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# Malaria Update

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Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal from EDCCD presenting status of malaria in the country.

## World Malaria Day 2018

On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Epidemiology & Disease Control Division (EDCCD) observed the World Malaria Day by holding a press meet at the National Health Training Center, Teku, Kathmandu. The main objective of the meet was to update and and raise awareness on the current status of malaria in the country. The theme of for World Malaria Day was 'Ready to Beat Malaria'.

The chief guest for the program was Dr. Sushilnath Pyakurel, Chief Consultant from Ministry of Health & Population; while the program was chaired by Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Director General from Department of Health Services. Similarly, Dr. Jos Vandelaer from WHO, Mr. Rajan Kumar Bhattarai from Save the Children and Dr. Bhim Acharya also attended the event as special guests. Dr. Kedar Ceintury, Director of EDCCD welcomed the participants during the formal opening of the program while Mr. Badrinath Jnawali, Surveillance Chief, shared the objective of the program.

Similarly, Dr. Bibek Kumar Lal, Section Chief of Disease Control Section presented the national malaria strategic plan and the status of malaria program. During his presentation, malaria status for fiscal year (FY) 2073/074 (i.e. 2016/017) was also shown to the participants. Out of the total 1128 cases in the FY, 492 cases were indigenous, and 636 cases were imported out of which *Plasmodium vivax* malaria accounted for 87% of the disease burden.

The participants including media persons were informed about the various initiatives taken by malaria program. While the participants put forth their queries and provided critical feedback and suggestions to the program, the program on the other hand requested the media personnel to advocate for public awareness thereby supporting the national program initiative.

Outside the valley, rallies were organized in endemic districts with the support of various community-based organizations, students, health workers to raise awareness about the disease and the communities' role in eliminating malaria.



Rally on Nepalgunj (left) and participants & media persons in press meet at Kathmandu.

## Workshop for Surveillance Guideline Finalization

Surveillance Guideline Finalization workshop was organized on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at Bougainville Banquet, Teku, Kathmandu. The objective of the workshop was to discuss on the draft guideline and get feedback from the experts to incorporate in the final version to be endorsed by the TWG.

Altogether 27 participants including experts from EDCD, National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), CDM-Tribhuvan University, Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS), Vector Borne Disease Research and Training Center (VBDRTC), WHO and Save the Children participated in the event. Dr. Suman Thapa, Sr. TS, SCI presented the status of malaria surveillance and shared the existing guidelines, SoPs & resources/trained manpower for the surveillance. The participants then discussed and worked further on the guidelines in four groups and provided their expert feedback in each of the sections. The meeting helped provide important feedback to give a shape to the guideline.



*Group discussion to finalize draft surveillance guideline*

## Refresher Training & ECAMM

Refresher training on malaria microscopic was conducted at DPHO Kanchanpur from 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018. There were 15 lab personnel from Arghakhanchi, Rupandehi, Baitadi, Jumla, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Achham and Dadeldhura districts who attended the 14 day training.

A pre and post-analysis of the participants demonstrated that the training has significantly improved their microscopic skills in detecting the malaria parasites. The program envisions that improvement in skills for quality staining and diagnosis will benefit the program in detecting more malaria cases across these districts.



