

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

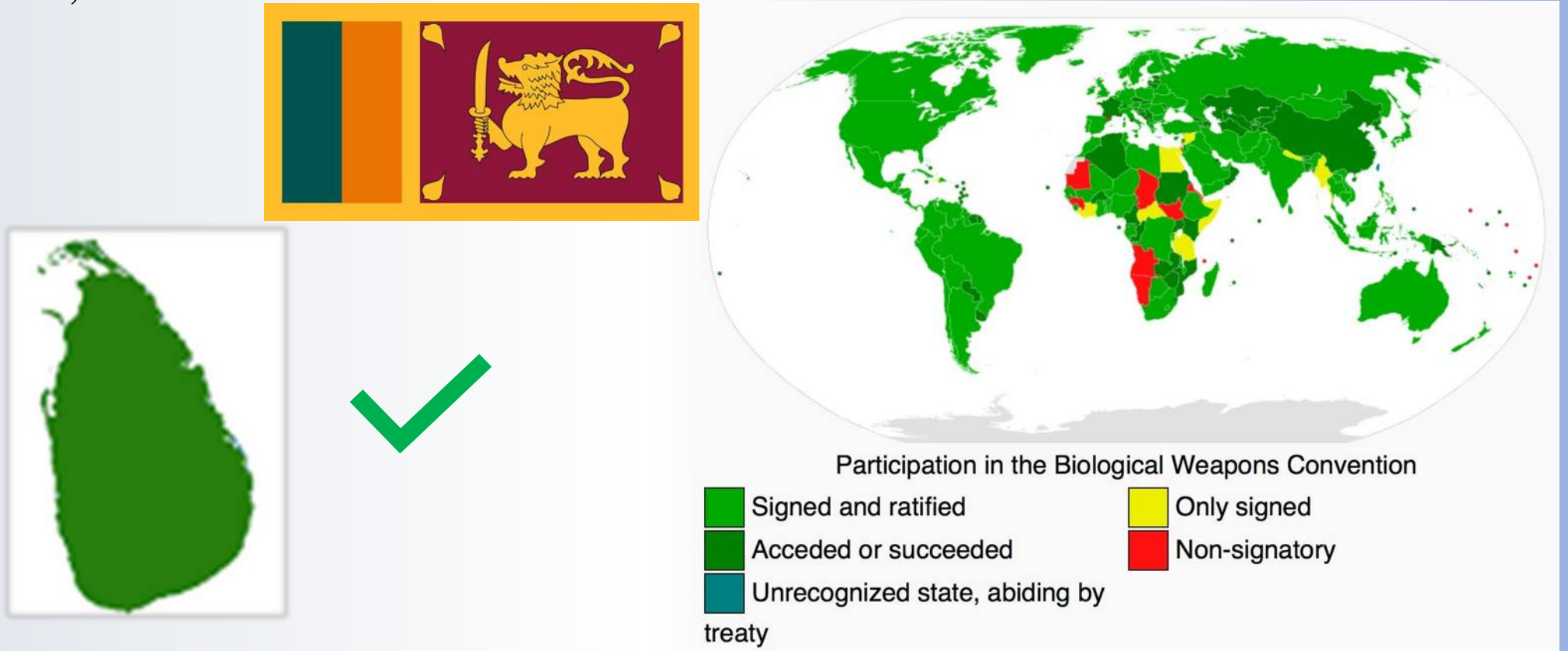
(blessings for a long life)



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.



Legal Framework to ensure biosafety and biosecurity within the country

Acts and Policies

Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (1897)

Food Act (1980), amended in 1991

Animal Diseases Act (1992)

Plant Protection Act (1999) and Seeds Act (2003)

Civil Aviation Act (2010)

Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act (1979)

Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act (2005)

National Environmental Act (2000)

Veterinary Surgeons and Practitioners Act World

Notifiable Disease List (last gazette in 2014)

National Immunization policy

National Policy on Biosafety according to Cartagena protocol

Regulations to monitor biosafety standards related to genetically modified organism (GMO) and living modified organism (LMO) referring to plants and animals.

