

WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin

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HEALTH
EMERGENCIES
programme



South-East Asia Region



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.

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Key events and updates

New publication: Sixteenth Meeting of the WHO South-East Asia Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group ¹

The WHO South-East Asia Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (SEAR-ITAG) serves as the regional forum for providing independent, evidence-based recommendations on immunization policies and strategies within the Region. Established by the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, SEAR-ITAG plays a central role in shaping the regional immunization framework, ensuring alignment with global initiatives such as the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) and the Regional Vaccine Implementation Plan (RVIP) 2022–2026.

SEAR-ITAG is composed of experts from diverse fields including programme management, communicable disease control, virology, epidemiology, immunization, and behavioural sciences. The group convenes annually, and as needed, to review progress, identify emerging challenges, and recommend strategic actions aimed at strengthening immunization systems and managing vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). Additionally, SEAR-ITAG provides timely technical guidance to support ongoing regional immunization efforts.



The sixteenth meeting of SEAR-ITAG was conducted in a hybrid format in New Delhi, India, from 16 to 18 September 2025. This meeting marked a critical milestone in the Region's immunization efforts, focusing on accelerating progress under the RVIP 2022–2026 and initiating strategic planning for the post-2026 period.

This year's meeting built upon the outcomes of several key regional forums, including the Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication (SEA-RCCPE), the Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination (SEA-RVC), the Annual Regional Working Group (RWG) meeting, and a special session of SEAR-ITAG held on 12 February 2025.

Taking place as the Region nears completion of the RVIP 2022–2026, the meeting aimed to:

- review national and regional progress towards RVIP goals;
- address ongoing challenges such as zero-dose children, subnational disparities, and surveillance gaps;
- initiate expert consultations regarding the next RVIP beyond 2026; and
- reinforce mechanisms for regional collaboration and accountability.

The meeting further addressed the evolving immunization landscape, shaped by resource constraints, shifting donor priorities, and the need for resilient health systems. Discussions demonstrated SEAR-ITAG's continued commitment to sustaining immunization achievements, advancing equity-driven strategies, and fostering innovation in service delivery, data management, and community engagement.

As a trusted advisory entity, SEAR-ITAG continues to guide WHO and its Member States in addressing complex immunization challenges—ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of universal vaccine access and disease elimination.

