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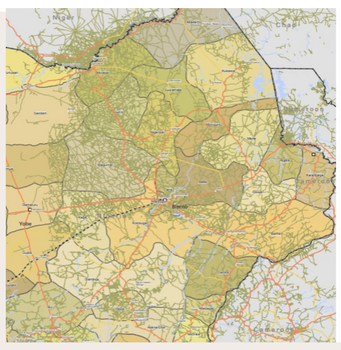
OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS OF MAIDUGURI'S 2024 DIPHTHERIA SURGE: CLOSE THE VACCINATION GAP, REDUCE REFERRAL DELAYS, ADMINISTER DAT EARLIER

Background: MSF Nilefa Keji Hospital is in Maiduguri, Borno State, North-East Nigeria.

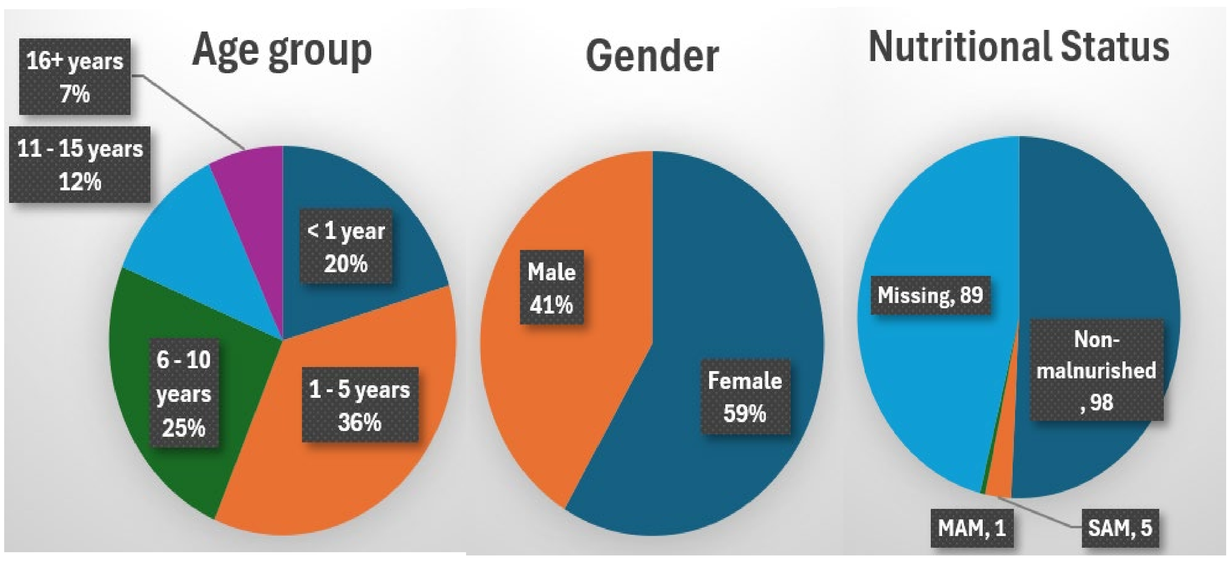
Displacement due to conflict, flood has led to food insecurities and impacted vulnerable populations, such as children. In 2024, we observed a surge in DIPHTERIA cases admitted to the hospital.

Diphtheria a vaccine-preventable disease, poses a significant public health problem.

