



Epidemiology Unit  
Ministry of Health

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WEEKLY UPDATE

Internally Displaced Persons, Vavuniya District

No 14; Weeks 42 (10 - 16 October 2009)



As of 13 October 2009, total number of IDPs was 230,974 (73,714 families). About 89% of these IDPs (206,705) were settled in relief villages, named from zone 0 to 7 located in the Cheddikulam MOH area. In addition, there were 3 welfare centres, where 15,200 IDPs (7%) were looked after. The remaining 9069 (4%) were in Vavuniya MOH area in 5 centres, which were smaller in size and transit in nature.

### Disease Surveillance

Disease surveillance in the zones is coordinated by the Cheddikulam Coordination Centre. In the IDP sites in Vavuniya and Vavuniya South MOH areas, disease surveillance activities are conducted by the range PHII under the guidance of the relevant MOH. However, for the period of analysis, no disease surveillance data were available from the welfare centre at Tharmapuram and the transit camps in Vavuniya MOH area. For the calculation of disease incidence rates, the population in these IDP sites was excluded from the denominator (i.e. number of IDPs 13,913, 6% of total number of IDP).

The trends for absolute number of field notifications and weekly incidence rates of priority diseases were described below. This analysis was based on the notifications received from field hospitals and mobile health units. In addition, wherever appropriate, details of hospital admission were also given.

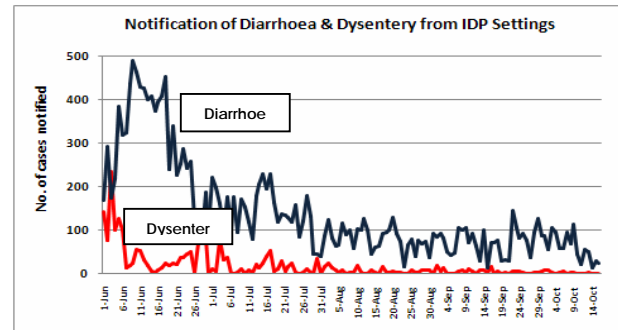
### Diarrhoea

**Field notification:** During the reporting week (10 - 16 October), there was marked reduction in the

number of diarrhoea cases (Fig. I). 245 cases were reported and most of the cases were from zone 1 (89) and zone 2 (52).

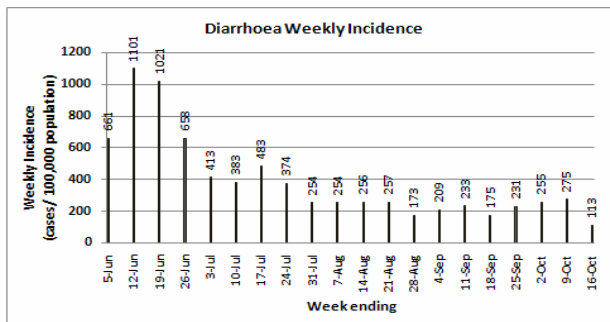
**Weekly incidence:** After 4 weeks of increasing incidence, diarrhoea incidence rate has dropped to 113/100,000 during the reporting week (Fig. II). Diarrhoea incidence for the reporting week in zones 7 (376/100,000), 5 (258/100,000), 1 (195/100,000), 0 (176/100,000), 6 (150/100,000) & smaller camps (135/100,000) were more than the average incidence for all IDP sites (113/100,000).

**Fig I: Field notification of diarrhoea and dysentery cases 01 June – 16 October 2009**



Since its inception, zone 7 has been reporting high incidence for diarrhoea. Water quality should be strictly monitored & remedial measures should be taken to arrest this trend in zone 7. Since last month, weekly incidence for diarrhoea in zone 4 has been much lower than that of other sites. Under reporting should be excluded before commenting on this observation.

