

10	513,936	6,845	8,432,896	133,888
Countries reporting cases	New cases (week 42/2020)	New deaths (week 42/2020)	Total cumulative cases (at end of week 42)	Total cumulative deaths (at end of week 42)

Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #42 was 6% (513,936 cases) lesser than previous weekly increase of 8% reported, and percentage increase in deaths was 5% (6,845 deaths) which again shows a decreasing trend. The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) is now ranked third for the highest weekly increase in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions following Europe and Americas Region
- The highest weekly percentage increase in cases in the region was reported from Myanmar (34%, 8,811 cases), followed by Nepal (23%, 24,491), Sri Lanka (17%, 786 cases), Indonesia (9%, 28,418) and India (6%, 440,745 cases)
- 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 reported sporadic cases
- Nearly 77% of the confirmed cases and 66% of deaths in Myanmar are reported from Yangon region. In Myanmar there continues to be 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 7 provinces of Nepal, indicating strong possibility of community transmission
- In Sri Lanka, during the past week almost 98% of the cases reported belonged to the Minuwangoda cluster detected two weeks back in an apparel factory. The Minuwangoda cluster has contributed to 36.8% of the total confirmed cases reported in Sri Lanka as of 20 October
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a decreasing trend in the last week. Cases continue to be concentrated in Greater Malé region and 99% cases reported in Atolls have history of travel from Greater Malé. Among the active cases in Maldives currently, 99.82% belong to known or existing clusters.

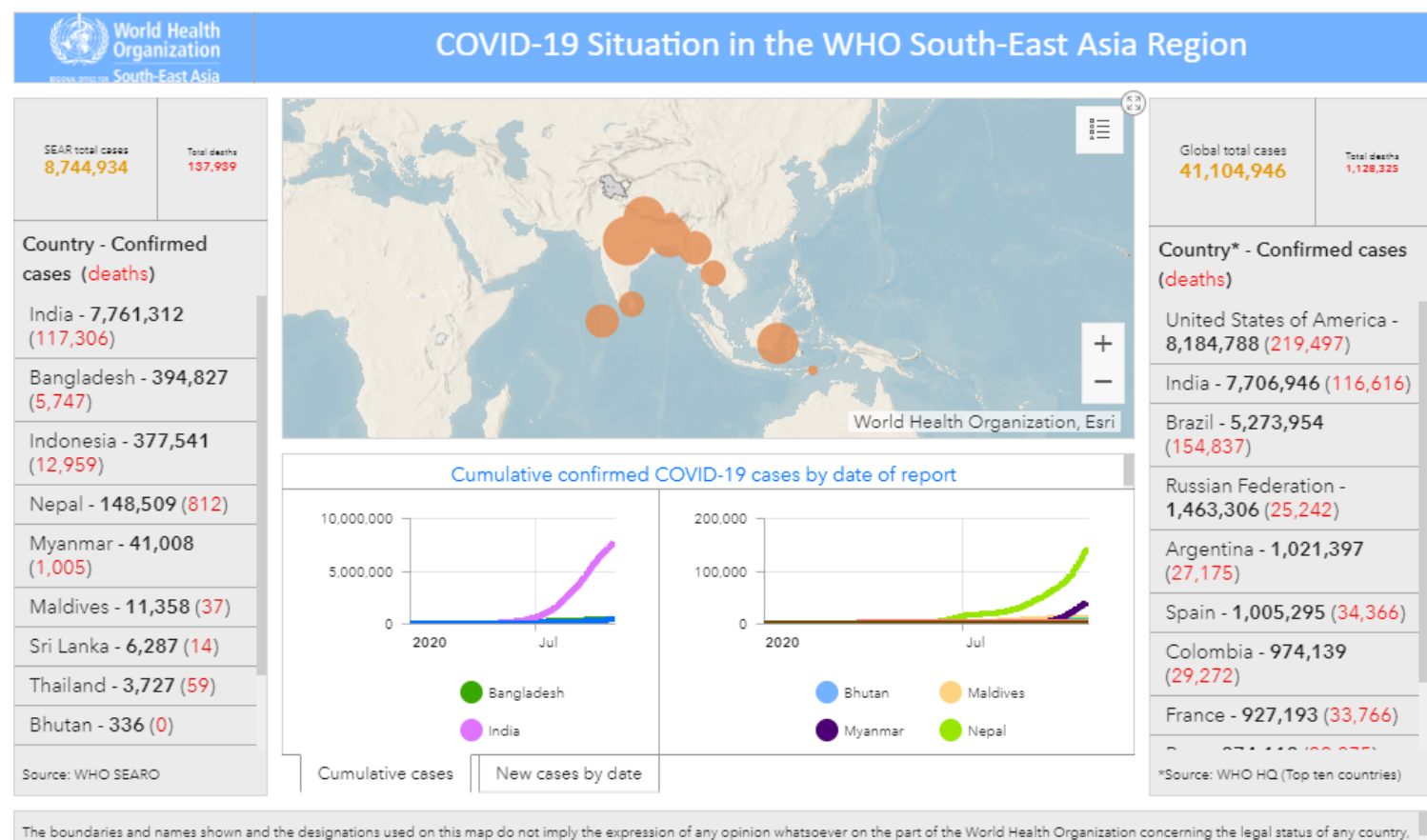
Country ¹	Trans. type ²	Total cases	Total cases 1 week ago	% change	Total deaths	Total deaths 1 week ago	% change
India	Clusters	7,651,107	7,239,389	6%	115,914	110,586	5%
Bangladesh	Community	393,131	382,959	3%	5,723	5,593	2%
Indonesia	Community	373,109	344,749	8%	12,857	12,156	6%
Nepal	Clusters	144,872	117,996	23%	791	675	17%
Myanmar	Clusters	39,696	30,437	30%	972	693	40%
Maldives	Clusters	11,316	11,062	2%	37	35	6%
Sri Lanka	Clusters	5,978	5,168	16%	13	13	0%
Thailand	Clusters	3,709	3,652	2%	59	59	0%
Bhutan	Sporadic	331	316	5%	0	-	-
Timor-Leste	Sporadic	29	29	0%	0	-	-
DPR Korea	No case	-	-	-	0	-	-
Region		8,623,278	8,135,757	6%	136,366	129,810	5%

