

<b>10</b>	<b>576,230</b>	<b>7,750</b>	<b>7,918,960</b>	<b>127,043</b>
<b>Countries reporting cases</b>	<b>New cases (week 41/2020)</b>	<b>New deaths (week 41/2020)</b>	<b>Total cumulative cases</b>	<b>Total cumulative deaths</b>

#### Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #41 was 8% (576,230 cases) and percentage increase in deaths was 6% (7,750 deaths). 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 cases in the Region was reported from Myanmar (58%, 9,561 cases), followed by Sri Lanka (40%, 1350 cases), Nepal (24%, 20932 cases), Indonesia (10%, 29,951) and India (8%, 504,433 cases)
- Two Member States (MS) in the Region, Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to report community transmission, while six MS namely India, Nepal, Maldives, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar reported clusters of cases and remaining two MS Bhutan and Timor-Leste have reported sporadic cases
- In Myanmar, high suspicion of community transmission continues 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
- In Sri Lanka, a large cluster of cases (1,185 cases) was detected in employees of an apparel production factory. Around 1,440 employees and their first level contacts have been isolated and/or quarantined. Epidemiological investigation is currently underway
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a decreasing trend in the last week, with newer cases found mostly in contacts of active cases and from flu clinics. Most of the cases are in Greater Malé region and all cases reported in Atolls have travel history from Greater Malé
- As per IHR Global reporting platform total 522,405 confirmed cases and 11,456 deaths reported by South-East Asia Member States; males constitute 57.5% and 61% of confirmed cases and deaths respectively. Highest case incidence in the Region is reported in the 25-54 age group (35,974 cases per million population) and highest mortality is reported in the >65 years age group (672 deaths per million population)

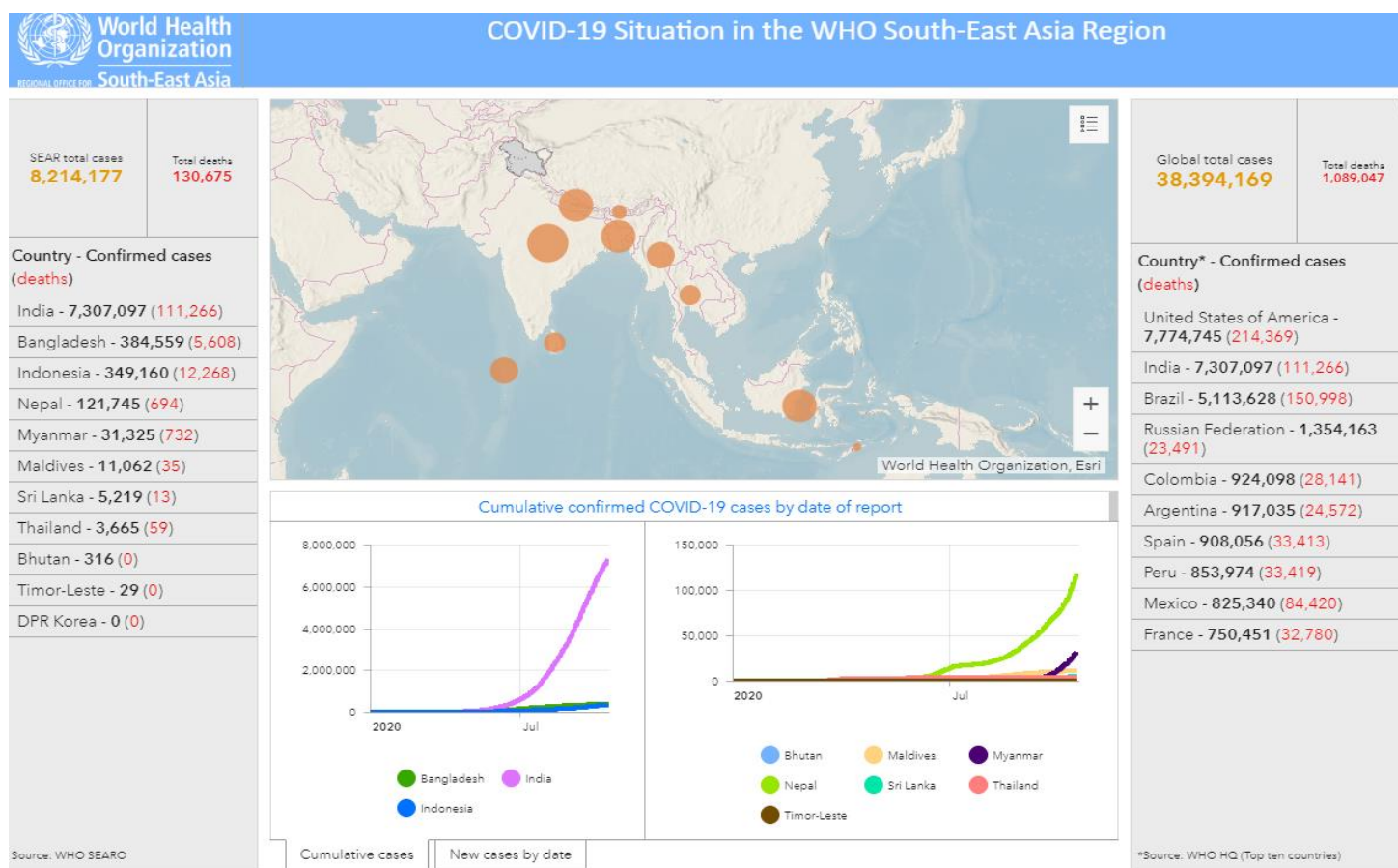
Country <sup>1</sup>	Trans. type <sup>2</sup>	Total cases	Total cases 1 week ago	% change	Total deaths	Total deaths 1 week ago	% change
India	Clusters	7,239,389	6,757,131	7%	110,586	104,555	6%
Bangladesh	Community	382,959	373,151	3%	5,593	5,440	3%
Indonesia	Community	344,749	315,714	9%	12,156	11,472	6%
Nepal	Clusters	117,996	94,253	25%	675	578	17%
Myanmar	Clusters	31,325	20,033	56%	732	471	55%
Maldives	Clusters	11,062	10,656	3%	35	34	3%
Sri Lanka	Clusters	5,168	4,459	16%	13	13	0%
Thailand	Clusters	3,652	3,615	1%	59	59	0%
Bhutan	Sporadic	313	304	3%	-	-	-
Timor-Leste	Sporadic	29	28	4%	0	-	-
DPR Korea	No case	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Region</b>		<b>8,136,642</b>	<b>7,579,344</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>129,849</b>	<b>122,622</b>	<b>6%</b>

