

Yaws Eradication Programme
Sixth Independent Appraisal
(7 – 15 May 2014 & 17 – 26 June 2014)

REPORT

Recommendations

Sixth Independent Appraisal of Yaws Eradication Programme (YEP) was undertaken in two phases from 07 -15 May 2014 and 17 – 26 June 2014 with the objective to assess the various activities of Yaws Eradication Programme.

Methodologies for Appraisal of YEP were, i) discussion with health officials; ii) Verification of records; iii) visit to medical college, district hospital, CHC/PHC, subcentres and identified villages; iv) Interaction with community members; v) Case verification including suspect case and old case, if any vi) and verification of sero-survey at field level.

During these two phases, sixteen teams of experts visited sixteen districts of all ten states under YEP. Each team comprised of independent expert, representative from WHO country office, NCDC officer, state/ district representative and dermatologist from district. In phase I, eight teams visited Assam, Chhattisgarh (3 teams), Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In the phase II, eight teams carried out the appraisal in Andhra Pradesh (2 teams), Orissa (3 teams), Tamil Nadu (2 teams), and Uttar Pradesh.

The broad recommendations included:

As all the states, except state of Odisha, have properly implemented the YEP activities. Hence, Odisha may be given top priority for implementation of YEP.

However, all the teams have opined that it is right time to work towards achieving yaws eradication certificate from WHO

- 1 The momentum towards achieving the ultimate goal of the programme should not be lost. Complacency must not be allowed to develop at this stage.
- 2 In states not performing well, the programme needs to be monitored by highest level official of state health system.
- 3 Continuous training/orientation programme for all MOs, MPWs, LHV

and other paramedical staff be a part of routine activities of YEP.

- 4 Involvement of other peripheral field staff of other departments, viz., IDSP, NLEP, Anganwadi, Veterinary, forest officials Panchayat and Tribal welfare departments to be ensured.
- 5 The state health officials including CDMO/CM&HO/CMO/DMO/DDHS/JDHS and PHC Medical Officers should continue to take proactive measures in the for implementing the activities of YEP.
- 6 IEC campaign to be vigorously pursued.

At this fag end of the programme, it is essential that the programme becomes much more visible. Hence, “Cash Incentive scheme for Case and informer” to be given wide publicity through audio-visual media.

The state and district health administration may consider using the large number of private local TV channels for dissemination of information about “reward”.

- 7 Emphasis need to be given for IEC through “Weekly haat survey” by health officials,
- 8 Inter-sectoral coordination be enhanced amongst workers of forest, education and revenue departments after imparting suitable training for case identification.
- 9 Monthly review meeting at PHC to be attended by district level staff for effective supervision
- 10 State and district level review meeting should devote some time for discussion of Yaws Eradication Programme
- 11 The programme activities should be reviewed Quarterly at state HQ
- 12 May form one month page part of the centre/ state calendar 2015

- 13 In addition to the existing reporting all the erstwhile endemic districts of Yaws should start reporting Yaws on IDSP Early Warning Signal (EWS) format to strengthen surveillance of yaws.

All the team members and other experts present during the presentation of the reports of 6th Independent appraisal team were of the opinion that:

- Sero-survey has been conducted as per the scientific protocol during 2009, 2010 and 2011. All the serum samples were found negative by RPR test, indicating cessation of yaws transmission in the country. So, there is no need to continue this activity further.

- **The country should prepare its case for getting eradication certificate from WHO** as i) no case of yaws has been detected since 2004 despite of continuous active case search, routine monthly reporting and maintenance of rumour register at all levels; ii) The cash award announced by the government to enhance voluntary reporting could not find any new confirm case of yaws; iii) Sero-surveys as per scientific protocol for three consecutive years found no sero positivity among 1-5 years children; iv) The reports of present and earlier Independent appraisal also support nil case of yaws in the country since 2004 onwards.