

Monitoring and Inspection financing for primary and secondary schools for the last 5 years

(FY2013/14 - FY2017/18).

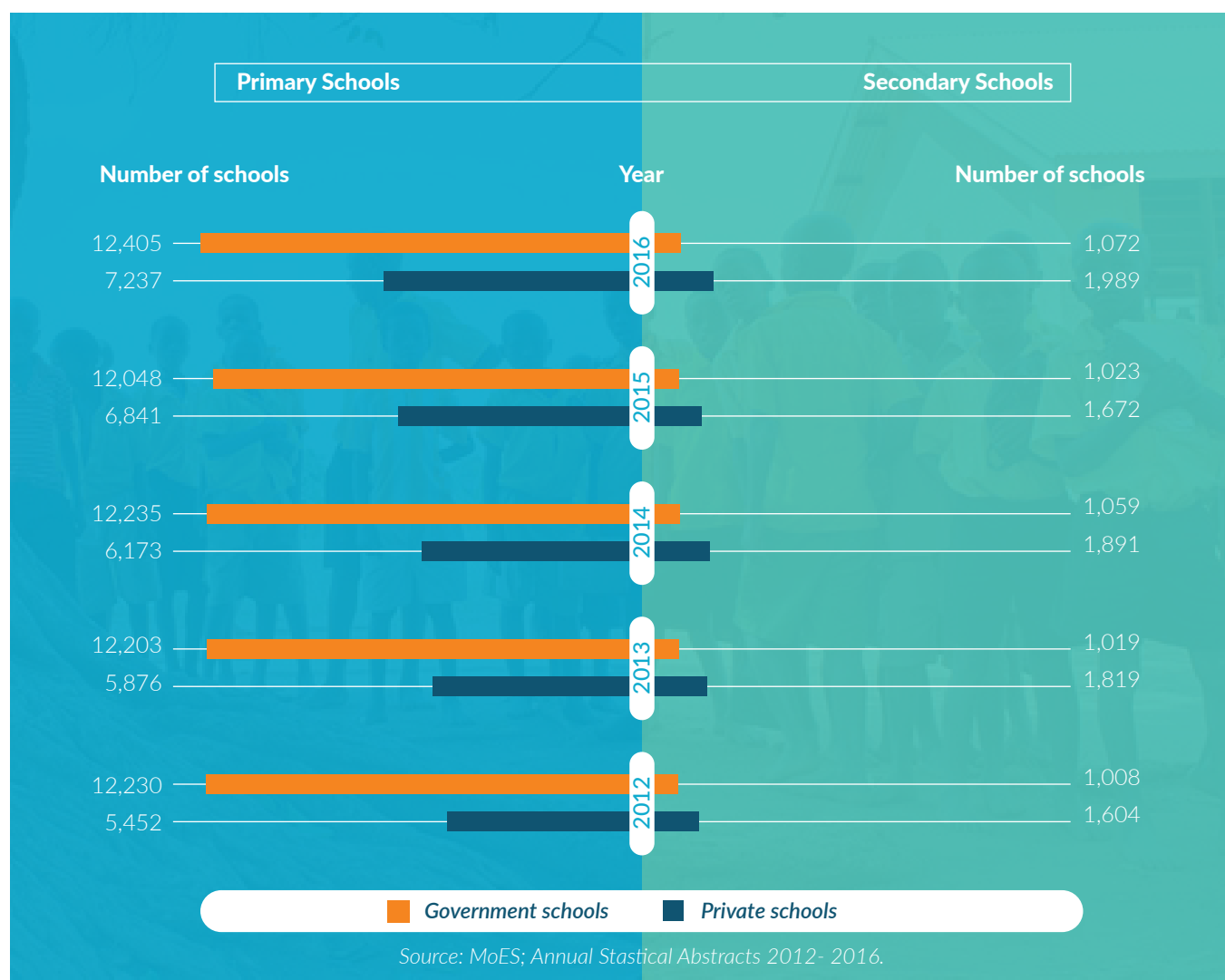
Monitoring and inspection is a critical component in the realization of quality education in both primary and secondary schools. It is carried out by the Directorate of Education Standards (DES), formerly Education Standards Agency (ESA) which is the quality assurance arm of Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) charged with the responsibility of monitoring and inspecting all schools.¹

