

Fall 2022 Professional Fellow

Name: (Tiba) Priscilla Kisakye
Country: Uganda
Job Title and Employer: Lobbying and Advocacy Officer, Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)
Project Title: Fostering Equitable Learning for All Children through Strong Citizen Engagement

Problem: Since the implementation of Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997, Uganda has seen a significant increase in enrolment rates. The high enrolment in UPE schools is largely composed of children from poor or disadvantaged backgrounds and has helped to eliminate the gender and equity gap in terms of access to primary education. However, this has not been accompanied with the requisite public financial investment to ensure the delivery of an inclusive quality education for all learners. Although the Uganda National Disability Act of 2006 stipulates that the Ministry of Education allocate at least 10% of its budget toward special needs education, less than 0.1% has been allocated for the last 15 financial years (2007/2008 – 2021/2022), indicating a lack of government commitment to upholding the rights of learners with disabilities.

Project Objective: Priscilla proposes to improve access to quality inclusive primary education for children with disabilities by:

- promoting active citizen engagement in planning and monitoring public expenditures
- promoting strong political leadership to influence equitable resource allocation and use in primary education

Project Description: Priscilla will use a multifaceted approach to implement her project. First, she plans to train approximately 60 parents in parent support groups (PSGs) in participatory budgeting and engage them in budget tracking and service delivery monitoring for education service provision. Second, she plans to hold community awareness dialogues in the sub-counties where the PSGs are located to ensure that parents and communities have a positive attitude toward learners with disabilities as the basis to advocate for equitable financing of inclusive education. Third, Priscilla plans to document her efforts and develop a position paper that will highlight education service delivery gaps and make recommendations for how to address these gaps. She plans to use the paper in engagements with government officials and other key stakeholders. The position paper will also target media action to increase the project reach and advance advocacy efforts toward inclusive education financing.

Through her role as USDC Lobbying & Advocacy Officer, Priscilla will partner with the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group and disability community champions to develop and implement the proposed activities.



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