

VL/LF UPDATE

3rd Edition (April 2023)



Sealing of cracks in the village house walls to prevent sandfly breeding for the prevention of Kala Azar transmission



ASHAs ensuring drug consumption amongst family members in the rural households during the MDA



Message for Director NCVBDC

Several developments have taken place in 2022 for accelerating the elimination efforts for Kala-Azar / Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) and this Newsletter will touch upon the key activities of the program. **The newsletter has become a medium that has offset the barriers to communication of updates and presents as a snapshot of initiatives and innovations inculcated by the program.**

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Key Activities

Kala-azar key activities 2022

- Highest Political Commitment- Review by Hon'ble HFM
- Engagement of Medical Colleges in Kala-azar
- High-level monitoring by JS(VBD) at Pakur & Dumka
- Engagement with Stirrup pump trader association
- National Review Meetings – Lucknow & Ranchi
- Intensive Kala- Azar Field Monitoring
- Participation in the first Health Working Group Meeting of G20 to showcase the elimination of Kala-azar in India in Trivandrum

Lymphatic Filariasis key activities 2022

- Highest Political Commitment- Review by Hon'ble HFM
- Launch of Enhanced 5-pronged Strategy for LF Elimination
- High-Level MDA launch as part of a 2-phase campaign.
- Implementation of Block level Strategy
- National Review Meeting of Lymphatic Filariasis
- National Training of Trainers (TOT) on MMDP
- Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) for Lymphatic Filariasis
- National TOT on IDA & Brugia Impact Survey
- Engagement of Medical Colleges in Lymphatic Filariasis elimination
- Intensive Pre-MDA and MDA Monitoring

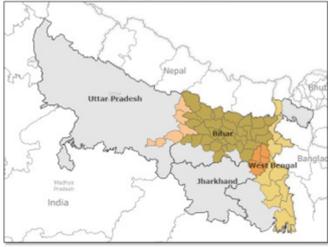
Kala-Azar Activities

Kala-Azar Elimination Programme in India

Kala-azar (KA) situation in India

- Kala-azar is endemic in 633 blocks of 54 districts in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal states
- More than 90% of the Kala-azar cases are contributed by Bihar and Jharkhand states
- Uttar Pradesh (2019) and West Bengal (2017) states have achieved elimination target at the block level
- During 2022, a total of 881 Kala-azar cases were reported across the country. During 2023, till Feb, 80 Kala-azar cases were reported.
- In 2023 as on date, none of the 633 blocks reported more than 1 case per 10000 population

Target: Reduce annual KA case incidence to <1/10000 population at block level by 2023



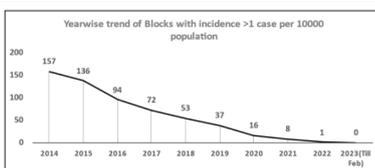
Kala-azar Endemic states

- Uttar Pradesh endemic districts
- Bihar endemic districts
- West Bengal endemic districts
- Jharkhand endemic districts

Kala-azar Endemicity in India

Out of 633 blocks, 625 (98.7%) blocks achieved the elimination status. 8 blocks remain to achieve the elimination status.

As on date, all 633 (100%) are below endemicity level!

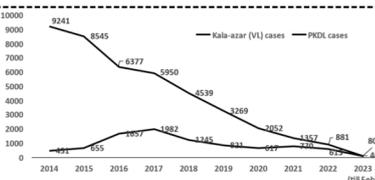


Yearwise trend of Blocks with incidence >1 case per 10000 population

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Till Feb)
Blocks	157	136	94	72	53	37	16	8	1	0

Kala-azar (VL) and PKDL case trends of India 2014–2023 (till Feb)

- 91% decline in Kala-azar (VL) cases from 2014 till 2022
- 80 Kala-azar cases and 46 PKDL cases detected till end of Feb of 2023
- Gradual decline in PKDL cases over the years



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Addressed the country on the Mann Ki Baat radio programme and spoke about Kala-Azar Elimination



Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation on Kala-azar elimination from the country in 'Mann ki Baat' on 25th December 2022.



Tweet on Kala-Azar from PMO

Review meeting with the Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India

A review meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Hon' HFM, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, on 3rd January 2023 with the health ministers of four endemic states to assess the Pre-elimination phase of KA and the sustenance of efforts in high endemic blocks. Honourable HFM appreciated and thanked the state health ministers and their teams for the progress made towards kala-azar elimination. He expressed his gratitude to the states for presenting the state report cards on KA elimination and emphasized the need to work together to achieve the desired elimination goals. He mentioned the TB model where cases have been adopted by officers to achieve the TB elimination goals so jointly a lot of desired outputs can be achieved. He emphasized the need to bring down the incidence to <1 across all the remaining blocks and sustenance of the gains made so far.



