

Integrated Disease Surveillance & Response (IDSR) Report

Center of Disease Control
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PAKISTAN

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- The Integrated Disease Surveillance & Response (IDSR) Weekly Public Health Bulletin provides an overview of disease trends, outbreak alerts, and other important public health information. We hope to increase awareness and promote preventive measures by sharing this information.
- We encourage you to read the bulletin and share it with your colleagues, family, and friends. Together, we can work towards a healthier community.



Overview

IDSR Reports

Ongoing Events

Field Reports

Preface

Welcome to the 24th issue of the Weekly IDSR Public Health Bulletin. In this issue, we take a look at the latest disease trends, outbreak alerts, and other important public health information.

Overall, an increase in Malaria and Acute Diarrhea cases observed this week. We provide an update on the latest case numbers and response activities. We also discuss the importance of continued vigilance and prevention measures.

- ✓ This week 03 cases of CCHF are reported from Sherani, Balochistan.
- ✓ Cases of Anthrax also reported from Balochistan (04) and KPK (08), waiting for verification from concerned districts.
- ✓ HIV/AIDS cases are from Sukkar and field investigations are in progress.
- ✓ Case clustering alerts are generated and shared with the provinces for response and updates.

In addition to these two major topics, we also cover a variety of other public health issues. We hope that you will find this issue of the Weekly IDSR Public Health Bulletin to be informative and helpful. Please feel free to share it with your colleagues, family, and friends. Together, we can work towards a healthier community.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,
The Chief Editor

- During week 24, most frequent reported cases were of Acute Diarrhea (Non-Cholera) followed by Malaria, ILI, ALRI <5 years, B. Diarrhea, VH (B, C), Typhoid, SARI, AVH (A&E) and Mumps.
- This week, a rise in cases of Malaria and Typhoid observed.
- Among Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) ,93 cases of Pertussis reported mainly from Balochistan. In addition, Measles, Mumps and Chickenpox cases are reported in high numbers. All are suspected cases and need field verification.
- Three cases of CCHF are reported from Balochistan. Field investigation is in progress and blood samples collected.

Diseases	Province	District	Health Facility	No. of cases
AWD	SINDH	Sanghar	Civil Surgeon hospital Umerkot	16
		Umerkot	Civil Surgeon DHQ Umerkot RHC Hyder Farm THQ hospital Kunri THQ hospital Samro	236 101 180 139
	Balochistan	Mastung	BHU Ash khan Rodani Ghous Bakhsh Rehsani Hospital DHQ, Hospital Mastung	36 50 15
		Duki	BHU Tajaan	08
	KPK	Buner	BHU Nanser	46
			BHU Bangirai BHU Toorwarsak CD Bagra	81 63 65
ILI	SINDH	Karachi Kemari	Asif Colony	140
		Naushero Feroze	RHC Mehrab Pur	198
HIV/AIDS	KPK	Swat	BHU Mian Kalay	02
	SINDH	Sakkar	GMC hospital Sukkar	08
Bloody Diarrhea	KPK	Mardan	Type-D Hospital Shahbaz Garhi BHU Parkho Dheri Type-D Hopsital Toru	40 15 13
Brucellosis	KPK	Swat	BHU Drushkhela	10
Meningitis	SINDH	Sanghar	BHU Gujri	35
Anthrax	SINDH	Jamshoro	BHU Bubak	08

All are suspected cases and need field verification.



IDSR compliance attributes

- The national compliance rate for IDSR reporting in 125 implemented districts is increased from 68%. to 73% for this week
- The compliance rate for each region is higher than the national compliance rate. This suggests that some regions are doing a better job of reporting diseases than others.
- The highest compliance rate is in Sindh, where 81% of the expected reports were received. This attributes to Sindh’s strong public health infrastructure, a well-trained workforce, and a high level of awareness of the importance of disease surveillance and response.
- The lowest compliance rate is in Gilgit Baltistan 53%, (previously 100%), where 62 new facilities has been added to IDSR network from district Khizer.
- Overall, the IDSR reporting compliance rate is good, but there is still room for improvement.

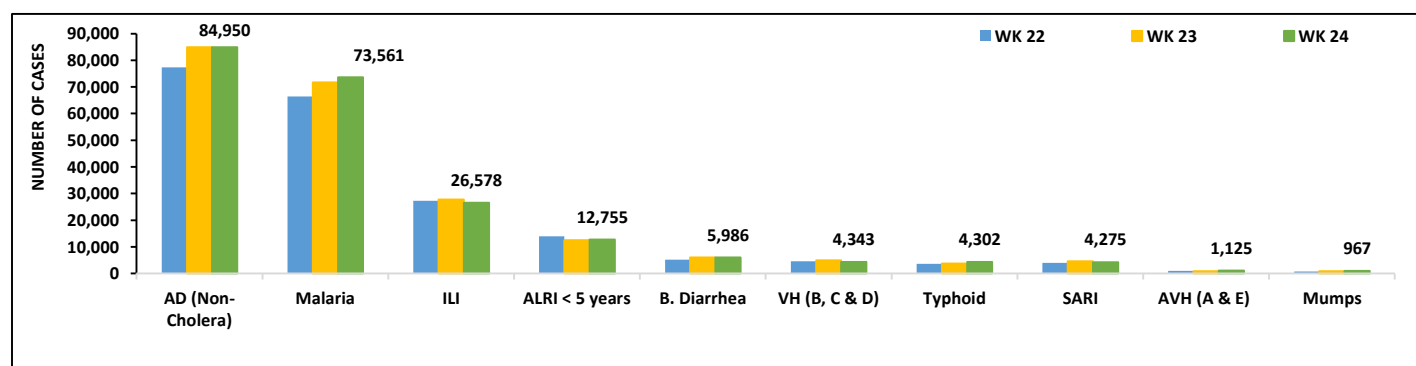
Region	<i>Expected Reports</i>	<i>Received Reports</i>	<i>Compliance(%)</i>
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1527	1196	78
Azad Jammu Kashmir	440	331	75
Islamabad Capital Territory	27	19	70
Balochistan	1146	632	55
Gilgit Baltistan	93	49	53
Sindh	1901	1543	81
National	5134	3770	73



Table 1: Province/Area wise distribution of most frequently reported cases during week 24, Pakistan.

