



NATIONAL MALARIA UPDATE

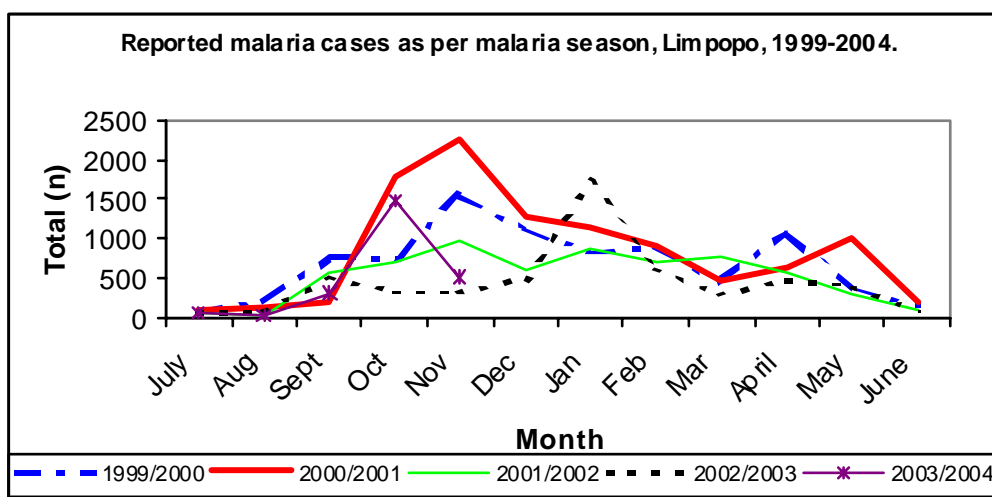
Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov 2003

Welcome to the 13th National Malaria Update.

This update serves to present the current trends in the national malaria cases and deaths for South Africa. The reported data is collected mainly from the malaria affected provinces in South Africa. It provides feedback to a range of persons involved in malaria control programmes. The figures presented are subject to modification as provinces conduct follow-ups and verify the data.

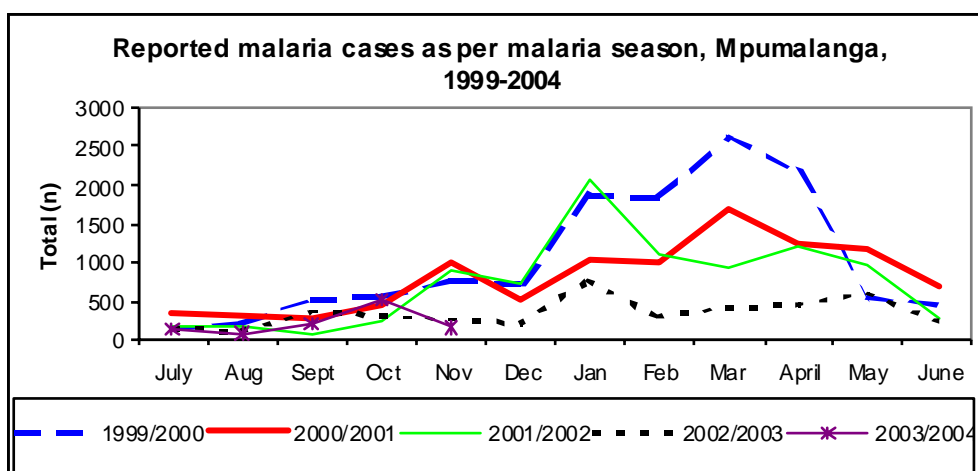
Limpopo

For the period Aug to Nov 2003, 2 300 malaria cases and 39 malaria deaths were reported. Details pertaining to this increase in the number of malaria cases and deaths are detailed in a report outlined below in annexure A supplied by the Limpopo malaria control programme manager. Malaria cases and deaths stabilised in November.