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

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

100% or greater increase
Between 50% to 99% increase
less than 50% increase

## SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



## Operational update

### Key updates

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

- WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) provided input for the revision of the global monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework based on the requirements and pandemic response

#### Risk Communication and Community Engagement:

- Digital monitoring and analysis of public perceptions and concerns continues. Some key issues/concerns identified in the past week are:
  - a) Likelihood of asymptomatic transmission
  - b) Measures in public settings vs “fatigue”
  - c) Early symptoms of the coronavirus (which saw a 5000% increase in searches in google)
  - d) Air travel and the likelihood of getting COVID-19 during a flight
- SEARO was involved in developing material and facilitating a global training on community engagement for rapid response teams

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

- WHO SEARO provided analysis of case fatality rate (CFR) in South-East Asia Region (SEAR) and challenges in assessing mortality due to COVID-19
- WHO SEARO revised regional contact tracing strategy and developed results framework. The global technical guidance will continue guiding activities in the Region in alignment with 10 strategic objectives at regional level and tracked using regional performance indicators
- Focused technical support to WHO Country Office (WCO) Bangladesh for surveillance and testing strategy, WCO Nepal for adapting 3 step test positivity rate (TPR) analysis for national and sub-national levels and surveillance guidance on data analysis, modelling and reviewing the testing strategy

