

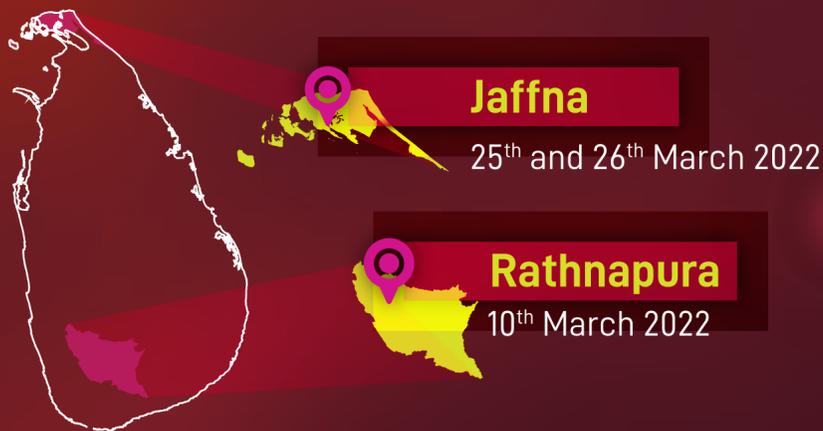
Hearing the voices that matter

Incorporating citizen's perspective on pandemic preparedness and response in Sri Lanka

March 2022, Sri Lanka

How did the project engage local communities? 👤👤👤

Two community engagement workshops were held in Rathnapura and Jaffna to incorporate a citizen's perspective on pandemic preparedness, with a focus on multi-hazard scenarios.



Which members of the community contributed to the research?

- Community-based organisations
- Grass root level public health workers
- Local youth
- Local women groups
- Local disaster management practitioners

For each workshop _____

75 community participants

Who organised the workshops?

Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka (National Dengue Control Unit, Anti-malaria campaign, Disaster Preparedness and Response Division), University of Huddersfield, UK, Universities of Peradeniya, Colombo, Moratuwa & Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement



A simulation-based training workshop to mimic real life disaster scenarios

Scenarios addressed local knowledge and skills on multi hazard preparedness, mitigation, and response

Participants worked in groups to share their knowledge and develop a community driven action plan



What did the communities tell us about ways to improve pandemic preparedness at the local level?



What else did the research team learn through the workshops?

- Simulation-based training was successful in proactively engaging grass root level community workers and the community to voice their concerns and experiences
- Community centered strategies are important in every step of the disaster cycle, promoting local knowledge and firsthand experience in multi hazard scenarios
- It is vital to encourage a working relationship between the grass root level public health workforce and the community to build trust, mutual understanding, and coherence during disaster response



For more information, visit <http://www.pandemic-mhew.org>

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