

10	696,900	9,340	6,080,401	101,849
Countries reporting cases	New cases (week 38/2020)	New deaths (week 38/2020)	Total cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths

Situation update:

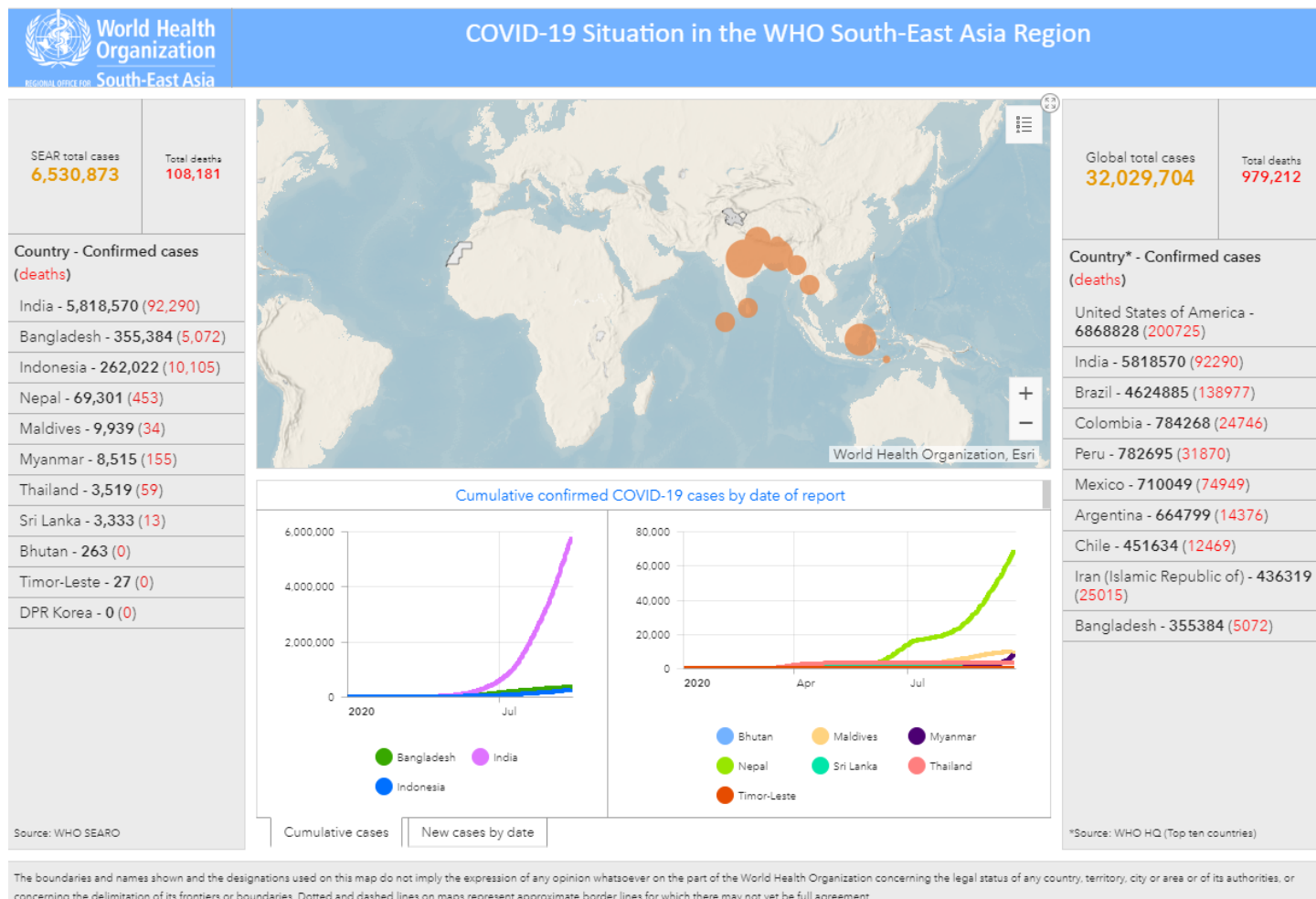
- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #38 was 13% (696,900 cases). The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) continues to record the highest weekly increase in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions
 - The highest weekly percentage increase in region was reported in Myanmar (80%, 2,331 cases), followed by Nepal (18%, 9,963 cases), India (14%, 646,263 cases) and Indonesia (12%, 26,294)
 - Two member states in the region, Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to report community transmission, while six member states namely India, Nepal, Maldives, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar reported clusters of cases and remaining two member states, Bhutan and Timor-Leste have reported sporadic cases
 - In Myanmar there is high suspicion of community transmission in Rakhine state and a high risk of nationwide spread. Accordingly, partial to complete lockdowns have been imposed in different parts of the country. The continuing rapid increase in number of reported cases in Nepal also indicates strong possibility of community transmission
 - On the other hand, a consistent decline in number of reported cases in Maldives has been pointing towards slowing of transmission in the country, mainly Greater Male region
- As of Sep 24, as per reported data (422,424 cases and 8,964 deaths) in IHR Global reporting platform by the member States in SEA region, males constitute 59% of the confirmed cases and 61% of reported deaths. Majority of the reported cases are reported in the 25-54 age group

