



# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WEEKLY UPDATE

## Internally Displaced Persons, Vavuniya District

No 13; Weeks 39, 40 & 41 (19 Sep – 09 Oct 2009)

Epidemiology Unit  
Ministry of Health



As of 06 October 2009, total number of IDPs was 231,477 (73,872 families). About 90% of these IDPs (207,198) 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 9079 (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 & Vavuniya South MOH areas, surveillance activities are conducted by range PHII under the guidance of the MOOH. However, for the period of analysis, no surveillance data were available from Tharmapuram welfare centre & 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 13,923, 6% of total number of IDP).

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

### Diarrhoea

**Field notification:** During the period of analysis (September 19 - October 09, 2009), a total of 1691 diarrhoea cases were reported & most of them were from zone 2 (594), zone 1 (367) & zone 3 (278). During the last reporting week (03 - 09 October), total number of notifications was 598 (zone 2 - 167, zone 1 - 119 & zone 3 - 97 cases).

**Weekly incidence:** increasing diarrhoeal incidence over the last 3 weeks is an issue which needs urgent action (Fig. II). The incidence rates for the last reporting week (03 - 09

October) in zone 7 (1761/100,000), zone 6 (1074/100,000) & zone 2 (336/100,000) were much more than the average incidence for all IDP sites (275/100,000). Since 1<sup>st</sup> week of September, the weekly incidence for diarrhoea in zone 4 has been much lower than that of other IDP sites. Under reporting should be excluded before commenting on this observation.

Fig I: Field notification of diarrhoea and dysentery cases 01 June – 09 October 2009

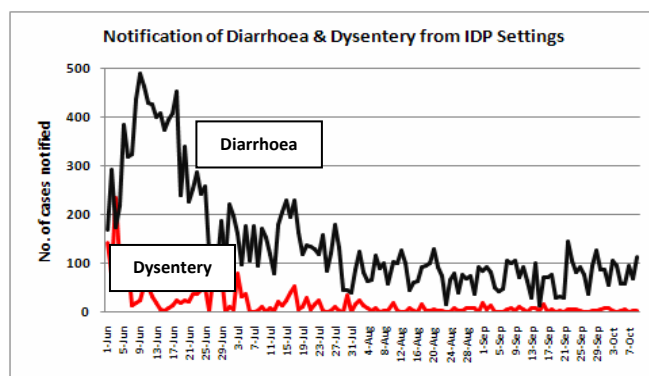
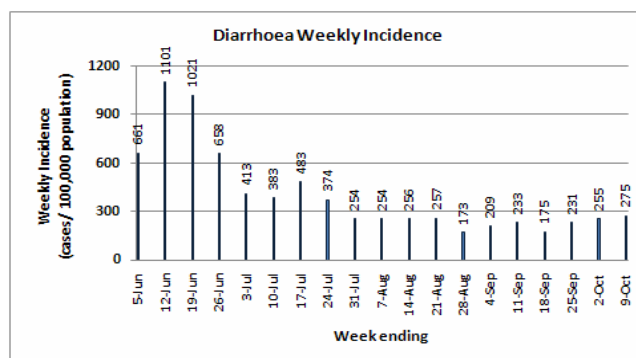


Fig II: Trend for weekly incidence of diarrhoea since 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, 2009



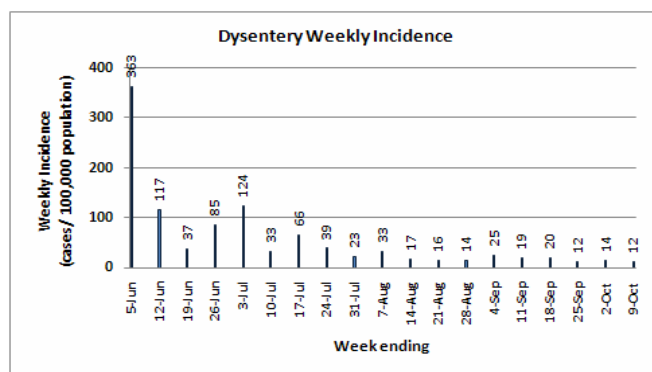
### Dysentery

**Field notification:** During the period of analysis 'nil reporting' was observed from many sites on several days (Fig. I). A total of 83 cases were reported during this period and most of them were from zone 1 (30) and zone 4 (13). An outbreak of dysentery was reported from zone 1 between 30 September & 03 October. During this period, a total of 20 cases were reported from zone 1. On earlier occasions also, similar outbreaks have been reported from

zone 1. During the last reporting week (03-09 October), the total number of dysentery notifications was 26.

