

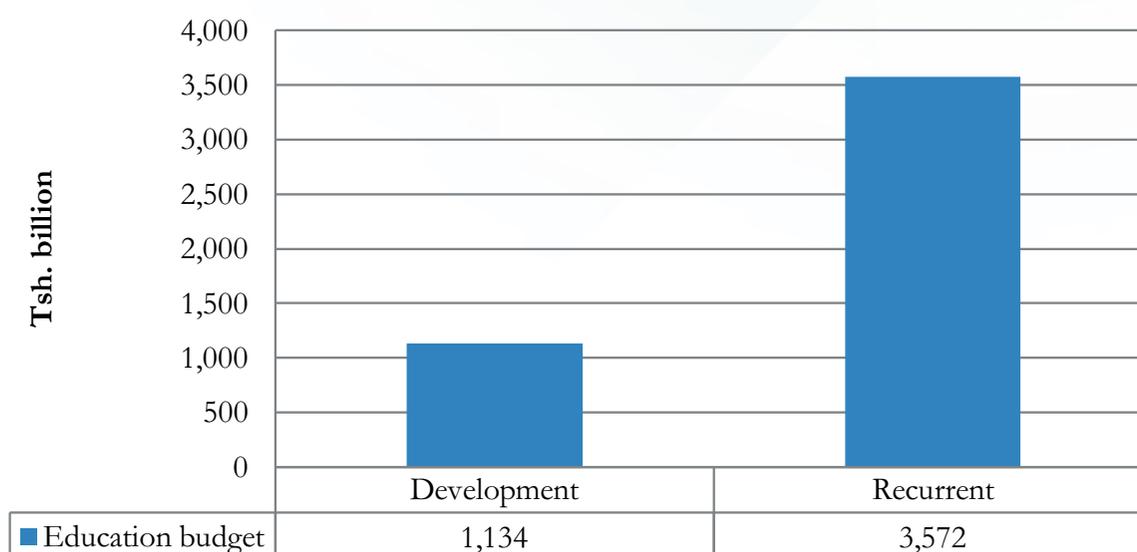
Analysis of the 2017/18 Budget on the Education Sector with a Responsive and Gender Lens

An overview of the National Education Budget

The Government through the Parliament has in this Financial Year, (2017/2018) allocated and approved to collect and spend a total of Tsh. 4,706.4 billion for both Recurrent and Development expenditures for the Education Sector. This amount will be spent in all Education Sector's related Expenditures distributed through the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST), which takes up around 28% of the total sectors budget, the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) which assumes almost 70% of the budget and the rest 2% being distributed to the Ministry of Health and other special projects.

According to the 2017/18 sector budget analysis (MoF, 2017) the Government has planned and approved to spend Tsh. 3,572 billion for Recurrent Expenditures which is almost 76% of the entire education sector expenditure, while Tsh. 1,134 billion is allocated for total development expenditure of the sector which is on the other hand only 24% of the total Education sector budget.

Education sector's recurrent and development allocations 2017/18



While we understand that Recurrent Expenditure is an important category and that cannot be avoided, we also recommend that equal emphasis in terms of allocation be given to Development Expenditures. This call is informed of the prevailing education sector's challenges including inadequate infrastructure, teaching and learning materials and generally poor learning environment which demand more funds on the development category than recurrent to solve them.

