WHO South-East Asia Region
Epidemiological Bulletin

WHO Health Emergencies Programme
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HEALTH EMERGENCIES programme
World Health Organization
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.

Key events and updates

India (West Bengal): Nipah virus infection

Situation overview as on 13 January 2026 [1] [2]

- On 12 January 2026, official sources reported two suspected cases of Nipah virus infection in West Bengal, India
- The suspected cases were identified on 11 January at the Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Kalyani.
- Both suspected patients are currently under treatment and are being closely monitored by a specialized medical team.
- Preliminary investigations indicate that the patients may have been exposed to the virus during a work-related visit to Purba Bardhaman district.
- While Nipah virus infections have been reported in recent years in Kerala state in India, the last Nipah virus infection case in the state of West Bengal was reported in 2007.[3]

Response

- The West Bengal Government has implemented precautionary measures to prevent further spread.
- A National Joint Outbreak Response Team was sent to West Bengal to support the containment of the disease.
- The Centre is providing comprehensive technical, logistical, and operational support to the State Government for effective outbreak management and prevention.
- Surveillance has been intensified in Purba Bardhaman, North 24 Parganas, and Nadia districts, alongside active tracing of high-risk contacts.

[1] https://www.newsonair.gov.in/centre-deploys-national-joint-outbreak-response-team-in-west-bengal-after-suspected-nipah-cases/
[2] https://www.newsonair.gov.in/west-bengal-reports-two-suspected-nipah-cases-centre-sends-response-team/
[3] https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2025-DON577

Call for public comment: Considerations for surveillance, monitoring and investigations during an influenza pandemic[4]

- WHO welcomes input from Member States, public health authorities, partners, researchers, and technical experts involved in influenza epidemiology, surveillance, vaccination, clinical care, risk communication, and emergency response.
- The types and sources of data needed for decision-making will evolve throughout a pandemic, depending on the context, objectives and key questions at each stage. No single surveillance approach can address all public health questions. A flexible mix of surveillance approaches, investigations and specialized studies is essential to meet changing needs. This guidance outlines how surveillance objectives may shift over time and which surveillance approaches are most relevant during different pandemic periods.
- This guidance updates WHO's 2017 pandemic surveillance recommendations and aligns with the 2018 Pandemic Influenza Risk Management framework.
- The document aims to help countries prepare, plan, and implement early investigations and surveillance activities across different pandemic periods, with particular emphasis on community transmission.
- **Comments on the draft guidance are invited between 6 and 23 January 2026 through the online survey**, and all feedback will be reviewed by WHO before final publication.
- Please access this link for further details and to access the draft guidance.

New publication: WHO guidance on the use of licensed human influenza A(H5) vaccines for the interpandemic and emergence periods[5]

- This WHO guidance document outlines the primary objectives for the use of licensed human A(H5) vaccines for the interpandemic and emergence periods, identifies key factors to support country-level decision-making, describes potential target groups based on risk of exposure, and includes a decision-aid matrix to assist countries in determining A(H5) vaccination approaches under various epidemiological scenarios.
- This WHO guidance supersedes previous recommendations on the topic and offers updated guidance to support countries in formulating their A(H5) vaccine policies.
- The guidance document is available at: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-wer10051-643-660


WHO guidance on the use of licensed human influenza A(H5) vaccines for the interpandemic and emergence periods

Orientations de l'OMS concernant l'utilisation des vaccins homologués contre la grippe humaine A(H5) pendant les périodes interpandémique et d'émergence

[4] https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-public-comment-on-who-s-draft-document--considerations-for-surveillance--monitoring-and-investigations-during-an-influenza-pandemic

[5] https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-wer10051-643-660

Influenza

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 13 January 2026[6]

