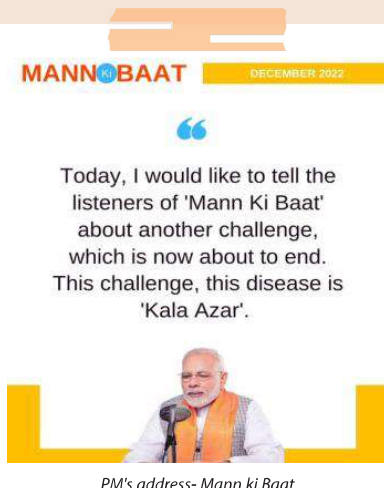


VL/LF UPDATE

Issue No. 4 (December 2023)



Message from Joint Secretary (VBD), MoHFW, Gol



This newsletter aims to delve into the pivotal activities and key achievements of the Kala-azar and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) programme. Some of the newer initiatives like the health analytics workshop on modelling of NTDs and digital reporting of MDA campaigns by the States (Bihar & Uttar Pradesh) are also highlighted in this newsletter. As an effective communication medium, the newsletter overcomes communication barriers and offers a condensed overview of the program's initiatives and innovative measures undertaken towards elimination of Kala-azar and Lymphatic Filariasis.

Message from Director



NCVBDC has made numerous advancements to expedite the efforts for achieving the elimination target for Kala-azar by 2023. Many motivational stories from the field namely Engagement with Rotary International; Filaria Patient Networks, UP and Bihar: Leading from the front; Empowering Lives: A Journey to Recognize Lymphatic Filariasis as a disability have been covered in this newsletter. Efforts towards the elimination of Kala-azar and Lymphatic Filariasis are highlighted in the Picture Gallery of the Newsletter.

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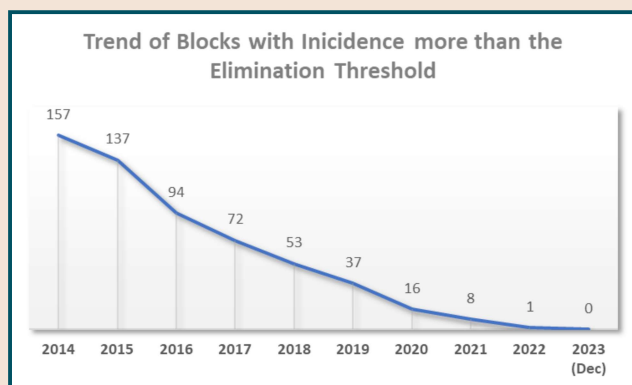
Towards Kala-azar Elimination

During 2023, till December 595 Kala-azar cases and 314 Post Kala-azar Dermal Leishmaniasis (PKDL) cases have been reported in Kala-azar endemic states.

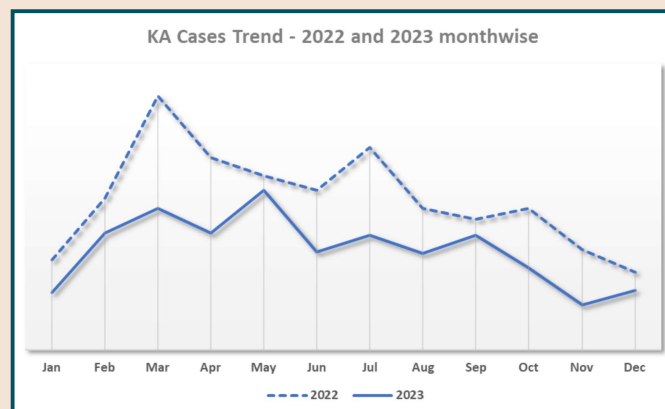
A reduction of 33.2% in VL cases & 45% in PKDL cases has been reported from 2022 to 2023.

Currently as of 2023, all 633 Kala-azar endemic blocks from four states i.e., Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have achieved and sustaining the Kala-azar incidence below the elimination threshold*.

