



Preventing unintentional child injuries in the home environment in Uganda – November 2020



The George Institute
for Global Health

Facts:

- Globally, 740 children under the age of five die every day from a preventable injury, which equates to 270,000 a year
- 90% of all injury-related childhood deaths are in LMICs, where the mortality rate is nearly double that of HICs – 65 versus 35 per 100,000 people
- This disparity is due in large part to high risks, inadequate preventive measures, and a lack of access to appropriate and timely medical care in LMICs

Project cycle:

2019–2021

Partners:

The George Institute, UK
The George Institute, Australia
Imperial College, London
Makerere School of Public Health,
Kampala, Uganda
UNSW Sydney, Australia
Johns Hopkins University, US
George Washington University, US

Supporters:

Medical Research Council (MRC), UK
The Global Challenge Research Fund, UK
Ministry of Health, Uganda

Background:

- Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of childhood death and a major health burden, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Many injuries can be prevented through implementing well-known prevention strategies
- Most intervention studies are from high-income countries (HICs)
- The challenge is to understand whether evidence-based approaches are feasible in LMICs and what interventions are appropriate, available and affordable

Aims:

- To describe the injury context in Jinja, Uganda for children under five years old
- To explore practices and behaviours that put under-fives at risk of injury at home
- To develop a package of affordable and culturally appropriate interventions
- The overarching goal of this study is to reduce unintentional injuries occurring at home among children under five years old in Jinja, Uganda through the provision and promotion of safety equipment and parental education

Methods:

- The study will be guided by a community-based participatory approach utilising mixed methods such as hospital record reviews, community-based surveys and risk assessment checklists, focus group discussions and participants' use of video and/or photo images through the PhotoVoice process
- A key component will be to support collaborative research between scientific researchers and parents such that all stakeholders with a role in the health of children under five years old have the opportunity to be full participants in each phase of work, from conceptualisation to communication of results

Impact:

- The development of a tailor-made intervention package, which this research proposes, will save lives and reduce injuries and disabilities. It will also reduce pain and suffering and the loss of potential earnings
- The research will support decision-making by policy makers and generate new knowledge of what works among children under five that can be integrated into current child and adolescent policies, which usually ignore these types of non-traditional health issues

Contact:

To find out more about this study, its principal investigator Dr Margie Peden or The George Institute, please contact Anastasia Bow-Bertrand-Oxford
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