Diseases	AJK	Balochistan	GB	ICT	KP	Punjab	Sindh	Total
AD (Non-Cholera)	146	9,651	0	1	5,697	NR	58,066	73,561
Malaria	3204	7,530	95	460	28,642	1250	43,769	84,950
ILI	2,684	4,398	53	1011	6,088	9	12,335	26,578
ALRI < 5 years	892	2,100	82	1	1414	NR	8266	12,755
B. Diarrhea	114	1,820	15	2	1169	NR	2,866	5,986
VH (B, C & D)	17	135	4	2	87	NR	4098	4,343
SARI	55	1,363	19	0	1007	NR	1,858	4,302
Typhoid	484	991	66	0	2,248	NR	486	4,275
Dog Bite	52	17	5	2	348	NR	701	1,125
AVH (A & E)	135	134	6	4	118	NR	570	967
Mumps	41	117	0	0	156	NR	561	875
CL	66	443	3	18	23	NR	32	585
AWD (S. Cholera)	0	161	0	0	564	NR	0	725
Measles	20	68	0	0	276	NR	45	409
Chickenpox/ Varicella	24	50	8	16	184	NR	73	355
Pertussis	5	80	0	0	6	NR	35	126
Gonorrhoea	0	20	0	0	36	NR	79	135
Dengue	5	79	0	0	8	NR	1	93
VL	5	4	0	0	5	NR	18	32
Meningitis	1	0	0	1	12	NR	13	27
AFP	0	4	0	0	16	NR	2	22
Brucellosis	0	0	0	0	4	NR	11	15
Anthrax	0	4	0	0	0	NR	6	10
Syphilis	0	8	0	0	0	NR	0	8
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	0	NR	0	0
CCHF	1	5	0	0	3	NR	0	9
HIV/AIDS	1	3	0	0	0	NR	2	6
NT	2	3	0	0	0	NR	1	6
Chikungunya	1	1	0	0	2	NR	0	4
Diphtheria (Probable)	0	1	2	0	0	NR	0	3
Rubella (CRS)	0	3	0	0	0	NR	0	3

Figure 1: Most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, Pakistan



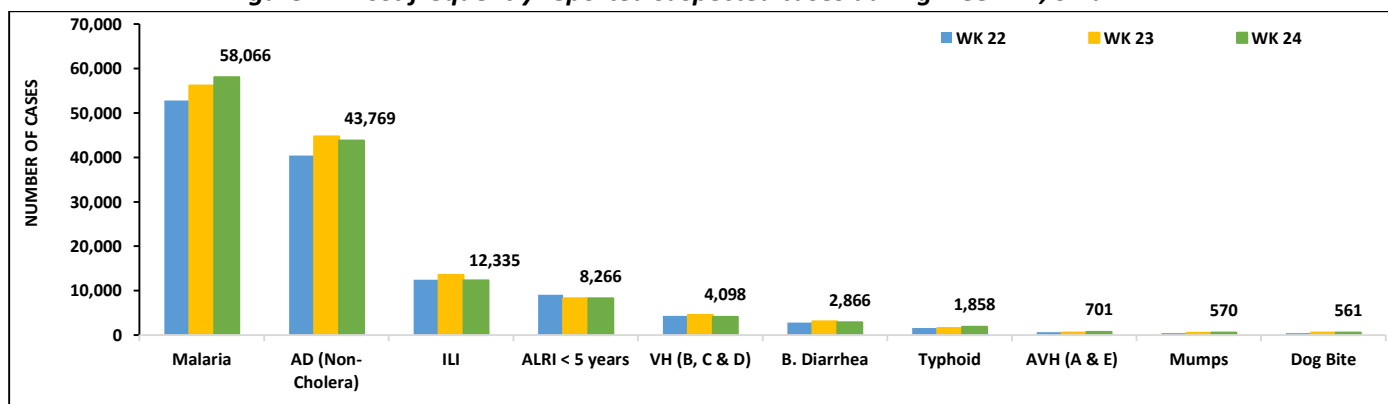
- Malaria cases were maximum followed by AD (Non-Cholera), ILI, ALRI<5 Years, VH (B, C, D), B. Diarrhea, Typhoid, AVH (A&E), Mumps and dog bite.
- Except for Malaria, there is decline in cases of all diseases reported this week.
- Dog bite cases increased and mostly reported from Sanghar, Badin and Thatta.

Table 2: District wise

distribution of most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, Sindh

DISTRICTS	AD (Non-Cholera)	Malaria	ILI	ALRI < 5 years	B. Diarrhea	Typhoid	SARI	Measles	VH (B, C & D)	Dengue	Dog Bite
Badin	2,563	3,022	79	517	143	63	0	12	159	0	86
Dadu	4,239	4,828	142	846	247	229	29	3	32	0	0
Ghotki	997	907	0	358	126	43	0	1	433	0	0
Hyderabad	1,248	288	97	21	0	14	0	1	77	2	0
Jacobabad	2,201	1,833	27	932	144	22	219	2	272	0	40
Jamshoro	93	137	0	6	2	5	0	0	0	0	0
Kamber	2,226	6,180	0	279	125	28	0	0	79	0	0
Karachi Central	979	73	1,215	16	76	136	0	6	131	3	1
Karachi East	274	74	104	0	5	0	0	0	0	13	2
Karachi Keamari	403	8	163	15	2	7	0	1	0	0	0
Karachi Korangi	382	67	44	5	4	4	0	2	0	7	1
Karachi Malir	1,027	88	967	289	85	49	60	0	15	1	4
Karachi South	117	29	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Karachi West	597	76	358	148	26	22	30	0	13	14	32
Kashmore	707	1,826	372	223	48	25	4	0	74	0	2
Khairpur	2,496	3,764	0	791	328	292	30	0	149	0	38
Larkana	2,055	10,935	0	179	198	3	0	0	117	0	0
Matari	1,912	1,108	0	193	97	94	12	1	473	6	28
Mirpurkhas	2,501	2,529	2,583	342	78	34	0	0	50	0	0
Naushero Feroze	2,048	2,863	1,046	558	126	267	0	0	68	0	23
Sanghar	2,810	1,907	242	553	126	102	27	5	741	0	173
Shaheed Benazirabad	2,260	1,929	32	382	98	239	0	1	169	0	0
Shikarpur	1,219	1,332	0	113	101	2	0	2	199	0	0
Sujawal	96	148	0	21	3	5	0	0	0	0	0
Sukkur	1,824	2,591	1,924	312	248	20	0	7	414	0	0
Tando Allahyar	2,127	998	748	202	123	20	0	0	131	0	29
Tando Muhammad Khan	583	957	7	85	66	6	0	0	17	0	37
Tharparkar	1,156	1,530	1,095	359	85	42	33	0	41	33	7
Thatta	1,278	2,753	1,090	259	105	28	24	1	97	0	58
Umerkot	1,351	3,286	0	262	50	56	18	0	147	0	0
Total	43,769	58,066	12,335	8,266	2,866	1,858	486	45	4,098	79	561