¹ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/sea-immun-177>

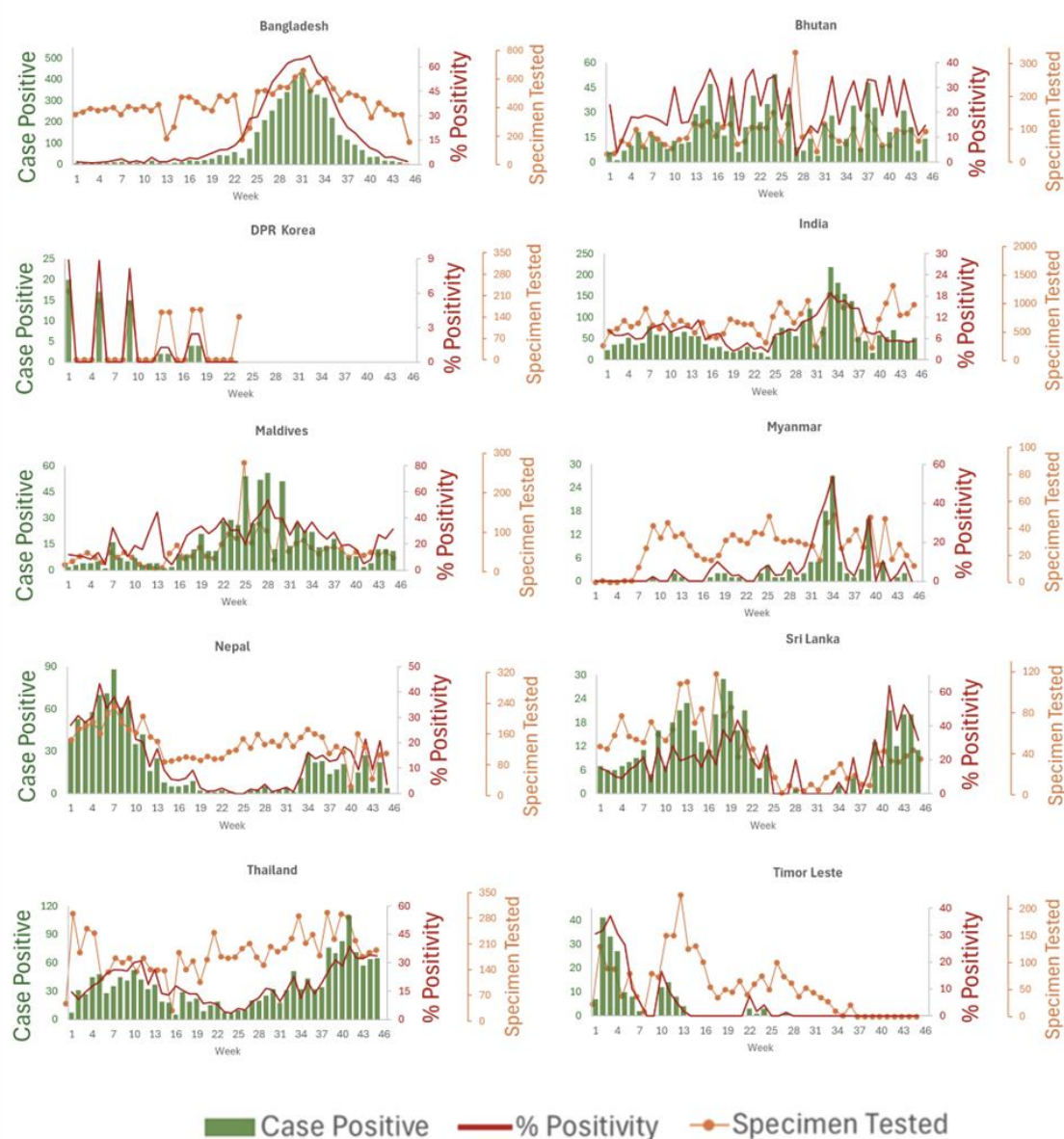
Influenza

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 18 November 2025 ²

- Figure 1 shows influenza data from WHO FluNet of the RespiMart platform, extracted on 18 November 2025.
- In the SEA Region, during weeks 44–45, there were 339 lab-confirmed influenza cases among 3 267 samples tested (test positivity proportion at 10%). Maldives (27%), Sri Lanka (39%), and Thailand (34%) show a high test positivity proportion during weeks 44 to 45.
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Timor Leste did not submit samples during the week 44 to 45.

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

² WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 cited 2025]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs>



Influenza virus subtypes and lineages Week 44-45 2025³

- Table 1 presents the distribution of influenza virus subtypes and lineages in ten countries within the WHO South-East Asia Region for epidemiological weeks 44 to 45 of 2025, using data obtained from WHO's RespiMart platform on 18 Nov 2025. The most recent data submission occurred on the epidemiological Week 45.
- A total of 3 267 samples from across the region were tested, and 339 (10%) were positive for influenza. The subtypes of these positive samples were determined, and the results are displayed in Table 1.
- A(H3) strain was predominant in the overall Region, and in Maldives (83%), Bhutan (76%) Thailand (75%) and Sri Lanka (68%).
- B(Victoria) lineage represented 24% of all influenza virus detected in the region, and high proportion was observed in Bangladesh (57%) and India (55%).
- It is important to note that 6% of the total influenza A viruses tested in the region were un-subtyped. The proportion of un-subtyped Influenza A viruses were 35% in Nepal. In other countries this proportion was in the range of 0-3%.
- DPR Korea and Timor-Leste have not submitted data to the WHO RespiMart platform during the epidemiological week 44 to 45. The number of samples submitted was less than the WHO-recommended standard of at least 50 samples per week at the national level, and only two samples were influenza positive.

Table 1. Distribution of influenza virus subtypes in the WHO South-East Asia Region (weeks 44-45, 2025)

Country	Total Samples Tested	Number of Influenza Positive	Positivity Rate %	A (H1) %	A (H3) %	A (H5) %	A (H1N1)pdm09 %	A (Unsubtyped) %	B (Yamagata) %	B (Victoria) %	B (Lineage not Determined) %
All Country	3,267	339	10%	0%	59%	0%	8%	6%	0%	24%	2%
Bangladesh	516	14	3%	0%	43%	0%	0%	0%	0%	57%	0%
Bhutan	160	21	13%	0%	76%	0%	0%	10%	0%	14%	0%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	1,798	93	5%	0%	35%	0%	9%	0%	0%	55%	1%
Maldives	85	23	27%	0%	83%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	0%
Myanmar	32	2	6%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%
Nepal	216	26	12%	0%	27%	0%	4%	35%	0%	12%	23%
Sri Lanka	79	31	39%	0%	68%	0%	0%	29%	0%	0%	3%
Thailand	381	129	34%	0%	75%	0%	15%	0%	0%	10%	0%
Timor-Leste	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

³ WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2025 [cited 2025]. Available from:

<https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs>

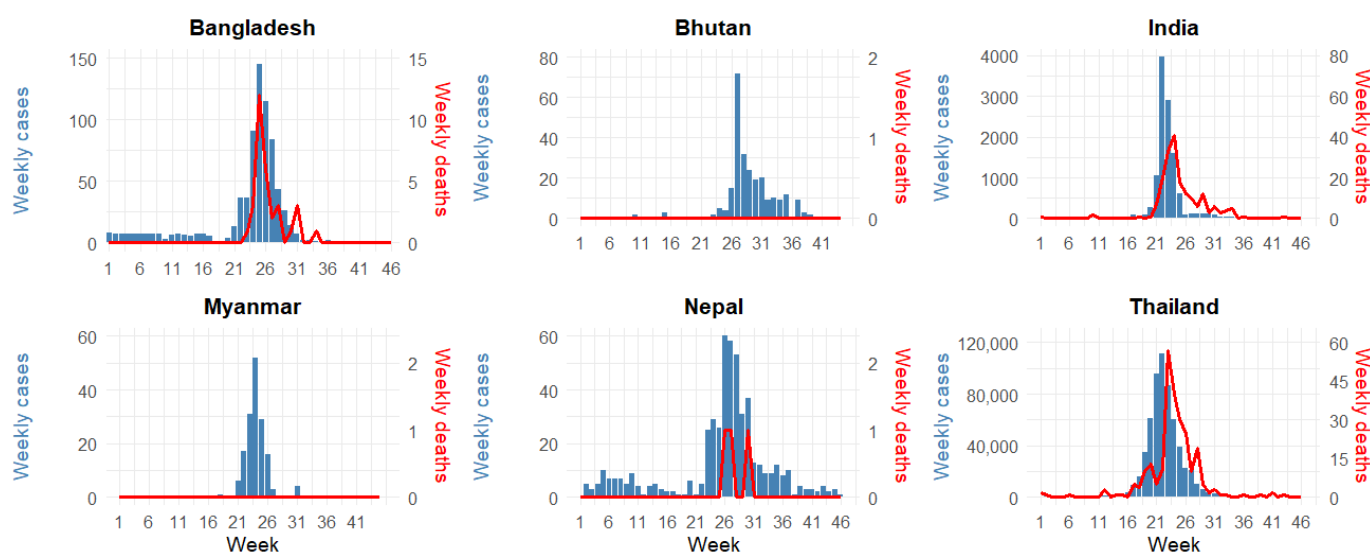
COVID-19

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 09 November 2025

- The weekly number of COVID-19 cases reported on official websites, including Bangladesh⁴, Bhutan⁵, India⁶, Myanmar⁷, Nepal⁸ and Thailand⁹, are presented in Figure 2.
- Data of the most recent week (week 46) are not available from Bhutan and Myanmar.
- 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 46 of 2025 in the WHO South-East Asia Region *



* Bhutan data as of week 44.