*Theoretical session on Refresher Training*

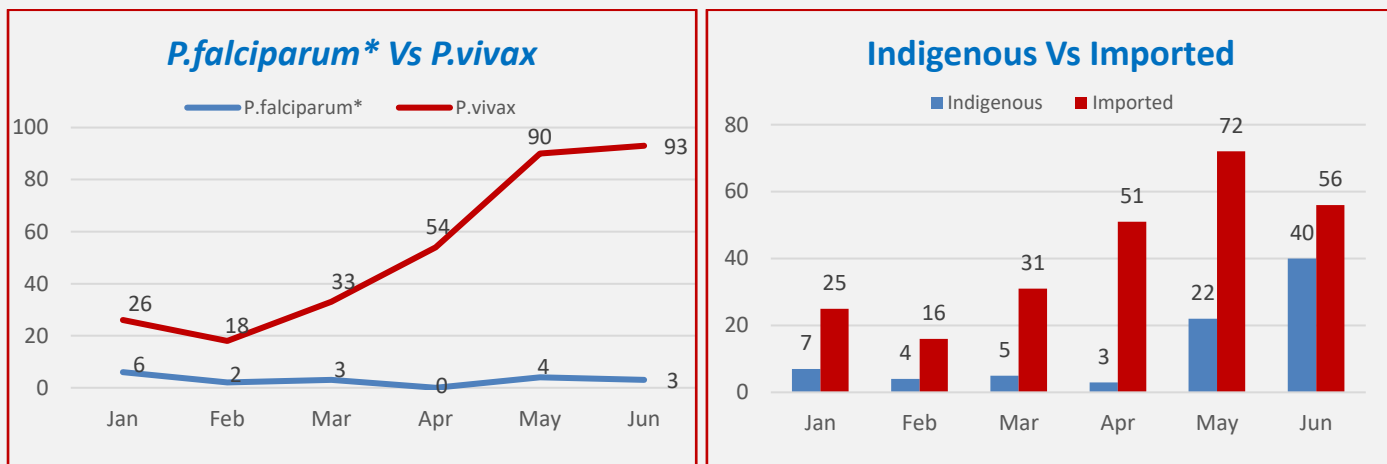
Similarly, an External Competency Assessment of Malaria Microscopists (ECAMM) was conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 with the objective to assess the competency of microscopists on malaria parasite detection, identification and counting with the quality standards set by WHO. Mr. Sherwin Galit from WHO facilitated the training where 12 lab personnel who had already received basic & refresher training, national level competency assessment, involved in QA/QC or therapeutic study from different health facilities participated.

## TOT on Severe Malaria Management & Treatment

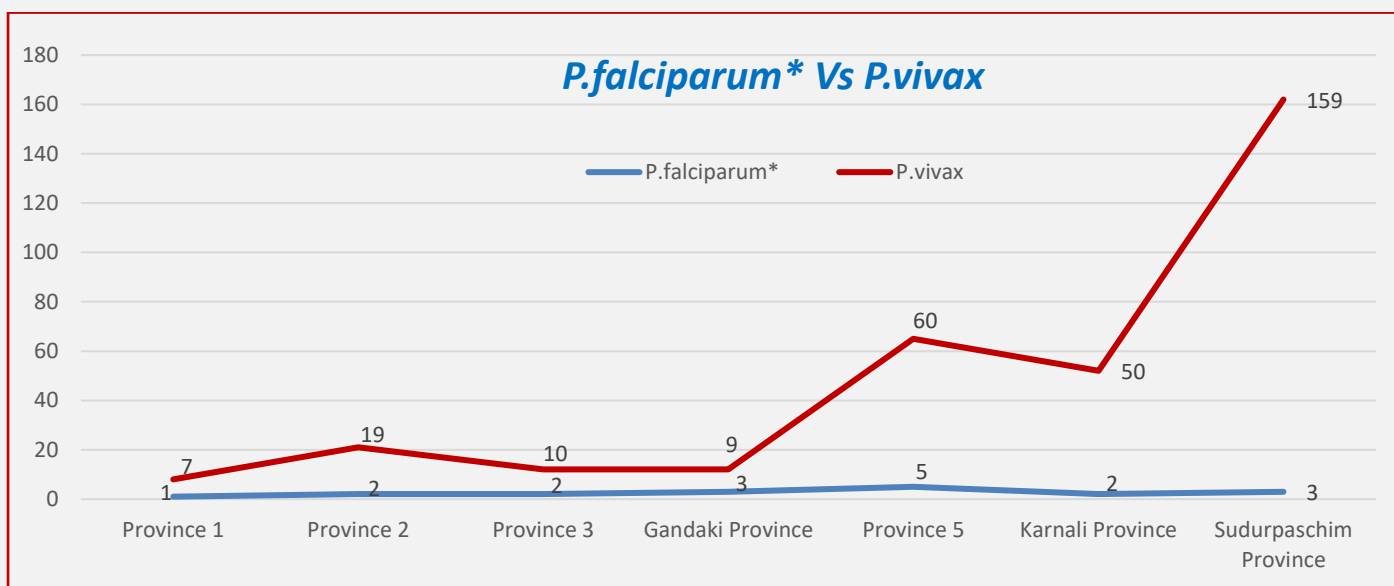
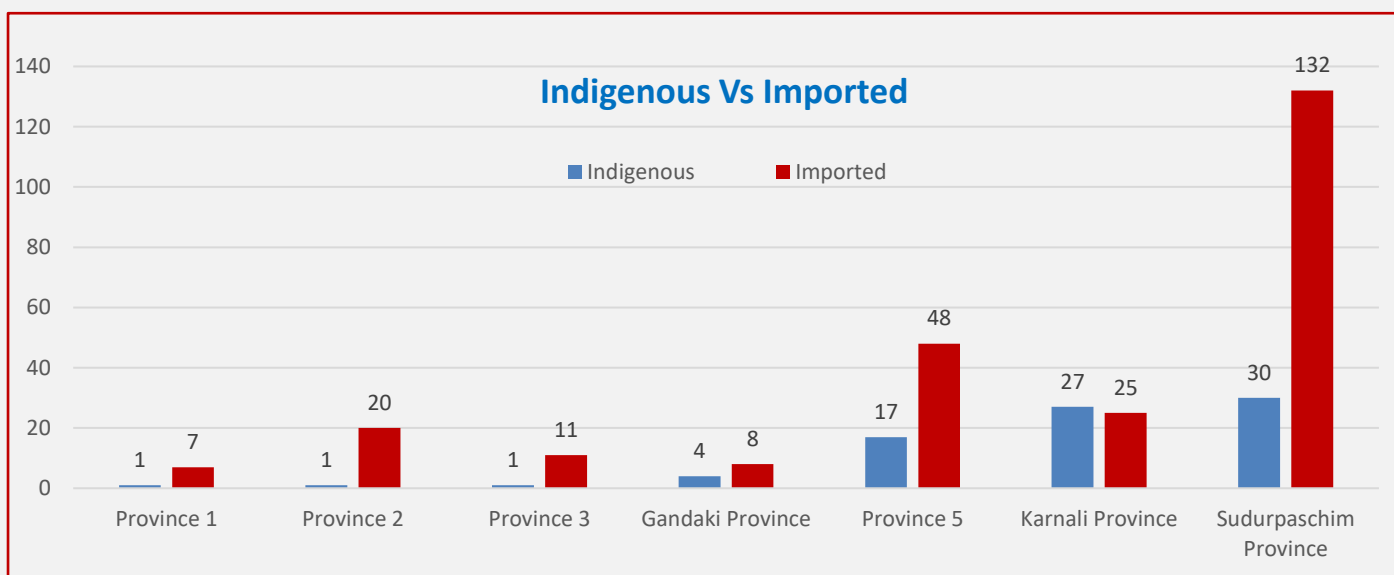
EDCD is currently conducting ToT on Severe Malaria Management across all provinces to make the physicians from tertiary care centres and hospitals aware of the management of severe malaria as per national malaria treatment protocol (NMTP). During this period, a similar program was conducted in Province 5 on 29<sup>th</sup> June at Hotel New Era in Butwal.