Country ¹	Trans. type ²	Total cases	Total cases 1 week ago	% change	Total deaths	Total deaths 1 week ago	% change
India	Clusters	5,646,010	5,020,359	12%	90,020	82,066	10%
Bangladesh	Community	353,844	342,671	3%	5,044	4,823	5%
Indonesia	Community	257,388	228,993	12%	9,977	9,100	10%
Nepal	Clusters	67,804	58,327	16%	436	379	15%
Maldives	Clusters	9,885	9,427	5%	34	33	3%
Myanmar	Clusters	7,827	3,636	115%	130	39	233%
Thailand	Clusters	3,514	3,490	1%	59	58	2%
Sri Lanka	Clusters	3,324	3,271	2%	13	13	0%
Bhutan	Sporadic	261	246	6%	-	-	-
Timor-Leste	Sporadic	27	27	0%	-	-	-
DPR Korea	No case	0	-	-	0	-	-
Region		6,349,884	5,670,447	12%	105,713	96,511	10%

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:

- WHO/SEARO conducted regional webinar on speak up for Health Worker Safety – Voices from WHO South-East Asia Region in commemoration of the World Patient Safety Day 2020 with a key focus on COVID-19 and health care workers
- SEARO convened a partners' briefing along with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance for all Member States (MS) on the likely timeline for COVID-19 vaccine availability. Of 11 Member States (MS), 10 MS are eligible for the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) of COVID-19 vaccines, which will provide funding for vaccines for low- and middle-income countries. WHO/SEARO established both internal and external coordination group for vaccine availability and distribution in the region

Risk communication and community engagement:

- Regular digital monitoring for misinformation continues. Rumors regarding origins of the virus, and stigma have seen an increase
- At the 75th United Nations General Assembly, Indonesia and Thailand presented on Infodemics in the side event organized by WHO on 23 September

Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation:

- Widespread community transmission has been evidenced in some or all parts of India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar and Maldives. Of these, cases are declining in Maldives and the country should be able to control the epidemic in few weeks.
- Thailand, Sri Lanka and Bhutan have been assessed as in “clusters of cases” mode of transmission
- WHO/SEARO has prioritized Bangladesh (including Cox’s Bazar), Myanmar, Nepal and Indonesia that would need support on contact tracing from SEARO using Solidarity Grants. WHO country offices in Bangladesh and Indonesia and Myanmar have been approached to assess needs and develop tailor-made strategy to support enhancement of contact tracing activities
- Supported WCO India for developing dashboard on the lines of the SEAR country profiles dashboard

Points of entry:

- All the countries in the Region, except Maldives, continue to pose international travel restrictions, with points-of-entry closed for international travelers except for a few exempted categories. Thailand will allow visa for one additional category - Special Tourist visa for those staying over 90 days. Sri Lanka limited repatriation flights to one per day, due to increased cases among returnees
- All countries, except Maldives, requires quarantine on arrival, which are mostly 14 days, while Bhutan and DPR Korea require respective quarantine of 21 and 30 days. New development for this week includes that Myanmar reduced the quarantine period to 14 days (7 days facility and 7 days home quarantine). Negative COVID-19 test results are required for inbound travelers by all the countries, except DPR Korea.