**Fig II: Trend for weekly incidence of diarrhoea since 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, 2009**

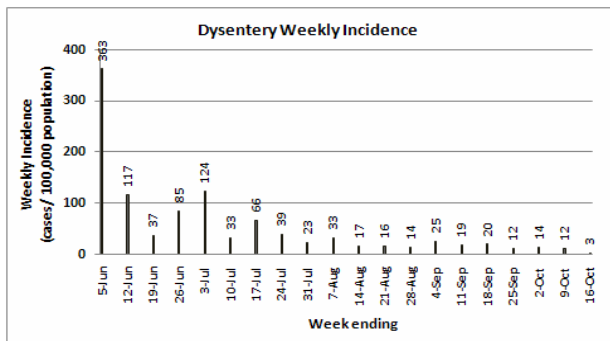


**Dysentery**

**Field notification:** During the reporting week, for most of the days there was 'nil reporting' (Fig. I). Only 07 cases were reported during this period.

**Weekly incidence:** Since June 2009, lowest rates for diarrhoea & dysentery were recorded during the reporting week (Fig. II & III). However, the incidence rates of dysentery for the reporting week in zone 7 (47/100,000), Veerapuram & Sumathipuram (19/100,000) were much more than the average incidence for all sites (3/100,000). The constant reporting of high incidence for dysentery in zone 7 again stresses the need for immediate action.

**Fig III: Trend for weekly incidence of dysentery since 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, 2009**

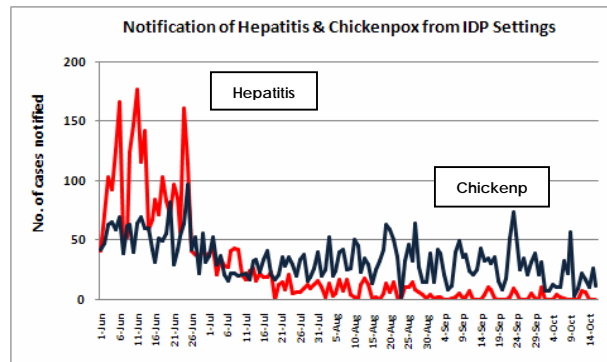


**Hepatitis A**

**Field notification:** The outbreak of hepatitis peaked during May/June is currently under control & only isolated cases were reported now (Fig. IV). During the reporting week, only 15 cases were notified & notably all were from

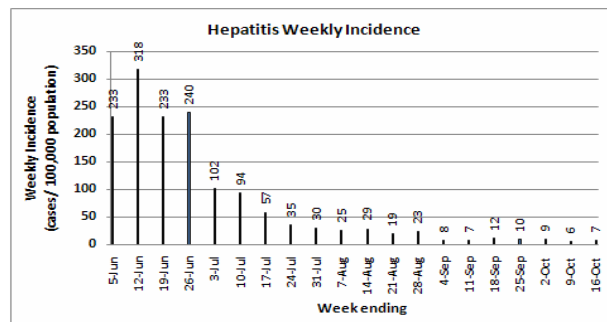
Veerapuram and Sumathipuram. These 02 centres continuously report large number of hepatitis cases.

**Fig IV: Field notification of hepatitis and chickenpox cases 01 June - 16 October 2009**

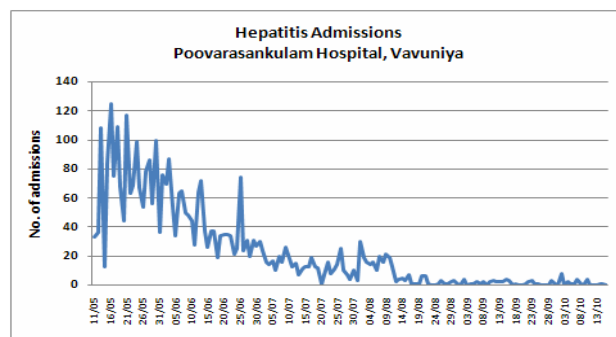


**Weekly incidence:** The falling of average weekly incidence of hepatitis is clearly visible in Fig. V. However, the incidence rate for Veerapuram and Sumathipuram in the reporting week was very high (145/100,000).