**Weekly incidence:** Since June 2009, the lowest incidence rates were recorded during the period of analysis (Fig. III). The incidence rates of dysentery for the last reporting week (03-09 October) in zone 7 (141/100,000), Veerapuram & Sumathipuram (29/100,000), zone 5 (27/100,000) & zone 1 (26/100,000) were much more than the average incidence for all IDP sites (12/100,000).

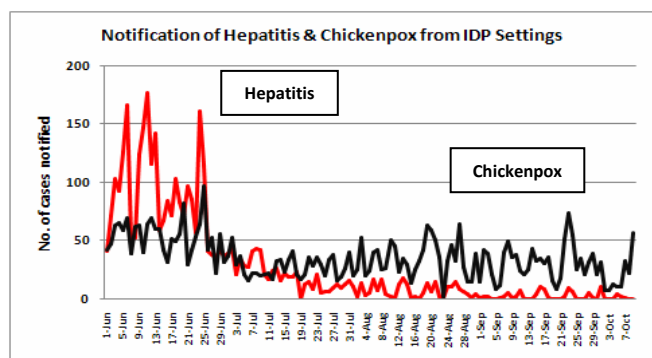
**Fig III: Trend for weekly incidence of dysentery since 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, 2009**



### Hepatitis A

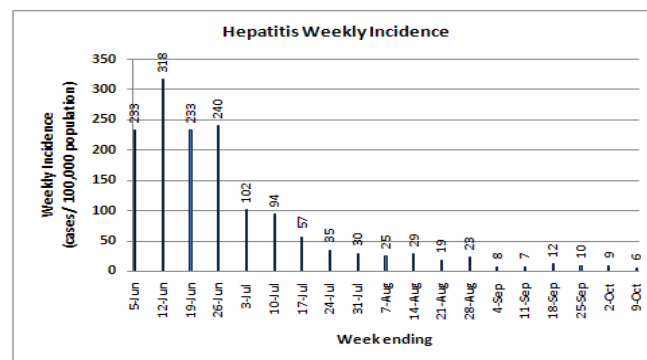
**Field notification:** The outbreak, which peaked during May - June, 2009 is currently tapering off (Fig. IV). During the period of analysis, 55 cases were notified. Veerapuram & Sumathipuram (33 cases) and zone 7 (12 cases) mainly contributed to this case load. During the last reporting week (03-09 October), total number of notifications was 12 & among these cases half were from zone 7. The welfare centres at Veerapuram & Sumathipuram continuously report comparatively large number of hepatitis cases.

**Fig IV: Field notification of hepatitis and chickenpox cases 01 June - 09 October 2009**



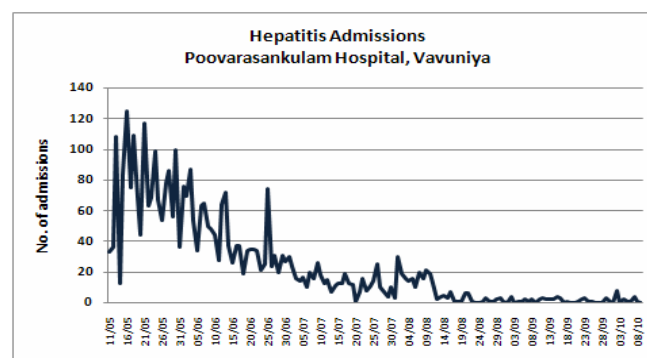
**Weekly incidence:** The falling of incidence of hepatitis is clearly visible (Fig. V). The incidence for the last reporting week in zone 7 (141/100,000), Veerapuram & Sumathipuram (29/100,000) and zone 0 (11/100,000) were more than the average hepatitis incidence for all IDP sites (6/100,000).