⁴ 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>

⁵ Bhutan, Royal Centre for Disease Control <https://www.rcdc.gov.bt/web/>

⁶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. COVID-19 India Dashboard [Internet]. New Delhi: Available from: <https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/>

⁷ 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/>

⁸ Epidemiology and Disease Control Division Nepal. Available from: <https://edcd.gov.np/newsroom/outbreak>

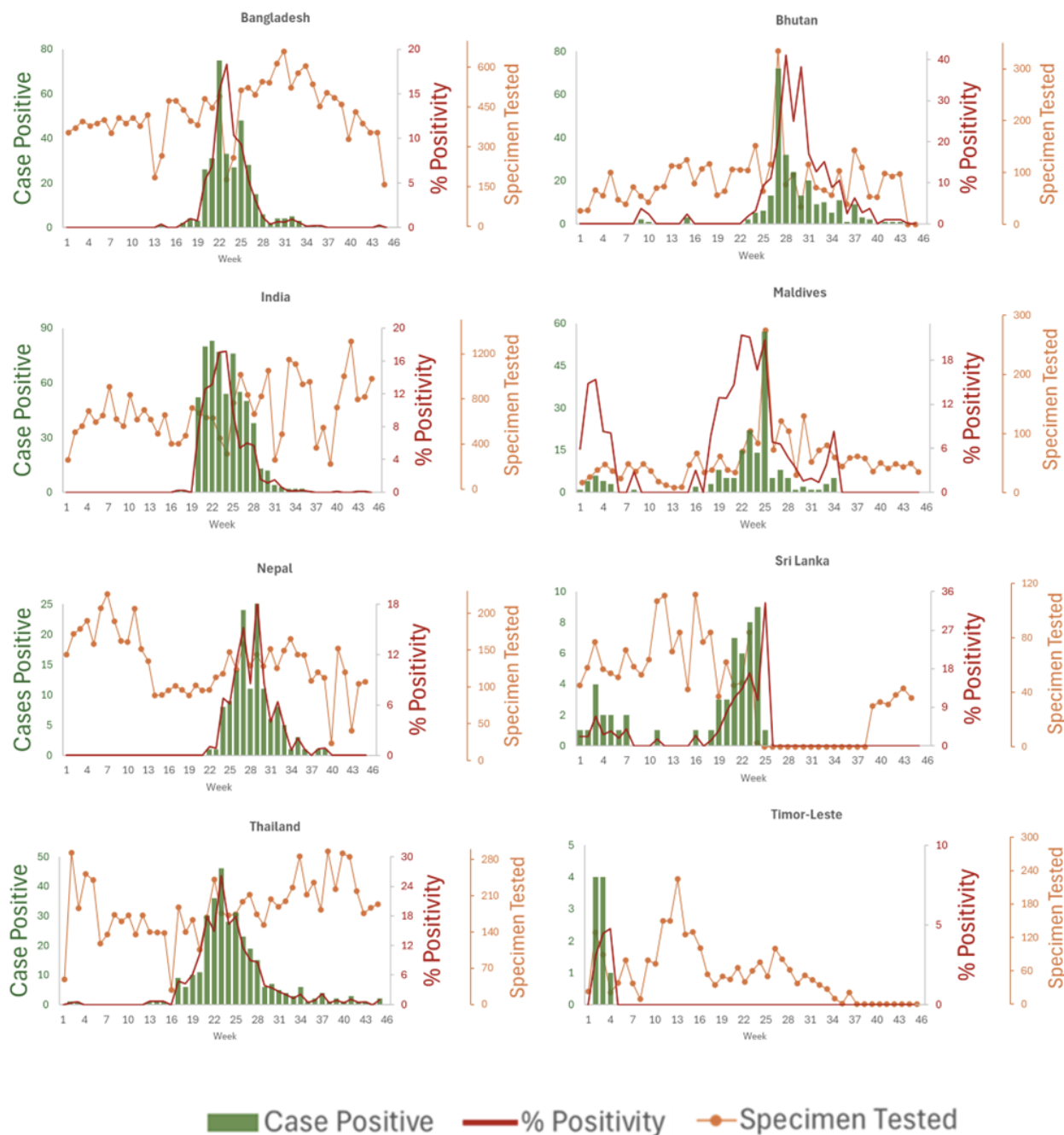
⁹ Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard [Internet].

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 - including the number of positive COVID-19 cases, the percentage positivity and the number of specimens tested.

