

## Health Situation Report # 33

30 January-13 February 2006

### Highlights

- Improved weather conditions allow access to previously inaccessible areas like Allai, Shangla and Kohistan. Outreach activities are now possible and planned, assessments are ongoing.
- Anti-scabies prevention is ongoing in Battagram's Maidan camp, as the main theme of a larger hygiene promotion campaign. Hot water facilities and Benzyl Benzoate for treatment of scabies and hygiene education are provided by Lady Health Workers.
- Extensive training of Lady Health Workers and Supervisors is ongoing in health issues varying from family planning to HIV/AIDS.
- Almost 3,000 children were vaccinated against Measles in Meira camp, Battagram to put a halt to the ongoing measles outbreak. The localized vaccination campaign was organized by the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF.
- Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) remains the most common reason for consultation among both the population under 5 years of age (42%) and above (29%), followed by Injuries (4%); and Acute Watery Diarrhoea (6%).



*Hygiene promotion campaign at Meira Camp in Battagram to encourage people to use safe drinking water.*

### WHO Response

#### Project 1: Revitalization of primary health care services

- To boost vaccination of children in Battagram and Balakot for routine diseases as well as Hepatitis A and Influenza, a vaccination campaign is being implemented for 25 days with the support of the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF.

#### Balakot

- First aid training for fourteen health staff members from the Ministry of Health, the Pakistani Red Crescent and the NGO MSF was conducted. The training was organized by the Ministry of Health, WHO and NGOs Child Advocacy and Advanced Life Support.

#### Mansehra

- A scabies survey carried out in two tent villages shows scabies prevalence of less than 5%. Due to the significant improvement of hygienic conditions and decrease in scabies cases, a tentatively planned scabies campaign was cancelled.
- A total of 35 Medical Technicians were trained in the Disease Early Warning System (DEWS) for communicable disease control, and Primary Health Care issues, including psycho-social health care and reproductive health.
- Almost 60 Lady Health Visitors and Female Health Technicians were trained on effective management of reproductive health based on the WHO and UNFPA guidelines.

## Muzaffarabad

- A Training of Trainers workshop was conducted to prepare 24 Lady Health Supervisors as trainers of a series of workshops for Lady Health Workers to be conducted in Muzaffarabad district. The Lady Health Supervisors were trained on relevant health issues such as reproductive health, maternal health, family planning, psycho-social issues, HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections.

### Project 2: Revitalization of hospital care services

- Eleven prefabricated basic health units (BHU) are about to be completed in Balakot, Battagram and Muzaffarabad by UNOPS and WHO. The BHUs will be implementing the PHC package of minimum standards finalized by WHO in consultation with Ministry of Health, UNICEF and UNFPA.

## Balakot

- WHO handed over the ambulance to the District Officer for Health as all conditions are now in place for the ambulance to be operational.

## Battagram

- An additional number of 6 prefabricated basic health units (BHU) will be constructed in Allai Valley to cover a total of 73,000 people.

### Project 3: Increased access to health care for affected communities

## Battagram

- Results of the health survey carried out in Maidan camp in January show that two thirds of surveyed patients received medical attention and treatment. The lack of female doctors limits female patients to seek appropriate medical care. Recommendations focus on the need for lady health workers and doctors, but also on the increase of community participation, and the need for targeted services for vulnerable groups like pregnant women and young children.
- An assessment of the health situation in Kohistan, a previously inaccessible area, shows that the affected population is under-serviced. WHO will send an Emergency Health Kit to the Districts health authorities for immediate coverage of gaps in drug supplies.

## Muzaffarabad

- One of the positive side-effects of outbreak investigations is the increased attention of the humanitarian community to the affected population in question. Thanks to the false reports of hemorrhagic fever cases in Jabba Bharia near Chilehana Neelam valley end January, the population was provided with medical care, shelter and food items. The medical team that was mobilized to the village by WHO and the Ministry of Health to monitor the situation is still present.

### Project 4: Emergency health coordination and information management

## Mansehra

- A health cluster workshop was held to review all health cluster activities in Mansehra and to discuss the strategic direction for the transition period in the coming months. The workshop was an initiative of the Ministry of Health and WHO and was attended by the main national and international health organizations.

