



# Strengthening Collection, Management, and Use of Quality Routine Data for Alternative Care in Uganda

## Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works in countries around the world to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children, in keeping with the objectives established in the U.S. Government strategy for Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (2019–2023) (APCCA).

In support of country priorities and in line with APCCA objectives to build strong beginnings, put family first, and protect children from violence, USAID-funded activities advance partner countries on their [journey to self-reliance](#) by helping governments build and strengthen their capacities to support, manage, and finance their child protection and care systems using the best available data.

The USAID-funded [Data for Impact \(D4I\)](#) project builds on and reinforces current U.S. government support for countries to realize the power of data as actionable evidence that can improve policies, programs, and outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

In Uganda, D4I will build on the accomplishments of the MEASURE Evaluation project—funded by USAID—in which the team worked closely with the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in Uganda to support the government in assessing, addressing, and monitoring care reform. Together with the MGLSD, our team implemented a participatory systems assessment of alternative care in Uganda, the findings of which informed the development of the National Action Plan for Alternative Care. To strengthen monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of alternative care, we supported

development of standardized routine monitoring indicators for alternative care; development of data collection forms and reporting tools to enable data collection for these indicators; and finalization of routine monitoring guidelines that specified the roles, responsibilities, and processes for the collection and reporting of these data. In addition, we strengthened the capacity of staff in the MGLSD and among district probation and social welfare officers (PSWOs) on M&E, data use, and data quality. These achievements will serve as a foundation for the improved collection, management, analysis, and use of quality data to inform the strategic planning and monitoring of alternative care provision in Uganda.

## Goal and Approach

The overall goal of this activity is to strengthen the capacity of the MGLSD and its partners at national and subnational levels to collect, analyze, and use data to improve the provision of alternative care services in Uganda.

As part of this activity, D4I will enable the MGLSD to further roll out the standard indicators and M&E guidelines for alternative care to priority districts, strengthen capacity for M&E, and to build a culture of data demand and use for alternative care in Uganda. This support should yield improved processes, information systems, and coordination of staff and resources for monitoring the country's childcare system reforms.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.data4impactproject.org>



D4I envisions engagement with MGLSD through mid-2023. During the first year, project activities aim to support the MGLSD in the following efforts:

- Building capacity of district PSWOs to roll out the national guidelines for routine monitoring for formal alternative care and tools
- Promoting a culture of data use at district and national levels through the institutionalization of data review processes and tools
- Providing ongoing mentoring and support to the MGLSD's Alternative Care Implementation Unit to strengthen internal staff capacity on data management and use
- Integrating training materials on routine monitoring indicators and the M&E guidelines for alternative care into materials for existing training and capacity building mechanisms
- Identifying priorities for a case management information system

## Project Implementation

D4I's work will be carried out in coordination with USAID/Uganda's projects, such as 4Children, Sustainable Outcome for Children and Youth (SOCY), Better Outcome for Children and Youth (BOCY), and Integrated Children and Youth Development (ICYD), as well as with UNICEF Uganda.

## Expected Outcomes

Key outcomes anticipated by the end of this D4I activity include:

- Strengthened country skills in collection, management, analysis, and use of routine data to inform the strategic management of alternative care in Uganda
- Improved processes, information systems, and coordination of staff and resources for routine monitoring of childcare system reforms in Uganda

