



Annual Report 2017

*Directorate of Environmental and
Occupational Health*

Ministry of Health

Annual Report

2017

*Directorate of Environmental and
Occupational Health*

Message from the Deputy Director General (Environmental and Occupational Health and Food safety)

Directorate of Environmental Health, Occupational Health and Food safety is an important sub department of the Ministry of Health which handles matters of far reaching and essential components of human existence. Environmental issues have become concerns of everybody and health aspect of it is a complex inter woven matrix. Hence constant vigilance and prompt action to correct environmental issues is of paramount importance to safeguard health of people against adverse environmental factors. Therefore environmental health unit had to intervene in many National issues like banning Asbestos and Glyphosate while looking after the areas of health care waste management, water and sanitation, climate change etc. We can be satisfied of the progress achieved during the year 2017 in these areas of our concern.

Occupational Health is an area which needs more resources and capacity building of staff to effectively address the current issues. With the limited resources at hand we have tried our best to improve the present structure and function through capacity building of staff, developing workplace survey formats with H numbers and initiating district level reviews etc. This area has been of concern with lots of new industries and work sites coming in the country. Hence a concerted effort is necessary to address some burning issues in this area.

Food safety system in Sri Lanka needs further strengthening and lots of improvements. This is a multi-faceted area which involves many organizations working towards a common goal. We need to collaborate with many national and international agencies to achieve our objectives. Much work was initiated and completed in the areas of inter-sectoral collaboration, amendments to regulations, food surveys, and improvements to laboratories, implementation of NCD control measures and capacity building of staff. Although we can be satisfied with the progress we made there is lot more to be done to improve the food safety system in Sri Lanka. We are planning to further strengthen the food safety in the year to come.

This document highlights the important activities we carried out during the year 2017 at the Directorate of Environmental and occupational Health and food safety.

I am thankful to the Minister of Health, Secretary of Health and Director General of Health Services for the fullest support and guidance they provided to achieve our organizational objectives. I also appreciate and thankful to all my staff for the commitment they made through the year as a team.

Dr. Lakshman Gamlath,
Deputy Director General
Environmental and Occupational Health and food safety

Contents

1.0 Message from the Deputy Director General.....	03
2.0 Introduction.....	05
3.0 Organizational chart.....	06
4.0 Environmental Health	07
5.0 Occupational Health.....	12
5.0 Food Safety.....	24
6.0 Way forward.....	35
7.0 Acknowledgement.....	36

Introduction

Historical Background

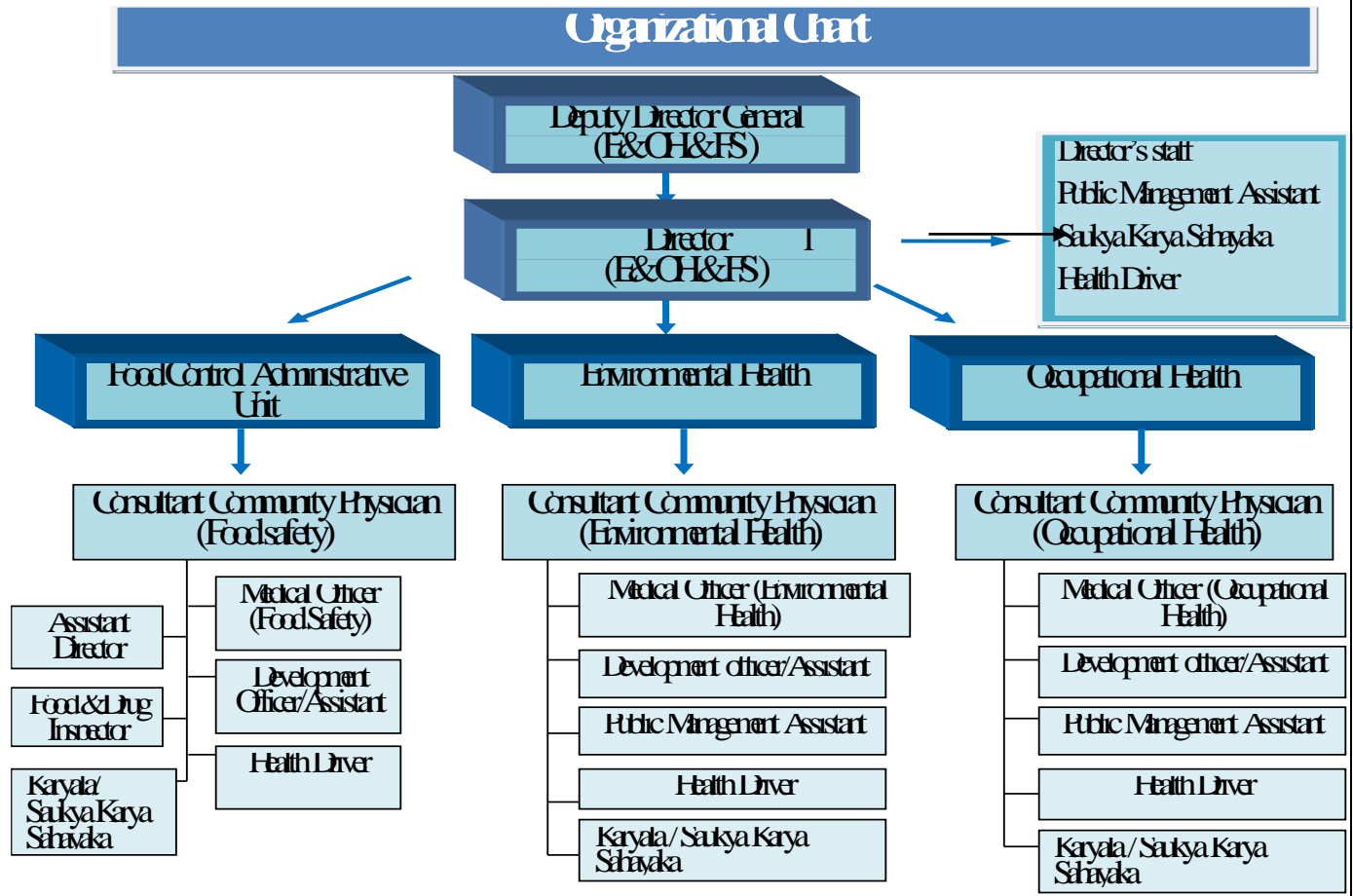
National Health policy in 1992 recommended that the post of Deputy Director General (Public Health Services) should be replaced by appointment of two DDG posts, and accordingly in 2000 an additional DDG Public Health Services (PHS 1) was appointed and Environmental and Occupational Health was under him. Director who functions under DDGPHS 1 was responsible for Environmental and Occupational Health and Food Safety. In 2017 newly created DDG (E&OH&FS) post was formally filled by the new DDG and currently he is responsible for Environmental, Occupational Health and Food safety of the country.

