

# 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](mailto:seoutbreak@who.int).

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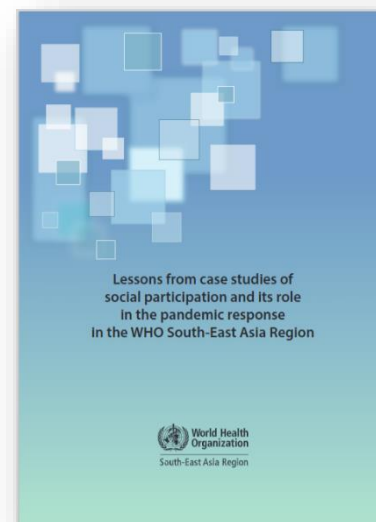
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## Key events and updates

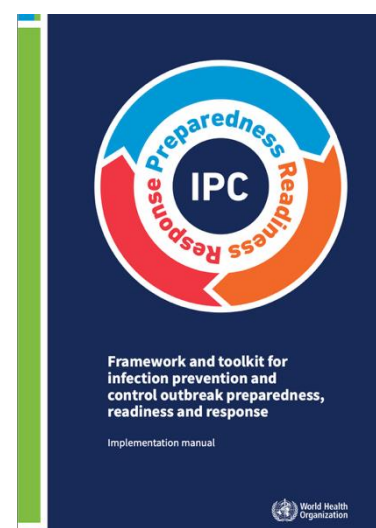
### New publication: Lessons from case studies of social participation and its role in the pandemic response in the WHO South-East Asia Region, 2025<sup>1</sup>

- Meaningful engagement of populations in health policy is becoming more important, as reflected in the global commitment to meaningful participation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the United Nations High-level Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, which recognized that “people’s engagement, particularly of women and girls, families and communities, and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders is one of the core components of health system governance”.
- To inform ministries of health and other decision-makers on key issues to be considered in designing participatory spaces, WHO published the handbook on social participation for universal health coverage, which describes social participation as a means for including the voices of people systematically, either directly, through communities, or through civil society organizations (CSOs) into policy and decision-making for health.
- The document can be accessed at:  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290211525>



### New publication: Framework and toolkit for infection prevention and control outbreak preparedness, readiness and response (implementation manual)<sup>2</sup>

- As observed in recent large-scale outbreaks, health facilities (HFs) with limited or no infection prevention and control (IPC) capacities can amplify emerging infectious disease transmission within facilities and communities and across borders.
- To mitigate the risk of disease transmission, WHO has developed two complementary tools:
  - [Framework and toolkit for infection prevention and control outbreak preparedness, readiness and response at the national level \(IPC-OFT\)](#)
  - [Framework and toolkit for infection prevention and control outbreak preparedness, readiness and response: implementation manual](#)
- The first tool provides national and subnational authorities with a practical framework of actions for strengthening IPC outbreak preparation, readiness and response, and a toolkit that provides resources to assist in the development of contingency or action plans to achieve this aim.
- The second is an actionable tool specifically designed to enhance the uptake of the IPC-OFT. It places more emphasis on practical implementation, aiming to support the countries in effectively applying the principles outlined in the IPC-OFT. This manual has been developed based on the principles of implementation science and lessons learned from previous responses.



<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290211525>

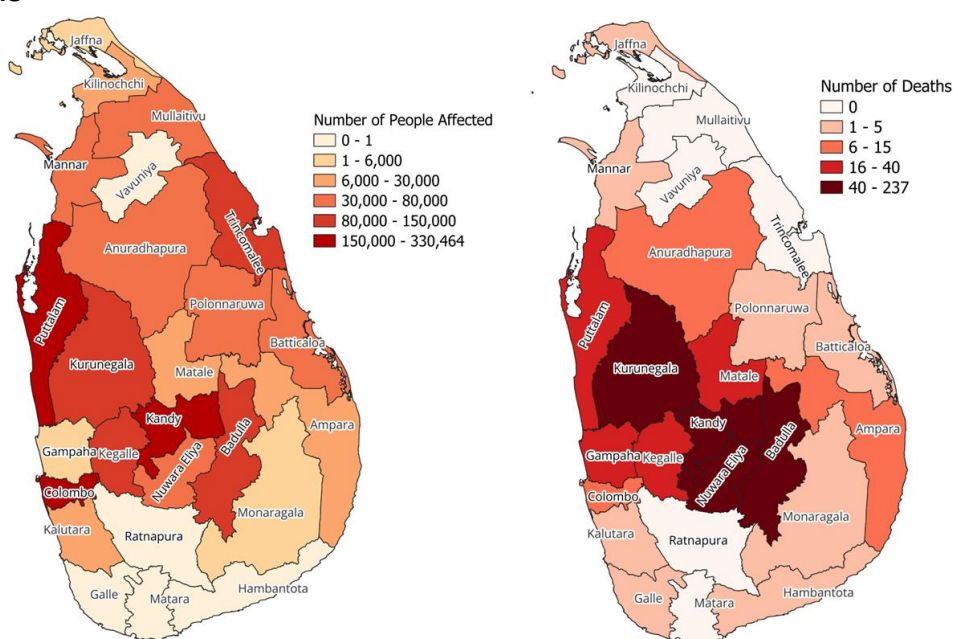
<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240105614>

## Sri Lanka: Tropical cyclone

### Situation overview as of 15 December 2025

- The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of Sri Lanka reported that, as of 16 December 2025, Cyclone Ditwah had caused a severe nationwide disaster, affecting 1 678 022 people from 483 622 families across 25 districts<sup>3</sup>.
- The cyclone resulted in 643 confirmed deaths, with 183 individuals still missing. Most deaths were reported in Kandy (237), Nuwara Eliya (89), Badulla (88), Kurunegala (61), Puttalam (36) and Kegalle (32) districts.
- Thousands of families were displaced into shelters across the country. According to International Organization for Migration (IOM), as of 13 December, 239 493 individuals were internally displaced, a 16 percent decrease compared to 7 December. The DMC reported 847 safety centres (143 less compared to 7 December)<sup>4</sup>.
- The data reflect the extensive humanitarian and structural impact across nearly the entire country, underscoring the scale of the crisis and the ongoing need for coordinated relief and recovery efforts.
- District hospitals have been affected by floods, compounding pressure on the health system and limiting available medicines.

