

From: Chief, Smallpox Eradication
To: Smallpox Staff
Subject: Target Zero - Progress Report 16

19 November 1973

1.0 The Autumn Campaign

The autumn campaign is now fully underway in all areas bringing with it both pleasant and unpleasant surprises. In some areas, there appear to be far fewer foci than were expected while in at least two areas, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh States, from five to ten times more foci and cases have been discovered than were originally anticipated. Further clarification of the situation will be possible only after second and third search operations are conducted. These should be more efficient than the first one and, further, will provide a clearer idea as to the degree of effectiveness of the containment measures which followed initial searches.

Early and unofficial reports from the various areas show the following:

1. Pakistan -

First search - 15 to 21 October (week 42) in all Districts of Sind Province and in Sibi, Loralai and Pishin Districts of Baluchistan Province. The second search will be conducted from 12 to 18 November. In Karachi District (excluding the Corporation) 400 workers participated in active case search with the incentive of a 5.0 rupee award for every active case found. None were discovered. Elsewhere in Sind, a total of 23 468 villages were visited during which searchers interviewed teachers and students in 10 812 schools, persons in 13 591 markets and tea shops and 20 988 village and religious leaders as well as contacting residents of 260 146 houses. In all, 212 suspect cases were reported of which 108 were confirmed as smallpox. Fifty of the 108 cases were already known and reported. As of 29 October, only 21 outbreaks were known to be present in Sind in which cases had occurred within the previous six weeks. All were being checked weekly until six weeks after the onset of the last case by the District Health Officer or one of the WHO epidemiologists. After this apparently successful search operation, only 37 cases were discovered in week 43 but again in week 44, incidence rose to 124 cases. Whether this reflects a less than optimal search operation or whether there is some other explanation has not yet been reported.

In Baluchistan, 50 cases were discovered, of which 40 were already known to the health services. As of 29 October, there were six known outbreaks in which cases had occurred within the preceding 6 weeks:

In NWFP, no cases have been detected since May. To confirm its status, active search will be conducted in all schools from 19-25 November and throughout the Province from 17-23 December. Punjab at the end of October had only one known active focus and that in Lahore City which had resulted indirectly from an importation from Sind. However, surveillance in Punjab is much less effective than earlier in the year and it is entirely possible that other foci are present.

Efforts are being made to strengthen this programme which now appears to be the weakest in Pakistan.

1.2 India -

In the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the first search operation was conducted from 15 to 21 October with considerable enthusiasm and interest in most Districts and PHCs. The number of cases and outbreaks discovered far exceeded the number anticipated - in Bihar provisional data showed more than 700 outbreaks and almost 4 000 cases while in Uttar Pradesh more than 1 300 outbreaks and over 6 000 cases. These figures are not yet reflected in the weekly morbidity reports. Containment activities have begun but, as in other areas, this component has proceeded less satisfactorily than the search. Efforts are now being made in State and divisional meetings to try to improve this aspect of the programme. In these two States, however, it is clear that there are major battles to be fought.

West Bengal State initiated its first search in late September in 7 Districts and in Calcutta. Only 74 cases were found. However, following the search, three additional outbreaks which had been missed were discovered in two Districts. A State-wide search was then conducted in late October (results not yet available). As of 23 October, there were 142 known or suspected outbreaks which had occurred since 1 September which were in process of being checked by the eight State and WHO surveillance teams. Half of these were in 24 Parganas District which was so heavily afflicted last year; only 9 known or suspected foci were present in the five northern districts.

In Madhya Pradesh, the other principal problem state, search operations were delayed because of the floods and began only on 5 November. Less than 30 cases each week are being reported but, as reporting in this State is acknowledged to be very weak, the true number is expected to be many times greater.

Search operations are also being conducted in several other States and problem districts - in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and others but large numbers of cases and outbreaks are not expected to be found. In fact, outside of the four problem States, the only known persistent foci at this time are in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Andhra Pradesh. In September, only 100 cases were reported by all States and Union Territories outside of the "problem 4" and, in October to date, only 87 cases. Continued, heroic efforts will be required, however, to reach the point where it can be said that all cases and outbreaks in these areas can be specifically traced to importations.