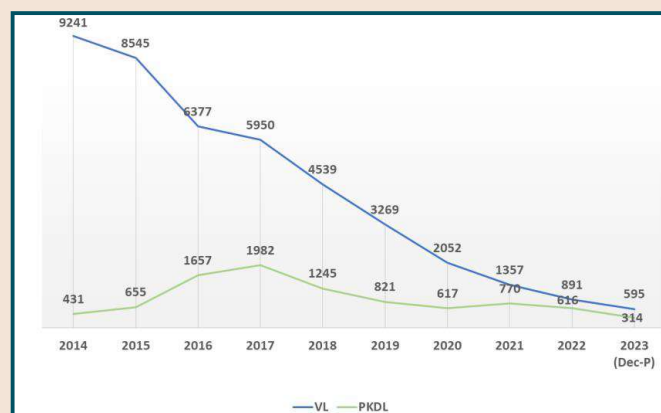
**Less than 1 case per 10,000 population at block level.*



There has been a month-wise decline of KA cases in 2023 when compared with 2022.



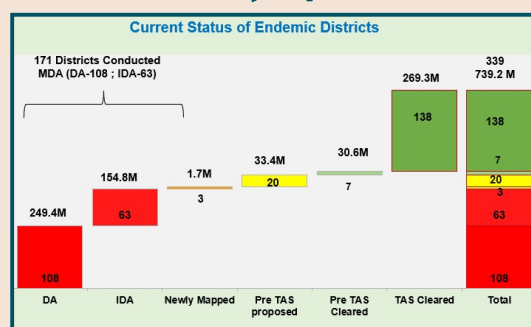
There has been a decline of 93.5% of VL cases from the year 2014 to 2023. There is a gradual decline in PKDL cases over the years.



Key Highlights:

- The Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted about Kala-azar elimination in his Mann ki Baat
- Around 50 Ratri Chaupals for Kala-azar were conducted for dissemination of Hon'ble PM's Mann ki Baat
- NCVBDC participated and showcased the elimination journey of Kala-azar in an exhibition at the G20 Health Ministers Meeting from 17th to 19th August 2023 held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat and First Health Working Group G 20 meeting held in Kovalam, Kerala from 18th to 20th January 2023
- Intensified field visit by the National team to Jharkhand to identify sand fly density and programme progress
- High-level meeting by Hon'ble HFM to review the VL elimination progress.
- KAMIS to IHIP transition at the national level has been completed.

An Overview of Lymphatic Filariasis



During 2023 out of 339 endemic districts in 20 States/UTs.

Feb 2023 MDA: 10 States, 93 Districts, and 869 Blocks, with reported coverage of 80%

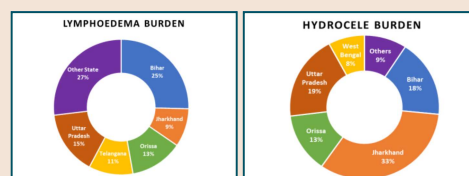
Aug 2023 MDA: 9 States, 81 Districts, and 832 Blocks, with reported coverage of 84%

138 (~41%) districts have stopped MDA and cleared TAS-1 and are in post-MDA surveillance.

Lymphatic Filariasis Cases:

In 2023, 621178 Lymphoedema and 127100 Hydrocele cases were reported in the country. The States that reported high lymphoedema case burden were Bihar(25%), Uttar Pradesh(15%), Telangana(11%) & Odisha(13%) and Jharkhand(9%). The States that reported high Hydrocele case burden were Jharkhand(33%), Odisha(13%), Uttar Pradesh(19%), Bihar(18%), West Bengal(8%).

State Level:



MMDP

- Virtual meeting under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India to discuss the modalities of implementation of the National Program on Ayush for Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) of Lymphatic Filariasis (Lymphoedema).
- Workshop with Senior Faculties of various AIIMS and other Medical Colleges for finalizing Early Diagnosis and treatment protocol for acute LF cases.

