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## **The Effect of Donor Funding on the Performance of Local Government in Wakiso District Local Government.**

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### ABSTRACT

The general objective of the study was to determine the effect of donor funding on the performance of local governments in Uganda. The specific objectives were; to determine the importance of donor funding on the performance of WDLG, to determine the challenges associated with donor funding at WDLG and to determine the performance of local governments in Uganda. The study employed a descriptive correlation and cross-sectional survey design. The study mainly used primary data collected by the use of questionnaires. The findings revealed that donor funding has a great importance towards improving the performance of local governments as all the statements were generally accepted, findings also gave evidence the most challenges faced by donor funding are corruption, political influence and limited supervision and it is less affected by the interest of donors. Furthermore, the findings revealed that the performance has improved except that the employees do not ensure monitoring and evaluation and that massive education of local people has not been done. It was also found that there is a strong linear relationship between donor funding and the performance of local governments in that as donor funding increases, the performance of local governments also improves. The study recommended that since donor funding is important, the government should formulate favourable policies like tax holidays and reductions that can stimulate donor funding to enhance the performance of local governments in Uganda. The government should also formulate policies that can regulate corruption in order to aid the smooth running of the projects, the donors should ensure constant supervision in order to achieve the set goals of donor funding, and the responsible employees should ensure monitoring and evaluation of all the projects and that there should be massive education of the local community in order for them to benefit from donor funding. The suggested areas for further studies included political influence and donor funding and the Impact of supervision on donor funding.

**Keywords:** Donor funding, Local governments, Corruption, Political influence, Massive education of local people.

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### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the study about donor funding and the performance of local governments in Uganda a case study of Wakiso district local government, the background of the study, problem statement, purpose, specific objectives, research questions, the study scope, the significance of the study and the conceptual framework. Over the last half-century, donor funding/foreign aid has emerged as a dominant strategy for alleviating poverty in third-world countries, Uganda inclusive. Not coincidentally, during this time period, major international institutions, such as the United Nations, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund gained prominence in global economic affairs. Yet it seems that sixty years later, the lesser developed countries (LDCs) of the world continue to suffer from

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economic hardship, raising questions of whether foreign aid is a worthwhile and effective approach to boosting growth and development in recipient economies [1]. Rather than legislative change, supplementary programs have been added to the Foreign Assistance Act over time, which in its current form pursues 33 goals, specifies 75 priority areas, and presents 247 directives, ranging from reducing infant mortality to encouraging private US investment abroad [2-4]. More recently, new aid initiatives like the 2013 President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the 2004 Millennium Challenge Corporation have been launched by the Executive Branch, rather than being integrated into existing structures or legislation. Over the years, the complex and unwieldy foreign assistance system has faced sharp criticism from policymakers, practitioners and scholars alike [2]; [5-7] suggesting that it is a less-than-desirable arrangement for multiple stakeholders. In Africa, for over sixty years, development assistance has been apportioned in an attempt to reduce poverty and stimulate economic and social development. Despite more than \$2.3 trillion in aid disbursed over the last half century, population-level analyses have failed to demonstrate consistent results linking aid inputs to improvements in development outcomes.

In response, the past decade has witnessed a proliferation of new donor initiatives: 2000 UN Millennium Development Goals, the 2000 GAVI Alliance, the 2002 Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the 2003 President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief, the 2004 Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. While laudable for the awareness and resources these new programs have generated, they have essentially been evolving experiments in the field. In Uganda, since the passage of the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act, multiple foreign policy shocks have occurred which could have served as focusing events to stimulate policy change: very high-profile events of both a geopolitical, and security-oriented nature, like the end of the rebel war and all the attacks and of a humanitarian nature, including famines, natural disasters and the global HIV pandemic. Indeed, legislative modifications have been proposed during every presidential administration since the end of the war, including several attempts at major overhaul.