**Figure 1. Distribution of people affected and deaths in Sri Lanka, situation as 16 December 2025, at 6:00 AM Sri Lanka Standard Time<sup>5</sup>**



Source: DMC Sri Lanka

<sup>3</sup> Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Sri Lanka Situation Report 15 December 2025. Available at: [https://www.dmc.gov.lk/index.php?option=com\\_dmcreports&view=reports&report\\_type\\_id=1&Itemid=273&lang=en](https://www.dmc.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_dmcreports&view=reports&report_type_id=1&Itemid=273&lang=en)

<sup>4</sup> International Organization for Migration. (2025, December 15). *Sri Lanka: Cyclone Ditwah response – displacement snapshot #2*. IOM. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-cyclone-ditwah-response-displacement-snapshot-2-15-december-2025>



### Humanitarian Priorities Plan <sup>5</sup>

- On 11 December 2025, the Sri Lanka Humanitarian Priorities Plan - Cyclone Ditwah was published by OCHA.
- The plan is guided by joint assessments with the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Centre and civil society partners.
- 1.2 million people identified as in need, with 658 000 prioritized as most vulnerable.
- Seven priority sectors targeted: education; food security, agriculture and nutrition; health (including sexual and reproductive health); protection (gender-based violence and child protection); shelter, non-food items and camp coordination; water, sanitation and hygiene; and early recovery.
- Funding requirement totals US\$35.3 million, with US\$4.5 million already allocated from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

### WHO support <sup>6 7</sup>

- WHO is supporting Sri Lanka's Ministry of Health by mobilizing rapid response teams, strengthening disease surveillance, and coordinating efforts across health, WASH, nutrition, and other sectors through its role as Health Cluster lead.
- WHO conducted public health situation analysis, based on which the event was graded as the grade 1 emergency on 27 November.
- On 2 December, WHO provided US\$175 000 in emergency funds to help restore essential health services for affected communities.
- WHO team has been working with the Health Emergency Operations Centre in Sri Lanka to address immediate needs in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah.
- WHO has been coordinating the Health Cluster meetings jointly with the Ministry of Health and Sarvodaya.
- WHO supported clinics in camps to provide essential health and mental health services for communities affected by Cyclone Ditwah.

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2025). *Sri Lanka humanitarian priorities plan: Cyclone Ditwah*. United Nations OCHA. Available at <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-humanitarian-priorities-plan-cyclone-ditwa>

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization. (2025, December). *Cyclone Ditwah – Sri Lanka response*. <https://www.who.int/srilanka/emergencies/cyclone-ditwah-2025>

<sup>7</sup> World Health Organization Sri Lanka [@WHOSriLanka]. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

## Thailand: Heavy rain (flash floods)

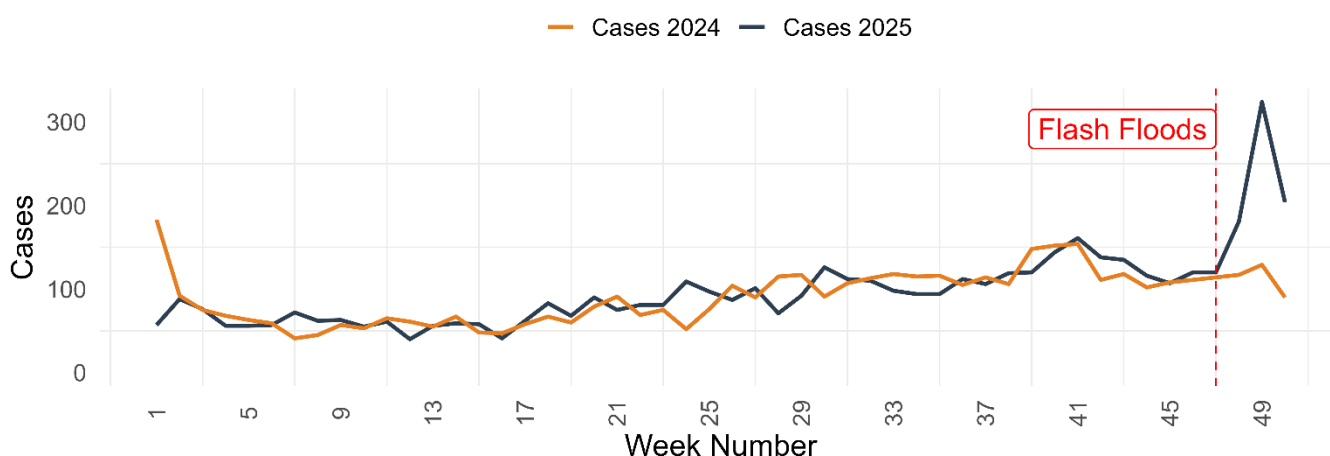
### Situation update as of 16 December 2025

- On 28 November 2025, Southern Thailand experienced widespread flooding that has affected nearly 3 million people and damaged over 1.15 million houses across 12 provinces, including Songkhla, Nakhon Si Thammarat, and Yala <sup>8</sup>.

### According to the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand <sup>9</sup>

- Between weeks 48 and 50 of 2025, Songkhla reported the highest number of leptospirosis cases (341), followed by Nakhon Si Thammarat (43). These provinces correspond to the most affected areas by recent flash floods.
- In 2025, the largest number of leptospirosis cases occurred in week 49 at the national level, with 324 cases, compared to 129 cases in the same week of 2024.

Figure 2. Number of confirmed leptospirosis cases in Thailand. Week 1 to week 50, 2024 and 2025.



Source: Thailand's Disease Situation Dashboard

- Recovery priorities now focus on restoring hospital infrastructure, reestablishing cold-chain systems for vaccines, strengthening disease surveillance, and providing clean water and mental health support to prevent a secondary health crisis.

