

**MYANMAR SITREP A(H1N1)  
No 1**

Since the beginning of the alert for A(H1N1) pandemic was raised in Mexico during the second week of April, Myanmar has taken active steps in preparation for the influenza pandemic.

On 26 April the WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health initiated the steps towards preparedness and response to a potential influenza pandemic.

The Ministry of Health through the Central Epidemiology Unit is in constant technical liaison with the CSR-AI unit at the WHO Country Office.

Among the specific activities conducted during the last few weeks we can mention:

- The government has organized a committee for influenza preparedness. This Committee is under guidance of the National Health Committee and is chaired by Secretary 1 of SPDC. Members include relevant Ministers. Secretariat to this Committee is provided by the Ministry of Health. The Committee meets in regular bases for assess progress in preparedness to pandemic.
- The already existing Avian Influenza and Human Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response Work Committee Meeting chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health Prof Mya Oo met on (25-4-2009) to discuss about proactive measures to A(H1N1) influenza outbreak. Hospitals through out the country are under alert and informed on preparing measures for Influenza A (H1N1) (State/Division, District and Township hospitals)
- The government has actively used the media (printed press, TV and radio) to disseminate information about Influenza A(H1N1) promoting simple prevention hygienic measures. Daily announces are broadcasted since 01<sup>st</sup> May 09 through radio and TV chanel;
- On 29 04 09 airport and seaport staff have received training and screening measures such as infrared thermo screening cameras have been installed in international airports.
- Since the 02 May 09 health information forms and screening forms for flu symptoms are in application for all incoming passengers at the international airport, seaport and ground crossing points.
- The Ministry of Health has instructed on influenza A(H1N1) the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) for surveillance and response at State/Division, District and Township levels

- Hospital based surveillance, on Influenza Like Illness, Severe Acute Respiratory Diseases b) Pneumonia are ongoing surveillance system at all hospitals through the country.
- The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Myanmar Medical Association has develop a network of general practitioners trained on AI and human influenza surveillance, diagnosis and reporting.
- WHO has requested SEARO support for procurement of laboratory reagents that will allow diagnostic capability of A(H1N1) at the National Influenza Centre and Department of Medical Research
- The Ministry of Health reports having 50160 courses of Tamiflu. PPE has been requested to WHO. Request for additional antivirals and PPE have been submitted to WHO (procurement ongoing)

The WHO has also facilitated coordination and preparedness among the UN system and other international organizations in Myanmar. The measures conducted include:

- In response to the alert raised on 26<sup>th</sup> April, the UNRC/HC called for an emergency meeting of the UNCT in which the UN Influenza Task Force led by WHO and FAO and with representation of focal points from relevant Agencies was re-activated;
- The first task of the Task Force was to revise and update the Contingency Plan and outline the actions to be taken by the UNCT against the A(H1N1). This updated draft of this the plan was presented to the UNCT on 5<sup>th</sup> May 09;
- On 07 May 09 the WHO has also lead the training of UN focal points on Influenza home care and treatment;
- On 29 April and 04 May the WHO has also organized two briefings on A(H1N1) to diplomatic and donors representatives in Yangon;
- The WHO circulates via email daily updates on the situation to other UN organizations, international organizations and NGOs listed in the existing Health Cluster (organized last year for the Nargis emergency response)