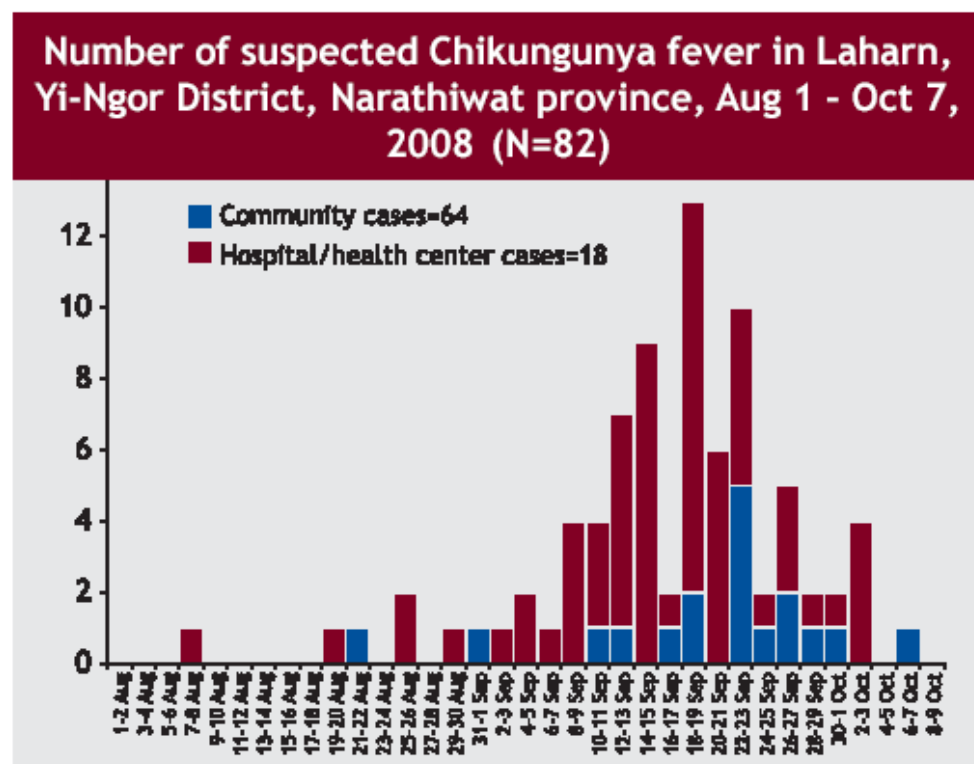


Chikungunya outbreak in Narathiwat Province, Thailand, August-September 2008

The outbreak was notified from Narathiwat Provincial Health Office in Thailand on 5 October to Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE), Ministry of Public Health of an increase of fever, rash and joint pain with preliminary diagnosis of chikungunya fever. A joint Rapid Response Team from Central, Regional, Provincial and District investigated to verify diagnosis and assess the situation in order to implement control measures.

The medical records of patients (fever, rash and joint pain) who came for treatment from 1 August to 7 October 2008 in a district health centre, district and provincial hospitals reviewed, blood specimens for laboratory tests were collected and an entomological survey in the village performed.

Preliminary results identified 18 cases in the health-care settings. Active case finding identified an additional 64 cases. The index case was identified on 7 August 2008. The median



Source: Bureau of Epidemiology, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

age of cases was 56 years old (8-81), with a male-to-female ratio of 1:2. A majority of the patients developed fever (65.8%) followed by a rash on trunk and extremities (63.4%) and joint pain (86.6%). Some cases developed severe arthralgia, which disabled mobility.

The epidemic curve showed sporadic distribution in the first month and peaked in mid-September, then declined subsequently. Laboratory investigation by HI in 46 paired sera identified 8 cases with four-fold rising titer and 19 cases with titer of 1:20. Out of 28 specimens available for PCR testing, 11 were positive for chikungunya virus.

Entomological survey in four villages found House Index to be 20.8, 5.6, 11.9 and 17.4%, Container Index of 5.8, 1.5, 1.8 and 5.3%, Breteau Index of 31.2, 6.7, 9.9 and 32.9, respectively.

SEARO has notified the outbreak to Outbreak–WPRO in order to inform neighbouring Member States for surveillance in the border area.