

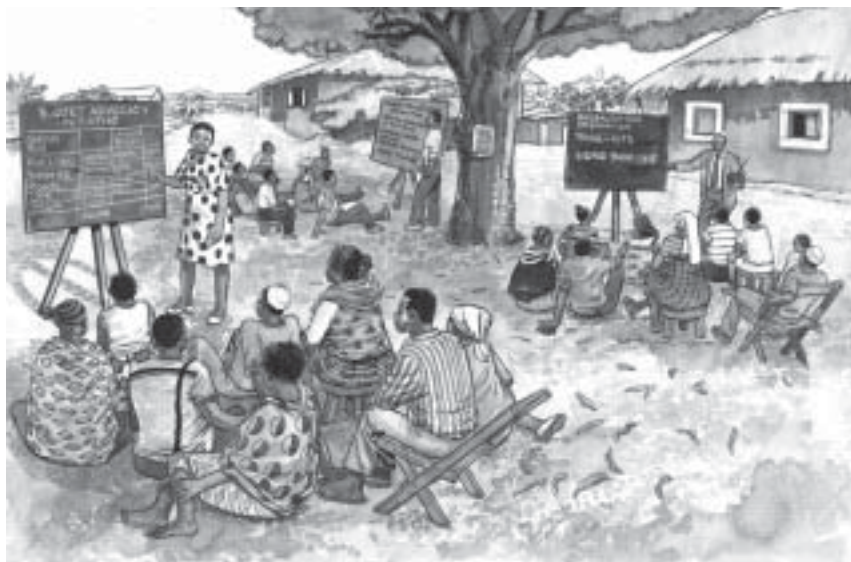
Opinion

We bring you the August issue of UDN update to keep you informed of the events at UDN. We hope that you too can help increase information sharing through these pages. We shall be keen to update people about useful meetings that will take place during the month and those that took place in the previous month. We can only do this if, however, you take off time, a few minutes really, to let us know what your organization is planning.

As the NGO sector in Uganda attempts to strengthen itself, channels of communication should be the first to be developed and used effectively. At UDN this has been our hallmark and we believe it has its purpose. All available information is carefully packaged and disseminative to as many people as possible. For those with internet access, they have found it useful to visit our own website at www.udn.or.ug for useful information and materials that you could also use in your work.

We therefore appeal to our friends and stakeholders to join us in this important business of the contributing to a vibrant civil society with capacity to hold our leaders accountable and advocate for pro-poor policies, accountability and transparency in public offices.

UDN has just finished the strategic planning workshop. A new three-year programme is being developed with inputs from UDN members, staff and members of the Executive Committee. As we can inform you now, some changes will be taking place both in approach and orientation of UDN programmes. We hope that you will be available to make your contribution as usual and to give us a helping hand where possible so that together we can entrench civil society values and practices. As they say "change is inevitable. But it must be helped to happen



Participation with learning

by Beatrice Egulu & Zie Gariyo

Uganda Debt Network recently launched two pilots in participatory Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (CBMES) in Kamuli, Bushenyi. Another pilot in participatory Community Based Budget Performance Monitoring was launched in Kanungu District in August. The pilots are aimed at increasing the participation of the community in monitoring and evaluating the quality and delivery of services and in the utilisation of public expenditure at local government level.

Participation per se however is not the only concern of UDN. The uniqueness of these initiatives is that participation is being used as a means to involve the people at the grassroots in a learning process and to deepen their knowledge base on the critical areas of policy planning and implementation. The learning process includes acquiring the skills in monitoring and evaluation, collecting and analyzing data, sharing of information, negotiation and engagement with local leaders and policy implementers and that benefits are mutually agreed and shared.

However, the learning process and knowledge acquired become tools that empower the person at the grassroots to make claims on their rights and entitlements and realize improvements in the quality and delivery of services, represent their interests and concerns in the decision making processes and hold their leaders accountable.

