WHO South-East Asia Region
Epidemiological Bulletin

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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

India: Acute kidney injury among children

Situation overview as of 5 October 2025 [1]

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare :

- A cluster of cases and related deaths were reported from a Block in Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh. Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, through Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).
- A Central team of experts comprising epidemiologists, microbiologists, entomologist and drug inspectors from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Institute of Virology (NIV) and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) visited Chhindwara and Nagpur, and undertook a detailed analysis of the reported cases and deaths in coordination with Madhya Pradesh State Authorities.
- Various clinical, environmental, entomological, and drug samples were collected and sent to NIV Pune, Central Drug Laboratory (CDL) Mumbai, and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) Nagpur for laboratory testing.
- Preliminary findings ruled out common infectious diseases except for one positive case of Leptosprirosis.
- Nineteen medicine samples which had been consumed by children were collected from treating private practitioners and nearby retail stores. The chemical analysis so far indicated that out of 10 samples analyzed met quality standards, while a cough syrup 'Coldrif' contained diethylene glycol (DEG) beyond permissible limit.

Public health response [1]

- Regulatory action has been taken by Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the manufacturer which is located in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu. Cancellation of the manufacturing license has been recommended by CDSCO based on inspection findings.
- Risk-Based Inspections have been initiated across 19 manufacturing units in six States to identify systemic gaps and strengthen quality assurance mechanisms.
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare convened a high-level meeting with all States and Union Territories to review compliance with drug quality norms and promote the rational use of cough syrups, especially in paediatric populations.
    - The Union Health Secretary emphasized strict compliance with the Revised Schedule M [2] by all drug manufacturers.
    - States were also advised to ensure rational use of cough syrups, particularly among children.
    - States and Union Territories (UTs) were also advised to ensure enhanced surveillance, timely reporting by all health facilities (both government and private), wider dissemination of the community reporting tool of IDSP, and strengthened inter-state coordination for early reporting and joint action in the context of outbreak response and unusual health events.

[1] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. (2025, October 5). Union Health Secretary Chairs High-Level Meeting with States/UTs on Quality and Rational Use of Cough Syrups [Press release]. Press Information Bureau, India. https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2175135

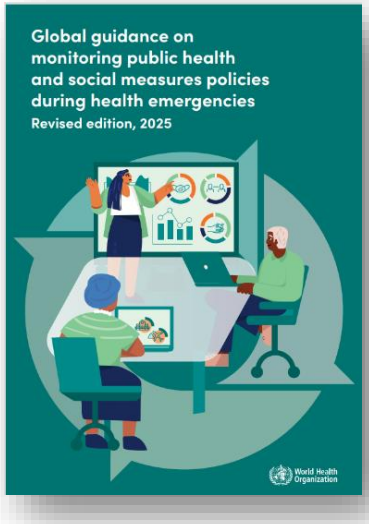
[2] Revised Schedule M is an update to India's pharmaceutical manufacturing regulations. It aligns Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) with international standards, aiming to ensure quality, safety, and efficacy in drug production.

Thailand: Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (SFTS)

Situation overview [3]

- In June 2025, two laboratory-confirmed cases of severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS) were reported in Wang Pong District, Phetchabun Province.
- Both patients lived in the same neighborhood and had a history of close contact with a pet dog.
- A large number of dog ticks were also found around the house. Environmental analysis revealed SFTS virus infection in 16 dog tick samples (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*), of which three ticks were found from the house and dog of the first case, and 13 from the dog of the second case.
- Prior to these two cases, one case of SFTS was first confirmed in 2019 in Thailand in Nakhon Pathom province, where the case kept dogs and cats and had a history of tick exposure.
- Later, a study was retrospectively conducted on RNA samples from 712 patients in Bangkok and nearby provinces who received treatment during 2018–2021. The study found SFTS virus infection in 3 additional patients: 2 patients from Bangkok (in 2019 and 2020) and 1 patient from Chachoengsao Province (in 2020).

New Publication: Global guidance on monitoring public health and social measures (PHSM) policies during health emergencies



- On 2 October 2025, WHO published global guidance on monitoring public health and social measures (PHSM) policies during health emergencies (revised edition 2025) [4].
- The global guidance aims to standardize and harmonize data collection on PHSM policies to support evidence-informed decision-making and strengthen both preparedness and response capacities.
- The guidance is intended for policymakers, health authorities, responders and researchers in multiple sectors and at various levels responsible for responding to public health emergencies and developing PHSM policies and provides key actions for PHSM policy monitoring in both preparedness and response.
- The guidance details standardized approaches and actionable steps for establishing and maintaining a robust PHSM monitoring system, a taxonomy of PHSM categories for coherent and comparable policy monitoring, and a process for consistent and transparent data collection.
- The guidance facilitates the availability of context-specific and real-time PHSM data alongside other key data sets drawn on during public health events for PHSM decision making.
- This guidance will be accompanied by flexible and customizable online tools.
- For more details, please access: Global guidance on monitoring PHSM

[3] Thailand Ministry of Public Health. https://ddc.moph.go.th/uploads/ckeditor2/files/DOE_alert_SFTS_15.072568_final.pdf
[4] WHO. Global guidance on monitoring public health and social measures policies during health emergency. 2 October 2025. Available from https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240114562

Disease Outbreak News: Chikungunya virus disease – Global Situation

- Disease Outbreak News on chikungunya virus disease- Global situation was published on 3 October 2025 [5].

