Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Beliefs (KAPBs) on Kala-azar among the Residents of Marigat Sub-County, Baringo County

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Abstract

A survey on knowledge, attitude, practices and beliefs (KAPBs) on Kala-azar was conducted in Marigat sub-County, Baringo County. The data was collected from 8 villages and a sample size of 670 households randomly drawn from the villages. Data was collected using structured questionnaires and in depth interviews of key informants. The findings indicated that the respondents were well informed on the disease, the cause and treatment. They were aware that the disease was curable and sought treatment from health facilities as opposed to traditional alternatives. In seeking treatment, the residents were faced with challenges such as the long distance to the health facility, long period of treatment and the attendant cost of caring for a leishmaniasis patient. The respondents were aware that the disease was spread by an insect however, they were not aware of preventive measures. Most of the residents live in poorly constructed grass thatched and mud walled houses which predisposed them to the infective bite of the vector. Most of the respondents are not employed and the cost of treatment, in addition to attendant costs places a heavy economic burden on them. The results showed good awareness of leishmaniasis, positive attitude and practices among the respondents which are important attributes in community participation.

Key words: Leishmaniasis, Kala-azar, Sand fly

"International Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health" and its final volume/issue numbers were assigned as 2015, 5(4): 1-16,