

Public Health Needs for Neglected Diseases in India- A Government Perspective

DNDi Public Symposium

“India: Catalyst in Drug Development for Neglected Diseases?”

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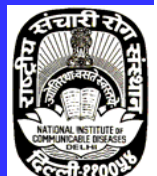


Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) - Magnitude of problem

- Over 1 billion people – 1/6 of the world's population—suffer from one or more neglected tropical diseases.
- Most affected are the poorest populations often living in remote, rural areas, urban slums or in conflict zones.



Source: WHO 2008



NTDs – Epidemiological characteristics

- 14 diseases currently listed as NTDs.
- Most can be prevented, eliminated and one, guinea worm, can be eradicated.
- Children are the most vulnerable.



14 diseases currently listed as NTDs

Prevalent in India

- Cholera/epidemic diarrhoeal diseases
- Dengue/ dengue haemorrhagic fever
- Dracunculiasis (guinea-worm)
- Endemic treponematoses (yaws, pinta, endemic syphilis)
- **Leishmaniasis**
- Leprosy
- **Lymphatic filariasis**
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- Trachoma

Prevalent elsewhere

- Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness)
- Buruliulcer
- Chagas disease
- Onchocerciasis
- Schistosomiasis



Neglected Diseases - Drugs

- Less than 1% of the 1393 new drugs registered between 1975-1999 were for tropical diseases.
- Drugs for some of the NTDs are safe, inexpensive (as low as two US cents per tablet)
- For other diseases, the medicines are old, toxic, expensive and often in short supply.



Source: WHO 2008



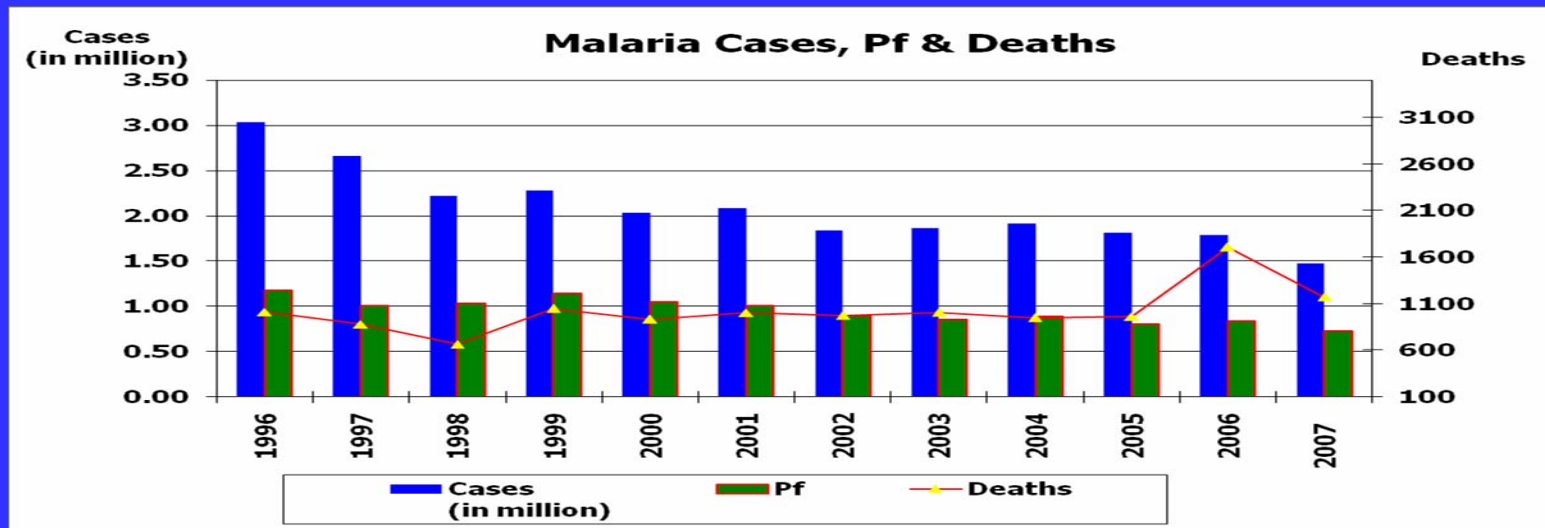
Neglected Diseases in India

(for the purpose of presentation)