Annual report 2017 of Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health includes comprehensive information of the Directorate of Environmental Health and Occupational Health of Ministry of Health for the year 2017 and a brief description about the past few years as there had not been any annual reports published in the past.

The Directorate functions under the Deputy Director General (E&OH& FS) and is technically responsible for planning, coordination, direction, monitoring and evaluation of Environmental Health activities including hospital waste disposal and treatment, Occupational Health activities and Food Safety activities. These activities are carried out with the support of the other relevant Ministries, Provincial councils, local governments and respective hospital administration.

2017 was an important year as the newly created DDG post was formally filled and new development activities were started and regular activities were streamlined. Three areas of concern namely environmental health, occupational Health and food safety involves lots of inter-sectoral coordination with other agencies for effective functioning. These coordination mechanisms were developed during the 2017 and will be further strengthened in coming years. Long standing issues of regulation amendments could be sorted out and Food Act and relevant regulation amendment process was expedited and hope to complete this activity in the year 2018.

Directorate of Environmental Health and Occupational Health Food safety is effectively moving forward to provide the best possible services to the nation.



1. Environmental Health

Environmental Health encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments. There are so many areas of work under this. Air quality, water quality, waste management including the most important healthcare waste management, bio diversity etc. It is very important to identify the role of the health sector in working in these areas since it needs multi stake holder engagement to achieve the objectives. The Ministry of Health liaises closely with the Ministry of Environment, Central Environmental Authority and other relevant stakeholders in working in the area of Environmental Health.

The implementation of Environmental Health activities in the preventive health sector are conducted mainly through the Provincial and District level Health Services via the MOH unit system. The Medical Officers of Health (MOOH) and the Public Health Inspectors (PHII) carry out Environmental Health activities at the grassroots level. Environmental and Occupational Health units have been set up at district level to strengthen the coordination between the Directorate of Environmental Health and Occupational Health and District and Divisional level health staff.

Environmental Health and Occupational Health overlap significantly with each other therefore activities in relation to work environment have been done under Occupational Health.

Environmental Health Team at the Directorate

Dr Inoka Suraweera	Consultant Community Physician (Unit Head)
Mrs. Nadeeka Piyathunga	Development Officer
Ms. Shanika Rupasinghe	Development Officer
Mr. Prasad Harshana	Saukya Karya Sahayaka

Performance in 2017

1.1 Health Care Waste Management

Health Care Waste Management is a major programme under Environmental Health. World Bank funded Second Health Sector Development Project is in operation from 2014 – 2018, where Healthcare Waste Management has been included in the project. Improvement of sewerage & waste water management becomes very important in obtaining licenses as well as for smooth functioning of healthcare facilities without polluting the environment. Thirteen Line Ministry hospitals have been provided with financial support in 2017 for improvement of sewerage and waste water management. Four hospitals have already obtained Environmental Protection License and Scheduled Waste Licenses. They are National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Teaching Hospital Jaffna, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children and Teaching Hospital Batticaloa. Four hospitals have applied for the Environment Protection License (EPL) and Scheduled Waste License (SWL).

Five Incinerators and 20 Metamizers were installed under the Australian project as follows.