**Fig V: Trend for weekly incidence of hepatitis since 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, 2009**



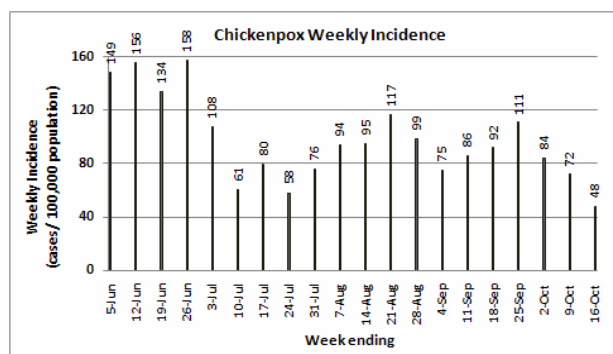
**Fig. VI: Trend for hepatitis admissions to the isolation facility from 11 May - 16 October 2009**



## Chickenpox

**Field notification:** Occasional 'peaks' were observed in the number of field notifications, mainly due to increased reporting from zone 2 (Fig. IV). During the reporting week, 104 chickenpox cases were reported and most of these cases were from zone 2 (44), zone 0 (16) and zone 4 (13).

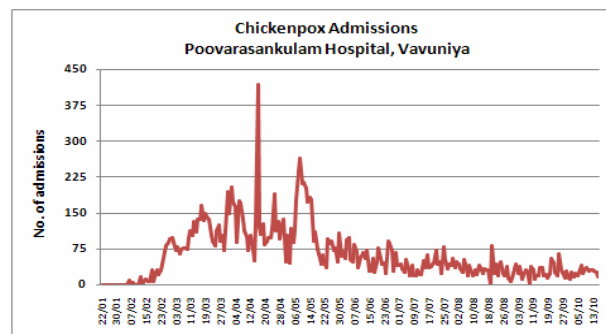
**Fig VII: Trend for weekly incidence of chickenpox since 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, 2009**



**Weekly incidence:** The chickenpox epidemic peaked during April/May is currently in declining phase, despite frequent fluctuation in the number of cases (Fig. VII). After reaching a comparatively high incidence of 111/ 100,000 during September 19-25, the incidence rate of chickenpox is now gradually coming down. The incidence rates for the reporting week in zone 0 (91/100,000), zone 2 (89/100,000) and smaller camps (68/100,000) were more than the average incidence for all IDP sites (48/100,000).

**Hospital admissions:** Since the beginning of isolation at Poovarasankulam, the cumulative total of chickenpox admissions was 16,661. The number of admissions during the reporting week (10 - 16 October) was 199 (Fig. VIII).

**Fig. VIII: Trend for chickenpox admissions to the isolation facility from 22 January - 16 October 2009**



## Measles

**Hospital admissions:** Since June 27 up to October 16, 2009, a total of 90 suspected measles cases (IDPs) were admitted to hospitals (Poovarasankulam Hospital - 64, Cheddikulam BH - 22 and Vavuniya GH - 04). During the same period, there were no notifications from host population. Since October 8<sup>th</sup>, there were no notifications even among IDPs. This clearly demonstrates the effect of recently conducted measles immunization programme.

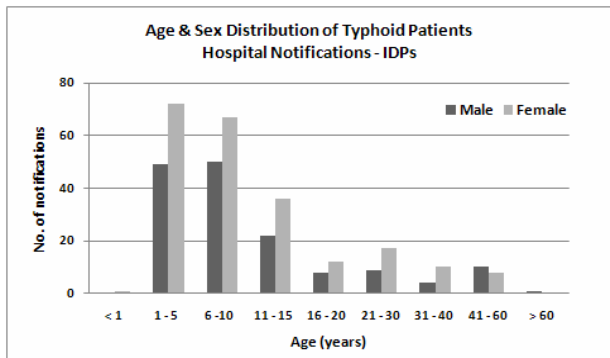
## Typhoid fever

Since 01 June up to 16 October 2009, 497 cases of enteric fever were notified from the field hospitals/ mobile health units functioning in IDP sites. The number of notifications during the reporting week (10 - 16 October 2009) was 11. A polysaccharide injectable vaccine, which is effective for 3 years, has been given to all health workers/ promoters/ volunteers and sanitary workers. Depending on the availability of vaccine, there are plans to expand vaccination coverage to include occupants of high risk IDP sites. Already, vaccination has been started in zone 6.

