development.
- Financing of WASH is mainly skewed towards the center, with minimal resources trickling down to local governments, where the bulk of service delivery takes place.
- In schools, lack of proper sanitation facilities partly contributes to the absenteeism especially for girls. Also, most schools with ECD/ nursery section do not have separate latrines for the children.
- Some of the water sources especially boreholes are not inclusive because they cannot be easily operated by PWDs and learners in nursery sections.

Available Opportunities for investment in Public Investments in Child Centric Sectors

- There is an opportunity for the government to partner with the various players such as the civil society actors (such as Save the Children, Water aid etc) to increase public investment in Health, Education, Social Development, and WASH. Furthermore the existence of development partners such as UNICEF, USAID, etc generate additional resources for projects in this area.
- For sectors such as WASH, private sector players can provide additional resources to invest in public projects. Through the Public Private Partnership arrangement, user fees can be generated from these investments to generate additional revenue

2.2: Review of Local Government Budgets

This section provides a review and analysis of spending towards child centric sectors in the 5 local governments of Amuru, Kotido, Nakapiripit, Omoro, and Nabilatuk.

2.2.1: Amuru district

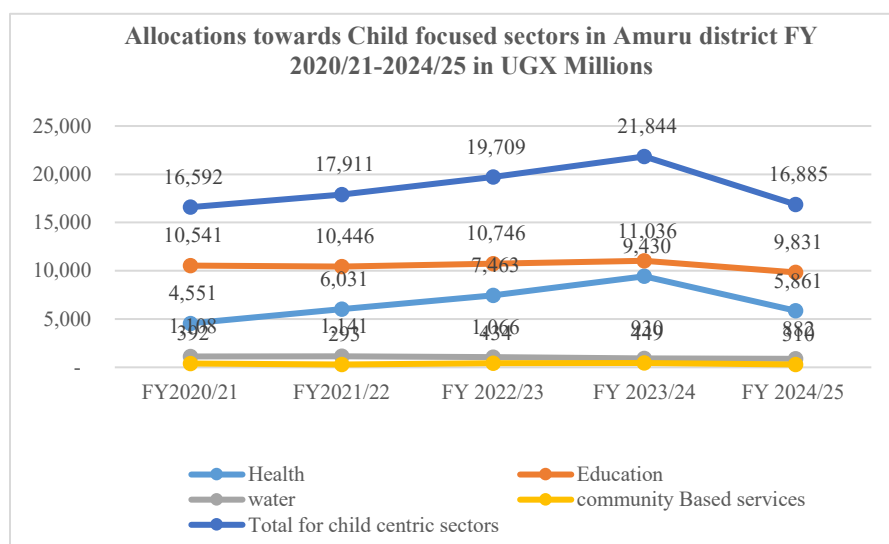
Amuru district is located in Northern Uganda and was established by the Ugandan Parliament in 2006. It was previously part of Gulu district. The 2024 Census estimates Amuru's population at 247,377 (i.e 121,627 male and 125,750 female).

Table 3: Allocations towards Child focused sectors in Amuru district FY 2020/21-2024/25

	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	% change in FY 2024/25
Health	4,551	6,031	7,463	9,430	5,861	-37.8
Education	10,541	10,446	10,746	11,036	9,831	-10.9
water	1,108	1,141	1,066	930	882	-5.1
community Based services	392	293	434	449	310	-30.9
Total for child centric sectors	16,592	17,911	19,709	21,844	16,885	-22.7
Total overall budget	37,312	29,357	30,553	33,553	27,739	-17.3

Source: Approved Budget Estimates, Amuru district Budget

Although allocations towards child centric sectors have been increasing for the last 5 years in Amuru district, they are projected to decline by 17.3% from UGX 21.844bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 16.885 bn in FY 2024/25. The largest decrease is registered in the health department whose



funding is projected to decline by 37.8% in the same period. Similarly, funding for the community Based Services department is projected to decrease by 30.9% between FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25. The decline was mainly attributed to the reduction in donor funding and local revenue.

2.2.1.1: Amuru District Health sub-program

In FY 2024/25, funding towards the Amuru health sub-program is projected to decrease by 37.8% from UGX 9.43bn in FY 2023/24 to 5.86 bn in FY 2024/25. The largest decline is mainly recorded under the development revenues, which are projected to decrease by 88.7% in the same period, mainly attributed to the decline in both domestic development and external funding. This puts the district's health situation in a precarious condition. In FY 2023/24, Amuru received a score of 75.86% on the district league table and was ranked 41 out of 146 local governments ranked. This score is above the national average score of 73.6%, implying that the performance of the district's health indicators is above that of the national average.

Table 4: Breakdown of Health Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Revenues			
Wage	5,808,495	4,626,437	-20.35%
Non Wage	1,033,204	946,686	-8.37%
Total	6,841,700	5,573,123	-18.54%
Development Revenues			
Domestic Development	2,196,811	288,246	-86.88%
External Financing	391,092	0	-100%
Total	2,587,902	288,246	-88.86%
Grand total	9,429,602	5,861,369	-37.84

Source: Amuru district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

In FY 2024/25, UGX165,628,000 was allocated towards child health services in Amuru district, all of which is to be spent on travel inland, leaving nothing for actual inputs. This is likely to affect the availability of key child health services in public facilities.

In FY 2024/25, the Ministry of Health lifted the ban on recruitment of staff in the health sector. In spite of this initiative, the Amuru wage budget for FY 202/25 is projected to decrease by 20.3%, implying that no additional wage has been provided to the district to cater for recruitment of staff to fill vacant positions as well as the new staffing norms recently approved by Parliament.

Key Health challenges in Amuru district- a case of Atiak HCIV

- Atiak HCIV in Amuru district has no proper mortuary, yet it is located along the highway (i.e receives a number of accident victims). In trying to improvise, the facility is currently using the Health Centre's isolation ward to serve as a mortuary as a solution is sought.
- The facility also has inadequate space to admit the growing number of patients. The maternity and in-patient wards were meant to accommodate only 26 beds but due to the increase in the number of patients, more beds, which has led to the congestion of the wards.
- The facility is also under-staffed for instance, it has about 36 health workers and support staff which is below the MoH ceiling of 48 yet it serves a population of over 20,000 people from more than one districts, some from as far as Adjumani and South Sudan.

2.2.1.2: Amuru district Education Sub-Program Budget

In Amuru district, the situation of education services leaves a lot to be desired. It is characterized by poor performance, high drop-out rates and low primary school completion rates particularly at primary school, and inadequate school infrastructure among others.

Table 5: Breakdown of Amuru Education Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

Expenditure category	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Revenues			
Wage	7,697,712	7,094,102	-7.8
Non -Wage	1,764,680	2,221,676	25.9
Total	9,462,391	9,315,778	-1.5
Development Revenues			
Domestic Development	946,084	515,535	-45.5
External Financing	627,543	0	-100
Total	1,573,628	515,535	-67.2
Grand total	11,036,019	9,831,313	-10.9

Source: Amuru district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

In FY 2024/25, Amuru's education budget is projected to reduce by 10.9% from UGX 11.03bn in FY2023/24 to 9.83bn in FY2024/25. The biggest reduction is recorded under the development budget (for both external support and domestic development) which is expected to reduce by 67.2% in FY 2024/25.

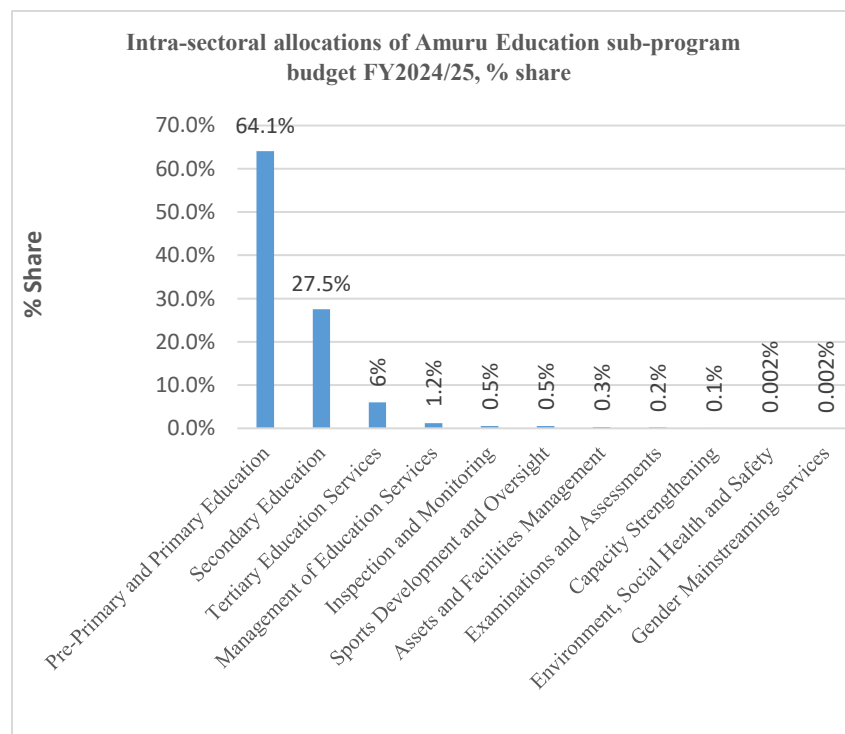


Table 6: Intra-sectoral allocations of Amuru Education sub-program budget FY2024/25, 000's UGX

Sub-sub program	Allocation FY2024/25 000s UGX
Pre-Primary and Primary Education	6,301,698
Secondary Education	2,707,523
Tertiary Education Services	543,902
Environment, Social Health and Safety	220
Gender Mainstreaming services	220
Inspection and Monitoring	52,067
Assets and Facilities Management	25,000
Capacity Strengthening	10,000
Examinations and Assessments	18,000
Management of Education Services	119,682
Sports Development and Oversight	50,000
Special Needs Education	3,000
Total	9,831,312

Source: Amuru district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

In FY 2024/25, the pre-primary and primary education sub department is projected to take the lion's share, i.e 64.1% of the Amuru district education budget. This clearly indicates that the district is prioritizing children's education rights. Special needs education on the other hand is projected to receive very minimal funding, taking a mere 3 million shilling the whole year. This represents 0.03% of the district's education budget, a clear indication that this area is not given any special attention in the district. This amount is inadequate to enable the district buy the necessary equipment such as brails required for children with special needs at all levels of education.

Key challenges facing the education sector in Amuru district

Though the education sector receives 35% of the entire Amuru district budget for FY 2024/25, it is still grappling with a number of challenges that have negatively affected its performance. These are outlined below

- **Inadequate Scholastic Materials**

Many children in Pabo Primary School in Pabo Kilak County lack essential educational materials such as textbooks, brails, pens, and exercise books. Specifically, children with special needs do not have the required facilities to enable them learn effectively. This scarcity affects the quality of education, as pupils, particularly those with special needs struggle to participate actively in class. Teachers are also challenged in delivering lessons effectively, as shared textbooks or reliance on verbal teaching may limit students' learning experiences. The government's capitation grants often don't cover the required materials fully, leaving parents or guardians, many of whom are economically vulnerable, unable to provide what is needed.

- **Lack of Mid-day Meals**

Children in most schools including Pabo Primary School often attend school without receiving a proper meal during the day. This is mainly because many families cannot afford to contribute towards school feeding programs. This has affected their levels of concentration, participation, and overall academic performance. As a result, children and teachers often go home during lunchtime and may not return for afternoon lessons. While some schools have tried to implement school feeding programs, these efforts are unsustainable due to limited funding.

- **Child-Headed Households**

The presence of child-headed households is another challenge in Pabo. Many children have lost parents to diseases such as HIV/AIDS or conflict-related violence, leaving them responsible for younger siblings. These children are forced to take on adult responsibilities, such as providing for the family, limiting their ability to attend school regularly or focus on their studies. For example, a child heading a household may need to work or engage in farming, further disrupting their education.

Amuru district initiatives to promote access to quality education among children

Amuru District, has implemented various initiatives to promote access to quality education for children. These efforts aim to address the challenges that schools face. Here are some of the district's key initiatives:

- **Provision of Facilities to Promote Inclusive Education**

The district has made strides in promoting inclusive education by ensuring that children with disabilities are not left out. In Pabo Primary School, the district has partnered with non-governmental organizations to provide assistive devices like wheelchairs and walking aids for children with physical disabilities. Ramps have been constructed in some classrooms to make the facilities more accessible to students with mobility challenges. In addition to physical infrastructure, the district has supported the training of teachers in special needs education to ensure that children with disabilities receive adequate attention. For instance, the school now has specially trained teachers who can cater to children with hearing impairments or learning difficulties, ensuring that these children have equal access to quality education.

- **Back to School Campaign**

The district and sub-county in Amuru district have launched "Back to School" campaigns as a key intervention to address school dropout rates, particularly after the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increasing rates of early teenage pregnancy. These campaigns involve mobilizing local leaders, teachers, and community members to encourage children, especially girls, to return to school.

