

A Case study –Cutaneous leishmaniasis

Laiba a 5 year old girl suffers from Cutaneous leishmaniasis living in joint family system with her 9 siblings, parents and grandparents at village Jamal Khel Wara Tehsil Dossali North Waziristan Agency-Federally Administered & Tribal Area-FATA Pakistan. Jamal Khel village is situated in the hilly terrain for about two kilometer towards west form Dossali Civil Hospital. The village is comprised of roughly 21 houses. Houses are stone and mud made. People mostly depend on local remittances. Some of them live abroad and earn their bread and butter. The village lack agricultural land, drinking water sources, grocery stores, electricity, schools, and health facilities. People keep cattle for getting dairy products like milk, butter, yogurt, cheese and much more.

Jamal Khel village sanitation profile was very poor before social mobilization. There was no proper way of solid waste management. People are living in joint family system. Open defecation practice was common as space is readily available. At night women folk were habitual of open defecation, the environment was found polluted and suffocated. After social mobilization the situation of health and hygiene a bit improved.

Laiba breaths in that suffocated environment and fights with Cutaneous leishmaniasis more common in the area affecting humans. It is a skin infection caused by a single-celled parasite that is transmitted by the bite of a phlebotomine sandfly. This disease is considered to be a zoonosis (an infectious disease that is naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals to humans). Sand flies are small; a body size of about 3mm in length, its bite is not always felt, but leaves a small round, reddish bump that starts itching hours or days later as indicates on the victim cheek.

The victim's father is very poor person. He is a daily wager and earns Rupees 15,000 per month; he hardly meets his house hold consumptions. For him it was very hard to rush his daughter to the tertiary care hospital so he brought her to Civil Hospital Dossali where Society for Human & Environmental Development (SHED) under UNOCHA-PHPF funding has established static medical camp and provides quality health services for free to the socially deprived people living in the area and around. She was examined and diagnosed by the Medical Officer as a victim of Cutaneous leishmaniasis-a disease frequently spreads over human skin. She was medicated and her father was told to visit again and again for quick recovery. After a month, SHED representative made a follow up visit and observed the patient, the wound partially got healed as indicates in the picture.



Laiba- A round patch of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis indicates on her cheek



Follow up visit –wound seems being recovered

In follow up visit her father was told to bring the victim child to the static medical camp for successive examinations and routine checkups so as to prevent the wounds from further expansion. He principally agreed and repeatedly brought the victim child to the health facility. Routine checkups and extra care gave her oxygen to live; she got conquered over the existing worst fear with her greatest strengths and now she is quite well.

“For my child the constant pillars of support were SHED and PHPF, thanks to their care giver team in supporting me. “I am very happy and pleased with the way they treated, thanks for the services, most of the people like us are very poor they have poor access to health facilities, they can’t bear the travelling and medicines costs, we hope for the continuation of this project so as to avail health services at our nearest health facilities-victim child father added”



Final stage with visible scar