Table 1 Incinerators and Metamizers installed under the Australian project

	Metamizers sites	Incinerator Sites
1	BH Thellippalai	BH Thellippalai
2	MOH office Ormanthei	MOH Office Ormanthei
3	BH Trincomalee	BH Batticaloa
4	TH Batticaloa	PGH Badulla
5	PGH Ampara	DGH Pollonnaruwa
6	BH Akkareipattu	
7	BH Kalmunei North	
8	BH Kalmunei South	
9	PGH Badulla	
10	PGH Rathnapura	
11	DGH Kegalle	
12	TH Anuradhapura	

13	DGH Pollonnaruwa	
14	TH Kurunegala	
15	BH Kuliypitiya	
16	BH Karawanella	
17	BH Moneragala	
18	BH Chilaw	
19	BH Embilipitiya	
20	BH Marawila	

Cluster operations to be started in 2018 which will sort-out most of the burning issues of clinical waste management in government hospitals in these provinces.



Figure 1 - Waste storage at National Hospital Of Sri Lanka



Figure 2 - Waste storage & bins at Lady Ridgway Hospital



Figure 3 - Sewerage plant at Teaching Hospital Batticaloa



Figure 4 - Sewerage plant at Teaching Hospital Jaffna

1.2 Inter-Agency Co-ordination

Technical guidance was provided to other ministries, relevant agencies and awareness was created among the general public in the area of Environmental Health. Inter-ministerial coordination activities were carried out in the areas of Bio Diversity, Cleaner Production and Solid and Hazardous Waste Management.

1.3 Development of IEC Material on Environmental Health

Development of IEC material on Air pollution, Electronic waste, Mercury, Organic food & Water was done and 200000 leaflets were printed. The IEC material would be used for awareness rising among general public and healthcare staff.

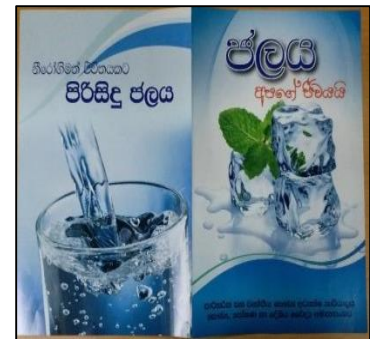
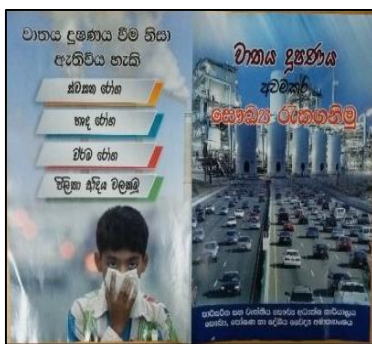


Figure 5,6,7,8 - IEC materials developed



2000 dockets were developed for the directorate

1.4 Water quality programme

Under this programme, testing of heavy metals in drinking water sources among 17 selected schools in 17 Districts have been carried out. Three hundred and forty water samples have been tested for selected heavy metals.

1.5 Development of Heat Health Action Plan for Sri Lanka

Global temperature is slowly rising due to climate change and Sri Lanka too is faced with adverse effects due to temperatures. In this context, Sri Lanka needs to have a Heat Health Action Plan to minimize heat related adverse health outcomes. This action plan development was done based on several stakeholder consultations and the final draft has been prepared.

1.6 Post Graduate Training

Students attached to Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, Colombo following MSc in Community Medicine was trained on Environmental Health.

1.7 Study tour by Nepal Delegation in learning best practices on development of Health National Adaptation Plans (HNAP)



Figure 9-- Participants of the study tour

Nepal delegation was shown the best practices in the area of climate change and health and especially the development of HNAP in Sri Lanka. They were taken on field trips to show best practices at hospital level too.

2. Occupational Health

Occupational Health Unit

Occupational Health Unit of the Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health is responsible for implementing the National Occupational Health Programme of the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka.

Occupational Health is about workers' health. A healthy workforce is considered an asset for any country and Sri Lanka is no exception. The National Occupational Health Programme targets all workers in all occupations. Occupational Health services are provided at the grass root level by Public Health Inspectors (PHII) together with the Medical Officers of Health (MOOH) through the District and Provincial Health systems.

Vision of the Occupational Health unit

A healthy workforce contributing to sustainable development of Sri Lanka

Mission of the Occupational Health unit

To contribute to the attainment of highest possible levels of health of all workers through provision of comprehensive, sustainable, equitable and quality Occupational Health services in a supportive and worker friendly setting leaving no worker behind.

Objectives

- To promote and maintain the highest degree of health among workers in all occupations
- To prevent adverse effects on health among workers caused by working conditions
- To protect workers from occupational risks resulting from factors adverse to health
- To adapt work to workers and workers to work

Our role

Provision of occupational health and safety to workers in Sri Lanka needs a concerted effort of multiple stakeholders. The Ministry of Health is considered a very important stakeholder in the provision of occupational health services. Curative, rehabilitative, preventive and promotive occupational health services are provided by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine.

The Occupational Health Unit of the Environmental and Occupational Health Directorate is the focal point for Occupational Health in the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka. The unit is responsible for planning, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of the National Occupational Health Programme. It is responsible for capacity building of Public health staff, curative health staff as well as other staff categories in the Ministry of Health on Occupational Health. Trainings are conducted for undergraduate and post graduate medical students. The unit involves in awareness creation and research and development in the area of occupational and related environmental health issues. Additionally, the unit liaises with other important stakeholders such as the Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations, Ministry of Environment and Central Environmental Authority in implementing the National Occupational Health Programme of the Ministry of Health.

