

Speaker: Emily Nightingale (LSHTM)

Date: 25/04/2023 at 13:15 in 8 West 2.20

Title: Understanding the burden of visceral leishmaniasis from surveillance at different spatial scales

Abstract:

Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is a debilitating and - without treatment - highly fatal disease which burdens impoverished communities in north-eastern India. Control and, ultimately, elimination of VL depends heavily on prompt case detection, with delays contributing to persistence of transmission and the risk of resurgence in a population with likely waning immunity. However, the constraints of an elimination setting inevitably demand a reduction in the intensity of surveillance for the programme to be sustainable in the long-term. An understanding of patterns in disease burden at a fine geographic scale could help optimise the use of available resources and improve promptness of detection in a way that is sustainable from pre- to post-elimination. This seminar will discuss the feasibility of inferring fine-scale variation in disease burden from routinely-collected surveillance data in this late-stage elimination setting.