- Malaria
- Visceral Leishmaniasis
- Lymphatic Filariasis



Malaria



Year	Cases (in million)	Deaths
2005	1.82	963
2006	1.78	1708
2007	1.48	1173

- Increasing proportion of Pf cases – insignificant decline in deaths
- Increasing chloroquine & insecticide resistance
- P. vivax strain responsible for complicated /severe malaria

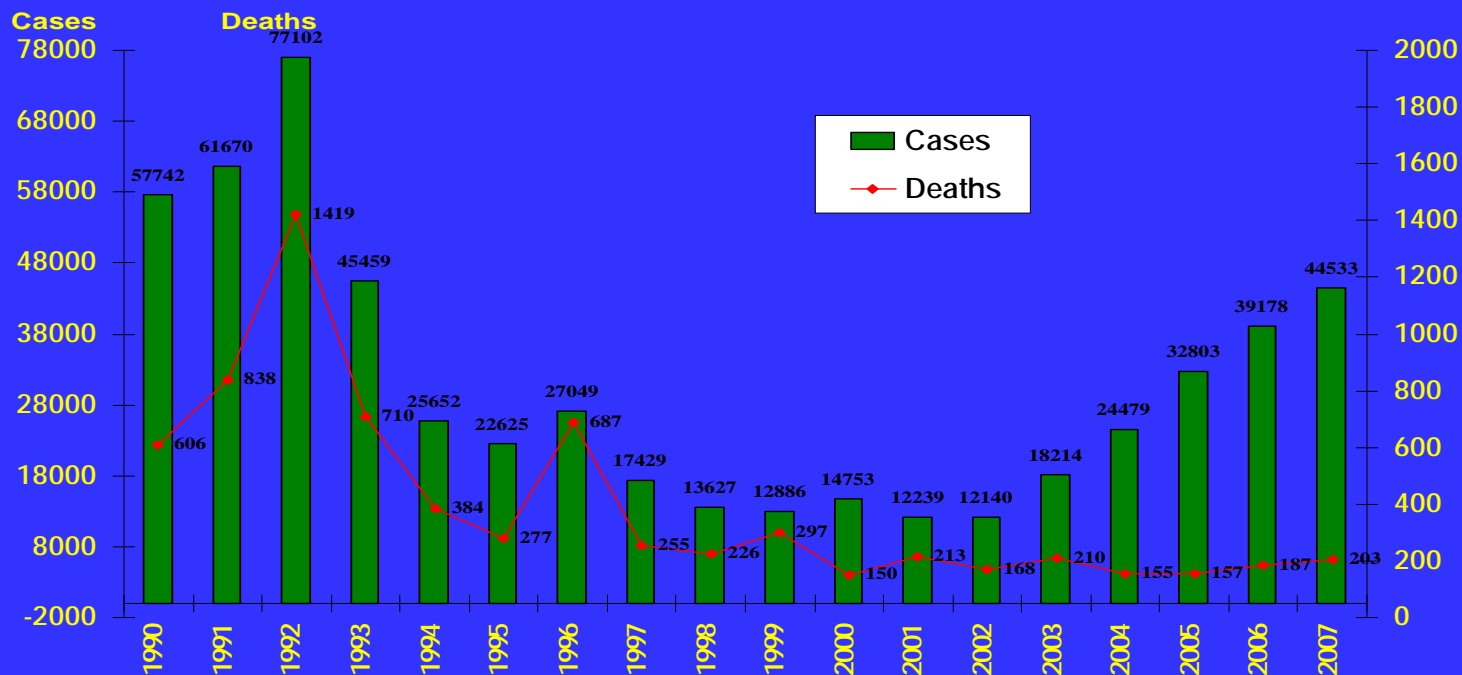


National Drug Policy on Malaria

- Key component of malaria control- Early diagnosis and prompt treatment.
- Treatment 1: Chloroquine+Primaquine, ACT (pf cases)
- Treatment 2 : Chloroquine+Primaquine (pv cases)
- Treatment 3 : Chloroquine (Clinical malaria)