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



**Hospital admissions:** Decreasing trend in field notifications was reflected on the no. of hospital admissions also (Fig. VI). Since the beginning of isolation at Poovarasankulam Hospital, cumulative total of hepatitis admissions was 3547. Out of the 12 field notifications made during the last reporting week (03 - 09 October), 09 cases were admitted (admission rate 75%) to Poovarasankulam Hospital.

**Fig. VI: Trend for hepatitis admissions to the isolation facility from 11 May - 09 October 2009**

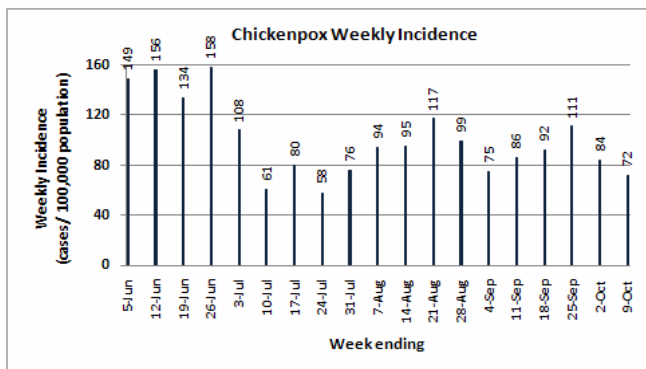


### Chickenpox

**Field notification:** Occasional 'peaks' were observed in the no. of field notifications during the reporting period (Fig. IV). This was mainly due to increased reporting from zone 2. During the period of analysis, 595 chickenpox cases were reported & most were from zone 2 (281), zone 4 (98) & zone 3 (93). During the last reporting week (03-09 October), total number of notifications was 156 (zone 2 - 61, zone 3 - 34 & zone 4 - 28 cases).

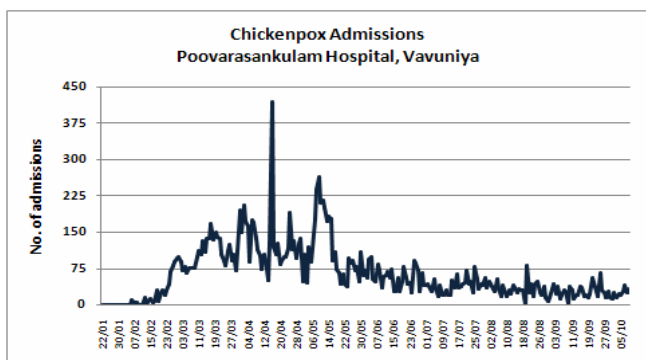
**Weekly incidence:** The chickenpox epidemic peaked during April-May is currently in declining phase. However, in contrary to the general trend observed for communicable diseases, trend for weekly incidence shows fluctuation (Fig. VII). The incidence rates for the last reporting week (03-09 October) in zone 2 (123/100,000), zone 0 (116/100,000), zone 3 (85/100,000) & zone 4 (80/100,000) were more than the average incidence for all IDP sites (72/100,000).

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



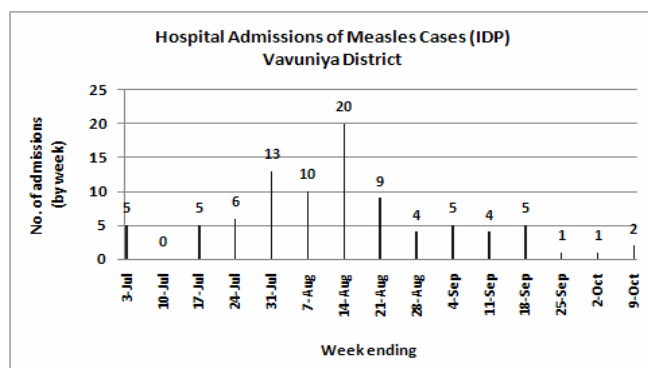
**Hospital admissions:** Since the beginning of isolation at Poovarasankulam, cumulative total of admissions was 16,462. The number of admissions during the last reporting week (03 - 09 October) was 185 (Fig. VIII).

