

Health Situation Report # 34

14-28 February 2006

Highlights

- For the past month of February, 29% of consultations is due to acute respiratory infection (ARI), 6% acute diarrhoea (AWD), 4% Unexplained fever and 4% Injuries.
- Since the start of the Disease Early Warning System, 191 deaths have been reported from the earthquake-affected areas: 31% of these deaths are ARI-related, showing a sharp decrease since two weeks.
- The number of cases of measles reported from Meira camp in Battagram decreased this week to 15. The decrease in cases can be attributed to the vaccination campaign carried out by UNICEF and supported by WHO.
- Out of total 68 health facilities in Muzaffarabad district, 30 (44%) are providing Primary Health Care (PHC) services. For the earthquake-affected population residing in camps, 91% has access to PHC services in the camps or within 4 Km radius of their location. 92% of all health facilities in Muzaffarabad camps and 83% in Hattian camps are providing PHC services.



Training on Hygiene Promotion for Camp Health workers at Kashmir Colony in Mansehra

WHO Response

Project 1: Revitalization of primary health care services

Battagram

- As a follow up to the localized measles vaccination campaign in Meira camp, a vaccine coverage survey has been initiated and is carried out by Lady Health workers who were specifically trained for this purpose.
- WHO delivered a New Emergency Health Kit (medicines and medical supplies for 100,000 people for a 3 month period) and 60 hygiene kits to Dasso Hospital in Kohistan. Another 250 hygiene kits were supplied to the Cuban hospital in Beesham and 90 hygiene kits were distributed to families living in the Sakargah tent village.
- A group of 13 Lady Health Workers and 3 male Health Promoters from Allai Tehsil will be disseminating hygiene and health messages to the returnees from Meira camp and remote areas previously inaccessible due to winter conditions.



Muzaffarabad

- WHO organized and conducted a training workshop on Primary Health Care for 24 Lady Health Workers in Ghari Dupatta. Fifty Lady Health Workers are now trained in PHC.
- WHO donated one winterized tent and one Basic Health kit to the Mother and Child Health Care centre in Kikliote during an assessment visit.

Project 2: Revitalization of hospital care services**Balakot**

- The Cuban field hospital will be handed over to the Pakistani authorities by half March.

Muzaffarabad

- The ICRC field hospital in Narol Stadium is finalizing treatment of previously admitted patients. No new patients are admitted. The United States Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) was transferred to the Pakistani military. There are still seven referral hospitals in Muzaffarabad district (AIMS, CMH, Jamat-ud-Dawa, PIMA, Turkish Hospital, Aga Khan Health Center and GDRO), providing access to secondary health care to approximately 70% of the population
- A re-inventory of all injectables antibiotics and analgesics was done in the medical warehouse of AIMS hospital.
- Rehabilitation of three gynaecological wards was completed at Abbas hospital (AIMS).

Project 3: Increased access to health care for affected communities**Balakot**

- The prefabricated Basic Health Unit in Sanger is ready to start providing health services.

Muzaffarabad

- The prefabricated Basic Health Unit in Dichore Mirrian will be completed next week.
- As a result of an assessment visit in the previous week to the Basic Health Unit in Sarar, WHO provided antibiotics, and due to the noted absence of female health care providers, the NGO Doctors World Wide will be sending female doctors.

Project 4: Emergency health coordination and information management

- All field offices are currently compiling inputs from health partners for the Action Plan on Transition from Relief to Recovery.

Project 5: Disease Surveillance and Early Warning System (DEWS)

The total number of reporting sites trained for DEWS increased from 184 to 196. As per 24 February 83% of these sent their epidemiological data to WHO. WHO is providing the health facilities with communication tools and incentives to improve the reporting timeliness.

Bagh

- The District Headquarters (DHQ) hospital reported a case of suspected meningitis in a 50-year-old female from Begrool in Bagh. Patient was referred to PIMS in Islamabad.
- PIMA hospital reported four cases of suspected hepatitis in the past two weeks. Patients were from Qadrabad, Chattar and Dhal Qazian. Specimens were taken and sent to the National Institute for Health (NIH) in Islamabad for laboratory confirmation. Assessment of the water and sanitation situation in the areas is ongoing.
- A total of four cases of suspected measles were reported: two from Naumanpura IDP camp health facility, one from Sudhan Gali and one from Arja in Dhirkot Tehsil.
- One case of bloody diarrhoea was reported from DHQ hospital Bagh in a 1 year old girl from Surial. Stool sample was collected and sent to NIH for further identification.

Balakot

- Two cases of suspected acute hepatitis were reported by the Field Clinic in Garhi Habibullah and one by the Pakistan Red Crescent field clinic in Bamphora. Blood samples were taken and sent to NIH in Islamabad for confirmation.
- A case of suspected measles was reported by the Field Clinic in Garhi Habibullah.

