

11	616,876	8,112	4,696,161	83,526
Countries reporting cases	New cases (week 36/2020)	New deaths (week 36/2020)	Total cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths

Situation update:

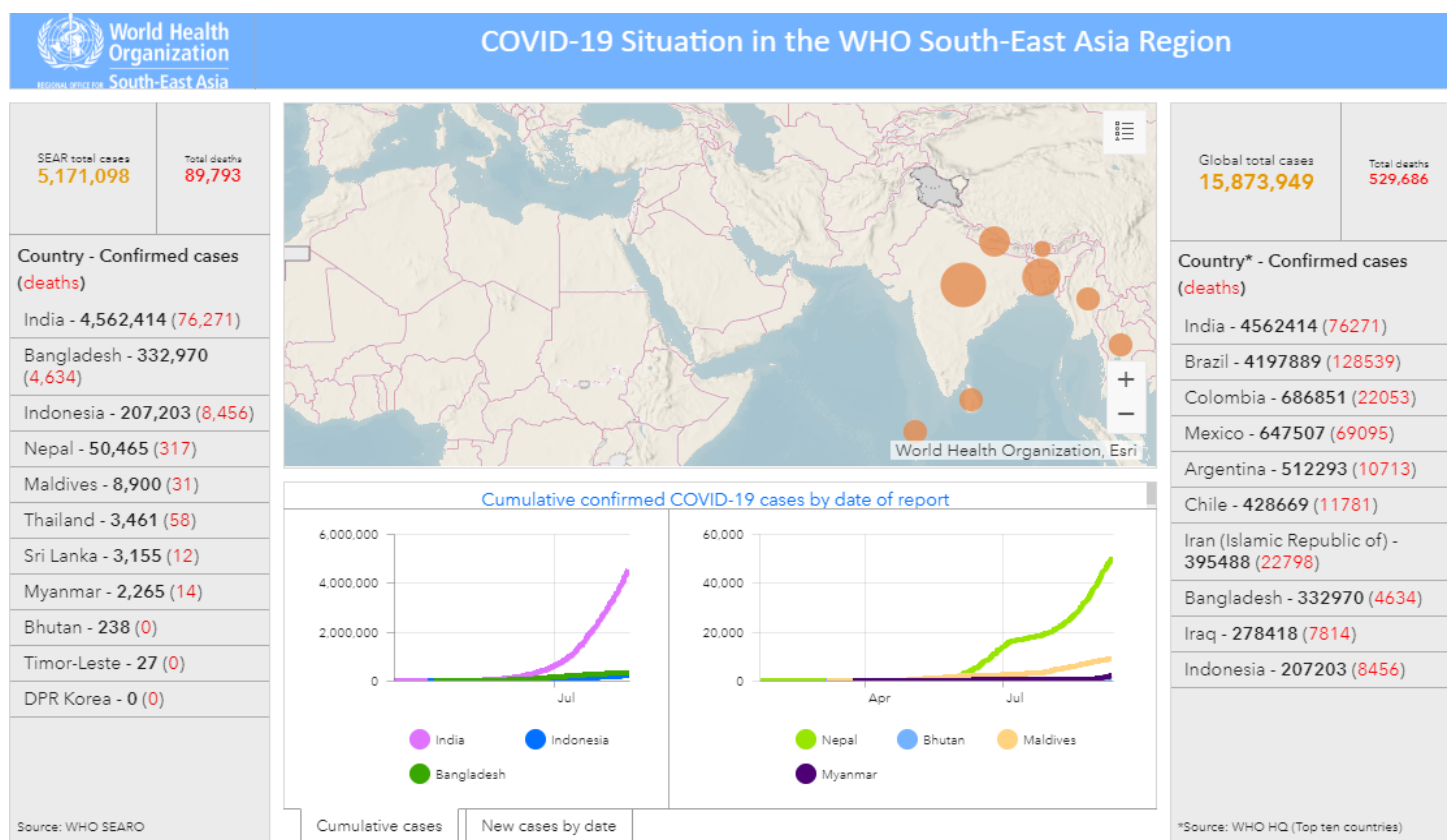
- South-East Asia Region (SEAR) has contributed 18% (4.9 million cases) of the global cumulative case load. SEAR occupies the second position among WHO regions next to the Americas
- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #36 was 15% (616,876 cases). SEAR has recorded the highest weekly increase in cumulative cases among all WHO regions
- The highest weekly (31 August – 6 September) percentage increase in cumulative cases in the region was reported in Myanmar (83%, 644 cases), followed by Nepal (20%, 7,696 cases) and India (16%, 571,078 cases)
- In the region, Indonesia has recorded the highest Case Fatality Rate (CFR) at 4.13% followed by India at 1.72%
- Worldwide, India is the second country with the highest number of reported cases; its growth rate being higher than that of the US which has reported the highest number of cases worldwide