An epidemiological study was conducted to identify the high risk population to facilitate vaccination programme. Details of 376 patients (IDPs) admitted to GH Vavuniya (184), BH Cheddikulam (188) & Poovarasankulam Hospital

(04) were collected for this purpose. The male: female ratio was 1:1.5. About 63% of patients were in the age group of 1 to 10 years old (79% were 1 - 15 years old) (Fig. IX). Most of the patients were from zone 2 (108 cases, 29%), zone 3 (63 cases, 17%) and zone 4 (49 cases, 13%).

**Fig. IX: Distribution of internally displaced typhoid patients admitted to hospitals in Vavuniya by age and sex**



### Mumps

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> case was admitted on June 25<sup>th</sup> up to October 16, 2009, a total of 46 mumps patients

(IDP) have been treated at Poovarasankulam Hospital. In addition, one patient was managed at Cheddikulam BH. Most of the cases were from zone 6 & 7 and almost three quarter were in the age group of 1 - 15 years. There is no vaccine available against mumps in the National Immunization Programme.

### Dengue

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> case reported on September 11<sup>th</sup>, up to October 16<sup>th</sup>, four cases were notified. All notifications came from GH, Vavuniya. The patients were residents of zones 1, 2 & Technical College camp. The last notification was on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### Malaria

Since 01 June up to 16 October 2009, 323 cases were notified. Except for 3 (confirmed by blood film), all were notified on clinical suspicion. There were only 03 notifications during the reporting week.

Annexure: Field notification of priority diseases by IDP site (Reporting week 10 - 16 October 2009)

Disease	IDP Site	Cumulative total of cases reported during	No. of cases reported during	Weekly Incidence Rate
		June 01 - October 16, 2009	October 10 - 16, 2009	October 10 - 16, 2009
Hepatitis	Zone 0	364	00	00
	Zone 1	825	00	00
	Zone 2	556	00	00
	Zone 3	892	00	00
	Zone 4	529	00	00
	Zone 5	139	00	00
	Zone 6	02	00	00
	Zone 7	12	00	00
	Smaller camps/ sites	471	15	145
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3790</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>07</b>
Chickenpox	Zone 0	448	16	91
	Zone 1	473	12	26
	Zone 2	1221	44	89
	Zone 3	442	09	23
	Zone 4	1136	13	37
	Zone 5	99	01	14
	Zone 6	10	02	27
	Zone 7	09	00	00
	Smaller camps/ sites	1050	07	68
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4888</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>48</b>
Dysentery	Zone 0	47	00	00
	Zone 1	445	01	02
	Zone 2	434	01	02
	Zone 3	278	00	00
	Zone 4	1192	01	03
	Zone 5	08	00	00
	Zone 6	02	00	00
	Zone 7	14	02	47
	Smaller camps/ sites	66	02	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2486</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>03</b>
Diarrhoea	Zone 0	1452	31	176
	Zone 1	3163	89	195
	Zone 2	4146	52	105
	Zone 3	3837	11	28
	Zone 4	3129	02	06
	Zone 5	687	19	258
	Zone 6	99	11	150
	Zone 7	156	16	376
	Smaller camps/ sites	2902	14	135
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19571</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>113</b>

Data sources: Epidemiology Unit, Cheddikulam Coordination Centre, Vavuniya & Cheddikulam MOH Offices, RDHS Office Vavuniya, Poovarasankulam Hospital and District Secretariat, Vavuniya

Compilation and analysis: WHO Field Unit, Vavuniya