

# Digital tool adoption, participation to improve Uganda's health outcomes

Uganda is working hard to curb health problems like disease outbreaks and natural disasters. The Ministry of Health's National Public Health Emergency Operations Centre leads this effort, with support from 13 regional emergency operations centres (REOCs) based in regional referral hospitals. These REOCs manage health emergencies in their areas.

To fix slow communication, the Ministry of Health created the Electronic Public Health Emergency Management System (ePHEM). This digital system enables health workers to quickly share crucial information, such as the disease spreading, its location, the date it started, the number of people affected and test results. This is so that everyone can respond promptly. The system has been particularly helpful during recent outbreaks of diseases such as anthrax, measles and cholera. However, it only works if communities help by reporting unusual events, such as sudden illnesses, to village health teams (VHTs) or community health workers (CHEWs), who then pass the information on to responsible authorities.

Communities are key to making ePHEM work. If you notice something unusual, such as people getting sick suddenly, report it to your VHT or CHEW. They send the information to health centres, which use ePHEM to alert the right people. This helps Uganda respond faster and keeps everyone safe.



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## Letter from the future