National Medicinal Policy

Plans and SOPs

National Health Strategic Master Plan (2017-2025)

National Action Plan for Health Security of Sri Lanka: 2019 – 2023 (based IHR 2005)

National Strategic Plan for Combating AMR

Comprehensive multiyear plan for immunization (2017–2021)

National influenza pandemic plan

Strategic Plan for Health Sector Disasters and Emergency Management

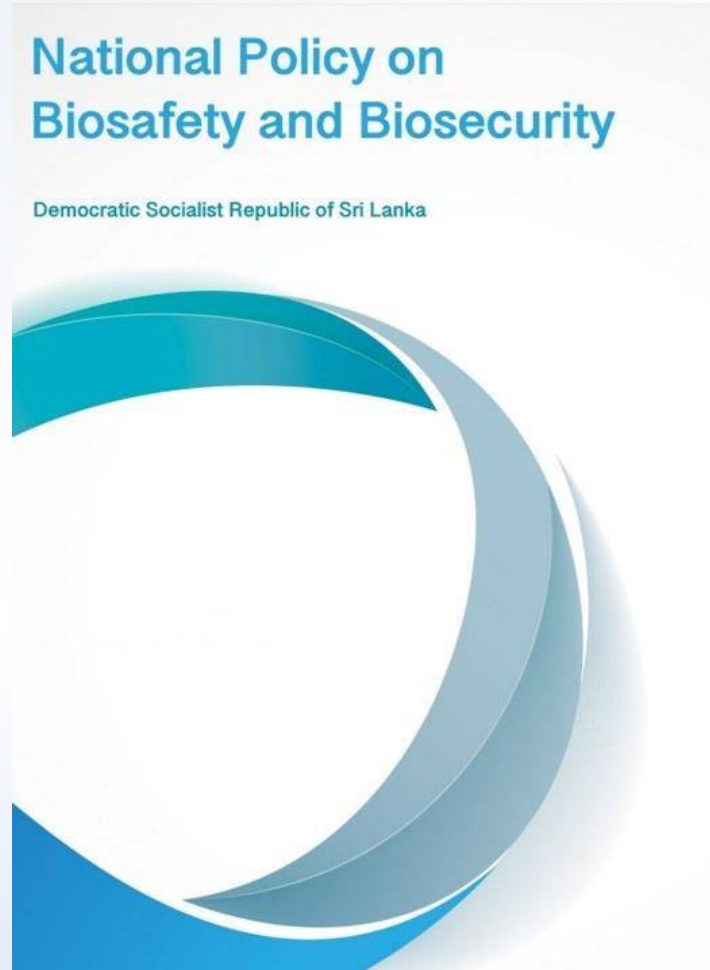
Public Health Contingency Plan for Sea Ports

SOP for prevention, early warning and response to public health events at points of entry

COVID19 preparedness and Response Plans

Health sector disaster preparedness and response plans district level

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

National Action Plan for Health Security of Sri Lanka 2019 - 2023

Strengthening Implementation of the International Health Regulations



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



4: ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTH SECURITY 19

PREVENT

4.1	National Legislation, Policy and Financing	19
4.2	IHR Coordination, Communication and Advocacy	22
4.3	Antimicrobial resistance	24
4.4	Zoonotic diseases	29
4.5	Food safety	33
4.6	Biosafety and biosecurity	39
4.7	Immunization	42

DETECT

4.8	National laboratory system	45
4.9	Real time surveillance	50
4.10	Reporting	54
4.11	Workforce development	56

RESPOND

4.12	Preparedness	60
4.13	Emergency response operations	64
4.14	Linking public health and security authorities	69
4.15	Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment	71
4.16	Risk communication	75

OTHER IHR-RELATED HAZARDS AND POINTS OF ENTRY (PoE)

4.17	Points of Entry	80
4.18	Chemical events	84
4.19	Radiation emergencies	89

5: REFERENCES 92

6: ANNEXURES 93

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/WHOIHRsrilanka.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



