



WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORT

A publication of the Epidemiology Unit
Ministry of Health

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Flashback 2014 (Part II)

This is the second in a series of two articles on the activities carried out by the Epidemiology Unit during the preceding year.

Zoonotic diseases are one of the common disease categories found in Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan One health symposium for Zoonotic Disease prevention was held in February, 2014.

This was organized by the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Epidemiology Unit, Department of Animal Production and Health of the Ministry of Livestock and Rural community Development and Massey University, New Zealand. The Principle investigators presented the findings of the three collaborative investigation projects that were conducted on Leptospirosis, Rabies and Brucellosis. The symposium ended with the launching of the entertaining and educational documentary and telefilm on "Prevention of Leptospirosis and re-emerging zoonotic diseases". There was strong media presence and the news from the event was presented on the national television and newspapers. A district review on Leptospirosis was conducted in high risk districts. A documentary and a teledrama on Leptospirosis was distributed to regional and field level offices. An international Leptospirosis conference, "4th Global Leptospirosis Environmental Action Network (GLEAN) meeting" was held in November in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This was jointly organized by GLEAN and the Epidemiology Unit. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together national and international experts from various disciplines who have been working on surveil-

lance, diagnosis, case management, prevention and control of Leptospirosis, in order to share experiences and knowledge and to provide recommendations for Leptospirosis prevention and control, including outbreak response. A mass media campaign was conducted on both radio and television on Prevention of Leptospirosis during the "Maha season" paddy field cultivation

Dengue is a very important re-emerging disease with complex epidemiology. The increasing incidence, severity and frequency of dengue are linked to trends in human ecology, demography and urbanization and may as well have been influenced by climate change.

However, it was noted that year 2014 had reported highest ever number of dengue cases (47,246) while maintaining lowest case fatality rate (0.24/100 cases) during the year.

Since no vaccine or specific drug is available for prevention of dengue infection, strengthening of the integrated vector management is of utmost importance. Appointing 13 new Entomologists and recruiting 50 Entomological Assistants for high risk districts are major successes achieved in 2014. Purchasing and distributing adulticides and larvicides was also strengthened in 2014.

One of the greatest achievements in 2014 was the establishment of an Entomology Laboratory in National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU) while streamlining entomological surveillance through circulating consolidated data by Monthly Report of Dengue Entomological Surveillance (MRDS).

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Case management is the key success in any disease. Infrastructure facilities and training were given with the collaboration of NDCU to expand the E-based disease surveillance system in major hospitals.

Steps were taken to establish High Dependency Units (HDU) up to Base hospitals, to purchase and distribute HDU equipment such as 150 micro-haematocrit machines, 20 portable ultrasound scanners and 175 adjustable beds. Dengue, being a complex disease demands a multi-pronged response that involves different ministries well beyond the health sector. Therefore, two mosquito control weeks were declared and two dengue prevention days were included in National health weeks to sensitize the community. In addition, 10 successful mass scale Emergency Dengue Control Programmes were conducted in the Western Province with the collaboration of Ministries of Presidential Task Force (PTF). Parallely, more than 2,000 military personnel and volunteers were trained on source reduction. Around 1 million premises were inspected and the impending outbreak mitigated. Initiating and keeping the momentum of social mobilization by continuous mass scale programme was given lot of collaboration and commitment towards a common goal. This was the key success of this programme. A new website was launched for National Dengue Control Unit to create awareness among health professionals and general public. In addition, public awareness was continuously enhanced through broadcasting and telecasting advertisements/leaflets by electronic and print media. National review, Provincial reviews and District Reviews were conducted to evaluate the dengue situation in the respective areas.

In the year 2014, two awards were received for the dengue sentinel site surveillance system, "e-swabhimani Merit Award"

in a at a function held in Sri Lanka and "Manthan Asia & Asia Pacific Award' at a function held in India.



e-swabhimani Merit Award

A valued and experienced member of the Epidemiology Unit team, Dr. T.S.R. Peiris, who was working in the capacity of Assistant Epidemiologist, left the unit in December 2014. Dr. Peiris served in the Epidemiology Unit for a period of 22 years. Many professionals in Sri Lanka and abroad consider him as their Vaccine Guru and his contribution to the Epidemiology Unit and the country is invaluable. Dr. Peiris is currently attached to the WHO Office in Timor Leste as the Technical Officer (Immunization and Surveillance). We would like to wish him well in all his future endeavours.



