

12. august 2025

Ugandan Health Experts Share Insights on Building Resilient Health Systems Against Disease Outbreaks

Denis Okethwangu, a PhD student on the [BIS Uganda project](#), has completed in-depth interviews with key health sector stakeholders to explore how Uganda's health system can become more resilient to infectious diseases using insights from policymakers, development partners, and academics.

Fifteen high-level experts from government, development agencies, and academia in Uganda were interviewed.

"We wanted to hear directly from those who have shaped Uganda's response to disease outbreaks—their deep understanding of the health system was truly invaluable," says Denis.

Our interviews brought out several important findings. These included the pivotal yet underappreciated role that community healthcare workers play in the health system and suggestions for incentivizing them and the need to have an accountability structure to allow for regionalization of healthcare structures to better serve individual communities.

The team is now analyzing data and refining a resilience measurement tool, with findings expected to guide strategies for a stronger, more responsive health system in Uganda.

BIS Uganda is a project under the Norad-financed [Building Stronger Public Health Institutions and Systems Program](#), which aims to strengthen the public health institutions in Low- and Middle- Income countries.

Photo caption: Denis and a research assistant conducting an interview with the Director of Health Services, Public Health in his office at the Ministry of Health headquarters in Kampala, Uganda

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