



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WEEKLY UPDATE

Internally Displaced Persons, Vavuniya District

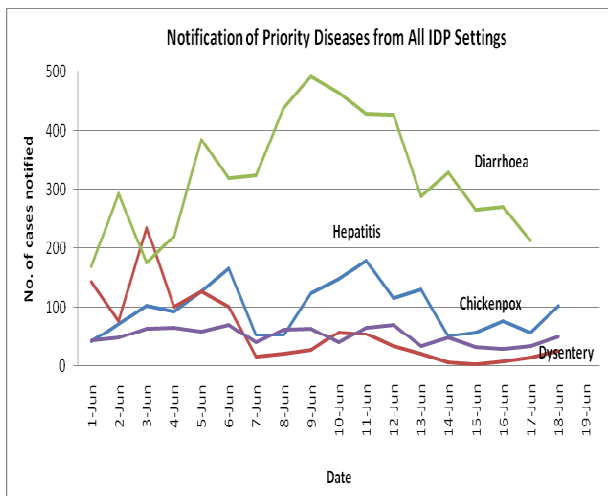
No 2; Week 25 (13 – 19 June 2009)



The total number of IDPs is more or less stabilized now and amount to 262,514 (as on 18 June 2009). Currently IDPs are housed in 19 sites, of which 7 are established relief villages/ welfare centres.

Disease Surveillance

The disease surveillance in transit sites, carried out by the area MOH office staff, is fairly satisfactory. The surveillance system in the relief villages (Zone 0 – 4), where 87% of the IDPs (227,325) were settled, is gradually being strengthened. The following graph shows the trend of notification of priority diseases with outbreak potential from all IDP sites, since the beginning of this month (June 2009):



Disease	Cumulative total 01-12 June 09	No. notified during the week 13-18 June '09	Daily incidence for the period of 01-18 June '09
Hepatitis A	1273	475	37/100,000
Dysentery	986	74	22/100,000
Diarrhoea	4129	1366	123/100,000
Chickenpox	690	224	19/100,000

Dysentery/ Diarrhoea

Morbidity: In June 2009 up to 18th, 1060 cases of dysentery and 5495 cases of diarrhoea were notified from all IDP settings. After a peak during early June, number of dysentery cases is gradually coming down. Though the total number of diarrhoea cases showed a declining trend, number of cases reported from zones 2, 3 & 4 continuously remained high.

Laboratory confirmation: The stool cultures of dysentery patients revealed the presence of bacteria *Shigella flexineri Type 1*, sensitive to antibiotics such as Ciprofloxacin, Nalidixic acid, Selexid, Ceftriaxone, Ceftizidime and Cefotaxime. Following antibiotics were not recommended for treatment: Furazolidone, Cotrimoxazole and Amoxicillin. (Source: MRI)

Typhoid fever

Morbidity: Presumptive diagnosis of typhoid at field level is very difficult and this is well reflected by the very minimal number of notifications from IDP sites. However, the hospital data show significant number of typhoid cases getting treatment.

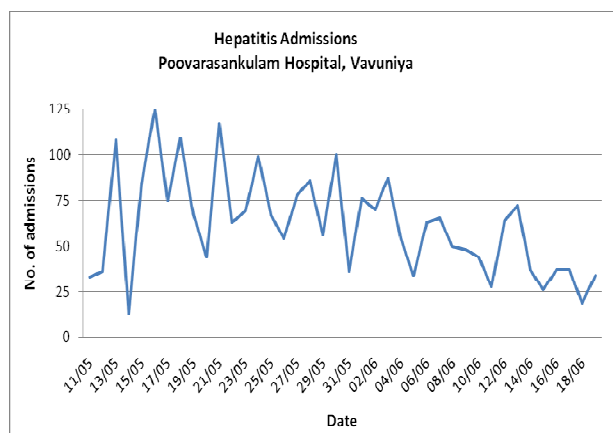
On June 11th, there were 28 paediatric patients getting inward treatment at Vavuniya GH. Majority (68%) were in the age group of 6-10 years and almost 25% were from a small centre located at the Suduvenhapulavu School. An investigation should be conducted to find out the reasons for the large number of cases from this site and remedial measures should be taken urgently.

Vaccine: Epidemiology Unit has dispatched 5000 doses of Vi polysaccharide typhoid vaccine for high risk groups.

In the present context, following groups have been identified as high risk groups: food handlers at the community kitchens, close contacts of patients and health workers. Vaccination has been already started.

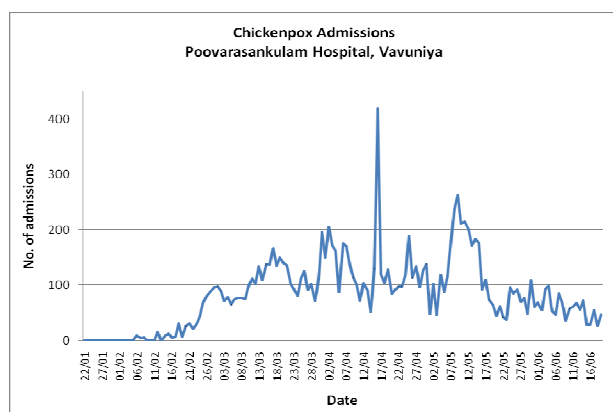
Hepatitis A

Morbidity: Since the beginning of isolation at Poovarasankulam Hospital up to 19 June 2009, the cumulative total of admissions was 2465. The declining trend of admissions seen in the epidemic curve is well supported by the obvious reduction in field notifications from IDP sites. In June 2009 up to 18th, 1748 hepatitis cases were notified from IDP sites.



Chickenpox

Morbidity: A declining trend in hospital admissions is well supported by the trend of field notification from IDP sites. The cumulative total of admissions to Poovarasankulam was 12,577. In June 2009 up to 18th, 914 chickenpox cases were notified from IDP sites.



Tuberculosis

A total of 31 internally displaced patients have been registered in the District TB Register (by site of disease and sputum smear status at the time of diagnosis: smear positive pulmonary TB - 15, smear negative pulmonary TB - 15 & extra-pulmonary TB - 01). Out of them, 02 smear positive PTB patients (a defaulter & a new case) died during the course of treatment. During the intensive phase of treatment, patients are managed at the chest ward located in the Cheddikulam BH and currently 14 patients are getting inward treatment. Once the patients are discharged from the chest ward, for the continuation phase of treatment, they get directly observed treatment (DOT) at their place of residence (IDP site). (Source: Chest Clinic, Vavuniya)

Malaria

Referral Hospital (Indian Hospital) in Zone 1 has notified 29 cases of malaria (01 P.falciparum & rest were P.vivax) since the beginning of this month. The diagnoses were made by using rapid test kits. According to the hospital sources, some were confirmed by using blood films also. Two cases of malaria were notified on 18th June from zone 4 also. This is an alarming situation considering the very small numbers of malaria cases reported from the entire country in the recent past.

Regional Malaria Officer, Vavuniya has deployed field staff at all hospitals and in most of the healthcare facilities located in the IDP sites since June 08th. An active surveillance for malaria is currently undergoing.

Data sources: Vavuniya & Cheddikulam MOH Offices, RDHS Office Vavuniya, Cheddikulam Coordination Centre, Vavuniya, Cheddikulam & Poovarasankulam Hospitals, Chest Clinic Vavuniya and District Secretariat, Vavuniya

Compiled by the WHO Field Unit, Vavuniya