

Report on Anthrax Surveillance Monitoring and Orientation- Gangni, Meherpur January 2022

Anthrax surveillance monitoring and Orientation team (M&OT) from IEDCR visited one of our Anthrax Surveillance sites, Gangni Upazila Meherpur on 25-27th January 2022. The team formatted with anthrax surveillance subcommittee members and core working group members.

The team members were

1. Dr. Ripon Barua, PSO (core working group)
2. Dr. Ahmed Raihan sharif, SSO (sub-committee member)
3. Dr. Sohel Rahman, MO (core working group)
4. Arzu ara Khan, Administrative assistant (Core working group)

Purpose of the site visit was **Orientation** on modified version of questionnaire (case report form, CRF) **Sharing** pictorial documents of Anthrax presentation, sharing hard copies of National Guideline on Anthrax management, and finally **monitoring** the surveillance activities at Upazilla Health Complex Gangni, Meherpur.

M&OT provided on site orientation on modified version of case report form (CRF) towards Health Inspector (HI) of Gangni-Meherpur, designated person for data collection from the suspected anthrax cases. We arranged hands on orientation of CRF with several pictures of different symptomatic lesion/s of Anthrax presentation towards HI and AHI. M&OT delivered a power point presentation (PPP). M&OT also conduct a discussion session on Surveillance activities with local (site) surveillance personnel: UH&FPO, Medical Officer, Health Inspector, Lab Medical technologist along with field stuffs. Assistant health Inspector/s

(AHI), Health Assistant/s (HA), Sanitary Inspector, Lab assistant were also present in PPP and discussion session. Note that all medical Officers (five) who are the key persons in diagnosis of Anthrax cases were also present during our presentation and discussion session. M&OT visited surveillance site lab to understand its working environment and to check logistics were adequate or not. M&OT further arranged a coordination meeting with Upazila livestock officers for smooth collaboration and information sharing between local field level stuffs. Finally M&OT monitored the reporting system from the surveillance site.

M&OT reached Meherpur on 25th January 2022 evening, communicated UHFPO Gangni, Meherpur and made all necessary arrangement for next day program. On 26th January M&OT started working from 09:00 am and completed monitoring and orientation program activities by 04:00 pm. During hands-on orientation of modified CRF towards HI, M&OT went through every single question that were modified, discussed how to ask the question and how to incorporate the answers from the respondent. (Picture- 1)



Picture 1. Monitoring and Orientation Team (M&OT) provides hands-on orientation of modified CRF towards HI and AHI.

Dr. Soheli delivered the PPP, Dr. Ripon conducted the discussion session and Dr. Raihan delivered the summery speech with key massages. During power point presentation characteristics of eschar such as Macular, Papular, Maculo-papular, Vesicular, and pustular lesions were elaborately described (with D/D of eschar) in a easy palatable way so that all field stuff can recognize eschar promptly in field. PPP also included Anthrax surveillence activities update, recent geographical distribution of Anthrax at Unions in Gangni, Meherpur so that field staffs and their supervisors can understand where to be focused.



Picture 2. Dr. Soheli Rahman is rendering Power Point Presentation (PPP) on Macular, Papular, Maculo-papular, Vesicular, and pustular lesions, with D/D of eschar along with Anthrax surveillence activities update, recent geographical distribution of Anthrax at Unions in Gangni, Meherpur.

During discussion session, M&OT invited questions from HI, AHI, HA, SI, Medical Officers and even from UH&FPO. Later on, answered the quarries. All participants actively participated in the discussion.



Picture 3. Dr. Ripon Barua (PSO) conducting the discussion session.

During coordination meeting with Upazila livestock officers M&OT requested them for maintaining smooth flow of information between this two organization working for human and animal anthrax prevention. M&OT also requested them for mass vaccination among cow and Goat for combating Anthrax and thus ensuring one health approach in preventing Anthrax.



Picture 4. Monitoring and Orientation Team (M&OT) is on coordination meeting with Upazila livestock officers.

During summary speech, Dr. Raihan provided motivational speech by citing several examples, explain importance of surveillance activities, roll of field staffs, and importance of real time reporting for anthrax prevention. However, it was revealed that sample from suspected cases were not collected in reported patients who already consumed antibiotics. M&OT advised to collect samples for testing in this situation too.



Picture 5. Dr. Ahmed Raihan sharif, SSO is providing summary speech.

In conclusion, few vital issues for less sample collection were explored and reason for not performing Gram staining were came to light by this monitoring visit. Moreover, document sharing: national guideline on Anthrax management, leaflet, and poster was successful event. Lastly, live orientation and piloting of modified CRF will help complete and authentic data analysis of anthrax surveillance data in future.



Picture 6. Monitoring and Orientation Team (M&OT) members with UH&FPO Gangni, Meherpur at surveillance site.