

REVIEW OF THE DENGUE FEVER/DENGUE HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER  
SITUATION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

by

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EPIDEMIOLOGY

In Viet Nam, a total of 68 681 cases of dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever (DF/DHF) were reported in 1983 (see Table). In Hanoi, an outbreak of DF/DHF started on 21 May 1983 and lasted until mid-December 1983. Outbreaks of DF/DHF were also reported in the delta, in the south, in Ho Chi Minh city and in the neighbouring provinces in Laos.

TABLE. Dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever cases in  
countries/areas of the Western Pacific Region, 1983<sup>a</sup>

Country/area	Cases	Deaths
Fiji	237	0
French Polynesia	1 318 <sup>b</sup>	0
Malaysia	393	4
New Caledonia	1	0
New Zealand	5	0
Singapore	193	0
Viet Nam	68 681	0

<sup>a</sup>Based on reports from Governments; <sup>b</sup>51 were laboratory confirmed.

In Kampuchea, DF/DHF outbreaks were recorded between June and October 1983 in Phnom Penh. Battambang and some other towns reported DF/DHF cases totalling 3 515 with 364 deaths (report from UNICEF).

In Malaysia, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever, Kuala Lumpur, reported a total of

790 cases of DF/DHF in 1983. Of these, 215 (27.2 per cent) were DHF with 10 deaths, indicating a significant reduction in the disease activity of DF/DHF in 1983 compared with that of 1982 when there were 3 126 cases of DF/DHF, 888 being DHF, with 36 deaths.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE DENGUE PROGRAMME IN THE  
WHO WESTERN PACIFIC REGION IN 1984**

A Working Group on the Development of Vaccines for Arthropod- and Rodent-Borne Viruses, was held in Sendai, Japan on 28-30 August 1984. It reviewed and discussed the progress in the development of arthropod- and rodent-borne viral vaccines and formulated a plan for the development of:

- (1) monovalent and polyvalent Japanese encephalitis vaccines;
- (2) research on dengue virus vaccines, and
- (3) research on Hantaan virus vaccines.