#### Points of entry:

Member States	Points of Entry	Visa restriction	On arrival quarantine	COVID free certificate
Bangladesh	Permission of some scheduled flights	Diplomatic/official/business visa allowed	14 days (home quarantine (HQ))	Within 72 hours
Bhutan	Closed, bubble flight with India	Tourist visa suspended	21 days (facility quarantine (FQ))	Within 72 hours
DPRK	Closed	Yes	30 days (FQ)	None
India	Air bubbles; closed ground crossings	Yes	14 days (7 FQ + 7 HQ)	Within 96 hours for exemption of institutional quarantine
Indonesia	Closed with few exceptions, bubbles	Yes	14 days (HQ)	Within 7 days for self-quarantine
Maldives	Open 15 Jul	No	No	Within 72 hours
Myanmar	Closed with few exceptions, extended to 30 November	Yes, Fast Track	14 days (7 FQ + 7 HQ)	Within 36 hour for fast-track
Nepal	International flight from selected places resumed 1 Sep	Yes	14 days (7 FQ + 7 HQ)	Within 72 hours
Sri Lanka	Closed with few exceptions, Repatriation flights limited to one per day	Yes	14 days	Within 72 hours
Thailand	Closed with few exceptions, extension of the emergency decree until 31 October 2020.	Yes, allow certain types special tourist visa	14 days (FQ)	Within 72 hours
Timor-Leste	Closed with few exceptions, GC allowed limited no 6 <sup>th</sup> state of emergency till 3 November	Yes	14 days	Within 5 days

**Case Management:**

- WHO SEARO supported WCOs Bangladesh and Maldives on strengthening influenza surveillance programme and data reporting
- Facilitated participation of three SEAR Member States in the global e-consultation meeting to adopt Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) for influenza and COVID-19 surveillance in context of the COVID-19 pandemic

**Operational Support and Logistics:**

- Diagnostics: South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) coordinated shipment and delivery of 1,587,800 (396,068) tests of manual PCR, 1,234,200 (1,927,814) swabs, 1,428,688 (513,910) of extractions
- Infection Prevention and Control: 5,406,400 three-ply face masks, 1,852,500 gloves, 217,450 gowns, 353, 075 respirators, 82,150 goggles and 87, 336 face shields have been shipped to the 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 41) cases increased by 0.36% and deaths decreased by 5.9% compared to the previous week
- Of 379,738 total confirmed cases – 77.5% (294,391) recovered, 1.5% (5,555) died and 21% (79,792) are active cases. Male represented 72% and 77% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 12 October
- A total of 2,084,222 laboratory test with 18.22% overall positivity rate conducted by 109 laboratories as of 12 October
- Bed occupancy rate for general beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 30.1% (total 11,687) and 55.7% (total 564) respectively as reported by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) as of 12 October
- The number of international flights has increased by 6.3% compared to previous week (118 and 111 respectively). 405 individuals were sent to institutional quarantine after screening at the airport as of 12 October

**Cox's Bazar**

- During week 40 (5 to 11 October) 3 new cases were confirmed among Rohingya refugee camps
- A special case management meeting was held together with SARI ITC information management focal persons to review the new streamlined data collection protocol and tool. The Health Sector developed and shared a referral pathway for obstetric patients who are confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19

**Bhutan**

- In total 22 active cases in isolation ward, all active cases are in stable condition. No deaths reported due to COVID-19 as of 15 October
- Active surveillance at high risk areas including point of entry (PoEs) and intensive risk communication for COVID-19 public health measures
- WHO handed over personal protective equipment (PPEs) and laboratory supplies to Ministry of Health

**DPR Korea**

- No reported cases so far as of 15 October
- 7,266 total samples were tested by RT-PCR at interval of 10 days, no positive case was found as of 8 October
- 3,770 total people (including 3,762 nationals and 8 foreigners) were detected as suspected cases; 1,785 among nationals were suspected between 1-8 October as a result of intensified surveillance

- 294 people were quarantined between 01 to 08 October, a total of 31,605 people were released from quarantine as of 8 October

#### **India**

- Active cases comprise 12% (861,853) of total positive cases (7,120,538); sustains trend of steadily declining active cases as of 12 October
- The Prime Minister launches public campaign to promote COVID appropriate behavior and appeals citizens to unite in fight against COVID-19
- Minister of Health informed that a digital platform is being built to track COVID-19 vaccine administration and movement
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting releases standard operating procedure (SoP) for film exhibition as cinema halls receive permission to open with 50% capacity
- With 10,73,014 tests in last 24 hour, the cumulative number of tests conducted is 8,89,45,107; one of the highest testing conducted in the world as of 13 October