Global overview

- Globally as of December 2024, current or previous autochthonous transmission of CHIKV had been reported from 119 countries and territories across six WHO regions.
- In addition, 27 countries and territories had evidence of established and competent *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* vector populations but had not yet documented autochthonous CHIKV transmission.
- Per available data from January to September 2025, 263 592 suspected and 181 679 confirmed CHIKV disease cases and 155 CHIKV disease-related deaths have been reported globally.
- While certain WHO Regions are reporting lower case numbers compared to 2024, others are experiencing marked increases. This heterogeneity in regional trends complicates the interpretation of a global increase.
- Instead, the data suggest localized resurgence or emergence in specific geographic areas. The region of the Americas has reported the highest number of cases followed by the European region (comprised of cases reported predominantly from French Overseas Departments in the Indian Ocean).
- WHO continues to call on all countries to strengthen their healthcare and laboratory systems to enable rapid detection, timely reporting, and effective response to chikungunya outbreaks.

Table 1. Number of suspected and confirmed CHIKV disease cases and deaths by region in 2025, as of September 2025

Region	Suspected cases	Confirmed cases	Deaths
African region	2 197	108	0
Eastern Mediterranean Region	1 596	67	
European Region	-	56 456	40
Region of the Americas	228 591	100 329	115
South- East Asia region	31 208	3 420	0
Western Pacific Region	-	21 299	0
Total	**263 592**	**181 679**	**155**

South- East Asia Region

- As of early September 2025, over 34 628 CHIKV disease cases, both suspected and confirmed, have been reported in the WHO South-East Asia region, primarily from India and Bangladesh.
- In India, between 1 January and 31 March 2025, a total of 30 876 suspected cases and 1741 confirmed cases were reported. The states reporting the highest number of confirmed cases were Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- In Bangladesh, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research between reported a total of 732 suspected CHIKV disease cases in Dhaka city between 1 January and 31 August 2025. Of these, 400 cases were laboratory-confirmed by RT-PCR.
- In Sri Lanka, a total of 151 confirmed CHIKV disease cases were reported from sentinel sites in Colombo, Gampaha and Kandy between 1 January 2025 and the second week of March 2025. As of 31 August 2025, the CHIKV disease cases continued to increase and peaked in June 2025. Over half of the reported cases were from the Western Province, with Colombo District alone reporting 33%.
- In Thailand, a total of 1128 CHIKV disease cases were reported between 1 January and 14 September 2025. Bueng Kan (142), Chiang Mai (411), and Loei (125) are the provinces reporting the most cases.

[5] WHO, Disease Outbreak News: Chikungunya virus disease- Global situation https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2025-DON581

Influenza

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 7 October 2025 [6]

- The influenza sentinel surveillance data from WHO's FluNet platform, extracted on 7 October 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.
- Thailand and Sri Lanka show an upward trend in test positivity which is 28% in both countries in weeks 38 to 40. Bhutan continues to show relatively high level of test positivity percentage at 28% in weeks 38 to 40.
- Bangladesh and Maldives have shown declining trend in influenza activity, with the test positivity percentage of 17% and 19% respectively in weeks 38 to 40.
- Myanmar and Nepal shows a low level of test positivity percentage (7% and 4% respectively in weeks 38-40).
- Other countries have either not submitted or submitted relatively a small number of samples in recent weeks.

Figure 1. 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

[6] WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 [cited 2025 October 07~~22~~]. Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs

Influenza virus subtypes and lineages Week 38-40 2025[7]

- Table 2 shows influenza virus subtype and lineage distribution across ten countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region for epidemiological weeks 38 to 40 of 2025, based on data extracted from WHO's RespiMart platforms on 7 October 2025. The last submission was on 21 September 2025.
- A total of 2 540 samples were tested across the Region, out of which 411 (16%) were positive for influenza. These were sub-typed, and results are shown in Table 2.
- Overall, A(H3) was predominant in the Region (58%).
  - A(H3) was predominant in Bhutan (93%), India (87%), Nepal (100%), Sri Lanka (64%) and Thailand (62%).
- B(Victoria) lineage accounted for 29% of influenza virus detected overall in the Region.
  - B(Victoria) lineage was predominant in Bangladesh (63%) and Maldives (61%).
- In weeks 38-40, DPR Korea had no submission; Myanmar had only three influenza positive samples.

Table 2. Distribution of influenza virus subtypes in the WHO South-East Asia Region (weeks 38-40, 2025)

Country	Total Samples Tested	Number of Influenza Positive	Positivity Rate %	A (H1) %	A (H3) %	A (H5) %	A (H1N1)pdm09 %	A (Unsubtype) %	B (Yamagata) %	B (Victoria) %	B (Lineage not Determined) %
All Country	2,540	411	16%	0%	58%	0%	13%	0%	0%	29%	0%
Bangladesh	711	120	17%	0%	25%	0%	12%	0%	0%	63%	0%
Bhutan	154	43	28%	0%	93%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	769	60	8%	0%	87%	0%	2%	0%	0%	12%	0%
Maldives	94	18	19%	0%	39%	0%	0%	0%	0%	61%	0%
Myanmar	41	3	7%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nepal	202	7	4%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sri Lanka	50	14	28%	0%	64%	0%	7%	14%	0%	14%	0%
Thailand	519	146	28%	0%	62%	0%	25%	0%	0%	14%	0%
Timor-Leste	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

[7] WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 [cited 2025 Oct 07~~Sept 10~~]. Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs

