



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WEEKLY UPDATE

Internally Displaced Persons, Vavuniya District

No 8; Week 34 (15 - 21 August 2009)

Epidemiology Unit
Ministry of Health



As of 21 August 2009, the total number of IDPs was 248,738 (total number of families 79,870). Currently IDPs are housed in 20 sites, of which 14 are located in the Cheddikulam MOH area, where the number of IDPs was 237,255 (95% of total number of IDPs).

Disease Surveillance

Disease surveillance in the zones, located in Cheddikulam MOH area, is coordinated by the Cheddikulam Coordination Centre. The total number of IDPs in these zones was 215,788 (87% of IDPs). With the implementation of the project "Strengthening of public health services to control the spread of communicable diseases among IDPs" by the Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, now the disease surveillance system existing here is exactly the same practiced in other parts of the country.

In the remaining IDP sites in Cheddikulam and Vavuniya MOH areas, which are smaller in size (number of residents ranging from 185 to 5476), disease surveillance activities are conducted by the range PHII under the guidance of relevant area MOH.

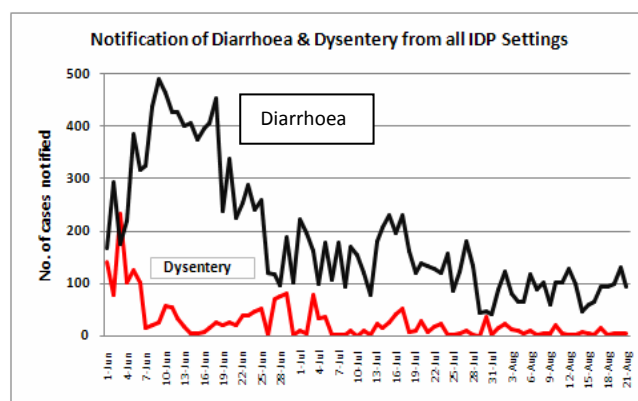
Table 1 shows the trend of weekly incidence for priority diseases based on the notifications from field hospitals/mobile health units during the period of June 27 - August 21, 2009. For chickenpox, the incidence rate for the reporting week was much higher than that of previous week. While the hepatitis incidence for the reporting week was much lesser than that of previous weeks. There was no

significant change in the incidence rates of diarrhoea and dysentery despite the flooding experienced during the reporting week.

Diarrhoea

Field notification: During the period of analysis, total number of cases reported was in the range of 60 - 100 per day (Fig. I). Zone 3 (150), smaller camps (126) and zone 2 (100) reported more than 100 diarrhoea cases during this period (August 15-21).

Fig I: Field notification of diarrhoea and dysentery cases 01 June - 21 August 2009

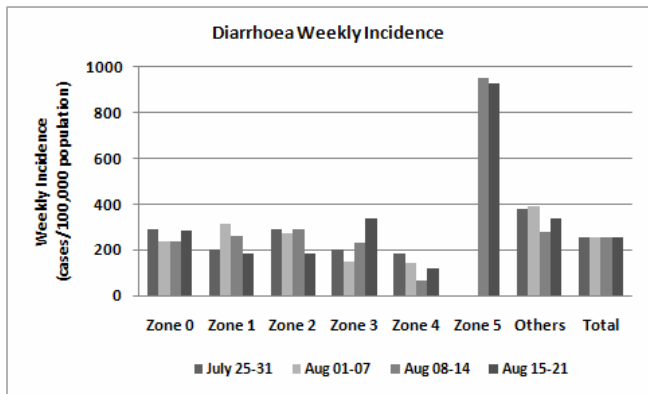


As shown in Fig. II, since July 25, 2009 the weekly diarrhoeal incidence was around 250/100,000. However, the incidence rates for the reporting week in zone 5 (925/100,000), zone 3 (339/100,000), smaller camps (339/100,000) & zone 0 (286/100,000) were more than the average incidence for all IDP sites (257/100,000). On August 20th, there was an outbreak at the Nelukulam Centre probably due to food poisoning. On that day alone, 50 cases were reported.

