DR. SUSAN NAYIGA

INVESTIGATOR

ANTIMICROBIALS IN SOCIETY (AMIS) UGANDA STUDY

Understanding the role of antimicrobials in daily life in Tororo, Kampala and Wakiso districts of Uganda through three entry points: health care, urban work and farming.

Dr. Susan Nayiga, BSWSA, MSc. CEB, PGD M&E, PhD

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor of Social Work and Social Administration (BSWSA)
- Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (MSc CEB)
- Prost graduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation (PGD M&E)
- PhD Public Health and Policy

EXPERIENCE

I have 15 years of experience working at the interface with health in low resource settings, evaluating interventions to improve healthcare and engaging in research on social aspects of health, health care and medicine use in Uganda. I have led research teams and engaged in fieldwork in formal health care settings and in communities in urban, peri urban and rural Uganda.

WHY ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT THE STUDY?

My research interest is in the social aspects of health, healthcare and medicine use on the "Antimicrobials in Society (AMIS) Uganda Project: Understanding the role of antimicrobials in daily life in Tororo, Kampala and Wakiso districts of Uganda through three entry points: Health Care, Urban Work and Farming."

The AMIS Uganda Project was part of the AMIS Hub, which was a collaborative research programme led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), in partnrship with the Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration (IDRC Uganda), and Mahidol University and Ministry of Public Health (Thailand). Our research in Uganda was aimed at better understanding the roles of antimicrobials in society and everyday life. We set out to identify how antimicrobials shape and enable ways of life within households, health care facilities, among urban workers, and in animal farming. By addressing how people actually use antimicrobials, and the reasons for reliance on these drugs, we aimed to provide a detailed account that could be used by policy makers working on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Uganda today. Using established social science methods, we demonstrated how antibiotics are linked to social, economic, and political systems. Project sites in Uganda included Tororo, Kampala, and Wakiso.

I am passionate about using anthropological approaches to understand this complex topic. The health of people around the world continues to face challenges, with many infectious diseases that take a serious toll on peoples' lives – including drug resistant infections, ageing populations, urbanisation and migration leading to an increase in multimorbidity, with multiple conditions combining to create ill-health. Anthropology has been critical in informing understanding of the conditions and drivers of both infectious and chronic diseases. It has been instrumental in directing preventative action as well as responding to epidemics and longer-term health crises. The ability to link social, economic and political dimensions to distributions, conditions and experiences of ill health is critical in informing understandings and responses.