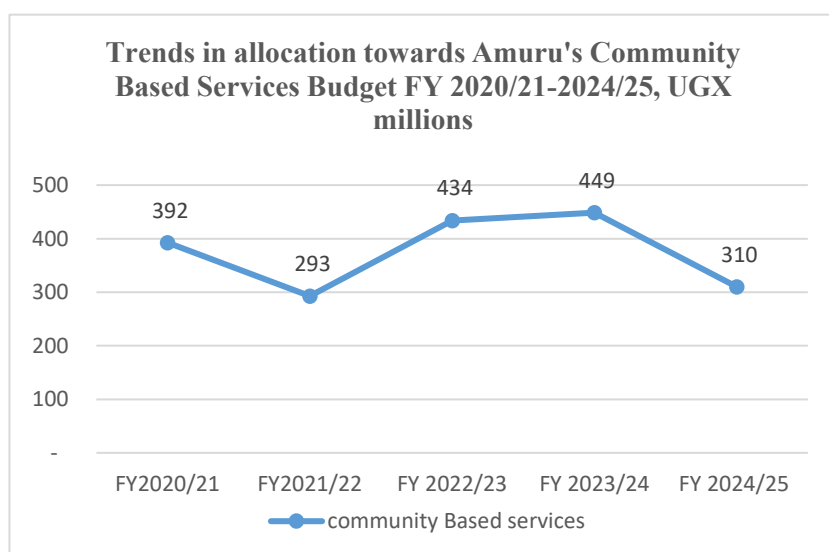
- **Strengthening Guidance and Counseling in Schools**

To address issues such as absenteeism, early pregnancies, and psychological trauma (especially among children affected by past conflicts in the region), the district has prioritized strengthening guidance and counseling programs in schools. Teachers in Pabo Primary School have been trained to provide psychosocial support to students dealing with various challenges at home or in their community. For example, some children in Pabo come from child-headed households or have experienced violence.

Through counseling, these children receive emotional and psychological support, helping them stay in school. Additionally, guidance counselors work to educate girls on the dangers of early pregnancy and encourage them to prioritize their education.

2.2.1.3: Amuru District Community Based Services Budget

Community Based Services is one of the least funded departments in Amuru district. In FY 2024/25, it is projected to receive only 1.12% of the entire district budget for FY 2024/25. The greater part of the department’s budget is mainly recurrent in nature.



Although the Community Based Services budget has been increasing since FY 2021/22, it is projected to reduce by UGX 139 billion between FY 2023/24 and 2024/25, representing a 30.9% reduction.

Table 7: Intra-sectoral Allocations towards Amuru district’s Community Based Services department allocations FY 2024/25, 000’s UGX

Sub-sub program	Allocation FY2024/25	% share
Community Mobilisation	84,832	27.4%
Community sensitization and empowerment	217,524	70.2%
Strengthening institutional support	7,474	2.4%
Total	309,830	100.0%

Source: Amuru district budget, FY 2024/25

Within the FY 2024/25 Community Based Services budget, the largest portion of the budget, i.e 70.2% of the budget is to be spent on community sensitization and empowerment activities, specifically on social security contributions (UGX 157,543,000).

Key challenges facing the Community Based Services sector in Amuru district

- **Teenage Pregnancies**

Teenage pregnancies remain one of the most prevalent child protection issues in Amuru District. High rates of teenage pregnancies are fueled by a combination of factors, including poverty, lack of access to reproductive health education, and cultural practices such as early marriages. Many young girls are pressured into early sexual activity, sometimes as a result of financial desperation, where families encourage or even force girls into relationships with older men in exchange for economic support.

- **Gender based violence**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is another widespread issue in Amuru District. This includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of children, particularly girls. GBV often occurs within families or is perpetrated by individuals in positions of power, such as teachers or community leaders. Domestic violence is also rampant, with children frequently witnessing violence in their homes, which can have long-lasting psychological impacts.

- **Child neglect**

Child neglect is a critical issue in Amuru District, with many children left without proper care, supervision, or basic needs. Neglect often occurs in economically disadvantaged households where parents or guardians are unable to provide for their children due to poverty, alcoholism, or other social issues. In some cases, children are forced to fend for themselves, take care of younger siblings, or work to support the family, particularly the child-headed households.

- **Weak Community Support Structures**

Community structures that should ideally support child protection and rights are often weak or dysfunctional in Amuru District. This includes structures like child protection committees, local councils (LCs), and community policing units, which are designed to monitor and address child abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Initiatives implemented by Amuru district to address challenges

Development and implementation of District Ordinances

A number of ordinances have been developed by the district to address some of the key challenges affecting the Community Based Services Department. These are highlighted below

- **Teenage Pregnancy Ordinances**

One of the key ordinances implemented by Amuru District is aimed at **addressing teenage pregnancies**. This ordinance has been developed to combat the high rates of early pregnancies, which are a leading cause of school dropouts and child rights violations in the district.

- **Child Labor and Education Ordinance**

Amuru District has also implemented ordinances to address child labor and ensure that children remain in school. These ordinances make it illegal for children under the age of 18 to engage in hazardous labor or any form of work that interferes with their education. The enforcement of these laws ensures that children are protected from exploitation and that their right to education is prioritized.

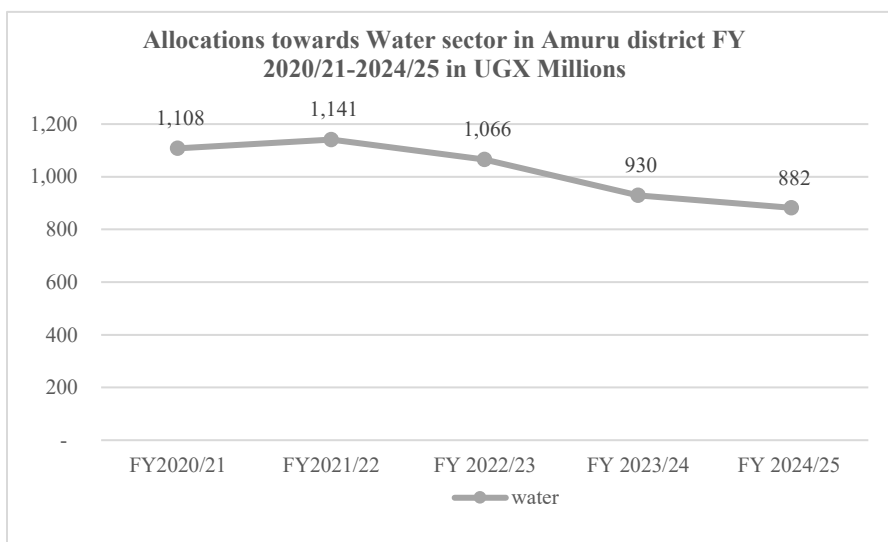
2.2.1.4: Amuru District Water Budget

Amuru district currently has a total of 825 domestic water points, serving a population of 180,626. However, 258 water points have been non-functional for over 5 years and are considered abandoned. Currently, 74% of the population has access to water services in the district. Of these, 79% are located in rural areas while 48% are located in urban areas. In areas such as Pabbo town council, access to water is as low as 41%. While 70% of the water points in rural areas are functional, only 54% of those in urban areas are functional. The main reason for non-functionality is mainly attributed to technology breakdown (i.e 64%).

Only 2% of the population in the district has access to public water taps, 12% on shallow wells, 13% have access to protected springs while the majority, i.e 73% have access to deep bore holes. Funding from local government sources accounts for only 33%. Majority of the water sources i.e 53% were constructed with funds from NGOs such as AMREF.

In Otici primary school, AMREF supported the construction of a mini solar powered water system. In addition they constructed 18 VIP latrines in schools, ensuring private spaces for girls with each latrine equipped with a washroom and an incinerator for the proper disposal of sanitary towels used by girls. Such projects have led to a decrease in school drop-out rates in Amuru from 28% to 15%, with some schools reporting higher enrollment of girls than boys (New Vision, August 2024)

In FY 2024/25, Amuru district has allocated a total of UGX 260,024,000 to Pawel Lalem and Pyela RGC towards the construction of a Mini Solar Piped water Supply and extension



2.2.2: NABILATUK DISTRICT

Nabilatuk is one of the districts which were pronounced by the 9th Parliament and became operational on 1st July 2018. It is located in the Karamoja region and was carved out of Nakapiripit district. Its projected population as per the 2024 census stands at 137,568 (66,120 male and 71,468 female).

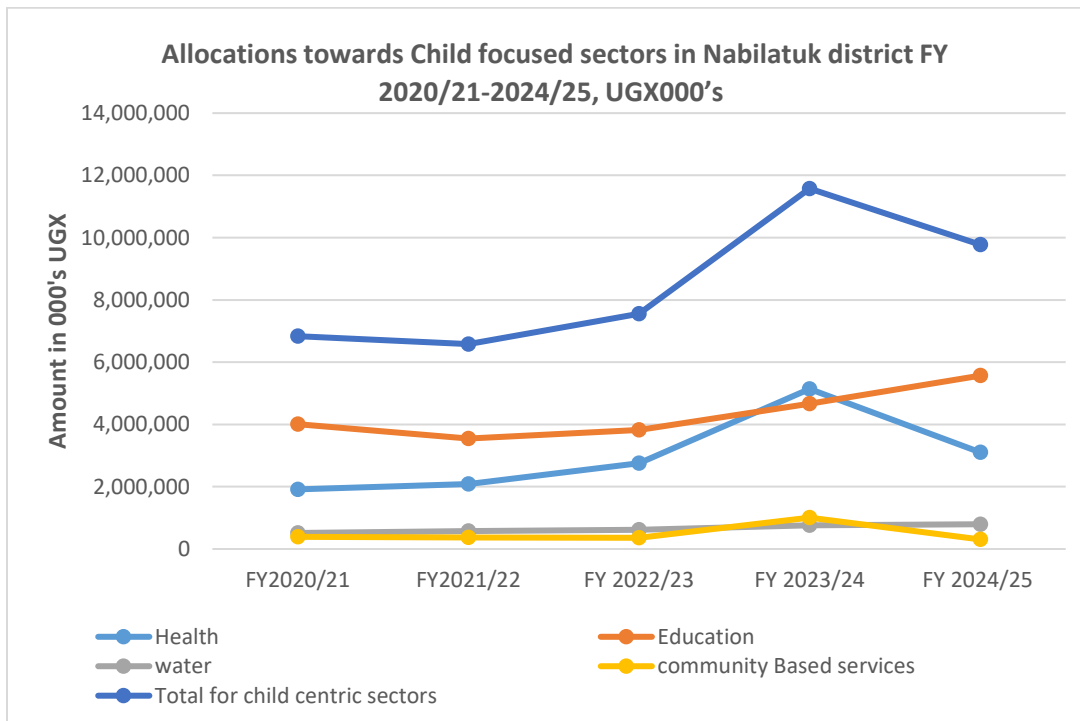
Table 8: Allocations towards Child focused sectors in Nabilatuk district FY 2020/21-2024/25, UGX000's

	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	% change in FY 2024/25
Health	1,914,812	2,085,568	2,756,596	5,139,779	3,100,004	-39.7%
Education	4,010,950	3,547,364	3,822,590	4,666,541	5,568,453	19.3%

Water	514,459	578,237	615,024	764,091	794,980	4.0%
community Based services	391,142	370,530	362,733	1,005,945	306,879	-69.5%
Total for child centric sectors	6,831,363	6,581,699	7,556,943	11,576,356	9,770,316	-15.6%
Total overall budget	10,520,079	10,121,438	10,600,243	15,707,380	14,897,724	-5.2%

Source: Approved Budget Estimates, Nabilatuk district Budget

In Nabilatuk district, allocations towards child centric sectors have been increasing since FY 2021/22 and have been following the same pattern as the overall district budget. However, in FY 2024/2, they are projected to decrease by 15.6% from UGX 11.576bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 9.77bn in FY 2024/25. The largest decrease of 69.5% is registered in the community Based Services department, whose amount is project to decrease from UGX 1.006bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 306.879mn in FY 2024/25. The reduction is mainly attributed to the reduction in donor funding. The education department on the other hand is projected to receive a 19.3% increase in funding in FY 2024/25.



2.2.2.1: Nabilatuk Health sub-program Budget

Nabilatuk's health budget for FY 2024/25 is projected to decrease by 39.7% from UGX 5.139bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 3.1bn in FY 2024/25, with its development expenditure projected to reduce by 68.1% in the same period. Both the domestic and external budgets are projected to reduce by 69.2% and 68% respectively. This is expected to negatively impact on health service delivery in the district. In terms of its performance in terms of health indicators, Nabilatuk performance on the District League Table was

relatively high, with a score of 74.91%, which is higher than the national average score of 73.6% . This places it in the 48th position out of 146 LGs assessed.

Table 9: Breakdown of Nabilatuk Health Sub-Programme Expenditures by source 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	1,680,110	1,726,382	2.8%
Non -Wage	405,190	397,839	-1.8%
Total	2,085,300	2,124,221	1.9%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	222,428	68,462	-69.2%
External Financing	2,832,050	907,322	-68.0%
Total	3,054,478	975,784	-68.1%
Grand total	5,139,779	3,100,004	-39.7%

Source: Nabilatuk district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

Challenges facing child health financing in Nabilatuk district

- **Distance to health facilities**

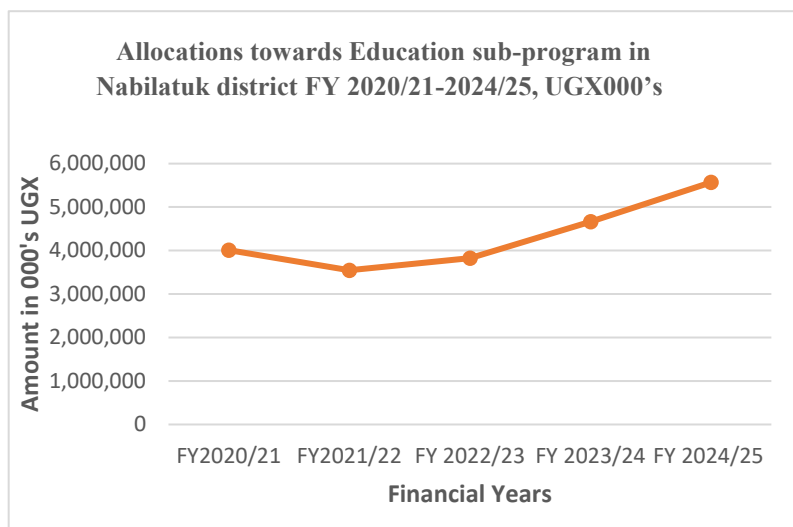
Since most of the public health facilities are located far from communities, the long distance are a hindrances to access to healthcare by children in the district. As a result, some parents have resorted to self-medication and buying of drugs from nearby clinics and drug shops, some of which are run by unqualified persons. This has negatively impacted on the health of the children.

