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**Press Statement**

**By**

**Hon. Amongi Betty Ongom,**

**Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development on the**

**Cash Transfer Program for Teachers in Private Primary and Secondary Schools**

**at the**

**Uganda Media Centre, Kampala, Thursday, 6th January 2022**

Distinguished Members of the Press,

1. We converge here this morning to brief you about preparations by the Government of Uganda and GiveDirectly, an international NGO, to undertake a cash transfer program for teachers in private primary and secondary schools.
2. You will recall that during the National Address on COVID-19 on 18th June 2021, H.E the President directed the Prime Minister and the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development to:
3. Identify persons who depend on daily income in urban areas especially Greater Kampala/Cities and Municipalities of the Country;
4. Assess their needs during the lockdown period; and
5. Identify interventions to take care of their needs.
6. Following that directive, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) implemented the Cash Transfer program that reached 497,848 persons within the targeted areas.
7. GiveDirectly (GD) – an international non-governmental organization (NGO) that focuses on poverty alleviation and humanitarian relief via livelihood cash transfers – approached the MoGLSD with additional funds to support vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19 containment measures. Given that the economy was already opening up, after consultations with several stakeholders including the Office of the Prime Minister(OPM) and the Ministry of Education and Sports - a decision was reached to target teachers in private primary and secondary schools.
8. The decision to target teachers in private schools was based on the fact that schools have been closed since March 2020 when COVID-19 forced a nationwide “lockdown”. While the vast majority of sectors have fully or partially reopened, the education sector remained closed.
9. The teachers eligible for this program should fit the following criteria:

i. are not on Government payroll;

ii. are duly registered or licenced by the Ministry of Education and Sports or have proof of submission of application for registration;

iii. were already teaching in a school **licenced or registered** by the Ministry of Education and Sports before the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown in **March 2020**;

iv. did not benefit from the June - September 2021 GoU COVID-19 cash support program; and

1. have a mobile money account registered in their name.
2. The cash relief program will support **300,000** teachers across the country that fit the program eligibility criteria in 6 (i-v) above.
3. Each teacher will receive **UGX100,000** net. The program will cater for the taxes and withdrawal fees.
4. The Ministry of Gender is closely working with Kampala Capital City Authority, Chief Administrative Officers, Town Clerks of Cities and Municipalities to ensure that Education Officers and Headteachers of private primary and secondary schools compile and upload data of eligible teachers on an online system.
5. Finally, I would like to inform you that this program will be officially launched by the Rt.Hon. Prime Minister on Tuesday,18th January 2022 at the Kampala Serena Hotel.

**For God and My Country**