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CHOLERA, DIARRHEA & DYSENTERY UPDATE 2005 (43)

A ProMED-mail post

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[1] Cholera, earthquake-affected area - Pakistan (Kashmir)

Date: Thu, 3 Nov 2005

From: ProMED-mail promed@promedmail.org

Source: New York Times [edited]

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/03/international/asia/03cnd-quake.html>>

2 children with cholera were brought to a Japanese Red Cross medical tent in this mountain town today, 3 Nov 2005, doctors said, raising fears that the grim conditions among the homeless and injured survivors of the 8 Oct 2005 earthquake were deteriorating further as winter sets in.

The scene across the steep terraced mountains of Pakistani Kashmir remains one of devastation and dislocation. Blue canvas tents now dot the hillsides, where families are camping next to their damaged homes. Lines of people can be seen hiking along roads and narrow paths over the landslides, and long lines of survivors can be seen waiting for relief supplies in the towns. Not far from Chinari, a whole mountainside has collapsed into the river valley below, sweeping houses and terraced fields away, and creating a new mountain of rock and mud hundreds of feet high that has changed the course of the river.

In the American military mobile hospital set up in the regional capital, Muzaffarabad, a 55-year-old secondary school teacher from the Neelam Valley, nursing a broken ankle, had an urgent plea. "Just clear the roads of landslides," he said. "There are a lot of people suffering still in Neelam. People will definitely start dying."

The most difficult job facing the military relief effort here is how to clear the roads enough to bring in the thousands of tons of food and other supplies needed before the winter weather sets in. Up to 3

million people are estimated to be homeless as a result of the quake. About 4000 people in 20 villages in remote valleys blocked by landslides have not yet received any aid at all, nor been reached by Pakistani military survey teams, Lt. Col. Tariq Jawed, the helicopter operations officer at Chaklala air base, said.

"Along 50 kilometers there are multiple landslides on one road," said Lt. Col. Jeff Kilian, of the 74th Naval Marine Construction Battalion, which has started clearing operations in Muzaffarabad and has surveyed the blocked mountain roads from the air. The landslides were so massive that they could not be cleared by machines but had to be blasted with explosives, he said. The only choice for much of the region remains bringing in supplies by air, he said.

[Byline: Carlotta Gall]

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[2] Cholera - India (Tamil Nadu)
Date: Fri, 4 Nov 2005
From: ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>
Source: NewKerala.com [edited]
<<http://www.newkerala.com/news.php?action=fullnews&id=47670>>

The Communicable and Diseases Hospital (CDH) in the city continued to receive fresh cases of diarrhea patients, even as the fear of outbreak of cholera among the people of North Chennai persisted. CDH sources told UNI that 26 fresh cases were admitted to the hospital today, 4 Nov 2005, following diarrhea and vomiting.

With this the total number of people admitted to the hospital since 28 Oct 2005 has gone up to 168. Of the 168 patients, 8 people have been tested positive over the last 2 days, the sources added. Describing it as "too small a figure," the sources said that there was no outbreak of cholera.

Most of the affected were children, who were prone to infectious diseases due to water contamination following rains. A majority of the cases were reported from the rain-battered areas like Pulianthope, Korukkupet and Vysarpadi, which were under water for 3 to 4 days.

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[Chennai, also known as Madras, is the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu and is India's 4th largest city. It is located on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal. More cases of cholera and diarrhea from other causes are likely. - Mod.LL]

[3] Cholera - China (Zhejiang)
Date: Sat, 29 Oct 2005
From: ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>
Source: XinHuaNet.com [edited]
<http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-10/29/content_3699847.htm>

The cholera outbreak in the cities of Jiaxing and Huzhou in east China's Zhejiang Province has been basically brought under control, sources with the provincial health authorities said Sat, 29 Oct 2005. From 25 to 28 Oct 2005, no new cholera case was spotted in the 2 cities for 4 consecutive days, and the last cholera-bacteria carrier left hospital Fri, 28 Oct 2005, noted the sources. Jiangxi

reported its 1st cholera case on 2 Sep 2005 and its last case on 17 Oct 2005. During this 6-week period, the city recorded a total of 184 cholera cases and 60 cholera bacterial carriers, with no deaths reported. Since 18 Oct 2005, Jiangxi has had no new cholera cases for 10 days in a row, and its last cholera patient recovered well and left hospital on 23 Oct 2005.

On 13 Oct 2005, sporadic cholera outbreaks were reported among migrant workers at a brick mill in the Nanxun District of Huzhou. The city has since recorded 19 cases of cholera, and another 34 cholera bacterial carriers. The city provided free medical care for the patients, and carried out physical examinations on 200-plus migrant workers inside and around the mill. No more cholera cases have been reported in the city for the past 4 consecutive days, and the last bacterial carrier left hospital on Fri, 28 Oct 2005.

Provincial health authorities attributed the outbreak of the waterborne disease this year largely to drinking unsanitary water, eating unclean food, and paying little attention to locals' personal hygiene.

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[4] Cholera - Sao Tome and Principe (Sao Tome)
Date: Wed, 2 Nov 2005
From: Alfonso J. Rodriguez <ajrm_msds@yahoo.es>
Source: IOL News, South Africa [edited]
<http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=qw1130943068915B235>

4 people have died as a result of a cholera outbreak in Sao Tome and Principe since Oct 2005, the Lusa news agency reported on Wed, 2 Nov 2005 citing health officials in the West African island nation. There were 165 registered cases in October 2005.

The epidemic is limited to Sao Tome, the archipelago's main island, and appears to have resulted from the use of untreated river water, they said. It is the 2nd cholera outbreak in the former Portuguese colony, a remote pair of volcanic islands that lie on the equator, in the past 5 months.

In April 2005, a cholera outbreak in the nation of just over 180 000 affected nearly 200 people, killing 3.

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[5] Cholera - Worldwide - WHO WER Notifications
Date: Fri, 4 Nov 2005
From: Marianne Hopp <mjhopp12@yahoo.com>
Source: WHO Epidemiological Record, 4 Nov 2005
<<http://www.who.int/wer/2005/wer8044/en>>

Notifications of cholera received from 28 Oct to 3 Nov 2005

country / dates / cases / deaths

Africa

Benin / 22 Sep -9 Oct 2005 / 112 / 1
Burkina Faso / 12 Sep - 9 Oct 2005 / 151 / 4
Mozambique / 19 Sep - 2 Oct 2005 / 505 / 5
Senegal / 17 - 23 Oct 2005/ 824 / 13
Uganda / 26 Sep - 16 Oct 2005 / 346 / 12

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[Elsevier reference:
Seas C, Gotuzzo E. Cholera: Overview of epidemiologic, therapeutic, and preventive issues learned from recent epidemics. Inter. J. Inf Dis July 1996. 1(1): 37-46
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=GatewayURL&_origin=SDPROMED&_urlVersion=4&_returnURL=&_method=citationSearch&_version=1&_volkey=1201-9712%231%2337%231&md5=1a50f1ab35b83771401a11ea6cf4d3f8>]

See Also

- Cholera, diarrhea & dysentery update 2005 (42) [20051028.3139](#)
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