- Figure 3 shows the influenza data from the WHO FluNet platform, accessed on 13 January 2026.
- In the SEA Region during week 52 of 2025 to week 2 of 2026, there were 251 influenza positive samples among 3 455 samples tested, with an overall positivity percentage of 7%.
- The influenza activity in terms of positivity percentages ranged between 1% in Bangladesh and 34% in Bhutan. Bhutan, Maldives and Thailand reported relatively high percentage test positivity in the region with 34%, 26% and 24%, respectively. (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 13 January 2026

Source: Respimart/FluNet

[6] WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2026 cited 2026]. 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 52 of 2025 and 2 of 2026, as of 4 January 2026[7]

- Table 1 shows influenza A virus subtypes and influenza B lineage distribution across ten countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region for the period from the epidemiological week 52 of 2025 to week 2 of 2026, based on data extracted from WHO's RespiMart platform on 13 Jan 2026. The last submission was on 4 Jan 2026 (Week 1).
- The predominant influenza A subtype detected in the region during the reporting period was influenza A(H3) (66%). Among countries that reported Influenza test positive results, it was the major influenza A sub-type in Maldives (94%), Bhutan (83%) and Thailand (74%). The predominance of this subtype of influenza virus A is consistent with the current global trends in transmission zones with elevated influenza positivity.
- While influenza virus A predominated in majority of countries in the region, Influenza B was pre-dominant in India.
- Also, it is noteworthy to observe that in Nepal among the positive influenza samples, 36% were unsub-typed influenza A viruses while 20% were lineage un-determined influenza B viruses. In Sri Lanka, every fourth (25%) influenza A positive sample was un-subtyped.
- Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka had less than 10 influenza positive samples during this period.
- DPR Korea and Timor-Leste 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 52 of 2025-2 of 2026), situation as 13 January 2026*

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	3,455	251	7%	0%	66%	0%	3%	4%	0%	25%	2%
Bangladesh	513	6	1%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bhutan	121	41	34%	0%	83%	0%	5%	0%	0%	12%	0%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
India	2,058	47	2%	0%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%	74%	0%
Maldives	122	32	26%	0%	94%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Myanmar	3	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nepal	212	25	12%	0%	28%	0%	4%	36%	0%	12%	20%
Sri Lanka	22	4	18%	0%	50%	0%	0%	25%	0%	25%	0%
Thailand	404	96	24%	0%	78%	0%	3%	0%	0%	19%	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%.

[7] WHO. Influenza surveillance outputs [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2026 [cited 2026]. Available from: https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-surveillance-outputs