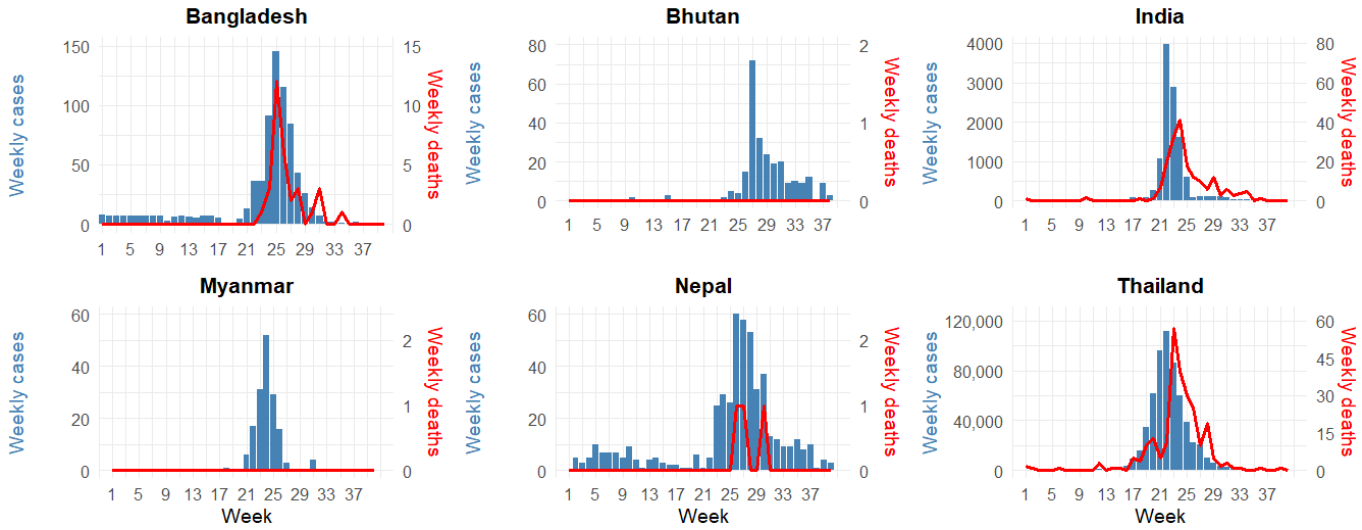
COVID-19

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 05 October 2025

- Some countries in the Region recorded a surge of COVID-19 cases, including Bangladesh[8], Bhutan[9], India[10], Myanmar[11], Nepal[12] and Thailand[13], starting from week 17 to week 20 depending on country (Figure 2). However, the weekly case numbers declined in all these countries.
- Data of the most recent week (week 40) are not available from Bhutan.
- Please visit the WHO COVID-19 dashboard for the global situation of COVID-19.

Figure 2. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported from selected countries since week one to week 40 of 2025 in the WHO South-East Asia Region *