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

- A Polio vaccination campaign is ongoing in Bagh, Dhirkot and Hawelli Tehsils. Already 56,280 children were given polio drops, representing 86% of the targeted number.
- One suspected Meningitis case was reported from Harigal by the DHQ Hospital. The patient was not vaccinated and referred to the PIMS hospital in Islamabad.
- Two cases of Acute Jaundice Syndrome were reported from Sarbuland Bagh by the PIMA field clinic. The patients were treated and their conditions improved.

**Balakot**

- One suspected case of Meningitis was reported by Madni trust hospital. Case investigation revealed the patient did not suffer from Meningitis.

**Battagram**

- One suspected case of Measles was reported by CH Thakot from Barsar Banda village. The patient was not vaccinated. WHO is looking into improving the vaccination coverage of this and other areas.
- Six more reporting units were added to the DEWS from field clinics of the French Red Cross in Kuza Banda, Pomong, Batian, Khairabad, Kharari, and GN Said.

**Mansehra**

- Nine suspected cases of Hemorrhagic Fever were reported from the civil hospital in Baffa Tehsil. Case investigation revealed that it was not Hemorrhagic Fever.

**Muzaffarabad**

- One suspected Measles case was reported from ICRC in Chinari (Hatian Tehsil). Vaccination coverage in this area is high. The patient's family came from Karachi and may therefore not have been vaccinated earlier.
- One case of Acute Flaccid Paralysis AFP was reported from BHU Matiyara. The patient came from DollaYar village, with difficult access. Patient was vaccinated.

**Poonch**

- Follow up investigation from the alert in the previous week about 13 cases of Bloody Diarrhoea in Jandala shows that one stool sample was tested positive for *Shigella flexneri*. The other 11 samples were tested negative.

**Islamabad**

- The NGO MDM reported 5 cases of Measles. Two blood samples were taken for laboratory verification. Active case finding was initiated and an additional 41 cases were found within 3 days. A localized immunization campaign has been started targeting 4,425 children.

**Project 6: Environmental Health****Balakot**

- Water quality testing in Hassa and Talhatta villages shows contamination with coliform from 4 out of 9 samples. WHO distributed aqua tablets for water purification.

## Battagram

- WHO constructed 20 incinerators for the enhancement of solid waste management in health care facilities. Eleven were already distributed; an additional nine will follow soon. (See picture)
- Results of an extensive drinking water quality testing programme carried out by WHO show that 38% of the 45 tested water samples that were taken from 28 water sources were unfit for drinking purposes. All unfit water samples came from water sources that were not chlorinated. WHO distributed water testing kits to all involved agencies and is promoting the adequate chlorination of all water sources.
- As part of a hygiene promotion campaign, aiming to decrease the number of diarrhoea cases in Meira camp (almost 20,000 inhabitants), WHO placed 10 signboards to convince people to only drink safe purified drinking water.
- A two day workshop in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) was carried for 14 Lady Health Workers and 18 other hygiene promoters from various agencies. PHAST training aims to enhance knowledge and skills of hygiene promoters in PHAST methodology and to streamline activities between different actors involved in the water and sanitation sector. The workshop was an initiative of WHO with support from UNICEF.



## Mansehra

- A series of 8 hygiene promotion workshops for lady health workers has been initiated in Kashmir colony camp and will last until April. WHO is conducting the workshops to improve the hygienic conditions in the main camps. WHO is providing the lady health workers with hygiene kits and aqua purification sachets.
- An incinerator for the disposal of medical waste will be constructed at the District Headquarters hospital and is estimated to be completed by end February. The construction is an initiative of the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and the NGO MSF.
- Because of the increasing need for destruction of out-dated medicines, WHO is looking into the elaboration of a protocol for the collection of medical waste for small health facilities.

## Muzaffarabad

- WHO donated 11 trash trolleys to Abbas Hospital to improve medical waste management.

## Project 7: Mental health and psychosocial actions

### Battagram

- The WHO mental health team in Maidan camp is carrying out tent-to-tent visits to other camps and villages in the district. In the camp, activities for children are organized such as football, badminton, and other physical activities. The children are given home assignments. The team is looking into the gradually increasing number of female patients.