

# PIP PC Implementation Updates: South-East Asia Region

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# PIP PC Implementation – SEARO

## 1 Key achievements/activities

- SEARO conducted a **PRET multi-country simulation exercise** from 17 to 18 October 2024 in New Delhi, India. It focused on an outbreak of novel respiratory pathogens with the aim of strengthening regional pandemic influenza preparedness.
- The Regional **annual landscape analysis of influenza** that monitors implementation status of the global influenza strategy in the South-East Asia Region (SEAR) for 2023 was finalized.
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) for sites of the **WHO Unity Studies Network** in the SEAR was acknowledged by 6 / 7 study sites identified.
- Sri Lanka conducted the **Infectious Substance Shipping Training (ISST)** from 14-18 October 2024 in Colombo and certified 48 one Health laboratory leaders in the country.
- **DPR Korea** conducted a **workshop on strengthening their national influenza vaccination policy and programme for MoPH officials**. This was facilitated by experts from WHO (global, regional and national) and NITAG members on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- For the capacity building of health workers, **Bangladesh** conducted a series of **Rapid Response Team (RRT) Training** on Influenza (seasonal, avian) and other re-emerging infectious diseases in 2024.

## 2 Strengthening Influenza Pandemic Preparedness through a Resilient Early Warning System in Conflict-Affected Areas of Myanmar

- In Myanmar, the **ongoing conflict has severely disrupted public health surveillance system**, including Influenza Like Illness (ILI) / Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) sentinel surveillance
- In response, WHO Myanmar with partners **has implemented an early warning and response system (EWARS) in conflict-affected areas** such as Kachin and Rakhine inclusive of influenza surveillance



In 2024, it **generated real-time alerts of influenza and other respiratory pathogens and facilitated rapid outbreak response to mitigate their impacts** despite access and communication challenges.

EWARS enables timely detection of non-seasonal influenza also for prompt reporting under International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)

- **Supported by PIP PC**, EWARS system, a model for adaptive surveillance in complex settings, plays a **vital role in strengthening pandemic preparedness**
- The initiative contributes to protecting both national and regional health security as envisioned in the South-East Asia [Regional Strategic Roadmap for Health Security and Health System Resilience for Emergencies 2023–2027](#)

# Key challenges and potential actions

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## Summary of key challenges being faced

- **Limited availability of funds** from other sources to enable complementary, more effective and sustainable implementation of PIP PC at the regional and national levels.
- **Inadequate advocacy efforts to policy and decision-makers at the national level** to (A) establish dedicated influenza programme or (B) integrate influenza control and prevention into their national communicable disease control and prevention programmes (as outlined in the Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030).
- **Sustain gains** of HLIP I and II and **leverage** lessons learned from COVID-19 response to better implement HLIP-III

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## Plan to address these challenges

- **Explore and mobilize additional funds** to supplement PIP PC funds, e.g: Pandemic Fund, etc. ( especially now when US support is withdrawn).
- **Continuous advocacy to the policy and decision makers**, including WHO representatives at the national and regional level through high level meetings, webinars and forums, publication and wider dissemination the impact stories, newsletter articles, stories from field, milestone and annual reports, etc.
- **Create synergies with national and external experts, partners, and resources** to catalyse further regional progress in strengthening influenza and other respiratory pathogen, pandemic preparedness and response.
- Organize and facilitate **continuous technical support** to PIP PC countries in order to build critical country pandemic influenza preparedness capacities

# Acknowledgements

- Global Influenza Surveillance & Response System (GISRS)
- Partnership Contributors
- Implementing partner institutions
- WHO Implementing Units at all levels

<http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/en/>

**Thank you**

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**Merci**

**Спасибо**

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**Gracias**