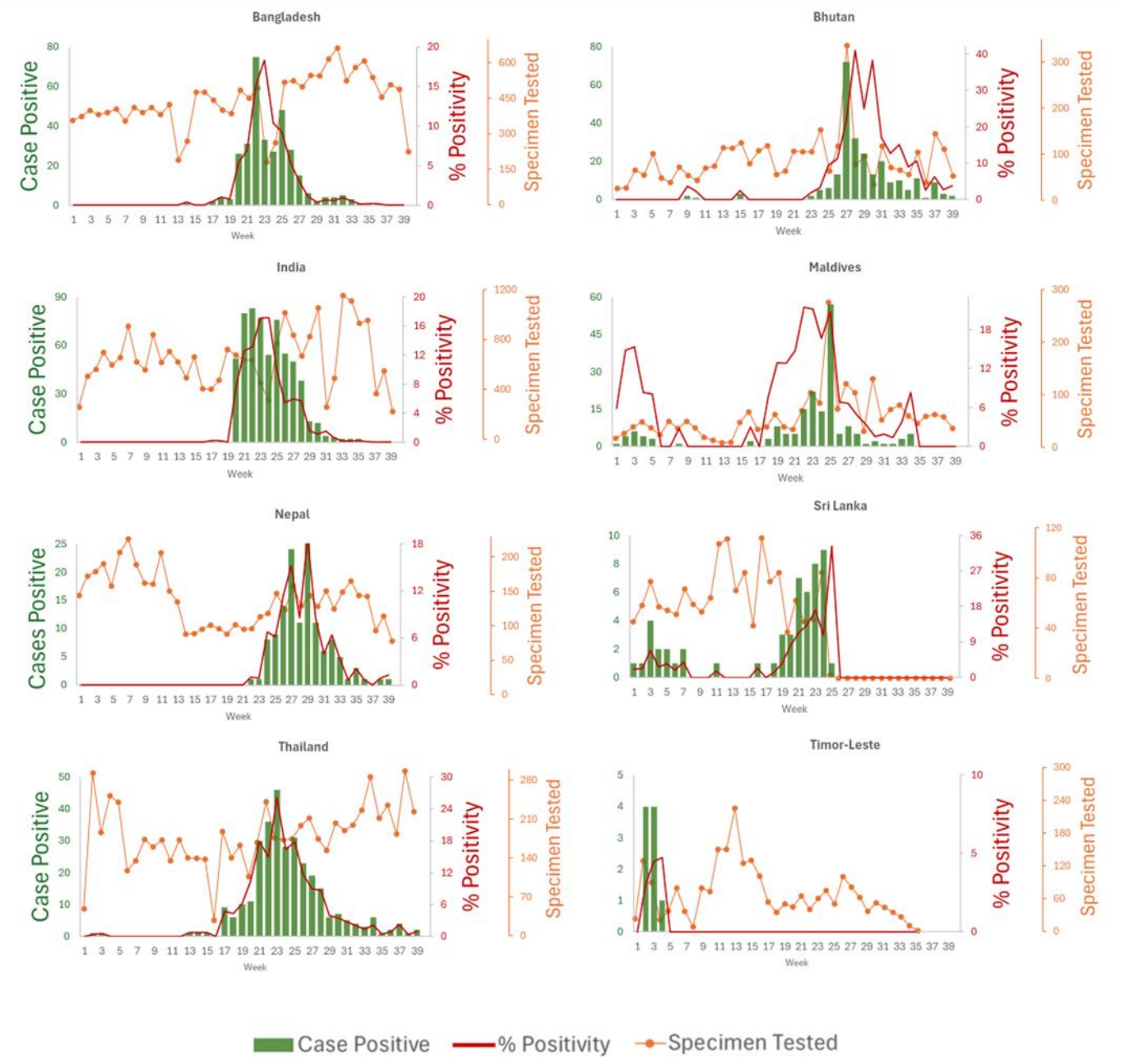


* Bhutan data as of week 38.

[8] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. COVID-19 Dashboard [Internet]. Dhaka: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; 2025 https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/component/content/article?layout=edit&id=5612
[9] Bhutan, Royal Centre for Disease Control https://www.rcdc.gov.bt/web/
[10] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. COVID-19 India Dashboard [Internet]. New Delhi: Available from: https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/
[11] Ministry of Health, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Ministry of Health official website [Internet]. Nay Pyi Taw: MoH; 2025 Available from: https://www.mohs.gov.mm/
[12] Epidemiology and Disease Control Division Nepal. Available from: https://edcd.gov.np/newsroom/outbreak;
[13] Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Nonthaburi: DDC, MoPH; 2025 Available from: https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1176170881210400&set=a.309744487853048

- Based on data from the integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance system, Figure 3 summarizes weekly trends of eight countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste— showing the number of positive COVID-19 cases, the number of specimens tested and the test positivity.

Figure 3. COVID-19 update from the integrated influenza-SARS-CoV-2 sentinel surveillance system



Source: WHO Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, 22 September 2025

