

Minutes of the review meeting on Vector Control Management

In the Chair :	Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal
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Meeting Date :	3 rd March, 2023
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Meeting Venue :	6 th floor Conference Hall at Nagarayan
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Meeting Time :	2.00 PM
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Principal Secretary chaired the meeting to review the Comprehensive Vector Control Management Plan, 2023 of the ULBs under Hooghly, Howrah, North 24 Parganas & South 24 Parganas. After detail discussions & deliberations, the following decisions are taken.

- 1) Department of Health & Family Welfare Department had appreciated the positive outcome of the Pulse Mode Activity of ULB in 2022 in previous meetings and suggested for the resumption of the Pulse Mode activity.
- 2) In view of the above, letter to initiate Pulse mode activity from 6th March , has been circulated to 51 ULBs having logged 50 or more cases in the year 2022 and rest 17 ULBs under Hooghly, Howrah, North 24 Parganas & South 24 Parganas.

In 2nd phase, from April onwards, the Pulse Mode activity to commence in other 61 ULBs.

- 3) ULBs logged 5 or more than 5 cases in 2023 has been requested to deploy Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) @ 1 team for 5 wards. Initially 78 RRTs are to be deployed at 11 ULBs. It has been decided that further deployment may be done based on cases and alert generated by Health & Family Welfare Department.
- 4) The reporting mechanism needs to be strengthened. Reports of all activities related to Vector Control shall be captured in only one portal ,i.e ASWAAS portal developed by SUDA.

Presently Pulse Mode activity & RRT shall be incorporated in the portal.

- 5) Real time data entry facility for House-to-House survey and facility for forwarding lab test report to the patient through bulk SMS shall be introduced in the portal.

- 6) SUDA to consider if House-to-House activity is necessary, then activity to be grounded from middle of June, 2023 in these ULBs instead of 1st July, 2023 depending on the cases reported in the previous weeks.
- 7) A number of ULBs raised issues against the efficacy of Bio-larvicide (BTI-164 & BTI-ABIL). Health & Family Welfare Department may like to give their valuable expert opinion regarding continuation of the use of Bio-larvicide for Vector Control Management, 2023.
- 8) All ULBs must serve notices to the owners of private lands / private water bodies / private institutions / private households, In case of non-compliance to conduct conservancy activity to prevent breeding sites under section 333, West Bengal Municipal Act, 1993 / under section 243, West Bengal Municipal Corporation Act, 2006 / under section 159 A , Howrah Municipal Corporation Act, 1980 cases may be lodged.

If the sites are cleaned by the ULB, a special conservancy charges to be factored in the property tax payable by the owner of the land / building / water body / institution etc..

First round of notices must be served within 15th March, 2023 and must be updated in the ASWAAS Portal.

- 9) All un-assessed property to be assessed suomotto by the ULBs and property tax to be imposed.
- 10) Similar to the 3 (three) digit help line number functional for Police, Fire brigade, SUDA to initiate the process to obtain a similar help line number for Dengue Management, This help line number to be widely publicized.
- 11) The importance of routine and regular entomological visits to ULBs has been reiterated.

However, there is a shortage of sanctioned strength of Entomologists, only 10 for 128 ULBs out of which 37 ULBs have reported more than 100 cases in 2022. Most of these ULBs have more than 10 vulnerable wards which necessitates visit at least

once in every fortnight. SUDA to move proposal to the Department for creation of the post of atleast 20 additional Entomologists to cope with the huge workload.

- 12) Intensive field visit of Entomologists from SUDA to be continued along with facilitating the capacity building of all categories of workers in the ULBs. The content for the capacity building to be standardized.

It has been decided that House-to-House Supervisors, VCT Supervisors & Spray Workers be prioritized for training in the 51 ULBs logged 50 or more cases in 2022 and rest 17 ULBs of Hooghly, Howrah, North 24 Parganas & South 24 Parganas.

- 13) To reduce attrition of Health Officers proposal will be moved for cadre creation and meanwhile the upper age limit to be revised to 67 years as on 1st January of the year of advertisement.
- 14) SUDA will publish and advertise centrally to fill up the vacancies of the Health Officer and the process for selection to be conducted by the SDO of the Sub-Division under the supervision & oversight of the District Magistrate of the concerned Districts.
- 15) SUDA to initiate a file to revise the remuneration of the Medical Officer (Part Time) from the existing remuneration of Rs. 24,000/- p.m.
- 16) Health & Family Welfare Department may be requested to impress upon the private hospitals to keep atleast 10% beds reserved for the Dengue positive patients if referred by the Urban Local Bodies.
- 17) Fisheries Department to be advised to supply only matured guppy fishes.
- 18) Irrigation Department to ensure AMC of all canals are completed as soon as possible and the canal-wise contact details of the Nodal Engineers be shared with both SUDA and the ULBs also.
- 19) PWD to be informed for comprehensive cleaning / de-siltation of the drains within their coverage.

20) Based on the Comprehensive Vector Control Management Plan prepared by the ULBs, District Magistrates will write to the respective Government Offices (Central and State) to conduct necessary conservancy activities for management of all breeding sites within their premises / campus.

21) District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas has completed the appraisal of the Comprehensive Vector Control Management Plan of 26 ULBs of North 24 Parganas.

District Magistrate of Hooghly, Howrah & South 24 Parganas are requested to complete the validation exercise within 15th March, 2023.

For the remaining districts this exercise to be completed within 15th April, 2023.

22) The next review will be conducted in the first fortnight of May, 2023.

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



(Khalil Ahmed)