Surveillance is the ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of outcome specific data for use in planning, implementing and evaluating public health policies and practices. A communicable disease surveillance system serves two key functions; early warning of potential threats to public health and programme monitoring functions which may be disease specific or multi-disease in nature. The early warning functions of surveillance are fundamental for national, regional and global health security. Recent outbreaks such as coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza, and potential threats from biological and chemical agents, demonstrate the importance of effective national surveillance and response systems.

Sunday 27th of April 2025 06:25:09 AM