



## Scabies outbreak strikes Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, demanding urgent response

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has issued an urgent call for action as an outbreak of scabies, a highly contagious skin disease, ravages the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district. With an estimated 40 percent of the overcrowded camps affected, immediate and comprehensive measures are needed to bring the outbreak under control.

While scabies is easily treatable, if left untreated, it can cause severe physical and mental suffering. MSF emphasises that addressing the unsanitary conditions that have led to the outbreak is crucial, as simply distributing drugs will not prevent reinfections.

MSF teams have observed a dramatic increase in the number of scabies patients in recent years. Between January and May 2023 alone, they treated nearly 70,000 patients for scabies, almost double the number during the same period in 2022. The situation has overwhelmed the capacity of the healthcare facilities, leaving many patients untreated.

MSF conducted a study in the Rohingya refugee camps last year that revealed alarming water and sanitation conditions. Proper sanitation is lacking, and water availability is insufficient, with some areas only receiving water for two hours a day. Moreover, there has been a degradation in maintenance, leading to fewer functioning latrines. These conditions, coupled with the misconception of groundwater depletion, have resulted in reduced soap rations and inadequate hygiene practises.

MSF sees the 40 percent positive rate for scabies as a warning sign that the health and sanitation response in the camps is failing, posing a threat to the well-being of the Rohingya people and the local community.

Immediate action is imperative to control the scabies outbreak, improve water and sanitation conditions, and ensure that refugees have access to adequate healthcare services and support.



DR NUR-A-SAFRINA RAHMAN

Dengue is a viral disease that is mostly spread by the bites of sick Aedes mosquitoes, especially *Aedes aegypti*. Mosquitoes get the dengue virus when they feed on people who already have it in their blood.

Scientists have made a surprising discovery: people can pass diseases to mosquitoes even before they show signs, and this can happen for up to two days after the fever goes away. This important discovery sheds new light on how people and mosquitoes interact with each other and has big effects on how to stop and control diseases.

Experts have found several things that make it more likely for serious dengue to happen. Some of these factors are having had dengue before, moving to a city, living in an uncontrolled city, having a lot of people in a small area, not storing water well, and the effects of climate change.

### Signs and symptoms:

Dengue fever has many signs, such as a high fever that comes on quickly, severe headaches, pain behind the eyes, pain in the joints and muscles.

Other common signs are tiredness, sickness, vomiting, a rash on the skin, light bleeding, and symptoms that are similar to the flu.

Most cases of dengue are mild and usually go away in 1 to 2 weeks. But it is important to remember that a small number of these cases could get worse and turn into severe dengue, which has a number of scary signs. Among these symptoms are severe stomach pain, constant vomiting, bleeding from the gums or nose, extreme tiredness, restlessness, pale skin.

### Investigation:

In order to find a quick way to tell if someone has dengue, doctors have

turned to blood tests as an effective way to find the virus or antibodies.

When a patient comes in with a fever within the first week after it started, they should have an IgM test and a NSIAg test for the detection of dengue virus.

At the end of the illness, at least four days after the fever started, testing for IgM antibodies can help detect the illness.

On the other hand, IgG antibody testing alone with a single blood sample is not enough

ibuprofen should be avoided because they can increase the chance of bleeding.

One of the important issues in the treatment of dengue is the maintenance of body fluid. Although most cases can be handled at home, patients should pay attention to it once the condition is not improved by caring at home. Patients should immediately seek care at the hospitals.

### Prevention:

Dengue protection has become a very important issue, and people are taking steps to protect themselves from getting the disease by avoiding mosquito bites. People are told to take a number of safety steps to protect themselves from mosquitoes. Some of these are using mosquito repellents, wearing long-sleeved clothes, keeping your windows and doors screened, and getting rid of places where mosquitoes might be able to breed, like places where water pools.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the Dengvaxia vaccine to prevent dengue in people aged 9 to 16 who have already had the disease in the United States. But Dengvaxia is still not available to the general public as a way to protect against initial infections in most of the countries of the world. There are still studies going on to find more potential candidates for a dengue vaccine.

Dengue fever continues to be a big public health problem around the world, especially in tropical and warm areas. In the fight against dengue, early diagnosis, supportive care, and successful mosquito control have become important pillars for keeping the disease under control and reducing its effects.

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to make a diagnosis. This is because IgG antibodies can be found in a person for the rest of their lives after they have been infected with the dengue virus.