All workers in Sri Lanka have access to free health services at the curative, rehabilitative as well as preventive health services. Treatment of occupational diseases and injuries and rehabilitation of occupational injuries are integrated into the existing curative health system. Occupational medical problems are taken care of by the medical units, occupational surgical problems by the surgical units and rehabilitation by the physiotherapy and rehabilitation units. Occupational accidents affecting significant number of workers and surrounding communities are considered as disasters and curative sector response is carried out immediately.

The implementation of occupational health activities in the preventive health sector are conducted mainly through the Provincial and District level Health Services via the MOH unit system. The Medical Officers of Health (MOOH) and the Public Health Inspectors (PHII) carry out occupational health activities at the grass root level. Environmental and occupational health units have been set up at district level to better facilitate the implementation of the National Occupational Health Programme and to strengthen the coordination between the Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health and the grass root level.

Occupational Health team at the Directorate

Dr Inoka Suraweera	Consultant Community Physician (Unit Head)
Dr Yasasvi Walpita	Senior Registrar in Community Medicine
Dr Himan Galappaththi	Registrar in Community Medicine
Dr Suresh Shanmugarajah	Medical Officer
Mr S Jayatheeswaran	Development Officer
Mr Dhammika Jayawardhana	Health Driver
Mrs Ruvini Ranatunga	Saukya Karya Sahayaka
Miss Samantha Wijekoon	Saukya Karya Sahayaka

Performance in 2017

2.1 Capacity building of National, Provincial and District Level Health Staff



Figure 1- Training of MOOH on Occupational Health and Safety in Kurunegala District

Occupational health and safety is a specialized area and therefore building a critical mass of human resources in this area was identified as a priority in 2017. Public Health Staff need to be trained first, for them to carry out the activities of the National programme. A three-day in-service training programme on occupational health and safety for Medical Officers of Health (MOOH) and Additional Medical Officers of Health (AMOOH) was conducted in Kurunegala District. Twenty MOOH and AMOOH were trained. It is intended to address occupational health issues of the informal sector as well as small scale industry workers through them.



Figure 2- Work place inspection



Figure 3- Group work during occupational Health training (Kurunegala District)



Figure 4: Occupational health training for PHIs in Colombo district

A three day occupational health and safety training workshop for Supervising Public Health Inspectors (SPHII) and Public Health Inspectors (PHII) was conducted and forty SPHII and PHII in Colombo District were trained.

Conducting the occupational health module for Trainee Public health Inspectors following basic training was carried out in Kadugannawa, Kurunegala, Galle and NIHS and around 180 PHI trainees were trained.

Occupational Health is about workers' health and in service training becomes very important to different categories of health staff to look after their own health. A two day capacity building workshop on Occupational Health & safety for Nursing Officers was designed. Six such workshops were conducted in Gampola Base Hospital, Sri Jayawardhanapura Hospital and Castle Street Hospital for women and 185 Nursing Officers were trained.



Figure 5 : Occupational Health Training for nursing officers (BH Gampaha)



Figure 6: Occupational Health program for health drivers Ministry of Health, head office

Four single day workshops on occupational health and safety were conducted in Kandy and Colombo for Health Drivers and 110 were trained.



Figure 7- Occupational Health Training for nursing officers (Base Hospital Gampaha)

Four single day workshops on occupational health and safety were conducted in Gampola Base Hospital for Junior Health Staff and 155 were trained.

Table 1 Summary of Capacity building on occupational health and safety

	Name of the workshop	Number of workshops	Category trained	Number trained	Place of workshop
1	3-day training on OHS	1	MOOH/AMOOH	20	Kurunegala
2	3-day training on OHS	1	SPHII/PHII	40	Colombo
3	2-day training on OHS	6	Nursing Officers	185	Gampola Base Hospital, SJH, Castle Street Hospital
4	One-day training on OHS	4	Health Drivers	110	Kandy and Colombo
5	One-day training on OHS	4	Junior Health Staff	155	Gampola BH

2.2 Capacity building workshops on Chemical Health Risk Assessment



Figure 8- Trained Medical Officers on Chemical Health Risk assessments at Eastern Province

Capacity Building Workshops on Chemical Health Risk Assessment for Public Health Medical Officers (TOT) were conducted at **Provincial Level**. The training lasted for 3 days and workshops were conducted in Ratnapura, Kandy, Kurunegala, Matara, Jaffna, Batticaloa, Monaragala and Anuradhapura. The workshops were conducted with WHO funding and 175 were trained covering 8 provinces.



Figure 9 (i) & (ii) – Training of Medical officers on chemical Health Risk Assessments

2.3 International Training on Health Risk Assessment and Management of Toxic Chemicals for Public Health Medical Officers (Training of Trainers)



Figure 10 (i) & (ii) International Training Health Risk Assessment and Management of Toxic Chemicals

This was conducted with local as well as foreign resource personnel in Colombo with WHO funding. The Chulabhorn Research Institute in Bangkok, Thailand coordinated this activity with the Ministry of Health and WHO Country Office Sri Lanka. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand was the Chief Guest and Dr Rajitha Senaratne, Hon Minister of Health, Secretary to the Ministry of Health and the Director General of Health Services graced the inauguration. The workshop was conducted for 5 days at Renuka City Hotel in Colombo and 35 Trainers were trained.