Newer Initiatives

National Level:

Health Analytics Workshop on Modelling Neglected Tropical Diseases in India Health Analytics Workshop held on 31st August 2023 in Mumbai on Modelling Neglected Tropical Diseases in India, which was organized by National Disease Modelling Consortium (NDMC) IIT Bombay.

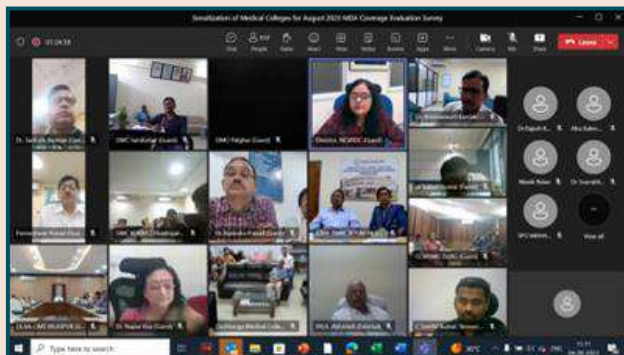


Discussed on initiatives under the LF and Kala-azar elimination programmes and opportunities of mathematical modelling. Director, NCVBDC and Officers participated in the workshop and explained the scope and the opportunities of mathematical modelling for LF and VL.

Digital Reporting of MDA Campaigns

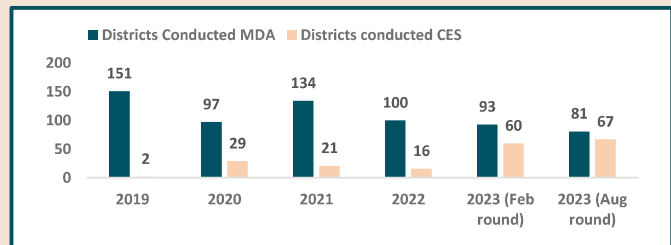
Engagement of Medical Colleges for Lymphatic Filariasis by NCVBDC

Medical Colleges can play a vital role in accelerating the elimination goal by addressing the last mile challenges and by enhancing access to quality services in lymphatic filariasis. NCVBDC identified 197 Government Medical Colleges and the same were tagged with 339 LF endemic districts. A series of sensitization cum orientation meetings were conducted with the faculty of Medical Colleges to enlist their support in LF activities. Two meetings (24th March 2023 and 22nd May 2023) with Medical College for sensitization and update on Post MDA assessment for February 2023 MDA followed by two meetings (1st June 2023 and 8th June 2023) for sensitization and orientation on Pre-MDA preparedness for August 2023 MDA followed by Post MDA Assessment sensitization and review meeting (4th Sept 2023, 13th Sept 2023 and 4th October and 22nd November 23) for August 2023 MDA were conducted.



The following support of Medical Colleges was solicited. During Pre-MDA, Participating in State/District Task Force Meetings on MDA, acting as a resource person during the training of trainers at the district level, and set up booths on the campus and OPDs. During MDA, conduct monitoring of MDA activities along with district teams, depute teams to be part of Rapid response teams or

facilitate in addressing post-consumption events/ADRs. During Post-MDA, Conduct a Coverage Evaluation Survey(CES) as per the block-level strategy within one month of completion of the MDA and participate in feedback and review meetings with district officials. For MMDP, Conducting Hydrocele surgeries in camp mode to clear the backlog, Early Diagnosis and timely treatment of acute attacks thus preventing the chronic complication of LF. As a result of regular sensitization & continuous efforts by NCVBDC in 2023, the number of districts that conducted CES by Medical Colleges increased to 127 in 2023 from 2 districts in 2019.