Country ¹	Trans. type ²	Total cases	Total cases 1 week ago	% change	Total deaths	Total deaths 1 week ago	% change
India	Clusters	4,465,863	3,853,406	16%	75,062	67,376	11%
Bangladesh	Community	332,970	319,686	4%	4,634	4,383	6%
Indonesia	Community	207,203	184,268	12%	8,456	7,750	9%
Nepal	Clusters	50,465	42,877	18%	317	257	23%
Maldives	Clusters	8,900	8,281	7%	31	29	7%
Thailand	Clusters	3,454	3,427	1%	58	58	0%
Sri Lanka	Clusters	3,155	3,111	1%	12	12	0%
Myanmar	Clusters	2,265	1,058	114%	14	6	133%
Bhutan	Sporadic	234	227	3%	-	-	-
Timor-Leste	Sporadic	27	27	0%	0	-	-
DPR Korea	No case	0	-	-	0	-	-
Region		5,074,536	4,416,368	15%	88,584	79,871	11%

¹ Countries are ordered by their total number of cases

² Transmission type (see Global Surveillance Guidance for definitions)

SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



Operational update

Key updates

Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring:

- Seventy-third session of the Regional Committee of WHO South-East Asia Region, hosted by Thailand from 9-10 September held virtually for the first time ever due to COVID-19 pandemic
- All member countries of WHO South-East Asia Region adopted the Resolution to collectively fight COVID-19 and strengthen the Region's response with better equipped health systems to deliver essential health services during the pandemic
- WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) submitted the incident management monitoring report for August 2020
- DPR Korea has started the onboarding process on the Partners Platform. Five member countries – Bhutan, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste are onboard

Risk communication and community engagement:

- Weekly public insights through digital monitoring on COVID-19 revealed the following issues:
 - An increasing trend of myths and misinformation observed in the digital media in various countries.
 - People are also seeking more information online on testing for COVID-19, especially rapid testing.
 - Conversations around stigma and vulnerable populations are rising.
 - In terms of volume, vaccines have the highest number of mentions on social media and the top question is "When can we expect the vaccine for COVID-19?"

- WHO SEARO is a key partner in the second round of the perception survey to be rolled out by the Interagency Asia Pacific Risk Communication and Community Engagement Working Group, led by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation:

- Of 10 countries affected, 8 are in community transmission mode either in some or all parts of the country. Of these, seven to eight reported a rising number of cases daily
- The major challenges have been assessed through SEAR routine monitoring; they include limited capacity for contract tracing, limited capacity for monitoring the performance of response, limited capacity for testing and challenges with respect to consistent application of national testing strategies
- Gender differences were analysed focusing on countries with some level of community transmission or large clusters of cases. Data are provided by countries under global IHR reporting request
- In terms of morbidity, two patterns are observed. Firstly, Indonesia, Myanmar (Rakhine state) and Thailand reported a slightly higher proportion of males (<56%, 52%, 51% respectively) among affected than females; a situation that is similar to that of the global observation. In contrast, Bangladesh and Nepal and Maldives reported a distinct 70 -84% males among COVID-19 cases
- In terms of mortality, regional observation is consistent with that of the global one: a systematically higher proportion of males among reported COVID-19 deaths. There can be many reasons but a possible hypothesis for this disproportionate % of male in Bangladesh and Nepal (and possibly India) would be a more limited access to healthcare for women (using access to testing as a proxy) compared with that of men. Further investigations are underway

Points of entry:

- All countries in the Region, except Maldives, continue to pose international travel restrictions, with points-of-entry closed for international travellers except for a few exemptive categories. Maldives lifted international travel restriction since 15 July. India introduced bilateral travel agreement to resume international air travels
- All countries, except Maldives, require quarantine on arrival, mostly 14 days, while Bhutan and Myanmar require quarantine of 21 days and DPR Korea requires 30 days. Negative test results are required for inbound travellers by all the countries, except DPR Korea