### Statement of Problem

Donor funding is expected to be an increased direct source of funding which is factored either into investing or financing activities of the beneficiaries. It may be long-term and cheaper as it results in improved performance of local governments if promptly used. Donor funding has for over half a century been used by developed countries to enhance social and economic development. Aid to developing nations became even more important in 1990 with the endorsement of Millennium development goals which were to be achieved by 2015. In some instances, aid is channelled through the National Treasury while in others, the aid has been channelled directly to the projects. However, empirical literature points out that for over 50 years, the impact of donor funding on social and economic development remains very small compared to the annual donations of over \$80 billion [8]. Studies point out to lack of proper supervision on the donor funds [9]; [10] and the use of donations to implement political agendas among others [11]. However, regardless of the uses of donor funding, local governments in Uganda have received the funds but their performance is still very poor due to inadequate supervision on the utilization of funds largely associated with the low impact of donor funding on development in Sub-Saharan Countries. There is no compelling evidence that donors pay attention to institutional quality or corruption considerations in their aid allocation decisions. Research has also given evidence that there is insufficient systematic evidence that bilateral or multilateral aid goes disproportionately to less corrupt governments [12]. [13] provide considerable evidence that patterns of aid allocation by bilateral donors are far more robustly dictated by the political and strategic interests of the donors than by concerns over good governance in the recipient nations. Therefore, this study sought to unravel the effect of donor funding on the performance of local governments in Uganda.

### Aim

The general objective of the study was to examine the effect of donor funding on the performance of local governments in Uganda.

### Specific Objectives

- To determine the importance of donor funding on the performance of WDLG.
- To determine the challenges associated with donor funding at WDLG.
- To determine the performance of local governments in Uganda.

### Research questions

- i) What is the importance of donor funding on the performance of WDLG?
- ii) What are the challenges associated with donor funding at WDLG?
- iii) How is the performance of local governments in Uganda?

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## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

The study employed a descriptive correlation and cross-sectional survey design. The study adopted a survey research design because data were collected from respondents at a particular time. This survey research design according to [14] was helpful to the researcher to attain systematic data from a sample. The correlation was necessary to explain the relationship between variables. Purposive sampling was used to ensure that the respondents with the right information are selected to participate in this study. Quantitative and qualitative approaches were used because they helped to ensure that the data collected was quantitatively analyzed and descriptively interpreted.

### Area of Study

The study was carried out at Wakiso District Local Government as it is one of the local governments that use donor funding.

### Study population

The study population comprised 50 participants purposively selected from the management and employees of Wakiso district headquarters in Uganda.

### Sample size

The sample size of the study was determined according to the Slovene formula of sample determination. Under this, a target population of 50 was zeroed down to a sample size of 45 respondents respectively as stated by Slovenes (1978). The Slovenes formula was used to determine the minimum sample size.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2} = \frac{50}{1 + 50(0.05)^2} = 45 \text{ respondents.}$$

With  
n= sample size  
N= population size  
e=level of significance 0.05

Using the formula above, a sample of 45 respondents will be obtained

**Table 1: Table for determining sample size from a given population**

Respondents	Population size	Sample size
Staff members	40	37
Grants office	10	08
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>

### Sampling Techniques and Procedures

The participants in the study were selected using the purposive sampling method and simple random sampling. Purposive sampling was the best because it involved selecting participants that possessed the required characteristics and qualities as defined by the researcher [15].

### Data Collection Sources

The researcher used both primary and secondary data sources.

#### Primary Data

Primary data is the source of data generated from respondents using questionnaires and interview guides to get opinions, views and suggestions from the respondents [16].

The researcher used a questionnaire and an interview guide to collect data.

#### Secondary Data

Secondary data sources are the kind of information that the research study used which was already published in regard to the study topic. It included all written, audio and visual information that was readily available for the study. This included information from textbooks, internet, newspapers, reports, brochures and newsprints [16].

### Research Collection Instruments

This is the main data collection tool. It consisted of questions that were set in relation to the research objectives so as to get answers to the set research questions. These were administered to the management and staff of Wakiso

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District Local Government. The questionnaires were used because they are easy and convenient to use in the collection of data from busy respondents like those in the district. For the purposes of obtaining deep-rooted and concise data, the researcher also used interviews. These were conducted over a period of 30 minutes per selected respondent. The researcher based on an interview guide.

#### Ethical consideration

The researcher was given an introductory letter from the Department of Economics and Statistics and this was presented to the management of the Wakiso district local government. For approval by the authorities in the sector; the researcher was given an acceptance letter and then started administering the research tools in their organization. The researcher first conducted interviews with the staff in the administration, finance and planning departments. He also distributed questionnaires to respondents. After 2 days, he collected the filled questionnaires.

#### Data analysis

Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis procedures were done using SPSS 16.0 at three levels. Each objective was analyzed using a Likert scale ranging from Strongly disagree to strongly agree and the Data Analysis relationship was determined using the Pearson correlation coefficient. The findings were presented in the form of tables and figures for easy interpretation.

