

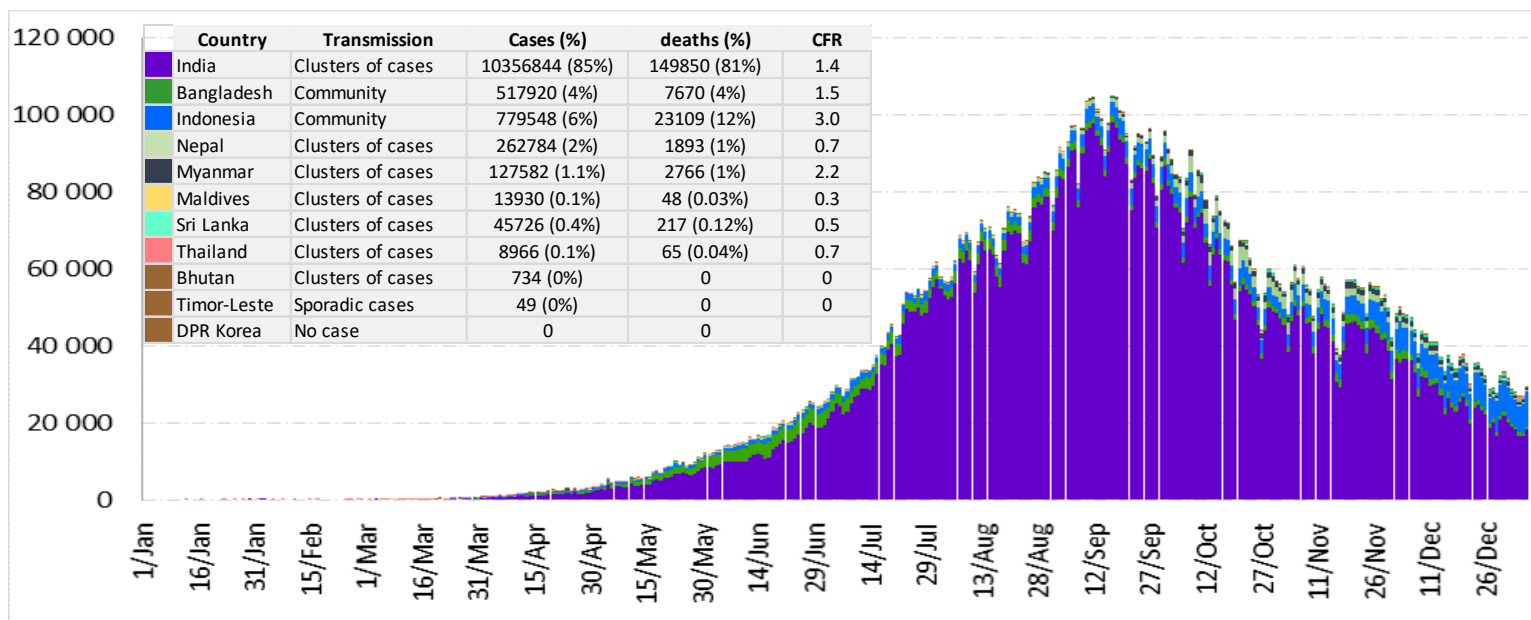
<b>10</b>	<b>208 726</b>	<b>3 690</b>	<b>12 060 633</b>	<b>184 726</b>
<b>Countries reporting cases</b>	<b>New cases (week 53/2020)</b>	<b>New deaths (week 53/2020)</b>	<b>Total cumulative cases (at end of week 53)</b>	<b>Total cumulative deaths (at end of week 53)</b>

#### Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #53 was 1.8% (208 726 new cases) slight decrease than previous weekly increase of 2% reported and percentage increase in deaths was 2% (3 690 new deaths) which again is slightly lower than reported percentage increase last week of 2.2%
- The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) has the lowest weekly increase (1.7%) in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions viz Africa Region (7.5%), European Region (6.2%), Region of Americas (6%), Western Pacific Region (5.1%) and Eastern Mediterranean Region (3.2%)
- The highest weekly percentage increase in cases in the region is reported in Thailand (25.3%, 1 553 cases) followed by Bhutan (20%, 119 cases), Sri Lanka (9.1%, 3 720 cases), Indonesia (7.3%, 51 985 cases) and Timor-Leste (7.3%, 3 cases)
- Two Member States in the Region, Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to report community transmission, while seven - Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand reported clusters of cases and only Timor-Leste reported sporadic cases.
- Thailand continues to report cases from two major clusters of Samut Sakhon and Rayong provinces. Over 2 000 cases have been reported in last one week. Most of these cases are being detected in migrant workers through contact tracing and active case finding in Samut Sakhon and Rayong provinces. Locally transmitted COVID-19 cases have now been reported in 56 provinces
- In Bhutan, local transmission reported from capital city of Thimphu and active contact tracing is ongoing. There has been a lockdown in force since 20 December
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a declining trend and cases are mostly concentrated in Greater Malé region
- In Myanmar there is evidence of transmission in Rakhine, Yangon, Sagaing, Bago and Mandalay. Increasing number of new cases are being reported outside of Yangon. Contact tracing continues to remain a challenge in Myanmar with only 16% of contacts identified
- In Nepal, number of new cases as well as number of tests continue to decrease following the festival season. Test Positivity Rate (TPR) is still high at ~10%
- In Indonesia, there is an upward trend of reported cases and a very high TPR of > 20%

Country	New cases in last 7 days (%)	Change in new cases in last 7 days*	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in last 7 days (%)	Change in new deaths in last 7 days*	Cumulative death (%)	Test Positivity Rate Last 7DMA
Bangladesh	6 659 (3.3%)	-14%	517 920 (4.3%)	161 (4.7%)	-11%	7 670 (4.2%)	7.8%
Bhutan	98 (0.1%)	-38%	734 (0.1%)	0 (0%)	0%	0 (0%)	0.6%
DPR Korea	0 (0%)	0%	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0%	0 (0%)	
India	132 541 (64.4%)	-11%	10 356 844 (85.5%)	1 697 (48.9%)	-17%	149 850 (80.8%)	2%
Indonesia	52 426 (25.5%)	7%	779 548 (6.5%)	1 406 (40.5%)	-3%	23 109 (12.5%)	23.4%
Maldives	239 (0.2%)	43%	13 930 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0%	48 (0.1%)	1.3%
Myanmar	4 429 (2.2%)	-28%	127 582 (1.1%)	129 (3.8%)	-25%	2 766 (1.5%)	3.4%
Nepal	3 236 (1.6%)	-25%	262 784 (2.2%)	53 (1.6%)	26%	1 893 (1.1%)	9.4%
Sri Lanka	3 663 (1.8%)	-9%	45 726 (0.4%)	23 (0.7%)	109%	217 (0.2%)	5%
Thailand	2 526 (1.3%)	249%	8 966 (0.1%)	4 (0.2%)	300%	65 (0.1%)	1%
Timor-Leste	5 (0.1%)	-55%	49 (0.1%)	0 (0%)	0%	0 (0%)	28.8%
<b>SEAR Total</b>	<b>205 822 (100%)</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>12 114 083 (100%)</b>	<b>3 473 (100%)</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>185 618 (100%)</b>	

\*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior.



## Operational update

### Key updates

#### Points of entry, international travel, and transport:

- All Points of Entry (PoEs) are closed with some exemption on visa restriction for certain criteria. Quarantine is required by all Member States except Maldives
- Bangladesh: Mandatory institutional quarantine for 14 Days for passengers coming to Bangladesh from United Kingdom (directly or through any intermediate points) and required to submit a RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative certificate within 72 hours of departure
- India: Suspension of all flights from United Kingdom temporarily from 23 December until 7 January
- Indonesia: Temporary closure of international border for foreign nationals; exemption to diplomatic and official visas holders
- Myanmar: Travel ban on residents of United Kingdom and travellers who visited United Kingdom within 14 days
- Nepal: All passengers from United Kingdom as the first port or transit are restricted to enter until further notice
- Timor Leste: Temporary closure of airports, ports and land borders till 7 January 2021 with exceptions on diplomatic or consular personnel

#### Infection prevention and control:

- WHO SEARO provided regional inputs for infection prevention and control during COVID-19 vaccination
- WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) and Health Systems Department (HSD) discussed and worked on operational plan for 2021

#### Case management:

- Ongoing preparations for virtual 'Regional meeting on Influenza surveillance & monitoring SARSCoV2'- from 13-14 January 2021

