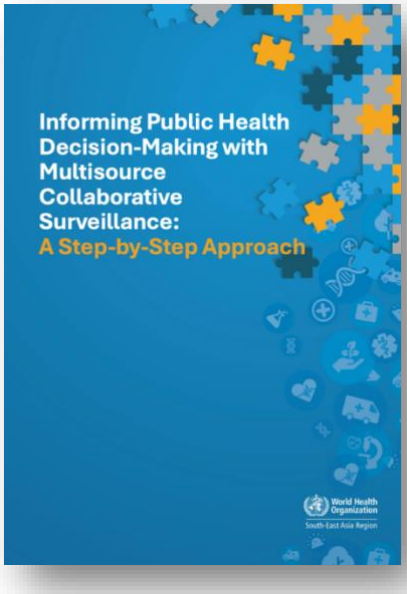
WHO South-East Asia Region
Epidemiological Bulletin

WHO Health Emergencies Programme
WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
16th edition (2025), 13 August 2025
Reporting period: 28 Jul to 10 Aug 2025

This epidemiological bulletin aims to provide the situation of key infectious diseases in the WHO South-East Asia Region to inform risk assessments and responses. The bulletin uses information from publicly available sources and will be published every two weeks. For feedback or suggestions, please write to seoutbreak@who.int.

Key events and updates

New publication: Informing Public Health Decision-Making with Multisource Collaborative Surveillance: A Step-by-Step Approach [1]



- Managing health security threats require critical decision-making despite many uncertainties. One of the key lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies was that the decision-making needs to be informed by synthesis of multiple sources of information.
- Multisource collaborative surveillance (MSCS) is a systematic approach to using data from multiple sources to inform decision-making to manage health emergencies and public health threats. Key features include being decision oriented, multisource, collaborative, and systematic.
- To facilitate strengthening of MSCS, this manual proposes six steps, creating an inclusive and participatory process engaging relevant stakeholders.
- The core process of MSCS strengthening is thinking backwards, starting from what decisions have to be made to manage emergencies (decision-making questions), and then moving on to defining what information needs to be generated (surveillance objectives) and identifying how best to generate required information, addressing duplication and fragmentation (surveillance approaches).
- The manual is available at the following link: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290221104

New publication: A dual battle: rabies and snakebite envenoming in South-East Asia[2]

- Sustainable control of Rabies and Snake Bite Envenoming (SBE) requires a holistic approach across various sectors, with communities at the center. This includes human, animal and environmental components and broader factors such as housing and access to information and services, in a One Health approach.
- Development and implementation of effective policies and evidence-based decision-making are; however, limited by the absence of accurate, high-quality data. Cases for both diseases are often not detected or reported.
- This article presents current data on rabies and SBE and on progress, achievements and momentum for controlling and eliminating these diseases in the SEAR.
- This publication is available at the following link: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-wer10032-33-309-320

[1] World Health Organization. Informing Public Health Decision-Making with Multisource Collaborative Surveillance: A Step-by-Step Approach. [accessed 10 Aug 2025] Available from: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290221104

[2] World Health Organization. *A dual battle: rabies and snakebite envenoming in South-East Asia.* Weekly Epidemiological Record, vol. 100, nos. 32–33, 8 August 2025, pp. 309–320. WHO Reference Number: WER No 32–33, 2025, 100, 309–320

