

## **Abstract**

### **Introduction**

Globally diarrhea has had a significant proportion in childhood mortality, accounting for 4.8 million diarrheal deaths. (WHO/FCH/CAH/04.7). In Sub Sahara Africa, a recent review indicated that about 39% of children have had access to ORT. In Koboko district, diarrhea is the second leading cause of morbidity and mortality, accounting for 20.8% of the disease burden in children under 5. Less than 5% of children in need are receiving complete treatment of Zinc ORS

### **Objectives**

1. To establish the utilization of ORT among children under five with diarrhea in Koboko district.
2. To assess the mothers/caregivers' knowledge and perception about ORT as treatment of diarrhea in Koboko district
3. To identify caregiver factors influencing utilization of ORT by children under five in Koboko district.
4. To identify health facility factors influencing utilization of ORT by children under five in Koboko district.

### **Methodology**

A cross – sectional study design was used involving both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. The study population was mothers and caregivers of under five children. Kish and Leslie formula (1965) was used to determine the sample size of study participants. Pretesting of the data collection tool was done and Informed consent was sought from the respondent.

Data was qualitatively collected using questionnaires, Key Informant guides and indepth interviews. Analysis was done using a master sheet and STATA while quantitative data was collected using semi structured questionnaires that were administered by interviewers and entered using EPI – DATA 2008 version 3.5.1. Univariate and bivariate analysis were done.

Confidence intervals and odds ratios were used to determine statistical significance and association. Control for confounders was done by running a Logistic regression model.

## **Results**

A total of 250 caregivers were interviewed with more than half 58.6% of children were female. 45.5% were aged between 13 – 36 months. The vast majority 94.3% were from a household with five or less children. The majority, of caregivers were female (91.6%). Most of them aged between 19 – 35 years 80.9%, 71.5% were peasants, 151/250 (73.9%) had attained primary level of education and below, and 84.2% were married. Caregivers <30 were 0.453 times more likely to use ORS than those  $\geq 30$  at 0.254 -0.808 95%CI. Knowledge of caregiver was significant in all the factors of mode of acquisition, knowledge of dangers signs and availability of ORS. 2.558 - 14.288\*, 1.825 – 7.556\* and 1.035 – 8.823\* respectively.

## **Conclusion**

Caregivers less than 30 were more likely to use ORS.

Caregiver knowledge was significant with use of ORS.

Health Education and good reception at facility was significant with ORS use.