

Health workforce research theme | Kenya, Uganda

Title	Scoping of nursing training institutions in Kenya and Uganda
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Background

In sub-Saharan Africa nurses play a central role in providing primary health care, especially in rural and hard-to-reach facilities. However, there is a critical shortage of nurses, caused in part by their migration to urban areas and abroad.

In Kenya and Uganda there has been a recent and rapid proliferation of private training institutions to increase the supply of nurses. These institutions have notable differences with conventional public training institutions including in their ownership and governance, organisational goals and culture, and sources of finance. These differences may also determine nursing graduates' employment choices and their likelihood of working in public or private facilities.

Purpose of the research

This research aims to elucidate the emerging role of private sector nurse training institutions in Kenya and Uganda. Despite the growing number of private intuitions in these countries, little is known about their role in addressing the nursing shortfall in public health facilities, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

The study is designed and will be conducted in coordination with the Nursing Council of Kenya and the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council, and it is expected that findings will help to inform interventions aimed at addressing the human resources for health crisis in sub-Saharan Africa.

Study methods

The study will use a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative data. Methods include:

- A cross-sectional survey of public and private nursing institutions documenting levels of nursing production by type of training institution and country of training.
- Document reviews to obtain information on the policy and regulatory environments relating to nursing institutions.
- Key informant interviews with representatives from nurse training institutions, Nursing Councils, Ministries of Health and other key stakeholders in Kenya and Uganda.

Related research

Similar research is also being carried out in Thailand to find out more about private nurse training institutions in the country. Public and private training schools are being compared in terms of their characteristics and outputs, including nursing competency, attitudes towards work in rural health services, and job preferences.

Related publications

Reynolds J. et al. The role of the private sector in the production of nurses in India, Kenya, South Africa and Thailand: a review of the literature. *Human Resources for Health* 2013, 11:14

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