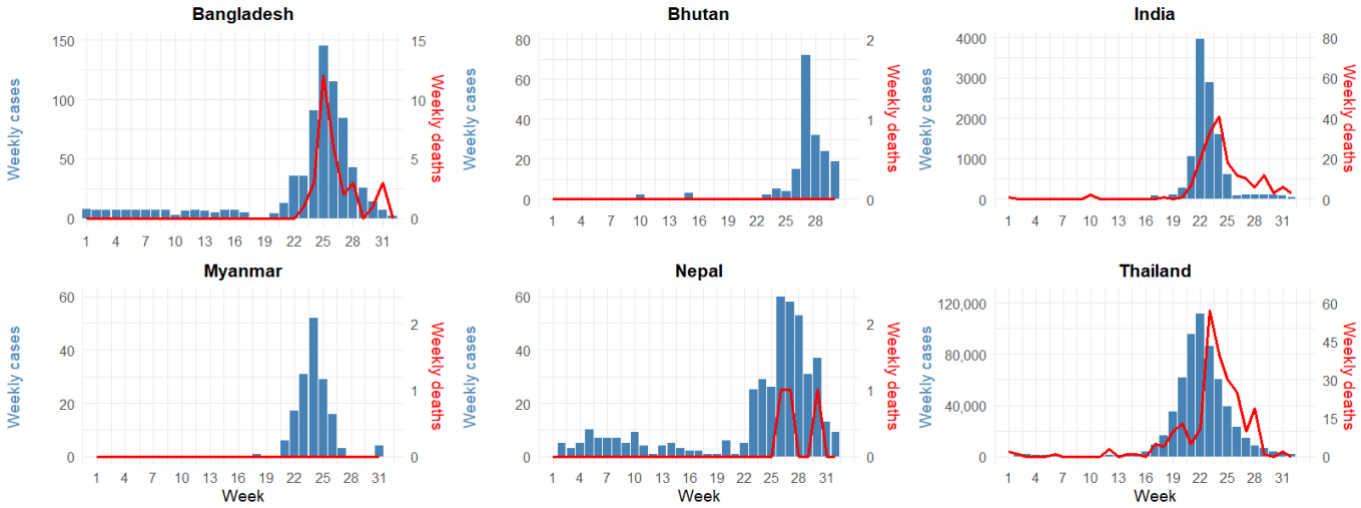
COVID-19

Situation in WHO South-East Asia Region

As of 10 August 2025

- Some countries in the Region recorded a surge of COVID-19 cases, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand, starting from week 17 to week 20 depending on country (Figure 1). An increase in COVID-19 deaths was also observed in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Thailand, following the surge of the cases.
- The case numbers appear to decline in most countries. Data of the most recent week (week 32) are not available from Bhutan and Myanmar.
- In week 32 (04 to 10 August 2025), Bangladesh reported a total of 2 cases [3], India reported a total of 42 cases and 3 deaths [4], Nepal reported a total of 9 cases [5] while Thailand reported a total of 1 513 cases [6].
- In week 31 (28 July to 3 August 2025), Myanmar reported a total of 4 cases [7].
- In week 30 (21 to 27 July 2025), Bhutan reported a total of 19 cases [8]
- The Region has recorded a cumulative total of 61 933 451 COVID-19 cases, including 809 318 deaths.
- Globally, 778 457 848 COVID-19 cases, including 7 099 371 deaths have been cumulatively reported, as of 27 July 2025 [9]. Please visit the WHO COVID-19 dashboard for the global situation of COVID-19.

Figure 1. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported from selected countries since week one of 2025 in the WHO South-East Asia Region (as of week 32)*



* Bhutan data as of week 30 and Myanmar data as of week 31.

[3] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. COVID-19 Dashboard [Internet]. Dhaka: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; 2025 [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/component/content/article?layout=edit&id=5612

[4] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. COVID-19 India Dashboard [Internet]. New Delhi: MoHFW; 2025 [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/

[5] Epidemiology and Disease Control Division Nepal. Available from: https://edcd.gov.np/newsroom/outbreak;

[6] Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Nonthaburi: DDC, MoPH; 2025 [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1176170881210400&set=a.309744487853048

[7] Ministry of Health, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Ministry of Health official website [Internet]. Nay Pyi Taw: MoH; 2025 [cited 2025 August 12]. Available from: https://www.mohs.gov.mm/; https://lookerstudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/c43b98f4-0b4c-400b-9457-ce76b2dcf8e3/page/uDFVC

[8] Bhutan, Royal Centre for Disease Control https://www.rcdc.gov.bt/web/

[9] World Health Organization (WHO). WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 [cited 2025 August 12]. Available from: https://data.who.int/dashboards/covid19/cases

- Based on data from the integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel system[10], Figure 2 summarizes weekly trends of eight countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste—highlighting number of positive COVID-19 cases, the percentage positivity and the number of specimens tested.
  - Test positivity has shown decline starting around week 24 (Bangladesh and Thailand), week 25 (India), week 26 (Maldives, Sri Lanka) and week 29 (Bhutan), and week 30 (Nepal).

Figure 2. COVID-19 update from the integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance system.

Source: WHO Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, 12 August 2025

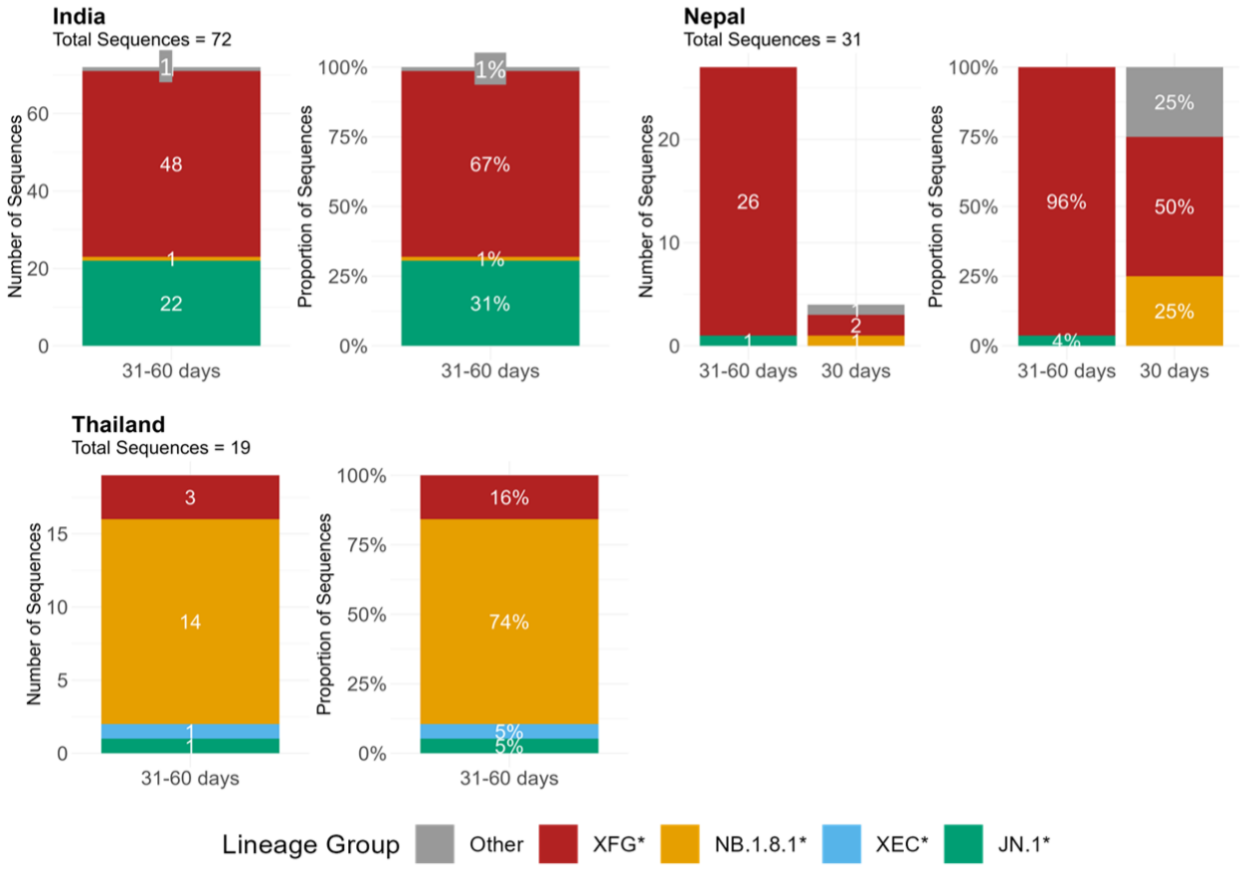
[10] WHO Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, 12 August 2025

