



Epidemiology Unit  
Ministry of Health

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WEEKLY UPDATE

## Internally Displaced Persons, Vavuniya District

### No 23; Week 13, 14 & 15 (27 Mar - 16 Apr 2010)



As of April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 total number of IDPs in Menik Farm was 74,695 (25,869 families).

#### Disease Surveillance

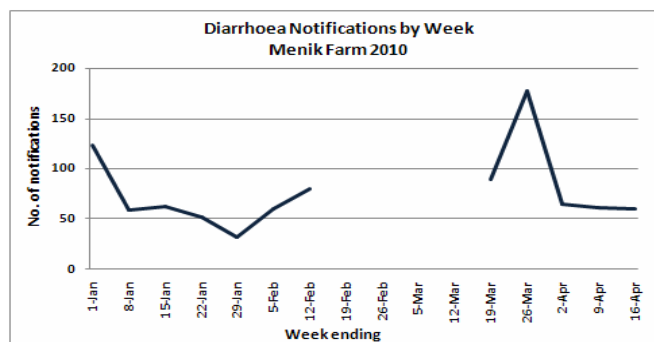
A considerable number of health workers of all categories were away from time to time during the first half of April (There were many public holidays). This has affected the health services including disease surveillance. Incidents of delayed notifications, failure to send notifications in timely manner and, delay in field investigation, data compilation and reporting were widely observed during this period.

The trend of field notification of priority diseases (absolute numbers and incidence) and hospital notifications is summarized below.

#### Diarrhoea

**Field notification:** Compared to previous weeks, a reduction in notifications was observed during the reporting period (Fig. I). Most of the cases were from zones 1, 2 & 3. Distribution of diarrhoea cases during the reporting period: 65 cases during March 27 - April 02, 61 cases during April 03 - 09 and 60 cases during April 10 - 16.

**Fig I: Field notification of diarrhoea cases by week in 2010 (up to April 16)**

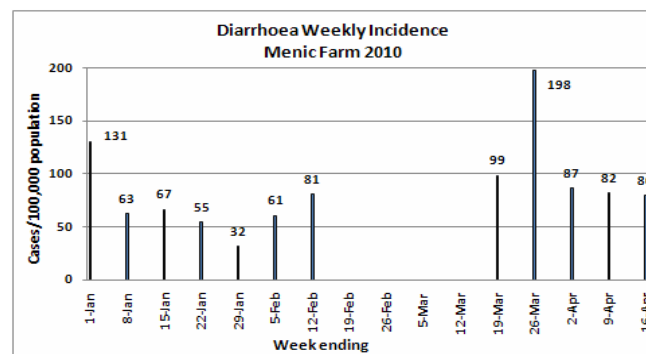


(Data not available 13 February - 14 March 2010)

**Weekly incidence:** During the reporting period, the average diarrhoea weekly incidence remained within the range of 80-87/100,000 (Fig. II). Comparatively higher incidence rates were reported from zone 2 throughout the reporting

period (March 27 - April 02: 156/100,000; April 03 - 09: 168/100,000 and April 10 - 16: 168/100,000).

**Fig II: Trend for weekly incidence of diarrhoea in 2010 (up to April 16)**

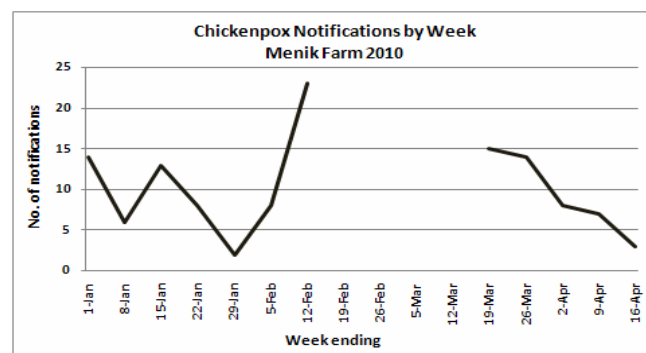


(Data not available 13 February - 14 March 2010)

#### Chickenpox

**Field notification:** A decreasing trend has been observed during the reporting period (Fig. III). Distribution of chickenpox cases during this period: 08 during March 27 - April 02, 07 during April 03 - 09 and 03 during April 10 - 16. Cases were reported from all zones other than zone 6.

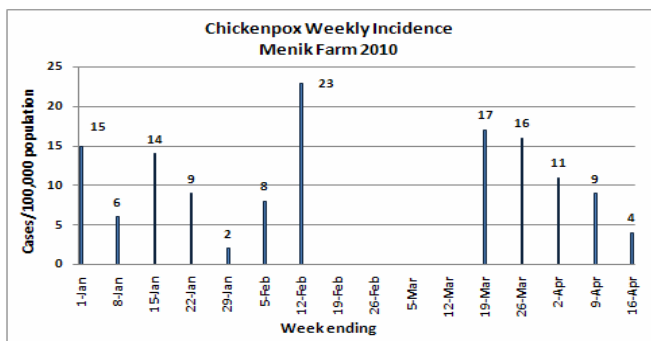
**Fig III: Field notification of chickenpox cases by week in 2010 (up to April 16)**



(Data not available 13 February - 14 March 2010)

**Weekly incidence:** During the reporting period, average weekly incidence dropped from 11 to 4/100,000 (Fig. IV). By zones, detail of highest weekly incidence rates is as follows: during March 27 - April 02, zone 4 reported 43/100,000: during April 03 - 09, zone 1 reported 20/100,000 & during April 10 - 16, zone 2 reported 12/100,000.