#### **Indonesia**

- The President has instructed to prioritize the COVID19 response in 12 regencies and cities with more than 1,000 active cases – 30% of the total active cases nationwide
- The Governor of Jakarta has relaxed the large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) in the capital, starting another transitional phase from 12 to 25 October
- The government, in cooperation with the Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association (PHRI), has prepared 120 hotels in nine provinces to accommodate asymptomatic COVID-19 patients
- 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
- The WHO-supported Intra-Action Review (IAR) report was published on the MoH website
- WHO and the Ministry of Health (MoH) are supporting provision of quality mental health services through various activities during the pandemic

#### **Maldives**

- 376 new confirmed cases reported since last week, number of cases declining since last 7 days; overall confirmed cases are found among contacts of active cases from flu clinics and active surveillance
- Over 158,000 samples tested to date, currently 1,200-1,400 tests conducted daily as of 14 October
- Cases continue to be seen mostly from Greater Malé region. 967 active cases reported from Malé and 151 active cases in 21 inhabited islands outside of Greater Malé Region
- The Ministry of Tourism has launched the 'Maldives COVID-19 Insurance Plan' with special travel insurance packages for medical procedures for tourists
- The government has released two new guidelines – 1) public health interventions to prevent COVID-19 transmission in the tourism sector and 2) antigen test for COVID-19 diagnosis in the country
- WHO supported additional human resource to strengthen health emergency coordination committee (HECC) response

#### **Myanmar**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 30 million loan to boost countries response to the pandemic, especially in areas with a high minority population but inadequate access to health care
- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has allowed factories, workshops and small and medium sized enterprises to reopen on 12 October, after obtaining approval from the health and administrative authorities
- Government extended suspension of domestic flights operated by 5 airlines until 31 October
- A total of 1,070 nationals have returned between 6 and 12 October via government-assisted relief flights
- MoHS updated standard operating procedure for testing of COVID-19 with antigen based RDT on 11 October

- MoHS procured 400,000 antigen based rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) from Republic of Korea and plan to procure additional 400,000 RDTs
- MoHS updated discharge criteria for COVID-19 patients - 11 days stay in hospital for mild or moderate symptomatic cases and 20 days for severely immunocompromised mild or moderate symptomatic patients

### **Nepal**

- All 7 provinces have reported cases, 2 out of 77 districts – Manang and Jajarkot did not report any cases for past 14 days. 39,100 confirmed cases were reported in the last 14 days as of 14 October
- A high-level meeting was convened to discuss, decide on and implement needed actions to manage the surge cases in Kathmandu valley and also to mitigate the potential for transmission from valley to other parts of the country in upcoming festivals
- Of 121,745 total cumulative cases, 69% (84,601) were males and 31% (37,144) were females as of 15 October
- Ministry of Health and Population (MoPH) endorsed revised guidelines on COVID-19 dead body management and validation of protocol for COVID-19 diagnostics items
- A total of 1,237,636 RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by 62 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation as of 15 October. WHO supported two laboratory Experts from Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)

### **Sri Lanka**

- Additional 759 confirmed cases were reported over the week from new cluster (Minuwangoda factory); total cluster size stands at 1,590 confirmed cases as of 14 October. Curfew has been imposed in high risk areas since 6 October and has been continued.
- All active cases have been admitted to dedicated COVID 19 treatment hospitals and no patients currently in intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospitals
- 789 new cases were reported during the week of which 759 (96.2%) were from the Minuwangoda cluster (apparel manufacturing factory) while the rest are all returnees
- 859 people were repatriated including cargo handlers and seafarers. Cumulatively more than 49,000 people were repatriated
- 10,683 people were quarantined in 94 facilities and 13,802 persons in home quarantine as of 14 October

### **Thailand**

- Government declares state of emergency with effect from 15 October
- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported 30 new case since last reporting as of 14 October, the new cases were Thai and non-Thai nationals traveled from abroad and later tested positive while in quarantine centers
- Of total 3,652 confirmed cases, about 95% (3,457) have recovered, 2% (59) have died and 3% (136) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals as of 14 October
- As part of an active case finding in five districts bordering Myanmar conducted by Mae Sot Hospital and the Immigration Bureau; Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) announced on 11 October that three Myanmar drivers who delivered goods in the northern province of Tak were tested positive for COVID-19. Result of testing their 74 high-risk contacts were negative. 5,383 people were tested for COVID-19 as part of this active case finding. MoPH reported negative result of 1,194 people and pending result for 4,189 people.