Figure 2: Most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, Sindh

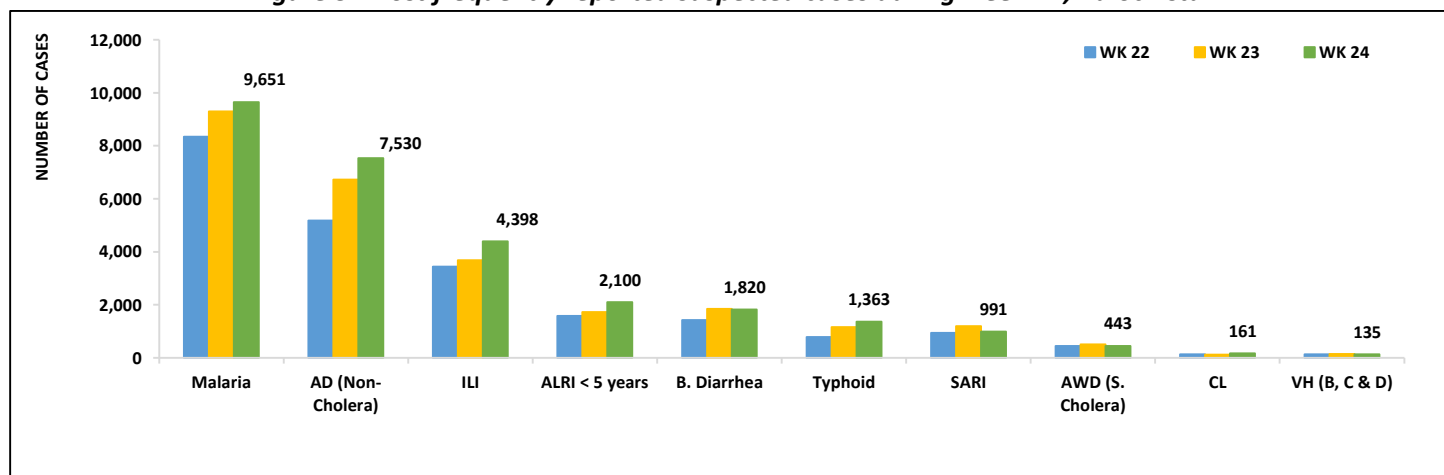


- Malaria, AD (Non-Cholera), ILI, ALRI <5 years, B. Diarrhea, Typhoid, SARI, AWD (S. Cholera), CL and VH (B & C) were the most frequently reported diseases.
- Cases of ILI, AD and Malaria showed an incline trend this week.
- Cutaneous Leishmaniasis cases are reported mostly from Sibi and Mastung. Field verification along with categorization of cases as new and old is required for appropriate response..

Table3: District wise distribution of most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, Balochistan

Districts	ILI	Malaria	AD (Non-Cholera)	ALRI < 5 years	SARI	B. Diarrhea	Typhoid	CL	Dog Bite	AWD (S. Cholera)
Awaran	11	179	16	17	4	20	14	6	0	11
Chagai	261	49	155	0	0	54	47	0	0	15
Chaman	8	2	15	1	1	2	0	2	0	7
Duki	58	123	205	12	65	105	35	9	0	56
Harnai	5	105	393	445	0	119	6	0	1	18
Jaffarabad	162	2,656	1,378	158	112	185	526	11	30	0
Jhal Magsi	0	791	367	100	5	5	26	3	1	30
Kachhi (Bolan)	25	149	174	15	1	28	65	0	0	0
Kalat	27	22	25	10	0	9	13	1	0	0
Kech (Turbat)	764	557	392	79	4	77	2	0	0	0
Kharan	190	147	134	0	0	64	4	0	0	3
Khuzdar	194	171	120	0	25	37	12	1	0	1
Killa Abdullah	25	0	15	0	19	1	1	8	0	0
Killa Saifullah	5	302	307	136	17	116	43	10	0	19
Kohlu	140	139	77	24	37	77	28	3	0	4
Lasbella	135	893	587	446	335	93	29	3	24	1
Loralai	308	117	296	102	128	88	59	0	0	11
Mastung	197	172	587	68	63	91	81	23	31	65
Musa Khail	44	212	69	9	8	25	30	1	1	20
Naseerabad	0	690	183	0	0	12	54	0	1	5
Nushki	0	112	244	0	0	89	0	0	0	28
Pishin	155	15	207	30	2	113	18	16	4	0
Quetta	907	33	470	50	13	100	64	8	0	55
Sherani	40	17	62	3	18	19	5	22	1	14
Sibi	133	455	183	18	24	36	70	31	14	26
Sohbat pur	15	1,159	310	62	14	60	66	0	0	0
SURAB	0	6	10	0	0	0	3	0	0	0

Figure 3: Most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, Balochistan

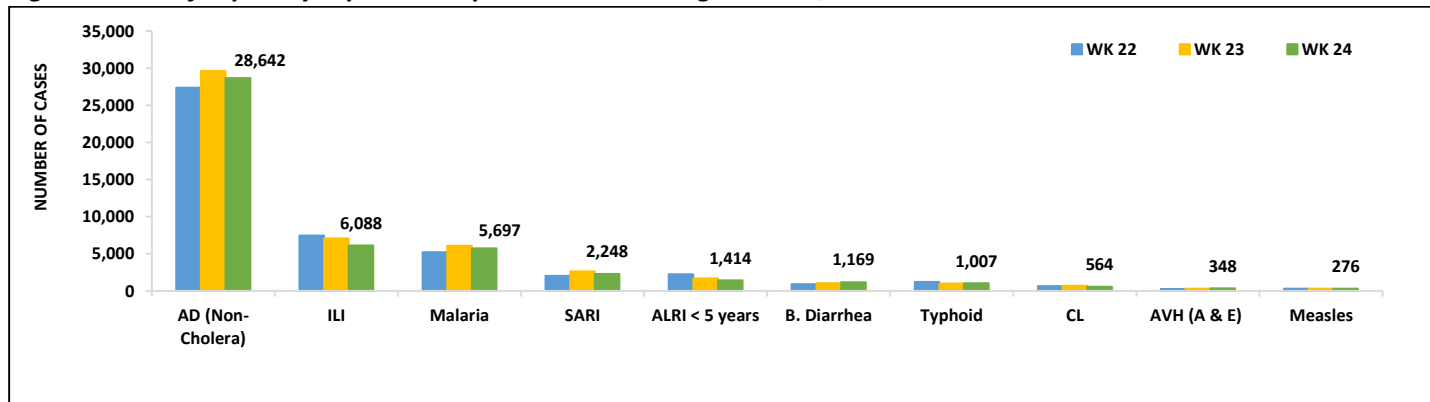


- Cases of AD (Non-Cholera) were maximum followed by ILI, Malaria, SARI, ALRI<5 Years, B. Diarrhea, Typhoid, CL, AVH (A&E) and Measles cases.
- AD and ILI showed downward trend in cases this week whereas Malaria remains the same.
- Cases of Typhoid were mostly reported from Mansehra, Peshawar and Swat. An early intervention through field investigation is required to limit the spread of disease.

