

In Uganda, malaria is one of the leading causes of all ill-health and deaths. The Ministry of Health considers malaria treatment to be a top priority of malaria control in the country and as such, the government with support from international donors is implementing a number of interventions to control the disease. The Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (AMFm) is a funding mechanism that aims at increasing access to ACTs which have been recommended as the most effective treatment for malaria by subsidizing the buying price in order to make them more affordable and accessible. Uganda is one of the 8 pilot countries that are implementing the AMFm programme. The core objective of this study was to assess the implementation of the Affordable Medicines facility for malaria programme by the drug shops in Nansana Town Council, Wakiso District.

The researcher carried out a descriptive cross sectional study which used both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. Two sets of questionnaires and an interview guide were used to collect data. The researcher interviewed 46 drug shop operators, 254 household representatives and two key informants. Quantitative data was entered and analysed using SPSS and Microsoft Excel 2012 computer software. Qualitative data was analyzed using the thematic approach.

The study showed that 95.5% of the drug shops had adequate stock of ACTs with a green leaf, 59.1% of the household respondents were aware of the implementation of the AMFm programme and 68.5% had ever purchased ACTs with a green leaf. 55.5% of the household respondents said that they could now afford to purchase ACTs with a green leaf, although 32.68% of the household respondents had bought the ACTs at a price slightly above the government recommended price. All the respondents that were interviewed were not aware of the government recommended price of ACTs with a green leaf.

Generally speaking, successful implementation of the AMFm programme is largely dependable on the level of coverage of ACTs in drug shops, selling price, clients' knowledge and awareness about the programme as well as clients' satisfaction with the programme. Although the programme has increased ACT coverage in drug shops, evidence suggests that uptake of the highly recommended and most effective drugs is still very low especially through the drug shops.