### RESULTS

#### Demographic characteristics of respondents

The respondents' demographic characteristics include; age, gender, level of education and level of experience.

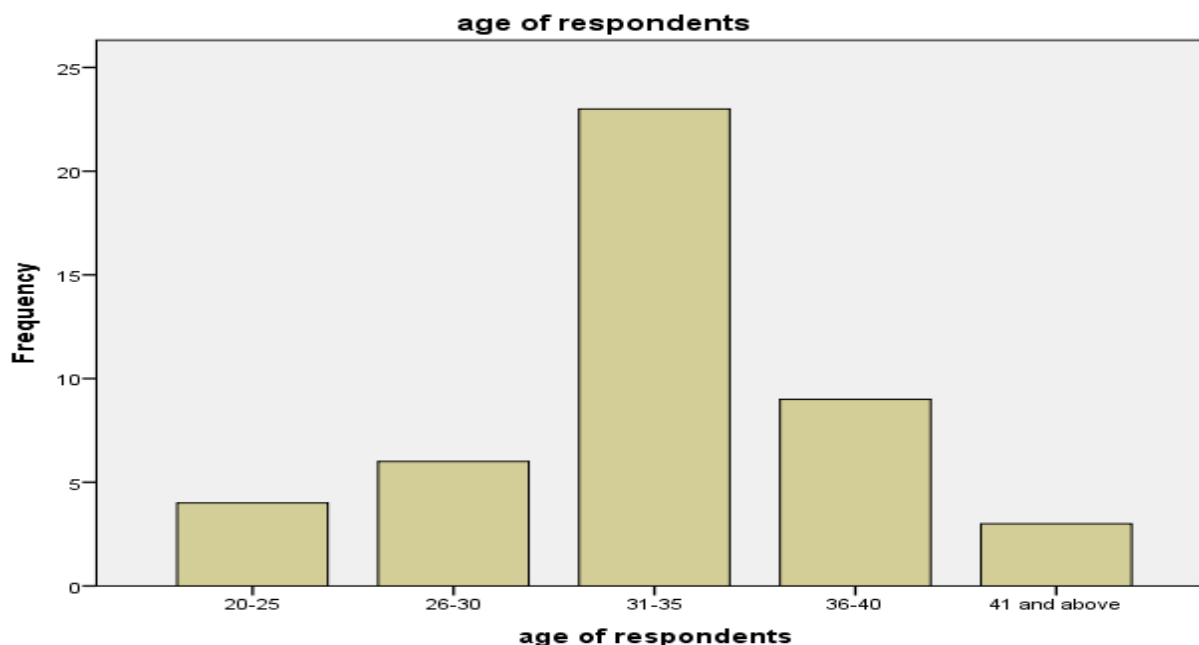
#### Age of the respondents

The respondents were required to indicate their ages and the distribution of the respondents by age is shown in table 2 and figure 1 below.

Table 2: Age of the respondents

	Frequency	Per cent	Cumulative Percent
20-25	4	8.9	8.9
26-30	6	13.3	22.2
31-35	23	51.1	73.3
36-40	9	20.0	93.3
41 and above	3	6.7	100.0
Total	45	100.0	

Figure 1: Bar graph showing the age of the respondents



From Table 2 and Figure 1 above, the study revealed that the largest number of respondents were in the age group of 31-35 years (23)51%, these were followed by those in the range of 36-40 years (9)20% and the smallest number was those who were in the range of 4 years and above who were (3)07% respondents. This implies that most of the respondents were in the age range of 30-35 years.