Table 4: District wise distribution of most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, KP

Diseases	AD (Non-Cholera)	Malaria	ILI	SARI	ALRI < 5 years	B. Diarrhea	Typhoid	Dog Bite	AWD (S. Cholera)	AVH (A & E)
Abbottabad	719	3	7	11	3	1	13	2	0	0
Bannu	633	883	81	0	1	10	44	0	0	0
Buner	639	609	0	0	1	22	20	5	0	0
Charsadda	1,576	50	150	22	5	0	0	0	0	0
Chitral Lower	602	6	138	813	0	0	6	18	0	2
Chitral Upper	139	2	2	228	0	0	15	0	0	1
D.I. Khan	1,216	423	24	50	13	21	8	40	0	0
Dir Lower	2,026	770	182	293	247	172	99	12	0	122
Dir Upper	737	8	77	0	101	45	30	0	0	13
Hangu	484	431	626	172	10	69	27	13	0	9
Haripur	1,642	23	438	7	144	3	39	3	0	46
Karak	493	113	81	28	8	1	5	28	0	0
Khyber	15	34	70	0	0	8	7	0	0	0
Kohat	89	29	39	3	4	0	2	4	0	0
Kohistan Lower	108	6	0	201	3	39	0	2	3	0
Kohistan Upper	558	1	86	19	1	28	32	0	4	0
Kolai Palas	97	6	0	0	6	15	1	0	5	0
L & C Kurram	8	25	37	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Lakki Marwat	746	1,330	2	0	16	35	24	0	0	0
Malakand	1,708	71	23	117	91	118	27	2	0	29
Mansehra	890	0	710	44	41	24	173	1	5	3
Mardan	1,740	39	772	90	267	139	0	1	0	5
Nowshera	1,966	76	60	1	0	45	26	0	0	15
Peshawar	3,115	52	1,064	10	86	214	117	1	2	12
Shangla	319	316	0	0	4	2	30	10	4	1
Swabi	2,038	22	1,159	112	239	40	46	0	0	55
Swat	3,912	75	255	0	121	89	182	5	0	35
Tank	327	137	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0
Tor Ghar	100	157	5	27	2	29	28	7	0	0
Total	28,642	5,697	6,088	2,248	1,414	1,169	1,007	156	23	348

Figure 4: Most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, KP



- **ICT:** The most frequently reported cases from Islamabad were ILI followed by AD (Non-Cholera). Sixteen cases of Chickenpox reported this week which need field investigation to identify the source cases showed an upward trend in cases this week.
- **AJK:** AD (Non-Cholera) cases were maximum followed by ILI, ALRI <5 years, SARI, Malaria, Mumps, B. Diarrhea, AWD (S. Cholera), Typhoid and AVH (A&E). AD (Non-Cholera) cases continued to rise this week.
- **GB:** AD (Non. Cholera) cases were maximum followed by ALRI<5 years and SARI. Ad (Non-Cholera) cases showed upward trend in cases this week.

