

INTRODUCTION

In March 1995 an international workshop took place at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on the control of visceral leishmaniasis (VL). The workshop was initiated by the Overseas Development Administration (UK) as part of an ODA-funded research project, and was co-organised and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization, with supplementary support from the European Commission and the International Development Research Centre (Canada).

The aim of the workshop was to:

- (1) Produce a simple manual to the control of VL for the community, the physician, the diagnostician, the veterinary surgeon, the public health worker and the research scientist.
- (2) Make the manual widely available in endemic regions and facilitate its translation into appropriate languages.
- (3) Link efforts on control in the New and Old Worlds and to make the guide applicable in both.

There are many publications which concern the control of infectious diseases and this is certainly not the first that is relevant to VL. Two features of the international workshop and this report are, however, unusual:

- (1) During the workshop interactive subgroups set down and answered the specific questions that confront those working at diverse levels on the control of VL.
- (2) The text is divided into sections corresponding to the different roles of individuals.

This manual makes no attempt to present a scholarly debate on research enigmas. It is designed to provide a usable summary of the common practicalities of dealing with VL. To use the manual simply turn to the section of interest. Sections (1-9) are largely usable independently (except for the brief summaries of equipment at the end of each section) but where necessary follow the cross references to other sections.

Inevitably there will be errors and omissions in a first attempt at a manual of this type.

Please send suggestions for improvements or for other workshop topic to one of the following:

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