<sup>8</sup> ReliefWeb. (2025, November). *Thailand: Floods – Nov 2025*. <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/fl-2025-000209-tha>

<sup>9</sup> Thailand's Disease Situation Dashboard

[https://dvis3.ddc.moph.go.th/t/DDC\\_CENTER\\_DOE/views/DDS2/sheet33?:embed=y&isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y](https://dvis3.ddc.moph.go.th/t/DDC_CENTER_DOE/views/DDS2/sheet33?:embed=y&isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y)

## Bangladesh/Cox's Bazar: Rohingya crisis

### According to WHO Bangladesh/Cox's Bazar: Rohingya emergency crisis - situation report November 2025 <sup>10</sup>

- Two acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases were reported from Ukhiya. Laboratory classification pending.
- Five suspected measles cases were detected; two were clinically confirmed (Camps 1E and 22), with the remaining cases tested negative.
- Weekly number of cholera cases have declined, with zero cases reported this month and no culture-confirmed cases detected; only seven confirmed cases have been recorded since the oral cholera vaccine campaign in early 2025.
- Weekly dengue cases continue to decline, with no dengue-related deaths reported during this period; cumulative deaths remain at 10. Transmission persists in camps but is decreasing.
- No confirmed cases for both chikungunya and diphtheria were reported during this period.
- Control measures for scabies are ongoing following mass drug administration, with contact management implemented across all 33 camps to prevent further transmission.
- Over 43 000 vaccine doses were administered to children under two years of age in November 2025, including 15 767 doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV, first to third doses) and fractional inactivated polio vaccine (fIPV, first and second doses), as well as 5,352 doses of measles-rubella containing vaccine (MRCV, first and second doses).
- The typhoid conjugate vaccine campaign vaccinated 410 345 Rohingya children aged 9 months to under 15 years between 2–25 November 2025, achieving 86.3% coverage of the target population

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<sup>10</sup> WHO Bangladesh/Cox's Bazar: Rohingya emergency crisis - Situation Report: November 2025. Available from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/who-coxs-bazar-rohingya-emergency-crisis-situation-report-november-2025>



# Influenza

## Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

### Situation as of 16 December 2025 <sup>11</sup>

- Figure 3 shows influenza data from the WHO FluNet platform, accessed on 16 Dec 2025.
- In the SEA Region during weeks 48-50, there were 314 influenza positive samples from 1 723 samples tested, with an overall positivity rate of 18%. Bhutan and Thailand reported relatively high test positive proportion, with 41% and 31%, respectively (Figure 3, Table 1).

**Figure 3. Weekly trends of specimens tested at National Influenza Centers (NIC) and laboratory confirmed influenza in the WHO South-East Asia Region (2025), situation as 16 December 2025**



Source: RespiMart/FluNet

<sup>11</sup> 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 A subtypes and B lineages reported in the Region during weeks 48-50 2025, as of 16 December 2025<sup>12</sup>

- Table 1 shows influenza virus A subtype and B lineage distribution across ten countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region for epidemiological weeks 48 to 50 of 2025, based on data extracted from WHO's RespiMart platforms on 16 Dec 2025. The last submission was on 7 Dec 2025 (Week 50).
- The predominant influenza A subtype detected in the region during the reporting period was influenza A(H3) (79%). A(H3) predominated in most countries that reported Influenza test positive results including Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Thailand. The proportion of Influenza A(H3) was in the range of 86% in Bhutan to 41% in Nepal. The predominance of this subtype of influenza virus A is consistent with the current global trends in zones with elevated influenza positivity.
- Influenza B virus constituted 35% of influenza positive samples in Nepal and 16% in Thailand.
- Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka had less than 10 influenza positive samples during this period; DPR Korea and Timor Leste reported no samples tested during this period.

**Table 1. Distribution of influenza A virus subtypes and B virus lineages in the WHO South-East Asia Region (weeks 48-50, 2025), situation as 16 December 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	1,723	314	18%	0%	79%	0%	4%	1%	0%	15%	1%
Bangladesh	319	3	1%	0%	67%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	0%
Bhutan	231	94	41%	0%	86%	0%	10%	0%	0%	4%	0%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	246	6	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Maldives	83	19	23%	0%	89%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%
Myanmar	32	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nepal	210	17	8%	0%	41%	0%	0%	12%	0%	35%	12%
Sri Lanka	41	2	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Thailand	561	173	31%	0%	82%	0%	2%	0%	0%	16%	0%
Timor-Leste	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

\* Positivity proportion that less than 0.5 % are shown as 0%.

<sup>12</sup> 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>



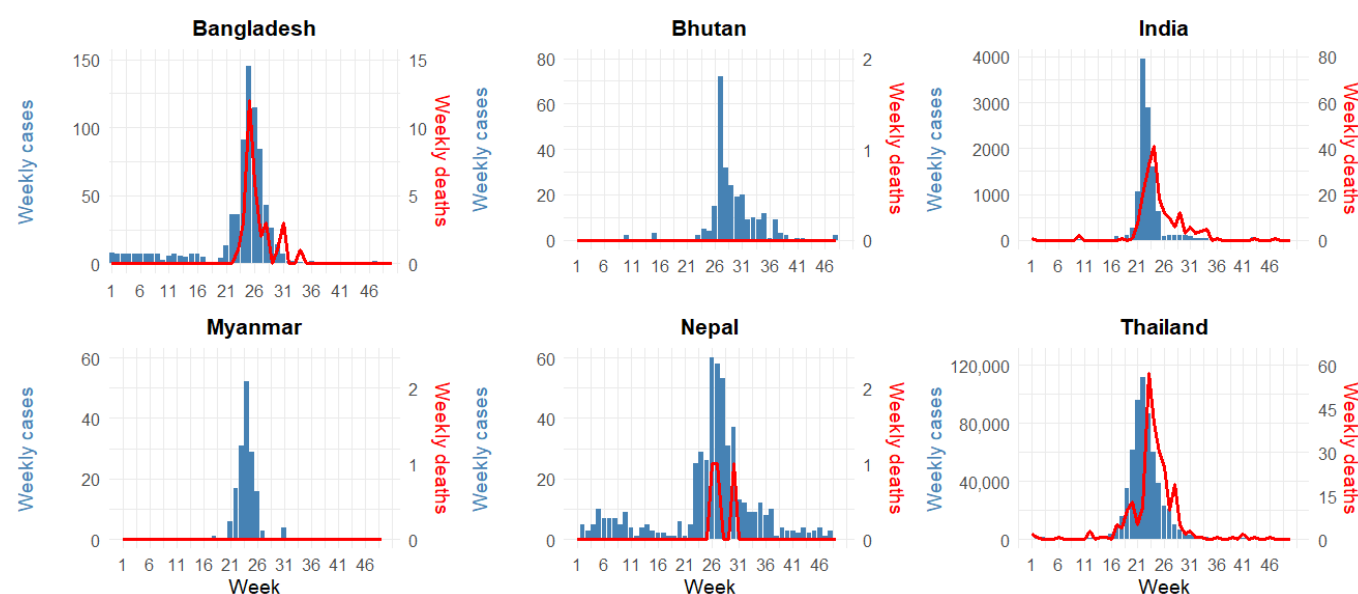
## COVID-19

### Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

#### Situation as of 14 December 2025

- The weekly number of COVID-19 cases reported on official websites, including Bangladesh<sup>13</sup>, Bhutan<sup>14</sup>, India<sup>15</sup>, Myanmar<sup>16</sup>, Nepal<sup>17</sup> and Thailand<sup>18</sup>, are presented in Figure 4.
- Data of the most recent week (week 50) are not available from Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal.
- Please visit the [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#) for the global situation of COVID-19.

