

AMIS

FRESH APPROACHES to the STUDY of
ANTIMICROBIALS in SOCIETY

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IDRC
INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH COLLABORATION



Antibiotics and the quick fix society

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Photo credit: SHI-Roengrit

AMIS Uganda

Study team

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AMIS Background

- Antimicrobial use, including antibiotics, has escalated around the globe
- Antibiotics are now a routine part of everyday life in many contexts
- Used to cure and anticipate infection in people, animals, crops
- We propose:

Antibiotic use is embedded in the ways our societies and economies work and connect

By understanding how we have become intertwined with antibiotics we can consider ways to reduce our reliance on them

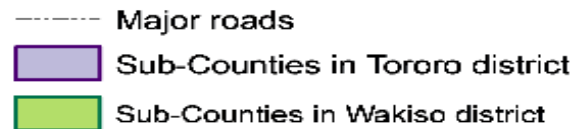
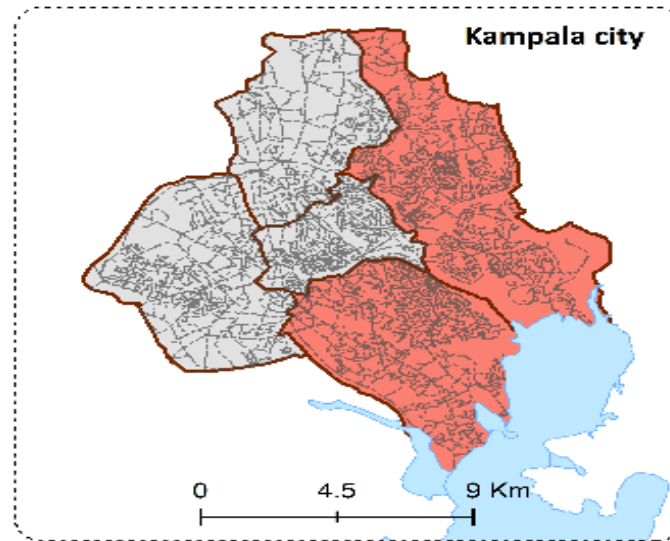
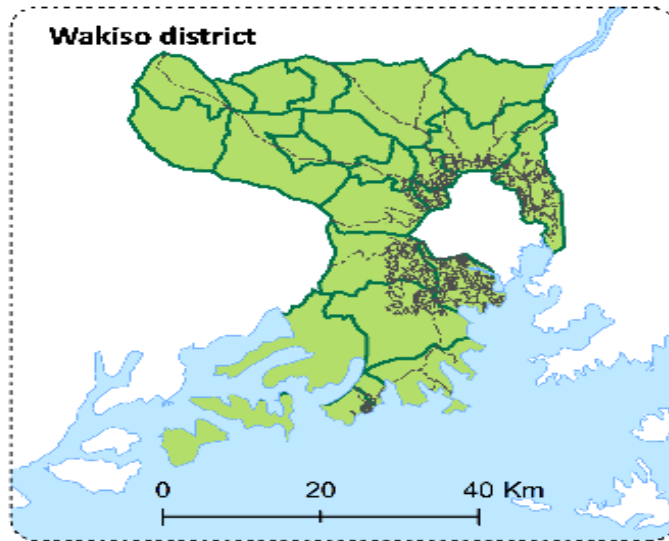
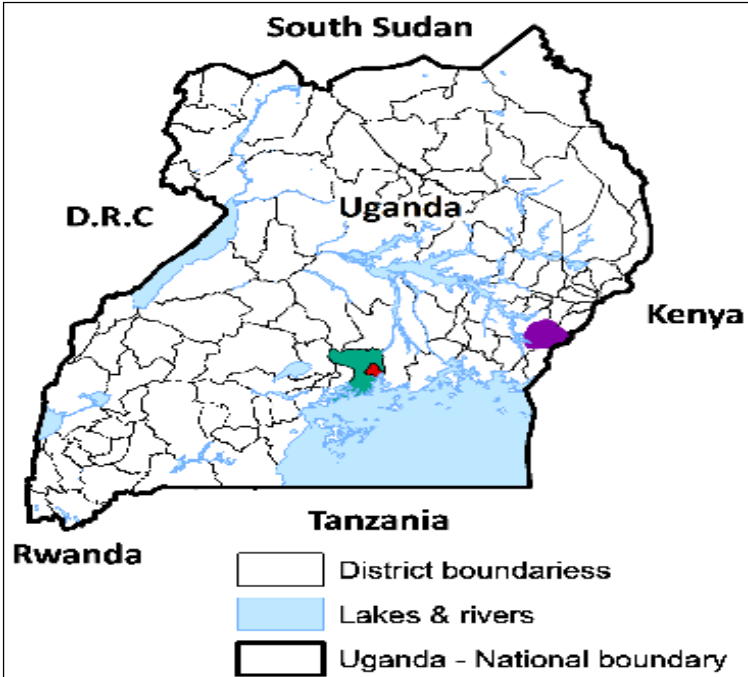


