

National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan (NIPPP)
Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Strategies	Key activities
❖ Planning and Co-ordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Cabinet approved Steering Committee which includes the Secretaries and Director Generals of Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Animal Production and Health has been appointed,.➤ Regular meetings of the Joint Technical Committee are conducted to review the pandemic preparedness activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Estate Infrastructure & Livestock Development.➤ The committee is also represented by the members from the Ministries of Environment & Wild Life.➤ Guidelines were developed and circulated islandwide on Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response.➤ District plans are being prepared by the Deputy Provincial Directors of Health in the districts: Individual plans for the major hospitals have been developed by the Heads of the institutions.➤ A mission from the World Bank visited in July and September 2006, to assess and support Sri Lanka to meet the response to Avian Influenza.
2. Surveillance & Early warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A joint circular, in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Estate Infrastructure & Livestock Development was circulated among public health staff for Monitoring & prompt reporting of unusual events and collection and transport of specimens.
3. Prevention & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Regional Epidemiologists were advised to ensure,<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appointment of Emergency response Team for each district• Registration of poultry farms according

	<p>to the GS (Grama Sevaka) Divisions in each MOH area, by MOH, in consultation with the Veterinary Surgeons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training hospital staff and MOH staff in the district for IEC activities on AI and coordination of activities.
<p>4. Health system response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In order to develop integrated and multi-sectoral national preparedness and response plan, an application for a Japanese Grant under JICA Project was submitted in order to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the molecular, respiratory and high risk laboratories of the M.R.I. • Provide laboratory equipments to the following institutions to detect and identify strains of influenza viruses. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teaching Hospital, Kandy 2. Teaching Hospital, Galle 3. Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo. 4. The Department of Microbiology, Faculty of medicine, Ragama ➤ Of the twenty sentinel sites identified for influenza surveillance in humans, training programmes for the hospital staff were conducted in the following institutions. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Hospital, Sri Lanka 2. Teaching Hospital, Ragama 3. Teaching Hospital, Colombo South 4. Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya 5. Teaching Hospital, Kurunegala 6. Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo 7. Castle Street Hospital for Women 8. Infectious Diseases Hospital ➤ Additional training programmes were conducted at the Base Hospitals in Wathupitiwala and Gampaha. ➤ Training of trainers programme (for clinicians) is being organized with the support of the W.H.O. to enhance the knowledge of clinical management of influenza-like illnesses. ➤ Major areas covered during training included; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case finding, management & infection

	<p>control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage arrangements & emergency procedures • Use of personal protective equipment • Collection of samples of nasopharyngeal secretions, using mucous extractors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A booklet on Avian Influenza was prepared and distributed. • A joint review of the operational aspect of the preparedness plan was conducted at Department of Animal Production and Health, Peradeniya to identify the gaps and further issues in the implementation of the plan. • Discussions are continuing with the World Bank to ensure funding for the implementation of the plan, including the upgrading of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Angoda. • A coordinated lab response has been established by linking 3 local laboratories and also ensuring other external laboratory support (University of Hong Kong and AFRIM, Thailand).
<p>5. Risk communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communication Strategic Plan was developed by the UNICEF in collaboration with the Epidemiology Unit, Health Education Bureau and other stakeholders.