Figure 3. The number of COVID-19 positive case, % positivity and specimen tested from integrated influenza-SARS CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems (as on 18 November 2025)



Source: Respimart/FluNet/FluID

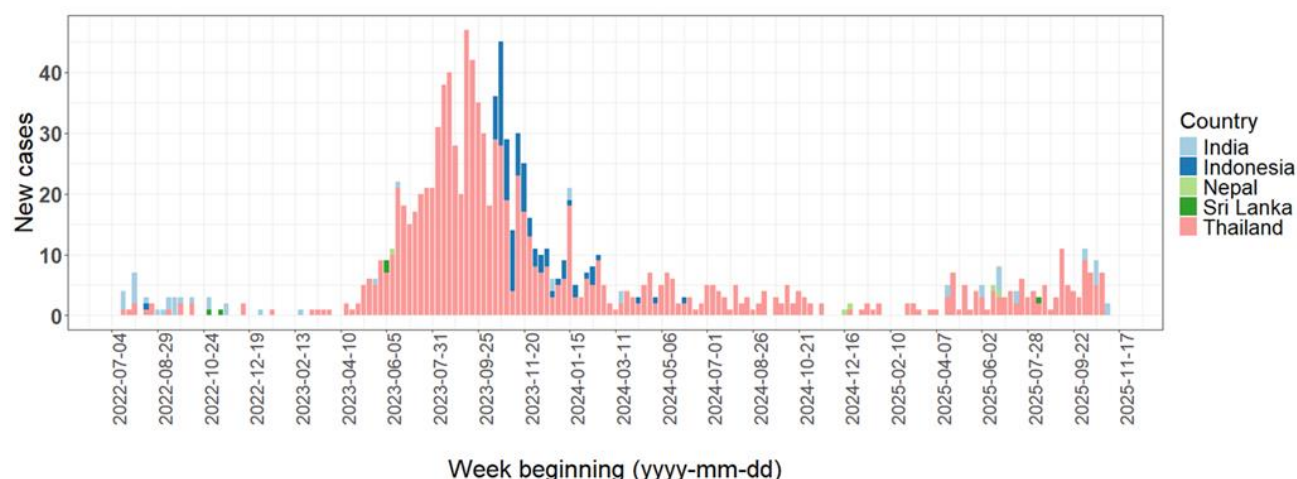
Mpox

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 16 November 2025

- In week 45 and 46 (03 to 16 November 2025), two new mpox case were reported from India.
- As of 16 November 2025, in the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 1 145 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases including 14 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 4).
- Twenty cases with mpox virus (MPVX) clade Ib were reported in the Region to date – ten from India and ten 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](#)

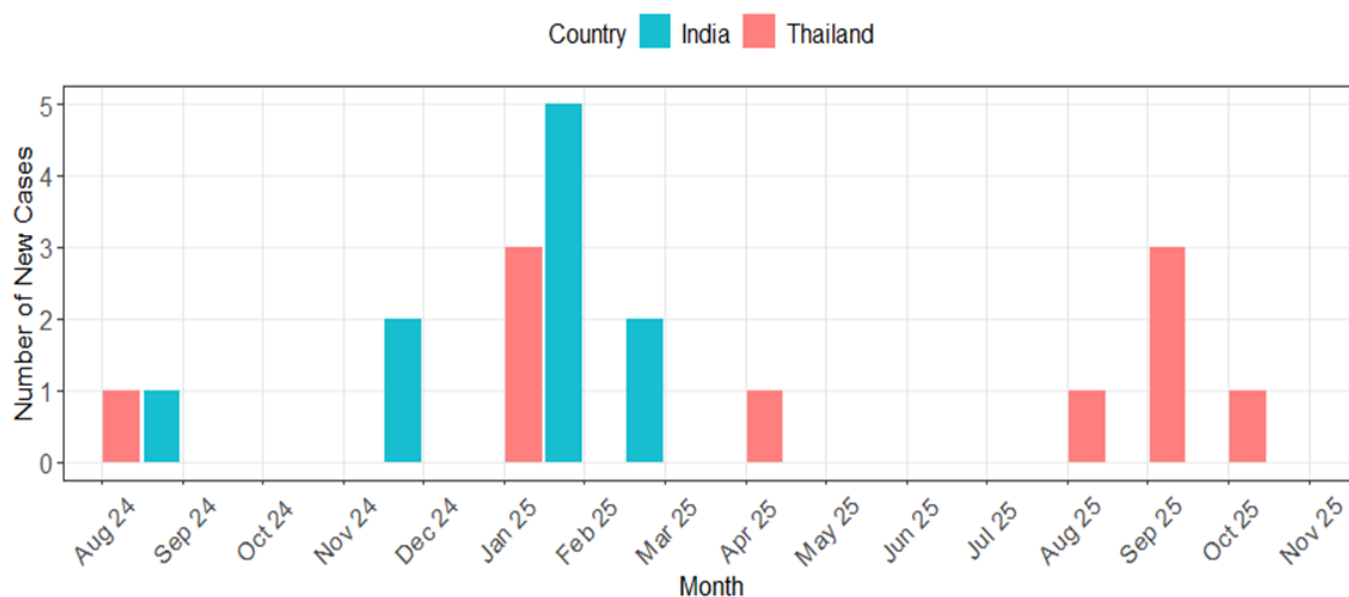
Figure 4. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification* (14 July 2022 – 16 November 2025)



* 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 16 November 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 20 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 16 November 2025)

