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DENGUE ENDEMIC IN BANGLADESH: ENDURING FIGHT AGAINST A RELENTLESS VIRUS

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A B S T R A C T

Amidst the aftermath of the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, global health systems remain poised to tackle emerging diseases. Among these, dengue fever has emerged as a persistent concern in Southeast Asia, with Bangladesh at the forefront. Since its initial outbreak in 2000, dengue has followed the typical epidemic trajectory, marked by increasingly frequent and expansive outbreaks that have spread across Bangladesh. With nearly a quarter-century of dengue outbreaks in Bangladesh, the disease has undoubtedly become an emerging outbreak of the decade. Dengue, caused by the dengue virus (DENV) and primarily transmitted through Aides mosquitoes, affects millions worldwide annually. Most cases are mild, but severe dengue poses life-threatening risks. Bangladesh faces a persistent dengue burden due to urbanization, climate change, and high population density. An escalating outbreak in 2023 necessitates urgent action. Dhaka city is the epicenter, with around 80% of deaths and 64.5% of hospitalizations nationally. The government has designated 63 medical facilities to manage cases, including specialized Dengue cells. Efforts to control dengue vectors continue, but the unique climate supports transmission. Public awareness and preventive strategies are crucial. Dhaka city's vulnerability emphasizes precise interventions. Dengue's economic impact strains healthcare and households. Coordinated efforts are vital to combat dengue in Bangladesh and globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) plays a pivotal role in providing support and strategies for effective management and control.