Visceral Leishmaniasis

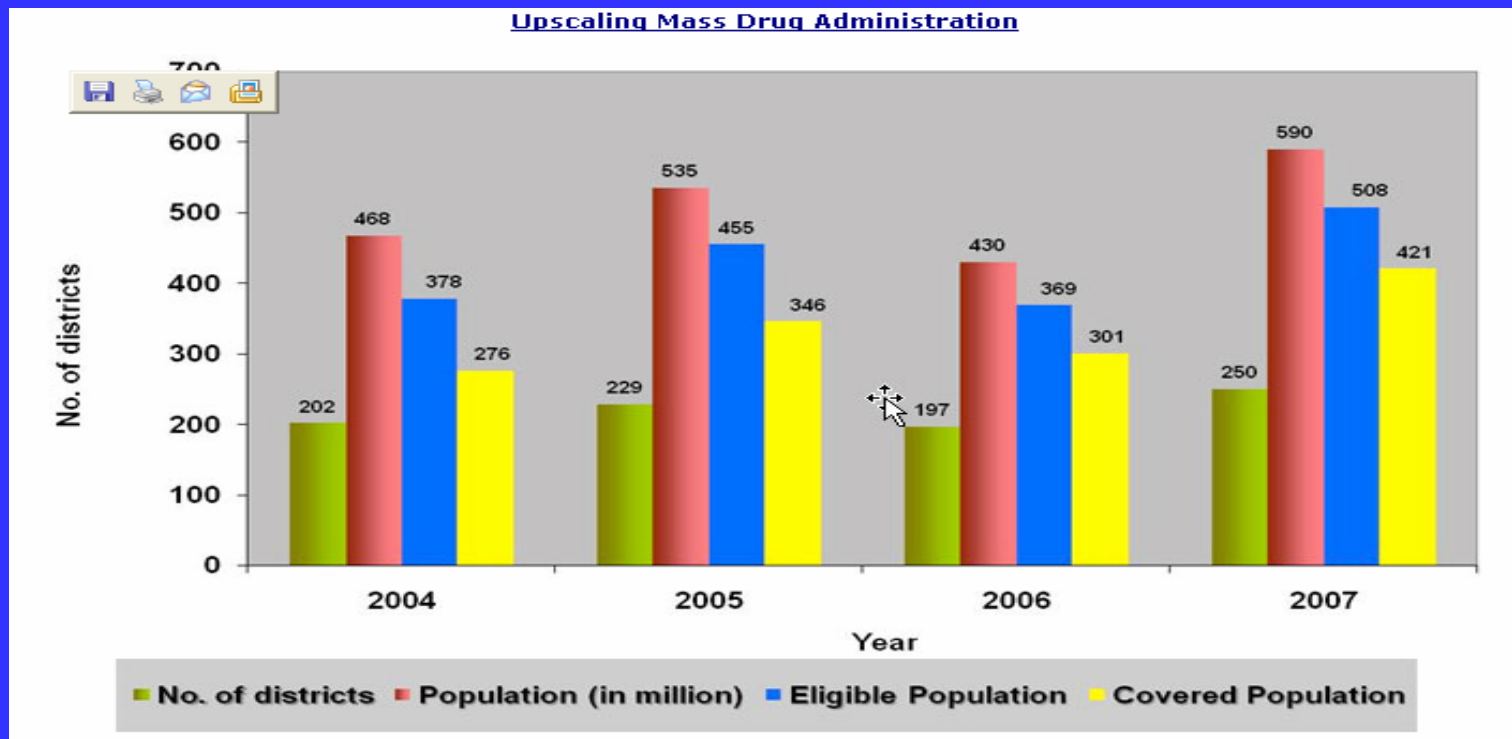


	Cases	Deaths
2006	39178	187
2007	44533	203
2008 upto July	16969	72

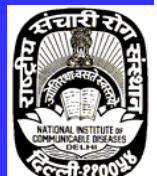
- Increase in cases due to better surveillance & diagnosis.
- Major inputs provided for elimination by 2010.



Lymphatic filariasis



- Filariasis has been a major public health problem in India next only to malaria and cases have been reported from about 250 districts in 20 States/Union Territories.
- MDA (DEC, DEC+ albendazole) is being organized annually in November.



Govt. initiative for Control of Neglected Diseases

- World Bank support for malaria control
- VL elimination by 2010 (intensification of case detection using RK 39 kits & treatment)
- LF elimination by 2015 (MDA using DEC + albendazole & morbidity management)





Way Forward

- Public Private Partnership.
- Identification of new molecules.