Figure 5: Most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, ICT

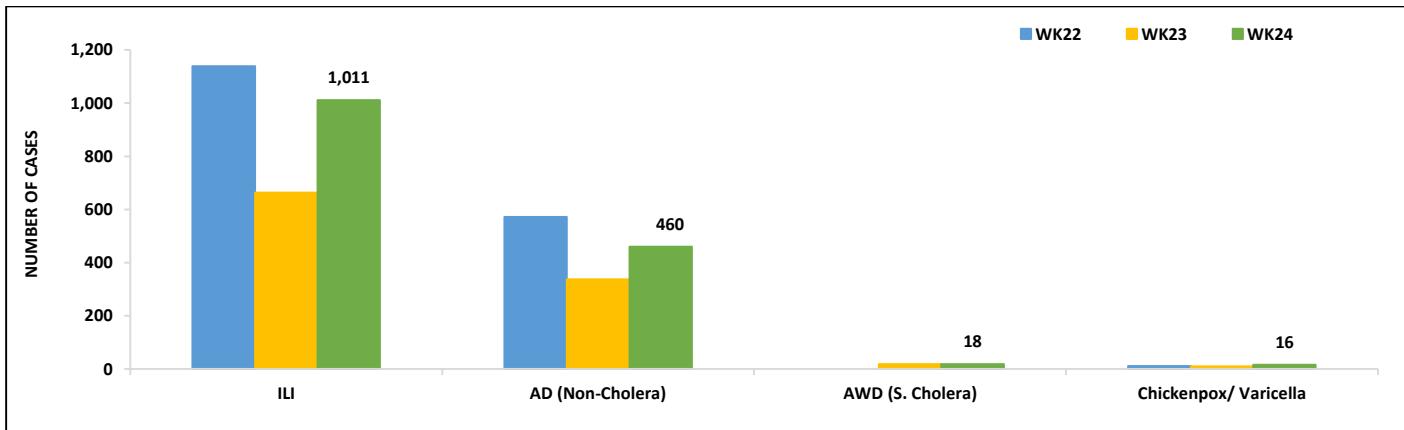


Figure 6: Week wise reported suspected cases of ILI, ICT

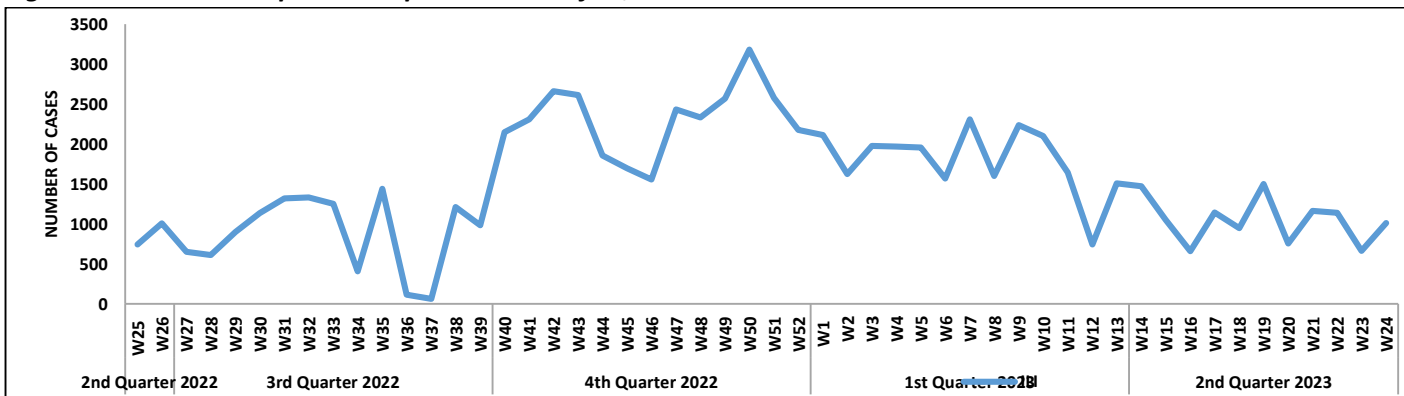


Figure 7: Most frequently reported suspected cases during week 24, AJK

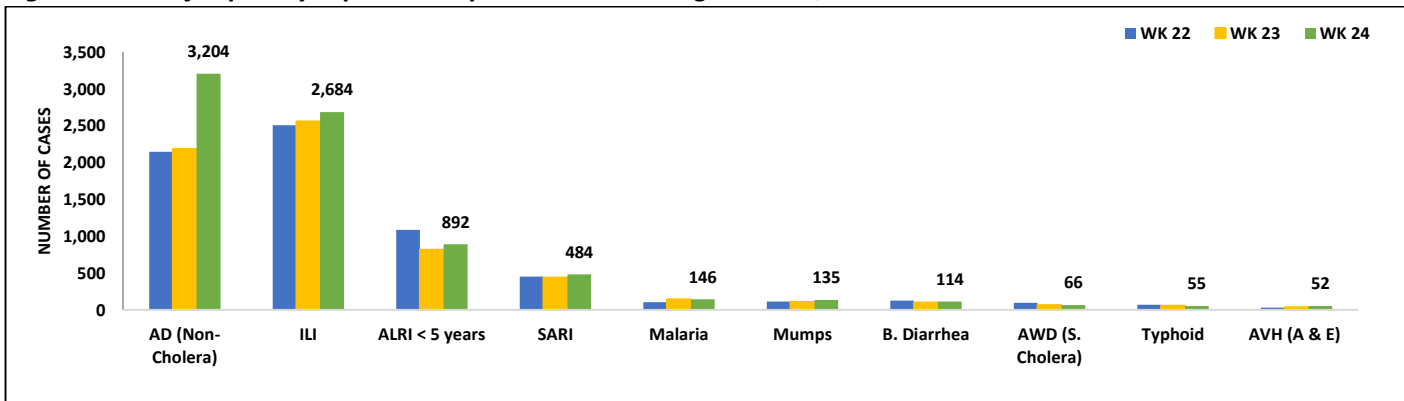


Figure 8: Week wise reported suspected cases of AD (Non-Cholera) and ALRI <5 years, AJK

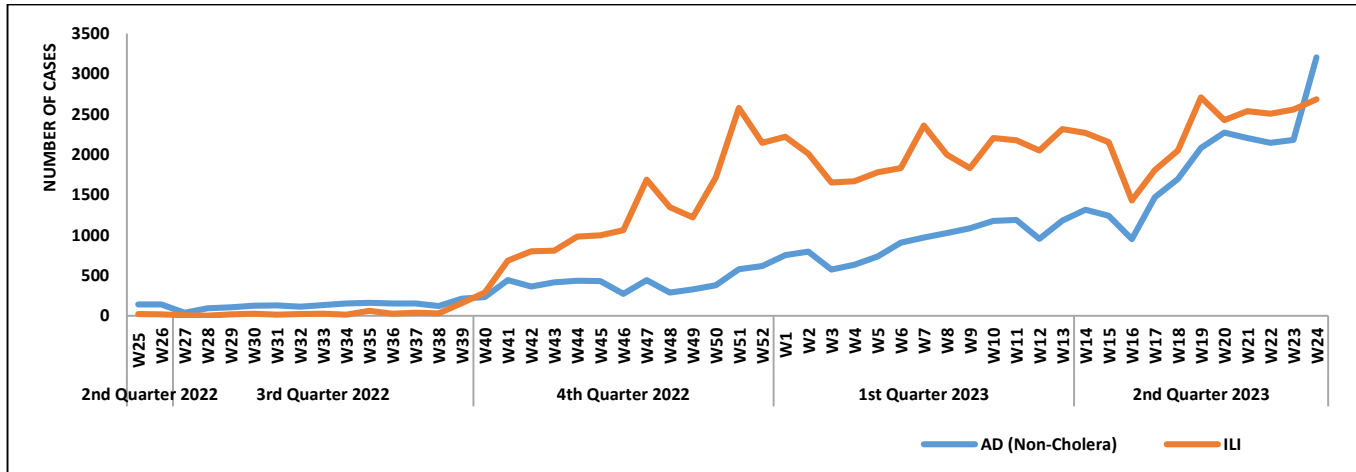


Figure 9: Most frequent cases reported during WK 24, GB

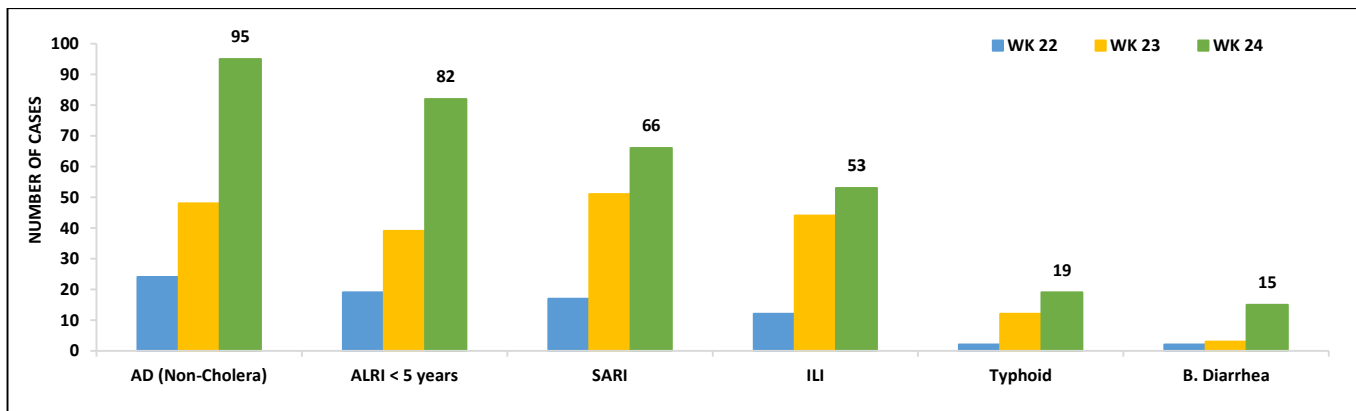
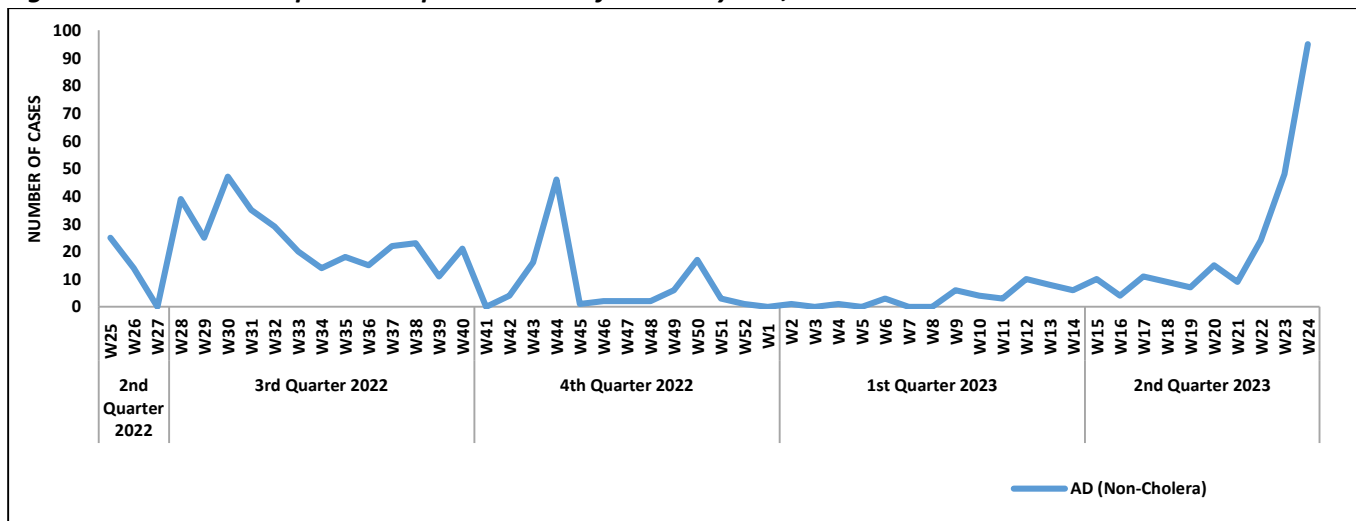