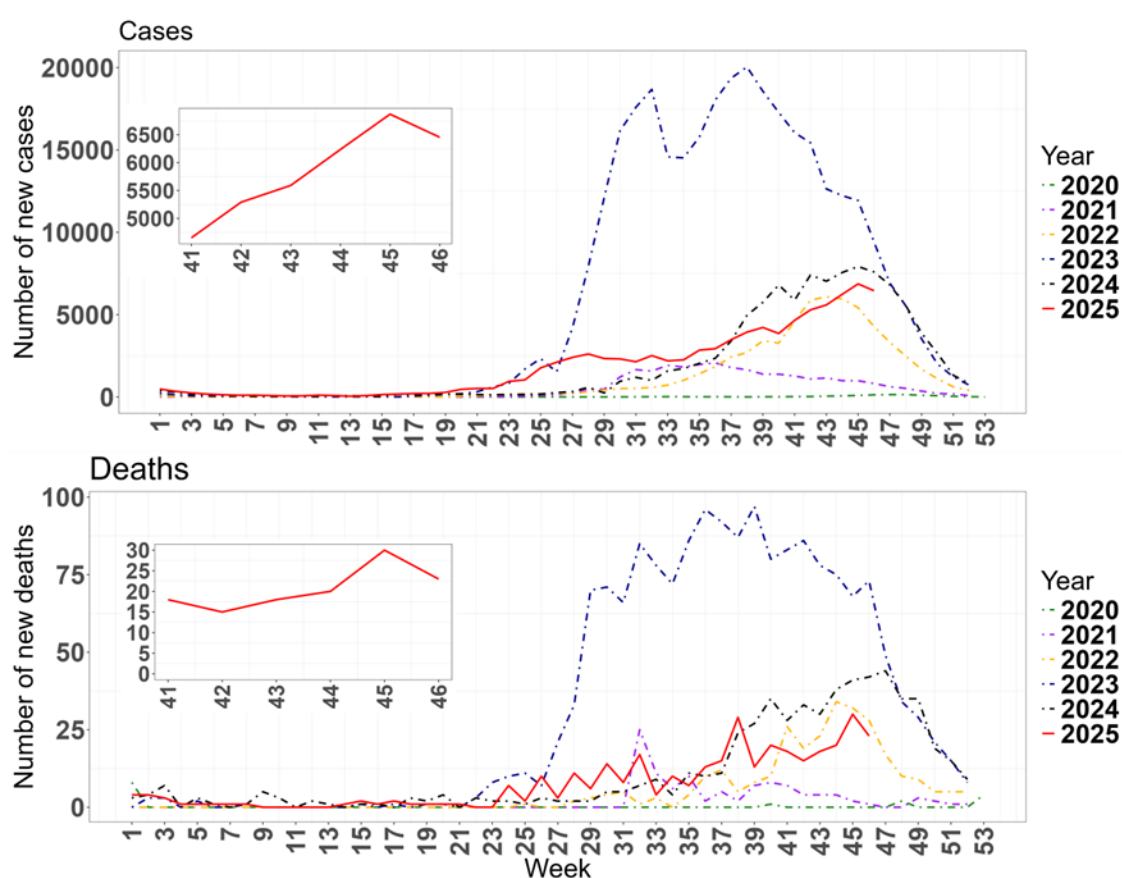
Total (N=20)	
Country	
India	10 (50%)
Thailand	10 (50%)
Travel	
No	1 (5%)
Yes	19 (95%)
Unknown	0 (0%)
Age Group	
Less than 18	0 (0%)
18-29	6 (30%)
30-39	10 (50%)
40-49	3 (15%)
50 and over	1 (5%)
Gender	
Female	7 (35%)
Male	13 (65%)

Dengue

Bangladesh¹⁰

- During week 46 of 2025 (10 to 16 November 2025), a total of 6 454 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 6% decrease compared to 6 868 cases reported during week 45 (03 to 09 November 2025).
- During week 46, 23 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, a 23.3% decrease compared to 30 deaths reported during week 45.
- In 2025, as of week 46, a total of 85 686 dengue cases and 339 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 107% of the number of cases (n= 79 984) and 81% of the number of deaths (n = 418) reported till week 46 in 2024.

Figure 6. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 46 of 2025

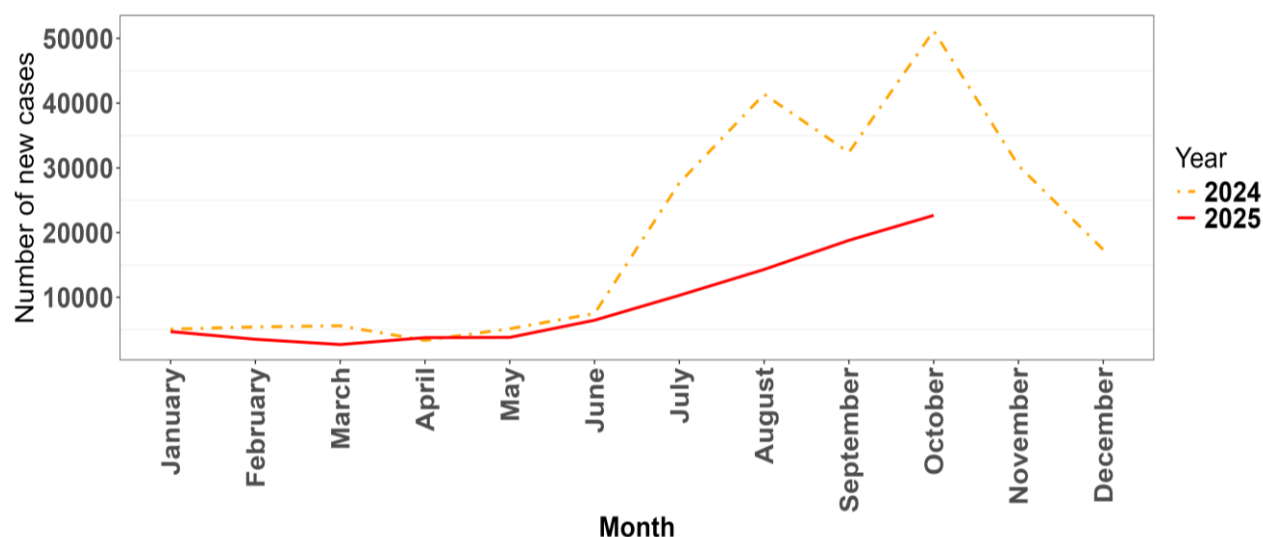


¹⁰ Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. Daily Dengue Status Report [Internet]. Dhaka: DGHS; 2025. Available from: <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report>

India

- During October 2025, a total of 22 659 cases of dengue were reported in India, a 21% increase compared to September 2025 (n = 18 803).
- In 2025, as of 31 October, a total of 91 015 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 184 712 cases during the same period in 2024. A total of 232 425 dengue cases were reported throughout 2024.

