

The Elimination of malaria in Sri Lanka

Source: Anti-Malaria Campaign, Sri Lanka Ministry of Health Rajitha Wickremasinghe Professor of Public Health University of Kelaniya Sri Lanka





Source: Anti Malaria Campaign, Ministry of Health Sri Lanka



Timeline of malaria elimination in Sri Lanka



Source: Anti-Malaria Campaign, Sri Lanka Ministry of Health



Sri Lanka





Two opportunities for malaria elimination in Sri Lanka



Source: Anti-Malaria Campaign, Sri Lanka Ministry of Health



Remarkable progress to elimination – how did we do it?

This **enormous accomplishment** is the result of dedicated, multi-pronged efforts of healthcare staff and policy decision-makers over two decades:



- Targeting high-risk populations with aggressive quality assured diagnosis and treatment (microscopy, RDTs, ACT)
- Radical and complete cure
- Access to diagnosis and treatment
- Targeting high-risk areas with vector control interventions (ITNs, IRS)
- Strong programme management and emphasis on **surveillance**
- Rapid response
- **Strong partnerships** (military, UNHCR, etc)
- Political commitment and leadership from the Anti-Malaria Campaign
- Investment from government administrations and the Global Fund



Malaria among Armed Forces Personnel 2009/2010

- 55% of all cases were relapses
- Index cases of almost all local outbreaks were relapsing cases
- Six foci (hot spots) were defined
 - Vellankulam
 - Mulankavil
 - Killinochchi/Kokavil
 - Thunukkai
 - Mulathivu
 - Yala

Collaborated with SLA to provide radical cure



Contributor: Lt. Col Saveen Gamage, Sri Lanka Army



Disease burden due to malaria 1999-2016

Year	Number	Number of deaths			
	Indigenous	Imported			
1999	264	102			
2000	210	76			
2001	66,	53			
2002	41,	30			
2003	10,	4			
2004	3,7	1			
2005	1,0	-			
2006	5	-			
2007	1	1			
2008	649	23	-		
2009	531	27	-		
2010	684	52	-		
2011	124	51	-		
2012	23	-			
2013	-	-			
2014	-	-			
2015	-	37	-		
2016	-	41	-		

Indigenous and imported malaria in Sri Lanka



Source: Anti-Malaria Campaign, Sri Lanka Ministry of Health



Distribution of imported cases by country of origin, 2012

		Case detection site & type of malaria								
Country	Total	At PoE			Within the country					
		Pf	Total		Pv	Pf	Ро	Mixed	Total	
Benin	20	16	16			4			4	
Ghana	1					1			1	
Guinea	5	1	1			3		1	4	
Haiti	2	1	1			1			1	
India	28				24	1		3	28	
Liberia	4					2	2		4	
Nigeria	3					3			3	
Pakistan	2				2				2	
Sierra Leon	2					1		1	2	
Тодо	2	2	2							
West Africa (Gabon)	1					1			1	
Total	70	20	20		26	17	2	5	50	

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Distribution of imported cases by nationality-2013





Distribution of cases by district/RMO Region-2012



Distribution of cases by district/RMO Region-2013



Serious threats could re-introduce malaria and reverse historic gains

- Imported cases and cross-border issues
- Presence of the mosquito vector
- Resistance to artemisinin and insecticides
- Health security
- Lost immunity
- Malaria is forgotten
- Donor dependency



Time to diagnosis in indigenous malaria patients -2012 Days from onset of illness to blood test



Time to diagnosis in imported malaria patients - 2012 Days from onset of illness to blood test



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Time to diagnosis in imported malaria patients - 2013 Days from onset of illness to blood test



Four Strategies

- Strengthening surveillance for malaria case detection
- Maintaining clinical skills for diagnosis and treatment of malaria
- Strengthening entomological surveillance and response through integrated vector management
- Strengthening systems for outbreak forecasting, preparedness, prevention and response



6 cross-cutting approaches

>IEC to raise awareness of the malaria elimination programme

➤Quality assurance

Enhanced monitoring and evaluation

Improved programme management and performance

>Operations and implementation research



Prevention of Reintroduction (PoR) requires re-doubled commitment for critical malaria programming

- 1. Maintaining a strong and resilient malaria **surveillance** system
- 2. Monitoring and controlling the mosquito **vector**
- 3. Screening people who are at high risk of **importing** malaria
- 4. Ensuring that health care providers and communities remain **vigilant and aware** of malaria prevention, symptoms, and treatment



Cost savings







Thank you

