

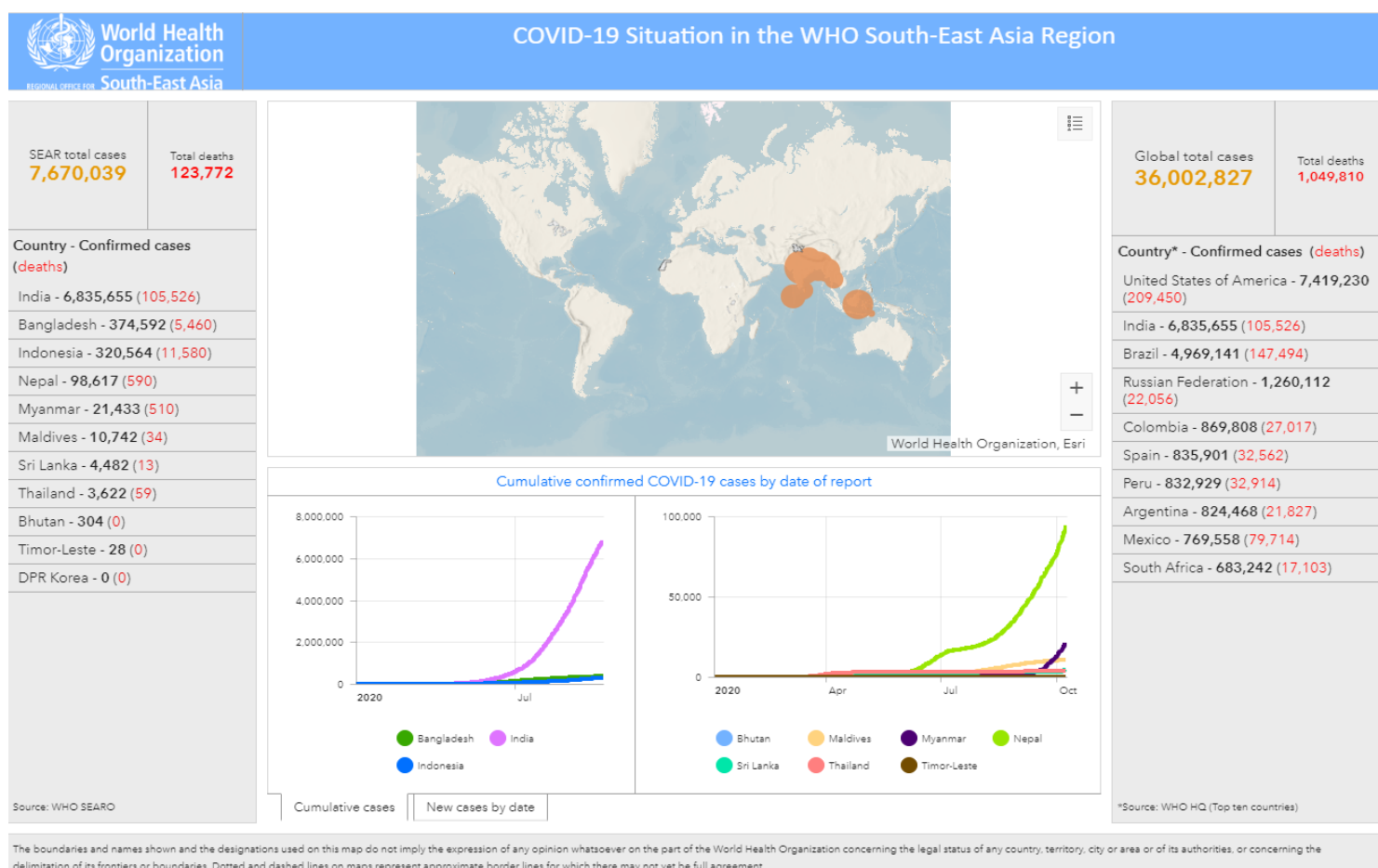
Situation update				
<b>10</b>	<b>615,171</b>	<b>8,462</b>	<b>7,342,730</b>	<b>119,293</b>
<b>Countries reporting cases</b>	<b>New cases (week 40/2020)</b>	<b>New deaths (week 40/2020)</b>	<b>Total cumulative cases</b>	<b>Total cumulative deaths</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #40 was 9% (615,171 cases) and percentage increase in deaths was 8% (8,462 deaths). The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) continues to record the highest weekly increase in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions</li> <li>The highest weekly percentage increase in cases in the region was reported in Myanmar (65%, 6,512 cases), followed by Nepal (18%, 13,429 cases), Indonesia (10%, 28,285) and India (9%, 556,841 cases)</li> <li>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</li> <li>In Myanmar there is high suspicion of community transmission in Rakhine state and Yangon and a high risk of nationwide spread. Reported number of cases continue to increase rapidly in Nepal, indicating strong possibility of community transmission</li> <li>In a recent development this week, a large cluster of cases (831 cases as on 7 October 2020) was reported in an apparel manufacturing factory in Gamphana district about 50 km from Colombo, Sri Lanka. The exact epidemiological link is unknown and currently under investigation</li> <li>In India, to date, 24 of 35 States have reported weekly decline of cases since week#37 and of these 24 states, 9 States namely - Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Haryana etc. reported decline of cases for 2-3 weeks consecutively; 18 of these states were also associated with a decline in the number of tests. There is a significant correlation between decline in number of tests and the number of cases at the state levels. WHO is in discussion with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to understand recent reduction in testing</li> <li>As per IHR Global reporting platform total 488,994 confirmed cases and 10,746 deaths reported by South-East Asia Member States; males constitute 58% and 61% of confirmed cases and deaths respectively. Highest case incidence in the Region is reported in the 25-54 age group (21,594 cases per million population) and highest mortality is reported in the &gt;65 years age group (660 deaths per million population)</li> </ul>				