SARS-CoV-2 variants in the South-East Asia Region

In the last 60 days:

- India reported 72 sequences into the GISAID with XFG* being dominant at 67% (48 sequences), followed by JN.1* at 31% (22 sequences) and NB.1.8.1* at 1% (1 sequences).
- Nepal submitted 31 sequences, with XFG* being predominant at 90%.
- Thailand reported 19 sequences to GISAID, with NB.1.8.1* accounting for 74% (14 sequences), followed by, XFG* at 16% (3 sequences), XEC* at 5% (1 sequences) and JN.1* at 5% (1 sequences)

Figure 3. Number and proportion of genomic sequences submitted - last 30 days and 31-60 days from India, Nepal and Thailand



Note: GISAID dataset accessed on 12 August 2025. The last submission was on 22 July 2025.

- As of 01 June 2025, WHO is tracking following SARS-CoV-2 variants and their sub-lineages: [11]
  - One variant of interest (VOIs): JN.1
  - Six variants under monitoring (VUMs): KP.3; KP.3.1.1; XEC, LP.8.1 NB.1.8.1, and XFG
- Initial risk evaluation of NB.1.8.1 and XFG were conducted and published [12] [13]. Considering the available evidence, the additional public health risk posed by both variants is evaluated as low at the global level. Current data do not indicate that these variants lead to more severe illness or deaths than other variants in circulation.
- Information on the status of the global SARS-CoV-2 variants can be found from the WHO COVID-19 dashboard.

[11] Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants. Geneva: WHO; [date unknown, accessed 17 June 2025].
[12] WHO TAG-VE Risk Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Variant Under Monitoring: NB.1.8.1
[13] WHO TAG-VE Risk Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Variant Under Monitoring: XFG

Influenza

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 12 August 2025 [14]

- The influenza sentinel surveillance data from WHO's FluNet and FluID platforms, extracted on 12 August 2025, illustrate weekly trends in laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, test positivity percentage, and the number of specimens tested across countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Bangladesh, India and Thailand show an upward trend in influenza activity in recent weeks, with increasing test positivity percentages. Maldives continues to show high test positivity (over 25%).
- For DPR Korea, data is not available in the recent weeks.

Figure 4: Weekly trends of specimens tested at National Influenza Centers (NIC) and laboratory confirmed influenza in the WHO South-East Asia Region (2025)

Source: Respimart/FluNet/FluID

[14] WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 [cited 2025 August 12]. Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs

Influenza virus subtypes and lineages Week 30-32 2025[15]

- Table 1 shows influenza virus subtype and lineage distribution across ten countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region for epidemiological weeks 30 to 32 of 2025, based on data extracted from WHO's RespiMart platforms on 29 July 2025. The last submission was on 20 July 2025.
- A total of 2 861 samples were tested across the Region, out of which 837 (29%) were positive for influenza. These were sub-typed, and results are shown in Table 1.
- Both influenza A and B strains were co-circulating across the Region, with variation observed among the countries.
    - In Bhutan India and Nepal, A(H3) was predominant.

Table 1: Distribution of influenza virus subtypes in the WHO South-East Asia Region (weeks 30-32, 2025)

Country	Total Samples Tested	Number of Influenza Positive	Positivity Rate %	A (H1) %	A (H3) %	A (H5) %	A (H1N1)2009 %	A (Unsubtype) %	B (Yamagata) %	B (Victoria) %	B (Lineage not Determined) %
All Country	2,861	837	29%	0%	56%	0%	17%	0%	0%	27%	0%
Bangladesh	906	589	65%	0%	50%	0%	15%	0%	0%	35%	0%
Bhutan	151	27	18%	0%	93%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	1,051	120	11%	0%	80%	0%	10%	0%	0%	10%	0%
Maldives	182	65	36%	0%	49%	0%	48%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Myanmar	1	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nepal	252	4	2%	0%	75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%
Sri Lanka	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Thailand	203	32	16%	0%	56%	0%	25%	0%	0%	19%	0%
Timor-Leste	115	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

[15] WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 [cited 2025 August 13]. Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs