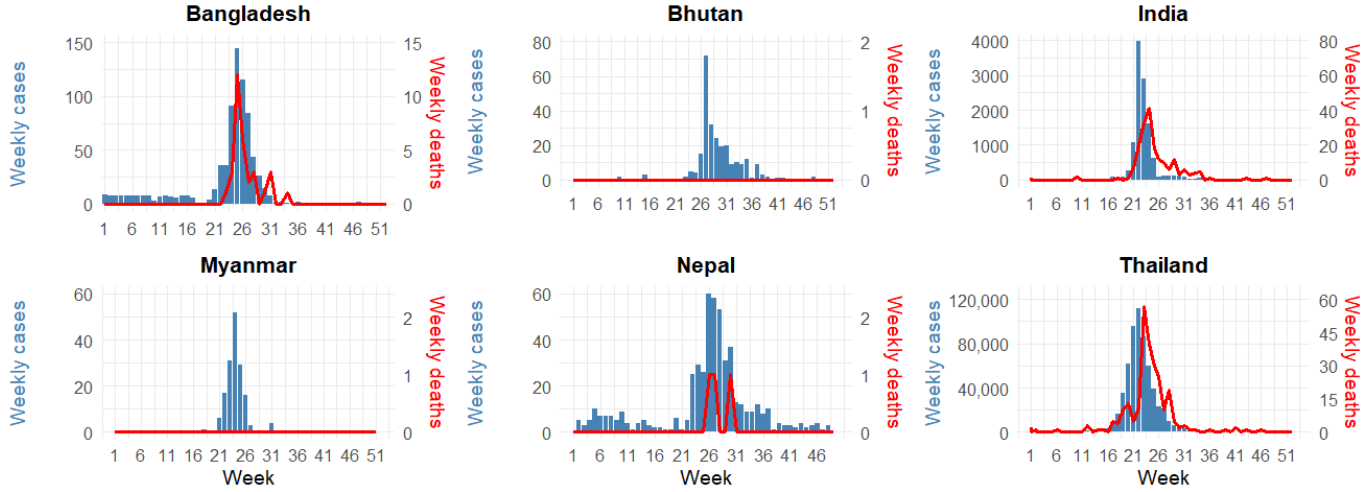
COVID-19

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 13 January 2026

- The weekly number of COVID-19 cases reported on official websites, including Bangladesh[8], Bhutan[9], India[10], Myanmar[11], Nepal[12] and Thailand[13], are presented in Figure 4.
- Data of the most recent week (week 2) are not available.
- Please visit the WHO COVID-19 dashboard for the global situation of COVID-19.

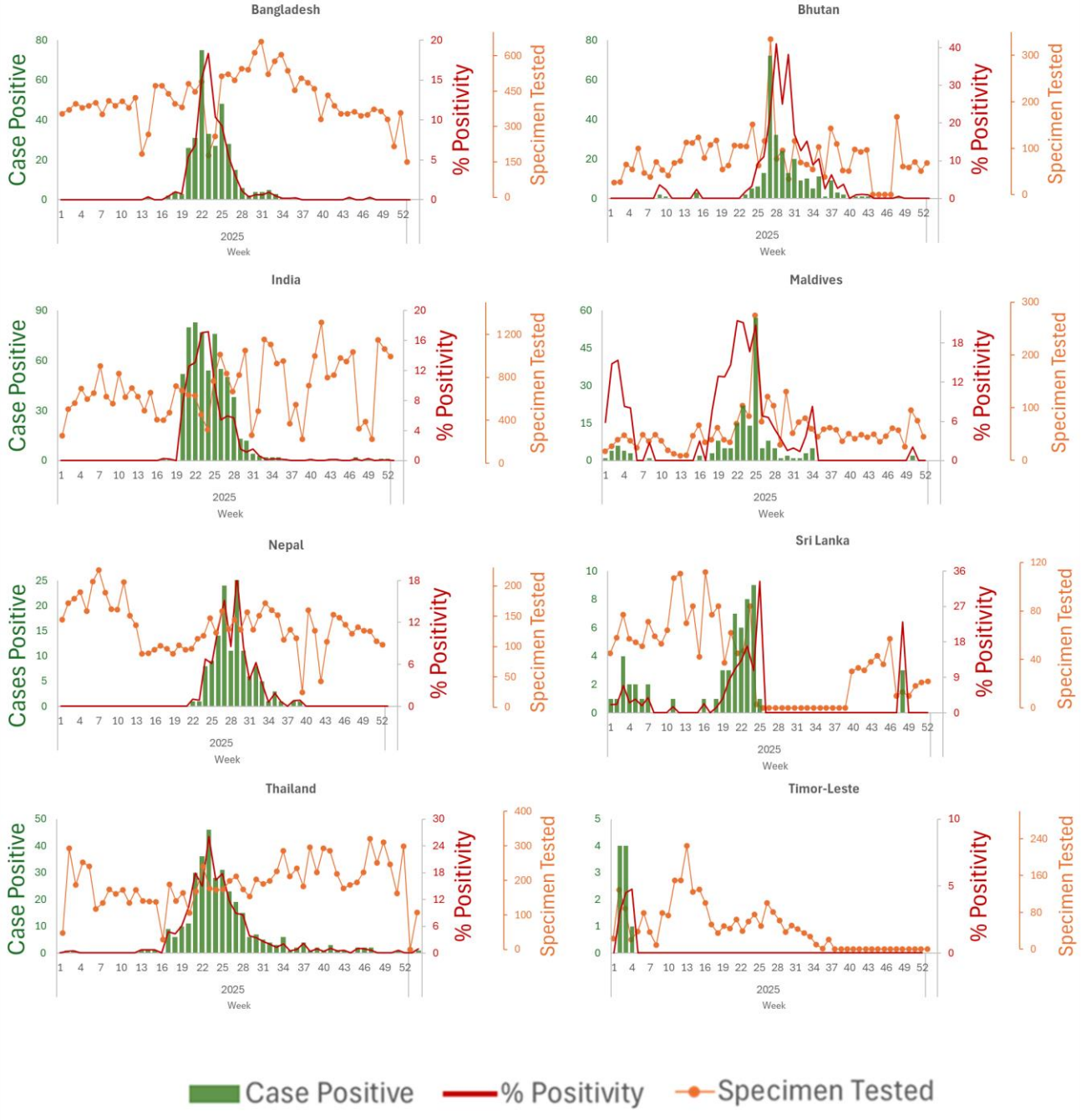
Figure 4. Weekly number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported from selected countries since week one to week 52 of 2025 in the WHO South-East Asia Region *



