



The outpatient Global-PPS identifies key action points for antimicrobial stewardship among healthcare facilities in Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Togo

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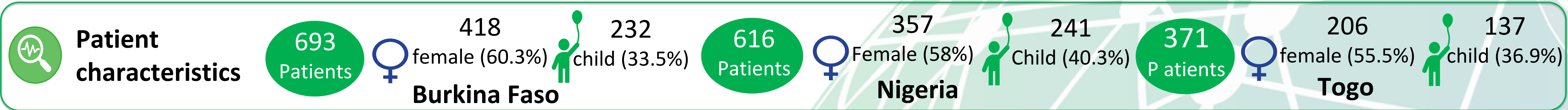
BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Most antimicrobial stewardship programmes in Africa have focused on inpatients. We aimed to measure outpatient antimicrobial prescribing practices among different types of healthcare facilities in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and Togo.

METHODS

The Global-PPS outpatient module was conducted in primary healthcare centres (PHC), general and tertiary care hospitals. Basic patient details were gathered for all individuals attending the outpatient setting (denominator). Detailed information covered antimicrobial prescribing and quality indicators (numerator). A web-based application was used for data-entry, validation and feedback reporting (www.global-pps.com).

RESULTS



The overall prevalence of antimicrobial prescribing was highest in Burkina Faso (53.2%), followed by Togo (33.4%) and Nigeria (31.3%), with significantly elevated rates observed in PHCs and among children across all three countries (Figure 1). Malaria was the most frequently reported indication for antimicrobial use, regardless of country (Table 1). However, instances of inappropriate prescribing were identified, including the use of antibiotics for upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) and unknown indications. The five most commonly prescribed antimicrobial agents are presented in Figure 2.

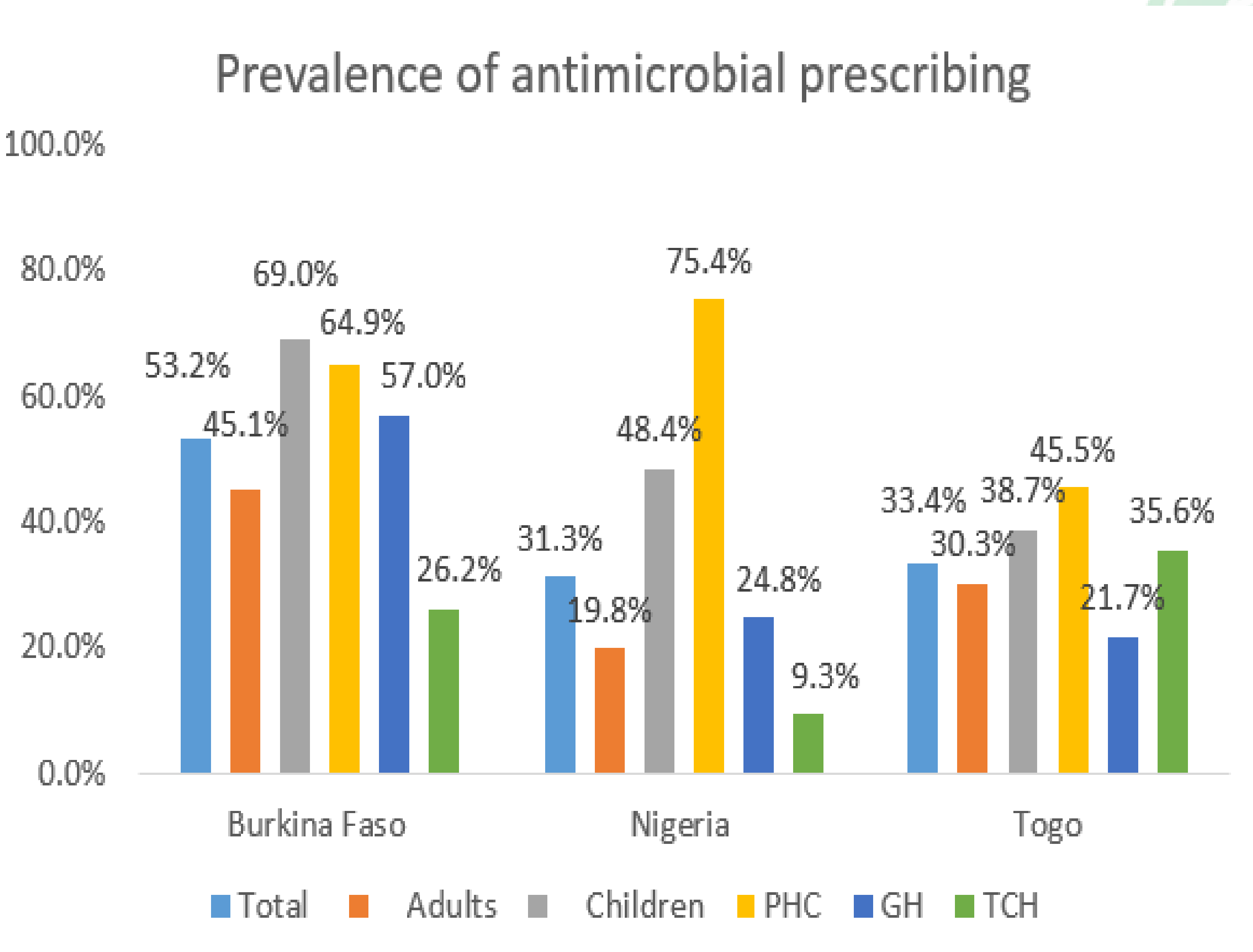


Figure 1: Antimicrobial Prevalence (%) by country, age group and type of healthcare facility

GH=General Hospital, PHC = Primary Healthcare Centre, TCH = Tertiary Care Hospital

