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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

Doctoraat Medische Wetenschappen

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UITNODIGING

Voor de openbare verdediging van het
doctoraatsproefschrift van

Christopher GARIMOI ORACH

26 oktober 2006

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

Christopher GARIMOI ORACH

'Reproductive health services for refugee and host populations in Uganda : policy implications'

Situering van het proefschrift

Worldwide, the majority of refugees live in the developing countries. Most (80%) are women and children. Uganda hosts an estimated 200,000 refugees. We investigated the extent reproductive health (RH) needs of refugee and host populations are met in West Nile region, Uganda.

Data on major obstetric interventions (MOI) for absolute maternal indications (AMI) for refugees and hosts were collected retrospectively for 1999-2000 and 2003-2004, and prospectively for 2001 in three districts. Community surveys using the sisterhood methodology were conducted in Adjumani district to estimate maternal mortality ratios (MMR) on samples of 3,087 adult refugees and 3,227 hosts in 2002. Costs of reproductive health interventions were estimated using a modified WHO mother-baby package from 38 (33%) health facilities in 2003. In-depth key informant interviews and focus group discussions were held to assess community perspectives on integration of health services.

We found that rates of MOI for AMI were significantly higher for refugees than hosts during 1999-2001 (1.01% [95% CI 0.77-1.25] versus 0.51% [0.47-0.53]; $p < 0.0001$) and 2003-2004 (1.02% [0.79-1.25] versus 0.85% [0.80-0.90]; $p < 0.05$) respectively. MMR was 2.5 times higher in the host 322 [95% CI 247-396] compared to 130 [95% CI 81-179] per 100,000 births in the refugee population. Per capita cost of health care was 2.7 times higher for refugees than hosts. However, integration contributed to improved host accessibility and utilisation of health services and more harmonious relationship between the two populations.

Our findings suggest policy recommendations to integrate and strengthen the capacity of hosts' health system in refugee-affected settings in developing countries.

Curriculum Vitae

Christopher GARIMOI ORACH, was born on the 8th December 1960 in Gulu district Uganda. He graduated from Makerere University Medical School with a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery (MChB) in 1988 and did internship at St Francis Hospital Nsambya Kampala between June 1988 and July 1989. He was posted as Medical Officer and appointed Medical Superintendent of Maracha Catholic founded Hospital, Arua district, West Nile between June 1990 and August 1993. He returned to Makerere University Institute of Public Health to pursue post graduate studies in September 1993 and obtained a post graduate Diploma in Public Health (DPH) in 1994 and a Master of Medicine in Public Health (MMedPH) in 1996. He received a WHO AFRO region award for his research on community based estimation of maternal mortality in Gulu district in 1998. During September 1999 and June 2000 Christopher studied at the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) Antwerpen, Belgium and obtained a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. He registered for a sandwich PhD programme at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in 2002.

Christopher is currently lecturing at Makerere University Institute of Public Health, Kampala Uganda and a Visiting Lecturer at Nkozi Catholic University Uganda. He teaches reproductive health and health services organisation in emergency settings. He runs an annual international course on Public Health in Complex Emergency (PHCE) at the Makerere University Institute of Public Health.

Op donderdag **26 oktober 2006** om **18u00**
in auditorium P. Brouwer van de
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Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel