

Research Project

Improving access of poor women: The role of institutions regarding pregnant women's access to and use of malaria and maternal health services in the Kilombero Valley, Tanzania

Project funded by own resources

Project title Improving access of poor women: The role of institutions regarding pregnant women's access to and use of malaria and maternal health services in the Kilombero Valley, Tanzania

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Project Website <http://www.kfpe.ch/projects/jeuneschercheurs/gross.php>

Project start 01.01.2007

Probable end 31.12.2011

Status Completed

Each year approximately 23 million women worldwide become pregnant in malaria-endemic areas in Africa. Infections with malaria during pregnancy might result in adverse consequences, or even death, not only for the pregnant women, but also for the developing fetus or the newborn. In Tanzania, delivery of intermittent preventive treatment during pregnancy (IPTp) at routine antenatal care (ANC) clinics is an important malaria control strategy. However, coverage for the recommended two IPTp doses is still far from the 80% target.

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Insufficient access to prevention and health care can crucially contribute to an individual's persisting vulnerability. On the other hand, having access to health related resources and services might help someone to maintain health and overcome illness. Little is known concerning access and utilization of malaria prevention and ANC services among pregnant women. Studies relate poor IPTp coverage mostly with the late initiation and the irregular attendance of ANC services, thus blaming the women. Other influencing factors, such as socio-economic and legal factors, have hardly been investigated.

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The overall goal of this PhD project is to better understand pregnant women's access to IPTp and ANC services in the Kilombero Valley of southern Tanzania from a community as well as a health system perspective. It investigates how institutions – defined here as informal rules and norms and formal regulations – at the household, community and health facility level facilitate or constrain access to health related resources and to health services.

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To allow for data triangulation a mixed-method approach is used: qualitative methods involving in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and participating observation will be combined with quantitative methods such as structured observation and cross-sectional studies

Keywords Maternal health, malaria prophylaxis, access, Tanzania, institutions

Financed by

Other funds

Add publication

Published results

1017939, Gross, Karin; Armstrong Schellenberg, Joanna; Kessy, Flora; Pfeiffer, Constanze; Obrist, Brigit, Antenatal care in practice: an exploratory study in antenatal care clinics in the Kilombero Valley, south-eastern Tanzania, 1471-2393, BMC pregnancy and childbirth, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

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