EUROPEAN UNION COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2019/97 (2019)

In support of the Biological Weapons Convention in the framework of the EU Strategy
against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
(implemented by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs)



BWC EXTENDED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

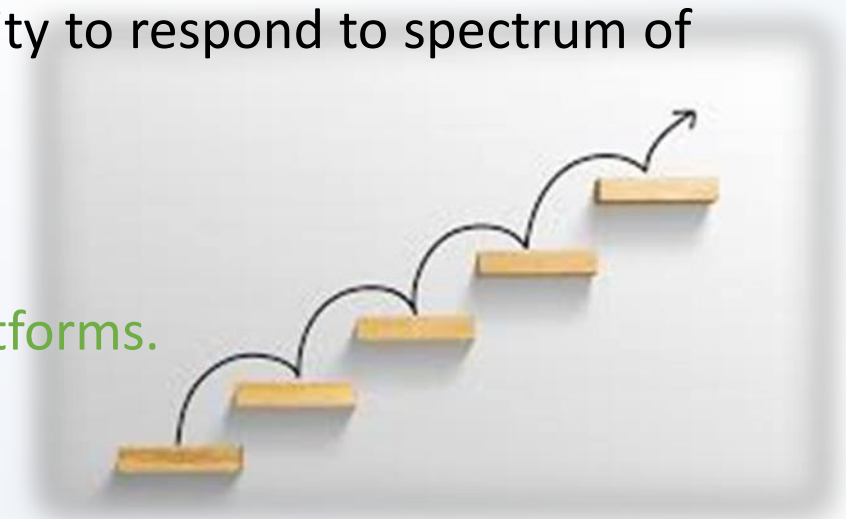


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Assistance requested and currently under discussion for consideration through NPP for Sri Lanka in the framework of EU council decision 2019/97 in support of BWC

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.