Mpumalanga

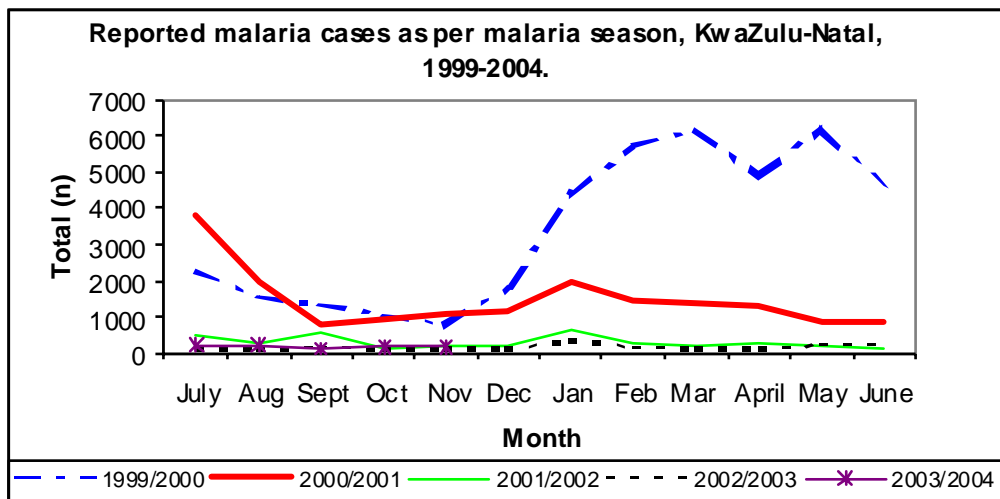
For the period Aug to Nov 2003, 968 malaria cases and 7 malaria deaths were reported. Increases in malaria cases and deaths were reported from low-risk areas in October. On the 17 October 2003, 9 malaria cases and 2 malaria deaths were reported in the Lydenburg hospital. Within two weeks, 36 malaria cases and four malaria deaths were reported. The Lydenburg area is a low risk malaria area. In 2002, less than 10 malaria cases and no deaths were reported. In 2001, 24 cases and 2 deaths were reported for the malaria season. Cases were widespread, however, 13 malaria cases and 2 malaria deaths were from persons from Limpopo. The Thaba Chweu municipality communicable disease co-ordinator in collaboration with the Ehlanzeni district malaria control team responded promptly to the outbreak. Line lists were compiled; mapping of case distribution was conducted. Case management training was provided to nurses and doctors in the area, health promotion campaigns were undertaken in the communities, active surveillance and an entomological investigation was conducted. The outbreak has been successfully contained with no more cases having been reported from the area at the time of compilation of this report.



KwaZulu-Natal

For the period Aug to Nov 2003, 659 malaria cases and no deaths were reported. There has been a 48% increase in the number of reported cases in comparison to the same period 2002. In August an increase in malaria cases was reported in the Ubombo district. An investigation in the area revealed the local community had interfered with a water channel

designed to route excess water from the rice paddies below the cane fields at Makhatini into a natural watercourse. Water was being diverted to nearby fields to improve grazing for cattle. However, water was accumulating in the fields thereby providing breeding places for mosquitoes. Following discussions with the local induna to try and stop this activity, the malaria control team began larviciding the area. A health education team has been deployed to the area to discuss the issue with the community.



Compiled by the National Malaria Control Programme, National Department of Health, with the assistance of the Provincial Malaria Control Programme Managers. Please contact Ms Johnson for any enquiries at tel no: (012) 312-0046 or e-mail: johnsc@health.gov.za

Annexure A: Status of Malaria in Limpopo Province: 27 October 2003
Prepared by Malaria Control Programme, Limpopo Province.