DES was established in 2005, on recommendations of the Education Policy Review Commission of 1989, which were adopted in the Government White Paper of 1992.² The role of DES is to set and define standards for quality education as

well as monitor the achievements of the set standards and review them where necessary.³ Such standards include; school infrastructure, health and sanitation, qualification of staff, curriculum offered among others.⁴ DES is supported by the districts' local government inspectorates in charge of supervising, monitoring and inspecting primary and secondary schools in their respective districts.

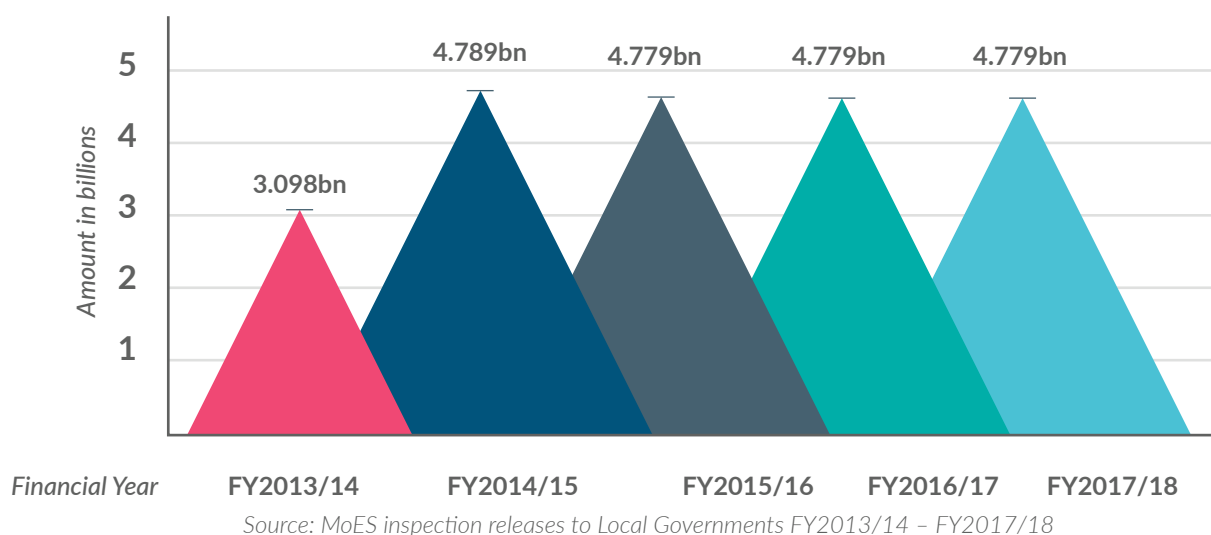
Over the years, the number of both primary and secondary schools has drastically increased which has strained the monitoring and inspection function of the MoES as shown in the table below.

Table 1: Growth of primary and government schools over the last 5 years(2012 - 2016).