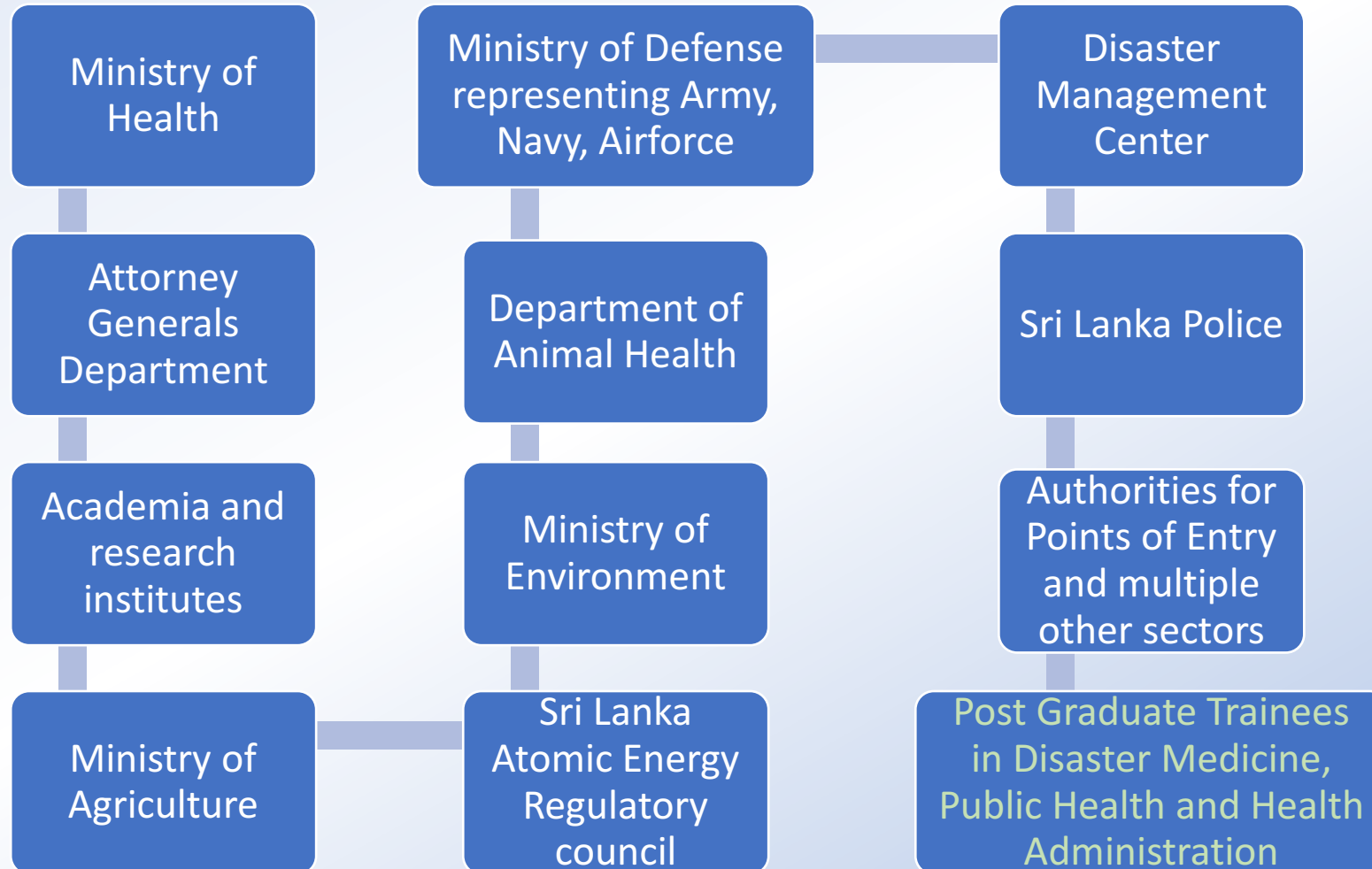


Method applied to effective utilization of assistance through National Preparedness Program for Sri Lanka