Aim

To understand the roles and context of antimicrobials in everyday life in Tororo, Wakiso and Kampala districts.

Objectives

- To understand the ways in which people rely on antimicrobials.
- To understand the context for people's use of, and reliance on, antimicrobials.
- To stimulate and observe action in response to data and research on antibiotic use via participatory research.



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Starting points in each location:

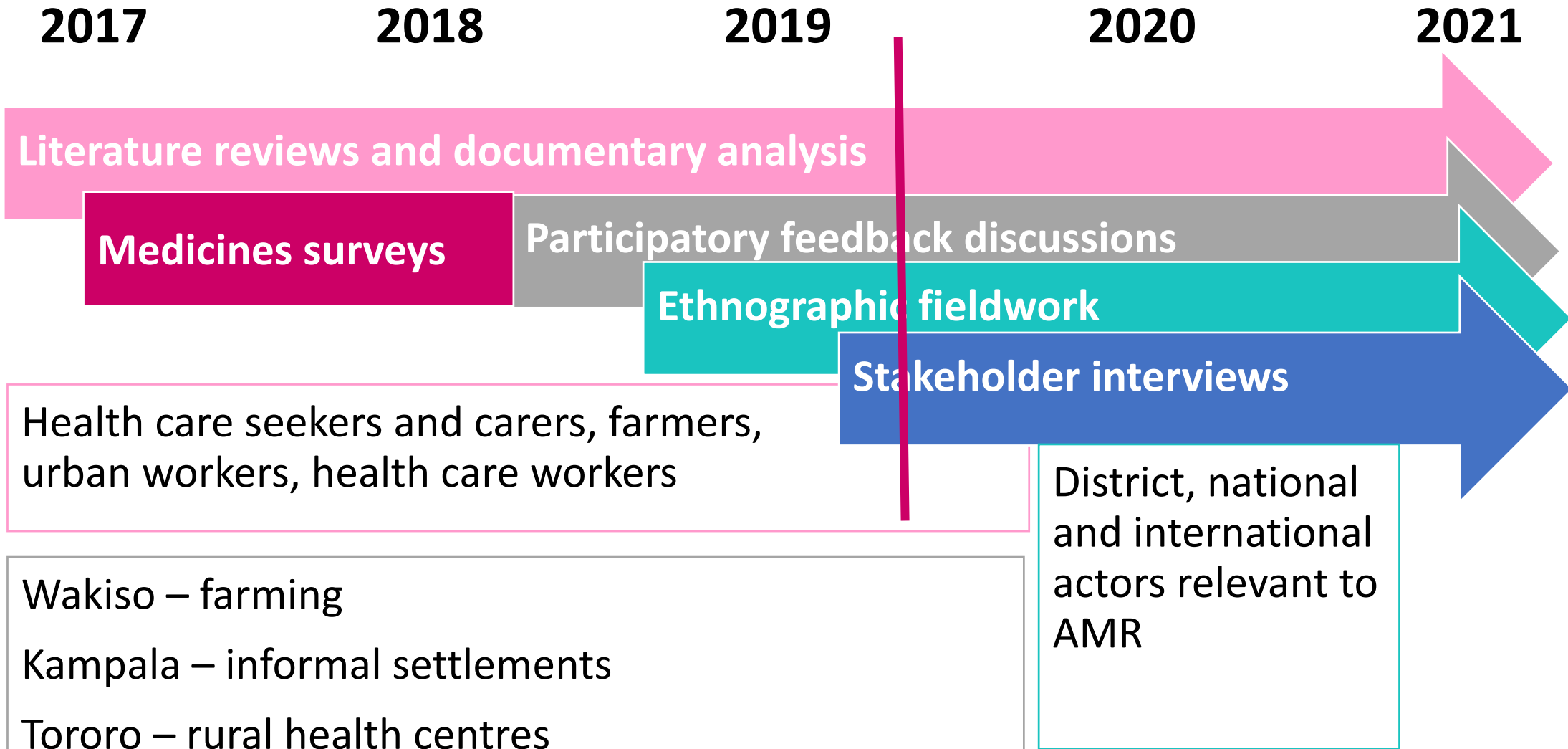
Wakiso – farming

Kampala – informal settlements

Tororo – health care



AMIS Uganda Methods



Initial findings from the AMIS Uganda study



Photo credit: Magdalena Bondos, LSHTM

- Antibiotics appear to be playing broad roles in Ugandan society.
- Antibiotics seem to be a ‘quick fix’
 - For care both for humans and livestock.
 - For productivity enabling ‘quick farming’ to produce breeders and larger animals faster.
- For fractured health and sanitation systems.

Antibiotics: A quick fix for care



- Seeking treatment comes with a lot of sacrifice from patients
 - Walking long distances
 - Long waiting time at the health facility
 - Loss of income
 - Insecurity back home



Antibiotics: A quick fix for care



- Health workers are pressured for time as they have to manage long queues of patients
- Medicines enable health workers to provide a quick solution to the patients' health problem
- Without medicines activities are limited at the health facilities
- Antimicrobial prescribing seems to have replaced other forms of care
- Medicines can be shared at home and some saved for future episodes of similar illnesses

Antibiotics: A quick fix for productivity

- Antibiotics allow us to return to work faster
- In scenarios of day-wage /fee-for-service labour, antibiotics allow people to keep going



Antibiotics: A quick fix for productivity



- Animals – as well as humans – are a unit of productivity enabled by antibiotics

