Asia Pacific 2030 Elimination

Experience from Sri Lanka

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ELIMINATION OF MALARIA, an example from Sri Lanka

Source: Sri Lanka Ministry of Health
Malaria incidence in Sri Lanka, 1911-2015 (to date)

17 cases
11 imported

Source: Anti Malaria Campaign, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
An extraordinary achievement

Malaria is endemic in 2/3rd of Sri Lanka

Conflict districts

Malaria endemic zones
Challenges
There is a risk of Resurgence

• High Receptivity:
  – Suitable temperature and humidity. Breeding places: paddy cultivation, irrigation wells, quarry pits, sand pools

• High Vulnerability:
  – Migration, development projects need malaria impact assessment.
  – Unstable, seasonal malaria, prone to explosive epidemic.
  – Increasing inward migration, tourism etc.

A foreign policy issue...
Sri Lanka rescues 138 stranded on sinking boat

AFP
Updated February 3, 2013, 6:49 pm

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lanka’s navy on Sunday rescued 138 Bangladeshis and Myanmar nationals from a sinking fishing vessel off the island’s east coast, officials said.

One passenger was found dead while many of the 138 plucked from the boat were dehydrated, said navy spokesman Kosala Warnakulasuriya, adding that the vessel had been adrift for 10 days before it sank on Sunday.

“We sent three ships for the rescue at a location 50 miles (80 kilometres) off the eastern coast of Akkarai Pattu,” Warnakulasuriya told AFP. “Some have been admitted to a local hospital.”

Police said 14 were Myanmar nationals while the others were Bangladeshis.

Fifteen of the survivors, including two women and two children, were injured. Three others were found dead. None of those saved had legal permission to be in Sri Lanka, the media reported.

The boat had left Bangladesh for the Maldives on December 31 before getting caught in a storm, officials told the news agency.
Sri Lankan navy apprehends 54 Indian fishermen

J Arockiaraj, TNN | Mar 22, 2015, 12:34PM IST

RAMESWARAM: Even as bilateral talks between Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen have been scheduled to be held in Chennai on March 24 and 25, the navy of the island nation on Saturday evening apprehended 54 Tamil Nadu fishermen and their ten boats.

Marine police sources at Mandapam said the fishermen had been apprehended while they were fishing between Katchatheevu and Neduntheevu in the Sri Lankan waters. They were being interrogated at the naval bases in Sri Lanka.

Thirty three of the apprehended fishermen are from Rameswaram while the rest are from Jegathapattinam in Pudukottai district.
Challenges to malaria elimination

- Imported malaria is increasing
  - Armed Force personnel acquiring infections while on UN peace-keeping missions
  - Deported Sri Lankans from malaria-endemic countries
  - Irregular / “illegal” migrants
  - Travelers (local & foreign) to & from malaria-endemic countries

- Rare disease events leading to malaria becoming a “forgotten” disease
An impressive response

Ongoing effort is required, with significant positive externalities
Ongoing Priorities:

- Ensure all diagnosed cases are treated as per national treatment guidelines
- Sustain case investigation and response
- Ensure outbreak preparedness, prevention and response
- Engaging the private sector in case management and surveillance
- Sustain financing
- Work with neighbors on case importation
Cluster of vivax malaria among asylum seekers
Over 1000 immigrants screened
23 cases identified and Regular screening continues

Thank you...