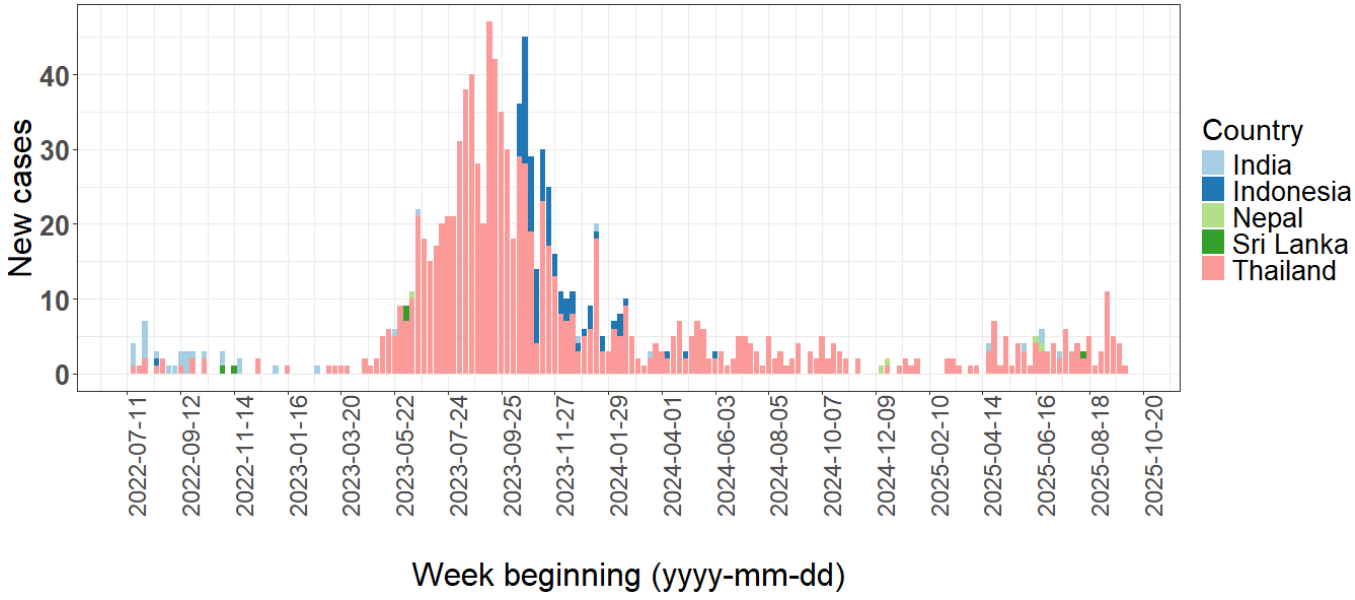
Mpox

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 05 October 2025

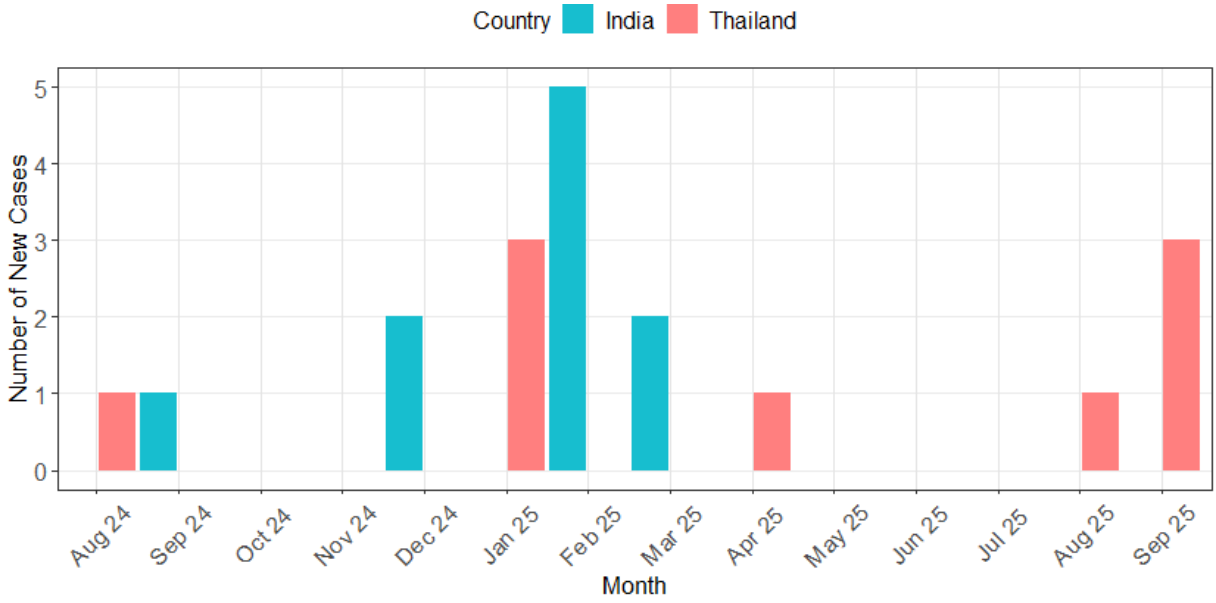
- In week 39 and 40 (22 September to 05 October 2025), four new mpox cases were reported from Thailand.
- As of 05 October, 2025, in the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 1110 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases, including 14 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 4).
- Three new mpox Clade 1b cases were reported from Thailand in September 2025.
- Nineteen cases with mpox virus (MPVX) clade Ib were reported in the Region to date – ten from India and nine from Thailand. Please see Figure 5 for the trend of MPVX Ib cases detected in the Region.
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see: WHO mpox surveillance dashboard

Figure 4. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 05 October 2025)



* Cases are plotted per week of notification - the date on which the case is notified to the public health authority.
** Where the date of notification is missing, this has been replaced with the date of diagnosis. Following the reassignment of Indonesia from the WHO South-East Asia Region to the WHO Western Pacific Region, data of Indonesia after 27 May 2025 will no longer be reflected in the graph.

Figure 5. Number of MPXV clade Ib cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by month of notification (as of 05 October 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 3. Profile of the 19 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 05 October 2025)

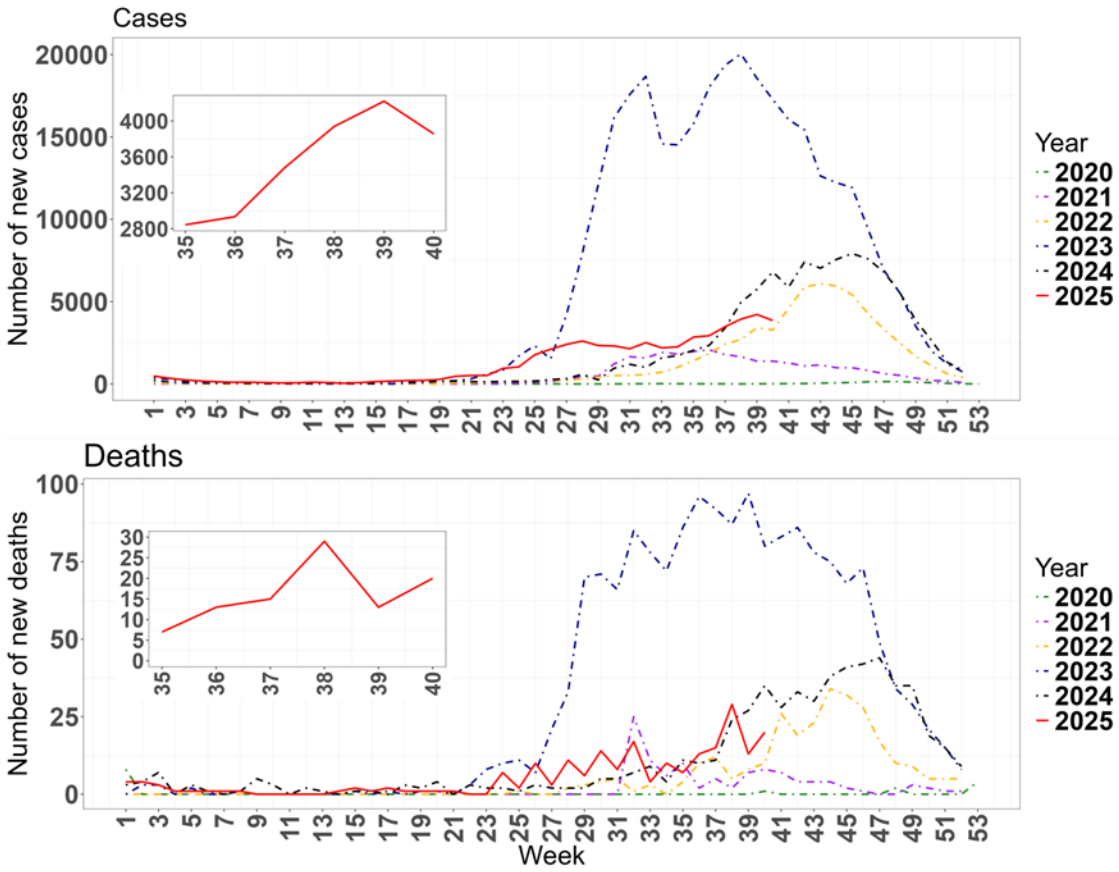
	Total (n = 19)
Country	
India	10 (52.6%)
Thailand	9 (47.4%)
Recent travel	
Yes	18 (44.4%)
No	1 (13.3%)
Age group (years)	
Less than 18	0 (0.0%)
18-29	5 (26.3%)
30-39	10 (52.6%)
40-49	3 (15.8%)
50 and over	1 (5.3%)
Gender	
Female	7 (36.8%)
Male	12 (63.2%)