Case Management:

- Regional training on clinical management in collaboration with the Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness (IMAI) Alliance continues in Myanmar

Research:

- SEARO to prioritize research activities for COVID-19, a research prioritization working group is in process of finalizing the methodology for the prioritization exercise

Operational Support and Logistics:

- Diagnostics: South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) coordinated shipment and delivery of 1,585,800 tests of manual PCR, 1,299,200 swabs, 1,427,688 of RNA extractions
- Infection Prevention and Control: 5,406,400 three-ply face masks, 414,500 gloves, 217,450 gowns, 353,075 respirators, 82,150 goggles and 87,336 face shields have been shipped to the countries. Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) continue to constitute the bulk of the shipments, standing at almost 90% of the delivered units to countries
- Case management: 50 units of patient monitors, 671 units of oxygen concentrators, 200 units of pulse oximeter and 110 infrared thermometers were shipped and others in pipeline

Key country updates**Bangladesh**

- Number of new weekly (week 38) cases decreased by 7.8% and deaths by 18.9% compared to the previous week
- Of 350,621 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). The highest death rate was reported in age group of 61 to 70 years old (31.3%). Male represented 72% and 78% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively
- Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) with WHO’s support conducted 2 workshops on infection prevention practices and guidelines in the context of COVID-19 for health managers and physicians
- Bed occupancy rate for general beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 21.1% (total 13,618) and 56.6% (total 532) respectively as reported by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) as of 21 September

- Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar under DGHS developed the 4Ws of monitoring matrix for key information gap identification, effective resource management and better coordination among the partners

Cox's Bazar

- During week 38 (14 to 20 September) 32 new cases were confirmed among Rohingya refugee camps
- Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) refresher training started this week for 250 health workers to strengthen disease surveillance system
- 1,416 community health workers (CHWs) were trained on enhanced community-based surveillance and home-based care to provide counselling on testing, quarantine and referring patients to isolation facilities. CHWs conducted 146,893 household visits in which 3,566 patients were identified with mild respiratory symptoms

Bhutan

- Government decided to reopen schools and colleges for classes 9 and above. The students from the high-risk places such as Phutsholing, Samdrujongkhar, Samtse and Gelephu were relocated to neighboring districts
- Ministry of Health (MoH) continues to conduct active surveillance and contact tracing with more focus in high risk area along the border districts
- Strict monitoring by Dessup (volunteers) and police in public places, institutes, shops and health care facilities for compliance of preventive measures notification issued by MoH
- WHO handed over 425,000 surgical masks and 8,000 KN95 masks to MoH

DPR Korea

- No reported cases so far as of 23 September
- 3,374 total samples were tested by RT-PCR at interval of 10 days, no positive case was found as of 17 September
- 1,824 total people (including 1,816 nationals, 73 new cases) manifested fever including SARI cases as of 17 September
- WHO handed over 25,000 RNA extraction kit worth USD 137,000 to Ministry of Health (MoH)
- 146 people were quarantined between 10 -17 September, a total of 31,163 people was released from quarantine as of 17 September

India

- Prime Minister interacts with the Chief, and Health Ministers of seven states with high case burden to review status of response and management, exhorts the states to assess the efficacy of local lockdowns of 1-2 days in controlling the spread of COVID-19
- Over 68.9 million total samples were tested; more than 1.49 million samples were tested in the last 24 hours as of 24 September
- Centre deploys high level team to Jammu to assist in strengthening containment, surveillance, testing and efficient clinical management of COVID-19 cases
- Health Minister stressed the need to create effective health systems for improved pandemic preparedness, during his meeting with G20 finance and health ministers
- First indigenously developed CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) COVID-19 test, approved for use in country
- Minister of Commerce & Industry reviewed status of oxygen availability and usage in 12 states with high case load of COVID-19
- Country has become the second largest producer of PPE Kits in the world with daily production capacity surpassing more than 0.5 million kits per day