**Fig. VIII: Trend for chickenpox admissions to the isolation facility from 22 January – 18 September 2009**



**Measles:** Since June 27, a total of 90 suspected measles cases (IDP) were admitted to various hospitals. The trend analysis for hospital admissions clearly shows the effect of recently conducted measles immunization programme (fig. IX). There is a drastic reduction in admissions & majority of recent admissions were 5-6 months old infants & teens. Steps should be taken to strictly implement the instruction given by the Epidemiology Unit to advance measles immunization to the age of 6 months among IDPs.

**Fig. IX: Trend for weekly hospital admissions of measles cases to all hospitals in Vavuniya District since 1<sup>st</sup> week of July, 2009**



**Dengue:** A total of 4 cases have been notified. All notifications came from GH, Vavuniya. The patients were residents of zones 1, 2 & Technical College camp (One female aged 43 years & others were males aged 23, 15 & 29 years). However, confirmatory lab test have not been done for these cases. Meanwhile, an epidemic is currently undergoing in host population. During the current year, 100 cases have been notified (15 in August, 58 in September & 20 in October).

**Typhoid fever:** Since 01 June, 486 cases have been notified from the field. The no. of notifications during the reporting period was 60 (zone 2 - 15 & Veerapuram & Sumathipuram - 14 cases). A polysaccharide injectable vaccine, which is effective for 3 years, has been given to all health workers/promoters/volunteers & sanitary workers. There are moves to provide vaccine to occupants of high risk IDP sites also.

**Mumps:** Up to now, 41 cases (IDP) have been treated at hospitals. Most of them were from zone 6 & 7. According to preliminary analysis, 75% were in the age group of 1 - 15 years. There is no vaccination available against mumps in the National Immunization Programme.

**Whooping cough:** Up to now, 12 notifications (IDP) have been received. Other than 04 patients, all were infants aged less than 6 months. None were confirmed by lab tests. Considering the public health implications, every possible step should be taken to confirm the diagnosis.

**Malaria:** Since 01 June, 320 cases have been notified from IDP sites. Except for 3 cases (confirmed by blood film), all others were notified on clinical suspicion.

Annexure: Number of notified cases of priority diseases by IDP site (Period of analysis 03 – 09 October 2009)

Disease	IDP Site	No. of cases reported during October 03 - 09, 2009	Cumulative total of cases reported during June 01 - October 09, 2009	Blocks (within zones) & smaller camps reported large number of cases
Hepatitis	Zone 0	02	364	No significant reporting
	Zone 1	00	825	Nil reporting
	Zone 2	00	556	Nil reporting
	Zone 3	01	892	No significant reporting
	Zone 4	00	529	Nil reporting
	Zone 5	00	139	Nil reporting
	Zone 6	00	02	Nil reporting
	Zone 7	06	12	Widespread reporting
	Smaller camps/ sites	03	456	No significant reporting
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3775</b>	
Chickenpox	Zone 0	21	432	Widespread reporting
	Zone 1	01	461	Block B
	Zone 2	61	1177	Blocks B8,B10
	Zone 3	34	433	Widespread reporting
	Zone 4	28	1123	Widespread reporting
	Zone 5	01	98	No significant reporting
	Zone 6	03	08	No significant reporting
	Zone 7	02	09	No significant reporting
	Smaller camps/ sites	05	1043	Sumathipuram & Veerapuram
	<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>4784</b>	
Dysentery	Zone 0	00	47	Nil reporting
	Zone 1	12	444	Block Q
	Zone 2	01	433	No significant reporting
	Zone 3	02	278	No significant reporting
	Zone 4	00	1191	Nil reporting
	Zone 5	02	08	No significant reporting
	Zone 6	00	02	Nil reporting
	Zone 7	06	12	Widespread reporting
	Smaller camps/ sites	03	64	No significant reporting
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2479</b>	
Diarrhoea	Zone 0	34	1421	Block I
	Zone 1	119	3074	Blocks Q,K
	Zone 2	167	4094	Widespread reporting
	Zone 3	97	3826	Widespread reporting
	Zone 4	05	3127	No significant reporting
	Zone 5	14	668	Widespread reporting
	Zone 6	79	88	Widespread reporting
	Zone 7	75	140	Widespread reporting
	Smaller camps/ sites	08	2888	Sumathipuram & Veerapuram
	<b>Total</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>19326</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