#### Operational support and logistics:

- Facilitated urgent request of laboratory supplies for over 200 000 BGI's Real-time Fluorescent RT-PCR Kit to India
- Ongoing coordination with Immunisation and vaccine preventable disease (IVD) team on upcoming webinar on vaccines and supply chain management
- Diagnostics: South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) coordinated shipment and delivery (shipment pipeline) of 1 936 700 (537 780) tests of manual PCR, 260 000 (1 240 000) tests of Ag RDTs, 2 268 950 (1 927 814) swabs, 1 886 166 (732 984) of extraction kits
- Personnel protective equipment: 6 840 000 three-ply face masks, 2 125 500 (674 905) gloves, 555 000 gowns, 594 495 respirators, 85 510 goggles, 370 836 face shields and 30 000 biohazard bags have been shipped to the countries
- Case management: 106 units of Patient monitors, 760 units of oxygen concentrators, 250 units of pulse oximeter, 110 infrared thermometers and 610 venturi mask were shipped and others in pipeline

## Key country updates

### Bangladesh

- In the reported week (14-20 December), the number of new weekly cases compared to previous week decreased by 18.5% (6 871 in week 53 and 8 435 in week 52) and deaths increased by 1.2% (174 and 172 respectively)
- Of 516 019 total confirmed cases – 45% cases were confirmed in people between 20-39 years of age however, the highest death rate of 43.6% was reported in the age group of 60 – 79 years of age. Male represented 71% and 76% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 4 January 2021
- Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) approves import of COVID-19 vaccine developed by University of Oxford in partnership with AstraZeneca and Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII)

### Bhutan

- Ministry of Health (MoH) started mobile flu clinic to improve accessibility and enhance the coverage of flu clinic services from 4 January. MoH to continue strategic screening in 12 districts where there are no COVID-19 cases. Ongoing random testing of 300-400 highly mobile individual like shop keepers, public transport drivers etc.
- Random testing was conducted in all the areas visited by infected people apart from contact tracing and testing their close contact. Primary contacts were advised for self-isolation and not allowed to come out even with movement cards
- No infection among the health care workers and no deaths due to COVID-19 as of 7 January
- Maternal and child health services are facilitated through hotline number, especially in zones that require travelling to health facility beyond one's designated zone
- WHO supported setting up two additional influenza clinics in Thimphu to test more people

### DPR Korea

- No reported case of COVID-19 as of 31 December
- Continuous surveillance is ongoing, samples are being tested for COVID-19 in 15 laboratories including 13 sub-national laboratories
- A total of 26 244 samples from 13 259 person were tested with reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at an interval of 10 days and all were found negative for COVID-19 as of 31 December. 770 persons were tested during the week from 25-31 December
- Travel restrictions have been imposed and all points of entry (PoEs) are closed for uncertain period

### India

- Steady decline in active coronavirus infections indicating adoption of COVID Appropriate Behaviour. 71 cases of new variant of United Kingdom in few States have been reported as of 5 January
- National Task Force on COVID-19 strategizes testing, treatment, and surveillance for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from United Kingdom
- Government gears up for roll out of COVID-19 vaccine with dry run for vaccine administration conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, and Punjab
- Consortium of 10 government laboratories release initial results of genome sequencing of mutant variant of SARS-CoV-2
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) recommends extension of temporary suspension of international flights from the United Kingdom to India till 7 January 2021. Resumption of flights to be done in calibrated manner under strict monitoring
- Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), has approved two vaccine candidates – Covishield and Covaxin for restricted emergency use. Covaxin is an “inactivated” vaccine which will be used as a “back-up”, only if the country needs extra doses

## Maldives

- WHO Director General and Regional Director held a discussion with Minister of Health on COVID-19 plans including vaccine deployment
- A new cluster of 41 cases emerged from Greater Malé Region, from a poorly ventilated wedding hall. More than 116 contacts were identified and quarantined
- 159 new confirmed cases were reported since last week as of 30 December
- Technical Advisory Group at Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) has announced a mandatory quarantine of 10 days and RT PCR test post quarantine for Maldivians and work permit holders traveling from United Kingdom
- The Ministry of Tourism has released a new guideline to increase and improve security measures at tourist establishment – in line with the technical guidance from HEOC and WHO. Random testing of resorts and tourist establishments staff for COVID-19 will be conducted, at least 10% of staff to be included every fortnightly
- WHO supported equipment to atoll hospitals– solar panels in 3 hospitals, 13 autoclave machines and consumables, laboratory and communication equipment to strengthen resilient health systems

