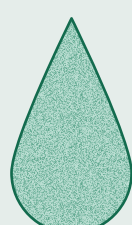


# TAIWAN: DYSENTERY AND EXTREME WEATHER

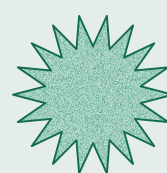
Dysentery is a gastrointestinal disease caused by bacterial or parasitic infections that can cause death. The disease is commonly spread through contaminated drinking water, which is becoming a more common issue given the increasing prevalence of flooding in many parts of the world.



## WHERE IS DYSENTERY FOUND?

Dysentery is often found in warm or tropical climates with poor water quality, sanitation systems, and areas where proper sanitation guidelines are harder to follow due to conflict, natural disaster, or poverty.

## HOW IS DYSENTERY TRANSMITTED?



- Dysentery is spread through human contact with (and ingestion of) fecal matter from infected persons. This could include:
  - Eating food or drinking water handled by an infected person
  - Swimming in contaminated water (such as in lakes or pools)
  - Physical contact with an infected person

## WHO IS IMPACTED?

- Dysentery can be fatal to:
  - Young children
  - Dehydrated or malnourished people
  - Those 50 years of age and older

## PREVENTION & TREATMENT

- Avoiding unclean water and foods
- Washing hands thoroughly
- Avoiding unpasteurized foods
- Antibiotics are usually the most effective treatment

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IMPACTING PREVELANCE

- Taiwan has recently been experiencing shorter dry seasons and heavy rainfall, which increase the likelihood that drinking water reservoirs become contaminated with feces.
- Bacterial dysentery caused by the Shigella species is the most deadly form in Taiwan, especially in indigenous areas without proper health education and surveillance systems present.



## TAKING ACTION: DYSENTERY PREVENTION & CONTROL PROGRAM

- The Taiwanese government's "Four-year Enhanced Bacillary Dysentery Prevention and Control Program Specially Targeted at Mountainous Rural Areas" reduced incidence of dysentery by 84% between 1997-2004.
- It heightened awareness towards sanitation and health, nurtured healthier behaviors, strengthened on-the-job training of healthcare workers, established a more efficient disease surveillance system, and improved environmental sanitation and agricultural behaviors.

## THE DYSENTERY PREVENTION & CONTROL PROGRAM'S CLIMATE CONNECTION

- Given programs like the Taiwanese government's prevention and control program, Taiwan has a better chance of limiting disease transmission amidst worsening climate developments.
- As extreme weather events in Taiwan make it harder to access clean water, nation-wide climate and health initiatives strengthen prevention, detection, and response techniques.

