

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 10 | 445 801 | 5 772 | 8 878 697 | 139 660 |
| Countries reporting cases | New cases (week 43/2020) | New deaths (week 43/2020) | Total cumulative cases (at end of week 43) | Total cumulative deaths (at end of week 43) |

Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #43 was 5% (445 801 cases) less than the previous weekly increase of 6% reported and percentage increase in deaths was 4% (6 845 deaths). These continue to show a decreasing trend. The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) is now ranked third along with WHO Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO) for the highest weekly increase in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions following WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO) and WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)
- The highest weekly percentage increase in cases in the region was reported from Sri Lanka (42%, 2,334 cases) followed by Myanmar (26%, 8,913 cases), Nepal (20%, 25 843), Indonesia (8%, 27 845) and India (5%, 370 260 cases)
- Two member states in the Region, Bangladesh and Indonesia continues 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
- As of 25 October, nearly 78% of the confirmed cases and 95% of deaths in Myanmar were 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 all 7 provinces of Nepal, indicating strong possibility of community transmission. Bagmati province shows a significant increase of new cases (7 day rolling average) and contributes to 50% of the total cases in the country
- Sri Lanka reported the highest number of cases per week, last week. 99.5% of cases detected last week belonged to the Minuwangoda/ Peliyagoda cluster. This cluster contributed to 54% of total confirmed cases reported in Sri Lanka as of 25 October
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a decreasing trend in the last week despite increasing number of tests. Cases continue to be concentrated in Greater Malé region. 99.83% of confirmed cases 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 | 7 990 322 | 7 651 107 | 4% | 120 010 | 115 914 | 4% |
| Bangladesh | Community | 403 079 | 393 131 | 3% | 5 861 | 5 723 | 2% |
| Indonesia | Community | 400 483 | 373 109 | 7% | 13 612 | 12 857 | 6% |
| Nepal | Clusters | 162 354 | 144 872 | 12% | 887 | 791 | 12% |
| Myanmar | Clusters | 49 072 | 38 502 | 27% | 1 172 | 945 | 24% |
| Maldives | Clusters | 11 591 | 11 316 | 2% | 37 | 37 | 0% |
| Sri Lanka | Clusters | 9 205 | 6 028 | 53% | 19 | 13 | 46% |
| Thailand | Clusters | 3 759 | 3 709 | 1% | 59 | 59 | 0% |
| Bhutan | Sporadic | 345 | 331 | 4% | - | - | - |
| Timor-Leste | Sporadic | 30 | 29 | 3% | - | - | - |
| DPR Korea | No case | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Region | | 9 030 240 | 8 622 134 | 5% | 141 657 | 136 339 | 4% |

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

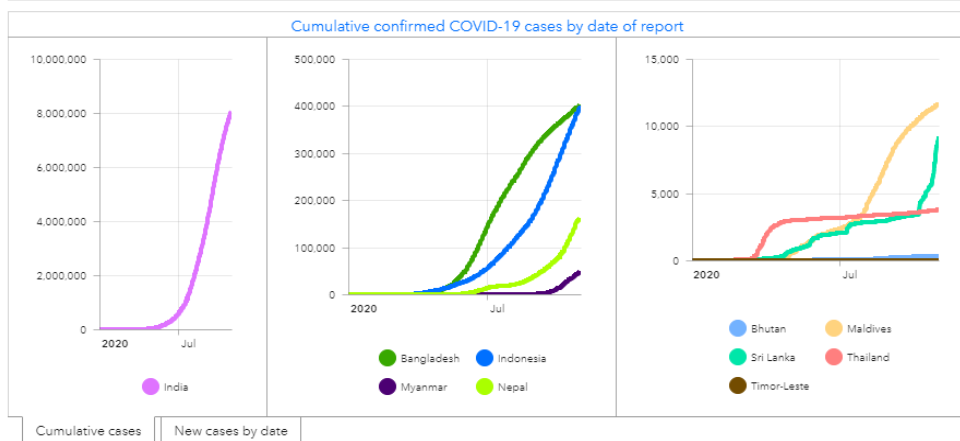
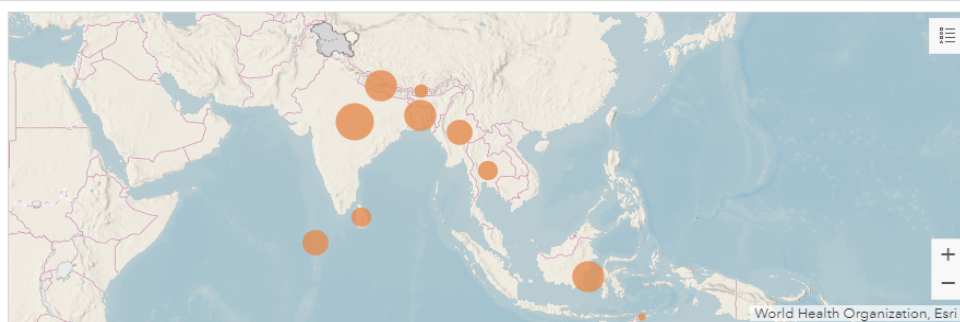
less than 50% increase

SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



COVID-19 Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| SEAR total cases 9,088,347 | Total deaths 142,305 |
| Country - Confirmed cases (deaths) | |
| India - 8,040,203 (120,527) | |
| Bangladesh - 404,760 (5,886) | |
| Indonesia - 404,048 (13,701) | |
| Nepal - 164,718 (904) | |
| Myanmar - 49,072 (1,172) | |
| Maldives - 11,616 (37) | |
| Sri Lanka - 9,791 (19) | |
| Thailand - 3,763 (59) | |
| Bhutan - 346 (0) | |
| Timor-Leste - 30 (0) | |
| DPR Korea - 0 (0) | |



Global total cases
44,351,506

Total deaths
1,171,255

Country* - Confirmed cases (deaths)

United States of America - 8,683,298 (225,073)

India - 8,040,203 (120,527)

Brazil - 5,439,641 (157,946)

Russian Federation - 1,581,693 (27,301)

France - 1,203,068 (35,484)

Spain - 1,136,503 (35,466)

Argentina - 1,116,609 (29,730)

Colombia - 1,033,218 (30,565)

The United Kingdom - 942,279 (45,675)

Mexico - 901,268 (89,814)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

as of 11:00 AM (IST); 23 October 2020

Operational update

Key updates

Country-level coordination, planning and monitoring:

- Ongoing coordination with WHO Headquarters on the development of the global monitoring and evaluation (M&E) dashboard for dissemination of M&E data

Risk Communication and Community Engagement:

- The weekly public insights from digital monitoring reveals the following:
 - a) The highest increasing topics are stigma, vaccines, travel and protective measures
 - b) Protective measures were the fastest rising topic of conversation (up 128%), mostly focusing on wearing masks properly
 - c) Conversations on travel, especially concerns about the likelihood of getting COVID-19 during travel, increased by 90%

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 continued technical support to WCOs in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal for surveillance, data analysis and review of testing strategy

Infection Prevention and Control:

- Ongoing discussions with WHO Headquarters (HQ) and Department of Health Systems Development (HSD) of WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO/SEARO) to provide information on structure and functions of national programmes and designated focal points of infection prevention and control (IPC) especially in BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries to provide information to WHO Country Office of India

Clinical Management:

- Experts from WHO South-East Asia Region including the WHO focal point at the Regional office participated in the global guideline development group (GDG) sessions to update clinical management guideline on Remdesivir for COVID-19
- Technical information support to Myanmar Ministry of Health - Central Epidemiological Unit (CEU) on diagnosis on re-infection of COVID-19
- A discussion was initiated to support WHO Country Office (WCO) in Indonesia on oxygen supply for clinical management of COVID-19
- A three-level discussion was initiated to support clinicians of Myanmar on findings of WHO solidarity trial
- WHO/SEARO conducted monthly review of influenza surveillance data for the Region and shared the progress achieved with all WHO Country Offices (WCOs) in the Region for alert. Worked with HQ to provide detailed information to WCO Bhutan on the reported death of flu vaccine in Republic of Korea
- Ongoing engagement with WHO-HQ to determine the needs of multiplex polymerase chain reaction (Multiplex PCR) for National Influenza Centre's (NICs) in the Region