¹Countries are ordered by their total number of cases

²Transmission 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

Risk Communication and Community Engagement:

- Digital Media monitoring of public perceptions and highlighted concerns are:
 - Herd immunity in the context of COVID-19
 - Keeping safe during religious activities (particularly during festivals)
 - How long the virus survives on surfaces
 - Symptoms of COVID-19 continue to be one of the most searched questions

Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation:

- WHO SEARO has reached out to all WHO Country Offices (WCOs) offering support and assistance in the transition to the revised global COVID-19/International Health Regulation (IHR) reporting platform
- Focused technical support to WCOs in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal for surveillance, data analysis and review of testing strategy

Infection Prevention and Control and Case Management:

- Experts from SEAR participated in the global guideline development group for clinical management
- A discussion was held with WHO Country Office (WCO) in Bangladesh to intensify influenza surveillance, promote point of care testing for influenza for severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) case management
- A three-level discussion was convened to discuss WHO support to Indonesia for monitoring infections among health care workers
- Technical assistance to WCO Indonesia on interpretation of rapid antigen test results in context of epidemiological and clinical considerations

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 42) cases increased by 7.6% and deaths decreased by 22.7% compared to the previous week
- Of 390,206 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 (31.4%). Male represented 72% and 77% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 19 October
- A total of 2,178,717 laboratory tests with 17.9% overall positivity rate conducted by 110 laboratories as of 19 October
- Bed occupancy rate for general beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 19.6% (total 11,687) and 48.1% (total 564) respectively as reported by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) as of 19 October

Cox's Bazar

- During week 41 (12 - 18 October) 9 new cases were confirmed among Rohingya refugee camps. Currently, 25 sample collection sites are operating for COVID-19 sample collection

- WHO, together with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner office (RRRC), continues to provide leadership, coordination, supportive supervision and collaborative support to all health partners and sectors responding to the COVID-19 emergency

Bhutan

- In total 26 active cases in isolation ward, all active cases are in stable condition. No deaths reported due to COVID-19 as of 22 October
- Ministry of Health (MoH) technical advisory group (TAG), surveillance and health promotion division to conduct rapid assessment of schools in the capital city
- Active surveillance at high risk areas including point of entry (PoEs) and intensive risk communication for COVID-19 public health measures
- MoH continues COVID-19 test for health worker fortnightly and online sessions on mental health and psychological support (MHPSS) frequently

DPR Korea

- No reported cases so far as of 21 October
- 8,770 total samples were tested by RT-PCR at interval of 10 days, no positive case was found as of 15 October
- 4,522 total people (including 4,514 nationals and 8 foreigners) were detected as suspected cases; 742 among nationals were suspected between 8-15 October as a result of intensified surveillance
- 284 people were quarantined between 8-15 October, a total of 31,900 people were released from quarantine as of 15 October