Status of Malaria in Limpopo Province: 27 October 2003

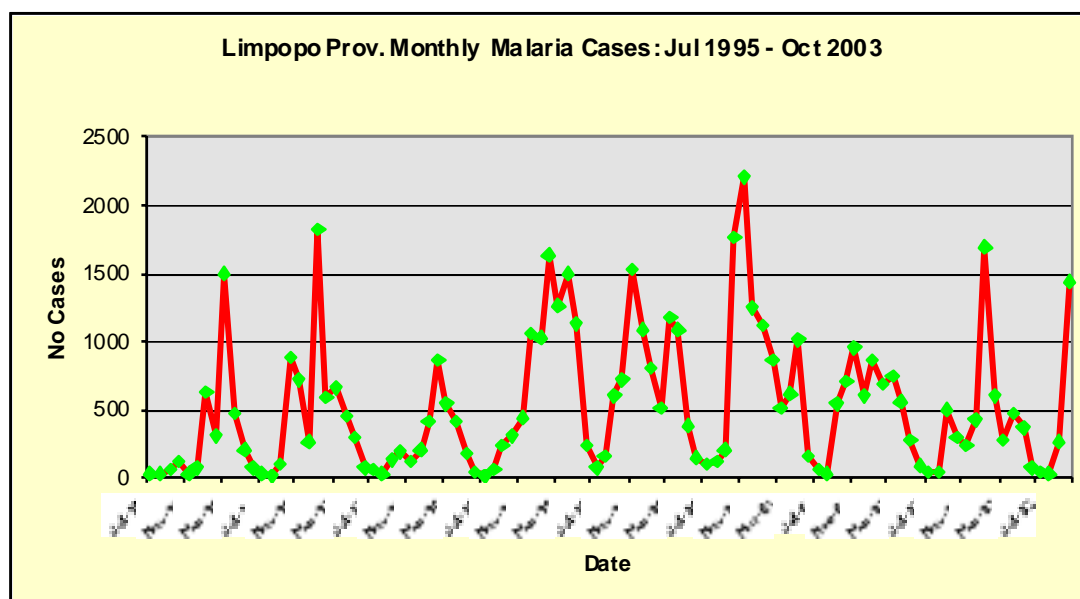
Introduction

In the previous provincial malaria update, it was outlined that the incidence of malaria in the province so far is at levels lower than the previous few seasons. Since sending out the report mentioned, malaria has however increased considerable throughout the province.

The purpose of this report is again to inform everybody of the current situation and to outline action to be taken to manage the situation.

Epidemiology

Since the last week of September, cases gradually increased throughout the province. Cases are, like in previous increases, scattered throughout the province in all the known high-risk areas. The attached graph indicates the monthly cases notified in the province since July 1995. The epidemic nature of malaria with seasonal increases are clearly displayed in Graph1.



Graph 1

Distribution of cases

The high risk districts in the province are Vhembe, Mopani and Bholabela, with low case number reported from Sekhukhune and Waterberg. The current increase is most prominent in Bholabela (former Bushbuckridge area), Vhembe and Mopani. To put case numbers into perspective, monthly number of cases for the three districts are displayed in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
--	------	------	------	------	------

<i>July</i>	8	7	12	4	4
August	34	5	0	5	3
September	104	19	14	38	14
October	46	11	28	21	271

Table 1: Monthly cases for Bohlabela District

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<i>July</i>	24	5	8	8	14
August	47	14	8	25	14
September	163	58	143	175	52
October (up to 15th)	187	544	203	95	465

Table 2: Monthly cases for Mopani District

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<i>July</i>	31	75	30	14	24
August	99	92	27	9	13
September	337	106	373	246	187
October (up to 15th)	383	987	402	148	637

Table 3: Monthly cases for Vhembe District

Local areas that come up as “hot-spots” at this stage are Mutale, Ba-Phalaborwa and the Northern parts of Bohlabela.

Discussion

Although spraying activities were slightly delayed in some of the low risk areas, due to insecticide shortages, spraying is now fully underway in all areas. The malaria teams have also been strengthened through the appointment of 80 temporary spray workers.

During the weekend of 18 – 19 October, anti-malarial stock-outs were reported from hospitals in the Bohlabela district. There are also reports that the drug shortage might have resulted in malaria related deaths to be still confirmed. Meetings were held during the week of the 20th with pharmaceutical services and it was confirmed that there are sufficient supplies of treatment at the central depot in Polokwane. Pharmacists in all the districts were requested to ensure that emergency supplies are kept at all district hospitals in high-risk districts.

A concern was raised by some of the hospitals that patients reporting to hospitals are severely sick, which is an indication that there is a delay in patients seeking health care. The Press release was prepared and handed to the Communications directorate in order to get the message out to our communities about the risk of

malaria, the symptoms and to seek medical treatment when any malaria symptoms appear.

As mentioned, cases are reported from numerous localities with no real focal outbreaks. Malaria spraying is underway in all risk areas, but in normally takes up to the end of January to cover all high-risk areas. At this stage the situation is closely being monitored and teams will be moved into unsprayed areas once there is an indication of a localised outbreak. At this stage, all available malaria resources are being utilized to combat the current increase. The only way to strengthen the current activities is by increasing spray teams through the employment of more seasonal spray operators. This will however take time and financial resources will be required to do this.