Table 1: Trend of weekly incidence for priority diseases from 27 June to 21 August 2009

| Disease | Weekly Incidence/ 100,000 population | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | June 27- July 03 | July 4-10 | July 11-17 | July 18-24 | July 25-31 | Aug 01-07 | Aug 08-14 | Aug 15-21 |
| Hepatitis A | 102 | 94 | 57 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 29 | 19 |
| Chickenpox | 108 | 61 | 80 | 58 | 76 | 94 | 95 | 117 |
| Dysentery | 124 | 33 | 66 | 39 | 23 | 33 | 17 | 16 |
| Diarrhoea | 413 | 383 | 483 | 374 | 254 | 254 | 256 | 257 |

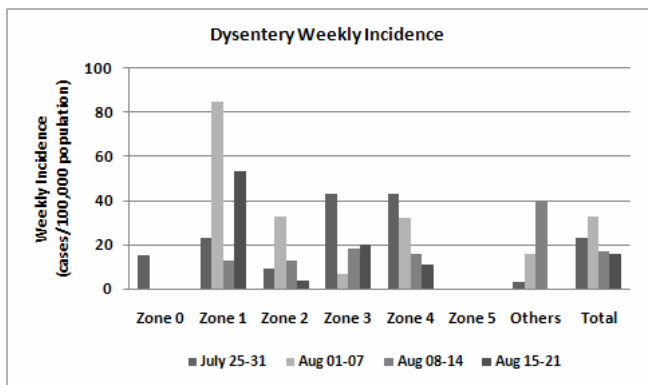
Fig II: Trend of weekly notification of diarrhoea cases by IDP site



Dysentery

Field notification: Declining trend observed in the past continued in the reporting period also (Fig I). However, dysentery incidence for the reporting period in zone 1 (53/100,000) and zone 3 (20/100,000) were more than the average incidence for all IDP sites (16/100,000) (Fig. III).

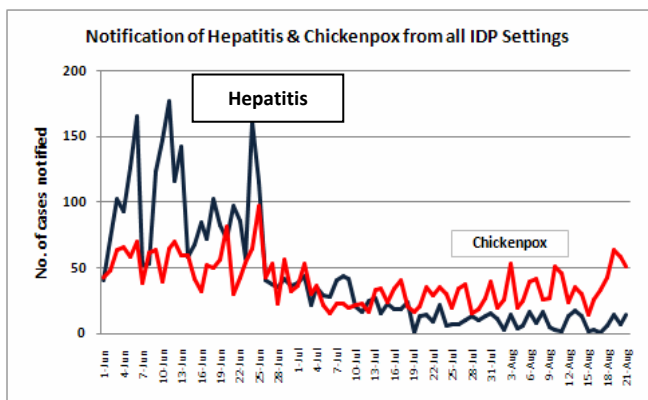
Fig III: Trend of weekly notification of dysentery cases by IDP site



Hepatitis A

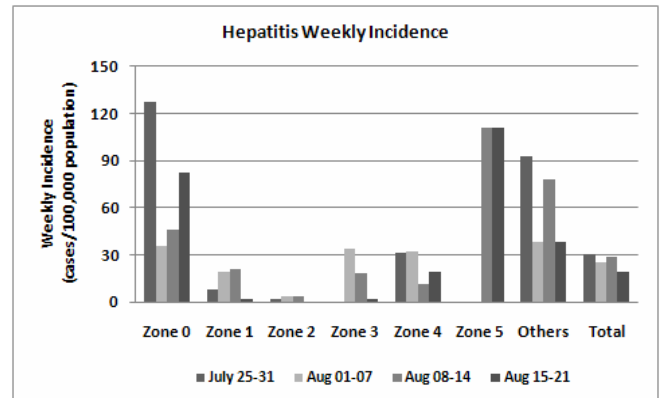
Field notification: Despite 'small peaks', generally, a declining trend was observed (Fig. IV).

Fig IV: Field notification of hepatitis and chickenpox cases 01 June - 21 August 2009



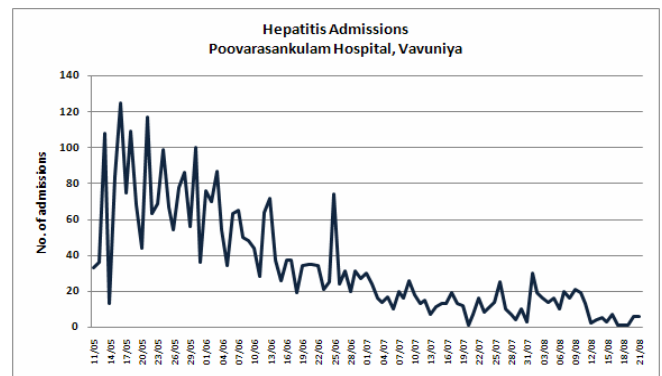
As shown in Fig. V, incidence rates for the reporting period in zone 5 (111/100,000), zone 0 (82/100,000) and smaller camps (38/100,000) were more than the average incidence rate of hepatitis for all IDP sites (19/100,000).