2.4 Capacity Building of Public Health Staff on Waste Management and Occupational Health and Safety

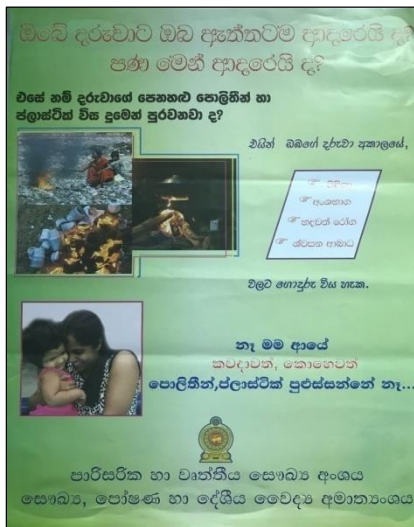
A single day workshop was conducted in Nuwara Eliya District for Public Health staff and 65 of them were trained. Active discussions took place and the workshop was appreciated by many.

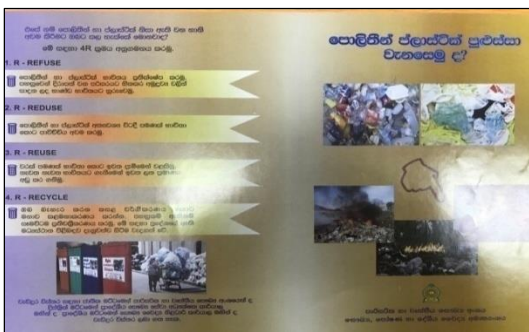
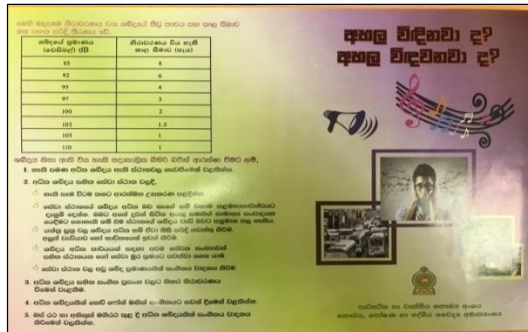
2.5 Awareness rising on Occupational Health among different categories of workers

Occupational Health and safety awareness was done for workers and supervisors in Katunayake BOI zone and Biyagama BOI zone. Around 100 participants attended these sessions.

2.6 Development of IEC material

Development of IEC material is very important in terms of strengthening the National Occupational Health Programme. Two posters on prevention of food wastage and polythene plastic burning were developed. A leaflet was prepared on controlling of noise induced hearing loss. The grass root level field staff would be able to use these for strengthening occupational and environmental health activities.





2.7 Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment to protect health workers from environmental hazards

The MOOH, AMOOH, SPHII and PHII carryout workplace inspections in their respective areas. Therefore, they need to be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure their safety. In this context, 5000 N 95 respirators were purchased and all MOH Offices were provided with these.

2.8 Development and printing of formats and manuals on occupational health and related areas

2.9 Developing and printing of Work Place Survey formats on Occupational Health

Information on work places is vital for successful implementation of the National Occupational Health Programme of the Ministry of Health. Information on existing work places is not available adequately at the Divisional, District, Provincial and National level. As the national focal point, the Occupational Health Unit has prepared and printed 30000 workplace survey formats and summary formats with H numbers. The Public Health Inspectors are expected to use these formats for data collection, summary preparation and update the information on workplaces and workforce characteristics in their respective areas. Supervising Public Health Inspectors are expected to compile the data for respective Medical Officer of Health areas. The information generated will be useful for strengthening of the National Occupational Health Programme at National, Provincial, District and Divisional level.

2.10 Developing and printing of Training Guide on using the workplace formats

Training guide on carrying out workplace surveys was prepared and printed. These have been distributed to all MOH offices through out Sri Lanka.

2.11 Development of records for screening workers' health



Figure 11- Awareness for Specialists and Medical officers

Regular screening of workers for Non-Communicable Disease risk factors and other occupational risk factors becomes essential in improving health of workers. Discussions were held with the Non-Communicable Disease Control Unit of the Ministry of Health and drafted the Personal Medical Record with occupational health components included.

The draft record was pilot tested in Gampola Base Hospital among healthcare staff and based on the results the record was updated.

2.12 Increasing visibility of the Occupational Health Unit

The Occupational Health Unit participated at the exhibition which was held to mark the World Health Day 2017. The theme was “Depression: Let’s talk”. Occupational Health unit highlighted the importance of promoting mental health at work places to decrease the burden of Depression among workers.



Figure 12 – Exhibition stall of the Directorate at the World Day celebrations

2.13 Conducting reviews on occupational health and safety at district level

Reviews are necessary to see the progress made in terms of the National Occupational Health Programme. Review formats were developed and District level reviews were conducted in Galle, Kurunegala, Matale and Gampaha. District level staff appreciated the initiation of district level reviews on occupational Health.