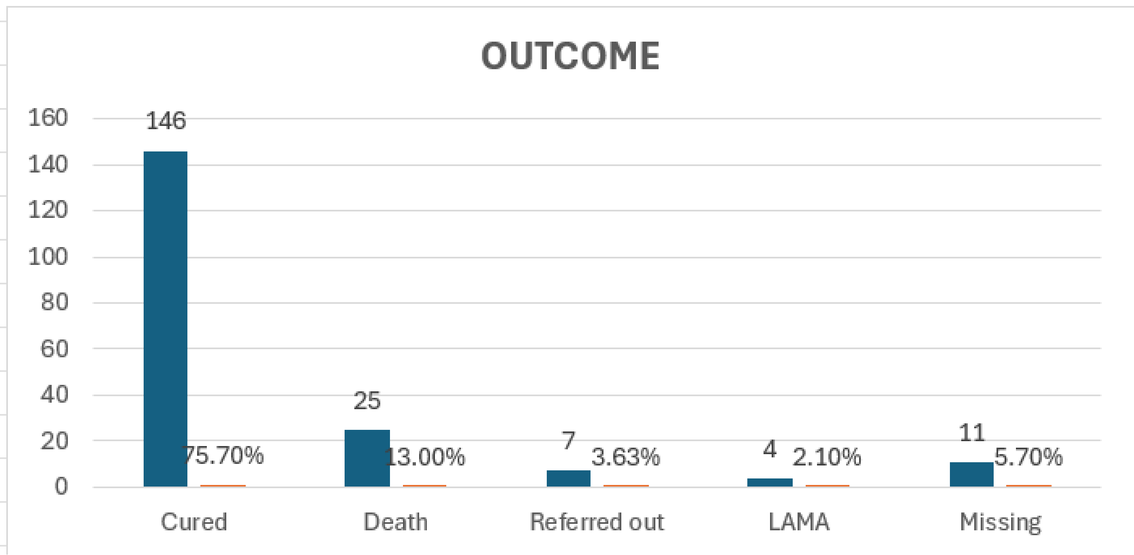


Methods: Retrospective Analysis was conducted on data extracted from the data line list and patient files of cases admitted into Nilefa Keji Hospital, Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

Diphtheria cases managed, 2024: admission characteristics



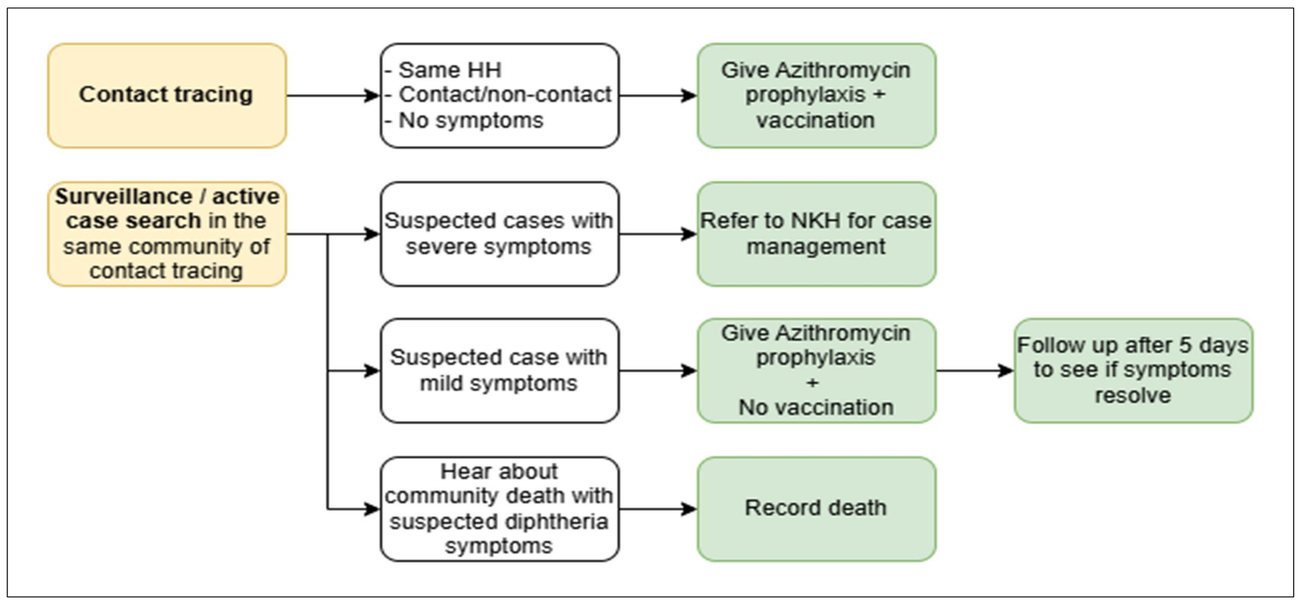
Diphtheria cases managed, 2024: Outcome Distribution



Demographic information analyzed were age (> under 5 years), gender (>female), and nutritional status (> non-malnourished).

Mortality attributed to flood-related referral challenges that year and co-management of cases in a limited space facility with malnourished patients.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION:



Schematic presentation of medical outreach Team's Response to Diphtheria outbreak.

KEY TAKEAWAY FROM THE DIPHTHERIA OUTBREAK ANALYSIS

1. **Low vaccination coverage and delayed referrals were prominent features of the 2024 surge in Maiduguri.**
2. **Targeted outreach and strengthened referral pathways are priority actions for the next surge.**
3. **CFR was (13%) overall, more cases seen in children <5years; early DAT administration remained sub-optimal.**

Limitations: This study is subject to limitations including potential data quality issues that may introduce biases, a retrospective design that hinders establishing causality, and limited generalizability of findings to other populations or setting due to unique contextual factors.

Image showing data extraction

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