The UDN process has been demystified to ensure that the people at the grassroots are responsible for identifying their own indicators which become the basis on which monitoring is undertaken. This is because while we recognize the importance of national indicators, these are only monitored periodically whereas the community itself monitors those identified by the community continuously. Thus the community takes responsibility and becomes the owner of any achievements that are realized.

The experiences gained so far indicate a very high level of success. However for effective results, the cooperation and participation of local government officials in the entire initiative is very important. This helps to build the confidence of the community and increases the ownership of the results by all stakeholders. Thus the participation of the district leadership and government officials in both Kamuli and Bushenyi Districts has made the initiative become entrenched within the areas in a much shorter time than was anticipated.

The new approach described above has posed immense challenges especially in sustaining it through providing financial, human and material resources. As experiments go, it might be easy to start one, but it is much more important to ensure that its outcomes are properly and carefully monitored for their short and long term effects

For details contact UDN Secretariat at info@udn.or.ug

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UDN Strategic Planning Workshop

UDN organized a 5-day strategic planning workshop which was held at Ranch on the lake between 19th – 23rd August 2002. The main purpose for the Strategic planning workshop was to come up with a 3 year strategic plan for UDN. The Strategic Planning workshop was attended by the UDN Executive Committee and UDN staff. It was also attended by; Grass roots partner; Mr. Baligya Paul, Chairperson of the Busoga Anti Corruption coalition. UDN Partners; Warren Nyamigasira, Coordinator, NGO forum, Member of UDN And Charlotte Mwesigye also a member of UDN, Partner Representatives; Mr. John Mousa of Action Aid Uganda and Eleanor Ssendege of MS Uganda represented the donor community.

CSOs to commission an investigative research into the utilisation of SFGs

Members of the civil society in Teso (Teso anti-corruption Coalition) in conjunction with UDN are to commission an investigative research in the utilization of the School Facilities Grant in Teso region. This was an outcome of a workshop on Budget monitoring organized by between UDN and the TAC where SFG was identified as one of the areas where there is mass abuse and misuse of public resources and office. A task force to lay down the modalities of this important exercise was set up with representation from the four districts of the region: Katakwi, Kaberamaido, Kumi, and Soroti.

This investigation is expected to be very participatory in nature involving all categories of people: local communities, opinion leaders, minority groups, civil engineers, and legal experts. Findings from this investigative research will be used to launch a nation wide anti-corruption campaign next year. The exercise is expected to commence in October 2002.

Budget Advocacy Initiative Update

Uganda Debt Network (UDN) launched a Community Based Budget Performance Monitoring with the central objective of advocating for pro-poor budget policies and mobilising grassroots people to advocate for open, accountable and transparent management of public resources. The pilot which took place on August 6th-18th 2002 will be a long process of learning and understanding of the local and national budget processes for the grassroots so as to contribute meaningfully. With the indicators identified, the communities will assess the quality of services delivered and how much goes into it. This is the first in a series of Community Based Budget Performance Monitoring. Soon, similar activities will start in Mbale and Soroti.

CBMES Launched in Bushenyi District

Uganda Debt Network (UDN) launched a pilot of the Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation System (CBMES) in Bushenyi district, in the counties of Bunyaruguru & Igara to involve grassroots people in monitoring poverty reduction programmes and performance of government in service delivery. The Pilot started in August 1st -15th 2002 and will be carried on for several other months to test the usefulness of the system to the community in monitoring effectiveness of government service delivery. This is the second Pilot of the CBMES carried out by UDN after Kamuli, which was launched in April 2002. The system is being tested on a pilot basis in the two mentioned districts to draw up lessons for scaling up. There after the system will be replicated in other districts.