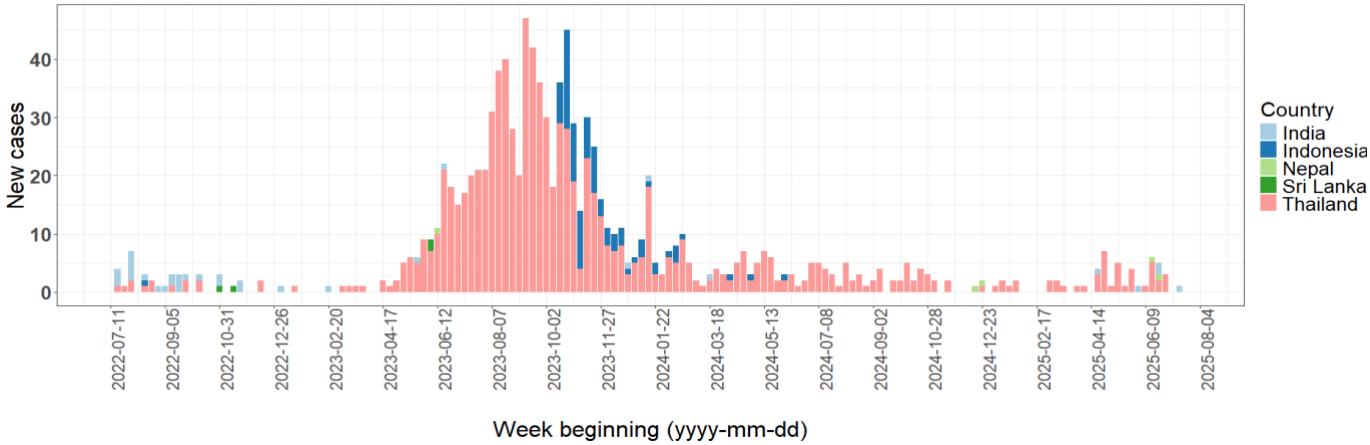
Mpox

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 10 August 2025

- From 28 July to 10 August 2025, no new mpox case was reported in the Region.
- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, a cumulative total of 1 055 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 14 deaths, have been reported between 14 July 2022 and 10 August 2025 (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 10 August 2025)

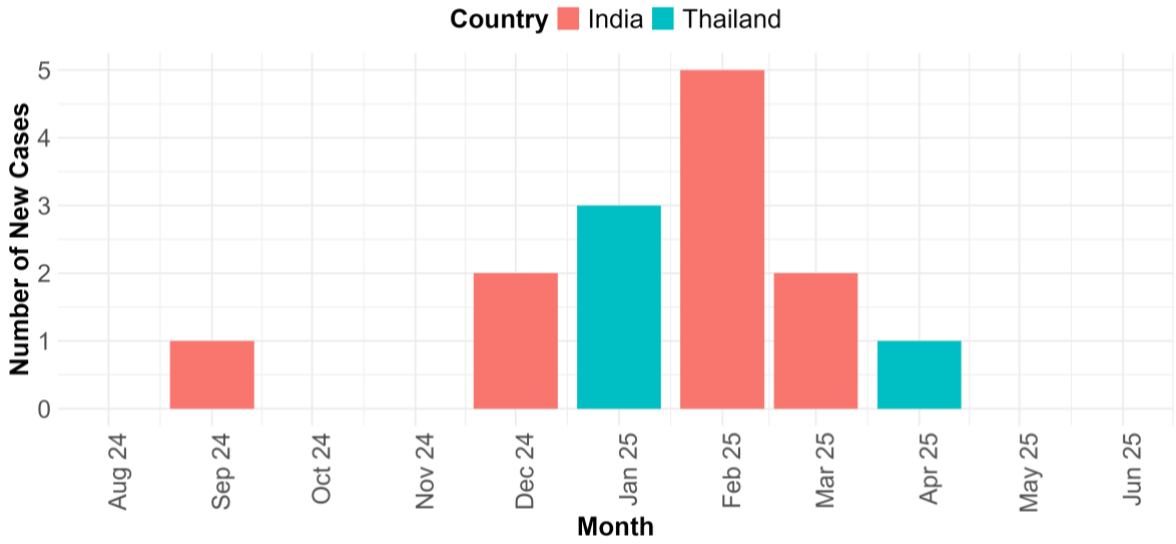


* Cases are plotted as per the week of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). For 16 cases in India of which the date of notification is missing, the date of diagnosis was used. Following the reassignment of Indonesia from the WHO South-East Asia Region to the WHO Western Pacific Region, data received after 27 May 2025 will no longer be reflected in the graph.

- As of 10 August 2025, 15 cases of monkeypox virus (MPXV) clade Ib infection have been reported in the Region. The monthly trend is shown in Figure 6.
- The profiles of MPXV clade Ib cases are summarized in Table 2. Of those 15 cases:
  - Ten cases were reported in India and five cases in Thailand.
  - Nine cases were male, and six cases were female.
  - Fourteen out of 15 cases reported recent international travel history.
    - twelve cases travelled from the United Arab Emirates
    - one case travelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo
    - one case travelled from Oman

- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see:
  WHO mpox surveillance dashboard

Figure 6. Number of MPXV clade Ib cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by month of notification (as of 10 August 2025) *



* Cases are plotted as per the month of notification (based on the date on which the case was notified to the public health authority). For 10 cases in India of which the month of notification is missing, the month of diagnosis was used.