## Myanmar

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) further extended the suspension on operations of international flights and temporary entry restrictions, which includes the temporary suspension of issuance of all types of visas and visa exemption services, until 31 January 2021
- Government has restricted the residents of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and travellers who had visited those countries during the past 14 days from entering Myanmar, effective from 31 December 2020 until further notice, to prevent the spread of the new SARS-CoV-2-variant
- Eight laboratories participated in WHO proficiency testing for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 organized by WHO in collaboration with The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programme (RCPAQAP)
- WHO supported infection prevention and control (IPC) items to States and Regions health departments to strengthen IPC

## Nepal

- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and Department of Health Services (DoHS) facilitated orientation training to over 350 health managers and supervisors for use of antigen-based tests at the community level. MoHP planned to perform community-based testing and surveillance in the hot spot areas across the country
- High-level officials visited COVID-19 hospitals to assess the situation and expedite the process of strengthening High Dependency Units (HDU), Intensive Care Units (ICU) and oxygen supplies
- WHO collaborated with the national public health laboratory (NPHL) for monitoring of quality standards of 11 designated COVID-19 laboratories through the national quality assurance program (NQAP)
- Ongoing technical support to 25 designated laboratories participating in the Royal College of Pathologists of Australia Quality Assurance Program (RCPAQAP)
- WHO provided technical support to National Influenza Center (NIC) for reviving the virus isolation facilities and preparation of manual as part of the quality improvement activities
- WHO has signed a joint agreement with UNICEF to strengthen community based surveillance, contact tracing, vulnerability assessment, infection prevention and control and home isolation in 3 provinces

## Sri Lanka

- The Peliyagoda and prison clusters are active. The total cluster size of Peliyagoda including sub-clusters is at 41 977 as of 6 January. The clusters have spread to all 25 districts in the country
- Ministry of Health (MoH) has initiated random rapid Antigen checking of people who are leaving Western province

- MoH provisionally accepted WHO's call for a proposal of monitored implementation of SARS-CoV-2 antigen detecting rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) to better understand field performance, acceptability, feasibility, cost-effectiveness and impact of these tests in resource limited settings
- Government to sign an agreement to secure COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility
- Government is gradually easing the restrictions - movie theatres were reopened to public from 1 January; schools to reopen on 11 January except for isolated areas and whole of the western province
- Points of entry (PoEs) will be open to all passengers from 21 January
- WHO supported an information and decision support system with IT equipment at the base hospital Homagama for COVID-19

#### **Thailand**

- Locally transmitted COVID-19 cases have been reported in 56 provinces
- The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) announced extension of Emergency Situation Declaration enforcement in all areas of the Kingdom from 16 January to 28 February 2021
- The Prime Minister has signed an emergency decree stipulating key measures – strict public adherence to DMHTT (distancing, mask-wearing, hand-washing, testing (temperature check) and ThaiChana application), travel measures and strengthening law enforcement for illegal migration
- CCSA revealed prevention measures in highly controlled areas, which comprise 28 provinces, and the maximum control with high strict measures areas in five provinces, namely Samut Sakhon, Rayong, Chanthaburi, Chon Buri, and Trat
- The Ministry of Interior has issued criteria to all Provincial Governors with regard to travel screening

#### **Timor-Leste**

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) reported five new cases in first week of January – taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 49
- All patients were in quarantine and admitted to the designated isolation and treatment facility. Further investigation and contact tracing are being done by the surveillance team as per the national guideline
- The President declared State of Emergency for 30 days effective from 3 January to 1 February 2021, following the request from the Government due to increasing number of COVID-19 cases
- The government announced closure of land and sea borders and stricter enforcement of preventive measures such as prohibition on gathering of more than 10 people, compulsory use of mask in public places

#### **COVID-19 funding and implementation**

- WHO South-East Asia Region consistently maintained 1st place among major offices, for both implementation (68%) and utilization rates (84% - totaling \$82.6 million) against distributed resources (\$98.8 million)
- Total distributed resources to South-East Asia Region stand at USD 98.8 million which is 56% of total COVID-19 operational budget (USD 175 million) for 2020. Additional fund amounting to USD 396 000 received last week and distributed to WHO Health Emergencies Programme
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 93% (USD 92.1/ USD 98.8 million) and remaining 7% (USD 6.65 million) distributed to WHO SEARO