#### Gender of the Respondent

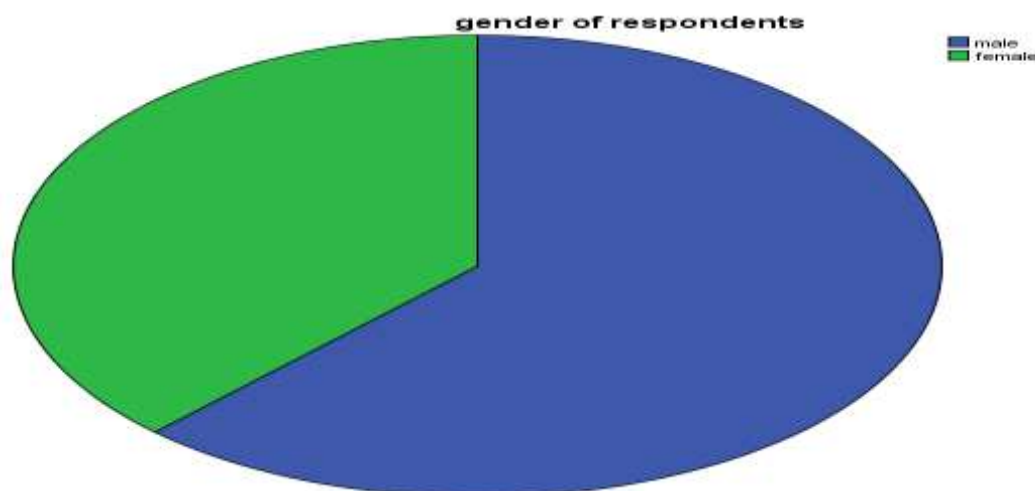
The study captured the gender of the respondents in order to establish the most dominant working group of employees with WDLG. The respondents were asked to state their sex and the distributions are shown in Table 3 and Figure 2 below.

**Table 3: Gender of the respondents**

	Frequency	Degrees
Male	28	223.92
Female	17	136.08
Total	45	360

Source: Primary data, 2019

Figure 2: Pie chart showing gender of the respondents



According to the results for the gender of the respondents in Table 3 and Figure 2 above of the 45 respondents, the majority were males (28) with 223.92 degrees while the females were 17 with 136.08 degrees of the entire sample. This, therefore, implies that the most dominant working group of employees with WDLG was males. The imbalance in the organization is attributed to various factors existing in employment in Uganda.

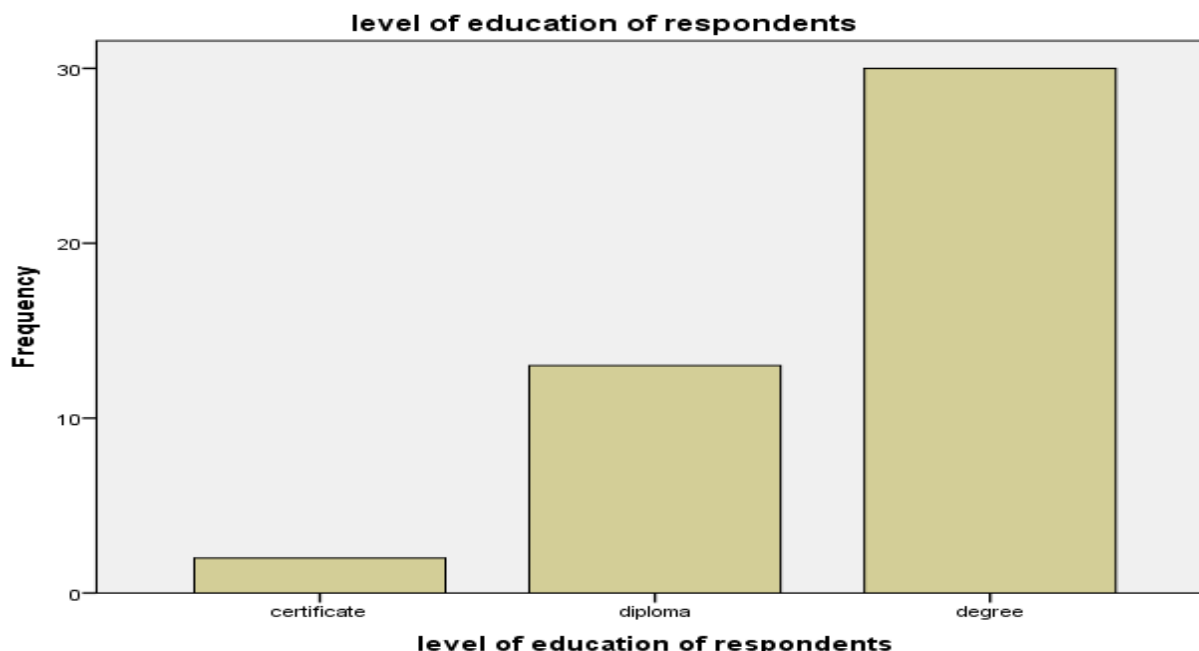
**Level of Education of the Respondents**

The researcher asked the respondents to state their level of education to find out whether the respondents could be able to interpret the questionnaires given to them. The findings indicated that all the respondents in the targeted group have the relevant knowledge to read, interpret and answer the questionnaires given to them by the researcher as presented in Table 4 and Figure 4 below.