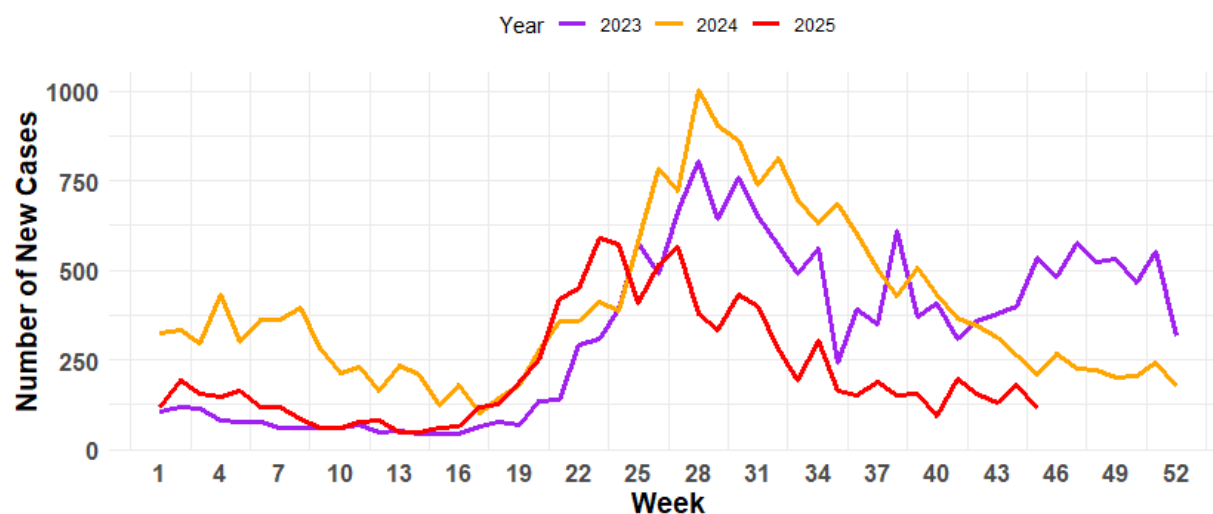
Figure 7. Number of new cases of dengue by month in India from January 2024 to October 2025



Kerala¹¹

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

Figure 8. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Kerala state from week 1 of 2023 to week 45 of 2025

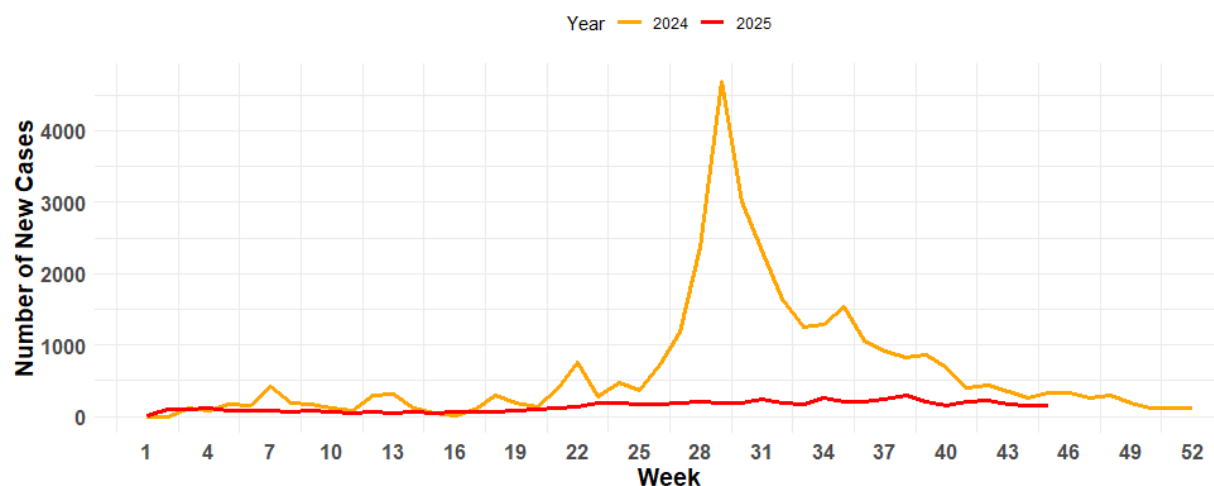


¹¹ Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Health Dashboard – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) [Internet]. Thiruvananthapuram: DHS Kerala; 2025 Available from: <https://dashboard.kerala.gov.in/>

Karnataka¹²

- In Karnataka, in 2024, dengue cases peaked at over 4 500 in week 29, while in 2025, case number remains low as of week 43.