Figure 15: Occupational Health review at Gampaha



Figure 16: Occupational Health review at Matale

2.14 Inter sectoral Coordination

Strengthening inter sectoral coordination is essential in the field of occupational health and environmental health. Several activities including provision of technical guidance were carried out with the Ministry of Environment and Mahaweli Development, Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations, Central Environmental Authority and relevant stakeholders to strengthen occupational health in other policies, action plans and projects.

- Provision of technical expertise for Basel Technical Meetings, Technical Advisory Committee on Management of Industrial Chemicals (TACMIC), National Advisory Committee Meeting on Basel Rotterdam Stockholm and Minnamata Conventions.
- Contributed to the development of the Cabinet Paper on Management of Polythene and Plastic.
- Contributed to the development of manuals on management of PCB wastes.
- Contributed to the development of Minnamata Initial Assessment.
- Contributed to the development of “Healthy Landscape Project” initiated by Ministry of Environment and Mahaweli Development

2.15 *Post graduate training*

Training of MSc and MD Community Medicine students attached to the Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine Colombo on Occupational health and safety was carried out.

3. Food Safety

In Sri Lanka, there is a growing concern about food safety issues with the expansion of the food industry along with urbanization, increased trade in fresh and processed food, and more consumption of foods of animal origin.

Director General of Health Services of the Ministry of Health (DGHS) act as the chief food authority (CFA) of Sri Lanka. Food Control Administrative Unit (FCAU) which comes under Deputy Director General of the Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health. is responsible for coordinating and monitoring of food inspection services, and providing technical guidance on inspection and surveillance to local authorities in order to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for consumers. The DDG (E&OH &FS) is the contact point for INFOSAN (International Food Safety Authorities Network) and is also the designated focal contact point of the National CODEX Committee in Sri Lanka.

Vision of the Food Control Administrative Unit

A healthier nation through provision of safe food for all.

Mission of the Food Control Administrative Unit

Dedicated and using science base to protect consumers health and build consumer trust by ensuring that food consumed, distributed, marketed or produced meets the highest standards of food safety and hygiene.

Objectives

- To protect consumers from preventable health risks.
- To provide information to consumers to enable better consumer choice.
- To protect consumers through a fair and effective science based food regulations that supports complete markets.
- To coordinate national food surveillance, enforcement and food recalls.
- To support food safety at ports of entry.

Our role

Modern food and food control management recognizes that a systems approach is needed which is risk and evidence based, outcomes focused and recognizes the food chain framework that encompasses food from primary production, through processing and manufacture to final consumption.

Currently the food regulation system in Sri Lanka focuses on the end-product checks rather than on a preventive risk-based approach. The standards are largely focused on quality and compositional aspects and not much emphasis is on food safety. The primary food law is the Food Act 1980. This generally addresses food control at the processing/ manufacturing and retail end and not the complete food chain.

The government roles and accountabilities of the Ministries involved in food management along the food chain are defined by the laws in Sri Lanka and are well understood. The Acts provide adequate powers to the responsible managers. Coordination and management of the interfaces between different Departmental responsibilities are through the Food Advisory Committee but there are no formal agreements or benchmarks for performance in food safety management along the food chain. Within each Ministry, there are defined chains of command and powers and accountabilities of authorized officers.

Advocacy, formulation of regulations, Inspection, enforcement, testing and coordination between different stakeholders at National and Provincial level are all important areas in food safety that is required to be accomplished by Food Control Administration Unit of the Ministry of Health at national level while the Regional Directors of Health Services are designated to supervise and coordinate food safety at District level. The Medical Officer of Health is the Food Authority to ensure food safety at the Divisional level with the support of the Public Health Inspectors. To have an effective risk-based enforcement system, the monitoring framework needs to have regular planning from National level and reporting by sub national levels. Currently such a system is not in place, the result is that inspections are random with no clear picture of the situation. The adoption of modern approaches to food safety management requires a different skill set among inspectors where they need to be trained on the entire process and are able to identify hazards or risk factors in the production/ processing and see if these are well addressed, rather than focusing

on traditional inspection of drawing end product sample for testing or just checking if GHP is in place.

The Food Control Administration Unit has taken into consideration the recommendations of the two external assessment reports, Review of the Food Safety Control Systems in Sri Lanka by FAO in March 2016 and the Assessment of Food Safety Laboratories by WHO June 2016 and have been incorporating these recommendations to the national program in a stepwise approach.

Information, education, training and communication is an important area and will need to cover the whole range of stakeholders the food business operators (FBO), government, consumers and media. This area has been neglected over the years and will be focused as a priority in 2018. The current basic food safety information system which is paper based will also be digitalized in 2018. The Food Control Administration Unit is also entrusted under the bottle water regulations to register natural mineral water and bottle/package drinking water and according to the iodization of salt regulation the registrations for salterns, iodization premises, salt transport and bulk storage.

Details of activities performed during 2017 are given below.

Performance in 2017

3.1 Import control activities

Import control activities are carried out by Food and Drug Inspectors in the ports. Despite a cadre of 33 Food and Drug Inspectors, only 15 are available to carry out food control activities at Central level and the sea port, airport, container terminals. Inspection of documents, foods and food sampling according to the sampling plan is done by the staff at the entry points.