Antibiotics: A quick fix for hygiene



- Antibiotics are a quick fix for treating as well as preventing infections among humans and animals.
- Clinicians prescribe antibiotics to provide protection against likely disease from peoples' home environments
- We spoke to 174 residents of one informal settlement in Uganda and found that
 - 48% people had taken an antibiotic within the past week
 - 81% people said they frequently used metronidazole. 48% had used it in the last week.

Antibiotics: A quick fix for hygiene



- Wakiso – peri-urban farming
 - 128 farms visited
 - Poultry - used antibiotics more recently, 52% within last week, 85% in last month
 - Pigs – 23% in last week, 55% in last month (25% didn't know)
- Farmers are not using antibiotics 'irrationally' – they use antibiotics to support and care for their animals, families, and communities amidst precarious livelihoods

Summary

- Our fight *against* AMR needs to be put into the context of our fight for survival and modernity.
- Failure of antibiotics – AMR – is an opportunity to render visible the ways we have become entangled with these medicines.
- If we can address the problems to which antibiotics have become solutions –e.g. care, productivity, hygiene – then can we consider ways to reduce the wide spread use of these medicines.

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- Dr. Laurie Denyer Willis
- Prof. Sarah Staedke
- Nabirye Christine
- Miriam Kayendeke

- **Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration (IDRC) Team**

- **Study participants**

- Residents of Namuwongo, Kampala
- Farmers from Wakiso
- Veterinarians from Wakiso
- Residents of Nagongera, Tororo

- **Key stakeholders**

- AMIS Advisory committee
- Leadership in Wakiso, Kampala and Tororo

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Thank you

www.antimicrobialsinsociety.org

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