



# IDEAnet

## Network for the Identification of Emerging Agents

### Context

Numerous international infectious disease outbreaks in recent decades have demonstrated that emerging infectious diseases are a major threat to public health. In Sri Lanka, a tropical island characterised by its rich biodiversity and abundance of wildlife, there is a particularly high risk of viral spillover events. However, the country's current health care infrastructure and capacity, coupled with the economic crisis, increases the risk of such events not being detected and responded to effectively. It is therefore of utmost importance to strengthen diagnostic capacities for human pathogenic viruses in Sri Lanka, using a One Health approach. In the first funding phase, the project carried out extensive preparatory work for this, establishing routine diagnostics for endemic pathogens, conducting training and identifying new viruses, with the implementation of a One Health approach. Building on these achievements, this project now seeks to develop measures to prevent outbreaks of highly pathogenic viruses and other pathogens in Sri Lanka, including Nipah virus, by advancing the establishment of a One Health laboratory network to strengthen diagnostics and collaboration, knowledge exchange and quality control across laboratories all over Sri Lanka. Working closely with laboratory staff, university students and local health professionals, the project will ultimately enhance the country's ability to perform fast, affordable, high-quality diagnostics that are accessible to the whole population.

### Objective

Strengthening the laboratory network in Sri Lanka, particularly in regard to diagnostic capacities for endemic and emerging viruses, to improve preparedness for future epidemics and pandemics.

### Key facts

**Duration**

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025

**Budget**

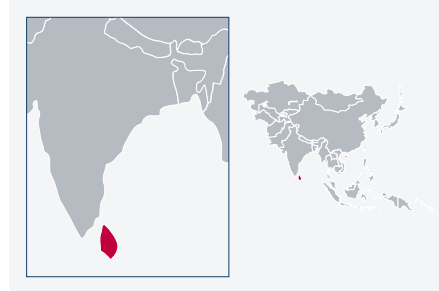
~ EUR 700,000

**Partner countries**

Sri Lanka

**Region**

Southern Asia

**Implemented by**

Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

**Commissioning party**

German Federal Ministry of Health  
(BMG)

### Thematic focus

Strengthening of public health systems

Outbreak management

Surveillance and reporting

Infection prevention and control

Laboratory diagnostics

One Health

Marketing authorisation and safety of medicinal products

## Activities



### NETWORKING AND COOPERATION

Establishing a nationwide network of laboratories; promoting cooperation among laboratories



### RESEARCH AND PROVISION OF EVIDENCE

Conducting studies on new pathogens using a One Health approach



### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Expanding the diagnostic capabilities of the network's laboratories



### TRAINING AND COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT

Conducting training for schools, gamekeepers and farmers at the community level on the emergence of zoonoses, risk minimisation measures and other awareness-raising measures



### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Establishing a training laboratory for the laboratory network that harmonises methods and guidelines for diagnostics and carries out quality checks on other laboratories

## In cooperation with

- University of Colombo (UoC) and DOZES lab, Sri Lanka
- University of Colombo, Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB), Sri Lanka
- Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- Medical Research Institute (MRI), Sri Lanka
- National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS), Sri Lanka
- Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Sri Lanka
- Jaffna Teaching Hospital, Sri Lanka
- National Hospital, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Colombo North Teaching Hospital (CNTH), Sri Lanka
- World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland
- German Embassy, Sri Lanka
- GIZ country office, Sri Lanka

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**GHPP, the Global Health Protection Programme** of the German Federal Ministry of Health, promotes networking, exchange and cooperation between specialized German and international public health actors. By reducing health risks and strengthening health systems at the national, regional and international level, in particular relating to pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response, the GHPP fosters public health protection – worldwide.

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