- **Delay in accessing healthcare facilities**

In Nabilatuk, some parents take long to take their sick children to health facilities. Most of them only get medical attention when the conditions get worse which in most cases is a bit late. This has partly contributed to child mortality in the district.

2.2.2.2: Nabilatuk district – Education Budget

For the last 4 years, Nabilatuk’s education budget has been steadily increasing from UGX 3.537bn to UGX 5.568bn. In FY 2024/25, Nabilatuk’s education budget is expected to receive a 19.3% increase from that allocated in FY 2023/234.



Unlike the budgets of other districts under review, Nabilatuk received no cut in its education budget, but instead received an increase in both the recurrent and development budget, with the development budget expected to receive more than double of what was received in the previous financial year. The domestic development budget has been tripled in the same period. This is a clear indicator of the district's commitment to promoting education for all.

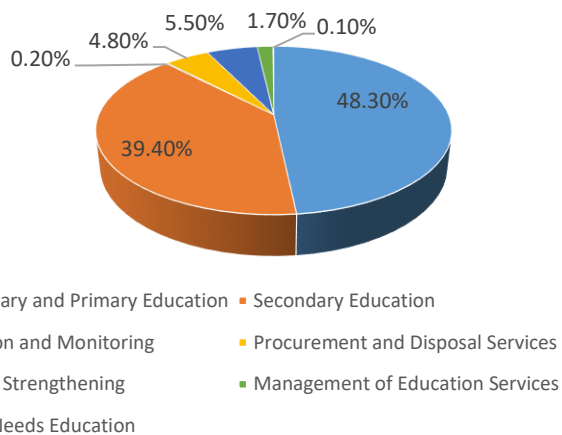
Table 10: Breakdown of Nabilatuk Education Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	3,440,291	3,612,290	5.0%
Non –Wage	728,370	923,735	26.8%
Total	4,168,661	4,536,025	8.8%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	203,209	737,757	263.1%
External Financing	294,671	294,671	0.0%
Total	497,880	1,032,429	107.4%
Grand total	4,666,541	5,568,453	19.3%

Source: Nabilatuk district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

In FY 2024/25, the pre-primary and primary education sub department is projected to take the lion's share, i.e 48.3% of the Nabilatuk district education budget. Special needs education on the other hand is projected to receive only UGX 3 million shillings which represents a mere 0.1% of the total education budget. The district's commitment to increasing the education budget is a clear commitment to improving the education situation in the district, since the district is still facing a shortage of government primary schools and is still relying on community schools for education to fill this gap.

Intra-sectoral allocations of Nabilatuk's Education sub-program budget FY2024/25 by %



2.2.2.3: Nabilatuk District Community Based Services Budget

As indicated in table 11 below, the Community Based Services Department budget for Nailatuk district is projected to decrease by 69% from UGX 1.005bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 306.879 million shillings in FY 2024/25. The huge decline is largely attributed to decrease in external financing by 82% in the same period. Furthermore, in FYs 2023/24 and 2024/25, no domestic development funds have been allocated to the district. The community Based Services development budget for the district only relies on external financing to implement its planned activities since there is no allocation from local revenues (from both the centre and the district). This is a clear indicator that the district is largely implementing donor priorities/initiatives. This has serious implications on sustainability of these initiatives in the event that development partners withdraw their support from the district.

Table xx: Breakdown of Nabilatuk Community Based Services Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Draft Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	114,147	97,690	-14.4%
Non -Wage	52,104	59,189	13.6%
Total	166,251	156,879	-5.6%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	0	0	#DIV/0!
External Financing	839,694	150,000	-82%
Total	839,694	150,000	-82%

Grand total	1,005,945	306,879	-69%
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Table 12: Breakdown of Nabilatuk Community Based Services Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	114,147	97,690	-14.4%
Non -Wage	52,104	59,189	13.6%
Total	166,251	156,879	-5.6%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	0	0	
External Financing	839,694	150,000	-82%
Total	839,694	150,000	-82%
Grand total	1,005,945	306,879	-69%

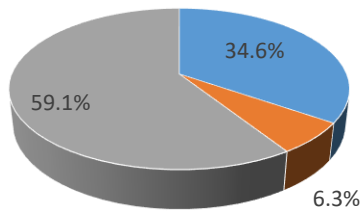
In FY 2024/24, the largest portion of Nabilatuk district's Community Based Services budget i.e 59.1% is allocated towards Strengthening Institutional support which was allocated UGX 181.447million and is

“In Nabilatuk, the child protection component budget is allocated only 500,000 for the entire district and entire year. This amount is too little to be used to undertake any meaningful activity” Amuria Franco, SCDO, Nabilatuk District

largely supported by UNICEF. Within this budget line, the largest portion (i.e UGX 43.36million) goes towards Welfare (Food and Refreshments) for Nabilatuk Town Council.

In FY 2024/25, 59.1% of the Community Based Services budget goes towards strengthening institutional support. The smallest component i.e 6.3% is allocated to Gender and Social Protection. This is a clear indicator that the district is prioritizing less social protection initiatives. Nabilatuk district has not done a mapping for persons living with disabilities, hence making it difficult to effectively plan for them. More still, the PWD grants are too small to accommodate all the needs of the people living with disabilities.

Allocations towards Nabilatuk district's Community Based Services department allocations FY 2024/25, %



- Community sensitization and empowerment
- Gender and Social Protection
- Strengthening institutional support

Challenges affecting effective implementation of child protection initiatives in Nabilatuk

- Parents of the abused children compromise with the perpetrators in exchange for money to destroy the case.
- Corruption at police stations (releasing of perpetrators without prior knowledge of the accused)
- Most of the child being abused do not know their rights, hence do not report some of the child abuse cases to police.
- Inadequate facilitation for the police child protection unit to effectively handle child abuse cases. For instance, the police requires facilitation in form of fuel/transport to effectively follow up cases which funds are not readily available.

In terms of child participation in the district, children are not included in various planning and budgeting processes at district and sub-county levels to determine their priorities. However, during child protection committee meetings at the sub-county level, children leaders are invited to participate and raise issues affecting their wellbeing at school.

2.2.2.4: Nabilatuk Water Budget

In Nabilatuk district, 51% of the population have access to water. The water access rates vary depending on the location. For instance, in Lolachat and Lorengedwat sub-counties the access to water currently stands at 35% and 67% respectively. The district has a total of 206 domestic water points which serve a total of 53,916 people in rural areas. However, 66 water points have been non-functional over 5 years and are considered abandoned.

Table 13: Breakdown of Nabilatuk Water Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	51,858	55,593	7.2%
Non -Wage	60,524	65,705	8.6%
Total	112,382	121,298	7.9%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	651,709	673,682	3.4%
External Financing	0	0	
Total	651,709	673,682	3.4%
Grand total	764,091	794,980	4.0%

In FY 2024/25, the water sub-program is projected to receive a 4% increase in its budget. Both the recurrent and development budgets are expected to increase in the same period.

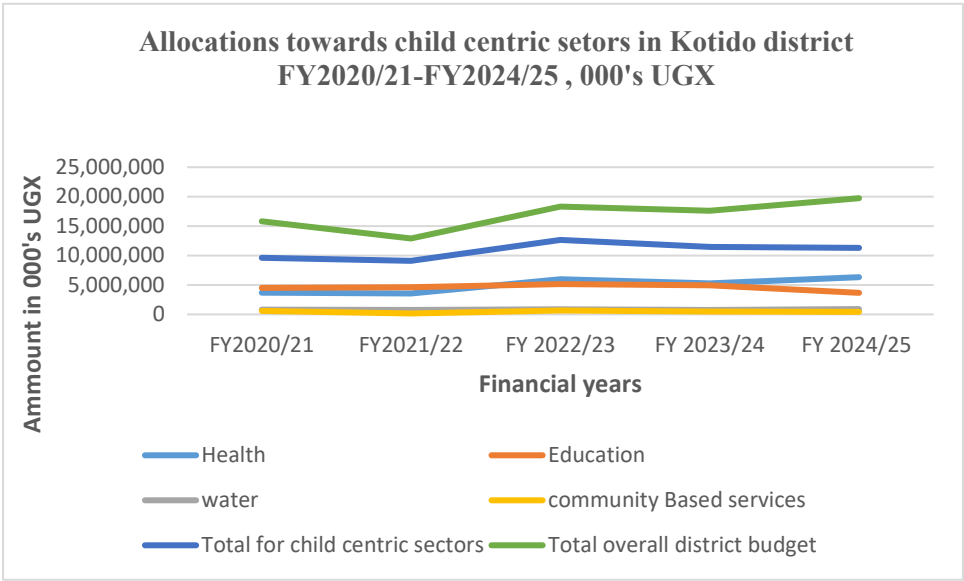
2.2.3: KOTIDO DISTRICT

Kotido district is situated in the Karamoja sub-region and is made up of 6 sub-counties including a municipality and 24 parishes. According to the 2024 census, its population is estimated at 219,296 (i.e 104,902 male, 114,394 female).

Table 14: Allocations towards Child focused sectors in Kotido district FY 2020/21-2024/25, UGX000's

	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	% change in FY 2024/25
Health	3,679,308	3,551,575	5,981,624	5,261,675	6,318,634	20.1%
Education	4,514,924	4,628,980	5,144,162	4,935,479	3,659,591	-25.9%
Water	823,991	758,832	859,300	772,118	900,018	16.6%
community Based services	581,118	156,158	661,382	479,857	436,074	-9.1%
Total for child centric sectors	9,599,341	9,095,545	12,646,468	11,449,129	11,314,317	-1.2%
Total overall district budget	15,787,155	12,895,434	18,307,280	17,576,701	19,726,345	12.2%
share of child centric budget	60.8%	70.5%	69.1%	65.1%	57.4%	

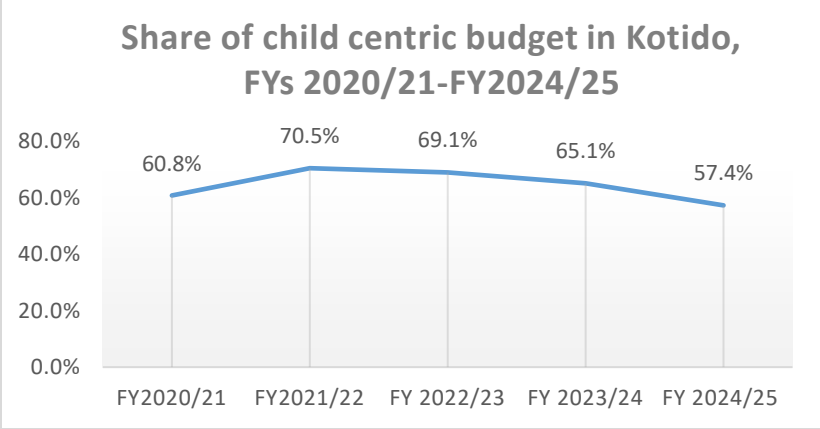
Source: Approved Budget Estimates, Kotido district Budget



Although the annual budget for Kotido district has been increasing overtime, the total district budget allocated towards child centric sectors has been reducing since FY 2022/23.

It is very evident in Kotido district that the share allocated towards child centric sectors has been steadily declining since FY 2021/22, a clear

indication that the district is prioritizing less these sectors.



2.2.2.1: Kotido Health sub-program

Kotido district faces a number of helth challenges including malnutrition, maternal mortality, mental health and anemia among others. In 2024, eight out of ten children with acute malnutrition could not access treatment or feeding programs. In 2022, out of the nine districts screened in Karamoja for malnutrition, Kotido ranked highest with acute malnutrition at a rate of 27% among children under 5 years. In 2021, the district recorded 18% teenage maternal deaths, which was the highest number in the Karamoja sub-region. Climate change is impacting mental health in the district, causing suicidal thoughts and heavy drinking. The district also has a high disease burden including malaria. Diarrhea and tuberculosis.

In FY 2024/25, the Kotido district health budget is projected to increase by 20.1% from UGX 5.261bn to UGX 6.318bn. The increase is largely attributed to the increase in the recurrent budget, particularly the wage component, which increased by 67.3% in FY 2024/25. This increment is expected to cater for the recruitment of additional health workers to cater for the new staffing norms approved by Parliament.

However, facilities such as Kotido hospital have not yet prioritized recruitment of health workers since initial processes such as advertisements have not yet been done. This is likely to increase the amount of unspent fund (particularly wage) by the end of the FY.