Honorable Minister Mr. Sudarshan Baral from Ministry of Social Development, Province 5 chaired the formal session of the event. Dr. Uma Shanker Chaudhary, Chief of Health Service Division welcomed the participants and shared the objective of the program. Likewise, Dr. Sudarshan Thapa, Consultant Physician from Lumbini Zonal Hospital debriefed the participants on Severe Malaria Case Management as per the NMTP 2016. Surveillance Medical Coordinator Dr. Madan Koirala presented on National Malaria Strategic Plan (2014-2025) and the existing malaria related programs in the country including the surveillance related activities that are ongoing. Physicians from District Hospitals of Gulmi, Arghakhanchi, Palpa, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi & Bardiya, Lumbini Zonal Hospital, Bheri Zonal Hospital, Sub-Regional Hospital of Dang and PHCs attended the ToT.

### Month-wise malaria case distribution for last 6 months (January-June 2018)



### Malaria case distribution by province in last 6 months (January-June 2018)



\*P.falciparum+Mixed Infection

Data Source: District Linelisting

## Glimpse of Program Activities



District focal person presenting on malaria data verification & validation program at Sindhuli.



Providing orientation on recording & reporting during data validation program at Dhanusa district.



Verifying data and recording & reporting of malaria case on monitoring visit at Koilabas Health Post in Dang.



FCHV orientation on malaria for community based surveillance at Dhaap HP, Darchula



Investigating a malaria positive case at Bajjapur, Banke.



Conducting Active Case Detection at Kolti, Bajura