Key country updates

Bangladesh

- Number of new weekly cases decreased by 11.6% and deaths by 24.8% compared to the previous week
- Of 327,359 total confirmed cases - 26.7% (between 31 to 40 years), 20% (21 to 30 years), 18.9% (41 to 50 years) and 15.2% (between 51 to 60 years)
- Bed occupancy rate for general beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 24.6% and 56.4% respectively as reported by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) as of 7 September
- WHO handed over 200 oxygen concentrators to 17 district hospitals based on the recent health facility assessment
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) partners joined WHO campaign #WearAMask and coopted actors, sports stars, child influencers to contribute photos and videos; campaign received 30 million impressions in 11 days
- Increase in number of international flights (4.9%) compared to the previous week; 647 people underwent institutional quarantine after screening at airport

Cox's Bazar

- Health Sector together with camp management encouraged all SARI ITCs to work on their cyclone preparedness plans
- Rapid investigation and response teams (RIRT) supported response activities in camps

- To date 946 beds were established in 14 SARI/ITCs facilities, 513 were ready to receive patients and 433 were on stand-by in case of need

Bhutan

- Ministry of Health (MoH) issued notification for mandatory wearing of face masks in public places and 1-meter physical distance
- Strict monitoring by Dessup (volunteers) and police in public places, institutes, shops and health care facilities for compliance with MoH notification
- MoH issued notification to produce COVID-19 negative certificate at point of entries (PoEs) by all foreigners
- WHO supported MoH to develop protocols, standard operating procedures (SoPs) to strengthen surveillance

DPR Korea

- No reported cases so far as of 9 September
- 3,126 total samples were tested by RT-PCR at interval of 10 days, no positive case was found as of 3 September
- 1,700 people (including 1,692 nationals, 72 new cases) manifested fever including SARI cases as of 3 September
- Ministry of Health (MoH) joined WHO global partnership forum
- 126 people were quarantined between 13- 20 August, a total of 29,961 people was released from quarantine as of 20 August

India

- Over 51 million total samples were tested; more than 1.1 million samples were tested in the last 24 hours as of 9 September
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) issued updated advisory on COVID-19 testing strategy
- MoHFW asked States/UTs to mandatorily retest all symptomatic negative cases of Rapid Antigen Tests through RT-PCR
- Union Health Secretary engaged with health officials of six States/UT reporting surge in cases and fatality
- MoHFW deployed teams to States/UTs to review public health measures for containment, surveillance, testing and clinical management
- MoHFW's 'eSanjeevani' telemedicine service records 300,000 tele-consultations

Indonesia

- Government to issue policy for mandatory quarantine of confirmed cases in COVID-19 referral hospitals in Jakarta
- WHO in collaboration with Ministry of Health (MoH) conducted an infection prevention and control (IPC) training for hospitals in the western region based on recommendations of risk assessment of healthcare; more than 300 participants joined and 11,000 individuals accessed training on YouTube
- National Institute for Health Research and Development (NIHRD) conducted a monitoring and evaluation meeting for laboratories in all provinces
- WHO procured ELISA reagents worth USD 80,000, these 140 kits to perform 13,440 antibody tests

Maldives

- Government extended state of public health emergency until 6 October
- Ministry of Tourism (MoT) announced mandatory negative COVID-19 test certificate of PCR test conducted maximum of 72 hours prior to departure, applicable from 10 September
- Active transmission detected in Hoadehdhoo island with 25 total confirmed cases and over 40 contacts; Rapid Response Team (RRT) responded to community outbreaks with island task force
- MoT reported 5,177 tourists' arrivals since reopening of borders since 15 July
- WHO handed over additional 11,000 GeneExpert cartridges to Ministry of Health

Myanmar

- 1,227 new cases were reported, 114% increase from the previous week as of 11 September
- Government restricted entry to Nay Pyi Taw starting from 1 September; travelers required to undertake COVID-19 test and 21-day quarantine
- Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) reduced quarantine period from 21 days to 14 days for COVID-19 positive cases
- MoHS has revised the discharge criteria for COVID-19 cases in consonance with WHO guidance, hospitals to discharge patients 4 days after recovery
- Public health laboratory in Taunggyi established, started operations effective from 9 September
- Second batch of regional severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) management training started with 40 participants and 11 facilitators from 2 September – 2 October