## Feature story

### **The European Union and the World Health Organization join hands to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Maldives**

The World Health Organization country office for the Maldives (WHO), with financial support worth EUR 1 million from the European Union (EU), will help improve emergency response capacities in the Maldives to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

The support will focus on improving the management of COVID-19 cases. This will be done through provision of medicines, supplies and reagents to Hulhumale Isolation facility and Regional ICU facility and includes support to green medical waste management in selected facilities. Additionally, capacity building of critical care, case management and rapid response teams of the Hulhumale Isolation Facility, Regional hospitals will be supported. A regional ICU facility will also be established with this support. As a result of the aid by the EU, access to COVID-19 patients to isolation and ICU care will improve.

“The funding for the Maldives is another element of the EU’s global response to the coronavirus pandemic,” said Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives H.E. Denis Chaibi. “The EU partnership with the WHO and the Government of the Maldives will not just address the impact on the health sector but also pay special attention to vulnerable populations, working hand-in-hand with local communities. Strengthening response capacities of countries in the South Asian region is an important part of ensuring that we all recover from this crisis together. Green recovery is important to prevent future disasters. In the case of the Maldives which is a major tourist destination, not just the local population but also tourists from the EU and elsewhere may benefit from a better response capacity of the medical system.”













































“The support from EU has been very timely and efficient.” stated Dr Shushil Dev Pant, Acting WHO Representative to the Maldives, “The support was much needed to operationalize the Hulhumale Isolation facility to meet the demands that come with higher number of cases, and to provide the best possible care for severe cases. The provision of life saving equipment and training critical team will improve recoveries.” “WHO and the EU are major partners in health development and pandemic preparedness and response in WHO South East Asia Region and offer solidarity to support the needs of the health sector.”, Dr Pant added, “WHO is optimistic that the support we have brought to

Maldives will help strengthen the Health System in the country and help current pandemic response as well as health care in future.” His Excellency Minister for Health, Ahmed Naseem welcomed the EU contribution to the Maldives via WHO during his remarks. ““WHO as a partner has been working very closely with us and I would like to extend my warm appreciation to the Director General of WHO, Madam Regional Director, former and acting WHO Representatives for the continuous support and assistance in COVID-19 response and management efforts,”.

“Success in controlling the spread of COVID-19 in Maldives is mainly due to the assistance of WHO as well as partners such as the EU and neighboring countries. I thank all of you for your kindness and for the help that you’ve rendered.” he stated.

Link: <https://www.who.int/maldives/news/detail/04-01-2021-the-european-union-and-the-world-health-organization-join-hands-to-mitigate-the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-the-maldives>

# Public Health and Social Measure (31 December 2020 to 07 January 2021)

Member State	Movement restriction	Public transport (Inter province movement)	School measures	Public gathering	Mask use
<b>Bangladesh</b>	None 	Resumed 		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Bhutan</b>	Partial  (Phased unlocking from 6 January 21)	Restricted 		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>DPR Korea</b>	Partial 	Restricted 		Ban  >5	Mandatory
<b>India</b>	Partial  (Local authorities to decide on restrictions in areas other than containment zones)	Restricted* 	 (Schools reopened in several states from 1 January 2021)	 (Ban >100 indoor gatherings; vary across States)	Mandatory
<b>Indonesia</b>	Partial 	Restricted* 	 (Vary across provinces)	 (Requirements vary across Provinces)	Mandatory
<b>Maldives</b> (Emergency extended until 4 January)	Partial 	Resumed 	 (Schools remain closed for grade 8 & lower)	 Ban > 15	Mandatory
<b>Myanmar</b>	Partial 	Restricted* 		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Nepal</b>	None  (Local authorities to decide on restrictions in specific areas)		 (Reopened in some Municipalities)	Ban  >25	Mandatory
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Partial  (Restrictions imposed in specified Isolation areas)	Restricted* 	 (Schools remain closed in western and Trincomalee province)	Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Thailand</b> (Emergency extended until 28 Feb 2021)	Partial  (Restrictions imposed at Samut Sakhon province)	Restricted*  (At Myanmar border)	 (Schools remain closed in all provinces)	Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Timor-Leste</b> (Emergency extended until 7 January)	Partial 	Partial  (Restricted until 7 January 2021)		Ban  > 10	Mandatory

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



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