Eliminating kala-azar

The linkage between India with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan elimination efforts – the importance of sustaining elimination in SEAR

Meeting of the Consortium: Setting the Post Elimination Agenda for Kala-Azar in India (SPEAK India)
New Delhi, India, 3-5 November 2016
Global burden of VL

• Over 556 million people at risk
• Estimated
  o 200 000 to 400 000 new cases/year
  o 20 000 to 30 000 deaths/year
• High burden countries
  o SEAR: Bangladesh, India, Nepal
  o AMR: Brazil, Paraguay
  o AFR: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda
  o WPR: China
  o EUR: Georgia, Spain
  o EMR: Somalia, Sudan
Geographical distribution of VL

Status of endemicity of visceral leishmaniasis, worldwide, 2013

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. © WHO 2015. All rights reserved

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) World Health Organization

http://gamapserver.who.int/mapLibrary/Files/Maps/Leishmaniasis_2013_VL.png
Kala-azar in SEA Region

- 147 million people at risk
- Endemic in 5 countries
Kala-azar Elimination in SEA Region (1)

• Elimination
defined as less than 1 case per 10 000 populations at district level in Nepal and sub-district level in Bangladesh and India

• Treatment
single dose AmBisome as 1st line drug (only one manufacturer, drug donated through WHO)
Kala-azar Elimination in SEA Region (2)

- Kala-azar elimination programme adopted by all endemic countries
- Strong political commitment
  - 2005 MoU: BAN, IND & NEP
  - 2014 MoU: BAN, BHU, IND, NEP, THA & SEARO
- Target year: 2017
- Regional priority: 1 of 7 flagship programmes
Kala-azar Cases and Deaths in SEAR, 2000-2015
Numbers in 2015

- **India**: 7363
- **Bangladesh**: 569
- **Nepal**: 206

8 deaths
Current Status

Kala-azar Incidence (per 10000 population) in SEA Region in 2015

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Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: CDIO
World Health Organization 2016
Date: 02/11/2016
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Key issues in SEA Region

• Increasing trend in reported PKDL cases particularly in Bangladesh and India
• Porous borders, need for enhancing cross-border surveillance
• Emergence of HIV-VL co-infection, Bihar, India
• Asymptomatic infection
• VL occurrence in the non programme districts / areas formerly mapped as non-endemic
• Strengthening surveillance
• Strengthening vector management
Conclusion

• Lowest level of cases and deaths: our best chance?
• WHO-SEARO leadership priority with strong political commitment in all countries
• Elimination efforts bound by a common MoU
• Common vector and similar epidemiological features
• Geographic location of endemic areas around shared international borders
• Porous borders and free movement of people
• Common regional political/technical platforms to work together
• Success and achievements in one country have strong positive influence on others
THANK YOU

jamsheedm@who.int