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சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

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எனது இல) EPID/349/14
My No.)

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Your No.)

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திகதி) 01-08-2014
Date)

To

Provincial Directors of Health Services - Eastern,
Northern, North Central, North Western, Southern and Uva Province
Regional Directors of Health Services of Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee,
Mannar, Mulaitivu, Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa,
Puttalam, Hambantota and Moneragala

Provision of safe water and controlling of communicable diseases during drought situation

The drought situation has affected certain districts of Sri Lanka currently. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) has identified certain parts of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Hambantota, Puttalam, Mannar, Vavuniya, Moneragala, Trincomalee, Mulaitivu, Batticaloa and Ampara districts as drought affected areas. Therefore, please ensure the following activities are implemented in relevant areas.

Provision of safe water

Need to address the safety and adequacy of water

- Identify sources of water that could be used in the drought situation (eg: wells, pipe borne, tube wells, external supply)
- Coordinate with the Divisional Secretary and local government authorities to ensure continuous and adequate supply of safe drinking water
- Adequate water storage tanks should be available for proper storage of water
- First priority is to provide adequate supply of water. The water supply should be adequately treated. Chlorinated water should be ideal and needs to be monitored regularly.

- If pipe borne water is not available water needs to be collected in tanks and barrels and chlorinated adequately to ensure safety in drinking water
- Educate the community on the importance of drinking boiled and cooled water, especially during the drought situation.
- Due to the scarcity of water it is important to ensure available water is appropriately utilized. Therefore advise and supervise correct methods of storage and usage of water based on different purposes

Prevention and control of communicable diseases

Due to the prevailing drought there will be scarcity of water in the affected areas, resulting in community using the limited water and water sources for all their needs. This could result in possible increase in communicable diseases such as diarrhoeal diseases, conjunctivitis, skin disease and other water washed diseases. Therefore the health staff is advised to take suitable action on the following

- Strengthen surveillance
- Prompt detection and control of outbreaks
- Improve awareness among community and health staff on prevention and control of communicable diseases
- Should you require any assistance in control and prevention of communicable diseases, please contact the Epidemiology Unit.

Thank you



Dr P.G. Mahipala
Director General of Health Services

Cc:

DDG (PHS) I
Chief Epidemiologist
Provincial CCP – Relevant Provinces
REE – Relevant districts