Country <sup>1</sup>	Trans. type <sup>2</sup>	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	-	-
<b>Region</b>		<b>6,349,884</b>	<b>5,670,447</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>105,713</b>	<b>96,511</b>	<b>10%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Countries are ordered by their total number of cases

<sup>2</sup> Transmission type (see Global Surveillance Guidance for definitions)

## SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



## Operational update

### Key updates

#### Country -level coordination, planning and monitoring

- Interdepartmental Working Group on Healthcare Worker Safety, coordinating with WCO INO on providing technical support for monitoring and addressing infections among HCW.
- Coordinating with WHO Headquarters (HQ) on providing input for the revision of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework

#### Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation:

- Consolidated proposal from South-East Asia Region (SEAR) was submitted to Solidarity Fund. Total requested fund is approximately USD 1 million, for costed activities in Nepal, Myanmar and at Regional Office level. Of the total funding 90% is allocated to partners. 30% to Risk Communication and Community Engagement group, 30% on country packages and 40% on capacity building
- Two-level coordination call with WHO Headquarters (HQ) to discuss and align various initiatives on digital tools for contact tracing
- Go.Data implementation support call with WHO Country Office in Bhutan and Bangladesh with support from HQ
- Focused technical support to WCOs Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal regarding COVID-19 (analysis and guidance)

#### 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 exemptive categories, and requiring quarantine on arrival
- In the past week, Bhutan started air bubble flight with India; this week - there will be two flights per week between India and Bhutan. Timor Leste extended state of Emergency till 3 November, which includes restriction at point-of-entry including airport and ground crossing.