India

- Prime Minister chaired review meeting of the research and vaccine deployment ecosystem against COVID-19
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) deployed high level central teams to Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal to support COVID-19 response action in these states
- Minister of Health chaired 21st meeting of group of ministers on COVID-19 to review country's preparedness and response and called for subdued celebrations in the upcoming festive season warning of spikes due to congregations
- Ministry of Culture issued detailed standard operating procedure (SOPs) for cultural functions to facilitate organization of cultural events during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Finance Minister announced measures of INR 73,000 crore to stimulate consumer spending before end of this Financial Year in fight against COVID-19
- National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) aayog stressed the importance of following COVID Appropriate Behaviors during upcoming festival season, arrival of winter, opening up of economy

Indonesia

- The Government is strengthening its multilateral cooperation with international partners, including Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and WHO, to meet the country's COVID-19 vaccine requirements
- The Government issued Presidential Regulation on procurement, coordination and management of COVID-19 vaccines. Ministry of Health (MoH) has developed a National Vaccine Deployment Plan (NVDP) which outlines the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of vaccine operations
- 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
- WHO participated in meetings with MoH to discuss developments towards the use of antigen-detection rapid diagnostic tests (Ag-RDTs) and their integration into the sixth revision of the national guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control
- UN Women, WHO and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection launched a Comic and Illustration Competition to highlight the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women

Maldives

- 289 new confirmed cases reported since last week, number of cases declining since last 7 days; 99.82% of cases belong to known and existing clusters
- Over 178,000 samples tested to date, currently 1,300-1,500 tests being conducted daily as of 21 October
- Cases continue to be seen mostly from Greater Malé region. 872 active cases reported from Malé, with 99% of all cases in the atolls having link to history travel from greater Malé area and quarantine
- The Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) in partnership with Maldives National University has launched a COVID-19 antibody prevalence survey of school students under the strict protocols and guidance provided by WHO
- The government has reopened the atolls and islands for local Guesthouse tourism; with 22 guesthouses reopened in 12 islands across the country

Myanmar

- Government imposed a stay-at-home order in two townships of Kachin State with most locally transmitted cases, effective from 20 October until further notice
- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) published standard operating procedure on biosafety measures while testing COVID-19 with antigen based rapid diagnostic test kit
- A total of 1,456 Myanmar nationals returned home between 13 to 19 October with the government-assisted relief flights
- WHO provided human resource support for data entry and data management regarding clinical management to MoHS

Nepal

- Of 139,128 total cumulative cases, 74.4% (103,509) cases reported from 3 provinces. The Kathmandu valley is experiencing an increasing proportionate case load 42.7% (59,471) among the total cases
- Ministry of Health and Population (MoPH) instructed hospitals to allocate 50% beds for the management of COVID-19 cases
- Government instructed hospitals to test and treat free of cost only persons belonging to selected targeted groups (destitute, disabled, senior citizens, health care workers, security personnel, officials working in high-risk areas etc), effective 18 October
- MoHP has endorsed revised national testing guidelines for COVID-19
- A total of 13,14,779 RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by 62 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation as of 20 October. WHO has provided technical support to 4 newly established COVID-19 laboratories

Sri Lanka

- Additional 751 confirmed cases were reported over the week from new cluster (Minuwangoda factory); total cluster size stands at 2,341 confirmed cases as of 21 October. Curfew has been imposed in high risk areas since 20 October
- Government published gazette containing public health and social measures regulations under quarantine and prevention of disease ordinance
- The government has stopped all public gatherings such as exhibitions, large conferences, parties, indoor and outdoor events, carnivals, musical shows, processions (including religious events) until further notice
- All active cases have been admitted to dedicated COVID 19 treatment hospitals and there are 2,297 patients in 23 hospitals. 2 patients in intensive care units (ICU)
- Repatriation has been temporarily stopped, about 184 cargo handlers and seafarers were repatriated during the week. Cumulative number is more than 50,000 people
- 8,623 people were quarantined in 81 facilities and over 25,000 persons in home quarantine as of 20 October

Thailand

- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported 48 new case since last reporting as of 20 October, the new cases were Thai and non-Thai nationals traveled from abroad and later tested positive while in quarantine centers
- Of total 3,700 confirmed cases, about 94% (3,491) have recovered, 2% (59) have died and 4% (150) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals as of 20 October
- Government signed an expression of interest with COVAX Facility to produce and distribute the adenoviral vector technology (AZD1222) vaccine developed by the University of Oxford. currently on the process of vaccine development based on mRNA, DNA, viral-like particle, protein subunit, viral vector, inactivated, and live attenuated vaccine development technologies
- Approximately 4,900 local residents living along the Thai-Myanmar border of Mae Sot district, Northern Tak province were screened and tested for COVID-19, following the policy on active case finding. Lab tests have confirmed five positive cases. The rest shows negative result. Active case finding will be implemented in another 4 districts.
- All border checkpoints along Myanmar border will close for seven days to reorganize the prevention measures. All temples and mosques in the high-risk communities are now halting their religious activities, and schools are closed for seven days, from 19 October