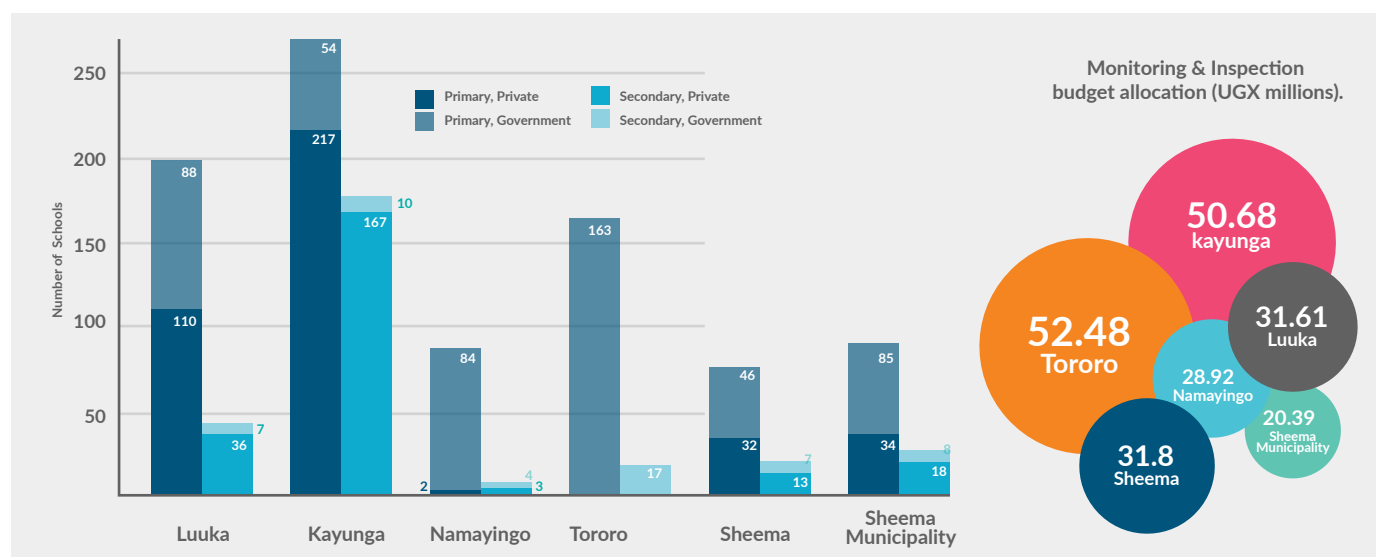
The table above indicates a high increase in the number of schools, with the highest number of primary schools being owned by government and the highest of secondary schools being owned by private actors. Despite the increase in the number of schools in the country as shown in the table above, the budget allocation to both DES and Districts Local Governments for the Monitoring and Inspection function has either stagnated or reduced as shown in the graphs below.

Graph 1: Total budget allocations for Monitoring and Inspection operations to Local Governments (over the past 5 years (FY2013/14 – FY2017/18)).



The budget allocations indicated in the table above are distributed among one hundred twenty one (121) districts local governments and Forty one (41) Municipal Councils⁵ to inspect and monitor schools in their respective jurisdictions. In district local governments, inspection of schools is conducted by the District Inspectors of Schools while monitoring of schools is done by the District Education Officers after the inspection. In allocation of the monitoring and inspection funds, by both the Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, a formulae of; variables (number of schools to be inspected) and a constant is used. The table below shows the operation funds allocated to specific local governments (randomly sampled) for inspecting primary and secondary schools (private and government).

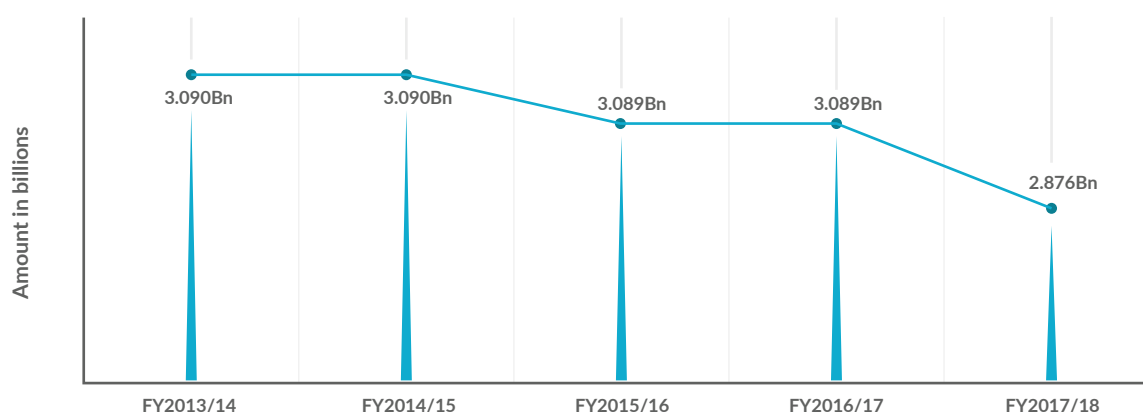
Table 2: Funds allocated to specific local governments (randomly sampled) for inspection of primary and secondary schools in FY2017/18 Vs Number of schools to be inspected and monitored.