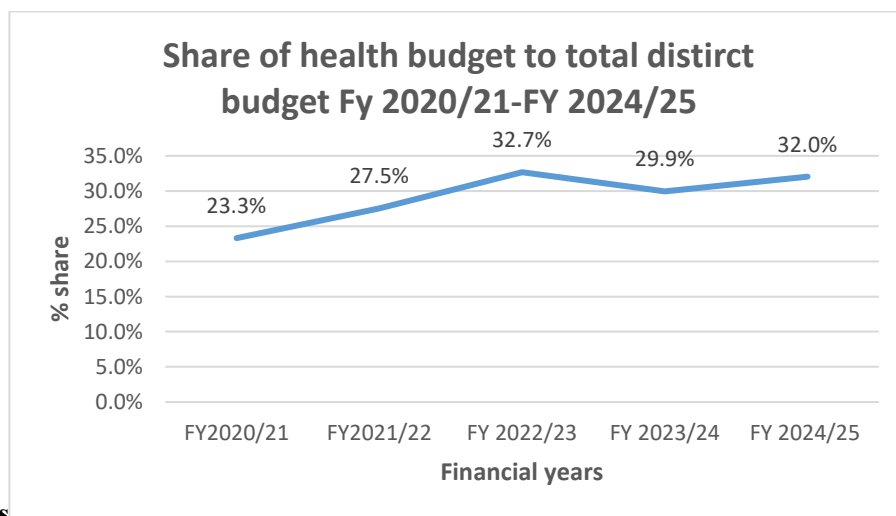
The development budget on the other hand is projected to reduce by 16.9% in the same period, mainly attributed to the 65.4% decrease in the domestic development component. External financing on the other hand is expected to remain constant at UGX 1.71 bn in the same period.

Table 15: Breakdown of Kotido Health Sub-Programme Expenditures by source 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	2,062,777	3,451,181	67.3%
Non Wage	893,605	951,577	6.5%
Total	2,956,381	4,402,758	48.9%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	595,293	205,876	-65.4%
External Financing	1,710,000	1,710,000	0.0%
Total	2,305,293	1,915,876	-16.9%
Grand total	5,261,675	6,318,634	20.1%

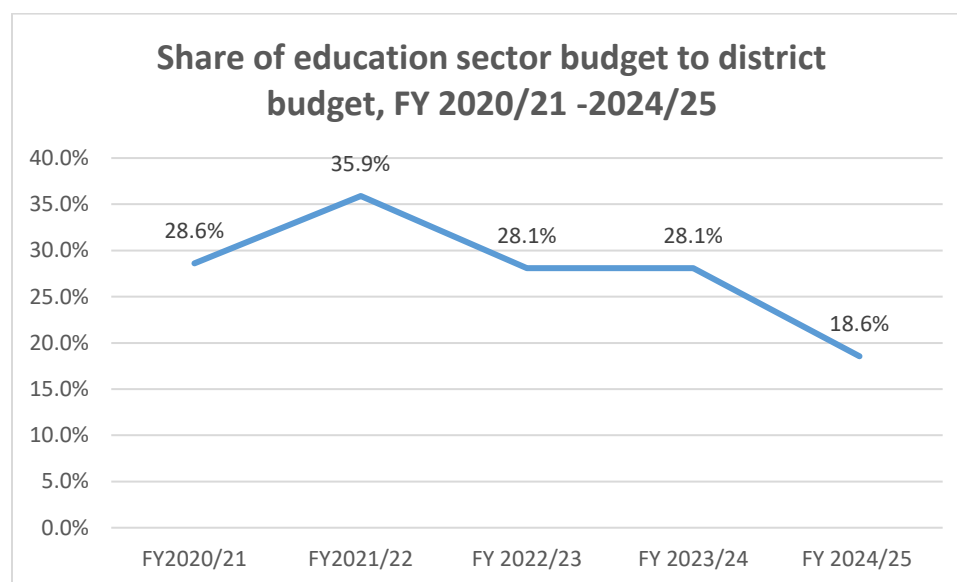
Source: Kotido district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

Overtime, the share of Kotido district's health budget has been increasing since FY 2020/21, though a slight decrease was registered between FYs 2022/23 and 2023/24. In FY 2024/25, the health budget is projected to increase by 20.1% from UGX 5.261bn in 2023/24 to UGX 6.318bn in 2024/25.



In terms of financing, 89.3% of the development health budget is to be financed from external sources, particularly from GAVI, UNICEF, UNPF, Global Fund for HIV, TB & Malaria and IBRD. This puts the district's health condition in a precarious condition since this type of funding is largely implementing development partner priorities which may not be sustainable in the long-run once this funding is removed.

2.2.2.2: Kotido district – Education Budget



Although allocations towards child centric sectors have been increasing in Kotido district, the share of the education sector budget in the district has been decreasing since FY 2021/22. This clearly indicates that the district is putting less priority on education, despite the increasing demand for education in the district.

Table 16: Breakdown of Kotido Education Sub-Programme Expenditures by source 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	3,679,662	2,293,211	-37.7%
Non-Wage	488,682	818,511	67.5%
Total	4,168,343	3,111,722	-25.3%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	582,136	362,869	-37.7%
External Financing	185,000	185,000	0.0%
Total	767,136	547,869	-28.6%
Grand total	4,935,479	3,659,591	-25.9%

In FY 2024/25, Kotido district’s education budget is expected to reduce by 25.9%, inspite of the low literacy rates in the district. Also, both the recurrent and development education budgets are expected to reduce by 25.3% and 28.6% respectively. Inspite of this decrease, the non-wage budget has been increased by 67.5% from UGX 488.6mn to UGX 818.5mn.

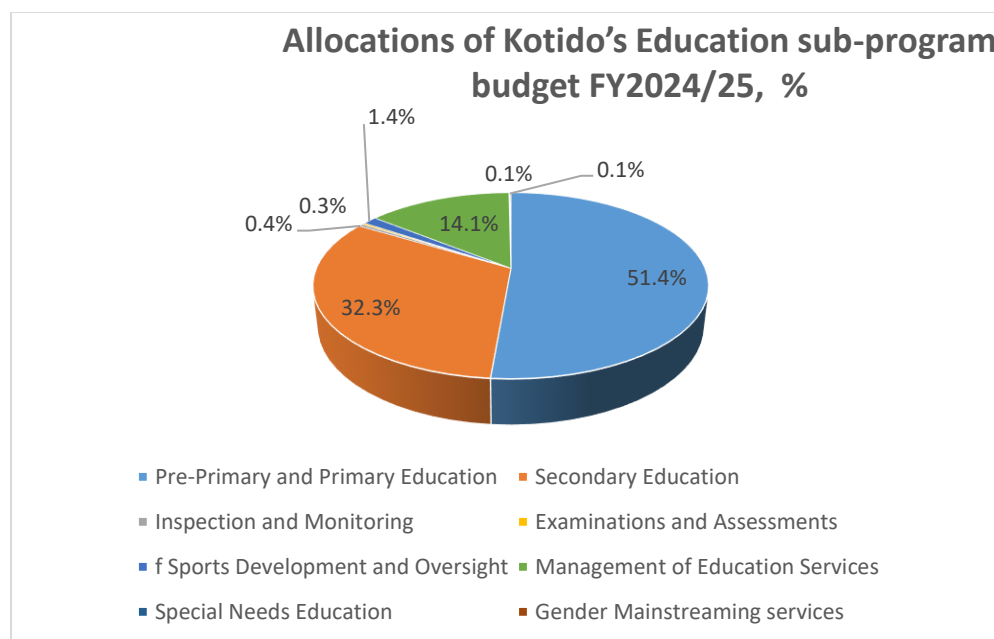


Table 17: Intra-sectoral allocations of Kotido’s Education sub-program budget FY2024/25, 000’s UGX

Sub-sub program	Allocation FY2024/25	% share
Pre-Primary and Primary Education	1,879,866	51.4%
Secondary Education	1,182,033	32.3%
Inspection and Monitoring	15,912	0.4%
Examinations and Assessments	10,378	0.3%
Sports Development and Oversight	50,000	1.4%
Management of Education Services	514,260	14.1%
Special Needs Education	3,000	0.1%
Gender Mainstreaming services	4,143	0.1%
Total	3,659,592	100.0%

Source: Kotido district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

In FY 2024/25, Kotido’s pre-primary and primary education sub department is projected to take the lion’s share, i.e 51.4% of the district education budget. Special needs education on the other hand is projected to receive only UGX 3 million shillings which represents a mere 0.1% of the total education budget, a clear indication of limited commitment by the district to support children with special needs.

Challenges affecting education in Kotido distict

- Drought brought about by climate changes

In Kotido district, climate changes have contributed to the prolonged drought which has affected school attendance, particularly for children in primary schools. As a result, most parents who cannot feed their children have opted to keep them at home to help in activities such as cattle rearing. This situation has attracted the attention of various stakeholders including NGOs and development partners who have introduced school feeding programs in the district.

- Negative attitude towards education by parents towards spending money for childhood education

In Kotido district, most parents do not send their young children to ECD centers because they think children just go for playing and learn nothing. This is further compounded by the fact that some of the ECD centres are located far from communities, making it hard for parents to take young children to and from school.

2.2.2.3: Kotido Community Based Services Budget

As indicated in table 16 below, the Kotido district community Based Services Department budget is projected to decrease by 9.1% from UGX 479.8 million in FY 2023/24 to UGX 436.07 million in FY 2024/25. The decline is largely attributed to decrease in the wage budget by 31.1% in the same period. In both FY 2023/24 and 2024/25, no allocations have been made for the domestic development budget. The district's development expenditures are purely financed by development partners, which is not sustainable in the medium and long term.

Table 18: Breakdown of Kotido Community Based Services Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	140,763	96,980	-31.1%
Non -Wage	85,094	85,093	0.0%
Total	225,857	182,074	-19.4%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	0	0	
External Financing	254,000	254,000	0.0%
Total	254,000	254,000	0.0%
Grand total	479,857	436,074	-9.1%

In FY 2024/24, the largest portion of Kotido district's Community Based Services budget is devoted towards strengthening institutional support. The monitoring and inspection budget under the community Based services department mainly covers items such as workshops, seminars and meetings in the district. For instance, out of the UGX 382million shillings allocated towards monitoring and inspection, UGX 266.892million is meant to cater for workshops, seminars and meetings and almost nothing is available to cater for the facilitation of probation officers to follow up various cases involving violation of children's rights.

2.2.2.4: Kotido Water Budget

In Kotido district, 75% of the population has access to water. Of these, 74% of the rural population have access to water while 95% of the urban population have access to water. Kotido has a total of 644 domestic water points which serve a total of 128,639 people, of which 111,083 are in rural areas. A total of 159 water points have been non-functional for over 5 years and are considered abandoned. In areas such as Nakapelimoru only 16% of the water sources are functional. The district also has a total of 6 piped schemes.

Table 19: Access to safe water and functionality of point water sources in Kotido district

Location	Access to Safe Water (%)	Functionality of point water sources (%)
Kacheri	68 %	77 %
Kotido TC	95 %	84 %
Kotido	95 %	74 %
Nakapelimoru	64 %	16 %
Panyangara	95 %	94 %
Rengen	66 %	91 %
Total	75%	74%

Source: Water supply Atlas

Kotido districts water budget is expected to increase by 16.6% in FY2024/25. The biggest increase was registered under the development budget, with the domestic development budget expected to increase by 24.1% in FY2023/24 from UGX 504,838 million to UGX 626.486 million in FY2024/25. External financing on the other hand is expected to remain constant at UGX 120 million shillings in the same period.

Table 20: Breakdown of Kotido water Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	79,400	80,742	1.7%
Non –Wage	67,880	72,790	7.2%
Total	147,280	153,532	4.2%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	504,838	626,486	24.1%
External Financing	120,000	120,000	0.0%
Total	624,838	746,486	19.5%
Grand total	772,118	900,018	16.6%

Within the water budget for FY 2024/25, a total of UGX 298.872 million shillings is allocated towards items such as workshops, meetings and seminars

2.2.4: NAKAPIRIPIT DISTRICT

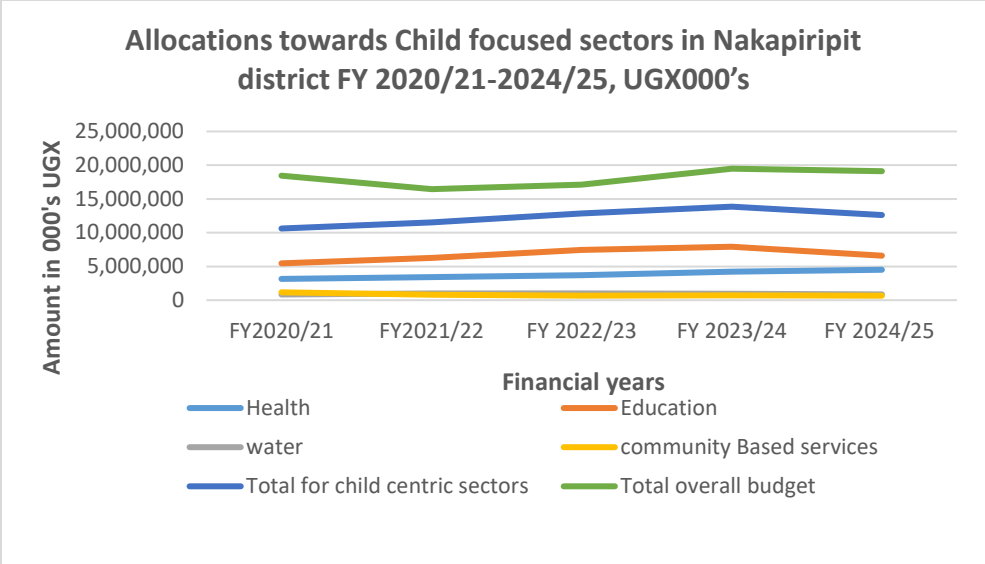
Nakapiripit district is located in northeastern Uganda; bordered by Napak district to the north, Nabilatuk district to the northeast, Amudat district to the east, Kween district to the southeast, Bulambuli district to the southwest, Kumi district to the west and Katakwi district to the northwest. The district has 5 sub counties including; Namalu, Loregae, Kakomongole, Moruita and Nakapiripit Town Council. It has a total population of 219,296 (104,902 male and 114,394 female) as per the 2024 population census.