Table 2. Profile of the 15 confirmed MPXV clade Ib cases reported in the WHO South-East Asia Region, for which case-based information is available since August 2024 (as of 10 August 2025)

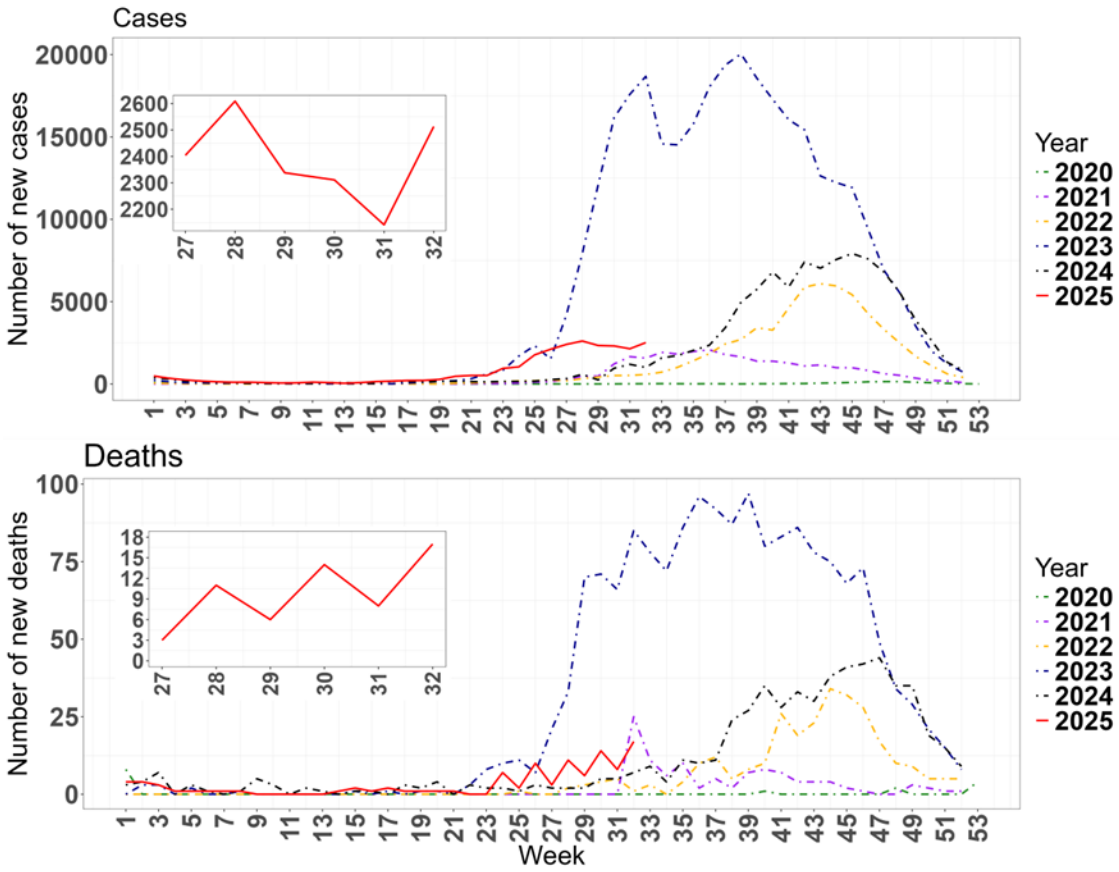
	Total (N=15)
Country	
India	10 (67%)
Thailand	5 (33%)
Recent International Travel	
No	1 (7%)
Yes	14 (93%)
Age Group	
Less than 18	0 (0%)
18-29	3 (20%)
30-39	8 (53%)
40-49	3 (20%)
50 and over	1 (7%)
Gender	
Female	6 (40%)
Male	9 (60%)

Dengue

Bangladesh [16] [17]

- During week 32 (04 to 10 August 2025), a total of 2 513 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 17.4% increase compared to 2 141 cases reported during week 31 of 2025 (28 July to 03 August 2025).
- During week 32, 17 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, a 112.5% increase compared to 8 deaths reported during week 31 of 2025.
- In 2025, as of week 32, a total of 24 872 dengue cases and 104 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 312.1% of the number of cases (n= 7 969) and 138.7% of the number of deaths (n=75) reported till week 32 in 2024.

Figure 7. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 32 of 2025



[16] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. Daily Dengue Status Report [Internet]. Dhaka: DGHS; 2025 [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report

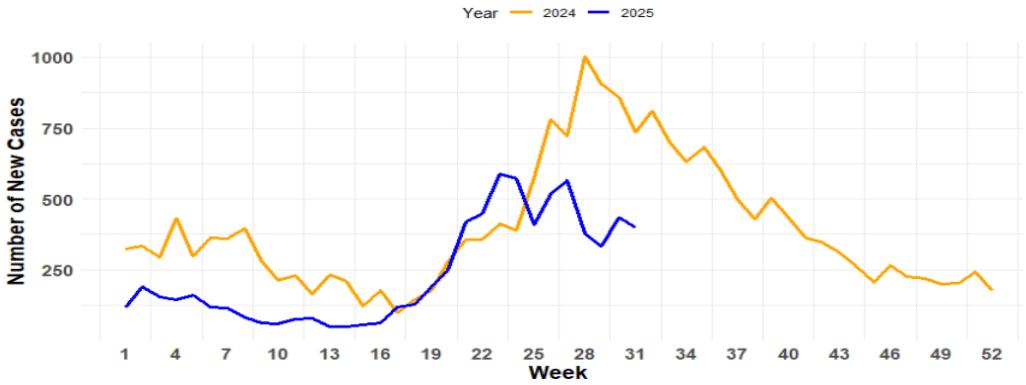
[17] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. Dengue Dynamic Dashboard [Internet]. Dhaka: DGHS; 2025 [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://dashboard.dghs.gov.bd/pages/heoc_dengue_v1.php