Figure 10: Week wise reported suspected cases of ALRI <5 years, GB



Laboratory Confirmed Cases

Table 5: Public Health Laboratories confirmed cases of IDSR Priority Diseases during Epi week 24

Diseases	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Punjab	Gilgit
Acute Watery Diarrhoea (S. Cholera)	3	-	-	-	-
Acute diarrhea(non-cholera)	2	-	-	-	-
Malaria	216	-	-	-	1
Dengue	18	-	-	-	-
Acute Viral Hepatitis(A)	1	1	-	-	-
Acute Viral Hepatitis(B)	95	-	-	-	1
Acute Viral Hepatitis(C)	142	-	4	-	-
Acute Viral Hepatitis(E)	14	-	-	-	-
Covid-19	0	-	0	0	-



Table 6: IDSR reporting districts Week 24

Provinces/Regions	Districts	Total Number of Reporting Sites	Number of Agreed Reporting Sites	Number of Reported Sites for current week	Compliance Rate (%)
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Abbottabad	110	110	102	93%
	Bannu	92	92	65	71%
	Buner	34	34	29	85%
	Charsadda	61	61	50	82%
	Chitral Upper	33	33	10	30%
	Chitral Lower	35	35	31	89%
	D.I. Khan	89	89	66	74%
	Dir Lower	75	75	72	96%
	Dir Upper	55	55	44	80%
	Hangu	22	22	22	100%
	Haripur	69	69	60	87%
	Karak	34	34	34	100%
	Khyber	40	40	5	13%
	Kohat	59	59	58	98%
	Kohistan Lower	11	11	11	100%
	Kohistan Upper	20	20	20	100%
	Kolai Palas	10	10	10	100%
	Lakki Marwat	49	49	49	100%
	Malakand	42	42	34	81%
	Mansehra	133	133	69	52%
	Mardan	84	84	57	68%
	Nowshera	52	52	51	98%
	Peshawar	101	101	89	88%
	Shangla	36	36	6	17%
	Swabi	60	60	43	72%
	Swat	77	77	67	87%
Tank	34	34	32	94%	
Torghar	10	10	10	100%	
Azad Jammu Kashmir	Mirpur	37	37	34	100%
	Bhimber	20	20	19	95%
	Kotli	60	60	35	58%
	Muzaffarabad	43	43	43	100%
	Poonch	46	46	46	100%
	Haveli	43	43	32	74%
	Bagh	41	41	36	88%
	Neelum	33	33	33	100%
	Jhelum Vellay	49	49	27	55%
	Sudhnooti	68	68	26	38%



Islamabad Capital Territory	ICT	18	18	12	67%
	CDA	9	9	7	78%
Balochistan	Gwadar	24	24	2	8%
	Kech	78	44	31	70%
	Khuzdar	136	20	17	85%
	Lasbella	85	85	82	96%
	Pishin	118	23	9	39%
	Quetta	77	22	16	73%
	Sibi	42	42	21	50%
	Zhob	37	37	25	68%
	Jaffarabad	47	47	30	64%
	Naserabad	45	45	37	82%
	kharan	32	32	28	88%
	sherani	32	32	15	47%
	kohlu	75	75	20	27%
	Chagi	65	65	20	31%
	kalat	65	65	17	26%
	Musa khail	68	68	21	31%
	Harnai	36	36	17	47%
	Kachhi (Bolan)	35	35	11	31%
	Jhal Magsi	39	39	24	62%
	Sohbat pur	26	26	24	92%
	Surab	33	33	5	15%
	Mastung	45	45	27	60%
	Loralai	25	25	24	96%
	Killa Saifullah	31	31	24	77%
	Ziarat	42	42	15	36%
	Duki	31	31	29	94%
	Nushki	32	32	28	88%
	Dera Bugti	45	45	13	29%
Gilgit Baltistan	Hunza	31	31	29	94%
	Ghizer	62	62	20	32%
Sindh	Hyderabad	63	63	25	40%
	Ghotki	65	65	64	98%
	Umerkot	98	43	42	98%
	Naushahro Feroze	120	52	52	100%
	Tharparkar	292	100	93	93%
	Shikarpur	64	64	60	94%
	Thatta	53	53	52	98%
	Larkana	67	67	67	100%
	Kamber Shadadkot	71	71	71	100%
	Karachi-East	14	14	11	79%
	Karachi-West	20	20	20	100%
	Karachi-Malir	37	37	16	43%
	Karachi-Kemari	17	17	7	41%
	Karachi-Central	12	12	9	75%
	Karachi-Korangi	17	17	8	47%
	Karachi-South	4	4	2	50%
	Sujawal	31	31	6	19%



Mirpur Khas	124	124	104	84%
Badin	144	144	105	73%
Sukkur	65	65	64	98%
Dadu	90	90	90	100%
Sanghar	101	101	86	85%
Jacobabad	54	54	41	76%
Khairpur	203	203	160	79%
kashmore	59	59	59	100%
Matiari	42	42	39	93%
Jamshoro	70	70	8	11%
Tando Allahyar	54	54	48	89%
Tando Muhammad Khan	41	41	10	24%
Shaheed Benazirabad	124	124	124	100%



Public Health Bulletin (PHB) Pakistan

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Criteria for authorship credit

INCLUSION CRITERIA

Authors can meet all or just one of the listed criteria:

- a. Significant contribution in conception or design of the study or report, collection, analysis and interpretation of data
- b. Drafted and technically revised the report or manuscript
- c. Critically reviewed the final version for publication
- d. Agreed to be accountable for accuracy and integrity of the study conducted

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- a. Participation solely in the acquisition of funding, the collection of data, general supervision of the research group, position in an organization and by attendance at a meeting will not be enough for claiming authorship.
- b. Persons or groups that reviewed a submission for a clearance process or who suggested revisions or limited changes to a submission will not be listed as authors.