Battagram

- One case of suspected meningitis was reported from the DHQ hospital. Prophylaxis was given to family members.
- One case of measles was reported from Gajbori, an area close to Kuza Banda, which is only reachable by cable car. While children from other families in the village had been vaccinated a few months earlier, this boy and his 12 year old brother who also had measles had not been vaccinated as they were not at home at the time.
- One case of clinically confirmed measles was reported from Maidan Camp, patient was not vaccinated. A follow up vaccination will be organised to ensure all children receive all three doses of measles vaccine.

Mansehra

- Mercy Corps reported four cases of suspected acute hepatitis from Civil Hospital Battal. On investigation these cases were not clustered in one area.
- One case of chickenpox was reported from Shinkiari by the US Marine Hospital on 18 February 2006. It is noted that two cases of chickenpox were also detected in Bagh. *Vaccination against chicken pox is not part of the routine or supplementary immunization program in Pakistan as most children contract the disease when they are young without causing serious illness.*

Muzaffarabad

- One suspected measles case was reported from ICRC in Chinari (Hattian Tehsil). Another case of suspected measles was reported from the Combined Military Hospital. Patient had been vaccinated against measles. A third case of suspected measles was reported from PIMA Hospital. A mop up vaccination campaign will be organised by the District Health Officer in the new university camp in Muzaffarabad where the patient lives.
- One case of Acute Flaccid Paralysis AFP was reported from BHU Matiyara. The patient came from DollaYar village, with difficult access and was vaccinated.
- One case of Neonatal Tetanus (NNT) was admitted to the Turkish Red Crescent and referred to Abbas Hospital. The baby's mother had not been vaccinated with TT.
- One case of suspected meningitis was reported from Basic Health Unit Chinari. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was collected and the gram stain was negative.

Poonch

- CMH Rawalakot reported 7 cases of Malaria with falciparum trophozoites by microscopy. The cases are from different places and range in age from 16 to 70 years. Further investigation and cross-checking of the slides to confirm the diagnosis is done together with the Malaria Control Program.
- Three cases of suspected acute hepatitis were reported by CMH in Rawalakot. Two patients were tested negative for Viral Hepatitis B.

Project 6: Environmental Health

Bagh

- Extensive water quality testing results show that 38% of the 39 water samples are unfit for drinking purposes due to bacterial contamination.

Balakot

- A Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training course was conducted in coordination between WHO and the NGO IMC. A total of 15 Lady Health Promoters from Oxfam, IFRC, Salik Foundation and ACF were trained in hygiene promotion and PHAST methodology.

Battagram

- Twenty-five participants from 11 NGOs attended a workshop on Water Quality Surveillance and Monitoring organized by WHO and the German Red Cross.
- Seventeen of the 20 incinerators that WHO constructed for the enhancement of solid waste management in health care facilities have already been distributed and installed.
- WHO installed two septic tanks in the Cuban Hospital in Thakot, to counter the problem of drainage of the wastewater, causing the presence of vectors and rodents.
- WHO provided safe drinking water to Kadlo village (11,000 population) to tackle a problem of acute watery diarrhoea cases. No more cases have been reported since.
- Two more Basic Health Units were provided with water and sanitation facilities, in Paimal Sharif (8,000 population) and Ghari Nawab Said (7,500 population). A total of ten BHUs were provided with improved environmental conditions, one more BHU is in the process.
- Besides activities in relation to water quality monitoring and hygiene promotion for water borne diseases, WHO is looking into food hygiene issues in Meira camp in close collaboration with the Army and local community leaders.

Mansehra

- A two-day training for 18 female Camp Health Workers was conducted in the tented village of Kashmir Colony (116 families). The Camp Health Workers will provide their neighbours with health education, monitored by Hygiene Promoters. The training was organized by WHO and UNICEF. A similar number of female Camp Health Workers was trained on hygiene promotion in Nawaz Sherif camp. All participants were provided with a hygiene kit.
- Construction works of ceiling the pit in the DHQ hospital have been completed, while construction of the incinerator have been initiated.



Muzaffarabad

- WHO and OXFAM trained 35 plant supervisors, engineers, and laboratory technicians in water quality training during a two-day workshop at the Public Health Engineering Department Makri Treatment Plant.

Project 7: Mental health and psychosocial actions

Balakot

- The mental health team changed their location in front of the Tehsil Headquarter hospital to improve accessibility and to ensure the linkage with the hospital referral service. The team reported 198 new cases and 52 follow up cases. The main cause of consultation remains anxiety and stress related disorders. Outreach activities were carried out to 6 schools and 63 camps and training on stress management in disasters was conducted for 14 teachers, 18 health workers, 38 social workers, 8 doctors and 6 paramedics.

Battagram

- Special sessions for children in the Maidan Tent schools have been initiated.
- The Pak-China tent village and BHU in Kuza Banda were visited as part of the newly set up outreach follow-up program.