Operational Support and Logistics:

- Facilitated urgent support request from Sri Lanka due to evolution of new cluster, fast tracked shipment of 52 000 ThermoFisher Manual PCR test kit, 100 000 Antigen based rapid diagnostic test (RDT) manufactured in India. Additional procurement of USD 500 000 worth of RDTs initiated through local procurement
- Ongoing continuous coordination with operational support and logistics (OSL) team in HQ and WCOs on the supplies requested through COVID-19 supply chain system to expedite the delivery of supplies to the end users

- Diagnostics: South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) coordinated shipment and delivery of 1 825 800 (178 068) tests of Manual PCR, 1 234 200 (1 927 814) swabs, 1 666 688 (274 438) of extractions
- Infection Prevention and Control: 5 406 400 three-ply face masks, 1 895 500 gloves, 218 050 gowns, 353 075 respirators, 81 550 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 43) cases decreased by 0.55% and deaths increased by 5.1% compared to the previous week
- Of 400 251 total confirmed cases – 79.1% (316 600) recovered, 1.45% (5 818) died and 19.45% (77 833) are active cases. Male represented 72% and 77% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 26 October
- A total of 2 271 347 laboratory tests with 17.6% overall positivity rate conducted by 111 laboratories as of 26 October
- Bed occupancy rate for general beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 20.1% (total 11 730) and 49.3% (total 564) respectively as reported by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) as of 26 October

Cox's Bazar

- During week 43 (19 - 25 October) 25 new cases were confirmed among Rohingya refugee camps
- To understand more about COVID-19 transmission in the camps, the Bangladesh Institute of Epidemiology and Disease Control Research (IEDCR) with support from WHO, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) will undertake a seroprevalence study in all 34 camps to identify antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19
- A total of 1 416 community health workers (CHWs) were trained to provide enhanced Community Based Surveillance and Home-Based Care which includes counselling on testing, quarantine and patients' referral to isolation facilities

Bhutan

- In total 31 active cases in isolation ward, all active cases are in stable condition. No deaths reported due to COVID-19 as of 29 October
- Government discouraged large gatherings, entertainments facilities like night clubs and karaoke's are closed, sports are allowed with no spectator
- MoH continues intensive risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities

DPR Korea

- No reported cases so far as of 29 October
- 10 462 total samples were tested by RT-PCR at interval of 10 days, no positive case was found as of 22 October
- 5 368 total people (including 5 360 nationals and 8 foreigners) were detected as suspected cases; 846 among nationals were suspected between 15-22 October as a result of intensified surveillance
- 161 people were quarantined between 15-22 October, a total of 32 011 people were released from quarantine as of 22 October

India

- Active cases comprise 7.51% (603,687) of total positive cases (8 040 203); sustains trend of steadily declining active cases as of 29 October
- The Prime Minister appealed to citizens not to let guard down and cautioned against complacency, callousness against COVID-19

- The Minister of Health launches website that gives comprehensive information about the numerous Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and partners led COVID-19 clinical trials
- Health Minister discusses implementation of Prime Minister's Jan Andolan against COVID-19 with senior officials of Madhya Pradesh and Punjab
- Health Minister reviews COVID-19 response preparedness and asserts that the coming three months of festivities and winters will be crucial in determining COVID-19 trajectory in the country

Indonesia

- The Ministry of Transportation has ordered random checks on vehicles leaving Jakarta to ensure adherence to health protocols in view of extended public holiday from 28 October to 1 November to prevent increase in the transmission of COVID-19
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases hospitalized in Jakarta after plateauing in August continued to decline until 1 October. There has been an overall increase during the month of October from 1 795 hospitalized cases on 1 October to 2 861 on 25 October
- WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health to finalize the guidance on implementation of antigen-detection rapid diagnostic tests
- WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National COVID-19 Task Force conducted a series of focus group discussions for a detailed review of challenges and possible solutions for enhancing contact tracing
- WHO, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) met to discuss and align support for contact tracing and COVID-19 testing through enhancing community participation