#### Case Management:

- Regional training on clinical management in collaboration with the Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness (IMAI) Alliance in Myanmar and Timor Leste completed
- An online consultation was hosted to discuss integrated COVID-19 and influenza surveillance, experts from Nepal, Bhutan and Thailand participated to discuss measures to strengthen influenza surveillance, reporting of data to a global platform and regular sharing of information
- WHO/SEARO conducted a webinar to provide guidance on epidemiological and clinical considerations for using rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) in the context of COVID-19 in Indonesia

#### 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, 442,500 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 40) cases decreased by 6.7% and deaths by 15.8% compared to the previous week
- Of 370,132 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 (31.2%). Male represented 72% and 77% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 5 October
- A total of 2,001,431 laboratory test with 18.49% overall positivity rate conducted by 109 laboratories as of 5 October
- Bed occupancy rate for general beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 21.9% (total 11,687) and 48.05% (total 564) respectively as reported by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) as of 28 September
- The number of international flights has increased by 16.8% compared to previous week (111 and 95 respectively). 283 individuals were sent to institutional quarantine after screening at the airport as of 5 October

### Cox's Bazar

- During week 40 (28 September – 4 October) 21 new cases were confirmed among Rohingya refugee camps
- A training in community-based mortality reporting has been launched during the reporting period. Around 150 medical doctors, reporting officers and community health workers are expected to participate in four batches

### Bhutan

- Government started Flu vaccine administration for high risk population and children
- Active surveillance at high risk areas including point of entry (PoEs)
- Active monitoring by dessups (volunteers) and police on compliance of COVID-19 preventive measures issued by the government

### DPR Korea

- No reported cases so far as of 1 October
- Projected procurement requirements for some of the COVID-19 specific logistics for next 6 months submitted at the COVID-19 Global Supply Portal
- COVID-related supplies including medicines and diagnostics reached Dalian (China) port; request for expeditious shipping permission from Dalian to Nampo sent to Director Ministry of Public Health

### India

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued new guidelines for re-opening during unlock 5.0 effective 1 October
- Sports Authority of India issued SOP for "Graduated Return to Play" for high-performance athletes who test positive for COVID-19
- Minister of Health launched decade of healthy ageing on International Day for Older Persons and shared efforts by the Government to address concerns of older persons during COVID-19
- Minister of Health identifies strengthening emergency preparedness and risk management as key to addressing health risks posed by emerging diseases and for progress towards sustainable development goals
- Ministry of Health and AYUSH have released the national clinical management protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga for the management of COVID-19
- Over 83.4 million total samples were tested; more than 1.19 million samples were tested in the last 24 hours as of 7 October

## Indonesia

- National COVID-19 Task Force has called support from National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) assist in communicating messages on the 3M health protocols: 'menggunakan masker' (mask-wearing), 'mencuci tangan' (hand-washing) and 'menjaga jarak' (maintaining distance)
- The Indonesian Medical Association (IDI) stated that the health of 25 million toddlers in Indonesia could be at risk as the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted services provided by integrated community health posts (posyandu)
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases hospitalized in Jakarta after plateauing in August continued to decline until 1 October, since then there has been slight increase
- Jakarta province health office (PHO) conducted a training for 100 volunteers to strengthen contact tracing efforts. The volunteers were recruited by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) LINKAGES project
- WHO is supporting Wahana Visi Indonesia (WVI) to conduct a series of webinars on Risk Communication and Community Engagement for health workers in West Kalimantan

## Maldives

- 410 new confirmed cases reported since last week. Over 153,000 samples tested to date, currently 1,400-1,600 tests conducted daily
- Cases continue to be seen mostly from Greater Malé region. 1,006 active cases reported from the Malé and 122 active cases in 20 inhabited islands outside of Greater Malé Region
- The Vice-President continues to lead Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC). Meetings with the relevant ministries and island councils are ongoing to ensure continuity of essential services in the guesthouse islands
- The Ministry of Tourism has announced that over 9,000 tourists from 125 countries have arrived in the country during the month of September 2020, a 25% increase in arrivals
- WHO handed over essential equipment required to establish COVID-19 diagnostics and treatment at regional level in South and North Atolls – including items to set up ICU in two regions