Fig V: Trend of weekly notification of hepatitis cases by IDP site



Hospital admissions: Since the beginning of isolation at Poovarasankulam Hospital (11 May 2009) up to 21 August, cumulative total of hepatitis admissions was 3475. Number of admission during the reporting week was 25. The rapid decline in the number of field notifications was well reflected in the trend of hospital admissions also (Fig. VI).

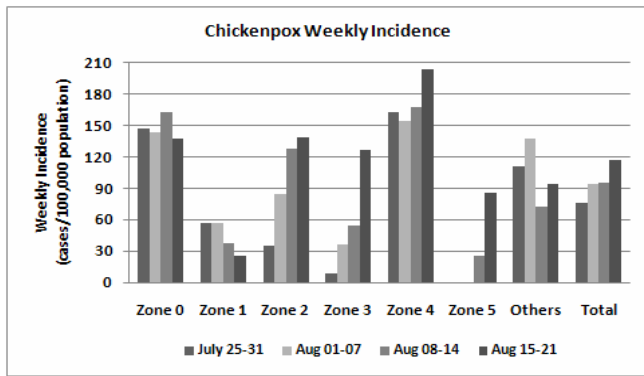
Fig. VI: Trend of hepatitis admissions to the isolation facility from 11 May - 21 August 2009



Chickenpox

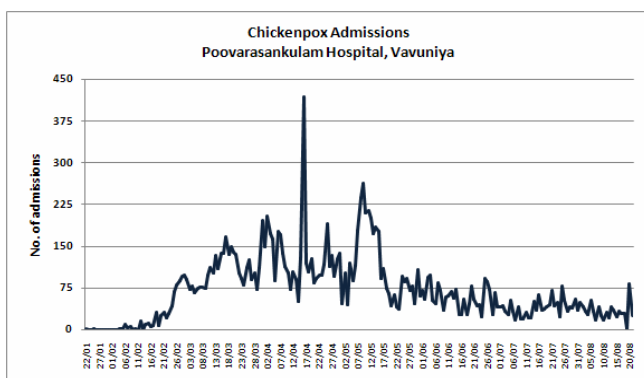
Field notification: Since mid July, the number of chickenpox field notifications was gradually going up (Fig. IV). This trend warrants investigation. As shown in the Fig. VII, the incidence of chickenpox in the reporting week was very much higher in zone 4 (204/100,000), zone 2 (139/100,000), zone 0 (138/100,000) and zone 3 (127/100,000) than the average incidence of chickenpox for all IDP sites (117/100,000).

Fig VII: Trend of weekly notification of chickenpox cases by IDP site



Hospital admissions: Since the beginning of isolation at Poovarasankulam Hospital (22 January 2009) up to 21 August, cumulative total of admissions was 15,139. Number of admissions during the reporting week was 225. An increase in admissions observed lately (Fig. VIII).

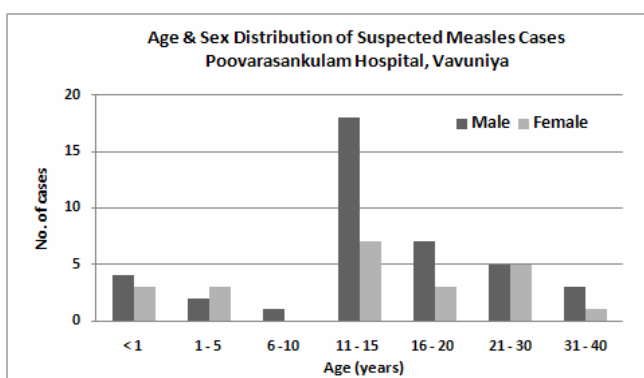
Fig. VIII: Trend of chickenpox admissions to the isolation facility from 22 January - 21 August 2009



Suspected measles cases

Hospital admissions: Since June 27 up to 21 August 2009, 62 suspected measles cases were admitted to Poovarasankulam Isolation Facility. Out of these suspected cases, 56% (35 patients) were in their teens (Fig. IX).

Fig. IX: Distribution of suspected measles cases by age and sex, Poovarasankulam Hospital



The IDP sites reported 05 or more cases in August (up to 21st) were: Sooduventhapulavu (07), Aandiyapuliyankulam (06) and zone 1 (05).