**Figure 4. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported from selected countries since week one to week 50 of 2025 in the WHO South-East Asia Region \***



\* Bhutan data are as of week 48. Myanmar and Nepal data are as of week 49.

<sup>13</sup> 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>

<sup>14</sup> Bhutan, Royal Centre for Disease Control <https://www.rcdc.gov.bt/web/>

<sup>15</sup> Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. COVID-19 India Dashboard [Internet]. New Delhi: Available from: <https://covid19dashboard.mohfw.gov.in/>

<sup>16</sup> 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/>

<sup>17</sup> Epidemiology and Disease Control Division Nepal. Available from: <https://edcd.gov.np/newsroom/outbreak>

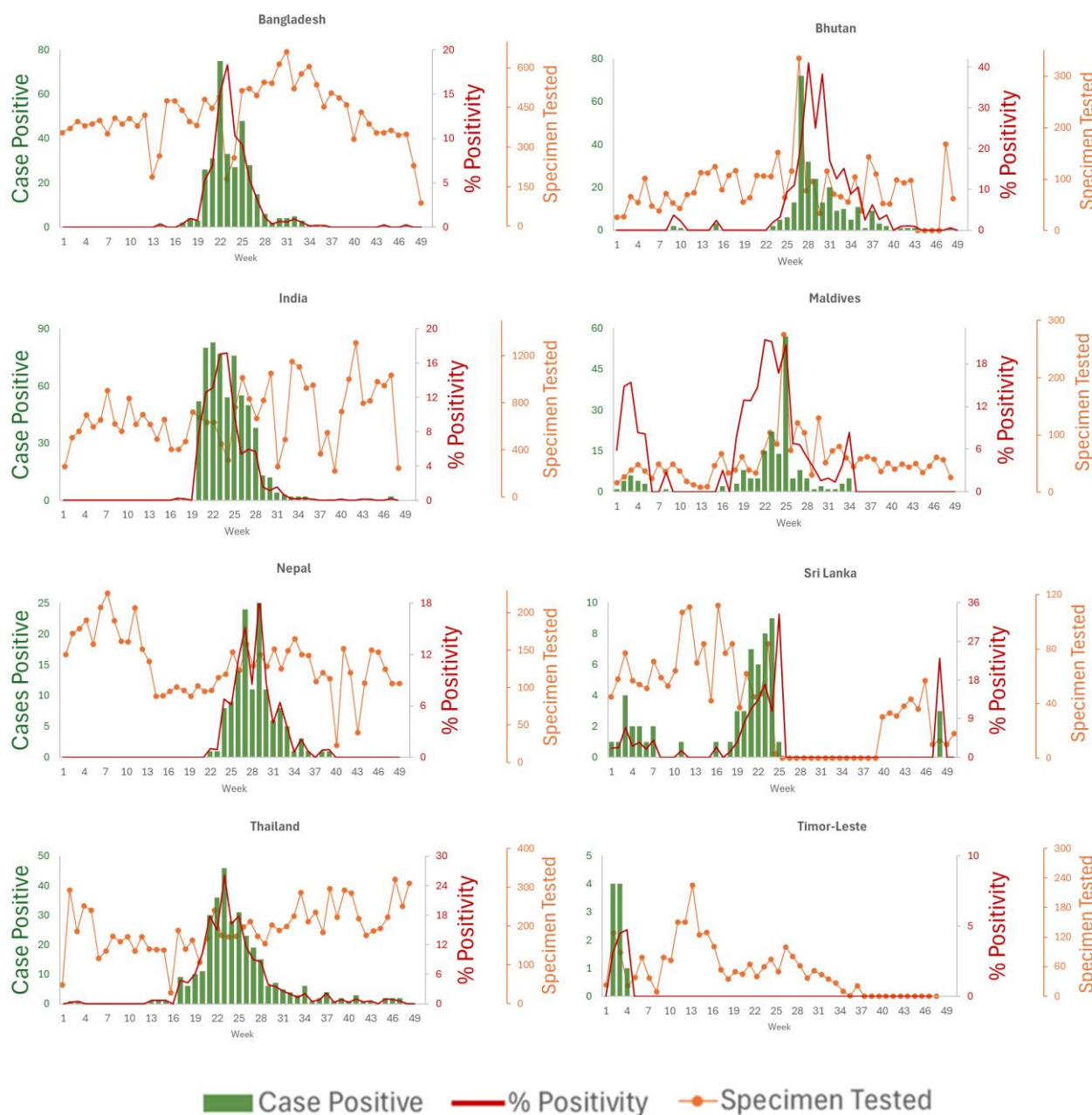
<sup>18</sup> Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard [Internet].

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 5 summarizes weekly trends of COVID-19 cases in the 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.<sup>19</sup>

**Figure 5. The number of COVID-19 positive case, % positivity and specimen tested from integrated influenza-SARS CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems (as on 16 December 2025)**



Source: Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Output Dashboard

<sup>19</sup> Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Output Dashboard. Available from: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNzdjZTVmY2YtNzY2NC00NTM0LTkzY2QtMWM0MzY0Mjg0YTZjIiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQ0NGlzM040MTBiLTNkYzI4MGFmYjU5MCIslmMiOj9>