Table 4: level of education of the respondents.

	Frequency	Per cent
Certificate	2	4.4
Diploma	13	28.9
Degree	30	66.7
Total	45	100.0

Figure 3: bar graph showing the level of education of the respondents



Source: Primary data, 2019

The study highlighted that the majority of the respondents were found to have attained degree level of education, with (30)67%, Diploma level of education were (13)29% and Certificate level of education were only (2)4% of the respondents. This implied that the highest percentage was picked from higher levels of education because they were equipped with the information concerning donor funding function on the performance of Local governments in Uganda and they were able to interpret and respond accurately to the questionnaire given to them by the researcher.

#### Level of Experience

The respondents were asked to state the period they had spent on their jobs to find out their experience and knowledge about the effect of donor funding on performance and the findings showed a high level of experience on the jobs by the respondents as captured in Table 5 and figure 4 below.

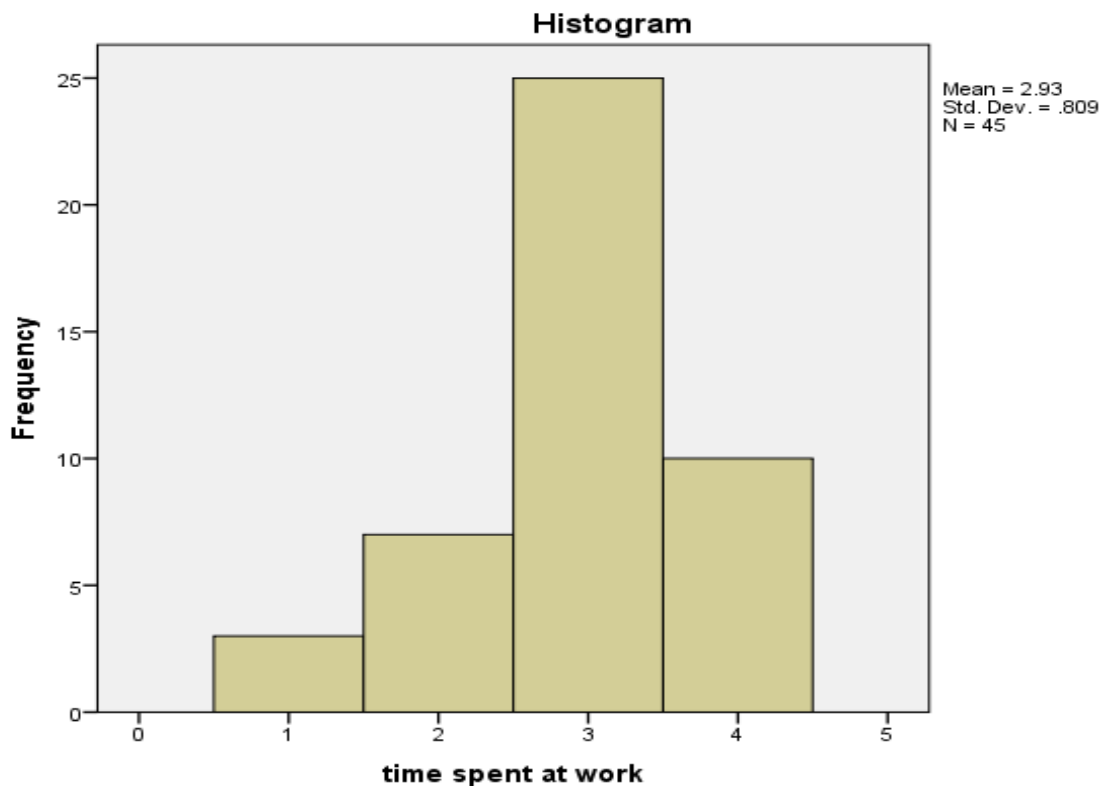
Table 5: Time spent on the current job by the respondent

	Frequency	Per cent
Less than 2years	3	6.7
2-3 years	7	15.6
3-4 years	25	55.6
4 years and above	10	22.2
Total	45	100.0

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Figure 4: Time spent on the current job by the respondent



Less than 2 years 2:- 2-3 years 3:- 3-4 years 4:- 4 years and above Source: Primary data, 2019. The findings in Table 5 and Figure 4 above indicated that out of the 45 respondents, the majority had spent 3-4 years on their current job (25)56%, followed by those who had spent 4 years and above on their current job (10)22%, those who had spent 2-3 years were (7)16% and the least number of respondents who had spent less than 2 years on their job were only (3)7%. This implies that most of the respondents had relevant experience and knowledge about the effect of donor funding on the performance of WDLG as they had spent relevant time working with this organization as far as this study was concerned.