Imports and exports are regulated through the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1969. Customs work with responsible domestic Departments in the clearance of goods. All importers are required to be registered under the Act. Foods, to be imported should be categorized by food safety risk and compliance history (On the basis of high risk, medium risk and low risk).

Table 1 Food Inspection activities at Rank Container Terminal (RCT)

	Activities	2015	2016	2017
1	Number of consignments inspected (FCL)	35096	36520	40459
2	Number of consignments rejected	01	33	03
3	Number of consignments released to ware house	425	3551	3660
4	Total number of samples sent to laboratories	8349	6809	6494
5	Number samples sent to Atomic Energy Authority	6315	4783	4649
6	Number samples sent to ITI	363	177	201
7	Number of samples sent to NIHS	1091	1673	1644
8	Total Number of samples unsatisfactory	04	76	60

Table 2 Food Inspection activities at seaport

	Activities	2015	2016	2017
1	Number of consignments registered	1415	1188	1812
2	Number of samples taken	60	19	20

Table 3 Food Inspection activities at Airport

	Activities	2016	2017
1	Number of consignments received	3595	4201
2	Number of consignments inspected	3595	4201
3	Number of consignments referred to FCAU	00	16
4	Number of samples sent for analysis	42	00
5	Number of satisfactory	42	00



Figure 1&2 Food inspection at the entry points

3.2 Bottled water registration and Iodized salt regulation Activities

All bottled or packaged natural mineral water and bottled or packaged drinking water has to be registered under the bottled or packaged water regulation 2005. Factory inspection is done by an expert team before issuing registration for products. Renewal of bottle drinking water license is issued in every 3 years and for a newly registered factory bottle drinking water license is issued for one year.

All iodized edible common salt is registered under the Iodization of Salt regulation 2005. Factory inspection is done prior registration of products. Renewal of edible salt license is done annually.

Table 4 Data of registration of Bottled of Packaged Water Manufacturing Premises

	Activities	2015	2016	2017
1	Total number of factories	120	133	153
2	Number of Bottle drinking water newly registered	03	13	13
3	Number of Mineral water newly registered	00	00	00
4	Number of Bottle drinking water registration renewed	39	50	50
5	Number of Mineral water registration renewed	00	02	02
6	Number of factories visited	39	52	52

Table 5 Issue of permits for common salt

	Activities	2015	2016	2017
1	Number of new permits issued	14	20	19
2	Number of factories registered at FCAU	14	20	19
3	Number of factories visited	14	20	19
4	Number of factories newly registered	0	06	00

3.3 Export Certification

Export certificates for exporting food consignments are issued by the food control administration unit, and a team comprising a Medical Officer and a Food & Drug Inspector inspect factories and necessary actions are carried out before issuing export certificates.

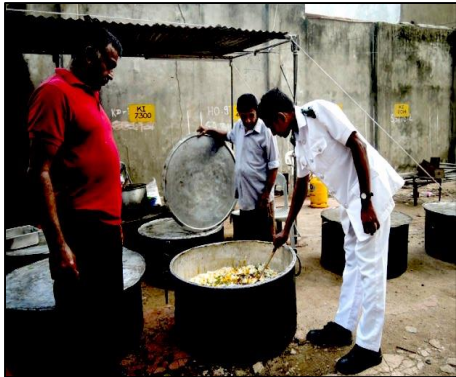
17 food exporting factories were inspected for the year of 2017 and necessary actions were taken for improvements.

In December 2017 a team of Canadian Food Authority visited 8 food exporting factories and a team of members from the directorate accompanied them accordingly. Necessary actions for improvements were discussed and the progression to be monitor in 2018.

Table 6 Export control activities in 2016 and 2017

	Activity	2016	2017
1	Number of Health certificate issued	9868	11320
2	Number of food factories registered	76	49
3	Total Number of factories registered as an export food factory at FCAU	748	797
4	Number of factories visited	35	17

Domestic control



There are 44 Food and Drug Inspectors at District level and about 1700 Public Health Inspectors ensuring food control activities throughout Sri Lanka. They are involved in obtaining food samples, prosecution and seizing when needed under Food Act and regulations and conducting awareness programmes in the community. Performance of authorized officers is below.

Figure 3 - Inspection by food inspectors

3.5 Regulatory Activities

Regulatory activities include,

- Regulation formulations
- Review and amendments of regulations
- Regulatory activities with regards to labeling and technical aspects

The relevant food legislation is the Food Act No.26 of 1980 with its regulations published in terms of section 32 of the Food Act. Food Advisory Committee (FAC) has been setup under the Food Act and has regular meetings every month.

The following sub committees under the FAC facilitate the functions and the activities of the FAC

- Regulation Formation Sub Committee
- Health Claims Sub Committee
- Technical Sub Committee

The following regulations were reviewed in 2017.