BUSOGA ANTI-CORRUPTION COALITION Anti-Corruption Song

OBUKUYIKUYI

Solo: *Bana Uganda Obukuyikuyi*

Chorus: *Kintu kibi baganda bange Kyonoona ensi kigiitira irala*

Solo: *Bana Uganda Obukuyikuyi*

Chorus: *Kintu kibi baganda bange Kyonoona ensi kigiitira irala*

Solo: *Mbakobere Obukuyikuyi!!*

Chorus: *Kintu kibi inho kyanaku,
Kyonoona ensi era kigitaabuula
Kintu kibi imwe abafuzi baiife*

Bass: *Mbakobera*

Solo: *Ba CAO baiife*

Bass: *Muwulire*

Chorus: *Abamagombolola
Kintu kibi olawa'baana baiife*

Tenor: *Emiti Emito*

Chorus: *Baidha Kufa
N'okubonaabona-a-a*

Solo: *Bwekituuka
Ku musolo*

Chorus
Bass: *Mbakobera*

Solo: *Ba CAO baiife*

Bass: *Mbakobera*

Solo: *Wayenda okukola okutuka kukilubirira
walafubana osomese kubana essence dha
UPE dhalibwa bulibwe ekivamu kyabula
ewangha liwaawo*

Tenor: *Emito*

Chorus: *Baidha Kufa
N'okubonaabona-a-a*

Solo: *Bana Uganda Obukuyikuyi, chorus*

Anti Corruption Mural

On August 17, UDN launched an anti-corruption script mural depicting causes and consequences of corruption. Pupils and students around Kampala Schools developed the mural with the assistance of their teachers and professional artists. The event was officiated by the Director of Ethics and Integrity, Mr. Ashaba-Aheebwa, who represented the Minister of Ethics and Integrity. Others present at the function were the Chaplain of the Church of Uganda (COU) Rev. Livingstone Mutebi who represented the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, heads of diplomatic missions from Sudan, France, Kenya, and the Dutch embassys. Members of parliament, other religious leaders, and heads of Government departments, civil society representatives, youth, various media houses, and the general public attended. Members of the youth taskforce and artists led and managed the events of the day.

In his speech, the Director of Ethics in the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity in the President's Office, Mr. Ashaba-Aheebwa informed the nation that government was coming up with a more comprehensive law to deal with the loop holes in the Leadership code Act and the IGG's Act. This law will guarantee freedom of access to information in public office, including books of accounts. As members of the civil society, and UDN in particular, the enactment of this law will go a long way in ensuring open, transparent and accountable systems of governance right from the local to national level.

The function was concluded with the chief guest and the Archbishop's representative leading the public in appending their petitions on the mural. The petitions and the mural have remained as a permanent reminder to all those in public office of their duty to be more accountable and transparent in handling public business. More events of this nature are planned for Kampala city Centre, and other strategic upcountry stations as part of UDN's public education campaign against corruption.



NETWORKING

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION OF GULU ARCHDIOCESE

UDN supports the efforts of the Justice and Peace Commission of Gulu Archdiocese. The Justice and Peace Commission is involved in;

- Promoting a culture of peace and respect for human rights and have done so by organising training workshops on justice.
- Documentation and publication of events and facts in Northern Uganda which are published in the monthly "Justice and peace Newsletter" published in English and Acholi.
- Advocacy

EASSI

The Eastern African Sub-regional Support initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) priority programme issues identified for 2001 - 2004;

- Women and land ownership
- Women's participation in politics and decision making.
- Gender budgeting
- HIV/AIDS

for more information contact: eassi@eassi.org

MS Uganda

MS Uganda is in the process of implementing the new MS Uganda Policy paper 2001 - 2006 Development and Unity in Diversity" with two major sub themes; Good Governance and Poverty Reduction through advocacy and community initiatives.

UCPA

The Uganda Consumer's Protection Association (UCPA) former Executive Director Mr. Richard Henry Kimera has been replaced by Mr. John M. Bigyemano as Acting Executive Director.

