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Readiness of formal private sector providers for malaria case management in malaria high burden areas of Myanmar

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BACKGROUND

Population Services International (PSI) Myanmar has been engaging with formal private sector providers (clinics and pharmacies) in malaria high-burden areas in Myanmar to test, treat, and report malaria cases. This study aimed to evaluate such providers' readiness for malaria case management in those high-burden areas.

METHODS

A quantitative cross-sectional survey was conducted in 17 malaria high-burden townships during September 2019. A full census approach was applied to identify all providers with potential to distribute antimalarials and/or malaria testing in the selected areas. Following on that, an audit of all antimalarials and malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) and a provider interview was conducted.

RESULTS

A total of 614 providers was identified in the survey area (241 clinics and 373 pharmacies).

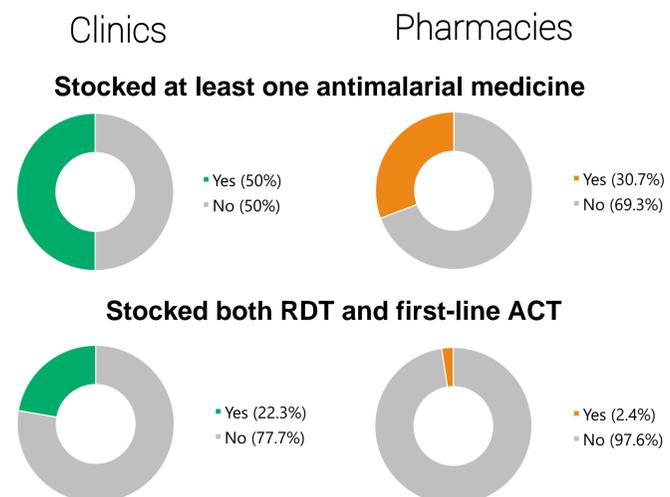


241 Clinics
with 14.1% affiliated to PSI

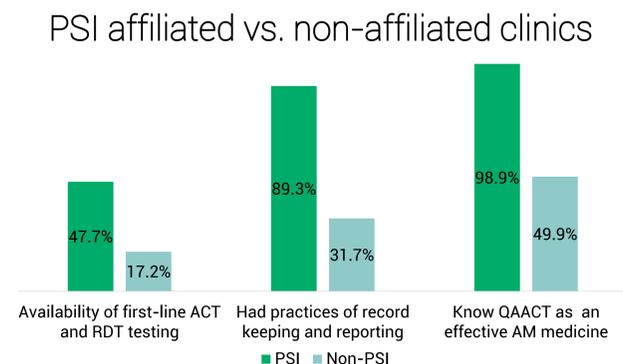
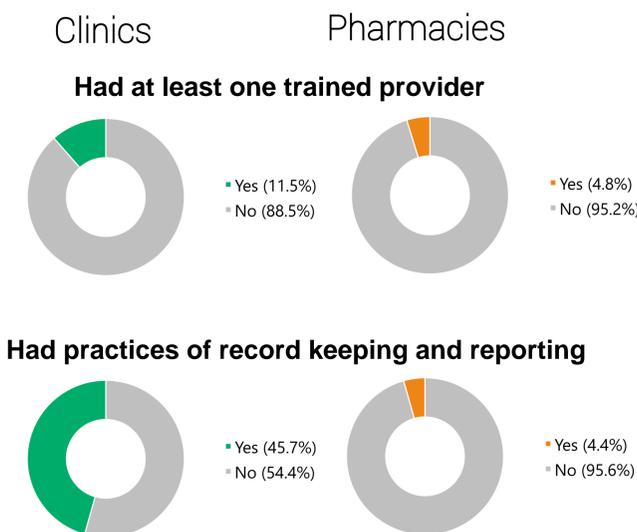


373 Pharmacies
with 8.3% affiliated to PSI

Overall, about 50% of clinics and 30.7% of pharmacies stocked at least one antimalarial medicine, but only 22.3% of clinics and 2.4% of pharmacies stocked both RDT and first-line artemisinin combination therapy.



Only 11.5% of clinics and 4.8% of pharmacies had at least one recently trained provider while 45.7% and 4.4% had practices of record keeping and reporting of malaria case management, respectively.



On readiness for malaria case management, PSI affiliated private sector providers fared better than non-affiliated ones.

PSI affiliated vs. non-affiliated pharmacies



CONCLUSION

In malaria high burden areas of Myanmar, a large number of formal private sector providers stocked antimalarial medicines, but a majority of providers were not ready for proper malaria case management and reporting. Proper support of such providers could change their practice and would be helpful for malaria control and elimination.

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