Year wise status of Districts conducted MDA & CES

Highlights:

MDA

- Launch of Mission Mode MDA campaign on 10th February 2023 and 10th August 2023 synchronized with National Deworming Day(NDD)
- Launch of Mission Mode MDA campaign on 10th February 2023 and 10th August 2023 synchronized with National Deworming Day(NDD).
- National Launch of MDA Campaign by Hon'ble HFM Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on 10th August 2023 and Secretary (HFW) on 10th February 2023 at Nirman Bhawan.
- As a call for enhanced Intersectoral Convergence and synergy of efforts by all allied Ministries/Departments to culminate into a "Jan Aandolan" for improved compliance in MDA, Hon'ble Member (Health), Niti Aayog chaired a meeting with States and allied Ministries (Panchayati Raj, Education & Literacy, Women & Child Development, Youth, Tribal, Rural Development).
- Letter by Hon'ble HFM to the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Assam and Hon'ble Health Ministers of Bihar and Jharkhand seeking their unwavering support, commitment, and able leadership towards the upcoming campaign against LF.
- Integration of LF Module in IHIP is under process.

- **Bihar (SukRtya App)**

In Bihar, there was a recognized necessity for a web-based application to enhance monitoring and facilitate mid-course corrections for the MDA program.

Meetings and brainstorming sessions were held with Govt. counterparts at the State level, and it was agreed that the “SukRtya” application which was already being used for HSC mapping could be used for MDA real-time reporting. The key components of the MDA reporting were incorporated into the “SukRtya” application, many additions and alterations were done after the feedback from the field.

SukRtya app for MDA reporting in Bihar The Secretary Health cum Addl. Executive Director, Govt of Bihar, issued a letter stating that the “SukRtya” application will be used for the reporting for the MDA program. In light of this letter a one-day State Level workshop of the DCMs and DVBDco for orientation of the “SukRtya” application.

SukRtya app for MDA reporting in Bihar



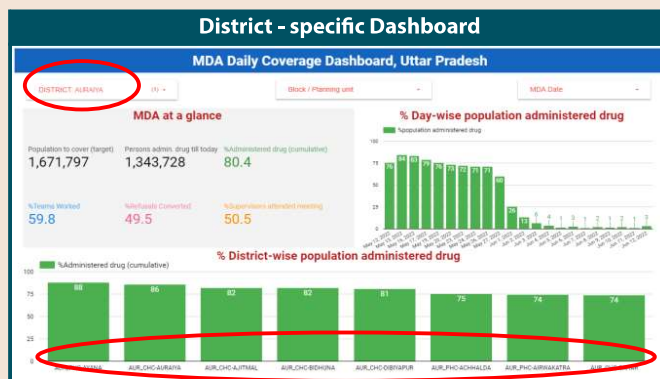
Uttar Pradesh (Digital interventions for daily MDA coverage reporting – CS Pro)

An MDA daily coverage dashboard (CS Pro) was prepared to review MDA progress and is used during state-level virtual review meetings for timely decisions and corrective actions.

The “**District-specific Coverage Dashboard**” is shown to district officials during the state review. District officials (CMO/ACMO/DMO) respond to the queries/issues and further corrective actions are discussed. After the review, the district-specific dashboard PDF files are shared with districts.

The dashboard aids in the planning for Mop-up by planning units with poor coverage. The follow-up letters by state and districts are also issued based on this data.

CS Pro Dashboard for MDA reporting in Uttar Pradesh



Snippets from the field

Engagement with Rotary International (Contributed by GHS)- NCVBDC and Rotary International teamed up to raise awareness about LF and encourage people to participate in the MDA round in India. They used Rotary's strong local presence to reach out to people from diverse backgrounds, including over 60,000 beneficiaries from 24 educational institutes in Odisha and 1 medical college in Patna, Bihar.

In Odisha, they held inaugural ceremonies, and rallies, and made public announcements to spread the word about LF. They also set up booths in community areas and schools where they provided information about LF and offered drinking water. Rotary members also led by example by consuming anti-filarial drugs to build trust in the medication.