PLACEMENT OF LIST OF AUTHORS AND ORDER

- a. The list of authors follows the title. First and last names and middle initials (optional) should be used. The affiliation with the organization will be footnoted.
- b. The PHB Pakistan recognizes that scientific work is a collaboration, and collaborators have a responsibility to define, accept, and fulfill their roles. The first author will have responsibility for the integrity of the work from inception to publication. First authors also are responsible for providing leadership in determining order of the other coauthors, establishing writing assignments, providing direction for reviews and revisions, and compiling drafts. The first author should ensure an open forum for coauthors to share their concerns and suggestions and should ensure that all ethical considerations (e.g., Institutional Review Board review, disclosure of conflicts of interest) have been addressed.

TYPES OF ARTICLES

The following types of articles are published in the PHB, Pakistan:

1. Surveillance Summary Reports
2. Outbreak investigation reports
3. Notes from the field

In this issue of bulletin, we will discuss Outbreak investigation reports:

Outbreak investigation reports

An outbreak report is a document summarizing all the steps and main findings of the outbreak investigation with providing timely feedback and recommendations to concerned authorities. These reports should follow chronologic narration like telling a story with keeping in mind the following points:

a. Introduction: This should include the event establishing the existence of the outbreak or underlying public health problem addressing how was the outbreak reported, which steps were taken to confirm it, what was known to date, reason for undertaking investigation, when and by whom the investigation was conducted, objectives of the investigation and information that will help readers understand the context like background, population demographics, description of the area/site/facility, healthcare system and sectors involved.

b. Methods: The methods section provides the elements to understand what was done to investigate the outbreak. Methods used in each component of the outbreak investigation should be specified including study design, study population, study setting, study duration, case definition, definitions of groups compared and exposures of interest, source and mode of data collection, sampling technique, sample size, methods used to analyze data, statistical tests used, collection & analysis of clinical and environmental specimens, site visit and methods of risk assessment. Approval from Institutional Review Board and informed consent from participants of the study should be considered and documented.

c. Results: The results section should be consistent with the methods and remain factual including findings that support the conclusion. Findings should be expressed quantitatively and include descriptive and analytical results. Descriptive part comprises of count of cases, clinical characteristics, treatment, outcome and distribution of disease (time, place and person). Laboratory investigation and environmental sampling results



should also be mentioned here. This section should include tables and figures with brief descriptions of the most important patterns or features avoiding data repetition.

d. Discussion: The discussion section links your overall results back to your objectives. This section should provide a brief summary of key findings, clear and logical interpretation of results, limitations of the study and biases that may have led to the observed results.

e. Conclusions & Recommendations: The conclusion section explains how results confirmed or disapproved hypothesis. The recommendations section should be short, concise, specific and targeted (who should do what, what can be done with the available resources, acceptable). This section should specify what should be done to control the current outbreak (e.g. vaccination, water chlorination etc.), to prevent future outbreaks (e.g. awareness sessions, introducing specific control measures, etc.) and to improve management of future outbreaks (e.g. decision-making process, communications, involvement of other relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts etc.).

f. Public health impact: From the experience of the investigated outbreak, some points should be highlighted to improve future investigations. A summary of problems encountered and suggestions for improvement could be useful for participating agencies and colleagues if they will use similar approaches, methods or tools in the future. This segment explains the outcome of the outbreak investigation report like implementation of preventive measures, establishment or improvement of surveillance system, timely reporting of cases or outbreaks, increased vaccination coverage, relevant policy formulation, improved emergency preparedness and community awareness.

g. Summary box: A summary box tells the reader about the importance of the topic, significant findings and the public health impact. Authors should answer the following in one or two sentences for each:

- 1 What is already known on this topic?
- 2 What is added by this report?
- 3 What are the implications for public health practice?

These answers contain the key public health message as well as the justification for the publication. Total words limit should not be more than 75-100 words.

Leishmaniasis investigation in District Karak May 2023

Reported by: District Surveillance Coordinator, Karak, KPK,

Introduction

Leishmaniasis is a vector-borne disease caused by the protozoan parasite *Leishmania*. It is transmitted by the bite of infected sandflies. The disease can manifest in a variety of forms, including cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL), visceral leishmaniasis (VL), and mucocutaneous leishmaniasis (MCL).

Background

A number of *Leishmania* cases were reported from UC Chokara village Zarkhan kalla in District Karak, Pakistan. The cases gradually increased, despite field activities to prevent further spread. The provincial health department was requested by the district Health officials to investigate the outbreak.

Methods

A descriptive epidemiological approach was used to investigate the outbreak. The objectives of the investigation were to:

1. Determine the magnitude of the outbreak
2. Control the further spread of Leishmaniasis in the district
3. Recommend actions to control the disease

Findings

A house-to-house survey was conducted in the localities having laboratory-confirmed cases. A total of 100 households were surveyed, and 15 cases of CL were identified. The median age of the cases was 25 years, and 70% of the cases were male. The majority of the cases (80%) had a history of outdoor activities at night.

The sanitation practices in the affected area were poor. Many households had open water reservoirs, which are potential breeding grounds for sandflies. The use of personal protective measures against sandflies was also low.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made to control the outbreak of Leishmaniasis in District Karak:

- Improve coordination between line departments, especially the health department, administration, and education departments.
- Improve surveillance by active visits and supportive supervision.
- Provide financial resources for mobility of staff to ensure awareness and surveillance.



- Train the staff, especially medical officers, on diagnosis and management of Leishmaniasis cases.
- Make preventive measures, such as bed nets and mosquito repellents, available to the affected area.
- Devise a sustainable budget for outbreak response by involving the concerned departments.
- Conduct vector surveillance for detection of the agent.
- Actively monitor contaminated water reservoirs.
- Build capacity of the staff by trainings.
- Organize awareness sessions at schools, hujras, and mosques.
- Train clinicians on Leishmaniasis management.
- Conduct a case control study to associate and investigate the potential risk factors.

Conclusion

The outbreak of Leishmaniasis in District Karak is a serious public health problem. The recommendations made in this report will help to control the outbreak and prevent further spread of the disease.

WHAT IS KNOWN	WHAT IS ADDED	HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leishmaniasis is a neglected tropical disease that affects millions of people worldwide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leishmaniasis outbreak investigation in District Karak, Pakistan, found poor sanitation practices and low use of personal protective measures against sandflies.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leishmaniasis is a serious but preventable and treatable disease. Early diagnosis and treatment can reduce the risk of serious complications

A note from the Field working....

*Punjab Rawalpindi
Punjab Government Launches Measles
Outbreak Response in Ten High-Burden
Districts*

Ch. Muhammad Hussain DSV, Rawalpindi

The Punjab government has launched a measles outbreak response in ten districts of the province where the burden of disease is high. The target population is 1.4 million children aged 6-59 months. The response includes vaccination, door-to-door social mobilization, and awareness-raising activities.