Nepal

- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) approved revised guidelines for serological test submitted by National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL)
- MoHP and Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) organized virtual interaction with journalists and news reporters on COVID-19 situation, the meeting has been planned to be held every Friday
- Government issued press release to strictly follow home quarantine after swab test until report is received, effective from 9 – 16 September; People violating MoHP health protocols to be prosecuted as per infectious disease act, 2020
- MoHP conducted orientation program on health management information system (HMIS) data entry for COVID-19 and reemphasized the importance of proper data for analysis and surveillance
- WHO supported MoHP to provide critical care training for health care workers (HCWs) in provincial hospitals

Sri Lanka

- Cabinet of Ministers discussed reopening of airport and appointed a committee for recommendations
- COVID-19 taskforce started preparatory activities for one-stop health facility at airport and setting up additional quarantine facilities for 58,000 migrant workers to be repatriated
- Bed occupancy of COVID-19 cases is around 20% as reported by Ministry of Health (MoH)
- 2,460 people were repatriated including seafarers mainly from middle eastern countries India and Italy
- 6,176 people were quarantined in 52 facilities; 3,139 people were under home quarantine as of 9 September
- WHO supports MoH to prepare and conduct intra-action review for COVID-19 response

Thailand

- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported 1 new case as of 9 September, the new case was non-Thai national who tested positive in quarantine centre
- No deaths were reported since 4 June
- Thailand insurance commission approved COVID-19 insurance for foreigner's who pass through immigration, the insurance will provide coverage up to USD 102,000 for medical treatment and compensation for death caused by COVID-19










































Timor-Leste

- No new case was reported since 27 August
- Regional training of trainers (ToT) programme for integrated management of adult and adolescent illness (IMAI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) management started on 2 September
- WHO and partners support Ministry of Health to maintain essential health services during the pandemic

Resource mobilization

- Total distributed resources to South-East Asia Region stand at USD 95.5 million which is 55% of total COVID-19 operational budget (USD 175 million) for 2020
- Additional funds amounting to USD 17.4 million were received in previous week, increasing the total distributed resources from USD 78.1 million to USD 95.5 million
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 92% (USD 87.6/ USD 95.5 million) and remaining 8% (USD 7.9 million) was distributed to WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)/SEARO

Public Health and Social Measure (as of 10 September 2020)

Member state	Lock-down ²	Public transport (Inter province movement)	Education sector	Public gathering	Mask use
Bangladesh	Zonal 	Resumed 		Ban 	Mandatory in public places
Bhutan	Phased lifting of lockdown 	Resumed 		Ban 	Required
DPR Korea	None 	Restricted		-	Mandatory
India	Zonal 	Restricted 		Ban  >100 (Religious, political, sports, cultural functions) Funeral up to 20	Mandatory in public places
Indonesia	Partial 	Restricted 		Requirements vary across Provinces	Mandatory in public places
Maldives	Partial 	Resumed 	 (until 17 Sep)	Ban  >5	Mandatory during travel
Myanmar	Partial 	Restricted 		Ban  >30	Mandatory to in public places
Nepal	Partial 	Restricted 		Ban  >25	Mandatory in public places
Sri Lanka	None 	Resumed 		No restrictions 	Mandatory in public places
Thailand	None 	Resumed 	 (3 provinces)	No restrictions 	Mandatory in public place
Timor-Leste	None 	Resumed 		No restriction 	Required

1. Yellow highlight indicates the change occurred in the past week.

2. Lock-down: **Zonal** - Containment zones identified and Restrictions on movement and interaction imposed for containment zone in a gradient manner (India, Bangladesh); **Partial** - Varying degree of restrictions imposed in different sub-national areas (Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Maldives)

Cover story/ news feature/ new information

Seventy-third Session of the Regional Committee (9-10 September): Pandemic, essential health services to predominate discussions as Health Ministers of WHO South-East Asia Region meet this week

Hosted by Thailand, the Seventy Third Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia, the annual governing body meeting of WHO in the Region, held virtually for the first time ever in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Health Ministers and senior health officials of the 11 Member countries of the Region, UN Agencies, partners, donors and civil society representatives attended the two-day session.

Link to access: [News release](#)

COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor: Thailand

Thailand was the first country outside of China that reported COVID-19 infection in January 2020. At the peak of transmission during March-April 2020, it was reporting close to 200 new cases per day and yet it has been able to control the outbreak with no laboratory confirmed local transmission reported for over 100 days as of 2 September 2020.

This publication attempts to identify in a systematic way, various policies and steps that were put in place from the beginning of the outbreak to control COVID-19 transmission in the country.

Link to access: [Full report](#)



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