

## Health Centre System in Uganda

### Hospital

- **General Hospitals**

Each district is expected to have a General Hospital, which should have all the services offered at a Health Centre IV, as well as specialised clinics – such as those for mental health and dentistry – and consultant physicians.

- **Regional Hospitals**

Regional referral hospitals receive referrals from district hospitals and also function as teaching hospitals in some areas.

- **National Referral Hospitals**

At the top of the healthcare chain are the National Referral Hospitals which, according to the Ministry of Health website, Uganda boasts 5 of:

Mulago National Referral Hospital

China-Uganda Friendship Hospital, Naguru

Kawempe National Referral Hospital

Kiruddu National Referral Hospital

Butabiika National Referral Mental Hospital<sup>1</sup> - this is the only National Referral Mental Institution in the country, providing general and specialized mental health treatment for mental health patients as well as acting as a teaching hospital for a broad range of mental health specialists.<sup>2</sup>

### **The leadership structure in Uganda's health care system**

At the district and sub-district level, the health sector is governed by the district health management team (DHMT). The DHMT is led by the district health officer (DHO) and consists of managers of various health departments in the district, including the heads of health sub-districts (HC IV managers) as well as technical health officials responsible for strategic health planning, management, budgeting, coordination, resource mobilization, and monitoring of overall district health performance.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.go.ug/hospitals/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.butabikahospital.go.ug/about-us>

<sup>3</sup> District Health Teams' Readiness to Institutionalize Integrated Community Case Management in the Uganda Local Health Systems: A Repeated Qualitative Study  
Agnes Nanyonjo, Edmond Kertho, James Tibenderana, Karin Källander  
Global Health: Science and Practice Jun 2020, 8 (2) 190-204; DOI: 10.9745/GHSP-D-19-00318 -pg 192

The DHMT oversees implementation of health services in the district, ensuring coherence with national policies. A Health Unit Management Committee (HUMC) composed of health staff, civil society, and community leaders is charged with linking health facility governance with community needs.<sup>4</sup>

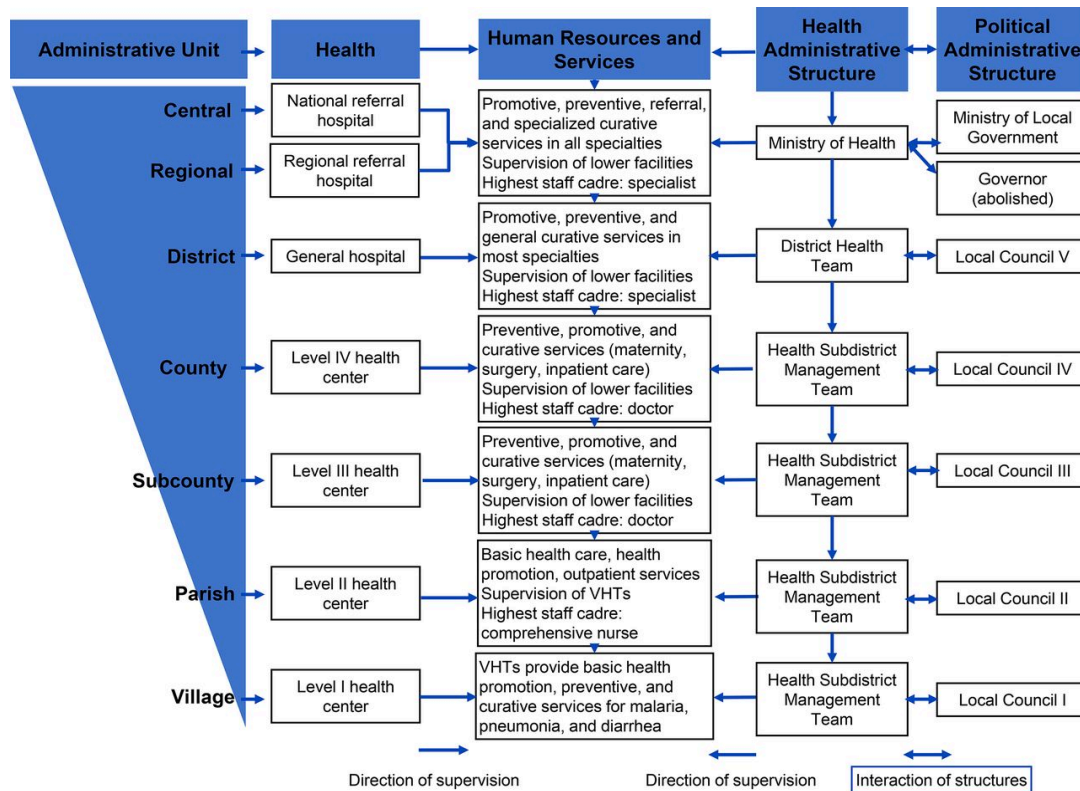


Figure 2: Uganda’s Health and Administrative System Structure

Source: District Health Teams’ Readiness to Institutionalize Integrated Community Case Management in the Uganda Local Health Systems: A Repeated Qualitative Study  
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<sup>4</sup> In: Tashobya, C.; Ssengooba, F.; Oliveira-Cruz, V. (eds), Health systems reforms in Uganda: processes and outputs, London: Health Systems Development Programme, LSHTM, chp 6, pp 97-108, ISBN: 0 902657 77 1, 2006.