India

Kerala[18]

- In Kerala, dengue cases in 2024 started higher early in the year, with fluctuations until week 20, followed by a sharp rise that peaked at around 1,000 new cases in week 28 before steadily declining.
- In 2025, cases began lower than 2024 but increased steadily from week 17, surpassing 2024 levels briefly between weeks 23–25, before stabilizing at moderate levels.
- A total of 20 550 dengue cases were reported in the entirety of 2024.

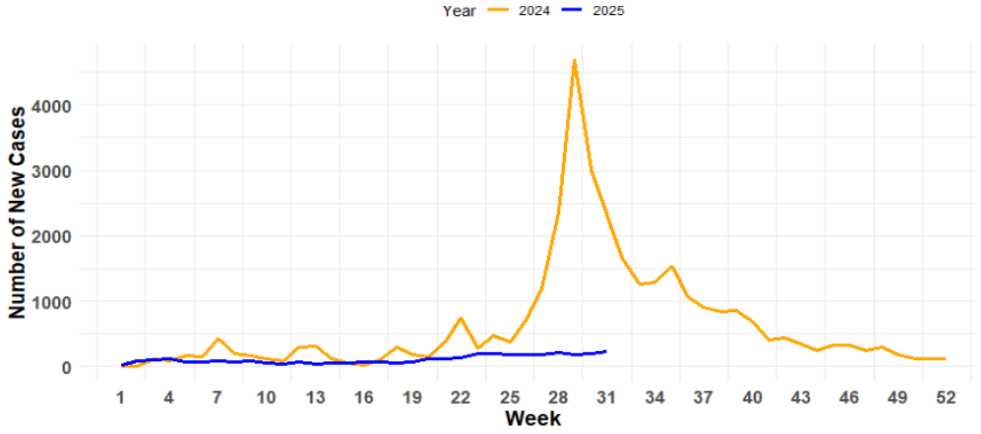
Figure 8. Number of new weekly dengue cases in Kerala state from week 1 of 2024 to week 31 of 2025.



Karnataka[19]

- In Karnataka, dengue cases in 2024 peaked sharply at over 4 500 in week 29 before declining but staying elevated until week 40. In 2025, case numbers have remained low and stable with no major spikes.
- A total of 32 789 dengue cases were reported throughout 2024.

Figure 9. Number of new dengue cases by week in Karnataka state from week 1 of 2024 to week 31 of 2025



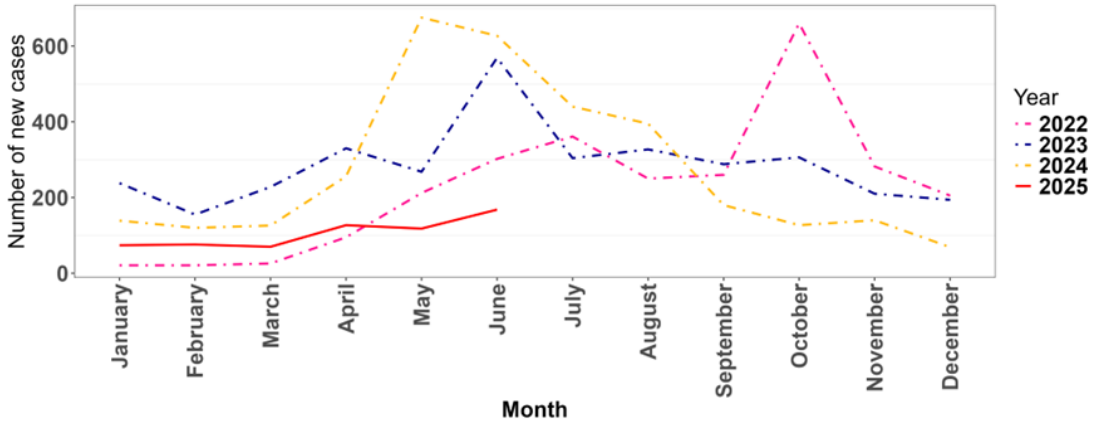
[18] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Health Dashboard – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) [Internet]. Thiruvananthapuram: DHS Kerala; 2025 [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://dashboard.kerala.gov.in/

[19] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. PRISM-H Disease Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Bengaluru: DHFW-GoK; 2023 [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in/info-4/Weekly%20Infectious%20Disease%20Report/en

Maldives[20]

- No update has yet been made publicly available for July 2025. During June 2025, a total of 168 cases of dengue were reported in the Maldives, a 42.4% decrease compared to May 2025 (n=118).
- In 2025, as of 30 June, a total of 633 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 1 943 cases reported during the same period in 2024. A total of 3 294 cases were reported throughout 2024.