Malaria teams have visited health facilities to inform and prepare them for an increase in malaria. Rapid tests and treatment is available at all clinics.

Prepared by Malaria Control Programme
Limpopo Province

MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2002/2003 SEASON																													
MONTH	Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Total	Total	CF		
PROVINCE	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths			
Limpopo	41	1	46	0	495	13	310	1	299	6	478	1	1686	23	607	8	276	2	466	1	372	2	70	0	5146	58	1.1		
Mpumalanga	126	0	102	1	359	0	313	1	258	1	198	2	777	1	294	0	418	2	437	3	596	2	220	0	4098	13	0.4		
KwaZulu-Natal	93	0	105	0	138	0	96	0	107	1	104	0	322	0	153	0	94	1	95	0	229	0	204	0	1740	2	0.1		
Rest of SA	8	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	10	0	16	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	47	0	N/A		
TOTAL	268	1	255	1	994	13	719	2	665	8	781	3	2795	24	1070	8	790	5	1002	4	1197	4	495	0	11031	73	0.7		
MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2003/2004 SEASON																													
MONTH	Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Total	Total	CF		
PROVINCE	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths	
Limpopo	45	0	36	0	294	1	1468	33	502	5																	2345	39	1.7
Mpumalanga	128	0	70	0	209	0	521	5	168	2																	1096	7	0.6
KwaZulu-Natal	225	0	226	0	122	0	164	0	147	0																	884	0	N/A
Rest of SA	2	0																									2	0	N/A
TOTAL	400	0	332	0	625	1	2153	38	817	7																	4327	46	1.1

MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2001																											
MONTH	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total	Total	
PROVINCE	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths	
Limpopo	1144	8	888	6	455	2	622	5	1019	9	168	3	59	1	33	0	549	5	706	5	948	13	606	4	7197	61	0.8
Mpumalanga	1039	2	1017	1	1688	0	1251	3	1151	0	704	0	164	0	143	0	40	0	235	0	907	0	722	0	9061	6	0.1
KwaZulu-Natal	1962	7	1411	4	1380	4	1245	7	864	9	820	7	508	4	271	0	536	0	106	2	163	0	207	3	9473	47	0.5
Rest of SA	209	1	126	0	101	0	54	0	128	1	35	3	19	0	24	0	29	0	14	0	16	0	20	0	775	5	0.6
TOTAL	4354	18	3442	11	3624	6	3172	15	3162	19	1727	10	750	4	471	0	1154	5	1061	7	2034	13	1555	7	26506	119	0.4
MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2002																											
MONTH	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total	Total	CF
PROVINCE	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths	
Limpopo	852	6	676	3	745	8	546	2	273	3	75	0	41	1	46	0	495	13	310	1	299	6	478	1	4836	44	0.9
Mpumalanga	2078	9	1109	4	922	4	1222	2	989	4	289	1	126	0	102	1	359	0	313	1	258	1	198	2	7965	29	0.4
KwaZulu-Natal	638	5	273	6	187	0	253	1	244	2	107	1	98	0	105	0	138	0	96	0	107	1	104	0	2345	16	0.7
Rest of SA	235	5	136	0	36	2	36	0	12	0	4	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	473	7	1.5
TOTAL	3803	25	2194	13	1890	14	2057	5	1518	9	475	2	268	1	255	1	994	13	719	2	665	8	781	3	15619	96	0.6
MALARIA CASES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING 2003																											
MONTH	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total	Total	CF
PROVINCE	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	Cases	Deaths	
Limpopo	1686	23	607	8	276	2	466	1	372	2	70	0	45	0	36	0	294	1	1468	33	502	5			5822	75	1.3
Mpumalanga	777	1	294	0	418	2	437	3	596	2	220	0	128	0	70	0	209	0	521	5	168	2			3838	15	0.4
KwaZulu-Natal	322	0	153	0	94	1	95	0	229	0	204	0	225	0	226	0	122	0	164	0	147	0			1981	1	0.05
Rest of SA	10	0	16	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	0											35	0	N/A
TOTAL	2795	24	1070	8	790	5	1002	4	1197	4	495	0	400	0	332	0	625	1	2153	38	817	7			11676	91	0.8
* CASES **DEATHS ***CASE FATALITY																											
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH																											