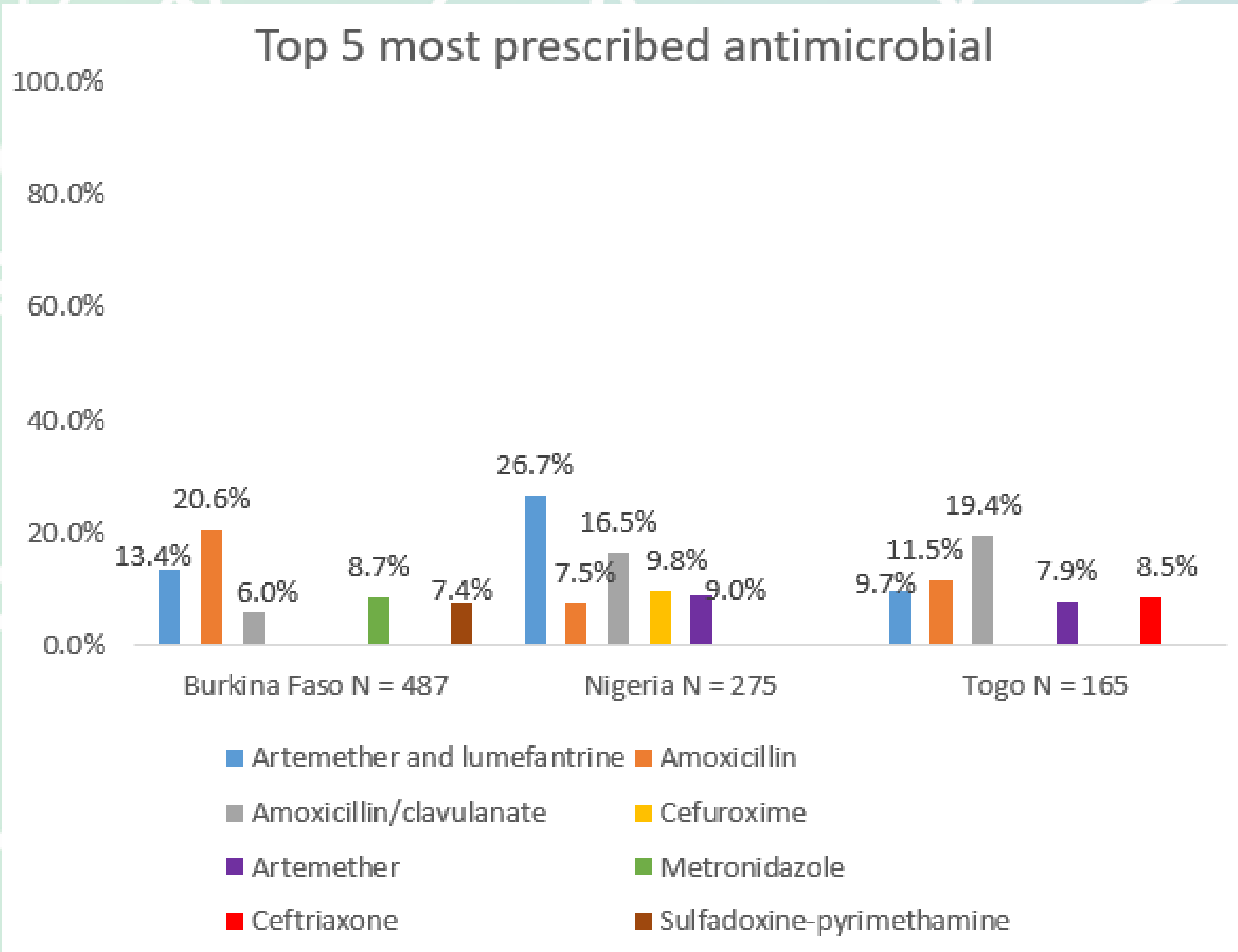


Figure 2: Top five most prescribed antimicrobials among outpatients by country.

N= number of antimicrobials prescribed

Table 1: Five most common diagnosis to be prescribed an antimicrobial by country

Burkina Faso		Nigeria		Togo	
Diagnosis	N (%)	Diagnosis	N (%)	Diagnosis	N (%)
Malaria	127 (28.9%)	Malaria	98 (42.2%)	Malaria	27 (20.6%)
Other	125 (28.5%)	URTI	28 (12.1%)	DEN	22 (16.8%)
Unknown	71 (16.2%)	Sepsis	20 (8.6%)	SST	11 (8.4%)
Proph ENT	26 (5.9%)	Unknown	19 (9.3%)	Unknown	11 (8.4%)
Pneumonia	21 (4.8%)	GI	13 (5.6%)	GI	9 (6.9%)

Other = Antimicrobial prescribed with documentation but no defined diagnosis group
Proph ENT= Prophylaxis for Ear, Nose, Throat including mouth (Surgical or Medical prophylaxis)
Unknown = Completely Unknown Indication
SST = Skin and Soft Tissue Infection
DEN = Dental infections e.g. abscess, pulpitis, periodontal disease
GI = Gastro intestinal infections, acute Infectious Diarrhoea, gastroenteritis (salmonellosis, Enteric Fever caused by Salmonella enterica, dysentery, Campylobacter, parasitic, viral hepatitis etc.)
URTI = Upper Respiratory Tract Infection

CONCLUSION

Antimicrobial prescribing rates were high in PHCs, particularly among children, with malaria identified as the most common indication across all countries. Inappropriate prescribing was observed, including the use of antibiotics for upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) and cases with unknown indications. Ongoing quality improvement initiatives in the three countries are focused on strengthening antimicrobial stewardship and promoting better patient outcomes.