Dengue

Bangladesh [14]

- During week 40 (29 September to 05 October 2025), a total of 3 856 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, an 8.6% decrease compared to 4 220 cases reported during week 39 of 2025 (22 to 28 September 2025).
- During week 40, 20 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, a 53.8% increase compared to 13 deaths reported during week 39 of 2025.
- In 2025, as of week 40, a total of 50 596 dengue cases and 215 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 138% of the number of cases (n= 36 590) and 104% of the number of deaths (n=206) reported till week 40 in 2024.

Figure 6. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 40 of 2025



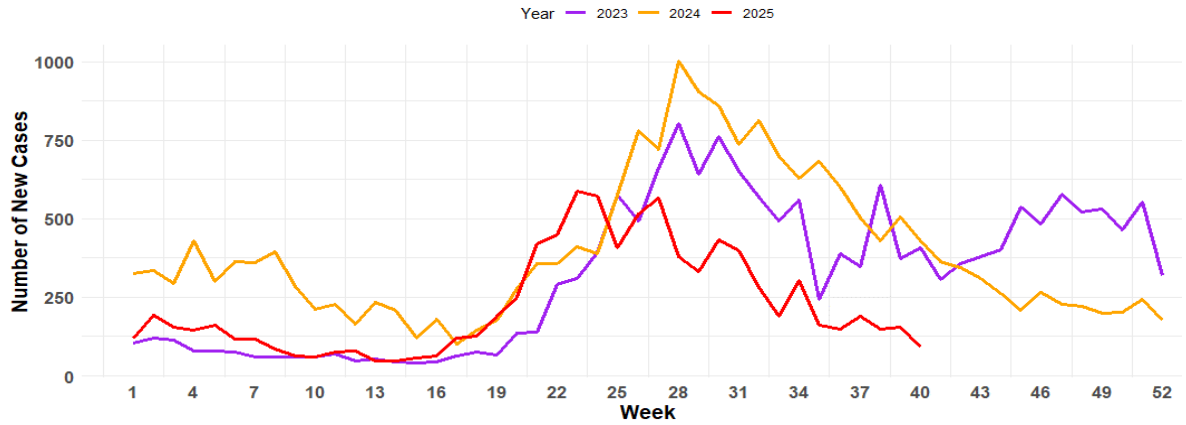
[14] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. Daily Dengue Status Report [Internet]. Dhaka: DGHS; 2025 Available from: https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report

India

Kerala[15]

- In 2025, cases increased steadily from week 17, but the case number has declined since week 27.

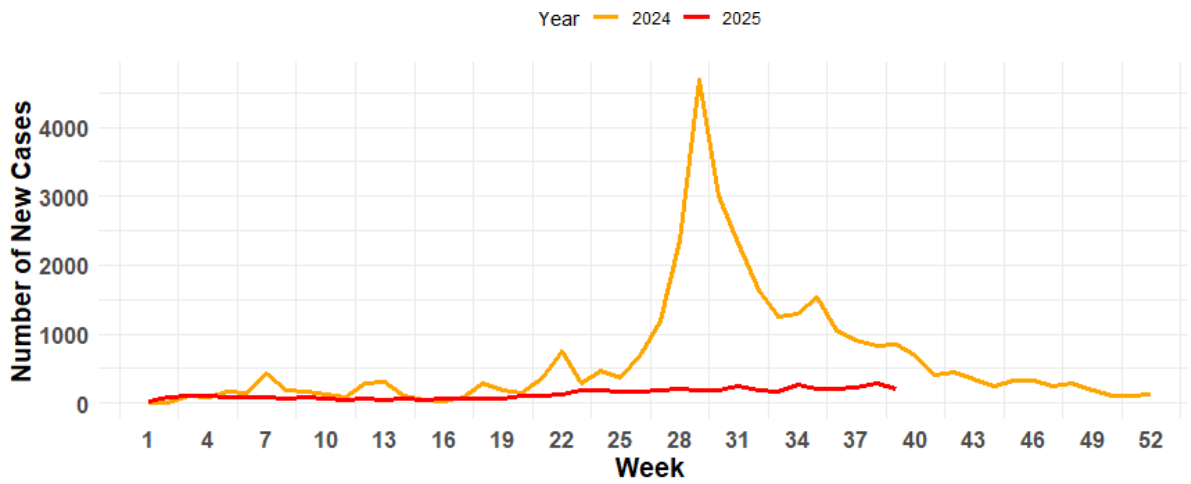
Figure 7. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Kerala state from week 1 of 2023 to week 40 of 2025



Karnataka[16]

- In Karnataka, in 2024, dengue cases peaked at over 4 500 in week 29, while in 2025, case number remains low as of week 39.