Figure 9. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Karnataka state from week 1 of 2024 to week 45 of 2025

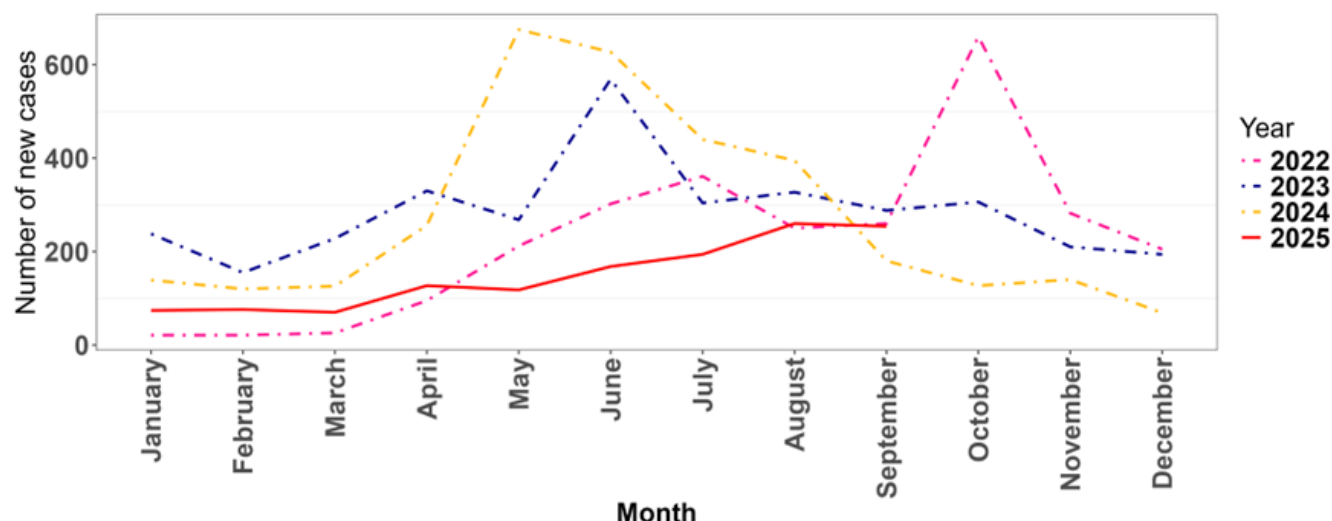


¹² Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. PRISM-H Disease Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Bengaluru: DHFW-GoK; 2023 Available from: <https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in/info-4/Weekly%20Infectious%20Disease%20Report/en>

Maldives¹³

- No update has yet been made publicly available for October 2025. During September 2025, a total of 254 cases of dengue were reported in the Maldives, a 2.3% decrease compared to August 2025 (n=260).

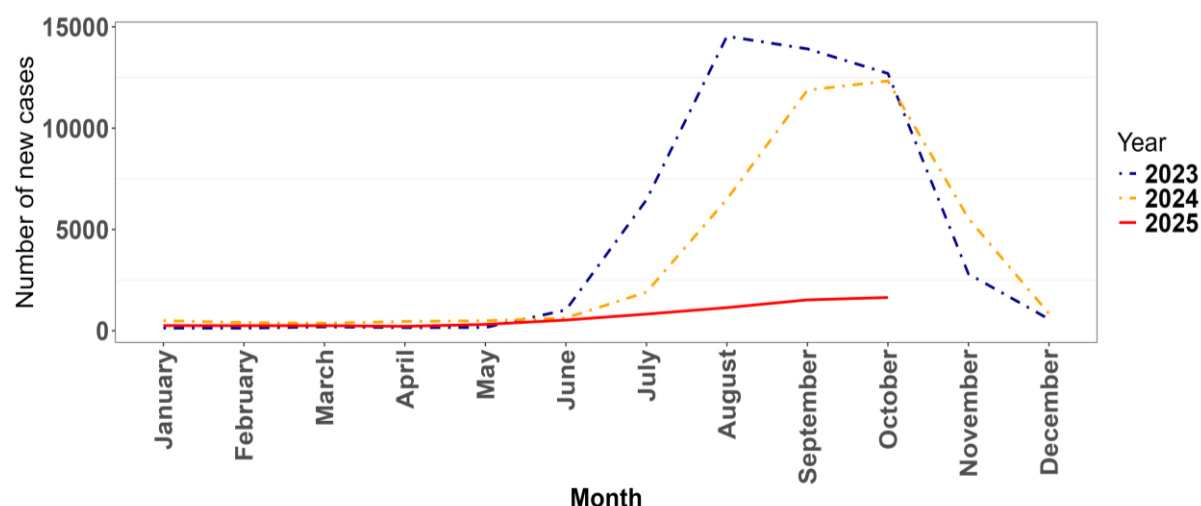
Figure 10. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to September 2025



Nepal¹⁴

- During October 2025, a total of 1 644 dengue cases were reported in Nepal, a 7.7% increase compared to September 2025 (n = 1 526).
- In 2025, as of 31 October, a total of 6 967 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 35 477 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 October 2025



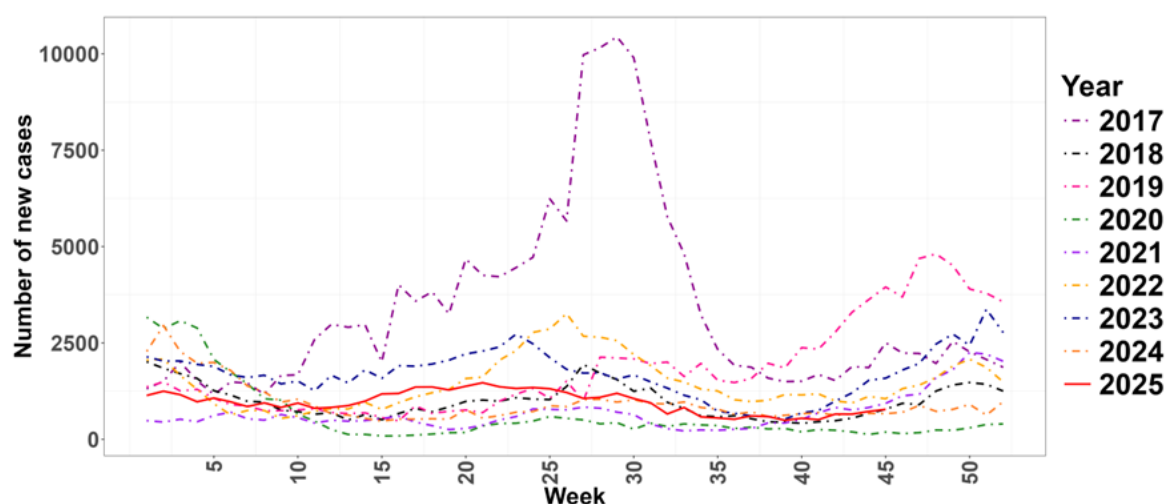
¹³ World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