### Treatment:

Dengue does not have a targeted antiviral treatment or way to stop it at the moment, which is important to know for treatment and avoidance. The main goal of medical treatment is to treat the patient's symptoms and give them the care they need. Pain relievers that contain acetaminophen are suggested, while aspirin and

### HAVE A NICE DAY

## The inhuman power

DR RUBARUL MURSHED



Albert Einstein said, "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity, and I am not sure about the universe."

When the talk of the world is artificial intelligence (AI), a group of western industry leaders recently warned that the AI technology they were building might one day pose an existential threat to humanity and should be considered a societal risk on a par with pandemics and nuclear wars. AI is a human-created skill that implants intelligence in machines that think like humans. This is capable of taking major decisions without human inference.

As humans, we are emotional creatures. Emotions influence us to choose our friends and partners, to stay with them, and to share good and bad days. Emotional intelligence is an impulse that binds and manages the power of human emotions or feelings. Researchers agree that AI cannot have its own emotions, but it can mimic them. In fact, when we talk about AI, all that comes to mind is machine learning, robotics, and networks. It is more focused on big data and analytics, while emotional intelligence is concerned with human relationships and interactions. While machines can replicate and perform tasks perfectly, they lack consciousness and the emotional qualities that make a humanoid kind. Besides this, experts also expressed worries that raised governance concerns.

Some studies argue that geopolitical and economic competition are the main drivers for AI developers, while moral concerns take a back seat. Some scholars believe the negative effects of AI include unemployment, biases, and dangers to privacy. AI could harm the physical and mental health of millions via the social determinants of health through the control and manipulation of people.

While the world feels heavy with thousands of man-made problems and more than three-fourths of the world's population is still struggling for a decent life, as Elon Musk's AI rightly said, it is not "necessary for anything we are doing". Musk, an early backer of the AI startup, explained superintelligence as a double-edged sword. The world needs to make sure that everyone—and not just people who are well-off—pays back from artificial intelligence.

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NCD Alliance  
Advocacy Priorities  
for the 2023 High-  
Level Meeting on  
Universal Health  
Coverage (UHC)

## Global advocates unite to accelerate action on non-communicable diseases and universal health coverage

STAR HEALTH DESK

Advocates from NCD alliances from around the world to gather in New York and call for Heads of State and Government to demonstrate leadership at the High-level Meeting of the United Nations to advance NCD care and Universal Health Coverage.

Representatives from various countries are gathering in New York to address the urgent need for action on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The goal of this meeting is to discuss and coordinate strategies that will accelerate progress in the prevention and care of NCDs while ensuring that UHC remains people-centred.

Advocates attending the meeting include individuals with lived experiences of NCDs. These advocates will share their knowledge and experiences from their respective countries, contributing to the collective efforts to address NCDs and promote UHC.

The discussions taking place during this meeting are crucial to maximising the upcoming United Nations High-Level Meeting on UHC, scheduled for September 21, 2023. The advocates emphasise the importance of meeting the needs of people living with NCDs.

In the lead-up to the High-Level Meeting, the NCD Alliance will run a series of events and activities as part of the Global Week for Action campaign, focusing on the theme of "Care." This campaign aims to send a clear message to governments, donors, international agencies, and the private sector: *the time for caring is now*.

By coming together and advocating for the prevention and care of NCDs and promoting UHC, these global alliances hope to make a significant impact on improving health outcomes and ensuring that everyone, regardless of their health condition, has access to quality healthcare.



## Narayana Health's uro-oncology expert shares knowledge on the use of robotics in prostate cancer with Bangladeshi doctors



STAR HEALTH REPORT

Narayana Health (NH), one of India's leading healthcare groups, partnered with Oncology Present & Future Bangladesh to host a successful seminar on the "Use of robotics in prostate cancer" in Dhaka recently, says a press release. Over 100 doctors and industry experts attended the event, which aimed to provide insights into the latest developments in robotic surgery for prostate cancer and benefit Bangladeshi patients.

The seminar is expected to have a wide-ranging impact on Bangladesh's healthcare expertise. By empowering local doctors and enhancing their knowledge of advanced robotic procedures, it will enable early referrals to advanced centres, leading to improved clinical outcomes.

The use of robotics in prostate cancer treatment, particularly robotic-assisted radical prostatectomy (RARP), was discussed. Robotic technology offers benefits such as enhanced precision, shorter recovery times, and improved outcomes compared to traditional methods.

Bangladesh faces a rising number of cancer cases, with prostate cancer being the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer globally. Early detection is crucial for successful treatment, but unfortunately, most cases in Bangladesh are detected at advanced stages, resulting in high fatality rates.

Narayana Health remains committed to advancing cancer treatment, including prostate cancer, and driving innovation in healthcare.

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# UROLOGY

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