## Mpox

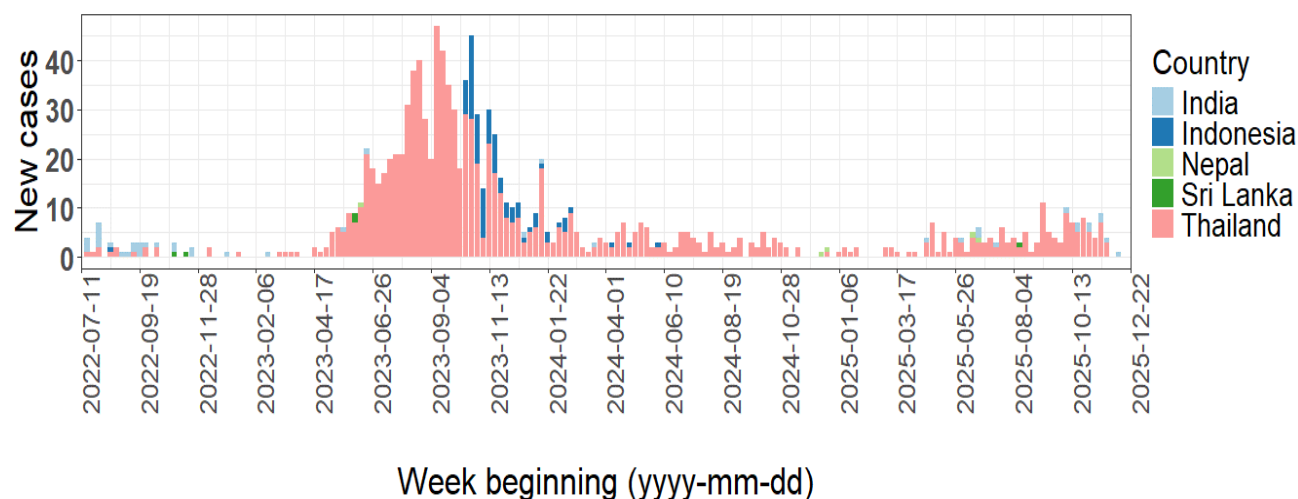
### Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

#### Situation as of 14 December 2025

- In week 49 and 50 (01 to 14 December 2025), one new mpox case was reported from India.
- As of 14 December 2025, in the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 1 169 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases including 14 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 6).
- One additional monkeypox virus (MPXV) Ib case was detected in Thailand in November 2025.
- Twenty one MPXV clade Ib cases have been reported in the Region to date – ten from India and eleven from Thailand. Please see Figure 7 for the trend of MPXV Ib cases detected in the Region.
- For information on global epidemiological situation of mpox, please see:

[WHO mpox surveillance dashboard](#)

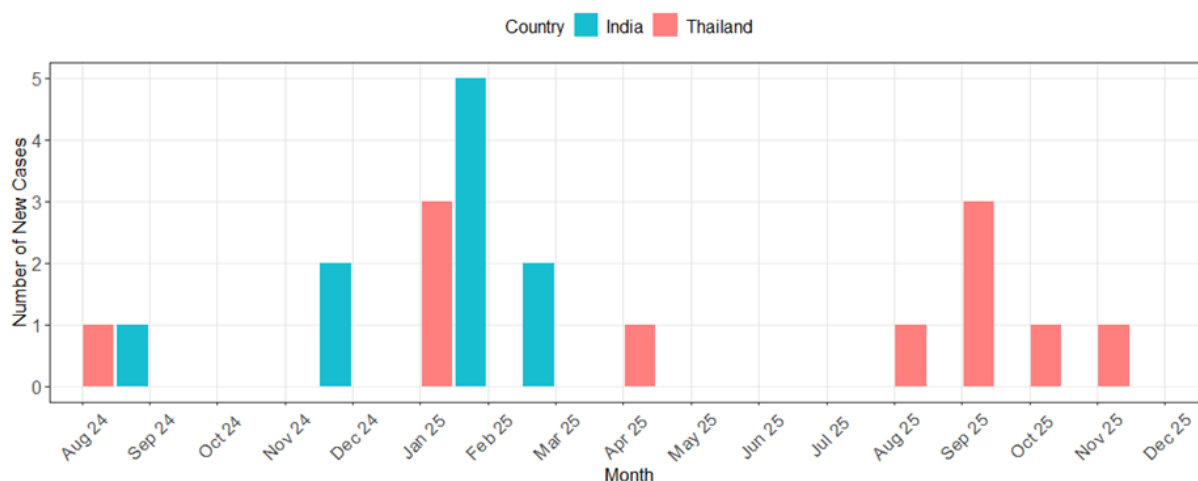
**Figure 6. Number of mpox cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by date of notification\* (14 July 2022 – 14 December 2025)**



\* 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 7. Number of MPXV clade Ib cases reported in WHO South-East Asia Region by month of notification (as of 14 December 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 21 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 14 December 2025 )**