## Myanmar

- The Government further extended stay at home orders for 44 townships in Yangon from 8 October to 21 October as local transmission of COVID-19 in the region continues to rise
- Shan State authorities temporarily banned vehicles and passengers incoming from other states and regions for two weeks (1 to 14 October). Travel outside the Shan State has also been banned.
- Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) published standard operating procedure (SOP) for testing of COVID-19 with antigen based rapid diagnostic kit (RDT) on 3 October. On 29 September Yangon region followed by other States and regions started to use antigen based RDTs
- On 2nd Oct 2020, Antigen based RDTs are started to use in other States and Region
- National Technical Working Committee for risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) has been formed with group members representing former Minister, former Director General-MoHS and technical experts to guide and advise MoHS and central committee for COVID-19 control, prevention and treatment for health education
- Nearly 675 Myanmar nationals have returned between 30 September and 3 October through government-assisted relief flights
- Government of India donated 3,000 vials of Remdesivir for COVID-19 treatment

## Nepal

- All 7 provinces have reported cases, 3 out of 77 districts – Manang, Dolpa and Mustang did not report any cases for past 14 days. 24,182 confirmed cases were reported in the last 14 days as of 7 October

- A total of 10,99,276 RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by 57 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation. Advocacy for rapid roll out of antigen-based testing to reduce the load on the RT-PCR labs and decrease the turn-around time for time-sensitive public health interventions
- WHO supported Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) for the preparation and implementation of a new disease surveillance system, Surveillance Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System (SORMAS)
- WHO supported weekly online technical training session for COVID19 laboratories and facilitated a session on 'Maintenance and Use of Pipette'

#### **Sri Lanka**

- A new cluster evolved over the week, from an apparel manufacturing factory. As of now 831 confirmed cases in the cluster. Curfew has been imposed in high risk. 1,400 employees of the factory have been isolated, quarantined and those who have tested positive sent to treatment facilities
- 878 new cases were reported during the week of which 831 (94.6%) were from the Minuwangoda cluster (apparel manufacturing factory) while the rest are all returnees
- An emergency meeting was convened by the President to discuss the course of action for containment of new cluster - several key decisions were taken to prevent further spread and provide optimal care to the affected
- The government has stopped all public gatherings (including religious events) until further notice
- 3,082 people were repatriated including seafarers. Cumulatively more than 49,000 people were repatriated
- 7,356 people were quarantined in 79 facilities and 5,637 persons in home quarantine as of 7 October

#### **Thailand**

- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported 63 new case since last reporting as of 8 October, the new cases were Thai and non-Thai nationals traveled from India, Hungary, UAE, Kuwait, Netherlands and USA and later tested positive while in quarantine centers
- Of total 3,622 confirmed cases, about 95% (3,439) have recovered, 2% (59) have died and 3% (124) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals as of 8 October
- The Department of Disease Control has proceeded with more measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in ten provinces bordering Myanmar - limiting land transportation across the border, closing border passes, and preparing evacuation plans and state quarantine to cope with the spread of the virus in case the second wave of COVID-19 occurs

#### **Timor-Leste**

- The last active case of COVID-19 was discharged on 7 October. Currently, there are no active cases of COVID-19 in the country
- SEARO training the trainer (ToT) for the Integrated Management of Adult and Adolescent Illness (IMAI) completed. Nine senior doctors and nurse educators participated in the ToT
- WHO has further strengthened surveillance and the effectiveness of the National Health Lab (NHL) with a new RT-PCR machine, for faster testing. This is the third RT-PCR machine handed over by WHO to the NHL
- UNICEF handed over 223 GeneXPert test kits (2,230 tests) to the National Health Laboratory (NHL). The kits will be sent to regional hospitals to strengthen their capacity to test for COVID-19

#### **Resource mobilization**

- Total distributed resources to South-East Asia Region stand at USD 95.8 million which is 55% of total COVID-19 operational budget (USD 175 million) for 2020. Additional funding of USD 467,000 received last week
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 91% (USD 87.01/ USD 95.8 million) and remaining 9% (USD 8.8 million) distributed to WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)/SEARO



## Collectively strengthen pandemic response; plan for COVID-19 vaccination

As COVID-19 cases continue to increase in most countries of WHO South-East Asia Region, World Health Organization has called for stronger collective efforts by one and all to curtail the virus transmission; while also urging countries to plan for efficient roll out of COVID-19 vaccines as soon as they are available.