Maldives

- 300 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 190 000 samples tested to date, currently 1 500-1 800 tests being conducted daily as of 28 October
- A new cluster among migrant workers in Hulhumalé phase 2 in the Greater Malé region was seen during the week. Total 72 cases reported (all symptomatic workers) from the cluster
- Cases continue to be concentrated mostly in Greater Malé region. 877 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 Ministry of Health (MoH) is conducting a COVID-19 seroprevalence study in partnership with Maldives National University to assess the extent of exposure of the local population to the virus under the strict protocols and guidance provided by WHO
- The Ministry of Tourism has expanded the permission for split-stays for visitors to stay in more than one tourist facility including resorts, liveaboards and guesthouses
- WHO handed over 3 GeneXpert machines, 15 000 RT-PCR kits to MoH and various other laboratory items to set-up PCR laboratory in Addu and Kulhudufushi

Myanmar

- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) relaxed stay-at-home orders to travel to respective voting places in designated constituencies to cast advance votes, or to polling stations on the election day to cast votes. Gatherings of more than 30 people will be allowed on election day (8 November) and up to 50 people allowed to gather at certain locations for election campaign activities until midnight of 6 November
- Government further extended the suspension on operation of international commercial flights until end of 30 November
- Cross-border cargo trade resumed over the second Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge in Myawaddy Township of Kayin State on 26 October, after COVID-19 restrictions were eased by Thai authorities

- A total of 1 195 Myanmar nationals returned home with the government-assisted relief flights and 36 migrant workers from China returned through Chinshwehaw border gate of northern Shan between 20 to 26 October
- WHO supported 205 extraction kits (96 reactions per kit) for National Health Laboratory (NHL) and other laboratories in states and region to strengthen laboratory testing capacity

Nepal

- The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) confirmed 164 718 total cumulative cases. The Kathmandu valley is experiencing an exponential growth of cases
- Ministry of Health and Population (MoPH) instructed hospitals to allocate 50% beds for the management of COVID-19 cases. The MoHP has started transferring funds to hospitals where additional High Dependency Unit (HDU) beds will be installed for COVID-19 patients
- 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 from 18 October
- A total of 1 419 064 RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by 65 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation as of 29 October

Sri Lanka

- Total cases are 8 413 of which 3 185 new cases reported during the week, 99.7% from new cluster; a sub cluster of Minuwangoda cluster evolved around a fish market in Peliyagoda. The total cluster size stands at 5,395 confirmed cases
- Curfew has been imposed in Colombo district and high-risk areas from 29 October to 2 November
- All active cases have been admitted to dedicated COVID 19 treatment hospitals; 4,764 patients are admitted in 37 hospitals as of 28 October. Government is upgrading around 60 divisional hospitals as isolation and treatment centres to add more bed capacity
- Government has decided to quarantine all contacts at home. Home quarantine of exposed (first contacts) to be monitored by public health inspectors / police / army to ensure strict enforcement
- Repatriation has been temporarily stopped, only 11 cargo handlers and seafarers were repatriated during the week. Cumulative number is more than 50 000 people. Seafarers will not be allowed until further notice.
- 8 421 people were quarantined in facilities and over 39 000 persons in home quarantine as of 28 October

Thailand

- Ministry of Public Health reported 63 new cases since last reporting on 20 October, majority of new cases were Thai and non-Thai nationals traveled from abroad and later tested positive while in quarantine centers
- Of total 3 763 confirmed cases, about 94% (3 570) have recovered, 2% (59) have died and 4% (134) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals as of 29 October
- COVID-19 situation in Mae Sot, Tak province is now under control. Of the total 11 713 samples collected from local residents living in the high-risk communities along the Thai-Myanmar border district of Mae Sot and four nearby districts, eleven found positive for COVID-19
- The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration has agreed to provide a wellness quarantine for foreign tourists who would like to visit Thailand and include wellness and health in their stay. There are three model for the wellness quarantine, which are the medical spa, wellness resort, spa resort model, the long-term care model, and the sport model
- Cabinet has permitted international yachts to enter Thailand. All passengers and crew must quarantine on board for 14 days and get an RT-PCR test three times for COVID-19 before disembarking