**Determining the importance of donor funding on the performance of WDLG**  
**Table 6: Response on the importance of donor funding on the performance of WDLG.**

Importance of donor funding	Strongly Disagree( %)/Frequency	Disagree % (frequency)	Not Sure (%) / Frequency	Agree(%) / Frequency	Strongly Agree (%) / Frequency	Mean
Donor funding improves service delivery	5(2)	10(5)	15(7)	50(22)	20(9)	3-.70
Donor funding improves financial performance	10(5)	5(2)	10(5)	52(23)	23(10)	3.73
Donor funding improves managerial performance		7.5(3)	7.5(3)	60(27)	25(12)	4.03
Donor funding improves nonfinancial performance	10(5)	10(5)	15(7)	37(16)	28(12)	3.63
Gives more fringe benefits to employees	5(2)	5(2)	5(2)	75(34)	10(5)	3.80
Donor funding reduces the government's burden			.	70(32)	30(13)	4.30

**Source: Primary Data (2019)**

The Likert scales are 1 –strongly Disagree 2- Disagree 3- not sure 4- agree 5-Strongly agree. The response means are 1.00-1.80- Strongly Disagree, 1.81-2.60- Disagree, 2.61-3.40 Not sure, 3.41-4.20- Agree, 4.21- 5.00 –Strongly Agree. From Table 6, the findings show that donor funding has great importance on the performance of Wakiso district local government. This is from the fact that all respondents agreed that donor funding reduces the burden of the government, they also agreed that donor funding improves service delivery, financial performance, managerial performance, and nonfinancial performance and it gives fringe benefits to employees as respondents with the acceptable mean of 3.70, 3.73, 4.03, 3.63, and 3.80 respectively. This implies that donor funding has a significant role in the performance of local governments in Uganda since all the statements used to measure this objective were accepted.

**Challenges faced by donor funding**

**Table 7: Showing response to the challenges faced by donor funding**

Challenges	Strongly Disagree (%) / Frequency	Disagree (%) / Frequency	Not Sure (%) / Frequency	Agree (%) / Frequency	Strongly Agree (%) / Frequency	Mean
Corruption	5(2)	20(9)	5(2)	40(18)	30(14)	3.70
Political influence	7.5(3)	12.5(6)	5(2)	50(23)	25(11)	3.72
Limited supervision	5(2)	10(5)	5(2)	35(16)	45(20)	4.05
Interest of donors	30(13)	50(23)	5(2)	5(2)	10(5)	2.15

**Source: Primary Data (2019)**

The Likert scales are 1 –strongly Disagree 2- Disagree 3- not sure 4- agree 5-Strongly agree. The response means are 1.00-1.80- Strongly Disagree, 1.81-2.60- Disagree, 2.61-3.40 Not sure, 3.41-4.20- Agree, 4.21- 5.00 –Strongly Agree. From Table 7, the findings show that the challenges of donor funding are corruption, political influence and limited supervision as respondents agreed with means of 3.70, 3.73 and 4.05 respectively whereas most of the respondents disagreed that donor funding is affected by the interest of the donor with a rejection mean of 2.15.