The initial laboratory investigations have shown the presence of rubella also among IDPs (which was reported as measles). It shows the need for laboratory confirmation to decide on preventive strategies such as immunization of older age groups (e.g. teens).

Mumps

Since June 25 up to 21 August 2009, 17 mumps cases were admitted to Poovarasankulam Hospital. In August (up to 21st), 03 cases were reported from Maruthamadu and 01 each from Aruvithottam & Nelukulam. Probably due to high prevalence of immunity among IDPs, despite their vulnerability, up to now no outbreaks were reported.

Typhoid fever

Field notification: Since 01 June up to 21 August 2009, 328 cases were notified from IDP sites. Number of notifications during the reporting period was 27 and out of which 14 cases were from zone 5.

Meningitis

Since June 19 up to 21 August 2009, MOH Offices received 43 notifications of meningitis/ encephalitis/ meningo-encephalitis. Notably, up to now no cases have been reported from host population. In August alone (up to 21st), zone 2 and 3 reported more than 05 cases (06 each).

Malaria

Field notification: Since 01 June up to 21 August 2009, 297 cases were notified from IDPs. The number of notifications during the reporting period was 03 (on 'clinical suspicion'). According to the Anti Malaria Campaign, in 2009 only 05 malaria cases were confirmed by blood film (03 from IDPs & 02 from host population) and all were due to *P. vivax*.

Dengue

No cases have been reported among IDPs. However, recent notifications show the presence of 'local transmission' in Vavuniya District. Considering the impending monsoon, steps should be taken to strengthen the vector control activities in IDP settings.

Annexure: Distribution of notified cases of priority diseases by IDP site (Period of analysis August 15 - 21, 2009)

| Disease | IDP Site | No. of cases reported during August 15 - 21, 2009 | Cumulative total of cases reported during June 01 - August 21, 2009 | Blocks (within zones) & smaller camps reported large number of cases |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|
| | Hepatitis | Zone 0 | 16 | 350 |
| Zone 1 | | 01 | 802 | No significant reporting |
| Zone 2 | | 00 | 553 | No significant reporting |
| Zone 3 | | 01 | 885 | No significant reporting |
| Zone 4 | | 07 | 521 | Block F4 |
| Zone 5 | | 09 | 105 | Block 3 |
| Smaller camps/ sites | | 14 | 372 | Veerapuram |
| Total | | 48 | 3588 | |
| Chickenpox | Zone 0 | 27 | 298 | Block E |
| | Zone 1 | 12 | 396 | Block S |
| | Zone 2 | 76 | 517 | Not available |
| | Zone 3 | 56 | 248 | Widespread reporting |
| | Zone 4 | 77 | 885 | Block D2, C6, C2, B5 & F4 |
| | Zone 5 | 07 | 82 | No significant reporting |
| | Smaller camps/ sites | 35 | 895 | Aruvithottam MV, Veerapuram & Sumathipuram |
| | Total | 290 | 3321 | |
| Dysentery | Zone 0 | 00 | 37 | No significant reporting |
| | Zone 1 | 25 | 332 | Block F |
| | Zone 2 | 02 | 401 | No significant reporting |
| | Zone 3 | 09 | 236 | No significant reporting |
| | Zone 4 | 04 | 1148 | No significant reporting |
| | Zone 5 | 01 | 04 | No significant reporting |
| | Smaller camps/ sites | 00 | 54 | No significant reporting |
| | Total | 41 | 2212 | |
| Diarrhoea | Zone 0 | 55 | 1093 | Block I & D |
| | Zone 1 | 87 | 2315 | Block M, S & U |
| | Zone 2 | 100 | 3014 | Not available |
| | Zone 3 | 150 | 3169 | Block 5 |
| | Zone 4 | 46 | 3012 | Block F4 |
| | Zone 5 | 75 | 500 | Block 2 |
| | Smaller camps/ sites | 126 | 2588 | Nelukulam & Komarasankulam |
| | Total | 639 | 15691 | |

Data sources: Epidemiology Unit, Vavuniya & Cheddikulam MOH Offices, RDHS Office Vavuniya, Cheddikulam Coordination Centre, Poovarasankulam Hospital, STD/AIDS Control Programme, Anti-Malaria Campaign and District Secretariat, Vavuniya
Compilation and analysis: WHO Field Unit, Vavuniya