CAREGIVER’S KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES ON THE UTILIZATION OF ZINC AND LO-ORS FOR DIARRHOEAL TREATMENT IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This survey focused on determining baseline data with respect to coverage, adherence and barriers to utilization of Zinc and low osmolarity oral rehydration salts (LO-ORS) as well as on identifying facilitating factors for utilizing Zinc and LO-ORS among children under 5 years of age in 5 states. Quantitative and qualitative techniques were employed to collect and analyze the information. It was observed that the coverage and utilization of Zinc/LO-ORS for the treatment of diarrhoea are 8.8% and 0.2% respectively and substantial efforts should focus on educating caregivers on prevention and treatment of diarrhoea; and developing Behaviour Change Communication strategies addressing personal, environmental, food and water hygiene.

BACKGROUND

- Information on the potential barriers and enablers to scaling up Zinc & ORS treatment for diarrhoea in selected states in northern Nigeria was lacking.
- The baseline values of these indicators are needed to provide reference points for programme to understand the situation and to be able to measure impact of MI Zinc project in 2015.

OBJECTIVES

- To determine the coverage and adherence to zinc & ORS.
- To identify knowledge, attitudes and practices from service delivery and caregiver perspectives that affect utilization of Zinc and LO-ORS in treating childhood diarrhoea.

METHODS

- Cross-sectional survey conducted in 4 northern Nigerian states namely: Jigawa, Katsina, Zamfara and Yobe
- A quasi-experimental research design was employed to collect qualitative and quantitative data from target groups using trained enumerators and Focal group discussion facilitators between March and July 2013.

RESULTS

- The health seeking behaviour of caregivers is 80.5%.
- Awareness on use of Zinc and LO-ORS is 14.9% among caregivers vs 63.2% in health workers.
- Knowledge of the benefits and efficacy of Zinc/LO-ORS among caregivers is 13%.
- The % of caregivers using (utilization & adherence) Zinc and LO-ORS at home was 0.5%.
- Barriers to utilization of Zinc and LO-ORS includes non-availability, inadequate knowledge of the benefits and efficacy of Zinc/LO-ORS and preference for herbal medicine.

PERCENTAGE OF HEALTH FACILITIES WITH ZINC AND LO-ORS STOCK OUT IN FOCUS STATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Stock Out</th>
<th>Total Pop</th>
<th>Total Fac</th>
<th>Estimated Children In 5 Yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jigawa</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katsina</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yobe</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zamfara</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSIONS

Interventions need to address the gaps in knowledge, attitudes and practices on the utilization of zinc and LO-ORS, but also address supply issues.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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