Figure 8. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Karnataka state from week 1 of 2024 to week 39 of 2025



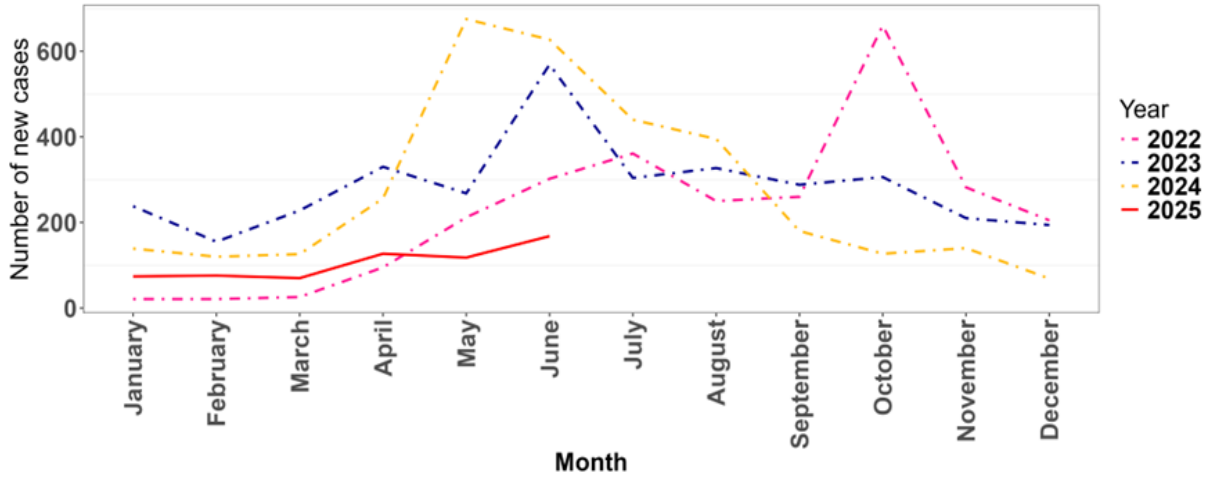
[15] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Health Dashboard – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) [Internet]. Thiruvananthapuram: DHS Kerala; ~~2025 Available~~2025 Available from: https://dashboard.kerala.gov.in/

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

Maldives[17]

- No update has yet been made publicly available after June 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.

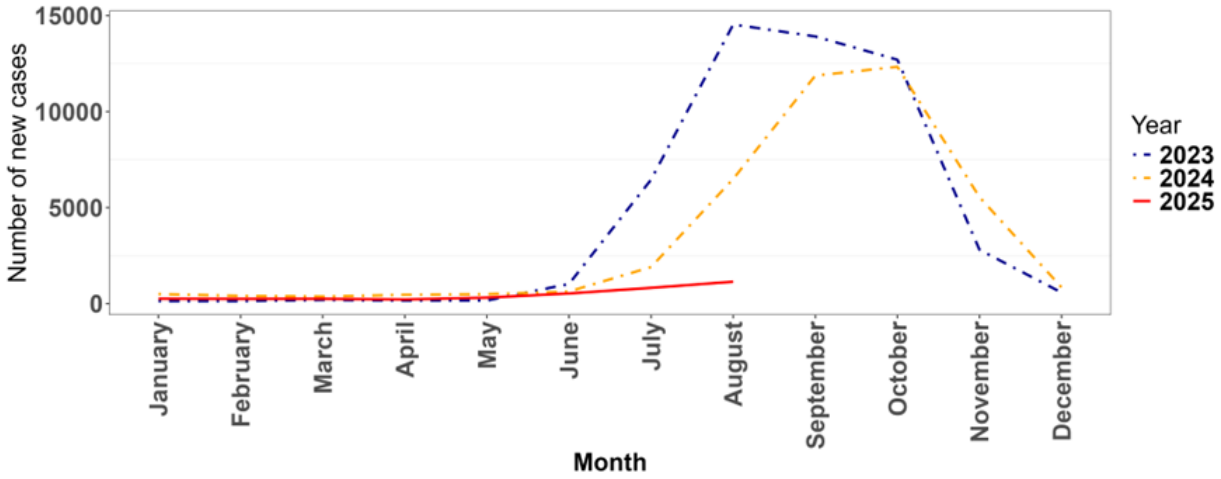
Figure 9. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to June 2025



Nepal [18]

- No update has yet been made publicly available for September 2025. During August 2025, a total of 1 143 dengue cases were reported in Nepal, a 38.7% increase compared to July 2025 (n = 824).
- In 2025, as of 31 August, a total of 3 789 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 11 270 cases during the same period in 2024. A total of 41 865 dengue cases and 15 deaths were reported throughout 2024.

Figure 10. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Nepal from January 2023 to August 2025

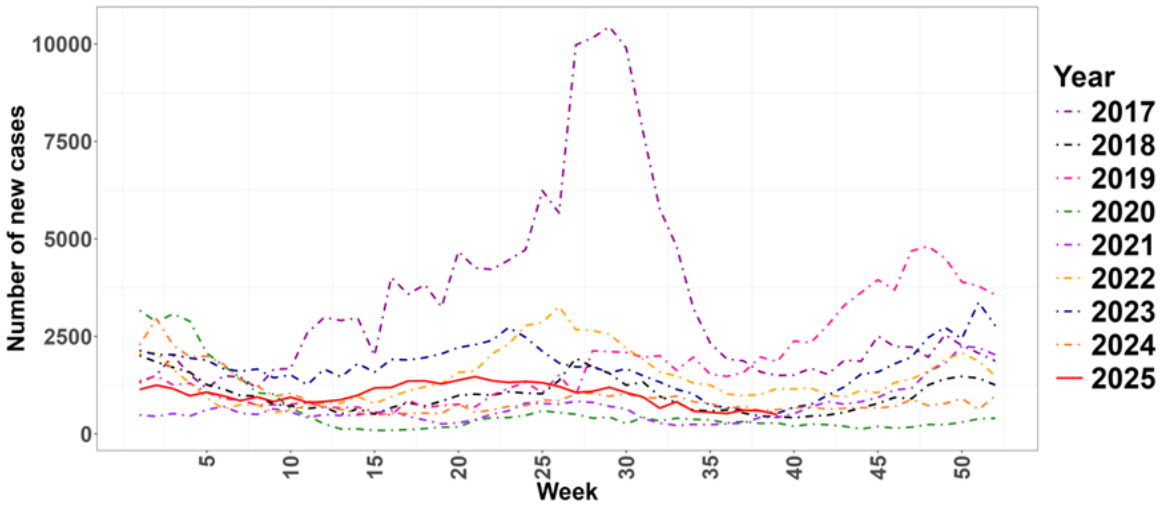


[17] World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/
[18] SEARO CDS

Sri Lanka [19]