“Like the rest of the world, the Region continues to be at risk. To stop the spread of COVID-19 virus, we need to do it all – continued strong leadership; robust public health measures; clear communication and an engaged, empowered and enabled population - to turn the tide,” said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region.

In a communication to the Member countries, the Regional Director said, the global race for COVID-19 vaccine has gathered momentum. In anticipation of development of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, countries should be prepared with an efficient and coordinated strategy and plan for roll-out of vaccination.

Vaccine availability is likely to be limited initially, hence will be important to clearly identify goals of national vaccination strategy, she said.

In the spirit of promoting fair and equitable access to the vaccines across all countries, WHO is proposing that countries prioritize at-risk population as they develop in-country vaccination strategies. Available vaccines should first be provided to priority populations and then expanded to others.

“The COVID-19 vaccination should aim at minimizing the societal and economic impact by reducing deaths caused by the disease,” Dr Khetrpal Singh said.

Listing out nine priority areas for COVID-19 vaccine introduction and roll out, the Regional Director said, a national level coordination committee would be needed to oversee vaccination; an expedited regulatory pathway for approval of new vaccine; a technical advisory group to recommend prioritization of risk groups; protocols on infection prevention and control measures to minimize exposure during immunization sessions; training plans for vaccine introduction; and monitoring systems to measure coverage, acceptability and disease surveillance.

Countries would also need to strengthen vaccine cold chain systems; ensure trained staff perform vigilance activities for vaccine safety; and importantly, a vaccine demand generation plan to instill confidence and acceptance among people for the new vaccine.

Ensuring continued WHO support, the Regional Director said, “Together we must continue to strengthen the COVID-19 response by aggressively applying the basic public health measures, and also looking ahead and ensuring that we make full use of emerging tools to control spread, save lives and minimize impact.”

Link: [News release](#)

Public Health and Social Measure (as of 8 October 2020)					
Member State	Lockdown	Public transport (Inter province movement)	Education sector	Public gathering	Mask
<b>Bangladesh</b>	None	Resumed 	 (until 3 Oct)	Ban (to lessen the number of public gatherings at upcoming festival (Durga Puja))	Mandatory
<b>Bhutan</b> (State of Emergency extended)	None (except southern border towns)	Resumed 		Ban	Mandatory
<b>DPR Korea</b>	None	Restricted 		-	Mandatory
<b>India</b>	Partial (only in containment zones)	Resumed* 	 (Reopen on 15 Oct)	up to 100	Mandatory
<b>Indonesia</b>	Partial	Restricted 		Requirements vary across Provinces	Mandatory
<b>Maldives</b> (Emergency extended until 5 Nov)	Partial	Resumed 		Ban  >5	Mandatory (during travel)
<b>Myanmar</b>	Partial (Stay-at-home order in 44 townships)	Restricted  (until 30 Sep)		Ban  >30	Mandatory
<b>Nepal</b>	Partial (district- and sub-district-level)	Restricted  Inter district >200 cases restricted		Ban  >25	Mandatory
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	None (Curfew at 3 areas Gampaha district)	Restricted 		Ban	Mandatory
<b>Thailand</b> (Emergency extended until 31 Oct)	None	Resumed 		No restrictions 	Mandatory
<b>Timor-Leste</b> (Emergency extended until 4 Oct)	None	Resumed 		No restriction 	Mandatory (for workers & visitors)
* Public transport resumed with limited capacity and in limited routes – variations at Sub National level 1. Yellow highlight indicates the change occurred in the past week					