1.3 Bangladesh -

For administrative reasons, active search of the type being conducted in India and Pakistan is not being carried out in Bangladesh. However, the number of surveillance teams has been increased from 7 to 19 (23 October) and six epidemiologists added. Despite this, the total of cases reported each week continues in the range of 80 to 150 which, if able to be restricted to this level during November and December would be encouraging. Chittagong Division and Dacca and Tangail Districts appear to be on the verge of interrupting transmission. The major problem areas are Rangpur and Barisal Districts and Madaripur sub-division

in Faridpur District. More localized problems are being dealt with in Mymensingh, Khulna and Dinajpur Districts with apparent success. More detailed reports are awaited.

2.0 Ethiopia

With the cessation of the rains, the surveillance teams have once again been able to reach the remote areas and, in so doing, have found a substantial number of small, endemic foci - perhaps more than had been anticipated. In all 286 cases were discovered during October. However, the downward trend in incidence which began more than a year ago still continues as this total is 58% lower than the total in October, 1972.

3.0 Botswana

No subsequent cases have been discovered since the single case in week 38. However, intensive epidemiological studies have now turned up two additional cases in August and one each in June and July in a barely sustained chain of transmission which appears to relate to the January - April outbreaks among an anti-vaccination religious sect. A full report is awaited.

4.0 Importations

In Somalia, two cases were imported from Hararghe Province, Ethiopia, and in the French Territory of the Afars and Issas, one case from Hararghe and a second case, whose source is uncertain, from probably the same focus. In Nepal, during October, 8 cases were detected, again originating from outbreaks in India.

5.0 Overview

The enthusiasm, interest and motivation reported from all projects is certainly at an all time high. Every effort must now be made to capitalize on this.