Table 21: Allocations towards Child focused sectors in Nakapiripit district F 2020/21-2024/25, UGX000's

	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	% change in FY 2024/25
Health	3,155,552	3,435,042	3,698,584	4,236,585	4,510,537	6.5%
Education	5,457,793	6,276,928	7,467,293	7,918,387	6,595,719	-16.7%
water	841,280	980,560	1,003,334	973,005	855,001	-12.1%
community Based services	1,167,229	825,958	668,835	728,130	666,069	-8.5%
Total for child centric sectors	10,621,854	11,518,488	12,838,046	13,856,107	12,627,326	-8.9%
Total overall budget	18,425,778	16,452,194	17,126,861	19,483,848	19,096,773	-2.0%

Source: Approved Budget Estimates, Nakapiripit district Budget

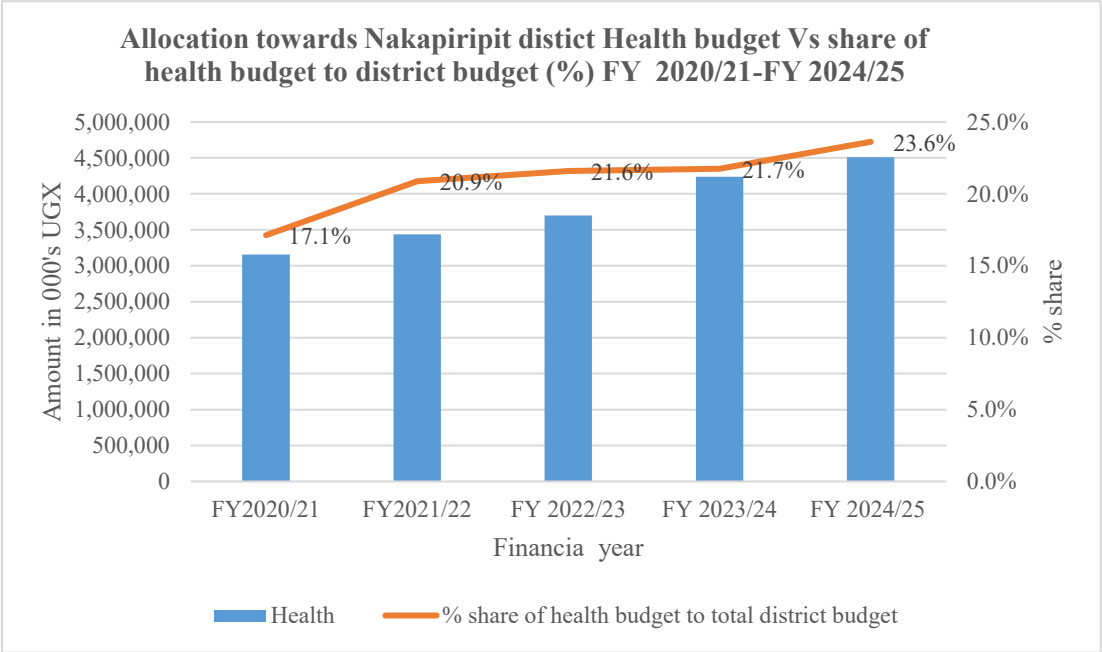
In Nakapiripit district, allocations towards child centric sectors are projected to decrease by 8.9% from UGX 13.856bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 12.627bn in FY 2024/25. The biggest reduction is registered in the education sector, whose expenditure is projected to decrease by 16.7% from UGX 7.9bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 6.595bn in FY 2024/25. Health is the only child centric sector whose budget is projected to increase (i.e by 6.5%).



Although there has been a general increase in allocations towards the Nakapiripit district budget, allocations towards most of the child centric sectors, particularly education and water have been decreasing overtime.

2.2.4.1: Nakapiripit District Health sub-program

Over time, both allocations and share of Nakapiripit district’s health budget have been steadily increasing, a clear indication that the district is prioritizing the health needs of its people. In spite of this increase, the district’s performance on the District League Table is abt low, currently standing at 62.28% which is below the national average of 72.6% and the regional



(Karamoja) score of 72.1%. This score place the district in the 131st position out of 146 districts assessed. This implies that the performance of the district’s health indicators is still below that of the national average.

Table 22: Breakdown of Nakapiripit Health Sub-Programme Expenditures by source 000’s UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	2,041,833	2,769,705	35.6%
Non Wage	502,386	460,292	-8.4%
Total	2,544,219	3,229,997	27.0%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	197,392	85,567	-56.7%
External Financing	1,494,973	1,194,973	-20.1%
Total	1,692,365	1,280,540	-24.3%
Grand total	4,236,585	4,510,537	6.5%

Source: Nakapiripit district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

In Nakapiripit district, the health budget is projected to increase by 6.5% from UGX4.23bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 4.51bn in FY 2024/25. This increment is mainly driven by the increase in the development budget by 27% in the same period. The wage budget is projected to increase by 35.6% from UGX 2.04bn in FY 2023/24 to 2.769 in FY 2024/25. This increase will positively benefit the health sector, particularly to cater for the recruitment of new staff to fill the vacant positions in the district. The development budget on the other hand is expected to decrease by UGX 24.3% in the same period, with the domestic development budget projected to decrease by 56.7% from UGX 197.392million in FY 2023/24 to UGX 85.567million in FY 2024/25.

The largest portion of the district’s health development budget (i.e 93.3%) in FY 2024/25 is financed from development partners. Within this budget, the district is planning to finance a number of child focused activities/outputs such as immunization services (to the tune of UGX e 249.264 million), Reproductive and Infant Health Services (to the tune of UGX 61.791 million). Under the Conditional Development Grant – UGX 69.367million shillings is budgeted for the construction of a Maternity Ward at Nabulenger HCII.



Members of Nakapiripit during one of the FGDs in the district

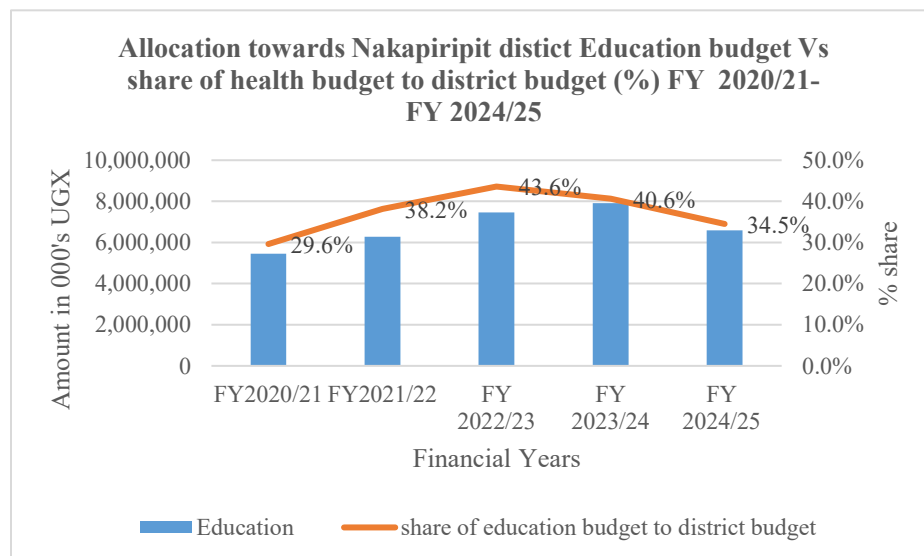
The district and sub-counties have tried to incorporate issues of disability by ensuring that all newly constructed health facilities/structures are disability friendly, i.e provision of ramps in buildings to enhance their accessibility by People With Disabilities (PWDs). Also, PWDs are usually prioritised during service provision in most health facilities.

Key child health challenges in Nakapiripit district

- Most health facilities in the district do not have pediatricians, hence sick children are handled by general doctors as well as other available health workers
- There are no designated child health care facilities in Nakapiripit

2.2.4.2: Nakapiripit District Education Budget

Between 2020/21 and 2023/24, the district Education budget has been steadily increasing in absolute terms. In spite of this increase, the education budget is expected to decrease in 2024/25. Similarly, the



share of this sector budget to the total district budget has taken a similar trend over the same period.

Overall the education sector budget in Nakapiripit is expected to decline by 16.7% in FY 2024/25, mainly attributed to the huge decline in the domestic development budget by

72.4% from UGX 1.931bn in FY 2023/24 to 523.823bn in FY 2024/25. This implies declining commitment by the government in financing the district education needs from its local resources. On the other hand the non-wage budget increased by 23.9% from UGX 902.2bn to UGX 1.117bn in FY 2024/25.

Table 23: Breakdown of Nakapiripit Education Sub-Programme Expenditures by source 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	4,765,122	4,625,000	-2.9%
Non-Wage	902,102	1,117,897	23.9%
Total	5,667,223	5,742,897	1.3%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	1,931,163	532,823	-72.4%
External Financing	320,000	320,000	0.0%
Total	2,251,163	852,823	-62.1%
Grand total	7,918,387	6,595,719	-16.7%

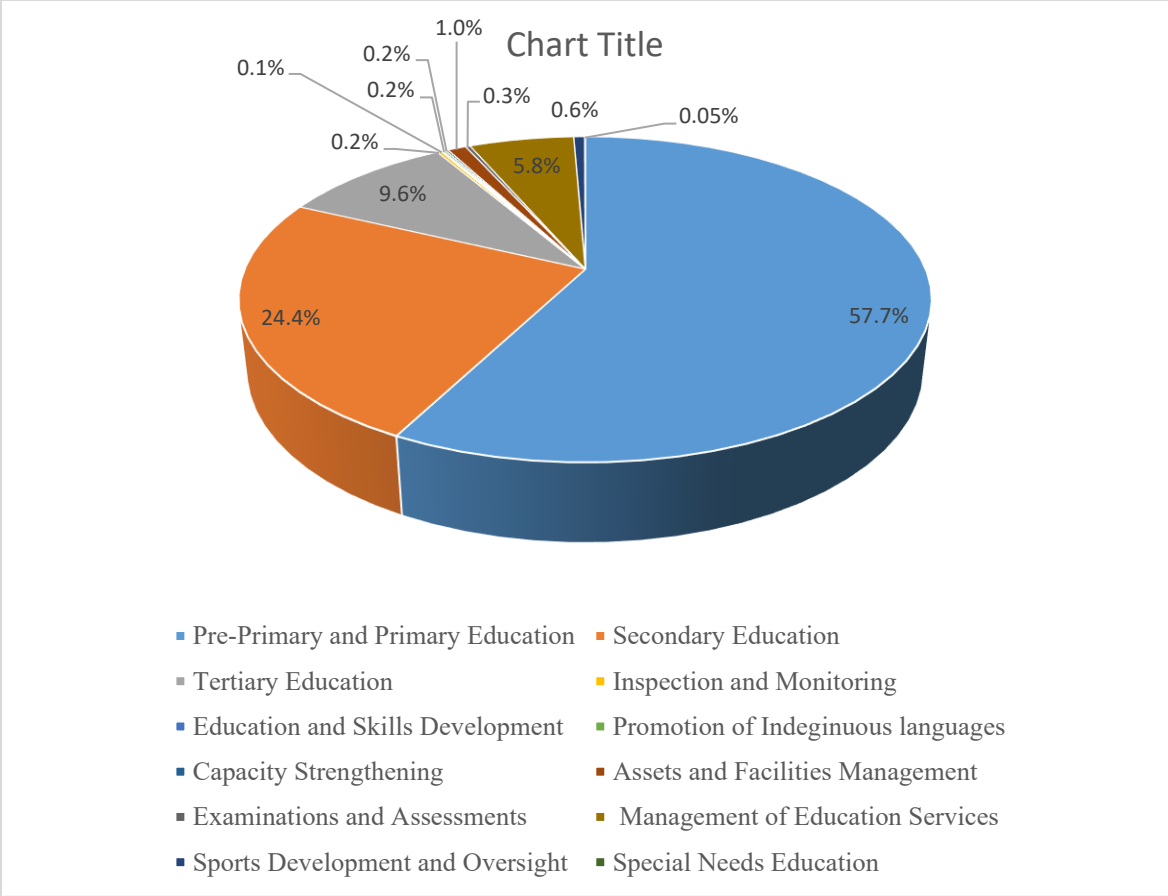
Source: Nakapiripit district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

Table 24: Intra-sectoral allocations of Nakapiripit's Education sub-program budget FY2024/25, 000's UGX

Sub-sub program	Allocation FY2024/25
Pre-Primary and Primary Education	3,803,384
Secondary Education	1,606,664
Tertiary Education	631,308
Inspection and Monitoring	14,080
Education and Skills Development	7,500
Promotion of Indigenous languages	10,000
Capacity Strengthening	10,000
Assets and Facilities Management	68,040
Examinations and Assessments	16,805
Management of Education Services	384,939
Sports Development and Oversight	40,000
Special Needs Education	3,000
Total	6,595,720

source: Nakapiripit district Budget FY 2024/25

In FY 2024/25, Nakapiripit's pre-primary and primary education sub department is projected to take the lion's share, i.e 57.7% of the district education budget. This is followed by the secondary education sub-component at 24.4%. other vital components such as Special needs education on the other hand are projected to receive only UGX 3 million shillings which represents a mere 0.05% of the total education budget, a clear indication of limited commitment by the district to support children with special needs.