- During week 39 (22 to 28 September 2025), a total of 494 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 16.4% decrease compared to 591 cases reported during week 38 (15 to 21 September 2025).
- From week one to week 39 in 2025, a total of 39 580 cases were reported compared to 39 302 cases and 64 342 cases during the same period in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Figure 11. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 39 of 2025.



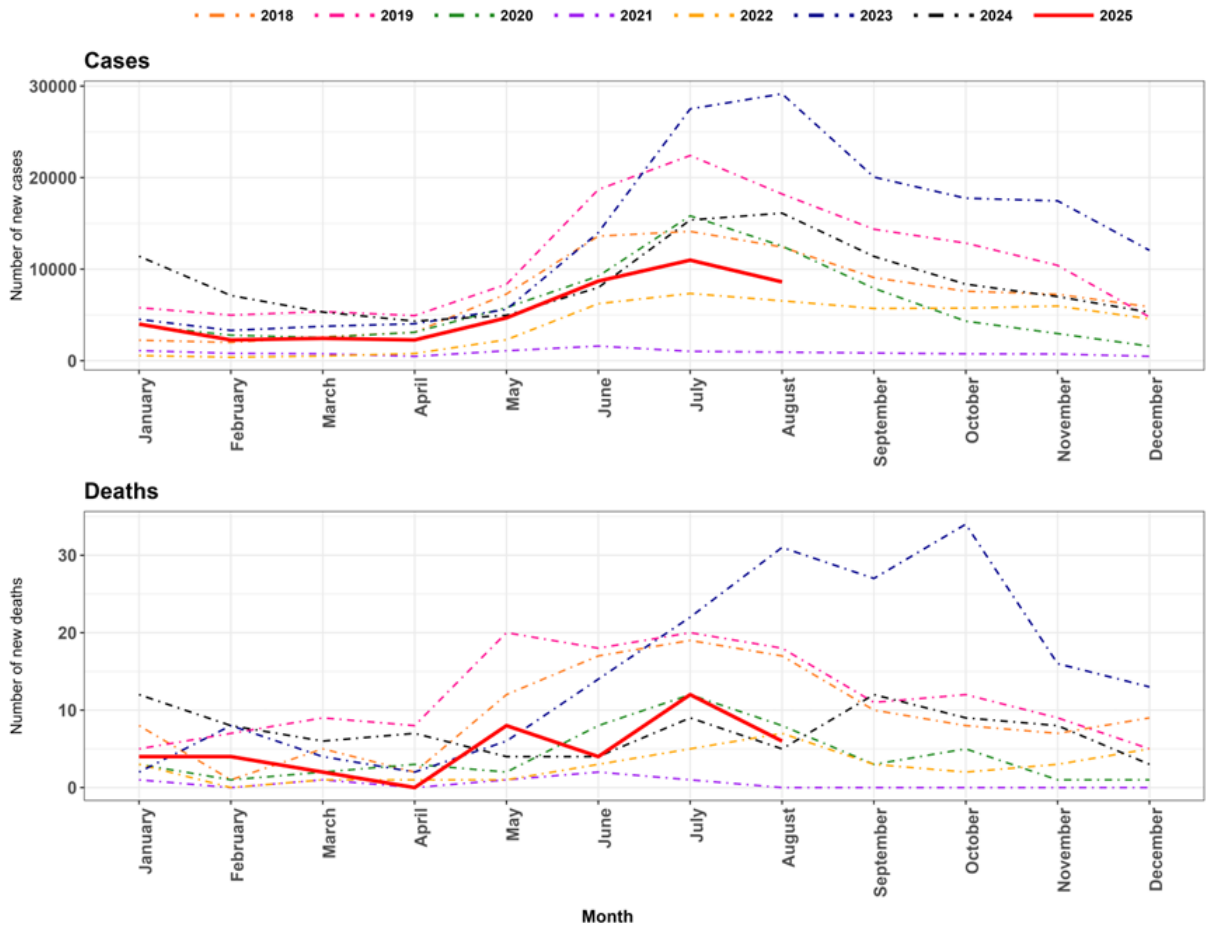
Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - 2017 to 2020; 2021 to 2025

[19] National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. National Dengue Control Unit [Internet]. Colombo: MoH; 2025 [cited 2025 October 06]. Available from: https://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/

Thailand [20]

- No update has yet been made publicly available for September 2025. During August 2025, a total of 8 610 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand, a 22% decrease compared to July 2025 (n=10 987).
- During August 2025, 6 dengue deaths were reported, a 50% decrease compared to July 2025 (n=12).
- In 2025, as of 31 August, a total of 43 969 dengue cases and 40 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 61% of the number of cases (n=72 628) and 73% of the number of deaths (n=55) reported during the same period in 2024.

Figure 12. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Thailand from January 2018 to August 2025.



[20] World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/