

A Descriptive Survey on Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Beliefs (KAPBs) on Kala-azar among the Residents of Marigat Sub-County, Baringo County. (2016)

Martha W. Kiarie¹; **Anastasia M. Nzau**^{2*}; Philip M. Ngumbi³; Abraham Waithima¹; Michael K. Bowen¹; Rosemary M. Nzunza³; Johnstone M. Ingonga³ & Peter K. Ngunjiri⁴

¹Department of Science and Health, Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya,

^{2*}**Department of Technical and Applied Biology, Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya,**

³Centre for Biotechnology, Research and Development, Leishmaniasis Laboratory, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya,

⁴Department of Advanced Research and Training, Consortium for Advanced Research Training in

Africa, African Population and Health Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

ABSTRACT

Objective: To establish the level of knowledge, attitude, practices and beliefs (KAPBs) related to kala-azar among residents of Marigat sub- County, Baringo County.

Methods: The sub- County is divided into 37 sub-locations and of these 8 herein referred to as villages were considered for this study. A total of 670 households were randomly drawn from the 8 villages and this formed the sample population. Data was collected using structured questionnaires and in depth interviews of key informants.

Results: The findings indicated that the respondents were well informed on kala-azar; the cause and treatment. They also had favorable attitude towards the disease. 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 live in destitute 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.

Conclusion: The results showed good awareness of leishmaniasis, positive attitude and practices among the respondents which are important attributes in community participation. These findings are quite encouraging to researchers planning control programs because such a community would be more receptive to suggested control measures.

Key Words: Leishmaniasis, Kala-azar, Sand fly

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