Source: Nakapiripit district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

In Nakapiripit district, issues of climate change are being incorporated within the education sector. For instance, all schools are encouraged to plant trees in their compounds. Also, environmental clubs (i.e greening clubs) are being formed in most schools.

Continuous investment in primary education has positively benefited some schools in the district. For instance, some schools such as Nakapiripit Primary School have recorded an increase in the number of children enrolled from 700 – 1000 learners. Likewise, Napeninya Primary School has recorded an increase in enrolment by 400 children.

Key challenges in public investment in Education in Nakapiripit district

- Lack of key basic scholastic materials: Most pupils lack basic and scholastic materials like books, and other scholastic materials which has affected their effective learning
- Child marriage: some parents prefer to have their children being married off to rich men than being in school since some of them are offered a number of benefits including bride price.
- Child labour during certain work seasons hence children are pulled out of school which interferes with their learning (i.e doing animal rearing activities).

- Some children are still ignorant about their rights (particularly right to education, participation and child protection)

Key initiatives undertaken in the district/schools to promote access to quality education among children

- A number of children are being mobilised to return to schools through back-to-school campaigns. These are supported by a number of development partners in the district.
- Parents are being sensitised about the long term benefits of having their children at school. This has encouraged most of them to take their children to school
- The district (with support from development partners such as Save the Children) has established community schools which has improved access to education, particularly for children from far communities.

In order to promote child rights in schools, a number of child rights clubs have been established in schools. This has also promoted child participation (ie in making some decisions in schools, etc)

2.2.4.3: Nakapiripit Community Based Services Budget

As indicated in table 23 below, the Nakapiripit’s district community Based Services Department budget is projected to decrease by 8.5% from UGX 728.1 million in FY 2023/24 to UGX 666.069 million shillings in FY 2024/25. The decline is largely attributed to decrease in both the wage and external financing budget by 13.1% and 13.4% respectively in the same period.

In both FYs 2023/24 and 2024/25, no allocations have been made for the domestic development budget. The district’s development expenditures are purely financed by development partners, which is not sustainable in the medium and long term.

Table 25: Breakdown of Nakapiripit Community Based Services Sub-Programme Expenditures 000’s UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	168,237	146,175	-13.1%
Non -Wage	260,620	260,620	0.0%
Total	428,856	406,795	-5.1%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	0	0	0.0%
External Financing	299,274	259,274	-13.4%
Total	299,274	259,274	-13.4%
Grand total	728,130	666,069	-8.5%

In FY 2024/24, the largest portion of Nakapiripit district’s Community Based Services budget (i.e 30.8%) is devoted towards empowerment and protection. Within this budget line, the biggest allocation is devoted

towards items such as Travel inland, which is allocated UGX 100 million shillings and Welfare and Entertainment – allocated UGX 70million shillings.

Within the Community Based Services budget, activities such as Response to Gender based violence have been allocated UGX 59.274million, all of which is dedicated to Workshops, Meetings and Seminars in Nakapiripirit Town Council. No particular budget line has been earmarked to special items such as child protection.

Table 26: Intra-sectoral allocations towards Nakapiripit’s Community Based Services Department, FY 2024/25.

Sub-program	Allocation FY 2024/25 in 000’s UGX	% share
Response to Gender based violence	62,839	9.4%
Labour and employment services	148,740	22.3%
Community sensitization and empowerment	34,630	5.2%
Empowerment and protection	205,130	30.8%
Support to special interest Groups	19,214	2.9%
HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming	185,821	27.9%
Strengthening institutional support	9,695	1.5%
Total	666,069	100.0%

While the district has recorded a number of cases involving the violation of children’s rights (i.e child abuse, child marriage, neglect and labour), there is still low enforcement of child protection issues at community level. For instance, most perpetrators of these vices are not being apprehended. In trying to address this issue, the district has developed some by-laws on aspects such as child labour and is now mainstreaming issues of child protection in all aspects of community development work.

2.2.4.4: Nakapiripit Water Budget

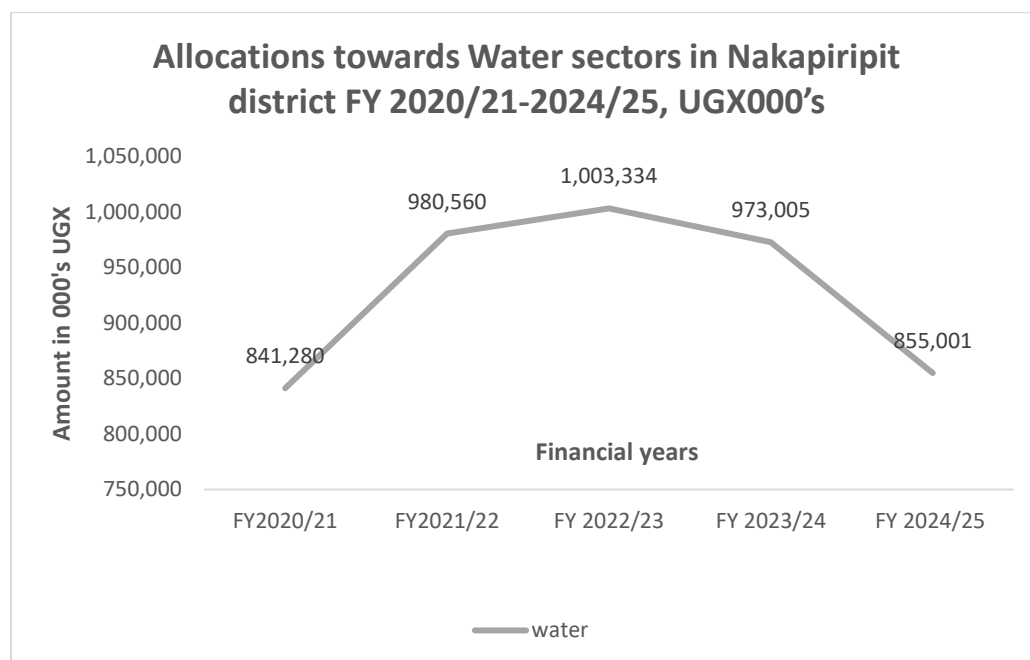
In Nakapiripit district, 57% of the population have access to water. Of these, 55% and 95% of the rural and urban population have access to water respectively. The district has a total of 313 domestic water points which serve a total of 77,374 people, 71,910 of whom are in rural areas. A total of 30 water points in the district have been non-functional for over 5 years and are considered abandoned. The district also has a total of 8 piped schemes. In terms of functionality, a total of 91% water points in rural areas and 89 water points in urban areas and considered to be functional.

Table 27: Access to safe water and functionality of point water sources in Nakapiripit district

Location	Access to Safe Water (%)	Functionality of point water sources %)
Kakomongole	51 %	87 %
Loregae	53 %	90 %
Moruita	46 %	82 %
Namalu	64 %	96 %
Nakapiripirit TC	95%	89%
Total		

Source: Water supply Atlas

Areas such as Nakapiripit Town Council, 95% of the population have access to water while 89% of the water points in this area are functional.



Although allocations towards Nakapiripit's water sector increased between FY 2020/21 and FY 2022/23, it experienced a sudden reduction (of 12.1%) from FY 2022/23 to FY 2024/25, mainly attributed to the reduction in the development budget (by 14.8%), particularly external financing.

Table 28: Breakdown of Nakapiripit water Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	53,282	53,282	0.0%
Non –Wage	67,796	73,030	7.7%
Total	121,078	129,311	6.8%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	633,058	566,820	-10.5%
External Financing	218,870	158,870	-27.4%
Total	851,928	725,690	-14.8%
Grand total	973,005	855,001	-12.1%

Inspite of the general reduction in the overall water budget in FY 2024/25, allocations towards the recurrent budget are projected to increase by 6.8% in the same period from UGX 121.078million in FY

2023/24 to FY UGX 129.311million in FY 2024/25. Likewise, the non-wage budget increased by 7.7%. The wage budget however is projected to remain constant at UGX 53.282million in the same period.

2.2.5: OMORO DISTRICT

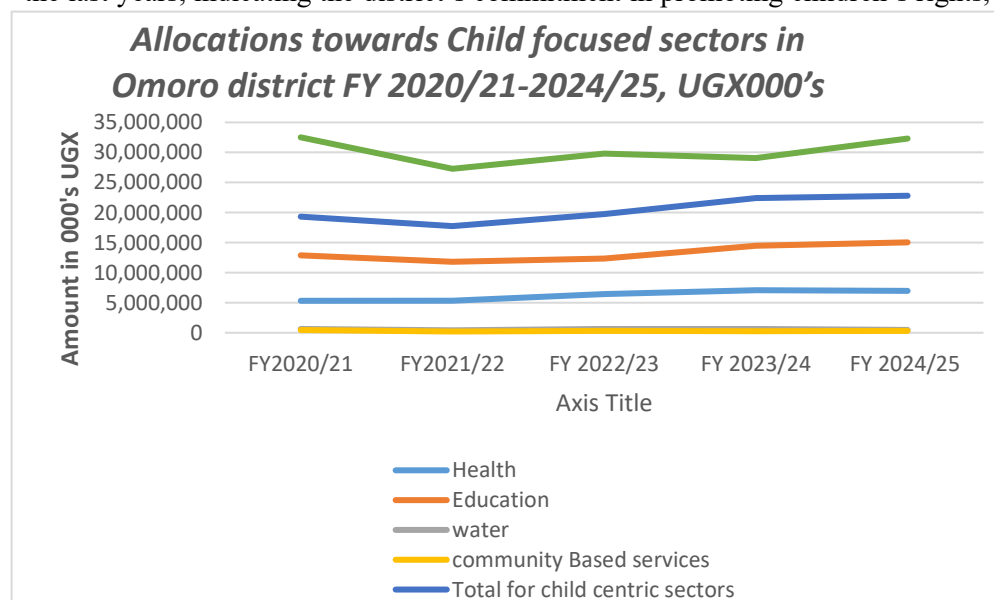
Omoro district is located in the Northern part of Uganda and was carved out of Gulu district in 2016. It is comprised of 7 lower local governments (6 sub-counties and 1 Town Council). It has 29 parishes and 150 villages. Its current population (as per the 2024 Census report) is 207,590 (i.e 102,708 males and 104,882 females).

Table 29: Allocations towards Child focused sectors in Omoro district FY 2020/21-2024/25, UGX000's

	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	% change in FY 2024/25
Health	5,332,757	5,330,834	6,453,996	7,080,090	6,973,368	-1.5%
Education	12,893,918	11,807,075	12,349,074	14,448,874	15,036,932	4.1%
water	632,879	404,205	614,121	621,925	457,285	-26.5%
community Based services	454,775	204,593	312,954	270,954	326,252	20.4%
Total for child centric sectors	19,314,329	17,746,707	19,730,145	22,421,843	22,793,837	1.7%
Total overall budget	32,513,591	27,279,869	29,823,591	29,052,816	32,333,094	11.3%

Source: Approved Budget Estimates, Omoro district Budget

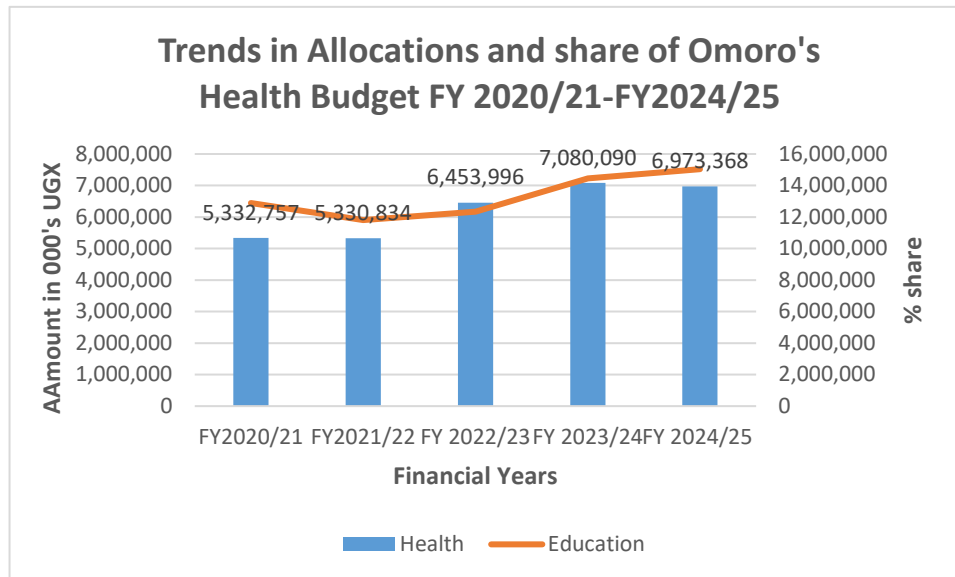
Generally, Omoro district has received a general increase in allocations towards child centric sectors over the last years, indicating the district's commitment in promoting children's rights, particularly the right to



education. In FY 2024/25, with the exception of the education sector, the allocations towards all the other child centric sectors are projected decline. The largest decline of 26.5% is registered in the water sector.