6.0 Reporting

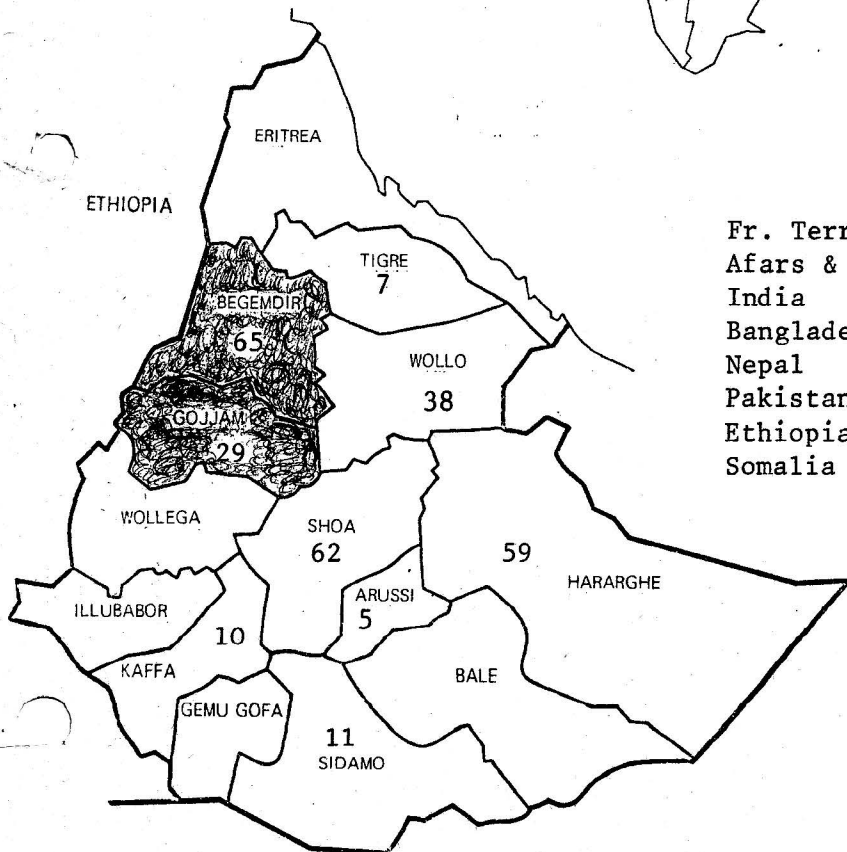
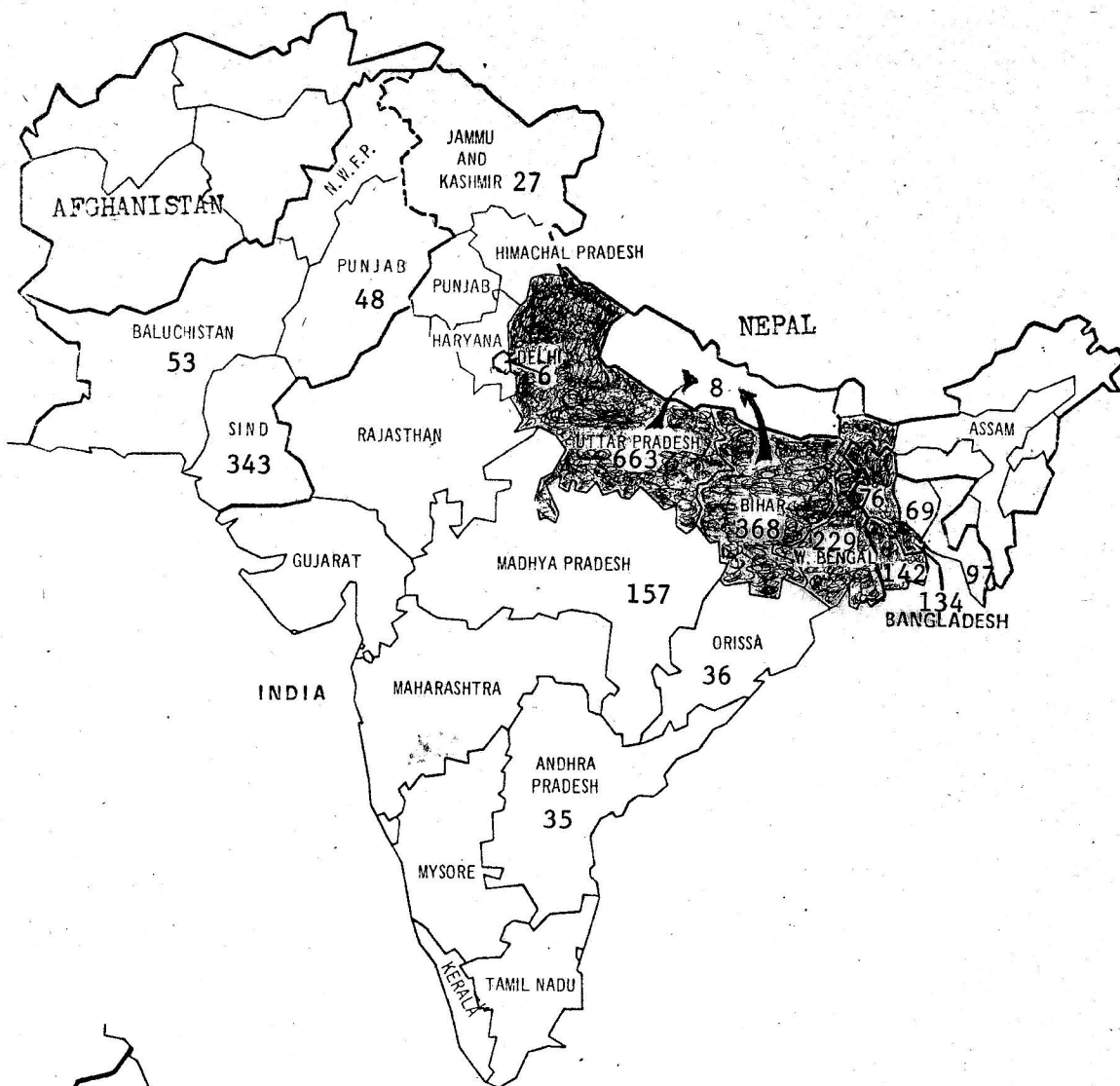
As compared with Progress Report no. 15 of 22 October, there is an improvement to be noted in India as the cumulative total of weeks in arrears of the States and Territories is 32 instead of 40 and seven of the 26 units listed show current reports as compared to only two previously.

Weeks in Arrears

Bangladesh	1
India - Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	3
Bihar	2
Chandigarh	2
Delhi	1
Goa	1
Gujurat	2
Haryana	1
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	1
Manipur	3
Meghalaya	2
Mizoram	2
Nagaland	2
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	1
West Bengal	1

STATUS OF 31 DECEMBER TARGET AREAS
FOR OCTOBER, 1973

(target areas are shaded)



Cases in target
area or imported
from them

Cases outside
target area

Fr. Terr.	Cases in target area or imported from them	Cases outside target area
Afars & Issas	-	2
India	1260	261
Bangladesh	352	166
Nepal	8	-
Pakistan	-	444
Ethiopia	94	192
Somalia	-	2
	<u>1714 (62%)</u>	<u>1067 (38%)</u>