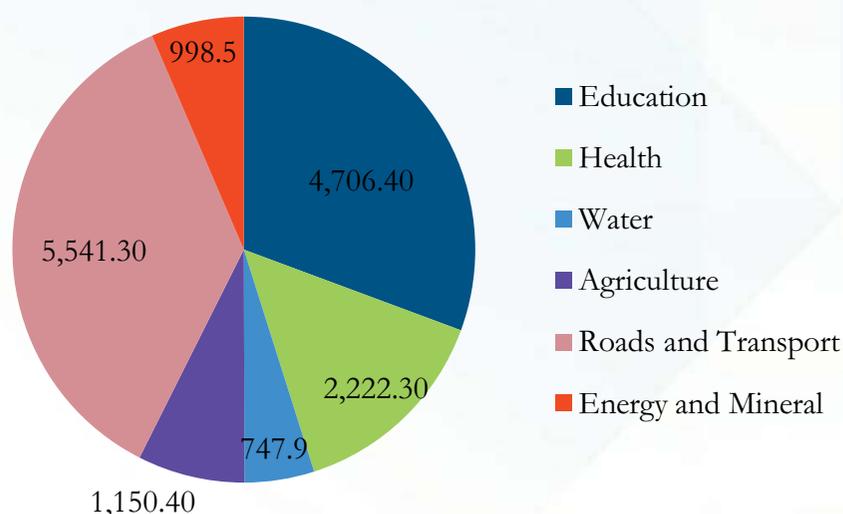
According to Statistics, (BEST, 2016) basic education is currently faced with an acute shortage of around 160,000 classrooms for Primary schools only which makes up the Pupil Classroom Ratio to 1:77 (Primary); the Pit Latrine ratio has remained at 1:53 for girls and 1:56 for boys which is against the recommended ratio of 1:20 and 1:25 consecutively; there is also almost 81.1% shortage of teachers' houses and 83% shortage of administrative blocks. All of these, demand an investment in development expenditure rather than recurrent.

It is important to understand that lack of infrastructures in schools and prevailing poor learning and teaching environment equally affects the learning of our children as they are affected by lack of teaching staff that are serviced by Recurrent Expenditures. However, poor learning and teaching environment affect more girls who are supposed to keep clean all the time to avoid possible infections that they are vulnerable to.

Is the education sector a priority?

Despite the poor distribution of Education sector's funds to Recurrent and Development Expenditures, Education has for the last five years been amongst the most highly budget allocated sector. 2017/18 is no difference and it has been ranked as the second most prioritized sector in terms of budgeting after the Roads and Transport sector which has a total of Tsh. 5,541.3 billion equivalent to 17.5% of the entire National Budget.

The chart below shows the distribution of Budget in the first six priority sectors of the Government.



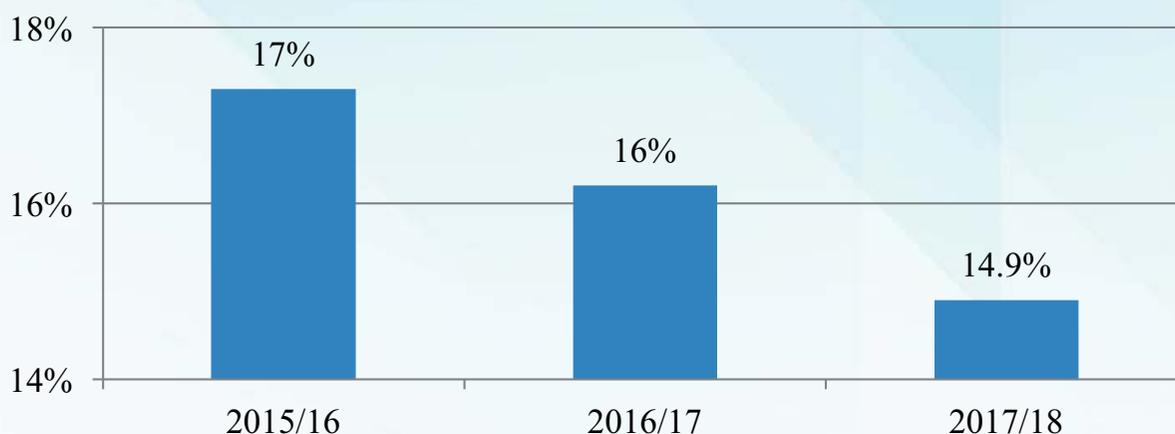
While we hail the Government's decision and consideration of making the Education Sector as the second most prioritized sector by allocating Tsh. 4,706.4 billion which is equivalent to 15% of the total National Budget which is Tsh. 31,699.7 billion allocated in 2017/18; we still believe that the budget falls short of the prevailing demands, challenges and commitment that have been agreed upon to revamp the sector from the incumbent challenging situation.