**Fig. IV: Trend for weekly incidence of chickenpox in 2010 (up to April 16)**



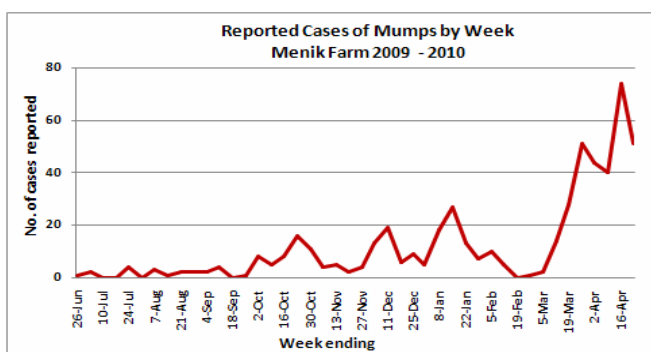
(Data not available 13 February - 14 March 2010)

**Hospital admissions:** The number of admissions during the reporting period was 07. Fearing family disintegration during resettlement, patients refuse admission, especially to Poovarasankulam which is located 30km away.

### Mumps

Since 1<sup>st</sup> week of March, an increase in the number of mumps cases has been observed (Fig. V). The number of cases reported during the reporting period (by week): 44 during March 27 - April 02, 40 during April 03 - 09, 74 during April 10 - 16 & 51 during April 17 - 23. Majority of these cases were from zone 0 (out of 209 cases reported during March 27 to April 23, 124 cases - 59% were from zone 0). It should be noted that earlier the mumps cases were mainly from zone 5 and after the closure of zone 5, the inmates were mainly transferred to zone 0.

**Fig. V: Reporting of mumps cases from IDP sites by week (26 June 2009 - 23 April 2010)**

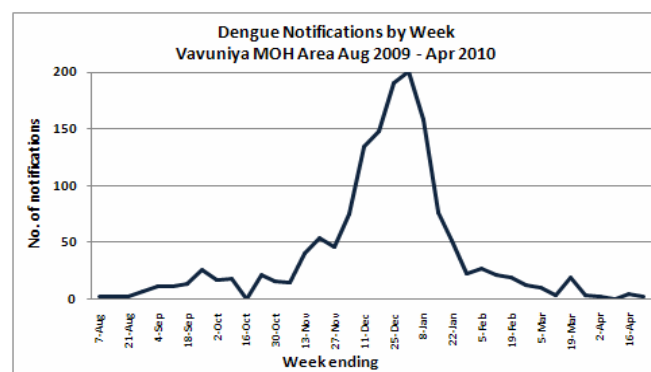


Steps have been taken to isolate patients in health facilities located in or around zones. A leaflet with health messages has been circulated. Health messages were also announced using public address system. The PHII were continuing field investigations.

### Dengue

The outbreak of dengue, first reported in Vavuniya MOH area and later spread to other areas including IDP sites, is completely under control now (Fig. VI). The number of cases notified to Vavuniya Town MOH during the reporting period (by week): 02 during March 27 - April 02, no cases during April 03 - 09, 05 during April 10 - 16 & 02 during April 17 - 23. In addition, 02 cases have been notified to Cheddikulam MOH. All these cases were from host population. No cases reported from IDP sites since January 23, 2010. An entomological study was done during March 31 - April 05 and no *Aedes* species adult mosquitoes or larva identified in or around the zones.

**Fig VI: Notification of suspected dengue cases to Vavuniya NOH Office by week (07 August 2009 - 23 April 2010)**



### Other Diseases

**Malaria:** In February 2009, three cases of *P. vivax* malaria (3 years old boy & two 10 years old girls) were identified in zone 6 by blood film examination. In the entomological study also (conducted during March 31 - April 05), larva of *Anopheles culicifacies* (vector for malaria parasite) have been found in water samples collected from hoof prints in zone 6. Already, there were reports of malaria from the resettlement areas. Field health workers should be vigilant about a possible malaria outbreak and timely preventive measures should be initiated with the support of Regional Anti Malaria Campaign.

**Hepatitis A:** Only two cases (both school children) were reported during the reporting period. Both notifications were from zone 0 during the week of April 03 - 09.

**Dysentery:** No cases were reported during the reporting period.

**Data sources: Cheddikulam Coordination Centre, Vavuniya & Cheddikulam MOH Offices, Regional Anti Malaria Campaign and Poovarasankulam Hospital  
Compilation and analysis: WHO Field Unit, Vavuniya**