Source: Interview with Officers in the Districts Education Department and MoES inspection releases to Local Governments FY2017/18.

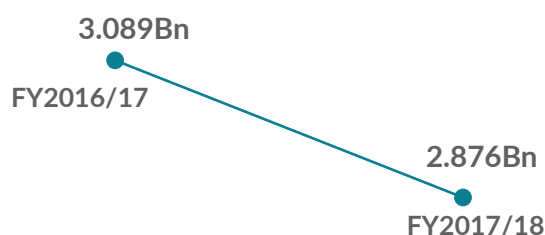
The table above highlights the budget allocation to Education departments in the four district local governments to inspect and monitor schools in their respective areas. For instance, in FY2017/18, Kayunga and Luuka District local governments were allocated UGX 50.68m and 31.61m respectively to inspect and monitor 448 and 231 primary and secondary schools respectively. However, the budget allocation is inadequate to meet the inspection costs of schools. Minimum, each school is supposed to be inspected two times per term.⁶ And the inspectors require; fuel, stationery, allowances, vehicle hire incase the district local government lack a motorcycle or vehicle to inspect schools.

Graph 2: Operational funds allocated to DES for schools' and BTVET institutions monitoring and inspection.



Source: Education Sector Ministerial Policy Statements FY2013/14- FY2017/18.

The budget allocations shown in the graphs above, indicate a clear stagnation in the budget for monitoring and inspection for the DES. Worse still, in FY2017/18, the budget allocation for operations retrogressed from UGX 3.089bn to UGX 2.8758bn, representing UGX 1.274bn reduction despite the increase in the number of both primary and secondary schools especially private ones by 713 schools in 2016. The reduction in financing is attributed to the categorization of the monitoring and inspection funds as consumptive items.⁷



The budget allocation therefore cannot enable DES to meet its planned target of inspecting 5600 schools and institutions at a unit cost of UGX 363,000 per primary, secondary school/ vocational institute⁸ compared to the insufficient funds they are currently getting. The unit cost covers development of inspection tools, inspection, support supervision and coaching, report production and dissemination.⁹ According to the Education, Science, Technology and Sports Sector Annual Performance Report 2014/15, inspectors cannot inspect schools due to lack of sufficient resources. Similarly, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Background Paper prepared for the 2017/18, Global Education Monitoring Report indicated that the cost of inspection of schools is more than the total budget allocated. As a result of limited financing, the monitoring and inspection function has a number of unfunded priorities that limit effective supervision of schools as shown in the table below;

Table 2: Unfunded Priorities for Monitoring and Inspection in FY2018/19.

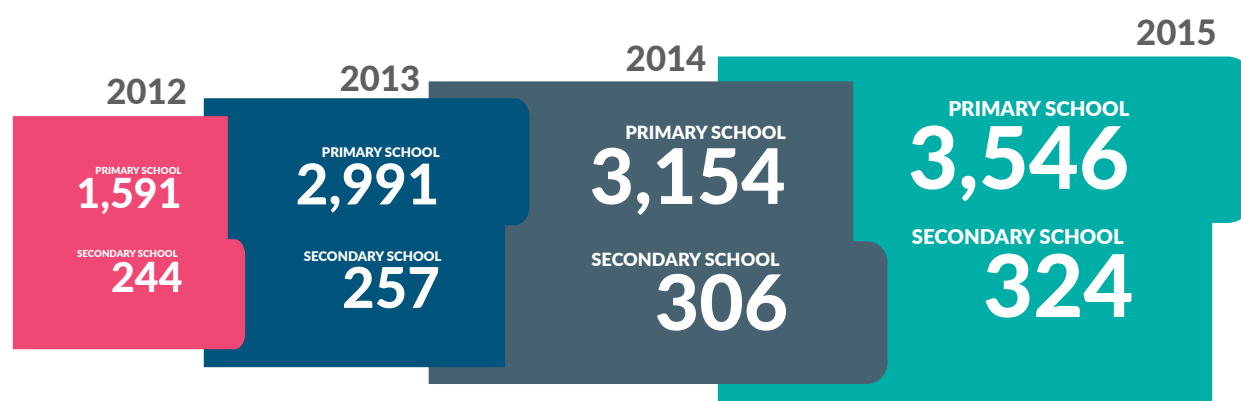
Item	Amount (UGX bns)
Procure motorbikes for 93 Local governments to support inspection and monitoring of schools.	0.930
Increase the number of school inspections for secondary and BTVET Institutions by the DES.	2.032
Vehicles for inspection by the DES and Regional Centers	7.980
Reinstatement of Non-Wage funds for DES that were categorized as consumptive in FY2017/18 general budget cut	1.274

