

# The Epidemic of the Hemorrhagic Dengue Fever (HDF) 2012

In 2012 the Kantha Bopha Children's Hospitals admitted for Hospitalization **28 151 children suffering from a severe HDF**. These were most severe cases. Not severe cases are followed up in the outpatient stations. These ambulant cases are not counted. The Epidemic was worse than in 2007 when 24 000 HDF children were hospitalized. **So it was the worse Epidemic ever happened worldwide.**

Only 25% of the families in Cambodia have got the Abate in order to treat the clean water stored around their houses. There the breeding places of the mosquitoes should be destroyed.

All patients with the HDF who have died in our hospitals (0.6%) have died because of drug intoxications. They were badly treated before in private clinics or else where, where they got wrong and too many medicines and drugs. After having lost there a lot of money the parents are bringing the child in a desperate state and too late in our Hospitals.

## ...and the Dengue goes on in 2013

From January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 we had to admit for hospitalization already 163 severe cases of the HDF. The last 20 years we have never seen so many cases in January. They are coming from all provinces. And still today only 25% of the families have got Abate.

If there are HDF cases in January it will start an Epidemic the following month of April. This is our experience during the last 20 years. **But for the fight against HDF there is no money enough and no commitment enough.**

Why for bird flue, for example, it is much more money and commitment? As soon Kantha Bopha discovers a case of bird flue (the last happened in 26 May 2012) the authorities are traveling there to explore the birds and chicken in the whole area. All severe cases of HDF not being hospitalized are facing the same fatality as the cases of bird flue. We give the addresses of all children to the authorities, as soon the Diagnosis HDF is confirmed. But nobody is heading there controlling the breeding places of the mosquitoes in the clean water around the houses and the schools. Nobody is controlling if the water around the houses is covered and so on, at it is done in other countries.

Why this difference between the handling of bird flue and HDF in Cambodia: The mosquitoes infected by the Dengue Virus can only fly a distance of 125 meters. The bird infected by bird flue can fly long distances reaching Australia or California.

The HDF is a great burden for our Hospitals, the day and the night. **The HDF is a huge and unnecessary suffering for thousands of children.**

We hope the health authorities and the International Community, especially its Health Organization WHO, are taking immediately adequate and professional actions. Further we hope, that the private clinics get to be controlled and some get to be closed, not only in the provinces but in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap town too.

Dr. Beat Richner, Head and Founder of the Kantha Bopha Hospitals, 15.1.2013