National implementation of BWC in Sri Lanka through Preparedness and Response

Disaster Preparedness and Response Division, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

BWC Focal Point

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Ayubowan
(blessings for a long life)

one of the most biologically safe
Sri Lankan way of greeting during
COVID19 Pandemic
Sri Lanka and BWC

Sri Lanka signed the Biological Weapons Convention on April 10, 1972, and ratified it on November 18, 1986.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Acts and Policies</th>
<th>Plans and SOPs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (1897)</td>
<td>National Health Strategic Master Plan (2017-2025)</td>
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<td>Animal Diseases Act (1992)</td>
<td>National Strategic Plan for Combating AMR</td>
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<td>Civil Aviation Act (2010)</td>
<td>National influenza pandemic plan</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act (1979)</td>
<td>Strategic Plan for Health Sector Disasters and Emergency Management</td>
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<td>National Environmental Act (2000)</td>
<td>SOP for prevention, early warning and response to public health events at points of entry</td>
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<td>Veterinary Surgeons and Practitioners Act World</td>
<td>COVID19 preparedness and Response Plans</td>
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<td>Notifiable Disease List (last gazette in 2014)</td>
<td>Health sector disaster preparedness and response plans district level</td>
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<td>National Immunization policy</td>
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<td>National Policy on Biosafety according to Cartegenia protocol</td>
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<td>Regulations to monitor biosafety standards related to genetically modified organism (GMO) and living modified organism (LMO) referring to plants and animals.</td>
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<td>National Medicinal Policy</td>
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National Policy for Bio safety and Biosecurity is drafted
Successful Implementation of IHR 2005

The Directorate of Quarantine Unit and Epidemiology Unit of Ministry of Health are the co-focal points of International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005.
Health Security of Sri Lanka

• Sri Lanka is working hard to ensure health security through preventing, detecting and responding to health threats.
• Implementation of IHR 2005, is monitored and evaluated jointly with WHO on regular basis.
• Sri Lanka, introduced a new model of reporting progress through audio visual material in addition to paper based reports and is published at WHO website in late 2019 as a best practice from the region.
• Documentary on ensuring health security of Sri Lanka, inclusive of biological hazards from out breaks to biological attacks.

https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/WHOIHRSSrilanka.mp4
Strengths

• Well structured preventive health sector in addition to curative health sector
• Multi sectoral involvement to ensure health security inclusive of biosecurity and biosafety
• Good coordination between Health Sector with Security and Defense Sector
• Favourable prevailing legislative framework for BWC implementation
Biological Weapons Convention
Focal Point of Sri Lanka
National Preparedness Programme for Sri Lanka
Assistance requested and currently under discussion for consideration through NPP for Sri Lanka in the framework of EU council decision 2019/97 in support of BWC

1. Development of BWC National implementation plan inclusive of Standard Operating Procedures for the prevention and response to biological attack.
2. Capacity building of staff from multiple sectors.
3. Adaptation of National Policy on biosafety and biosecurity with the experience and best practices during COVID19 pandemic
4. Enhancement of the physical resources and supplies capacity to respond to spectrum of outbreaks, pandemics and biological attack.
5. Development of national pathogen inventory
6. Familiarize with multisectoral-stakeholder coordination platforms.
Method applied to effective utilization of assistance through National Preparedness Program for Sri Lanka

• Stakeholder mapping (completed)
• Identification of multi sectoral focal points by nomination of highest level authority in each sector (completed)
• In process of establishment of national steering committee for BWC implementation
• Ensured sustainability
• Gender equity
Achieved multi sectoral involvement for the launch of NPP for Sri Lanka and continuation

(More than 100 participants from 40 government entities)
Breakdown of Participants by Sector and Areas of Expertise Registered for the first training
(June 22\textsuperscript{nd} -23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2021)
Assistance for consideration beyond NPP

• Further access and support to obtain COVID19 vaccines in continuation of vaccination program in long run

• Equitable access and support to obtain medicine for COVID19 with future developments and for other emerging and reemerging diseases

• Enhancement of the physical resources and supplies capacity to respond to spectrum of outbreaks, pandemics and biological attack (with special reference to upgrade/establish, BSL3/3+ level laboratories within health sector)

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Thank you......