**Table 8: Level of performance of Wakiso District Local government**

Level of performance	Strongly Disagree (%) / Frequency	Disagree (%) / Frequency	Not Sure (%) / Frequency	Agree (%) / Frequency	Strongly Agree (%) / Frequency	Mean
All projects have been implemented at the district	12.5(6)	0(0)	7.5(3)	55(25)	25(11)	3.80
Employees ensure monitoring and evaluation due to donor funding	22.5(10)	50(23)	7.5(3)	3(1)	17(8)	2.42
Service delivery has improved at the district	20(9)	10(5)	10(5)	30(13)	30(13)	3.40
Massive education of local people has been done	35(15)	37(17)	12.5(6)	10(5)	5.5(2)	2.14
All employees perform their duties timely due to the fringe benefits given	.	.	23(10)	50(23)	27(12)	4.04
The performance has improved in general	5(2)	15(7)	5(2)	30(14)	45(20)	3.95

**Source: Primary Data, 2019 Likert scale**

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The Likert scales are 1 –strongly Disagree 2- Disagree 3- not sure 4- agree 5-Strongly agree. The response means are 1.00-1.80- Strongly Disagree, 1.81-2.60- Disagree, 2.61-3.40 Not sure, 3.41-4.20- Agree, 4.21- 5.00 –Strongly Agree. From Table 8 the findings of the study revealed that the respondents agreed that all projects have been implemented in the district, service delivery has improved, all employees perform their duties timely due to the fringe benefits given and the performance has generally improved with the response means of 3.80,3.40,4.04 and 3.95 respectively whereas most of the respondents rejected that employees ensure monitoring and evaluation due to donor funding and that massive education of local people has been done with the rejection means of mean of 2.42, 2.14 respectively.

**Determining the Relationship between donor funding and the performance of local governments.**

**Table 9: Pearson correlation analysis.**

Correlation	X	Y
Donor funding	Pearson Correlation	0.75**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004
	N	45
Performance of WDLG	Pearson Correlation	0.75**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004
	N	45

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05

There is a strong positive correlation of 0.75 with a significant value of 0.04; this means that donor funding has a strong positive impact on the overall performance of local governments in Uganda. This means that if donor funding improves the performance of local governments also improves.

**DISCUSSION**

**Determining the importance of donor funding on the performance of WDLG**

The findings of the study show that donor funding has great importance on the performance of Wakiso district local government. This is from the fact that all respondents agreed that donor funding reduces the burden of the government. The majority of the respondents also agreed that donor funding improves service delivery, financial performance, managerial performance, and non-financial performance and it gives fringe benefits to employees as respondents. This implies that donor funding has a significant role in the performance of local governments in Uganda since all the statements used to measure this objective were accepted [17 – 19].

**Determining the challenges faced by donor funding.**

The findings of the study revealed that the challenges of donor funding are corruption, political influence and limited supervision this was agreed by most of the respondents whereas most of the respondents disagreed that donor funding is affected by the interest of the donor [20-22].

**Level of Performance at Wakiso District local government**

The findings of the study revealed that the level of performance has improved as the respondents agreed that all projects have been implemented in the district, service delivery has improved, all employees perform their duties timely due to the fringe benefits given, and the performance has generally improved whereas most of the respondents rejected that employees ensure monitoring and evaluation due to donor funding and that massive education of local people had been done.

**Relationship between donor funding and Performance of local government**

From the study, there is a strong positive correlation of 0.75 with a significant value of 0.04; this means that donor funding has a strong positive impact on the overall performance of local governments in Uganda thus implying that if donor funding improves the performance of local governments in Uganda also improves.

## CONCLUSION

### Determining the importance of donor funding on the performance of WDLG

All the statements used to measure this objective gave evidence that donor funding has great importance in improving the performance of local governments in Uganda as all the statements were generally accepted.

### Determining the challenges faced by donor funding

The findings gave evidence the most challenges faced by donor funding are corruption, political influence and limited supervision and it is less affected by the interest of donors.

### Determining the Level of Performance.

The findings revealed that the performance has improved except that the employees do not ensure monitoring and evaluation of the projects and that massive education of local people has not been done.

### Relationship between donor funding and performance of local governments.

The findings of the study revealed that there is a strong linear relationship between donor funding and the performance of local governments in that as donor funding increases, the performance of local governments also improves.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Determining the importance of donor funding on the performance of WDLG

Since donor funding is important, the government should formulate favourable policies like a reduction in taxes to stimulate donor funding and enhance the performance of local governments in Uganda.

### Determining the challenges faced by donor funding

The government should formulate policies that can regulate corruption in order to aid the smooth running of the projects. The donors should ensure constant supervision in order to achieve the set goals of donor funding.

### Determining the level of performance at Wakiso District Local Government.

The responsible employees should ensure the monitoring and evaluation of all the projects. There should be massive education of the local community in order for them to benefit from donor funding.

### Areas for Further Research

Political Influence and donor funding and Impact of Supervision on donor funding

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