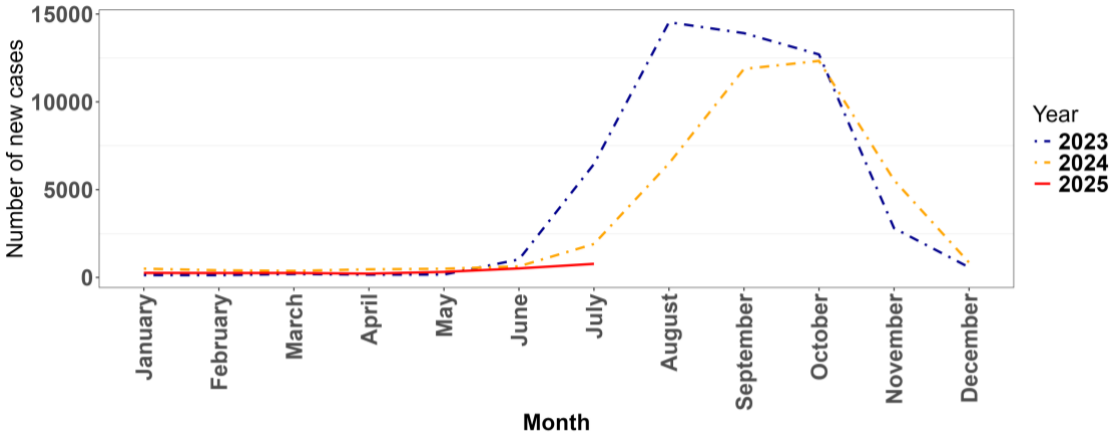
Figure 10. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to June 2025



Nepal [21]

- During July 2025, a total of 774 dengue cases were reported in Nepal, a 50.3% increase compared to June 2025 (n = 515).
- In 2025, as of 31 July, a total of 2 587 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 4 777 cases during the same period in 2024. A total of 41 865 dengue cases and 15 deaths were reported throughout 2024.

Figure 11. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Nepal from January 2023 to July 2025

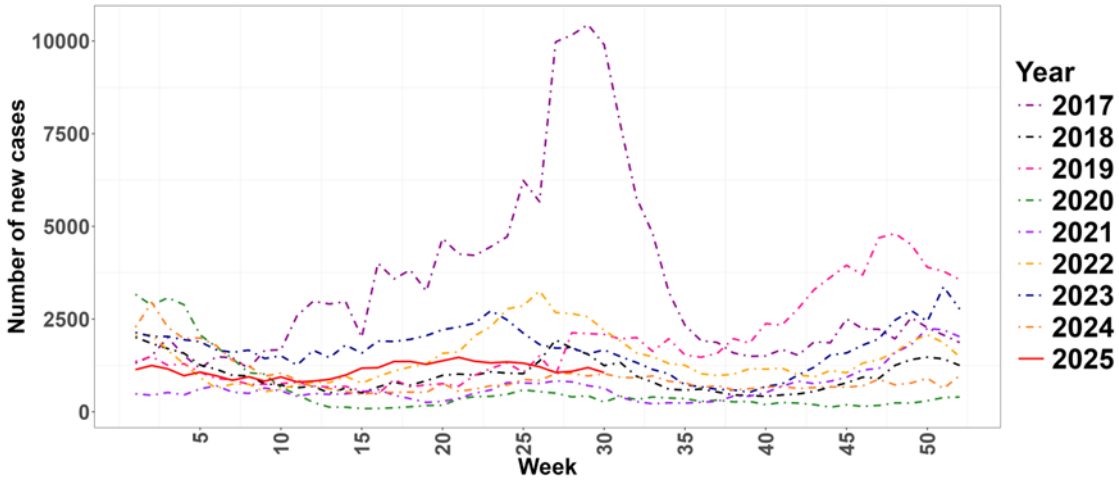


[20] SEARO Dengue X-Mart. [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://extranet.who.int/xmart4/SEARO_DENGUE
[21] SEARO Dengue X-Mart. [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://extranet.who.int/xmart4/SEARO_DENGUE

Sri Lanka [22]

- During week 30 (21 to 27 July 2025), a total of 1 058 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 11.4% increase compared to 1 194 cases reported during week 29 (14 to 20 July 2025).
- From week 1 to week 30 in 2025, a total of 33 796 cases were reported compared to 32 301 cases and 56 227 cases during the same period in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Figure 12. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 30 of 2025.