Indonesia

- The President appointed members within the National COVID-19 task force to directly supervise the ongoing pandemic mitigation efforts in provinces with the highest transmission rates
- Since 14 September, the daily death toll in Indonesia has been exceeding 100 – the longest streak of three-digit deaths as new cases are surging at an unprecedented rate
- WHO, in collaboration with the MoH Directorate of Health Services, is continuing the oxygen therapy capacity survey to support the treatment of severe and critical COVID-19 patients
- WHO and MoH conducted a rapid response team (RRT) training for all 34 provinces. The training covers surveillance, public health indicators, field investigation, contact tracing, ILI/SARI sentinel surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, infection prevention and control, reporting and recording
- WHO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) procured incinerators and autoclaves for six provinces worth USD 900,000

Maldives

- Under guidance of Vice-President and Minister of Health discussions are ongoing to expand and strengthen laboratory testing capacity in anticipation of increase in number of tourist arrivals in coming weeks. Current testing capacity is 2,650 samples per day (every 24 hours)
- Government announced monitoring score of COVID-19 at seven, indicating stable situation compared to August when the number rose to nine
- Ministry of Tourism (MoT) announced that total 13,750 tourist arrivals since 15 July. Of 166 resorts, only 82 resorts are in operations
- 55 active cases (39 staffs and 16 tourists) have been reported in 27 resorts

Myanmar

- Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) issued order to stay at home in all townships of Yangon region (excluding Cocogyun township) effective 21 September
- MoHS updated discharge criteria to 11 days for symptomatic patients with mild or moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised and asymptomatic patients after positive laboratory test
- A 400-bed tent hospital jointly implemented by MoHS and Ayeyarwady Foundation started treating COVID-19 patients from 19 September
- 44,428 people were quarantined in facilities across the country, with Ayeyarwaddy Region hosting the highest number (7,406 people) followed by Yangon (6,784 people)

Rakhine State

- A total of 838 locally transmitted cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Rakhine State as of 17 September, Cases have been reported in all 17 townships in Rakhine
- The recent surge in local transmission includes COVID-19 positive cases among the personnel of two United Nations agencies and 15 international and national non-governmental organizations
- Testing capacity in Rakhine continues to gradually increase, although the number of contacts currently waiting to be tested is significant

Nepal

- All 7 provinces have reported cases, 4 out of 77 districts – Humla, Dolpa, Mustang and Mugu did not report any cases for past 14 days

- Overall, the gender distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 75% (42,570/56,787) of the confirmed cases and amongst the males, 87% (37,068/42,570) are in the economically productive age group (15-54-years)
- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) is reviewing/updating its protocol and guidelines on COVID-19 management, considering the rapidly changing context
- Government of Nepal decided to allow operation of domestic and international flights; long-distance buses; hotel and restaurants from 17 September with strict application of the Public Health standards developed by MoHP
- Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC), MoHP organized a regular weekly virtual interaction meeting with the media; 35 journalists and news reporters attended last meeting

Sri Lanka

- Of total 3,313 confirmed cases, 40.5% (1,342) are repatriated nationals, 28.7% (950) from the navy cluster, 19.6% (651) from Kandakadu cluster and 9.5% (313) from other clusters and 1.7% (57) international citizens as of 23 September
- 3,277 people were repatriated including seafarers mainly from middle eastern countries, UK, Italy, Australia and India. Cumulative more than 43,600 people were repatriated
- 7,129 people were quarantined in 69 facilities and 4,502 persons in home quarantine as of 23 September
- WHO procured 3,100 Cepheid cartridges for Ministry of Health (MoH) from global platform
- WHO supported MoH to conduct 2 provincial consultations on integrated service delivery of essential service package

Thailand

- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported 34 new case since last reporting as of 23 September, the new cases were Thai nationals traveled from Japan and France and later tested positive while in quarantine centers
- Of total 3,514 confirmed cases, about 95% (3,345) have recovered, 2% (59) have died and 3% (110) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals as of 23 September
- The Cabinet approved a special tourist visa for long-stay visitors who agree to go through a 14-day state quarantine, or alternative state quarantine, as well as hospital quarantine. Long-stay visitors required to show evidence of their payment for hotels or condominium units they will stay at after the quarantine and must agree to comply with measures set by MoPH
- The Department of Disease Control (DDC) is concerned about the health of teenagers and adults as the reports show that 50% of infected patients are aged 20-39 years old, and most are asymptomatic