In Patna, Bihar, the Rotary Patna Club set up a decorated booth at IGIMS Medical College where walk-in patients and caregivers could easily access anti-filarial drugs. They also placed informational materials in the medical college and offered water bottles and biscuits to beneficiaries consuming anti-filarial drugs.

By leveraging Rotary's strong local presence and expertise in community engagement, the initiative was able to reach and mobilize thousands of people in Odisha and Patna-Urban, Bihar, to participate in the MDA round against LF. This is a significant step towards eliminating LF in India and ensuring a healthier future for all.



Rotary International booth at IGIMS Medical College, Patna

Filaria Patient Networks, UP and Bihar: Leading from the front (Contributed by CFAR) - In 2023, the Filaria Patient Networks in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar experienced significant growth, expanding from a modest 13 patients in Kanpur in July 2021 to a formidable 10,469 patients across 21 districts. Filaria Patient Networks across 21 districts actively participated in these initiatives, playing a crucial role in the prevention and control of filaria.

The network members took on multifaceted responsibilities, facilitating patient connections to the healthcare system, providing essential training on self-care, and distributing MMDP kits. Regular meetings were convened to address concerns and establish effective communication channels with relevant health departments.

Across MDA districts, the Filaria Patient Network members organized 1,990 activities in preparation for the MDA rounds in February and August, reaching over 134,000 people. During the rounds, 736 members ensured the Directly Observed Treatment (DOT), visiting 25,053 households across 227 villages. Remarkably, they convinced 76% of those initially resistant individuals to accept medication. These collective endeavors underscore the pivotal role played by network members in achieving and sustaining the ambitious goal of eliminating lymphatic filariasis.

Empowering Lives: A Journey to Recognize Lymphatic Filariasis as a disability (Contributed by Piramal Foundation)- Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) causes severe disability and disfigurement with patients often having irreversible swelling, progressing to a bedridden state.

Recognizing the critical need for inclusion, advocacy efforts were commenced with heartfelt discussions with LF patients, families, and communities and officials at various levels.

Special Achievement: On the 13th of September, a significant breakthrough occurred when the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in Bihar directed the District Magistrates and civil Surgeons to provide Disability Certificates to all the ELIGIBLE lymphoedema patients in Bihar. Subsequently, Jharkhand also started to issue Disability Certificates. This marked a turning point in recognizing LF as a disability in Bihar and Jharkhand. TILL NOW 1170 patients across 34 districts of Bihar & and Jharkhand have received disability certificates.

This instance exemplifies the transformative power of advocacy, restoring dignity and improving the lives of LF patients. The journey persists, fueled by the belief that every life affected by LF deserves government support. The vision is to extend this support nationally and statewide, ensuring integration into every district, including those yet to adopt it.



Picture Gallery

KALA-AZAR



Visit of Hon'ble HFM – G20 Gujarat



Visit of Hon'ble MoS – G20 Gujarat

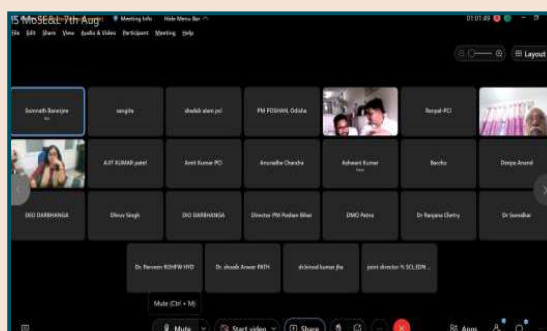


KA Ratri Chaupal – Mann ki Baat Dissemination

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS



Launch of MDA by Hon'ble HFM Gujarat



Intersectoral Convergence Meeting with Ministry of Women & Child development



MDA Awareness



Engaging of different religious leaders

Director's Office

National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control
M/o Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-110054
Contact: 23921086