

Minutes of the review meeting on Vector Control Management

In the Chair : Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

Meeting Date : 13th June, 2024

Meeting Venue : 6th floor Conference Hall at Nagarayan

Meeting Time : 3.00 PM

Secretary, UD & MA Department chaired the meeting to review the progress of Vector Control Management, 2024. After detail discussions & deliberations, the following decisions are taken.

1. Focus on Breeding and Dumping Sites :

- The meeting began with a strong directive to focus on probable mosquito breeding sites and identified garbage dumping sites.

2. Clearing Blocked Drains :

- Emphasis was placed on clearing all blocked drains to reduce water collection, preventing flooding and the creation of mosquito breeding sites. It has to be ensured that there should be no choking in any high drains.

3. Addressing Garbage Dumping :

- It has been noted that despite the absence of VATs, garbage dumping is common in many areas. All identified dumping sites must be cleaned, with ULBs tracking the reduction of these sites.

4. Housing Cleanliness :

- Immediate action required to address garbage dumping in housing areas. It has been emphasized that maintaining cleanliness is critical, and no laxity in this regard will be tolerated.

5. Sharing Observations by Entomologists :

- Observations from entomologists and SUDA officials to be shared with ULBs. Actions taken must be persistently tracked. Any correlation between garbage clearance and vector-borne diseases will be assessed.

6. Third-Party Monitoring :

- Suggestion for using a third party to monitor and validate cleaning activities at the ULB level.

7. Cleanliness at Construction Sites :

- CREDAI was advised to ensure cleanliness at all construction sites. Notices to be served to unregistered builders, sensitizing them to reduce breeding sites. Members of CREDAI may be invited to join a webinar to sensitize them on better conservancy & water storage management at the construction sites.

8. Management by Railways :

- Railway Department managed 45 out of 177 sites in Eastern Railway, 14 out of 19 in South Eastern Railway, and none out of 3 in RVNL. All breeding sites under jurisdiction of Railways shall be cleaned including the encroached areas considering the public health urgency.

9. Irrigation & Waterways Department :

- Tenders have been invited for AMC of 800 km of canals and the contracts are expected to be finalized within 30th June, 2024. This is in addition to the 360 km odd length of canals already under the coverage of AMC.
- There will be a coordination meeting between the concerned division of I&WD and the ULBs in presence of official both from I&WD and UD & MA Department. This is necessary to ensure better coordination.
- As of now, Garui River to be cleaned by Asansol Municipal Corporation. Meanwhile, I&WD to put out contracts for Annual Maintenance Contract for AMC to Garui River.
- I&WD has been further requested to plan a joint inspection at the Dankuni Canal alongwith with Dankuni Municipality.

10. Housing Department :

- Housing Department to ensure cleanliness of all quarters, regular garbage disposal, covering overhead tanks, and cleaning of septic tanks. Waste collection from households should start, littering in premises avoided, and drains cleared.
- Housing Department requested to share a comprehensive list of Rental Housing Estates in the ULBs.

11. Public Works Department :

- Immediate cleaning required for all garages, especially those at Baranagar Municipality and BMC.

12. Transport Department :

- All bus depots have been cleaned, disposed of 920 old tyres, removed 23 dilapidated buses, and disposed of 212 tons of scrap. Regular cleaning of these depots is being undertaken .The Department requested for larvicide spraying in tram depots which are not manageable by them.

13. ESIC :

- Most of the ESI Hospital in the State are in a very poor condition with large number of breeding sites. This needs to be addressed immediately by ESIC through appropriate and intensive cleaning activities. After the one time cleaning, a sustain system of regular cleaning should also be maintain.
- Waste collection from all quarters to start, and littering avoided.
- Special focus to be given on management of ESI Kamarhati Hospital and ESI Serampore premises and quarters.

14. NKDA :

- Coordination with RWAs and Promoters, sensitization of vendors, mapping of littered hotspots and stagnant water areas, constitution of quick response teams, tracking of dengue cases reported from labs and hospitals has been initiated.
- Block supervisors have been engaged for all 49 blocks and surveillance teams posted.

15. Replication of Good Practices:

- Good work of some ULBs were appreciated and all ULBs were advised to replicate some of the successful initiatives such as covering open unused wells preferably with mosquito nets , administration of night garbage collection from markets, daily fever case reporting, prompt dengue case follow-up, and weekly ULB level meetings with Supervisors, VCMO, Core team of the ULBs.

16. HMC :

- Challenges of HMC were highlighted such as inaccessible households, littered in between premises etc. HMC has been advised to ensure payment of all category of workers by the 10th of the following month and timely submission of UC to State to facilitate fund release from UD & MA Department.

17. BMC Challenges :

- BMC committed to initiate intensive cleaning drive by 20th June .BMC was further directed to clean all vacant plots which are potential breeding sites. BMC was also directed to strengthen monitoring of all vector control activities.
- Initial report suggested proper follow up of Dengue patients is not consistent and therefore needs to be strengthened.

18. Purulia :

- House-to-House activity to be started from next 2 (two) round with the existing trained workers and no replacement may be considered for any trained workers or Supervisors unless any exceptional circumstances.

19. Upcoming Activity Plan :

- The proposed activity plan for upcoming consecutive three months (June to August, 2024) was placed at the meeting and accepted. The plan may be revisited as required based on case load, vector load, fever survey and entomological indices.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair



**Secretary, UD & MA Department
Government of West Bengal**