2.2.5.1: Omoro Health sub-program

Over time, both allocations and share of Omoro district’s health budget have been steadily increasing since FY 2021/22, a clear indication that the district is prioritizing the health needs of its people. In spite of this increase, it is projected to slightly decline by 1.5% from UGX 7.08bn in FY 2024/2 to 6.973bn in FY 2024/25.



Omoro district’s performance on the district League Table currently stands at 70.8 9%, which is slightly below the national average of 72.6% and the Acholi average score of 72.7%. This places Omoro district in the 82nd position out of 146 districts assessed. This implies that the performance of the

district’s health indicators are still below those of the national average.

Table 30: Breakdown of Omoro Health Sub-Programme Expenditures by source 000’s UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	4,935,838	5,462,315	10.7%
Non Wage	696,799	659,429	-5.4%
Total	5,632,637	6,121,744	8.7%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	246,985	294,646	19.3%
External Financing	1,200,468	557,468	-53.6%
Total	1,447,453	852,114	-41.1%
Grand total	7,080,090	6,973,858	-1.5%

Source: Omoro district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

In Omoro district, the health budget is projected to slightly decrease by 1.5% from UGX7.08bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX 6.9731bn in FY 2024/25. This is mainly driven by the decrease in the development budget,

particularly external financing by more than half (i.e 53.6%) from UGX 1.2bn to UGX 852.114million in the same period. Since the districts; health development budget is majorly financed from external sources, this major reduction will greatly impact on health service delivery.

The health recurrent budget on the other hand is projected to receive an 8.7% increment in FY 2024/25, mainly attributed to the increase in the wage budget by 10.7% in the same period.



Members of the Omoro FGs.

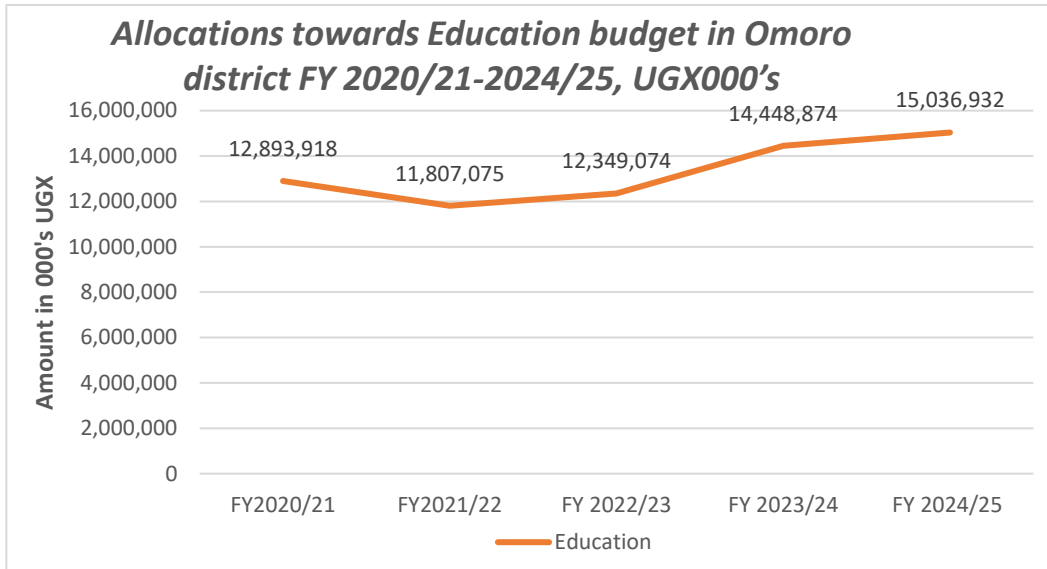
- *In Omoro district, Nodding disease (which primarily affects children between the ages of 5 and 15 has emerged as a significant public health crisis. In spite of this problem, there are no dedicated health facilities to specifically handle this problem. The few facilities that offer treatment are not located within the vicinity of communities. As a result, children have to travel long distances to access these services. Without proper medical care, children with nodding disease are at higher risk of complications such as malnutrition, injuries from seizures and even death.*
- *Most health facilities in the district lack specialized equipment such as Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) to support the health of babies born prematurely. As a result, some of them end up dying. In Lalogi Health Centre IV, recently received a NICU, which has contributed to the reduction in the number of neo-natal deaths in the facility.*

District Initiatives aimed at promoting child health in Omoro

- Child Health days are organized at various levels including health facilities and in schools. During these events, a number of activities are undertaken (i.e vaccinations, medical check-ups, etc). health information materials are also provided during these meetings

2.2.5.2: Omoro district – Education Budget

Since FY 2021/22, the Omoro Education budget has steadily been increasing in absolute terms. This clearly shows that the district's commitment to promoting education for all. In FY 2024/25, it is projected to increase by 4.1% from UGX 14.4488bn in FY 2023/24 to UGX UGX 15.036bn in FY 2024/25.



In spite of the increase in the overall education budget in FY 2024/25, the development budget (in particular the domestic development budget) is projected to decrease by 74.2%. This will negatively impact on education service delivery in the district.

Table 31: Breakdown of Omoro Education Sub-Programme Expenditures by source 000's UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	11,989,758	12,856,796	7.2%
Non-Wage	1,826,394	2,016,917	10.4%
Total	13,816,152	14,873,714	7.7%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	632,722	163,218	-74.2%
External Financing	0	0	0.0%
Total	632,722	163,218	-74.2%
Grand total	14,448,874	15,036,932	4.1%

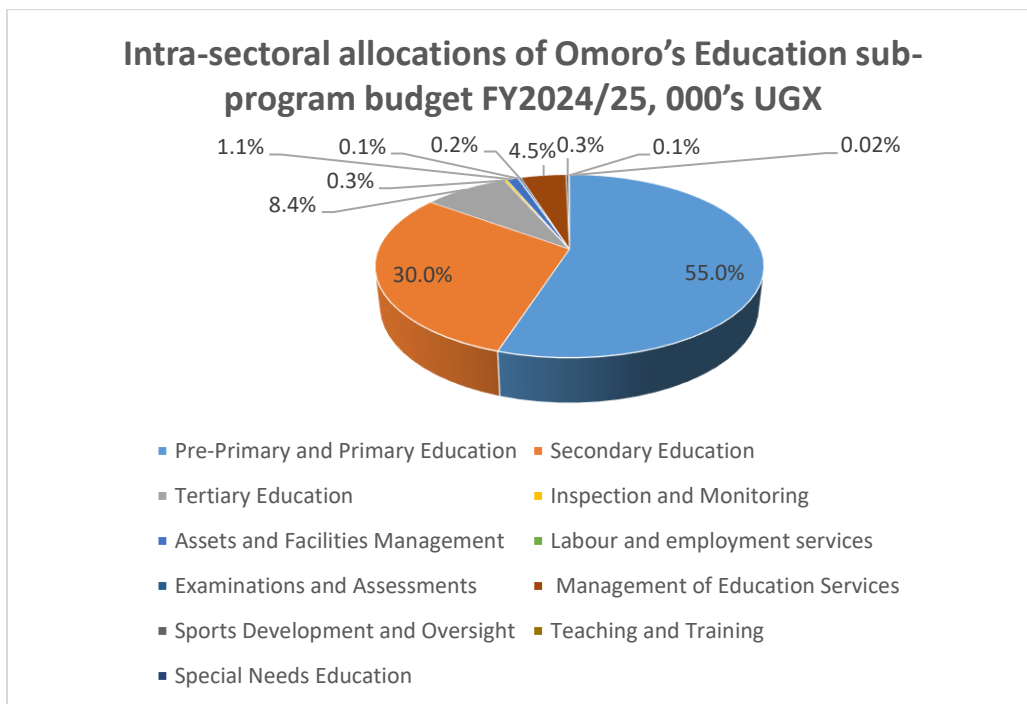
Source: Omoro district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25

Table 32: Intra-sectoral allocations of Omoro's Education sub-program budget FY2024/25, 000's UGX'

Sub-sub program	Allocation FY2024/25	% share
Pre-Primary and Primary Education	8,270,304	55.0%
Secondary Education	4,516,312	30.0%
Tertiary Education	1,261,464	8.4%
Inspection and Monitoring	41,636	0.3%
Assets and Facilities Management	171,218	1.1%
Labour and employment services	10,000	0.1%
Examinations and Assessments	35,000	0.2%

Management of Education Services	677,998	4.5%
Sports Development and Oversight	40,000	0.3%
Teaching and Training	10,000	0.1%
Special Needs Education	3,000	0.02%
Total	15,036,932	100.0%

The pre-primary and /Primary education sub-component is projected to receive more than half (i.e 55%) of Omoro’s FY 2024/25 Education budget. This is followed by the secondary education budget which is projected to receive 30% of the budget in the same period. The special needs component on the other hand is projected to receive a mere UGX 3million shillings, representing only 0.02% of the total education budget. This clearly indicates that the district is not prioritizing children with special needs, despite their unique challenges.



Challenges encountered in Omoro during provision of education

- Although all schools have embraced inclusive education, most teachers are not adequately trained to handle all forms of disability. This is further exacerbated by the fact that there are inadequate facilities to take care of some categories of children with disability. In most cases only children with physical disability can be accommodated in the schools in the district. Other categories like those with visual impairment, mental problems, hearing impairment are referred to Gulu City.
- Most schools in the district lack school feeding programs. As a result, some pupils come to school and spend the whole day hungry which affects their level of concentration. Others go back home for lunch and do not return for afternoon lessons due to long distances to and from school

- Rampant absenteeism of both pupils and teachers from school particularly during planting and harvesting seasons.
- The district has registered high rates of school dropout particularly among the girl child. This is mainly attributed to factors such as teenage pregnancy and early child marriages, particularly in the sub-counties of Bobi and Aremo.

District and sub-county initiatives to promote access to basic education in Omoro

- District and sub-county officials have tried to utilize available avenues to mobilise and sensitise parents on the need to have their children attend schools. These include church services, funeral gatherings, etc.
- A number of community dialogue meetings are organized at sub-counties by the Senior Assistant Secretaries (SAS) and schools inspectors.
- Radio programmes are being organized to discuss issues of education in the district. These are supported by a number of partners including donors.
- Regular support supervision visits are organized to schools to monitor adherence to minimum national education standards. Furthermore, regular school inspections are organized in various schools, aimed at promoting good learning conditions
- The district has passed an education Ordinance which compels parents to ensure that their children are in school. However, it has not yet been approved by the Attorney General.

2.2.5.3: Omoro Community Based Services Budget

Generally, the Community Based Services department budget of Omoro district is projected to increase by 20.4% in FY 2024/25. In spite of this increase, there have not been any allocations towards the development budget (both domestic and external financing) for the last FYs. The only budget that is available is that for recurrent expenditures. This basically implies that there is hardly any development activity that is taking place in the district apart from paying salaries of district staff.

Table 33: Breakdown of Omoro Community Based Services Sub-Programme Expenditures 000’s UGX

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	200,506	230,803	15.1%
Non –Wage	70,448	95,448	35.5%
Total	270,954	326,252	20.4%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	0	0	0
External Financing	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
Grand total	270,954	326,252	20.4%

2.2.5.4: Omoro district Water Budget

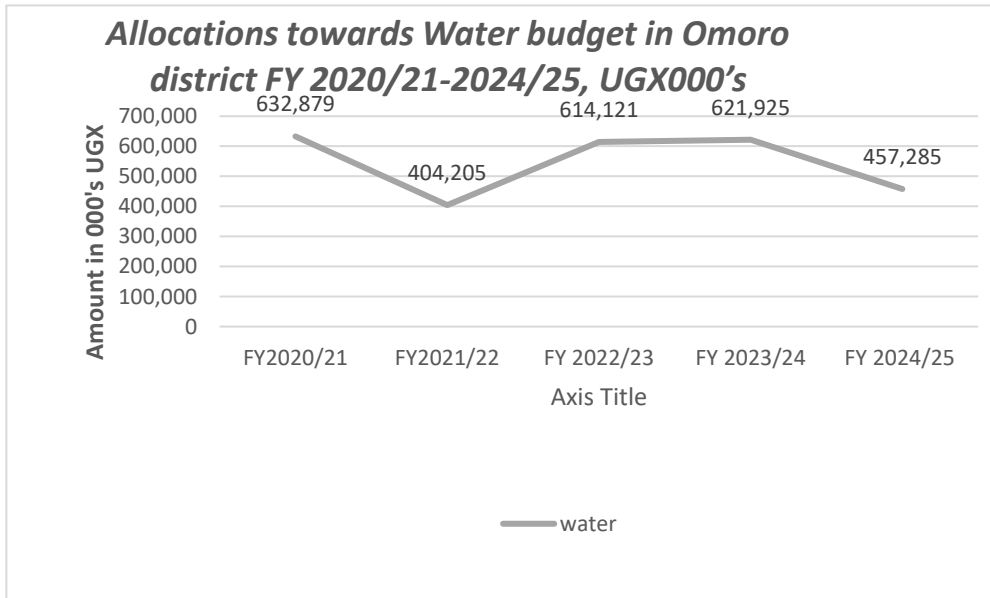
In Omoro district, 84% of the population has access to water. Of these, 87% are situated in rural areas while 64% in urban areas. The access rates in Omoro vary from 64 % in Omoro TC Sub-County to 95 % in Bobi Sub-County. Omoro has 745 domestic water points which serve a total of 177,968 people – 161,956 in rural areas. A total of 426 water points have been non-functional for over 5 years and are considered abandoned. It also has 8 piped schemes. In terms of functionality, 43% of the water points in rural areas are functional while only 37% in urban areas are functional.

