

Understanding how and why antimicrobials are deployed in everyday life in Uganda: an ethnographic study of lives, livestock and livelihoods in Tororo, Uganda

**Susan Nayiga^{1,2}, Laurie Denyer-Willis¹,
Sarah Staedke^{1,2}, Clare Chandler¹**

¹ London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK

² Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration, Kampala, Uganda



Introduction

- There is increasing concern about the development of microbial resistance due to widespread use of antimicrobial medicines.
- Existing evidence suggests reducing medicines use is a challenging task.
- Antibiotics are an infrastructure that enables everyday life.
- They are 'deployed' to do social and economic work as well as simple curative work in society today.
- Understanding the roles antibiotics play in society today is crucial in unveiling the ways in which we have become reliant on these medicines.
- This PhD research will provide new insights to guide approaches to reduce our reliance on these medicines at the societal level.

Study Site

- Tororo District located in the eastern part of Uganda and is predominantly rural, with subsistence farming and several informal economic activities.



- Tororo district has limited infrastructure and education.
- Very few households have electricity (1%) and one-quarter have no toilet facilities.
- One-quarter of the heads of households have received no formal education, and only 21% have received any secondary or higher education. (Tororo District Survey Project 2009)

Objectives

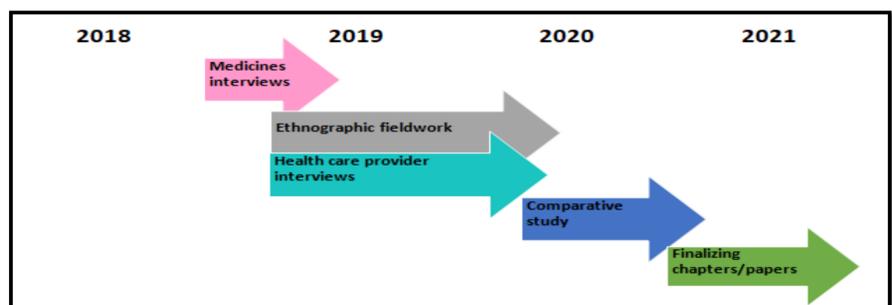
- To describe how and which antimicrobials are used domestically, for people, animals and crops.
- To understand the problems to which antimicrobial use has become a solution at the domestic as well as societal level.
- To understand what is at stake for human and animal care providers when prescribing or dispensing antimicrobials.
- To compare the ways antimicrobials are entangled with life in a rural Ugandan setting with urban Kampala and peri-urban Wakiso.

Methods

- Novel medicines interviews to understand which antibiotics people recognise and use, and for what purposes, as well as which antibiotics they feel that they can and cannot access.
- Ethnographic fieldwork to get an understanding of life in general, how antimicrobials fit in everyday life and why they are needed in this context.
- Health care provider interviews to understand the reasons and the context within which human and animal care providers prescribe antimicrobials.



Timeline



Contact Information

Susan Nayiga
Infectious Disease Research Collaboration (IDRC)
Telephone: +256 752900565
Email: snaiga@idrc-uganda.org

AMIS Uganda Project funded by the Antimicrobial Resistance Cross Council Initiative supported by the seven research councils in partnership with other funders.



The Malaria Training Grant funded by Fogarty International Centre of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number D43TW010526