According to the regional commitments such as the Dakar agreement (2000) and international agreements such as the Encheon commitment (2016), countries in Sub Saharan Africa should at least invest a total 20% of the National Budget to Education in order to address the sector's haunting challenges especially on improving learning and teaching environment. With these commitments in mind (which Tanzania has also signed), we should realize that 15% of the National Budget that the government is putting in the Education Sector, does not only fall short of these commitments but also imply that would be difficult for the existing challenges to be addressed any time soon.

However, as if allocating less than the recommended 20% of the National Budget to education is not enough, the Government has also reduced a share of the Education Budget to the National Budget from 16% allocated in 2016/17 financial year to 15% this year 2017/18. The question

would therefore be why? While the National Budget is rising from Tshs 29 trillion to Tsh. 31 trillion the Education Budget proportional is falling, in fact the fall has been recorded in the last five years as the chart below indicates.

Education sector's budget trend (% of the National Budget)



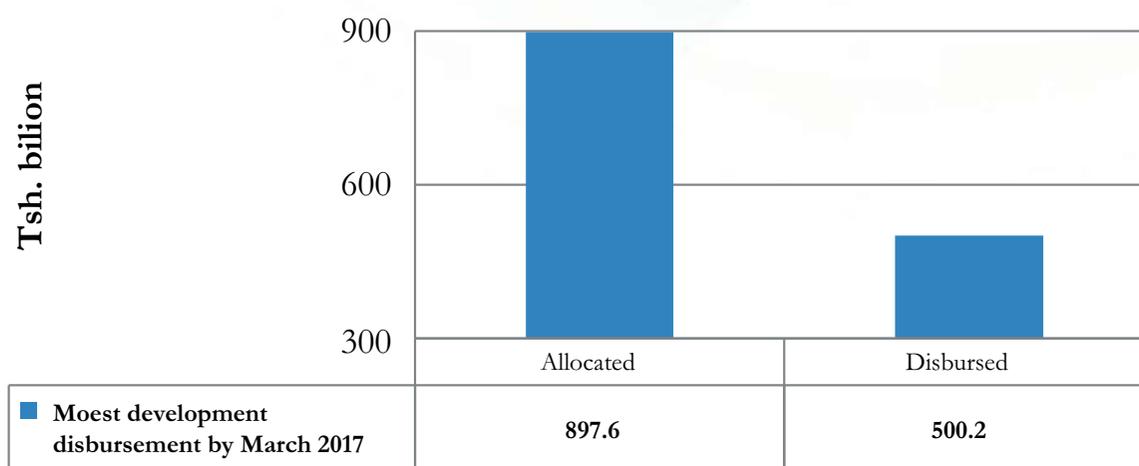
Our worry is, if this trend will continue, it will take us forever to attain or meet the 20% commitment to the Education Sector as agreed upon in the Dakar and the Encheon Declarations to the Sub-Saharan Africa countries (Tanzania inclusive) and probably fail to address key teaching and learning challenges that still hunt the Education Sector in Tanzania.

Challenges facing implementation in the Education Sector

Despite being among the Government's priority sector in terms of the amount of budget allocated, the Education Sector is haunted with budget implementation challenges, especially Development Budget. We are confident that if the approved funds were to be fully disbursed and spend to the corresponding line items, the sector's challenges would have been reduced to an acceptable rate.