Timor-Leste

- No new case was reported since 27 August
- The last active case of COVID-19 was discharged on 20 September. Currently, there are no active COVID-19 cases in the country
- WHO in collaboration with Maluk Timor conducted COVID-19 case management training in Bobonaro Municipality

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
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 92% (USD 87.8/ USD 95.4 million) and remaining 8% (USD 7.6million) was distributed to WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)/SEARO

News feature

Bangladesh: WHO supported Government to screen nearly 1 million people at Points of Entry

Over 6 months after the first person infected with COVID-19 was discovered in the country, WHO has supported the Government to screen nearly one million people entering the country by air, land and sea. The current outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection has spread across borders which has prompted demands for the detection of suspected cases and contacts at the points of entry (PoE) like seaports, airports and ground crossings.

Since the beginning of this global pandemic, WHO has been continuously working with Government, International Organization for Migration and other partners to scale up International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities and implementation, passenger screening, early detection and isolation of suspected cases and quarantine of contacts.

Within the framework of IHR, WHO supports national authorities to strengthen and maintain public health capacities for surveillance and response at points of entry. The surveillance further aids contact tracing of the COVID-19 confirmed travelers and provides background for informed decision making to break the disease transmission chain.

WHO assisted the Government to elaborate a series of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the PoE activities like handling of ill passengers potentially infected with COVID-19, procedures for suspected COVID-19 cases in the aircrafts, procedures for screening passengers at the Health Desk at the PoEs, etc. The SOPs includes IHR recommended Health Declaration Forms (HDF), guidelines for detection of ill travelers, health examination procedures, reporting of alerts like identifying suspected cases, isolation and quarantine of contacts, initial case management and referral of suspected cases. Furthermore, WHO is continuously conducting monitoring activities at points of entries. This allows Government to gather real-time information on the PoE activities and existing capacities for better intervention. Additionally, WHO has scaled up the workforce involved in screening passengers by funding 17 staff to enhance data management for the surveillance system and Infection Prevention and Control at the designated PoEs.
























Moreover, WHO distributed to frontline workers conducting assessment activities at POEs over 80 000 personal protection items such as masks, hand sanitizers, face shields and gloves.















































WHO remains committed in supporting Government of Bangladesh to strengthen surveillance at points of entry for early detection of suspected cases, an essential step to break COVID-19 chain of transmission.

WHO activities have benefitted from financial support from European Union Humanitarian Aid.

Link to access: [News release](#)

Public Health and Social Measure (as of 24 September 2020)

Member State	Lockdown	Public transport (Inter province movement)	Education sector	Public gathering	Mask
Bangladesh	Partial  (Restrictions on overnight movement lifted)	Resumed    	 (until 3 Oct)	Ban 	Mandatory
Bhutan	Partial  (Phased lifting of lockdown)	Resumed  		Ban 	Mandatory
DPR Korea	None 	Restricted  		-	Mandatory
India	Partial  (containment zones under lockdown)	Restricted    		 Allowed up to 100 (Religious, political, sports, cultural functions); funeral 20	Mandatory

Indonesia	Partial 	Restricted    		Ban  (Requirements vary across Provinces)	Mandatory
Maldives (Emergency extended until 6 OCT)	Partial 	Resumed   	 (until 1 Oct)	Ban  >5	Mandatory (during travel)
Myanmar	Partial  (Partial lockdowns in Yangon and various regions)	Restricted   		Ban  >30	Mandatory
Nepal	Partial  (Prohibition orders in Kathmandu and other districts)	Restricted     <i>Inter district >200 cases restricted</i>		Ban  >25	Mandatory
Sri Lanka	None 	Resumed    		No restrictions 	Mandatory
Thailand (Emergency extended until 30 Sep)	None 	Resumed    		No restrictions 	Mandatory
Timor-Leste (Emergency extended until 4 OCT)	None 	Resumed   		No restriction 	Mandatory (for workers & visitors)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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); Partial – Varying degree of restrictions imposed in different sub-national areas (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Maldives) 					



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