¹⁴ World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

Sri Lanka¹⁵

- During week 45 (03 to 09 November 2025), a total of 777 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 7.2% increase compared to 725 cases reported during week 44 (27 October to 02 November 2025).
- From week one to week 45 in 2025, a total of 43 448 cases were reported compared to 43 281 cases and 71 091 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 45 of 2025.



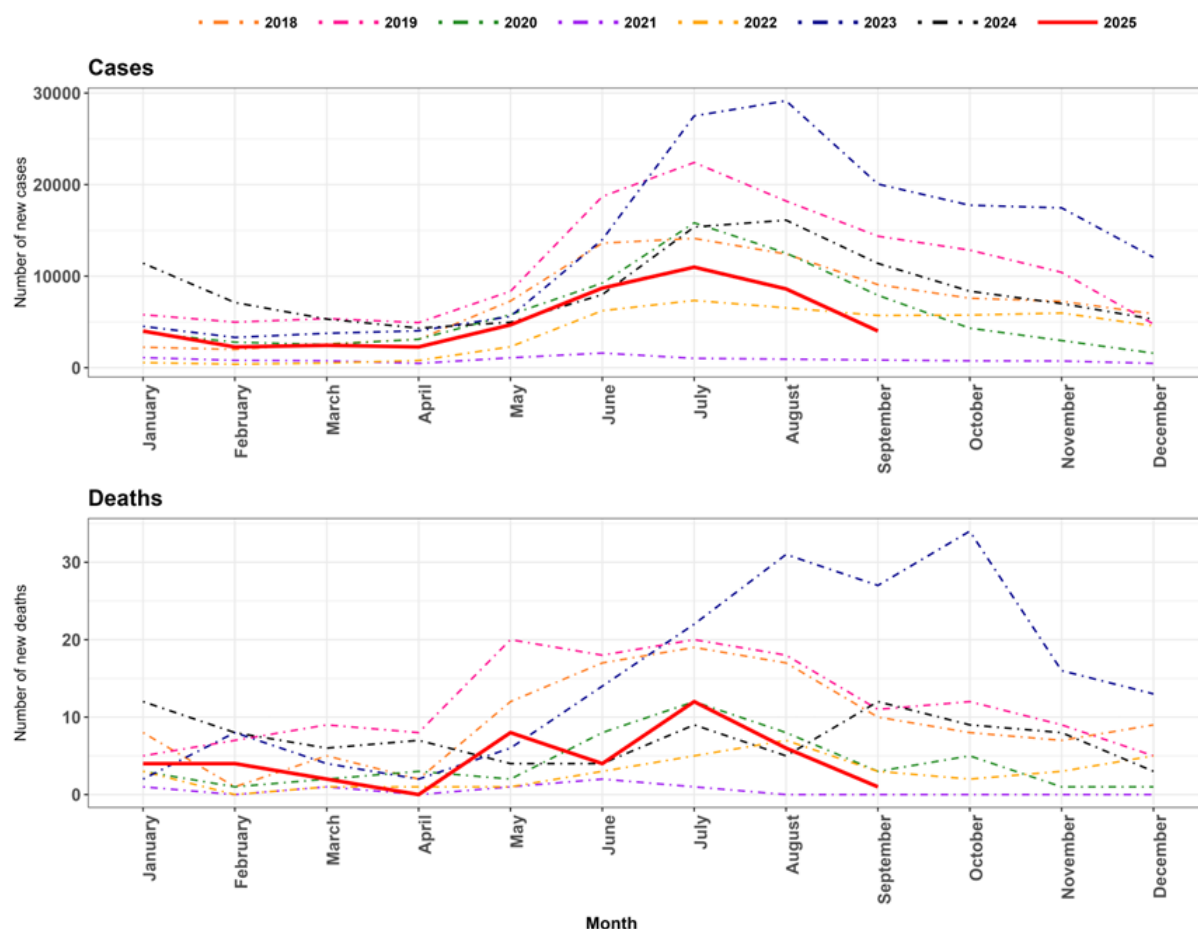
Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - [2017 to 2020](#); [2021 to 2025](#)

¹⁵ National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. National Dengue Control Unit [Internet]. Colombo: MoH; 2025 [cited 2025 November 17]. Available from: <https://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/>

Thailand¹⁶

- No update has yet been made publicly available for October 2025. During September 2025, a total of 4 012 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand, a 53% decrease compared to August 2025 (n=8 610).
- During September 2025, one dengue death was reported, an 83% decrease compared to August 2025 (n=6).
- In 2025, as of 30 September, a total of 47 981 dengue cases and 41 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 57% of the number of cases (n=84 023) and 61% of the number of deaths (n=67) reported during the same period in 2024.

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



¹⁶ World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/