

Epidemics

1. Disease among the recent typhoon survivors in Jahar could reach epidemic proportions, because most refugee camps are now flooded. These people are now facing the threat of **water-borne** diseases such as gastroenteritis as they have only **contaminated** water to drink. As water **purification tablets** are unavailable, diarrhoea is taking its first toll on children, who die after drinking **untreated** water or eating **rotten** food. Dehydration, caused by diarrhoea, is now the number one killer.

Drowned cattle, which float in the flood waters, could soon trigger a much more serious epidemic. A health officer is quoted as saying that the bacteria spread so **swiftly** because of the congestion in the tents. **Vaccines** against tetanus and typhoid are needed to **immunize** people. Because of the lack of money, there have been no **inoculations** in recent years. Already there have been several **mortalities** from cholera and measles.

The President, who toured the area, described the conditions as "**appalling**". The camps are unsanitary and the evacuees will continue to suffer unless drastic measures are taken. Adequate medical care, massive doses of antibiotics and proper sanitary **facilities** are needed to ease the plight of the people who have been through so much suffering.

2. Scores are reported dead as meningitis has struck Ishmad. This disease has wiped out entire families in the space of 72 hours and can leap from village to village. The **virulent** strain of bacterial meningitis found a perfect breeding ground as the population's resistance to illness is **impaired** by the effects of famine and chronic malnutrition. Those who contract the disease pass the air-borne bacteria through coughing and sneezing. To **safeguard** the remaining population, an emergency appeal was issued for vaccine to contain the lethal **contagion**. The Red Cross and the Red Crescent have already answered the call.

wa
c
con
pur
unt
rot
swi
vac
inn
ino
n
mor
app
faci
virt
imp
safe
con
ze

Re:

Ansv

1. W
2. W
3. W
4. W
5. W
6. W

Phr

Com
• osia
• sta
• bra
• pod
• bar
• odp
• zara
• opa

water-borne (diseases) *adj* (diseases passed on by the consumption of contaminated drinking water) – choroby przenoszone przez zakażoną wodą
contaminated *adj* (made unclean, harmful, impure) – zatruty
purification tablets – tabletki do odkażania wody (*pure* – czysty)
untreated *adj* (not purified) – nie odkażony, nie uzdatniony
rotten *adj* (not fresh, gone bad) – nadpsuty, zgniły
swiftly *adv* (quickly, without difficulty) – szybko
vaccine *n* (substance protecting against disease) – szczepionka
immunize *v* (secure from disease as a result of vaccination) – uodpornić
inoculation *n* (injection of vaccine to safeguard against disease) – szczepienie ochronne
mortalities *n* (number of deaths) – liczba ofiar śmiertelnych
appalling *adj* (shocking) – przerażający
facilities *n* (aids) – udogodnienia
virulent *adj* (strong and powerful) – (o chorobie) silna, złośliwa
impair *v* (weaken) – osłabić
safeguard *v* (protect) – zabezpieczyć
contagion *n* (disease that can be spread by contact) – choroba zakaźna, zaraza

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. Why were the refugee camps needed?
2. What has made the health situation unsatisfactory?
3. Why are people dying?
4. What must be done to ease the situation?
5. What makes the outbreak of meningitis difficult to contain?
6. Why is the disease so easy to catch?

Phrases to learn

Complete the following phrases. Each line stands for one word.

- osiągnąć rozmiary epidemii – *r*..... *e*..... *p*.....
- stanąć wobec groźby – *f*..... *the t*.....
- brak pieniędzy – *l*..... *of m*.....
- podjąć drastyczne środki – *t*..... *d*..... *m*.....
- bardzo podatny grunt – *p*..... *g*.....
- odporność jest osłabiona – *r*..... *is i*.....
- zarazić się chorobą – *c*..... *the d*.....
- opanować śmiertelną zarazę – *c*..... *the l*..... *c*.....

Headline

Rearrange the words to form the headlines to the reports.

1. PACKED • BY • FLOOD • DIARRHOEA • IN • REFUGEE • VICTIMS
PLAGUED • CAMPS

.....

2. DEADLY • VACCINE • AS • INTERNATIONAL • MENINGITIS • TAKES
ITS • APPEAL • TOLL

.....

Translation practice

1. Obozy uciekinierów zalała woda. Ilość przypadków zachorowań wśród ludności pozbawionej dachu nad głową może przybrać rozmiary epidemii. Ludzie piją skażoną wodę. Tabletki do odkażania wody są nieosiągalne. Biegunka zbiera zniwo głównie wśród dzieci. Potrzebna jest szczepionka przeciw tężcowi i tyfusowi. W ostatnich latach ludność nie była szczepiona z powodu braku pieniędzy. By poprawić sytuację w obozach, potrzebna jest pomoc medyczna i olbrzymie ilości antybiotyków.
 2. W Ishmadzie wybuchła epidemia zapalenia opon mózgowych. Choroba trafiła na podatny grunt wśród mieszkańców tego kraju z powodu obniżonej odporności wywołanej niedożywieniem. By uchronić ludność przed tą śmiertelną chorobą zakaźną, potrzebna jest szczepionka.
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Discussion topics

1. When natural disasters occur, epidemics are not far behind and happen within a matter of days. Can you think of the factors which contribute to the rapid spread of disease in disaster-stricken areas?
2. Discuss the following statement: *Epidemics have always been nature's way of dealing with poverty and overpopulation.*



List

Tick t

1. W

2. It

3. 7.

4. Th

5. Th

in

6. Th

7. M

8. Th

9. Bu

10. Fin

11. St

12. Th

the

Collo

Match

collocat

COLUM

affected

calamit

concrete

destructi

devasta

high ma

homeles

incompl

mountai

rescue

unprece