



There is need for African governments to explore alternative sources of funding, such as sovereign wealth funds and mobilizing domestic resources for energy projects than rely on donor funds.

HIGHLIGHTS

Africa must rely on its own financial resources for sustainable development: Overborrowing isn't working!

Pan-African Conference on Public Financing for Health and Road Infrastructure in Africa



Participants at the Pan-African Conference

Despite Africa recording exceptional growth in development finance in recent years, the continent is still faced with challenges of mobilizing adequate resources to fund its growth and future transformation through improving health service delivery and infrastructural development.

Resultantly, the [Uganda Debt Network \(UDN\)](#) hosted a 3 -day [pan African conference](#) on 11 to 13 September 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda to discuss and map a way for generating sustainable solutions for African countries to finance health and road infrastructure, given the rareness of external development assistance. AFRODAD as one of the leading invited pan-African bodies joined other high-level specialists from various countries, including representatives of regional economic communities who were invited.

The conference theme was: "Financing Alternatives for infrastructure (roads) and Universal Healthcare beyond Borrowing". Discussions included the implications

of using debt resources, the role of National Health Insurance schemes in improving access to health care services in Africa, alternatives for financing road infrastructure (beyond borrowing), and finally drew lessons on mechanisms for minimizing costs for road construction in Africa.

"There is a tendency for African countries to borrow when there is a gap in financing for development without exploring other possibilities". Governments should scale borrowing down and focus on adequately mobilizing and utilizing the domestic revenue coffers available. "Developing Innovative mechanisms such as remittances, savings from the curtailment of illicit financial flows (IFFs), diaspora funds, better negotiated mineral contracts and the expansion of Africa's fiscal space are alternative sources of funding for Africa's Health sector and infrastructural development" Said Julius Kapwepwe, Director of Programmes at UDN.

"There is need for African governments to explore alternative sources of funding, such as the potential financing from pension funds, insurance companies, sovereign wealth funds and mobilizing domestic resources for energy projects than rely on donor funds" Mr Tirivangani Mutazu, AFRODAD Senior Policy Analyst – Debt Portfolio emphasized,

Given the complexity of Africa's development challenges and the scale of its development finance needs, African countries need to leverage all possible sources of finance. Resolutions from the conference included that African countries should:

- Curtail illicit financial flows and Improve resource management capacity through the elimination of corruption in government revenues; and
- In the context of project financing, African governments have a responsibility to conduct a thorough ex ante investigation (before any project is implemented) into the financial, operational, civil, social, cultural and environmental implications of the project and its funding. Results of the project evaluation studies should be made public.



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