

# Understanding how and why antimicrobials are deployed in everyday life in Uganda: an ethnographic study of lives, livestock and livelihoods in Tororo, Uganda

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## Introduction

- There is increasing concern about the development of microbial resistance due to widespread use of antimicrobial medicines.
- Existing evidence suggests reducing medicines use is a challenging task.
- Antibiotics are an infrastructure that enables everyday life.
- They are 'deployed' to do social and economic work as well as simple curative work in society today.
- Understanding the roles antibiotics play in society today is crucial in unveiling the ways in which we have become reliant on these medicines.
- This PhD research will provide new insights to guide approaches to reduce our reliance on these medicines at the societal level.

## Study Site

- Tororo District located in the eastern part of Uganda and is predominantly rural, with subsistence farming and several informal economic activities.



- Tororo district has limited infrastructure and education.
- Very few households have electricity (1%) and one-quarter have no toilet facilities.
- One-quarter of the heads of households have received no formal education, and only 21% have received any secondary or higher education. (Tororo District Survey Project 2009)

## Objectives

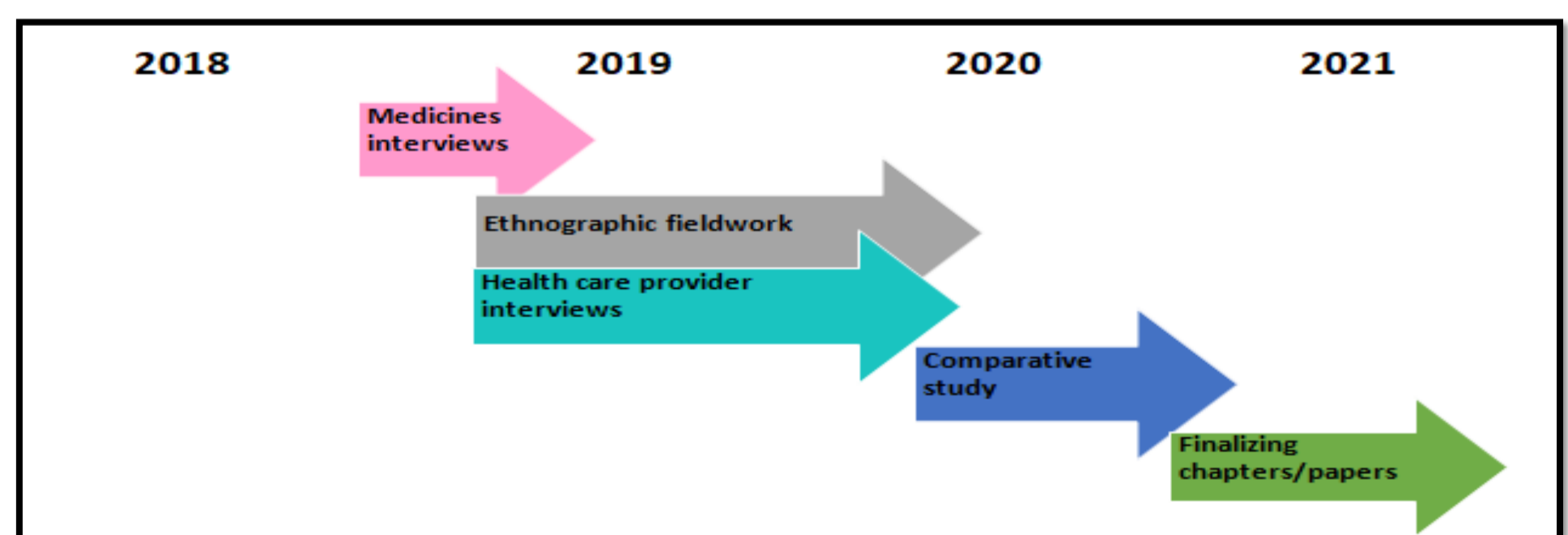
- To describe how and which antimicrobials are used domestically, for people, animals and crops.
- To understand the problems to which antimicrobial use has become a solution at the domestic as well as societal level.
- To understand what is at stake for human and animal care providers when prescribing or dispensing antimicrobials.
- To compare the ways antimicrobials are entangled with life in a rural Ugandan setting with urban Kampala and peri-urban Wakiso.

## Methods

- Novel medicines interviews to understand which antibiotics people recognise and use, and for what purposes, as well as which antibiotics they feel that they can and cannot access.
- Ethnographic fieldwork to get an understanding of life in general, how antimicrobials fit in everyday life and why they are needed in this context.
- Health care provider interviews to understand the reasons and the context within which human and animal care providers prescribe antimicrobials.



## Timeline



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