Timor-Leste

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) with support from WHO and UNFPA Timor-Leste and the Laboratorio Nacional da Saude da República Democrática de Timor-Leste (RDTL) conducted refresher training for surveillance and quarantine staff under
- St. John of God with technical support from WHO conducted a two-day IPC training for ten (Instituto Nacional da Saúde) INS focal points

Resource mobilization

- Total distributed resources to South-East Asia Region stand at USD 95.7 million which is 55% of total COVID-19 operational budget (USD 175 million) for 2020. Additional funding of USD 98,000 received last week
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 91% (USD 86.8/ USD 95.7 million) and remaining 9% (USD 8.9 million) distributed to WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)/SEARO

News release

Need to continue extreme caution against COVID-19

The World Health Organization today cautioned against any relaxation of response actions following the recent slight decline in COVID-19 cases in South-East Asia Region, saying the pandemic continues unabated and our response only needs to be strengthened further to curtail virus transmission.

“There should be no complacency in view of the declining numbers in recent weeks. The Region still reports large numbers of COVID-19 cases. We need to continue to do our very best to curtail the pandemic,” said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region.

The upcoming festival season and the approaching winter/cold season threatens to aggravate the situation if we let our guards down, she said.

Member countries have been making concerted efforts scaling up capacities for timely detection, testing, tracing contacts, isolating the affected and providing hospital care to those who need it. “Our relentless efforts need to continue with more vigor,” the Regional Director said.

This festive season we must continue to take responsibility as individuals of the need to maintain physical distance, hand hygiene, cough etiquette and wear a mask when and where needed. People must remember the three Cs - avoid crowded places, avoid closed settings and avoid confined and enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

The co-circulation of seasonal influenza and COVID-19 in the winters may present challenges for health systems and health facilities, since both diseases present many similar symptoms. Many of the same measures that are effective in preventing COVID-19 are also effective for preventing influenza, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, covering coughs, ventilation and masks.

WHO is working with countries to take a holistic approach to the preparedness, prevention, control and treatment of all respiratory diseases, including influenza and COVID-19.











































For the third week in a row, the WHO South-East Asia Region has registered 6 – 8 % decline in the number of COVID-19 cases, mainly due to a decrease in reported cases from India and Bangladesh.

Home to one-fourth of the world's population, the Region has reported over 8 million of the nearly 40 million cases globally, mostly from the most populous countries which also face unique demographic and geographic challenges.

WHO continues to support countries in their containment and mitigation efforts providing technical guidance, laboratory capacity strengthening for testing, equipment for hospitals and protection of healthcare workers, and creating awareness and addressing misinformation.

Link: [News release](#)

Public Health and Social Measure (as of 22 October 2020)

Member State	Lockdown	Public transport (Inter province movement)	Education sector	Public gathering	Mask
Bangladesh	None 	Resumed 		Ban 	Mandatory
Bhutan	None  (except Southern border towns)	Resumed 		Ban 	Mandatory
DPR Korea	None 	Restricted 		-	Mandatory
India	Partial  (only in containment zones)	Resumed* 	 (reopen from 15 Oct)	 (No restrictions on outdoor gatherings; Indoor gathering <200)	Mandatory
Indonesia	Partial  (Jakarta eases large-scale restriction from 12 Oct)	Restricted* 		Requirements vary across Provinces	Mandatory
Maldives (Emergency extended until 5 Nov)	Partial  (Greater Male region curfews 10 pm -5 am. Guest houses allowed inhabited islands.)	Resumed 		Ban  >5	Mandatory (during travel)
Myanmar	Partial 	Restricted 		Ban  >30	Mandatory
Nepal	Partial  (district- and sub-district-levels)	Restricted  (Inter district >200 cases restricted)		Ban  >25	Mandatory
Sri Lanka	Partial  (Curfew at 3 areas Gampaha district)	Restricted 		Ban 	Mandatory
Thailand (Emergency extended until 31 Oct- & State of Emergency declared on 15/10/20)	None 	Restricted  (at Myanmar border)		Ban  >5 (at Bangkok)	Mandatory
Timor-Leste (Emergency extended until 3 Nov)	None 	Resumed 		No restriction 	Mandatory (for workers & visitors)