Sandeep Kaur

Instructor Name

Art 101

08 November 2019

Malaria

Notwithstanding certain developments in the previous year, the socio-political state in Burundi rests dangerous and the humanitarian condition insubstantial. Healthcare level factors such as low budget, poor management strategies to combat the outbreak in hospitals and insufficient resources have all led to the unstable condition in Burundi. 1.77 million individuals in Burundi need humanitarian help in the year 2019 (“UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report - Reporting Period”). In 2019, 1.77 million people in Burundi need humanitarian assistance. With 710,000 individuals directed for support in the Humanitarian Response Plan 2019 (HRP), the state of the utmost susceptible in the community still displays tenacious needs and is predicted to be intensified by natural catastrophes such as rainfall and landslides (“UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report - Reporting Period”). The outbreak of malaria in Burundi has crossed the number of those affected by Ebola in the year 2019 (“UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report - Reporting Period”). The major factor that has contributed to the outbreak includes climate change, for example, changes in the humidity in the atmosphere affect the breeding and biting habits of mosquitoes (“UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report - Reporting Period”). Other factors include the interaction of infected people with the population without vaccination, awareness among communities, for example, the use of preventive measures such as coils and mosquito preventive insecticides in hospitals and homes (Lok and Dijk). The movement of people, high density of vector and inappropriate preventive measures are other significant factors that have led the outbreak out of control.

# Impact

Overall 343,333 individuals, half of whom are teenagers and children, have established protection in adjacent republics, mostly in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. 31,459 are suffering from severe malnutrition and were identified and supported by UNICEF. The outbreak resulted in disastrous results for the communities and societies. Till 21 July 2019, a cumulative of 152 243 individuals were reported and it includes 65 deaths in 46 districts. A total of 5,738,661 individuals were reported by the end of July 2019 (“UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report - Reporting Period”). The number shows the magnitude of the disaster in the society and its impact was even catastrophic on the people. People live in fear and it has created great turmoil. The disaster control program was initiated, however, it has not implemented in the management of healthcare facilities and other related control strategies in hospitals and communities effectively to control the incidence. According to a report forwarded by the World Health Organization, cumulative total of 5 738 661 cases and 1 801 deaths (CFR 0.03%) have been reported. Malaria in Burundi is deliberated as a global concern. The cases reported in the year 2017 were 219 million, whereas, cases reported in the year 2016 were 217 million which has represented the upsurge in the disease (“UNICEF Burundi Humanitarian Situation Report - Reporting Period”). The outbreak is continuing with a tenacious frequency across the country. Out of the 47 districts, only 23 have exceeded threshold whereas, 10 have touched the alert threshold.

# Viewpoint

The Burundian healthcare facilities articulate that the statistics are poorer with 4.3 million documented cases and 1,400 demises this year (“Burundian YouTube Child Star’s Death Spotlights Malaria Epidemic - Burundi”). The IFRC’s East Africa disaster management delegate, Marshal Mukuvare, said several families amplified the danger of death by delaying pursuing medical management because they do not have medicines and money to recover from the disease which is a critical condition (“Burundian YouTube Child Star’s Death Spotlights Malaria Epidemic - Burundi”). The young Kacaman’s death has encouraged an upsurge of praises and flashed discussion about malaria in Burundi. The least concentration from the healthcare provider and lack of accountability in healthcare facilities has aggravated the situation in Burundi. The number of cases is increasing which has gained the attention of the republics however, the Burundian healthcare facilities are delaying prompt actions and strategies to reduce the outbreak such as community-based programs by healthcare providers (“Burundian YouTube Child Star’s Death Spotlights Malaria Epidemic - Burundi”). The response plan alone is not sufficient to handle and control the upsurge in the number of cases of malaria in Burundi. Malaria is declared as a preventable disease by the healthcare specialists however, it is crossing the outbreaks of Ebola statistics this year.

# Stance and Recommendations

The individuals, healthcare organizations and capitals along with efficient healthcare providers, organized in accord with recognized strategies can effectively decrease the incidence of new cases of malaria. According to the World health organization, building blocks to strengthen and control the outbreak in a society should be implemented in hospitals and healthcare facilities on a priority basis to eliminate and reduce the epidemic of malaria in Burundi. This building block includes governance that will imply improvements in the strategic policy framework, and improvement in the system design such as prompt service delivery to the patients admitted (Elimina, “Malaria Elimination, Guide for Participants”). Adequate financial resources, responsive and efficient workforce, availability and accessibility to cost-effective medicines and vaccines in the healthcare facilities can significantly prepare the staff and management from the future outbreak (Elimina, “Malaria Elimination, Guide for Participants”). Controlled measures, active and operative response plans, healthcare provider’s interest and effective collaboration with the stakeholders can prepare hospitals, societies and communities from future outbreaks (Elimina, “Malaria Elimination, Guide for Participants”). It is assumed that better preparation, planning and delivery of efficient services can lead to healthy communities and societies.

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