As of June 22, 2023, 899,807 children have been inoculated with measles vaccine. The five-day drive will end on June 24. In District Rawalpindi, more than 65% of the target population has been covered, with two days of the drive remaining.

The measles outbreak response is a critical step in the Punjab government's efforts to eliminate measles from the province. Measles is a highly contagious disease that can be fatal, especially in young children. The government is committed to ensuring that all children in Punjab are protected from this serious disease.

Dr Abdul Jabar ADHS EPI Punjab is supervising Measles outreach response in District Rawalpindi, said, "The measles outbreak response is part of the Punjab government's efforts to eliminate measles from the province. Measles is a highly contagious disease that can be fatal, especially in young children. The government is committed to ensuring that all children in Punjab are protected from measles"



A note from the Field working....

Punjab Rawalpindi

A Descriptive Epidemiology of Measles in Infants Under 9 Months of Age in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Muhammad Ali Mirza, DSC, Rawalpindi

Introduction: Measles is a highly contagious viral infection that can cause severe complications, including pneumonia, diarrhea, encephalitis, and death. Measles is endemic to Pakistan, and periodic epidemics occur every 2-3 years. Immunization is one of the most successful medical interventions to prevent diseases. However, decrease in herd immunity due to lack of vaccination coverage has led to periodic epidemics, and an associated rise in morbidity in children younger than 9 months.



Methods: This study used a descriptive epidemiology approach to analyze measles line list data from District Disease Surveillance and Response Unit, Rawalpindi in 2022. The data was analyzed and presented in the form of frequencies and percentages.

Results: A total of 1,718 cases of measles aged 1month-12years were reported in Rawalpindi, Pakistan in 2022. Of these, 582 (34%) were in infants under 9 months of age. The majority of the cases were reported from Holy Family Hospital (46%), followed by Benazir Bhutto Hospital (22%) and tehsil Headquarter Hospitals (12%). Private sector health care facilities accounted for 20% of the cases. The mean age of the infants was 6.62 months, with a median age of 7 months. The age distribution was as follows:

- 0-2 months: 3% (n=15)
- 3-5 months: 28% (n=166)
- 6-8 months: 69% (n=401)

The most common complications were pneumonia (39.6%), gastroenteritis (23.5%), and otitis media (18.7%). Eight infants died, seven of whom had pneumonia and one of whom had measles encephalitis.

Discussions: The high number of infants under 9 months of age affected by measles in Rawalpindi is a serious public health concern. The immunization schedule for measles should be reviewed to ensure that all infants are vaccinated at an early age.



A note from the Field working....

Punjab Rawalpindi

Death Anxiety, Social Support and Medication Adherence in People Living with HIV/AIDS in South Punjab, Pakistan

Sadia Rao, AIDS Control Program, BBH, Rawalpindi

Death anxiety is the fear of one's own death. It is a common experience among people living with HIV/AIDS, as they are aware of their increased risk of mortality.



Social support is the emotional and practical support that people receive from their social network. It can come from family, friends, or other sources.

Medication adherence is the extent to which people take their medication as prescribed. It is important for people living with HIV/AIDS to adhere to their medication in order to control their viral load and prevent the development of AIDS.

A study reported by Sadia Rao found that people with HIV/AIDS who had higher levels of death anxiety were more likely to adhere to their medication, especially if they had more social support from their significant other. This suggests that social support can help to mitigate the negative effects of death anxiety on medication adherence.

The study also found that uneducated HIV positive people had slightly higher social support and medication adherence as compared to HIV positive educated people. However, death anxiety was slightly more in uneducated HIV positive people as compared to HIV positive educated people.

These findings suggest that social support is an important factor in medication adherence for people living with HIV/AIDS, regardless of their educational status. However, death anxiety may be a greater challenge for uneducated people living with HIV/AIDS.



Malaria: A Deadly Disease

Malaria is a serious and potentially deadly disease caused by a parasite that is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. The parasite can live in the human body for several weeks, during which time it can cause a variety of symptoms, including fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue. In severe cases, malaria can lead to death.

Malaria in Pakistan

Malaria is a major public health problem in Pakistan. The disease is endemic in all provinces of the country, and it is estimated that there are over 2 million cases of malaria reported each year. The highest rates of malaria are found in the southern provinces of Sindh and Balochistan, where the climate is warm and humid and the mosquito vectors are abundant.

How to Control Malaria

There are a number of things that can be done to control malaria, including:

- ✓ Preventing mosquito bites: This can be done by using insect repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants, and sleeping under a mosquito net.
- ✓ Early diagnosis and treatment: If you think you have malaria, it is important to see a doctor as soon as possible. Early diagnosis and treatment can help to prevent the disease from becoming severe.
- ✓ Using insecticide-treated nets (ITNs): ITNs are nets that have been treated with an insecticide that kills mosquitoes. ITNs are an effective way to prevent mosquito bites and reduce the spread of malaria.
- ✓ Indoor residual spraying (IRS): IRS is a method of spraying insecticides on the

walls of houses to kill mosquitoes. IRS is an effective way to control mosquito populations and reduce the spread of malaria.

Act Against Malaria

Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease. By acting against malaria, we can help to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities from this deadly disease.



Low to no risk
antimalarials not
usually advised

High risk
antimalarials
usually advised

Surrounding
countries with
malaria risk

File picture: Malaria endemic areas Pakistan

Get tested for malaria if you have symptoms.

Take your medication as prescribed by your doctor.

Use insect repellent and sleep under a mosquito net.

Support efforts to distribute ITNs and conduct IRS.

Together, we can make a difference in the fight against malaria.



Message on World Vitiligo Day



www.phb.nih.org.pk

WORLD VITILIGO DAY

25 June, 2023

learning to live with vitiligo

PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN
PAKISTAN

The poster features a purple background with a central graphic of two hands forming a heart shape. The hands are orange and white, with the text 'PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN' and 'PAKISTAN' overlaid. There are also decorative elements like leaves and a globe icon.

Vitiligo is a chronic skin condition that causes patches of skin to lose pigment or color. This happens when melanocytes – skin cells that make pigment – are attacked and destroyed, causing the skin to turn a milky-white color.

Vitiligo can affect people of all races and ethnicities, but it is more common in people with darker skin. The exact cause of vitiligo is unknown, but it is thought to be an autoimmune disorder.

There is no cure for vitiligo, but there are treatments that can help to slow the progression of the disease and improve the appearance of the affected skin.

Vitiligo can be a challenging condition to live with, but it is important to remember that it is not contagious and it does not pose any health risks. There are many resources available to help people with vitiligo cope with the condition and live a full and productive life.

If you or someone you know has vitiligo, there are a few things you can do to help:

- Educate yourself about the condition: The more you know about vitiligo, the better equipped you will be to cope with it.
- Seek support: There are many support groups and online forums for people with vitiligo. These groups can provide you with emotional support and practical advice.
- Be patient: Vitiligo is a chronic condition, so it is important to be patient with yourself and with the treatment process.

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