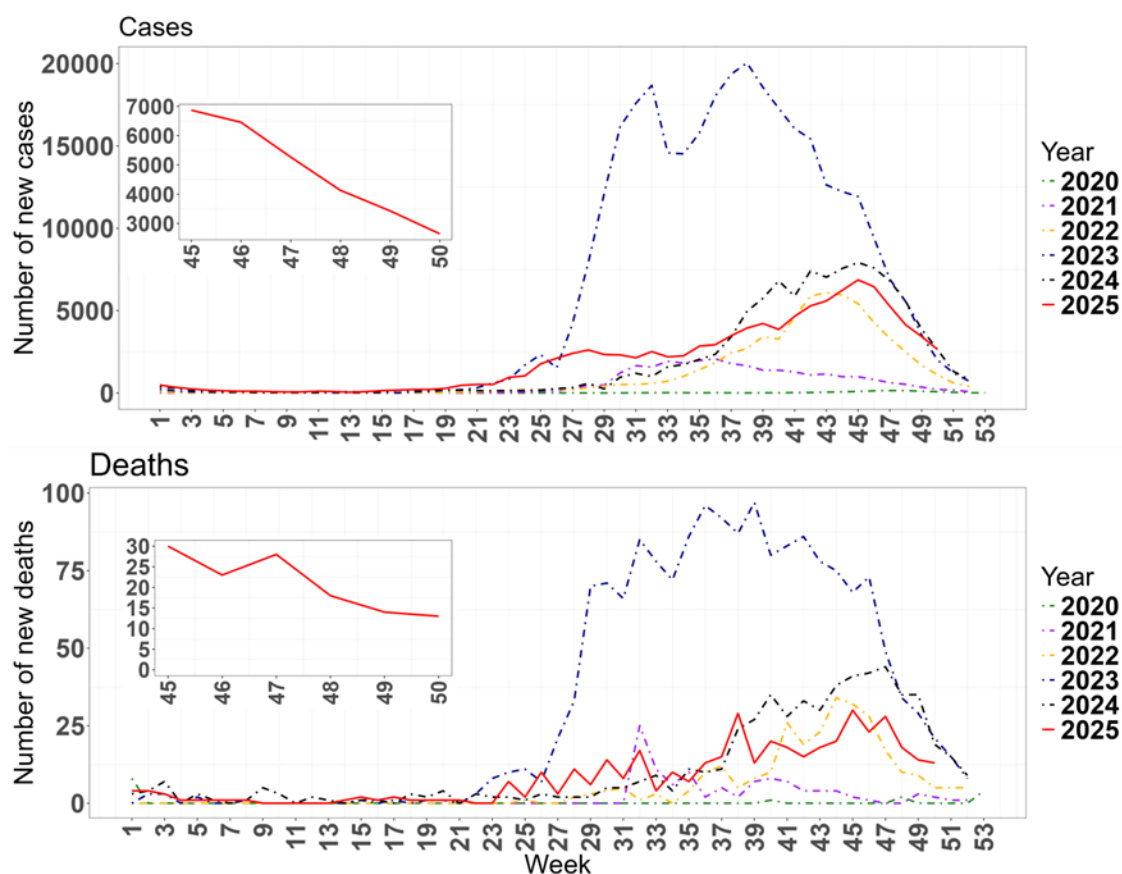
	Total (N=21)
<b>Country</b>	
India	10 (48%)
Thailand	11 (52%)
<b>Recent International Travel</b>	
No	1 (5%)
Yes	20 (95%)
<b>Age Group</b>	
Less than 18	0 (0%)
18-29	7 (33%)
30-39	10 (48%)
40-49	3 (14%)
50 and over	1 (5%)
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	7 (33%)
Male	14 (67%)

## Dengue

### Bangladesh<sup>20</sup>

- During 50 of 2025 (08 to 14 December 2025), a total of 2 648 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 22.8% decrease compared to 3 432 cases reported during week 49 (01 to 07 December 2025).
- During week 50 a total of 13 new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, a 7.1% decrease compared to 14 deaths reported during week 49.
- In 2025, as of week 50, a total of 101 166 dengue cases and 412 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 102% of the number of cases (n= 98 877) and 75% of the number of deaths (n = 551) reported till week 50 in 2024.

**Figure 8. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 50 of 2025**

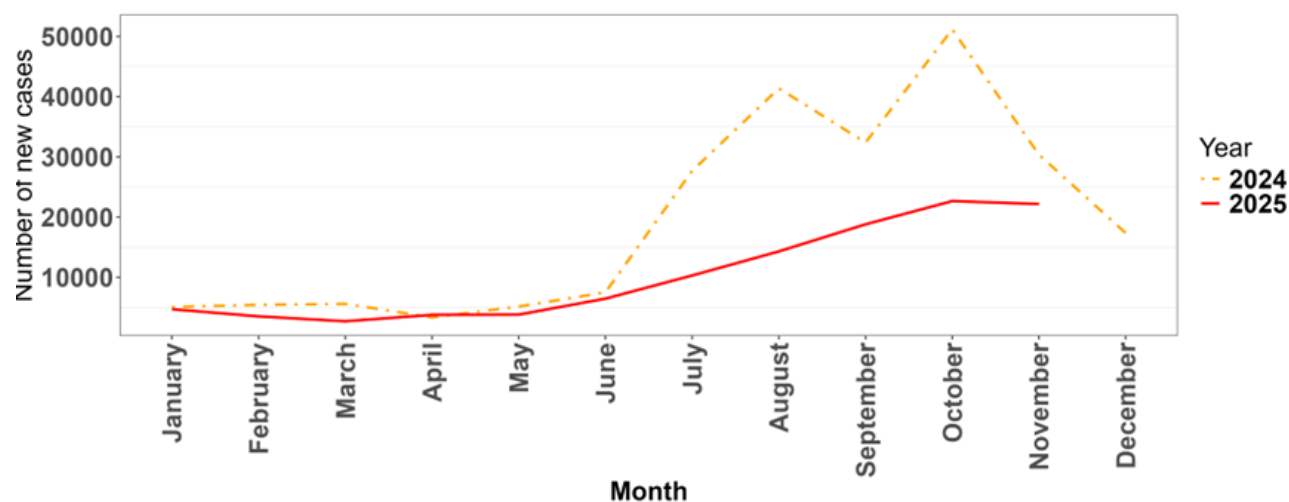


<sup>20</sup> Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. Daily Dengue Status Report [Internet]. Dhaka: DGHS; 2025. Available from: <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report>

## India

- During November 2025, a total of 22 175 cases of dengue were reported in India, a 2.1% decrease compared to October 2025 (n = 22 659).
- In 2025, as of 30 November, a total of 113 190 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 215 066 cases during the same period in 2024. A total of 232 425 dengue cases were reported throughout 2024.

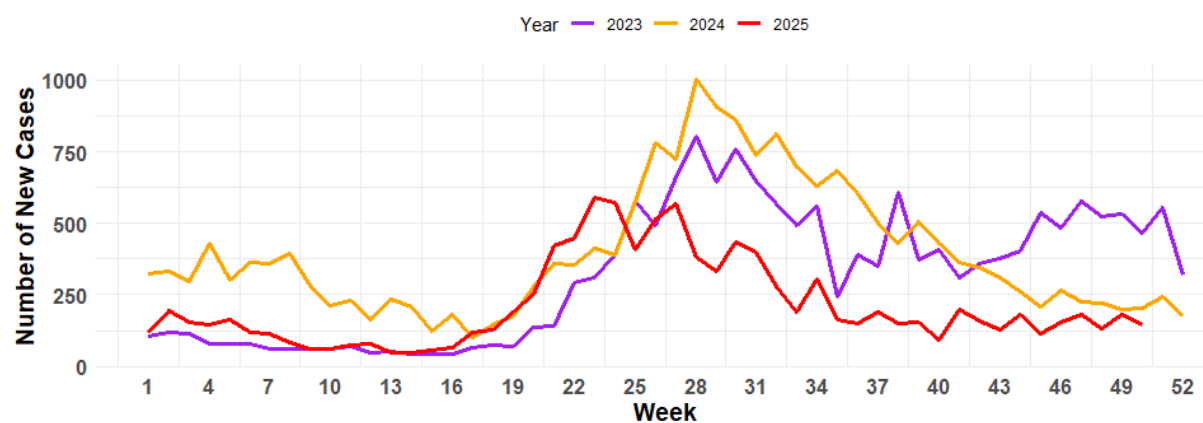
**Figure 9. Number of new cases of dengue by month in India from January 2024 to November 2025**