### **Timor-Leste**

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) confirmed a new case on 10 October. The total cumulative number of COVID-19 cases increased to 29. The patient was in quarantine upon arrival from Kuala Lumpur and admitted to the isolation and treatment facility at Vera Cruz. Investigation and contact tracing are being done by the surveillance team as per the national guideline



- WHO and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the MoH and the National Health Laboratory (NHL) carried out refresher training for surveillance and quarantine staff
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the MoH in procuring medical equipment for COVID-19 response on WHO provided technical guidance in identification and selection of equipment and supplies

### 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

### News release

#### Handwashing an effective tool to prevent COVID-19, other diseases

Ten months into the pandemic, handwashing with soap remains one of our best defenses against the virus, along with other public health measures such as maintaining physical distance, avoiding crowded places, practicing cough etiquette and wearing a mask wherever recommended.

Global Handwashing Day observed annually on October 15 to raise awareness and highlight the importance of handwashing as an effective means of disease prevention – this year marks a critical reminder for the world and the Region that this simple, cost effective practice can save lives.

‘Handwashing has always been one of most effective ways of keeping diseases at bay. It is a simple act that pays in dividends when it comes to keeping ourselves healthy and safe. Handwashing is also one of the key cornerstones of COVID-19 prevention. Now more than ever as we embrace the new normal and live with COVID-19, hand hygiene needs to become an integral part of our daily routine and our lives, as we live through this pandemic, and beyond, to protect us from diseases,’ said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region.

With COVID-19 transmission mainly spreading between people through direct, indirect (through contaminated objects or surfaces), or close contact with infected people via mouth and nose secretions, washing hands with soap and running water is of critical importance. To stop the spread of COVID-19, along with other COVID appropriate behaviours, the practice of handwashing at regular intervals is a must, after coughing or sneezing, when caring for the sick, after using the toilet, before eating, while preparing food and after handling animals or animal waste. Handwashing after touching common surfaces such as doorknobs or handles, or after one comes back home from visiting a public place will keep ourselves and others around us safe.











































“Promoting hand hygiene at all levels of health care is also critical. Hand hygiene, a very simple action, is well accepted to be one of the primary modes of reducing health care-associated infection and of enhancing patient safety,” the Regional Director said.

The pandemic is still among us and it is far from over. We must remind ourselves of the basics that we as individuals can do to keep ourselves safe, she said.

This year’s Global Handwashing Day theme is Hand Hygiene for All and calls for all of society to achieve universal hand hygiene. To beat the virus today and ensure better health outcomes beyond the pandemic, handwashing with soap must be a priority now and in the future.

Link: [News release](#)

# Public Health and Social Measure (as of 15 October 2020)

Member State	Lockdown	Public transport (Inter province movement)	Education sector	Public gathering	Mask
<b>Bangladesh</b>	None 	Resumed 		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Bhutan</b>	None  (except southern border towns)	Resumed 		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>DPR Korea</b>	None 	Restricted 		None	Mandatory
<b>India</b>	Partial  (only in containment zones)	Resumed* 	 (15 Oct reopens)	 up to 100	Mandatory
<b>Indonesia</b>	Partial  (Jakarta eases curbs since 12 Oct)	Restricted* 		Requirements vary across Provinces	Mandatory
<b>Maldives</b> (Emergency extended until 5 Nov)	Partial  (Greater male region curfews 10pm -5 am- Guest houses allowed inhabited islands)	Resumed 		Ban  >5	Mandatory (during travel)
<b>Myanmar</b>	Partial 	Restricted 		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>	Partial  (Curfew at 3 areas Gampaha district)	Restricted 		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Thailand</b> (Emergency extended until 31 Oct- & State of Emergency declared on 15/10/20)	None 	Restricted  ( at Myanmar border)		Ban  >5 (at Bangkok)	Mandatory
<b>Timor-Leste</b> (Emergency extended until 3 Nov)	None 	Resumed 		No restriction 	Mandatory (for workers & visitors)

HEALTH  
**EMERGENCIES**  
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