- Food (Milk and Milk Products) regulation
- Food (Preservative) regulation
- Food (Additive General) regulation
- Food (Amendment of Labeling and Advertisement) regulation
- Bottled or packaged water regulation
- Registration of premises
- Iodization of salt regulation



Figure 4- Labeling and advertising subcommittee meeting

For the year of 2018 it was suggested to add two special subcommittees namely Food Laboratory Subcommittee and programme subcommittee on Food safety. A data base was maintained in labeling and advertising subcommittee.

Stakeholder meetings were held for amended bottled or packaged water regulation, Iodization of salt regulation and registration of premises regulation.

Table 7 Number of Food Advisory committees and Food Advisory subcommittees in 2017

Name	Total
Food Advisory Committee	11
Food Advisory Sub Committee (Technical)	13
Food Advisory Sub Committee (Labeling and Advertising)	11
Food Advisory Sub Committee (Regulation Formation)	14

3.6 Activities to enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of authorized officers

- ***Local training-*** Five, 5 days training programmes to update the food safety for PHI/SPHI was conducted with over 250 participants. More than 550 PHI/SPHI were trained for the years of 2016 and 2017.

Food and Drug inspectors with medical doctors were trained for National Trade Facilitation Agreement (NTFA) of World Trade Organization (WTO). A workshop on import control was organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the staff members were trained accordingly.

- ***International training-*** One Medical Doctor and a FDI inspector were trained at Republic of Korea on food hygiene and HACCP. (Capacity Building Programme in Food Hygiene for Public Officers in Asia).
- ***Review meetings-*** Two national review meetings were held with a total of 150 participants of SPHIDs and F&DI, in order to discuss the food safety issues at the peripheral levels, and necessary actions were taken to improve the food safety at the grassroots levels. Two meetings were held to review and develop a new monthly return of public health inspectors.

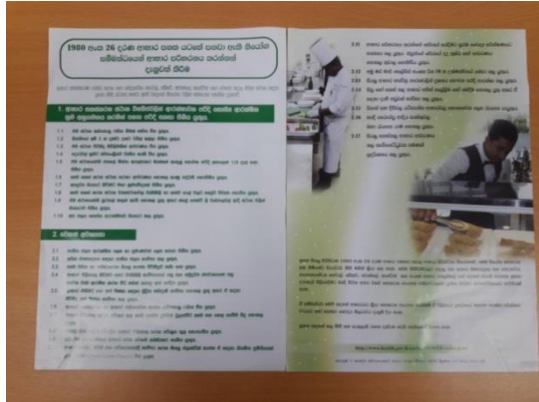
3.7 Development of Food Safety Security Seals



3000 food safety security seals in Food safety were developed and distributed among authorized officers for improvement and streamlining the food sampling system.

Figure 5 - Food Safety Security seals

3.8 Development of IEC materials



Development of IEC materials is very important especially to educate the food handlers at the food establishments. A leaflet was developed to educate the food handlers which was used by authorized officers at the grassroots level.

Figure 6 - IEC materials

3.9 Food Surveillance activities

Food surveillance activities were carried out for the year of 2017. Testing of pesticide residuals for imported fruits: pesticide residuals in vegetables and fruits in the local market and testing for aflatoxins in dry chili were carried out. Based on the results it was decided to carry out an island wide survey, testing pesticide, heavy metals and aflatoxins residuals in fruits and vegetables in 2018

3.10 Inter-sectoral coordination

Actions have been taken to strengthen the linkage with other line ministries, Provincial authorities, International Agencies and NGOs to bring about effective, sound management conducive for food safety and hygiene during the year of 2017.

To improve the coordination of food safety related activities the directorate continues to work closely with the national authorities such as Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Government Analyst , City Analyst, Sri Lanka customs , Ministry of Animal Production and Health, Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka Tea Board ,Sri Lanka Standard Institution, Chamber of Commerce and International Collaborations with international bodies and networks like Codex Alimentarius, World Health organization, Food and agriculture organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World trade

organization and International Network of Food Safety Authorities (INFOSAN). Sri Lanka became signatory to the National Trade Facilitation Agreement (NTFA) of World Trade Organization (WTO).

3.10 Analytical Capacity

There is a network of 5 food laboratories which continued to support in testing food and water samples for surveillance and contamination. They are namely the Government analyst, City analyst Colombo, food laboratory at the MRI, Food laboratory at NIHS Kalutara and Food laboratory at Anuradhapura. Microbiological samples are tested at Microbiology laboratories at MRI and NIHS. The provincial food laboratory at Kurunegala and City Analyst Kandy are in the process of being identified as additional approved food laboratories. A decision was taken to gazette an additional approved analyst for Kandy food laboratory at FAC meeting and immediate actions were taken.

Way forward

The Directorate has identified that the food premises registration as mandated in the food act should be implemented early to ensure that all food manufacturing, food sales and storage facilities meets a basic standard and will work towards bringing this important regulation to enforcement early. There are also a few regulations which are being revised which need to be completed early.

Food safety requires the support of various stakeholders to work in partnership to ensure the entire process of the food chain from “**Farm to Plate**” is safe. For this Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), Good manufacturing practices (GMP) should be ensured.

Directorate of Environmental Health, Occupational Health and Food Safety in collaboration with UNIDO is in the process of accreditation of all food laboratories (ISO 17025 : 2017 (2)). The necessary trainings will be starting next year.

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