## Kerala<sup>21</sup>

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

**Figure 10. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Kerala state from week 1 of 2023 to week 50 of 2025**



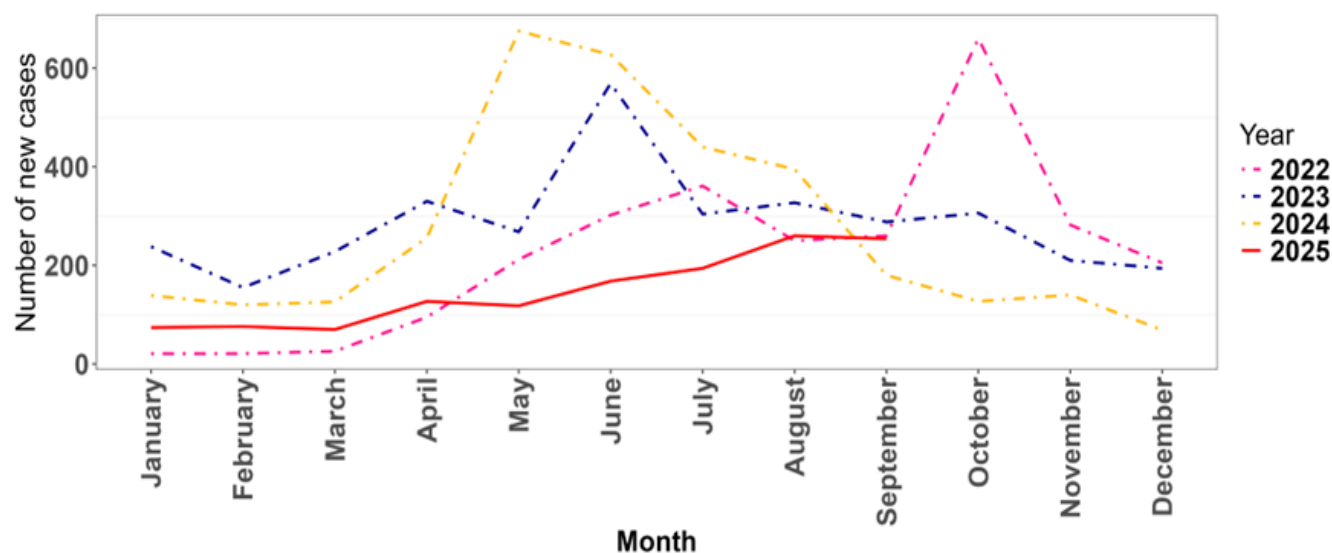
<sup>21</sup> Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Health Dashboard – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) [Internet]. Thiruvananthapuram: DHS Kerala; 2025 Available from: <https://dashboard.kerala.gov.in/>



## Maldives<sup>22</sup>

- No update has yet been made publicly available for October and November 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).

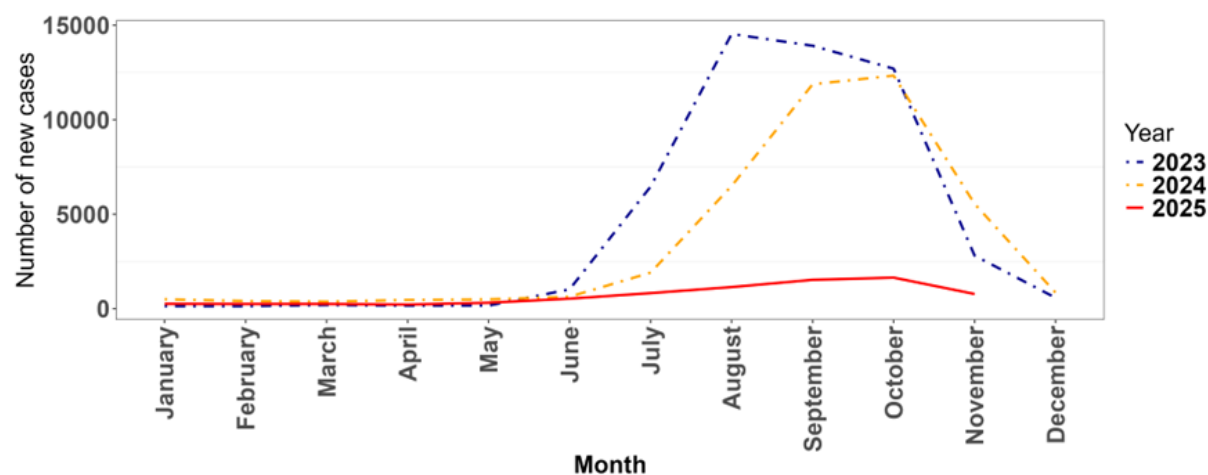
**Figure 11. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to September 2025**



## Nepal<sup>23</sup>

- During November 2025, a total of 778 dengue cases were reported in Nepal, a 52.7% decrease compared to October 2025 (n = 1 644).
- In 2025, as of 30 November, a total of 7 745 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 41 021 cases during the same period in 2024. A total of 41 865 dengue cases and 15 deaths were reported throughout 2024.

