

## **ABSTRACT: MR. XAVIER NSABAGASANI**

### **TOWARDS APPROPRIATE MEDICINES FOR CHILDREN IN UGANDA: ANALYSIS OF RELEVANT POLICES**

#### **Introduction and background**

There is increasing concern about lack medicines specifically designed for children and hence the WHO's campaign of "*make medicines child size*". Policies and guidelines regarding use of medicines for the major childhood illnesses in Uganda have evolved over time. Despite the changes, there has been no systematic documentation of how the different policies have evolved and implemented and whether this translated into children's improved access to quality medicines.

The purpose of this PhD study is to identify and analyse policies relevant for improving children's medicines in general followed by an in-depth study of policies about medicines for children with respiratory infections and medicines for life support of children living with HIV.

#### **Specific objectives**

- (1)** To identify and document all the existing policies on children medicines
- (2)** To analyse the process of initiation, development and implementation of policies related to children's medicines
- (3)** To investigate factors that affect implementation of policies on children's medicines

#### **Hypotheses**

1. Policies to guide selection of medicines for some of the common children's diseases medicines are insufficient
2. Policies were not implemented as desired due to systems constraints and failure to address contextual realities on the ground creating a policy-practice gap
3. Donor support and facilitation has been a key factor for the well developed and implemented policies. Donors have their own priorities and as a result, the policies spearheaded by donors do not adequately address all the concerns in relation to quality medicines for children

#### **Primary outputs of the study**

1. The study will identify gaps in policies needed for improving the quality of children's medicines and based on the gaps, the study will recommend areas for formulation of new policies
2. Policies and or guidelines formulated by international agencies and donors will be analysed for their feasibility within the local context. The study will examine the politics of policy process and current practices in order to make appropriate recommendations for policy improvement

3. Research findings will be disseminated to policy makers for relevant policy action

**Methodology**

This will be an exploratory case study using largely qualitative methodologies. Data collection methods will include: a comprehensive literature review of policy documents and systematic review of published and unpublished literature, Key Informant Interviews and structured interviews with health workers who treat children. The transcribed qualitative data will be analyzed for content and repeated themes while the quantitative data will be entered into the computer and analyzed using stata.