Review meeting under the chairmanship of Hon' HFM to assess pre-elimination phase of KA

Kala- Azar review visit by JS(VBD)

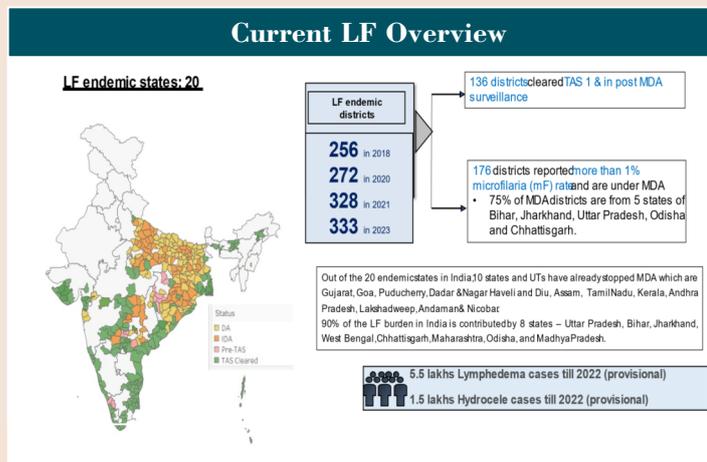
A high-level team headed by Shri Rajiv Majhi JS(VBD) and Dr Tanu Jain, Director, NCVBDC reviewed the Kala-azar elimination progress in the Pakur and Dumka districts of Jharkhand in November 2022. The high-level meetings have resulted in focused attention to the elimination strategies by the district authorities. After these visits, follow-up review meetings were conducted with DCs of Pakur and Dumka with JS, AS&MD.



Kala-Azar review visit by JS(VBD), Shri Rajiv Majhi and Director, NCVBDC, Dr Tanu Jain

Lymphatic Filariasis Activities

LF Overview in India



Dr. Mansukh Mandavia, Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical Fertilizers launched the Enhanced Strategy for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis and Campaign for Pan India

National Symposium on India's Roadmap to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC) in collaboration with Global Health Strategies (GHS) and its partners organized a National Symposium on Building India's Roadmap to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis on January 13th, 2023, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated the National Symposium and launched the Enhanced Strategy for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis and Campaign for Pan India, Bi-Annual Mass Drug Elimination. During the launch, Dr Mandaviya announced that for the world, LF may be a neglected tropical disease but for India henceforth, it is a priority disease for elimination.

The revised 5-pronged strategy to achieve the goal of elimination by 2030 is shown below:



Joint Monitoring Mission

Joint Monitoring Mission for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis Program, India was conducted from November 14-25, 2022. As part of JMM, expert teams were constituted to visit the States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, and UP. Each State Team visited 2 districts, 2 PHCs, and 2 villages in each PHC during the period of field visits beginning from 16th to 22nd November 2022. Each team consisted of Team Leaders and experts in the field of LF, entomology, social scientists, and procurement specialists in some states. Teams were accompanied by the NCVBDC officers as National Observers.



Team Telangana:
Dr. Neeraj Dhingra,
Dr. Jambulingam,
Dr. Chhavi Pant, Dr. B.P.Dutta,
Dr. Rajendra Kumar Singh,
Dr. Atul, Dr. Satyendra,
Mr. Pawan, Dr. Vijay,
Dr. Snehashree, Ms. Rajshree,
Dr. Shireesha

A few key recommendations by the team were:

- States to timely initiate and plan the preparatory phase in good compliance with MDA.
- Strong political and administrative leadership needs to be leveraged for effective intersectoral and multistakeholder collaboration.
- Medical colleges to be effectively engaged in the LF programme.
- Rollout of MMDP training in a cascaded manner across districts.
- Hydrocele backlog to be completed with help of medical colleges and district hospitals.
- Linking of financial assistance schemes for disability due to Lymphatic Filariasis. For example, Andhra Pradesh has approved financial assistance of Rs. 5000/- for bilateral elephantiasis-Grade-IV patients, Telangana is providing a monthly pension of Rs. 2016/- to Grade-II onwards filariasis affected persons and Tamil Nadu is providing Rs. 1000/- for Grade-IV lymphatic filariasis cases.

Telangana state government providing pension to Filariasis patients under Aasara scheme @ 2016/- pm

Telangana Aasara Pension Scheme Amount & Eligibility Criteria

Sl. No	Category	Existing Monthly Pension (Rs.)	Enhanced monthly Pension under Aasara Scheme w.e.f. June, 2019 payable in July, 2019 (Rs.)
1	Old Age	1000/-	2016/-
2	Widow	1000/-	2016/-
3	Disabler	1500/-	2016/-
4	Wearers	1000/-	2016/-
5	Travelling Trappers	1000/-	2016/-
6	Persons with HIV/AIDS	1000/-	2016/-
7	Breedi Workers	1000/-	2016/-
8	Single Women	1000/-	2016/-
9	Filariasis Patients	1000/-	2016/-

Aasara scheme announced by Telangana