International seminars

- Campaigns and Networking officer, Allen Ruhangataremwa attended a Malawi Budget planning Workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi organized by the National Democratic Institute of Malawi.
- Policy Assistant, Daniel Lukwago attended a regional consultative meeting on the civil society economic policy project which took place from the 6th-8th of August 2002, in Nairobi, organized by MWENGO

Ministry of Education & Sports suspends disbursements of funds to Katakwi

The Ministry of Education and sports has suspended disbursements of SFG funds and other funds to Katakwi district until it is certified that the district authorities have taken punitive action against Amuria Farmers and Traders. The said firm is reported to have constructed shoddy classrooms under the SFGs, and contravened the guidelines for the tendering process. The flaws in the tendering process was revealed by Justice and Peace Commission of Soroti Catholic Diocese and forwarded to the office of the Prime Minister by Uganda Debt Network. Following this report, the office of the Prime Minister in conjunction with the Ministry of Education sent a team to investigate the matter. Findings of this team were so astounding that the ministry of education could not afford to release more funds to the district unless the anomalies are corrected.

Upcoming Local & International Events

Date	Event
10th Sept	Kamuli Public dialogue on CBMES
10th Sept.	Macro Sector Working Group meeting
13th Sept.- 14th Sept.	Christian Aid Partners AGM, Mbale
18th - 19th Sept.	International seminar on PRSPs and Health, Nairobi(Organised by Cordaid)
25th - 26th Sept.	UDN Quarterly review meeting
29th Sept.	2002 Annual meeting of IMF & World Bank, Washington DC

UDN Radio Programmes	
Radio	Time
Radio Veritas (Ateso)	Wednesday 6:30 - 8:30 pm Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 am
NBS (Lusoga-Kamuli)	Saturday 8:00 - 10:00 am

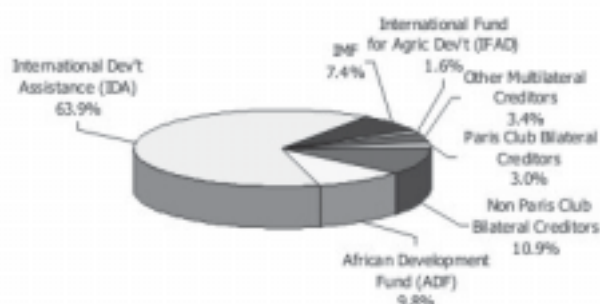
Did you know?

Uganda's Debt stock as at 31st March 2002 stood at US\$3.622 billion.

The outstanding stock comprises principal amounts of US\$ 3.491 billion and accumulated interest arrears of US\$ 131.1770 million.

The bulk of the debt stock, approximately US\$ 3.1 billion is owed to the multilateral creditors with the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank being the main creditors

Uganda's Indebtedness by source and creditor as of 31st March 2002 (Principle and Interest Arrears outstanding)



Source: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Effects of debt on the poor;

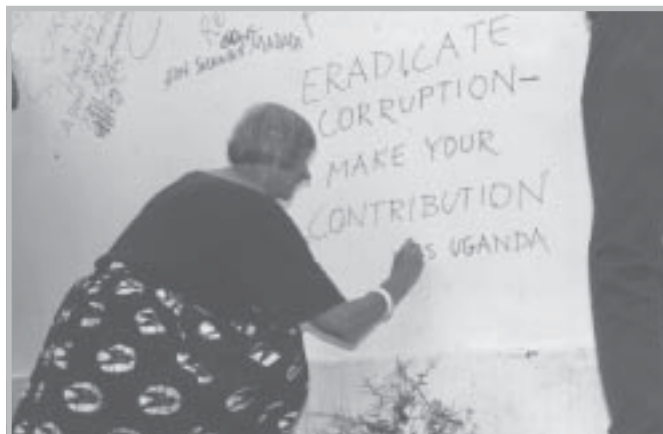
- Every person in Uganda owes approximately US\$170 (300,000) to the International creditors.
- Over 18% of export earnings is paid in debt service per annum thus depriving the country of the much needed resources for poverty reduction.