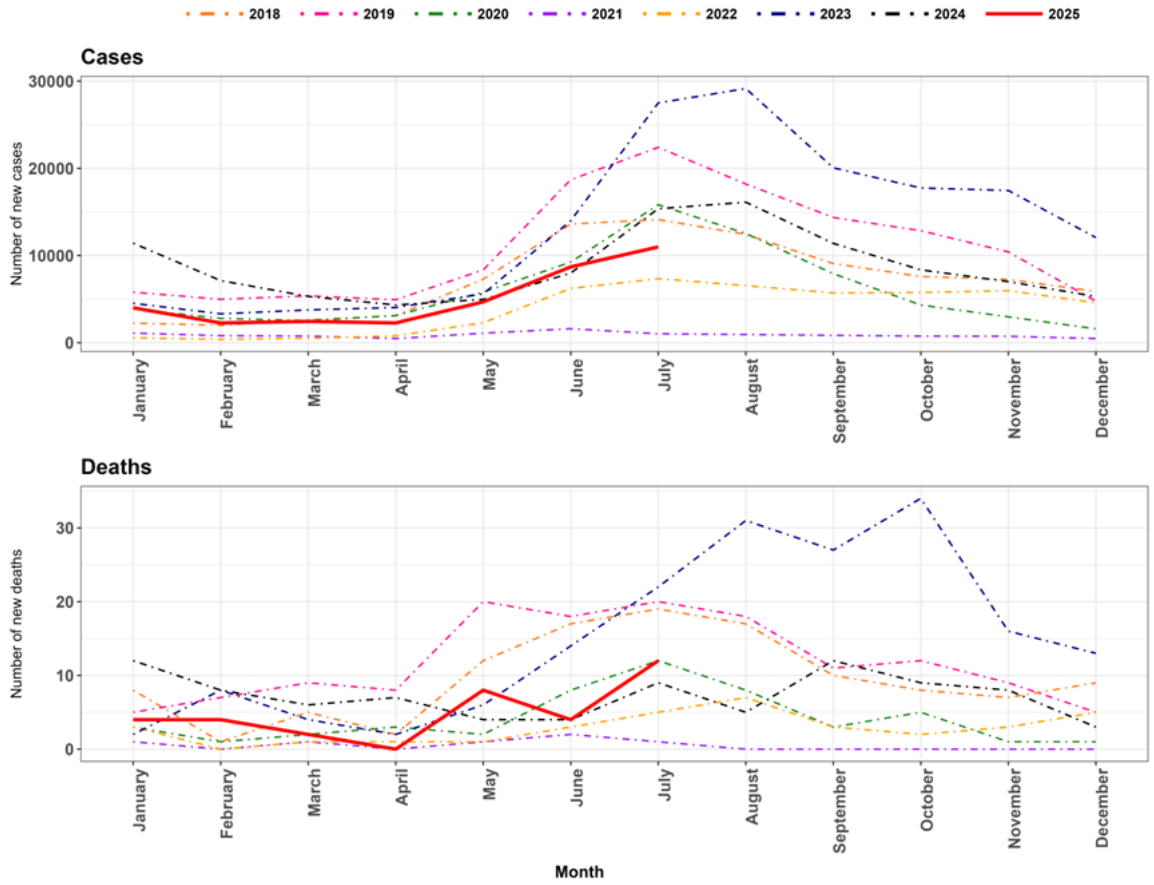
Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - 2017 to 2020; 2021 to 2025

[22] National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. National Dengue Control Unit [Internet]. Colombo: MoH; 2025 [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/

Thailand [23]

- During July 2025, a total of 10 987 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand, a 26% increase compared to June 2025 (n=8 697).
- During July 2025, 12 dengue deaths were reported, a 200% increase compared to June 2025 (n=4).
- In 2025, as of 31 July, a total of 35 359 dengue cases and 34 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 63% of the number of cases (n=56 509) and 68% of the number of deaths (n=50) reported during the same period in 2024.

Figure 13. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Thailand from January 2018 to July 2025.



[23] SEARO Dengue X-Mart. [cited 2025 August 11]. Available from: https://extranet.who.int/xmart4/SEARO_DENGUE

Annex

WHO resources on mpox

All current WHO interim technical guidance can be accessed on this page of the WHO website. WHO evidence-based guidance has been and will continue to be updated in line with the evolving situation and updated scientific evidence. The selected publications are listed below for easier reference, along with other relevant resources.

- **IHR Emergency Committee, Temporary Recommendations and Standing Recommendations**
  - Fourth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox 2024 – Temporary recommendations (9 June 2025)
  - Standing recommendations for mpox issued by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR)

- **Strategic planning**
  - Mpox global strategic preparedness and response plan (17 April 2025)
  - Mpox global strategic preparedness and response plan (26 August 2024, updated on 6 September 2024)
  - Strategic framework for enhancing prevention and control of mpox (2024-2027) (May 2024)

- **General information on mpox**
  - Mpox fact sheet
  - Mpox (monkeypox) health topic page
  - Mpox (monkeypox) Q&A
  - Monkeypox outbreak page (2022)

- **Epidemiological situation**
  - Dashboard: https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/mpx_global/
  - Multi-country outbreak of mpox. External situation report #56 (31 July 2025)
  - Genomic epidemiology of monkeypox virus (Nextstrain)

- **Technical documents**
  - Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for mpox: interim guidance (27 November 2024)
  - Considerations for wastewater and environmental surveillance for monkeypox virus: interim guidance (25 November 2024)
  - Technical Brief (interim) and Priority Actions: Enhancing Readiness for mpox in WHO South-East Asia Region (13 September 2024)
  - Diagnostic testing for the monkeypox virus (MPXV): interim guidance (10 May 2024)
  - Risk communication and community engagement readiness and response toolkit: mpox (23 April 2024)
  - Clinical characterization of mpox including monitoring the use of therapeutic interventions: statistical analysis plan (13 October 2023)
  - Smallpox and mpox (orthopoxviruses): WHO position paper (August 2024)
  - SAGE on mpox vaccines (page 16)
  - Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox: Interim guidance, 16 November 2022
  - Annexes to the Vaccines and immunization for monkeypox interim guidance
  - Background document for the SAGE October 2022 session on monkeypox vaccines

- **Data collection tools**
  - Case report form: Word, Case investigation form: PDF

- **Mass gathering**
  - Public health advice for gatherings during the current monkeypox outbreak
  - Interim advice for public health authorities on summer events during the monkeypox outbreak in Europe, 2022
  - Catalogue of resources on mpox mass and large gathering event preparedness