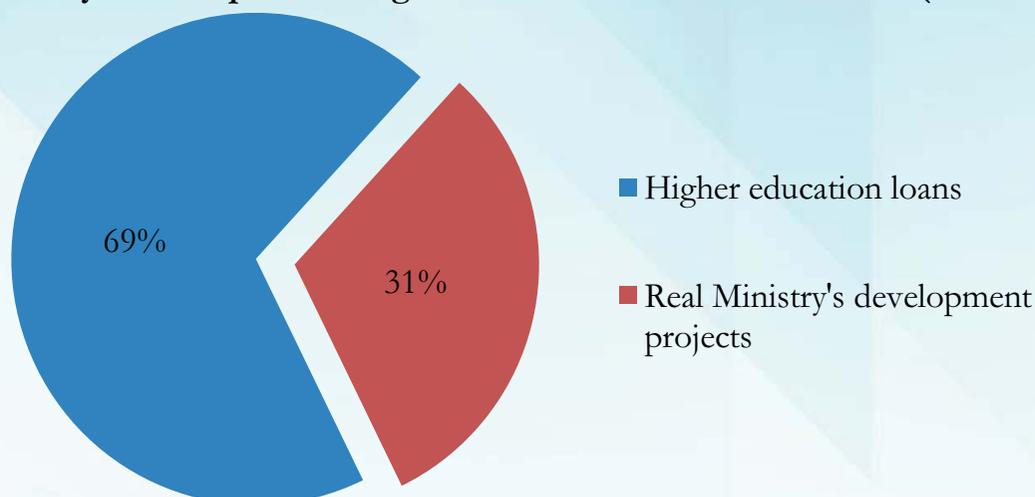
Taking the Ministry of Education as an example, in the last financial year 2016/17 a total of Tsh. 897.6 billion was approved for Development Expenditures. However up to April 2017 the Government had disbursed Tsh. 500.2 billion which is almost 56% of the entire approved budget as the graph below suggests.

Moest development disbursement by March 2017



However the astonishing challenge is that, out of the Tsh. 500.2 billion disbursed by April 2017, Tsh. 344 billion equivalents to almost 69% percent of the entire disbursed amount went to Higher education student's Loan Board for administration and granting loans to students. Our argument is therefore that only 31% equivalent to Tsh. 156 billion were disbursed for the education sector's projects under the Ministry of Education. It is important to note also that the 31% disbursement by April, relates to the 34% disbursement of the National budget's development projects as presented by the Ministry of Finance in parliament in June 2017.

Ministry's development budget disbursement as of March 2017 (Tsh. bil)



Girl's education and Special Groups Budget missing

One of the key challenges in the Education Sector is the mainstreaming of Gender aspects of equity and equality in and out of schools by emancipating girls who historically have been left behind when it comes to Education.

According to a study conducted by SNV, Water Aid and UNICEF in 2009, in 16 districts covering 2,697 schools in Tanzania mainland it was revealed that, 6% of the schools had no latrines, 84% had no hand washing facilities, 86% had no water for hand washing, 99% do not have soap available and 38% of the schools had no water supply (WASH Mapping Report, 2011). According to BEST, 2016 the situation is no better today and all these create further barriers to children's attendance to schools especially girls. According to the study girls especially from the poor family and rural areas miss classes up to 3 days every month which is almost a month to every academic year due to menstrual challenges.

WASH facilities in Tanzania's schools are extremely poor, National data shows that on average there is only one pit latrine for every 56 children in primary schools although in other specific cases the ratio goes up to 200 per latrine or no latrine at all.

It is important to understand that lack of separate and adequate sanitation and washing facilities for adolescent girls is a barrier to their Education as it discourages them from attending school where they could be embarrassed and humiliated. (People's Development Forum Annual Program Report 2015). Inadequate hygiene facilities in schools would force a girl on her period to stay at home and miss important classes and eventually this affects school performance and increase the risk of dropping out due to leakage from poor hygiene products that may lead to embarrassment and inability to deal with personal hygiene.

Key Messages

- ❖ Much as we did not see special budget for addressing these specific girls education challenges, we call upon the Government to set aside in the next financial year special budget for girls sanitation facilities in schools including for buying disposable pads for those who could not afford them especially from remote areas.
- ❖ We also recommend to the Government to set aside the budget (which we did not see in the current budget) for children with special needs in inclusive schools and capitation for pre primary learners who are always overlooked.