

## **ABSTRACT: JINJA DISTRICT PROJECT**

### **STRENGTHENING THE CARE OF ACUTELY ILL CHILDREN AT REFERRAL HEALTH UNITS IN JINJA DISTRICT**

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The number of children under 5 years of age dying each year in Uganda is still unacceptably high. Overall, about 200,000 children under 5 years lose their lives every year. At national level, analysis of the causes for high U5yr mortalities is closely linked to indirect factors (social conditions, population, and health system) and direct factors (high burden of preventable diseases of children).

Similarly, the number of deaths and disabilities of children U5yrs in referral health facilities in Jinja district is persistently high, and is not declining. Data related to sick children's' outcomes is often scanty. At the health facilities, over 50% of the facility-based deaths among the U5yr occurs within the first 48 hours of admission – suggesting inadequate access, sub-optimal care (competences) and treatment organization, and inadequate funding for emergency equipment and supplies.

The overall objective in this initiative is to improve services of critically ill children through identification of the current status of performance and thereafter identifying interventions to strengthen referral care systems in 8 high volume health facilities(diagnostic phase).

The diagnostic phase is a crucial prerequisite to enable identification and prioritization of initiatives that are cost effective, pragmatic, and sustainable – within a resource limited setting like Jinja district.