The Challenge

The challenge is now upon the government and parliament to ensure proper debt management and reduction on borrowing so that Uganda can achieve sustainable debt levels.

UDN launches Anti-Corruption Script Mural

Saturday August 17, 2002



Invitation
Come, view and add your comments/signature on the script mural at UDN Secretariat Plot 424 Mawanda Road, Kamwokya, Kampala
No appointment required



Visit UDN Documentation Centre for:

- Report of the Anti Corruption Exhibition
- Foreign aid and Africa's search for Improved Socio-Economic Performance
- Dossier-Corruption in Uganda
- Civil Society Regional Consultations
- Understanding and Advocating on Budgets in Uganda
- Corruption Illustrated
- Policy Review Newsletter
- Linking Economic Growth with Poverty Eradication
- The Parliamentarian
- Reality of Aid
- Annual Reports
- Economic Reports and Data

UDN Members pay 50% of the costs. Ask for price list at info@udn.or.ug or contact P. O. Box 21509, Kampala, Uganda.

Corruption is a regressive tax on the poor. It hurts poor people the most because they are the least likely to have direct access to officials and the least able to use connects to get services; they also have the fewest options to use private services as an alternative".
Kaufmann et al 2000



Humour.....



UDN Profile

Uganda Debt Network is an advocacy and lobbying coalition of NGOs, Institutions and Individuals formed in 1996. The network was formed as a result of civil society concern that Uganda's debt burden unsustainable levels which has adverse implications for social development of the Country. UDN now has a membership of over 100 NGOs, institutions and individuals

Our Vision

A prosperous Uganda with equitable development and a high quality of life of the people.

UDN's Mission

To advocate for reduced and sustainable debt levels, accountability and effective utilisation of national resources for the benefits of the people of Uganda

UDN Programmes

- (a) Debt relief Campaign and monitoring of Poverty Action Fund
- (b) Advocacy on pro poor budgetary policies and effective utilisation of public resources
- (c) The anti-corruption campaign and advocacy on public accountability and transparency.

Context of the Organisation

UDN is the founder member of the Anti corruption Coalition of Uganda (AACU) and the leading organisation in the anti-corruption campaign. UDN is presently the lead organisation for the formation of the Budget Advocacy Initiative, a coalition of Civil Society Organisations, whose purpose is to enable civil society to jointly and actively influence the formulation of pro-poor budget policies at all levels through developing their capacity to implement the project activities.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of seven people is the policy-making organ of UDN. The secretariat headed by the Coordinator implements the programmes and activities of the network.

UDN Membership

UDN has three categories of membership:

Full Members are individuals organizations and institutions who pay the required fees with rights to vote and be elected to the organs of the network

Associate Members are organizations, institutions and individuals, whether resident or non resident in the country who support the objectives of the network. Associate members have no voting rights.

Honorary Members are persons, organisations and institutions of high public reputation who have rendered distinguished services to the network.

Membership Fees

Full Membership	Amount
Individual	10,000/-
Indigenous Organisation	25,000/-
International Organisations	50,000/-
Associate Membership (Non -voting)	
Individual	20,000/-
Indigenous Organisation	20,000/-
International Organisation	50,000/-
Honorary (non-voting)	Gratis
Students (non-voting)	Gratis