Timor-Leste

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) confirmed a new case on 26 October. The total number of COVID-19 cases in the country now stands at 30. The patient was in quarantine upon arrival from Indonesia and admitted to the isolation and treatment facility. Further investigation and contact tracing are being done by the surveillance team as per the national guideline
- WHO and UNICEF are working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) to prepare for the COVID-19 vaccine introduction plan

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 93 000 received last week
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 91% (USD 86.9/ USD 95.8 million) and remaining 9% (USD 8.9 million) distributed to WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)/SEARO

Cover story

Strengthening contact tracing within member states in the south-east Asia region

The implementation of effective contact tracing and quarantine is critical to reduce transmission and control the COVID-19 epidemic at country level. WHO Country Offices have been working closely with member states to document the bottlenecks in scaling up contact tracing as a key public health intervention, particularly in areas of community transmission, and to design activities to respond to these challenges. Examples include:










































































Nepal has identified mobilization and training a workforce of contact tracers and supervisors as a key priority, to ensure contact tracing can be conducted at scale in all districts. WCO is collaborating with the Ministry of Health (MoH), academic institutions and local NGO partners to develop and deliver materials in local languages that are also appropriate to the epidemiological and operational setting in each district. WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO/SEARO) will also be supporting member states with estimating workforce requirements for contact tracing and to set benchmarks that ensure implementation at the required scale.

Bangladesh and **Indonesia** have prioritized risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) as an area of focus to ensure public support for contact tracing and consideration of local contexts in the design of risk messaging and sensitization campaigns. WHO/SEARO is supporting the commissioning of social research studies to identify and understand reasons for mistrust and barriers to successful contact tracing at community level, working through regional and national academic institutes, as well as and local civil society groups.

Myanmar is expanding its use of digital tools for contact tracing and exploring how District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) can further strengthen the collection, reporting and analysis of contact tracing data in order to inform decision-making in real-time. **Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh** is similarly building on its experience during the diphtheria outbreak and has configured and scaled up implementation of Go.Data as a digital tool for COVID-19 contact tracing. There remain large challenges in reporting on the performance of contact tracing at country level, and these efforts will help support information management and the reporting of key performance indicators.

WHO/SEARO will continue providing technical support to these activities as part of a regional strategy to strengthen contact tracing, with financial support from the enhanced contact tracing (ECT) grant within the WHO Solidarity Fund. A series of country case studies will also be commissioned, to document lessons learned and facilitate peer-to-peer exchange within the region.

Public Health and Social Measure (as of 28 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*     |  (after 15 Oct reopens) |  No restrictions on outdoor gatherings ; Indoor gathering <200 | Mandatory |
| Indonesia | Partial  | Restricted*     |  | Requirements vary across Provinces | Mandatory |
| Maldives (Emergency extended until 5 Nov) | Partial  (Greater male region curfews 11pm -5 am) | Resumed    |  | Ban  >5 | Mandatory |
| Myanmar | Partial  | Restricted*     |  | Ban  >30 | Mandatory |
| Nepal | Partial  (district- and sub-district-level) | Restricted*     (Inter district >200 cases restricted) |  | Ban  >25 | Mandatory |
| Sri Lanka | Partial  (Curfew at subnational areas Gampaha district) | Restricted*     |  | Ban  | Mandatory |
| Thailand (Emergency extended until 30 Nov) | None  | Restricted*     (at Myanmar border) |  | No restriction  | Mandatory |
| Timor-Leste (Emergency extended until 3 Nov) | None  | Resumed    |  | No restriction  | Mandatory |

* Public transport resumed with limited capacity and in limited routes – variations at Sub National level



WHO South-East Asia Regional Office

Dr Jos Vandelaer, Regional Emergency Director; Email: IM_SEAR_2019nCoV@who.int