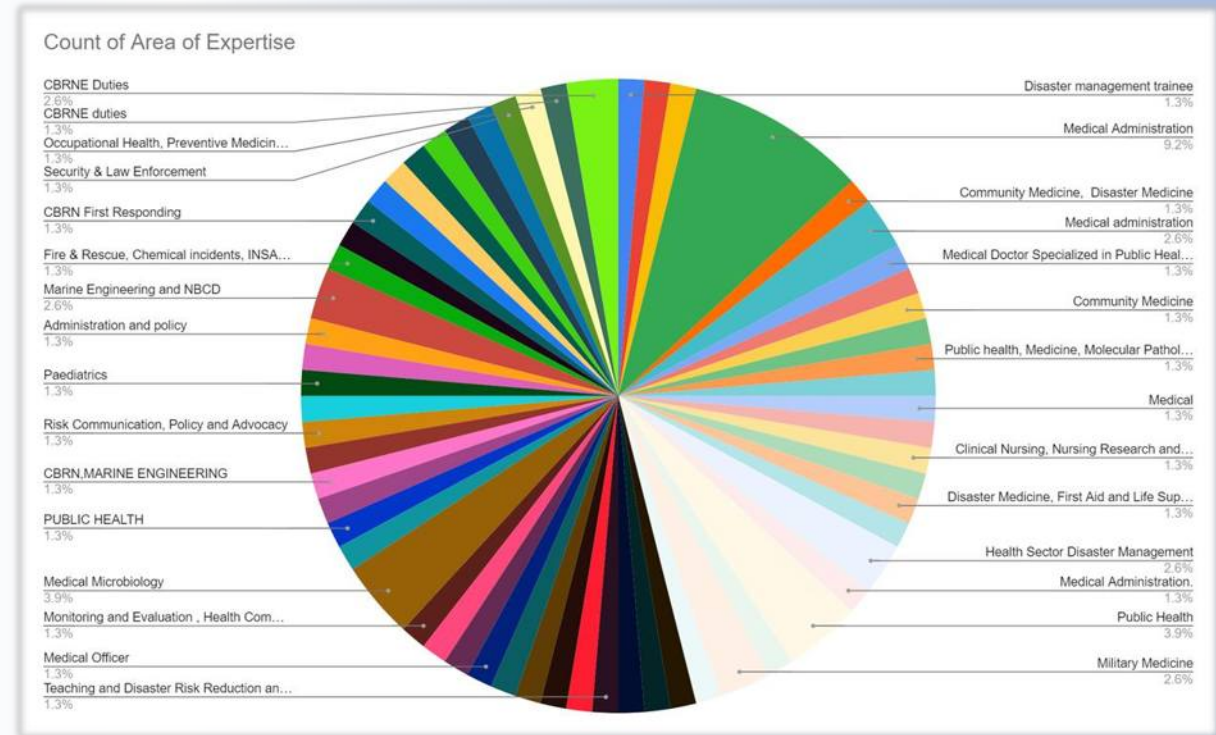
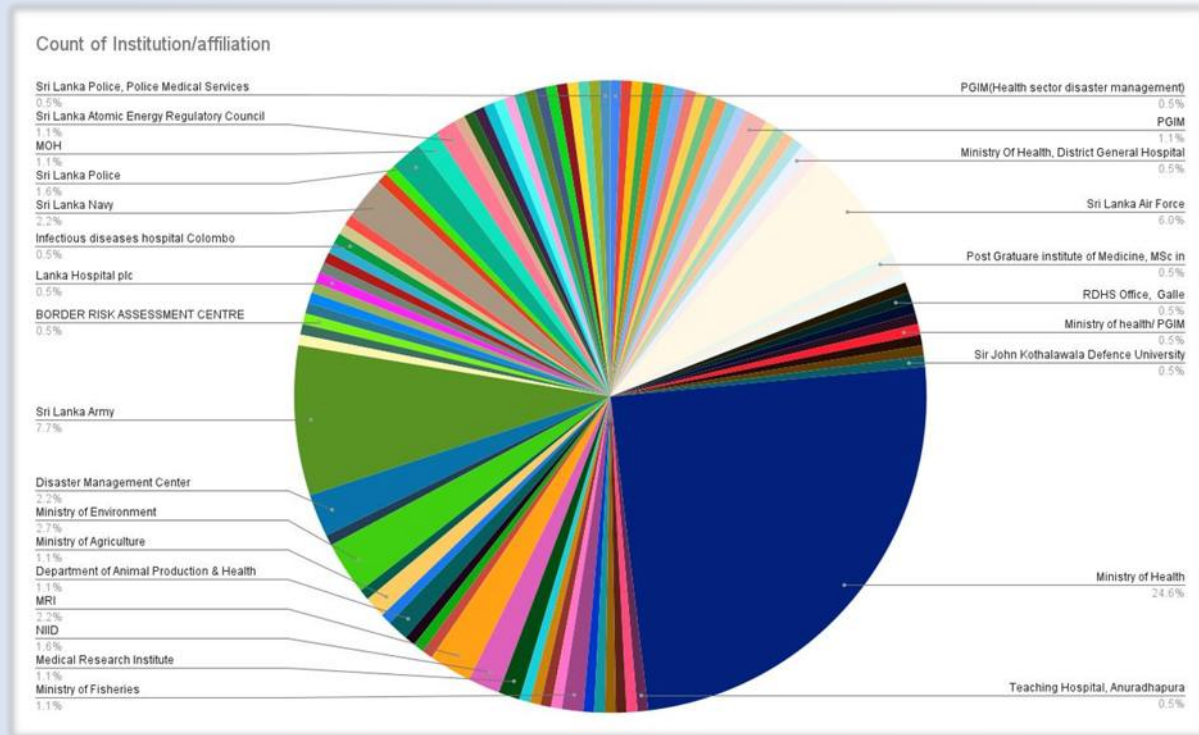
- Stakeholder mapping (completed)
- Identification of multi sectoral focal points by nomination of highest level authority in each sector (completed)
- In process of establishment of national steering committee for BWC implementation
- Ensured sustainability
- Gender equity

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 22nd -23rd, 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.....