Table 34: Access to safe water and functionality of point water sources in Omoro district

Location	Access to Safe Water (%)	Functionality of point water sources %)
Abuga	82 %	34 %
Labora	95%	36 %
Akidi	95%	35 %
Bobi	95%	25 %
Koro	67 %	46 %
Lakwana	70 %	52 %
Lalogi	82 %	55 %
Odek	95%	58 %
Ongako	95%	47 %
Omoro TC	64%	37 %

Source: Water supply Atlas

In Omoro district, though most areas have high rates of access to safe, the level of functionality of most water points remain relatively low. In areas such as Bobi sub-county, despite having a 95% water access rate, only 25% of the water point sources are functional. Other areas such as Lakwana with relatively low levels of safe water access (i.e 70%) have a slightly higher level of functionality of water source (i.e at 52%).



Although Omoro district's allocations towards the water budget increased between FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23, it is projected to decrease by 26.5% in FY 2024 from UGX 621,925 in FY 2023/24 to UGX 457,285 in FY 2024/25. This decrease is mainly attributed to the 32.96% decrease in the domestic development budget

from UGX 496.8million to UGX 333.12million in the same period. The wage budget on the other hand is projected to remain constant at UGX 54.982million in FY 2024/25.

Table 35: Breakdown of Omoro Water Sub-Programme Expenditures 000's UG

	2023/24 Approved Budget	2024/25 Budget	% change
Recurrent Expenditures			
Wage	54,982	54,982	0.00%
Non -Wage	70,058	69,176	-1.26%
Total	125,040	124,158	-0.71%
Development Expenditures			
Domestic Development	496,885	333,127	-32.96%
External Financing	0	0	0.00%
Total	496,885	333,127	-32.96%
Grand total	621,925	457,285	-26.47%

3.0: Conclusion

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The government of Uganda has made various commitments and investments in promoting the rights of children in the country, evidenced by the various laws and policies that have been enacted as well as an increment in the amounts allocated towards child centric sectors of education, health, social development and WASH. In spite of these investments, the rights of children have continued to be violated.

The investment in key sectors such as health have generated some positive outcomes evidenced by an improvement in key child health indicator. For example, under five mortality rates reduced by 18.5% from 64/1,000 in 2016 to 52/1000 live births in 2022, infant mortality rates reduced by 16.3% from 43/1000 in 2016 to 36/1000 live births in 2022, and neonatal mortality rates reduced by 18.5% from 27/1000 to 22/1000 live births. Also, child nutrition indicators have greatly improved as follows; wasting among children under 5 years has reduced by 27.5% from 4% in 2016 to 2.9% in 2022, prevalence of obesity children under 5 years has reduced from 7.5% to 3.4%, stunting in children under 5 years from 29% to 26%. Likewise, the investment in education sector (particularly in UPE and USE) have led to an increase in the number of children enrolled.

Despite the investment, a big chunk of funds committed towards child centric sectors remain at the central government levels and very little is sent to LGs where the bulk of service delivery takes place. For instance, in FY 2023/24, up to 93% of the social protection resources were spent by MGLSD, while LGs spent a mere 2%. Similarly, 89% of the WASH budget for FY 2023/24 was spent by Ministry of Water and Environment)

In most of the districts reviewed, funding for key child related interventions is mainly generated from external support from development partners and most of the expenditures are recurrent in nature. For instance, Nabilatuk’s development budget for FY 2024/25 under the community based services department is all funded by development partners. In Amuru district, in FY 2024/25, UGX165,628,000 was allocated towards child health services all of which is to be spent on travel inland

In 2023, Parliament of Uganda approved the new funding norms for the health sector, which if fully implemented will increase the staffing levels in the health sector. FY 2024/25, the Ministry of Health lifted the ban on recruitment of staff in the health sector. In spite of this initiative, the wage components for most district health budgets are projected to decline in FY 2024/25, which casts doubt on the possibility of recruitment of additional health staff to fill the existing gaps. For instance, the Amuru health wage budget for FY 202/25 is projected to decrease by 20.3%, Nabilatuk by 1.8% and Nakapiripit by 8.4%,

In all the districts under review, the special needs education budget is one of the least funded components in the education budget and all districts are projected to receive a uniform figure of UGX 3million, in spite of the disparities in the actual number of children with special needs. The allocation is less than 0.5% of the district education budget.

In all the districts reviewed, cases concerning the violation of rights of children have continued to be reported (including right to education, health, child abuse and child labour). Also the participation of children in various policy processes, particularly planning and budgeting is almost non-existent. There is need for concerted efforts from all key stakeholders including parents, government and development partners to jointly invest in the promotion and protection of rights of all children of Uganda.

4.0: Policy Recommendations

- The Ministry of Health should increase its allocations towards the domestic development budget to safeguard against the dwindling donor support. This will ensure that there is continuity and sustainability of the various projects implemented in the medium and long-term and that they are not affected by donor cuts i.e exploring alternative funding sources from Public Private Partnerships, earmarked revenues from sin taxes (e.g cigarettes, beer, etc)
-
- Since the bulk of service delivery occurs at LG level, MoFPED should liaise with other line ministries including MoH, MGLSD, MOES and MWE should make budget re-allocations aimed at increasing the proportion of resources allocated to LGS to at least 60% of the total sector budget
- When allocating funds, the MoFPED should ensure that the resources communicated in the IPFs for the various sub-program budgets (such as health and education) are commensurate with the growth in the total national budget to cope with the growing needs of the population.
- The MoFPED should allocate additional revenue generated domestically to increase the education budget to specifically cater for additional wage for the recruitment of additional teachers to fill the existing gaps. Similarly, resources should be budgeted for teacher training (including special needs education) so to benefit the available staff.

Additional funds should be availed to the Ministry of Education and Sports (generated from avenues such as cost-sharing in schools/education institutions) to cater for the recruitment of additional school inspectors as well as facilitation for the inspection and monitoring function. This would go a long way to boost the quality of education in the country, particularly the issue of absenteeism of teachers in schools.

- A conditional grant for children should be introduced to cater for additional funding for key programs such as Special Needs Education for all districts to atleast UGX 20million per district per annum. Besides, a mapping of children with special needs should be done to establish the actual numbers in each district. This would inform effective planning and budgeting
- Under the WASH sector, the Ministry of Water ad Environment should set aside a sizeable budget to cater for the maintenance of various water points. This will improve on the level of functionality.
- The MoES should expedite the process of finalizing the national school feeding program and introduce a close in this document that allows diferent stakeholders to feed children in school.

5.0: References

- MoFPED: Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, Central Government Votes FY 2024/25
- Amuru district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25
- Kotido district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25
- Omoro district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25
- MoH 2024: Annual Health Sector Performance Report, FY 2023/24
- MoPS 2024: Circular Standing Instruction No.14 of 2024, Salary Structure for FY2024/25
- Nabilatuk district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25
- Nakapiripit district LG Budget Estimates FY 2024/25
- UBOS 2024: National Population and Housing Census, Preliminary Results
- UDHS 2022: Uganda Demographic Health Survey
- UNICEF 2024: Securing Public Investment in Social Protection, Uganda Budget Brief FY2023/24
- UNICEF: Sustaining the gains in the Education Sector: Uganda Budget Brief FY 2023/24
- WHO 2023: Global Health Statistics report 2023

6.0: Annexes

Annex 1: List of key district respondents

No	Name	Sex	District/Institution	District	Position
1	<u>Amony Isaac</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Agole Primary school</u>	<u>Amuru</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>
2	<u>Aol Jennifer</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Amuru District Local Government</u>	<u>Amuru</u>	<u>Gender Specialist</u>
3	Okwera Charles	M	<u>Pabo Health Center</u>	<u>Amuru</u>	<u>Senior Clinical Officer – SCO</u>
4	Hon.Odongtoo Stephen	M	<u>Amuru District Local Government</u>	<u>Amuru</u>	<u>District Councilor V</u>
5	<u>Occi Santo</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Omoro District Local Govt – Education Department</u>	<u>Omoro</u>	<u>Senior Education Officer – SEO</u>
6	<u>Kajoba Cyrus</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Omoro District Local Govt</u>	<u>Omoro</u>	<u>Senior Health Officer – SHO</u>
7	<u>Mono Perry</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Omoro District Local Govt – CBS</u>	<u>Omoro</u>	<u>District Community Development Officer - DCDO</u>
8	<u>Omony Peter</u>	M	<u>Omoro District Local Govt</u>	<u>Omoro</u>	<u>Senior Labor Officer - SLO</u>
9	<u>Arach Betty</u>	F	<u>Omoro District Local Govt - PWDS</u>	<u>Omoro</u>	<u>Senior Assistant Secretary (CAOs office) – SAS</u>
10	<u>Amuria Franco</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Nabilatuk Town Council</u>	<u>Nabilatuk</u>	<u>Community Development Officer - CDO</u>
11	<u>Achok Peace</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Nabilatuk Town Council</u>	<u>Nabilatuk</u>	<u>Head Teacher</u>
12	<u>Lokut John</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Nabilatuk Town Council</u>	<u>Nabilatuk</u>	<u>Chairperson Youth</u>
13	<u>Bullon Justine</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Nabilatuk Town Council</u>	<u>Nabilatuk</u>	<u>Councilor</u>
14	<u>Loduk Gabriel</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Nabilatuk Town Council</u>		<u>Health worker/Doctor</u>
15	<u>Aleo Dinnah Rose</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Namorotot Primary School</u>	<u>Nakapiripit</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>
16	<u>Monica Nakiru</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Namorotot Town Council</u>	<u>Nakapiripit</u>	<u>Councilor</u>
17	<u>Lewakeli Walter</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Namorotot Health Center III</u>	<u>Nakapiripit</u>	<u>Health Officer – HO</u>
18	<u>Kotol Setimo O</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Namorotot Town Council</u>	<u>Nakapiripit</u>	<u>Senior Community Development Officer - SCDO</u>
19	<u>Kiyonga Boniface</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Namorotot Town Council</u>	<u>Nakapiripit</u>	
20	<u>Okello Oyado Sam</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Namorotot Town Council</u>	<u>Kotido</u>	<u>Senior Community Development Officer - SCDO</u>
21	<u>Lemukol John Bosco</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Kotido District</u>	<u>Kotido</u>	<u>Senior Labour Officer – SLO</u>
22	<u>Aayu Jenniffer</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Kotido District Local Gov't</u>	<u>Kotido</u>	<u>District Health Officer - DHO</u>
23	<u>Achilla Jonathan</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Kotido Local Gvt</u>	<u>Kotido</u>	<u>Youth Chairperson</u>

Annex 2: Questionnaire

UGANDA DEBT NETWORK (UDN)
Review of Child Centric Sectors at local government levels
Questionnaire

SECTION 1: DETAILS F RESPONDENT

1. Name of respondent
2. District.....
subcounty.....
3. Sex.....
4. Title/position.....
5. Facility/organisation/school.....

Objective

; To identify critical challenges and opportunities for increased public financial resourcing for child centric sectors towards in attainment of respect, protection and fulfilment of child rights.

A: Right to education Education

1. What are the key challenges facing children in shools in your district this financial year

2. What has the district/sub-county done to promote the right to education among children -----

3. What are some of the oppotunities that exist at district/sub-county level that the district/sub-country has utilised to promote right to education

4. Do schools in your district/sub-county have child rights clubs?
5. If so, have these clubs been able to handle child rights issues? Please explain
6. Does the district/sub-county have any plans or initiatives to encourage children out of school to return to school?
7. If so, what has/is being done?
8. Have these efforts so far yielded any positive results? please explain
9. If not, what are some of the key challenges?
10. What are some of the challenges affecting children when exercising their rights in schools

Health

11. Do children have dedicated doctors/health workers within health facilities to handle their health issues? If so do they get the necessary equipment/support to effectively perform their duties? Please explain
12. What are some of the challenges of child health in the district/sub-county/

Child protection

13. Does your district have child protection committees? If so how many members are there and what is their level of functionality?
14. Are these committees fully constituted? Please explain
15. Do these committees receive support from the district? If so how much? Is it adequate?
16. What are some of the key child protection issues in your district?
17. Does the district/sub-county have any ordinances regarding child protection? If so please mention them and explain how they have helped promote children's rights
18. Any other issues on child protection/children's rights?

Cross-cutting issues

19. How is the district/sub-county/health facility incorporating issues of climate change within health?
20. How has the district/sub-county tried to incorporate issues of disability within health?
21. How are schools handling issues of climate change?
22. When addressing issues of disability in schools, the government introduced inclusive education. Are there any challenges schools are facing when trying to implement this initiative? Please explain.

23. How have other departments i.e water and community based services incorporated issues of climate change?

24. How is the community based services handling issues of disability? Any challenges in this?