Compiled by Dr. Madhava Gunasekera & Dr. C U D Gunasekera of the Epidemiology Unit



Manthan Asia & Asia Pacific Award'

Table 1: Selected notifiable diseases reported by Medical Officers of Health 27th - 02nd Jan 2014 (01st Week)

| RDHS Division | Dengue Fever | | Dysentery | | Encephalitis | | Enteric Fever | | Food Poisoning | | Leptospirosis | | Typhus Fever | | Viral Hepatitis | | Human Rabies | | Chickenpox | | Meningitis | | Leishmaniasis | | WRCD | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----|----|
| | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | T* | C** | | |
| Colombo | 259 | 259 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 88 | 13 | | |
| Gampaha | 73 | 73 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 53 | | |
| Kalutara | 79 | 79 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 23 | |
| Kandy | 37 | 37 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 87 | 13 | |
| Matale | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 15 | |
| NuwaraEliya | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 15 | |
| Galle | 25 | 25 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 20 | |
| Hambantota | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 100 | 0 | |
| Matara | 19 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 100 | 0 | |
| Jaffna | 152 | 152 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 25 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | |
| Kilinochchi | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 25 | |
| Mannar | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 40 | |
| Vavuniya | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 25 | |
| Mullaitivu | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 20 | |
| Batticaloa | 31 | 31 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 79 | 21 | |
| Ampara | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 86 | 14 | |
| Trincomalee | 16 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 25 | |
| Kurunegala | 63 | 63 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 15 | |
| Puttalam | 35 | 35 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 62 | |
| Anuradhapura | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 42 |
| Polonnaruwa | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 | 43 | |
| Badulla | 41 | 41 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 88 | 12 | |
| Monaragala | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91 | 9 | |
| Ratnapura | 11 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 33 | |
| Kegalle | 16 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 82 | 18 |
| Kalmune | 40 | 40 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 69 | 31 | |
| SRILANKA | 970 | 970 | 73 | 73 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 24 | 28 | 28 | 76 | 76 | 38 | 38 | 34 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 49 | 19 | 19 | 4 | 4 | 78 | 22 | | |

Source: Weekly Returns of Communicable Diseases (WRCD).

*T=Timeliness refers to returns received on or before 02nd January, 2015 Total number of reporting units 337 Number of reporting units data provided for the current week: 267 C**=Completeness

Table 2: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & AFP

27th - 02nd Jan 2014 (01st Week)

| Disease | No. of Cases by Province | | | | | | | | | Number of cases during current week in 2015 | Number of cases during same week in 2014 | Total number of cases to date in 2015 | Total number of cases to date in 2014 | Difference between the number of cases to date in 2014 & 2015 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | W | C | S | N | E | NW | NC | U | Sab | | | | | |
| AFP* | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 02 | 02 | 00 | 02 | 00 | % |
| Diphtheria | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | % |
| Mumps | 00 | 00 | 03 | 00 | 02 | 00 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 08 | 13 | 08 | 13 | -38.5% |
| Measles | 02 | 00 | 07 | 00 | 01 | 04 | 00 | 02 | 00 | 16 | 55 | 16 | 55 | -71.1% |
| Rubella | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | % |
| CRS** | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | % |
| Tetanus | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | % |
| Neonatal Tetanus | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | % |
| Japanese Encephalitis | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | % |
| Whooping Cough | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 | % |
| Tuberculosis | 36 | 24 | 24 | 12 | 04 | 28 | 06 | 05 | 13 | 152 | 327 | 152 | 327 | -53.5% |

Key to Table 1 & 2

Provinces: W: Western, C: Central, S: Southern, N: North, E: East, NC: North Central, NW: North Western, U: Uva, Sab: Sabaragamuwa.
 RDHS Divisions: CB: Colombo, GM: Gampaha, KL: Kalutara, KD: Kandy, ML: Matale, NE: Nuwara Eliya, GL: Galle, HB: Hambantota, MT: Matara, JF: Jaffna, KN: Killinochchi, MN: Mannar, VA: Vavuniya, MU: Mullaitivu, BT: Batticaloa, AM: Ampara, TR: Trincomalee, KM: Kalmunai, KR: Kurunegala, PU: Puttalam, AP: Anuradhapura, PO: Polonnaruwa, BD: Badulla, MO: Moneragala, RP: Ratnapura, KG: Kegalle.

Data Sources:

Weekly Return of Communicable Diseases: Diphtheria, Measles, Tetanus, Neonatal Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, Meningitis, Mumps, Rubella, CRS,

Special Surveillance: AFP* (Acute Flaccid Paralysis), Japanese Encephalitis

CRS** =Congenital Rubella Syndrome

AFP and all clinically confirmed Vaccine Preventable Diseases except Tuberculosis and Mumps should be investigated by the MOH

Dengue Prevention and Control Health Messages

Look for plants such as bamboo, bohemia, rampe and banana in your surroundings and maintain them

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Comments and contributions for publication in the WER Sri Lanka are welcome. However, the editor reserves the right to accept or reject items for publication. All correspondence should be mailed to The Editor, WER Sri Lanka, Epidemiological Unit, P.O. Box 1567, Colombo or sent by E-mail to chepid@sltnet.lk. Prior approval should be obtained from the Epidemiology Unit before publishing data in this publication

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