**Figure 12. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Nepal from January 2023 to November 2025**



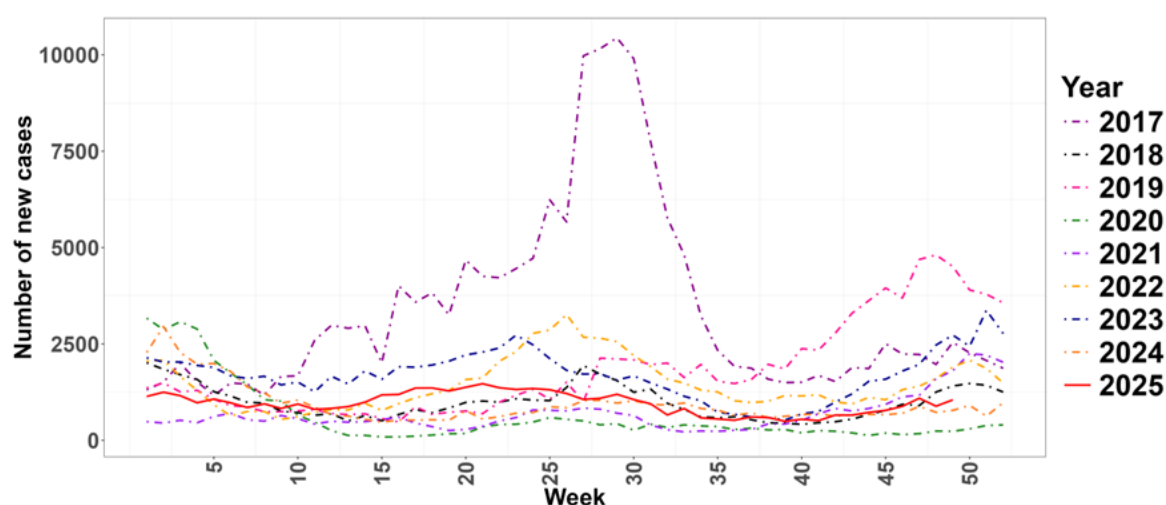
<sup>22</sup> World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/)

<sup>23</sup> World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/)

## Sri Lanka<sup>24</sup>

- During week 49 (30 November to 06 December 2025), a total of 1 050 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, an 18.5% increase compared to 886 cases reported during week 48 (23 to 29 November 2025).
- From week one to week 49 in 2025, a total of 47 358 cases were reported compared to 46 367 cases and 80 060 cases during the same period in 2024 and 2023, respectively.
- Following the cyclone Ditwah, the Western province reported marked increase of cases, and accounted for 56.5% of total cases in the country, with the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) contributing 10.2%, the rest of Colombo District 23.5%, and Gampaha District 18.1%.

**Figure 13. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week 49 of 2025.**



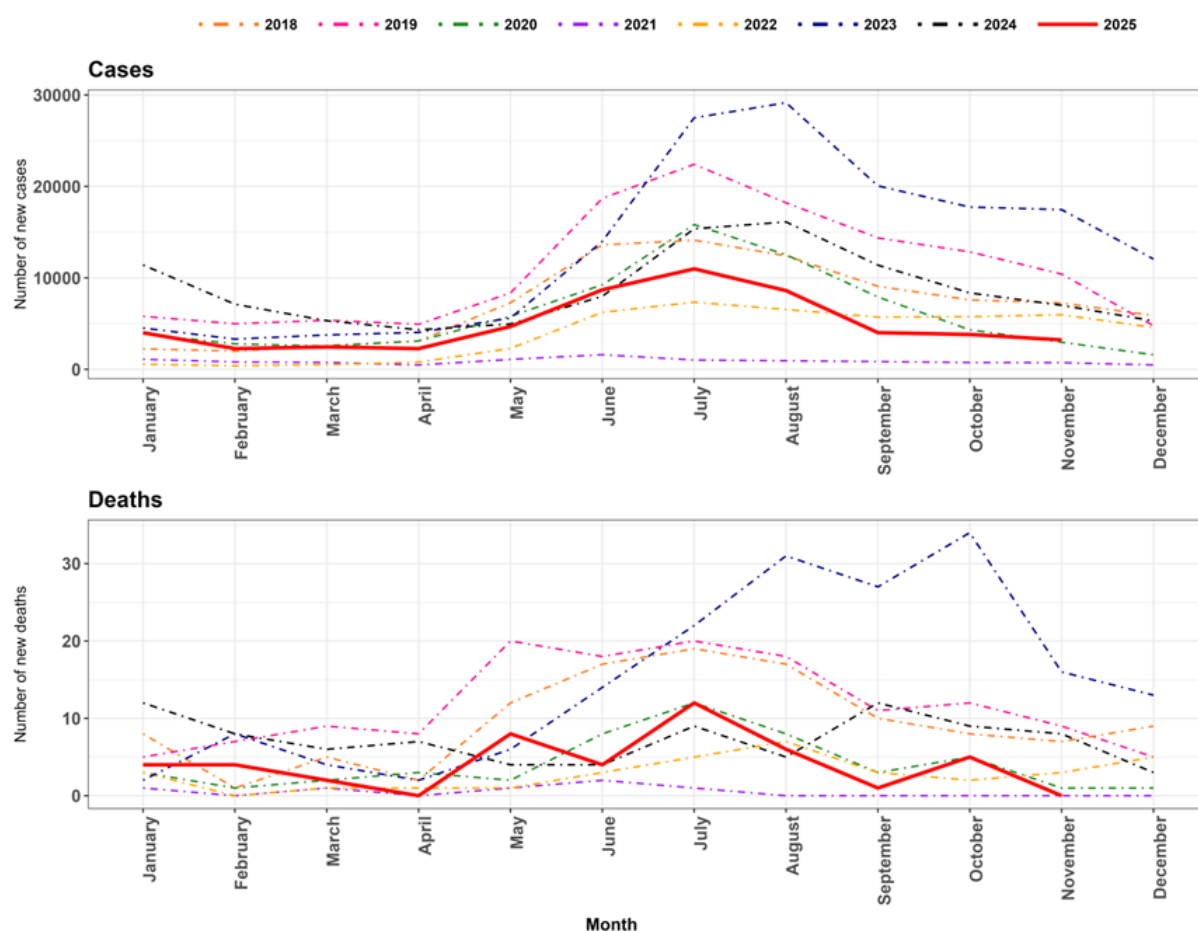
Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - [2017 to 2020](#); [2021 to 2025](#)

<sup>24</sup> National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. National Dengue Control Unit [Internet]. Colombo: MoH; 2025 [cited 2025 December 15]. Available from: <https://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/>

## Thailand<sup>25</sup>

- During November 2025, a total of 3 218 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand, a 16% decrease compared to October 2025 (n=3 814).
- During November 2025, no dengue death was reported, which compares to five deaths reported in October 2025.
- In 2025, as of 30 November, a total of 55 013 dengue cases and 46 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 55% of the number of cases (n=99 388) and 55% of the number of deaths (n=84) reported during the same period in 2024.

**Figure 14. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Thailand from January 2018 to November 2025**



<sup>25</sup> World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. [https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue\\_global/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/)