Source: MoES submission before the Parliament Committee on Education on the Sector Budget Framework Paper FY2018/19.

Due to the limited financing highlighted above, inspectors of schools in 93 local governments lack transport to carry out field work in their respective districts. DES is also operating below staffing capacity with only 50 staff as opposed to 61 staff members. The limited financial resources limit the agency in hitting its targeted number of supervisions and inspections that result into high teacher absenteeism and unnoticed pupil drop outs. This leads to poor learning outcomes and low completion rates of the school cycles.

Implications of limited financing for the monitoring and inspection function

Due to limited financing for the monitoring and inspection function, there is inadequate supervision of schools. As a result, many schools are not complying with Basic Requirements and Minimum Standards set by the MoES including; the set operation time, recruiting qualified teachers, following the right curriculum, establishing adequate infrastructure, presence at the center. This has further paved way for the many schools operating illegally as shown in the table below;

Table 3: Total number of schools operating illegally over the 4years.

Source: MoES; Annual Stastical Abstracts 2012-2015

As clearly shown in the table above, the number of primary and secondary schools operating illegally increased by 1955 and 80 primary and secondary schools respectively. This brings into caution the type and quality of education that is being offered to students in such schools.

Recommendations.

- i Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Parliament should increase funding to DES to enable it strengthen its human resource and widen its operations.
- ii Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Parliament should reinstate DES non-wage funding of UGX 1.274bn that was categorized as consumptive in FY2017/18 general budget cut.
- iii Parliament and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should provide UGX 0.93bn required by Local Governments to procure motorbikes for 93 Local governments to support inspection and monitoring of schools.
- iv The formulae for allocation of monitoring and inspection funds should be revised to factor in districts performance as a variable in allocation of funds to cater for districts with consistent poor performance in national examinations. In addition to the terrain especially mountainous areas.
- v MoES should ensure that 75% of the monitoring and inspection grant to Local Governments is allocated to schools inspection and 25% to monitoring.

About fact sheet.

ISER prepared this factsheet to highlight the need to increase funding for the monitoring and inspection function of the education sector to ensure quality education for all children.

Endnotes.

- ¹ Ministry of Education and Sports; Accessed at; <https://www.google.com/search?q=Directorate+of+Education+Standards+uganda&oq=Directorate+of+Education+Standards+uganda&aqs=-chrome..69i57.30511j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8> on March 20,2018
- ² Ibid
- ³ Ibid
- ⁴ Ibid
- ⁵ Ministry of Local Government Fact Sheet. Accessed at http://molg.go.ug/sites/default/files/MoLG_Fact_Sheet.pdf on March 29, 2018.
- ⁶ Education and Sports Sector Strategic Plan FY2017/18-2019/20, Pg 27
- ⁷ Ministry of Education and Sports: Presentation of the Education Sector Budget Framework Paper FY2018/19, January, 2018
- ⁸ Ibid
- ⁹ Ibid

References

- 1 Annual Statistical Abstracts for the Ministry of Education and Sports 2012- 2015.
- 2 Ministerial Policy Statements for the Education and Sports Sector FY2013/14- FY2017/18.
- 3 Ministry of Education and Sports; Education Management Information System (EMIS), 2016.