

Summary of the WHO-AIMS Project Proposal to Strengthen the Mental Health System in Uganda

This project proposal is based on the results of a comprehensive assessment of the mental health system of Uganda using the WHO-AIMS instrument. For further details on this assessment, please see the WHO-AIMS country report for Uganda - http://www.who.int/mental_health/uganda_who_aims_report.pdf

Title of Project: Strengthening the Integration of Mental Health into Primary Health Care

Objectives: The general objective of the project is to change the managers' attitudes and behaviour towards mental health in order to help facilitate the integration of mental health services into primary health care. A critical weakness of the mental health system of Uganda is the low priority assigned to mental health. Thus, this project aims to address the need to prioritize mental health care in Uganda and increase awareness and training of health managers on issues of mental health.

The specific objectives of the project include:

1. To update health managers on the mental health policy and enhance their capacity to effect the policy recommendations.
2. To attract the attention of district health managers to direct more efforts towards increased staffing for mental health.
3. To streamline mechanisms for improvement of the Health Management Information System for mental health.

The proposed mechanism for achieving these objectives is through training and involves an instructive training component on mental disorders and their management.

Expected Outcomes: The proposed project is a multi-phased project to be conducted in at least two regions of the country and is designed to target health managers at the micro level. Some of the specific expected outcomes include:

1. Development and distribution of 1,000 training manuals.
2. Training completed for 100 district and sub-district health managers in each region.
3. Training completed for 300 facility managers in each region.

Expected Impact:

1. Increased awareness among health managers of the importance of mental health and the need to prioritize resource allocation towards mental health.
2. Increased number of districts with mental health plans and improved implementation of the mental health policy at the district level.
3. Increased recruitment of mental health professionals at health facilities and increased training in mental health for primary health care workers.

For further information on this project and resource requirements please contact:

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