UDN Membership Application Form

1. Name of organization/ person.....

2. Physical Address
.....

3. Mailing address.....

4. Telephone number.....

5. Fax number.....

6. Email address.....

7. Type of membership required (tick)

(a) Full Membership

(b) Individual

(c) Organization /Institutional

8. Interests

(a) Health

(b) Education

(c) Environment

(d) Women and gender

(e) Agriculture

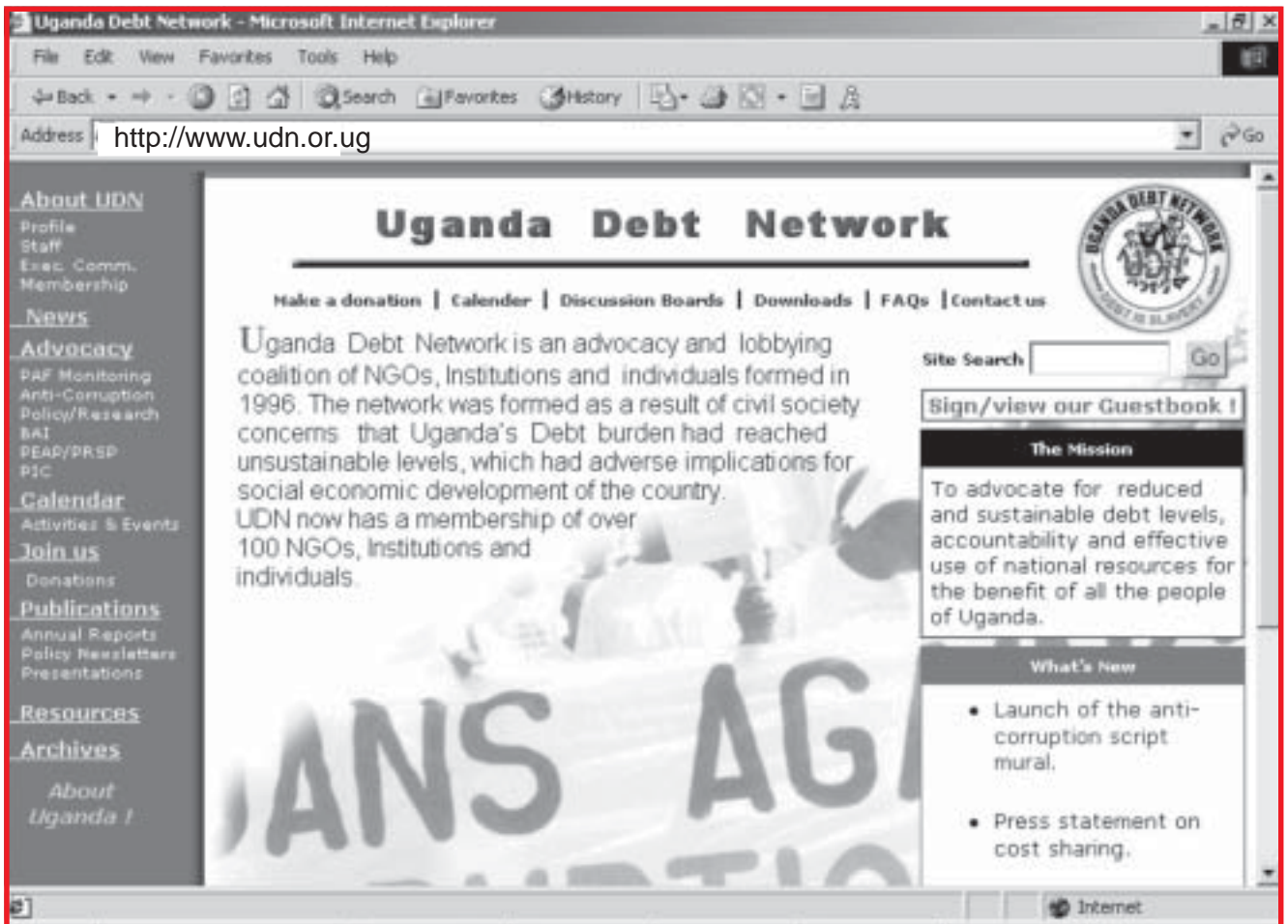
(f) Food security

(g) Youth

(h) Other

Amount
Cheque/Cash

.....
Signature



Visit us at www.udn.or for:

- Quality Research Information
- PAF Monitoring Reports
- Reports on Corruption in Public Office
- Comprehensive UDN Profile
- UDN Calender and Activities
- UDN Annual Reports
- Plus many others and useful links.

UDN website was recently relaunched with a new look and is now easy to navigate

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