[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 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. [14]

Figure 5. The number of COVID-19 positive case, % positivity and specimen tested from integrated influenza-SARS CoV-2 sentinel surveillance systems (as on 13 January 2026)



Source: Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Output Dashboard

[14] Integrated Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Output Dashboard. Available from: https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNzdjZTVmY2YtNzY2NC00NTM0LTkzY2QtMWM0MzY0Mjg0YTZjIiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQtNGIzOS04MTBiLTNkYzI4MGFmYjU5MCIsImMiOjh9

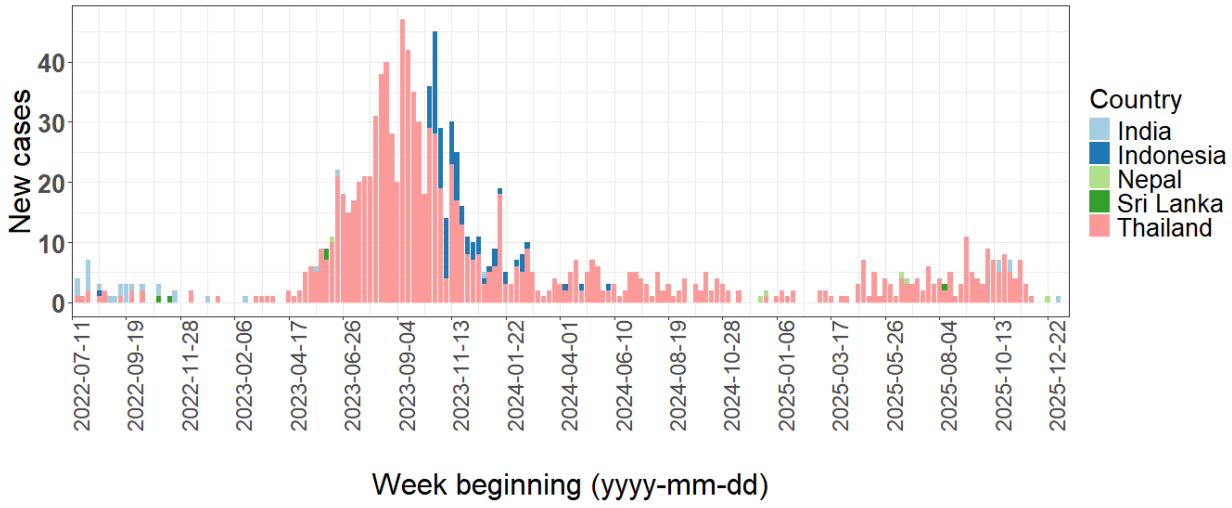
Mpox

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Situation as of 11 January 2026

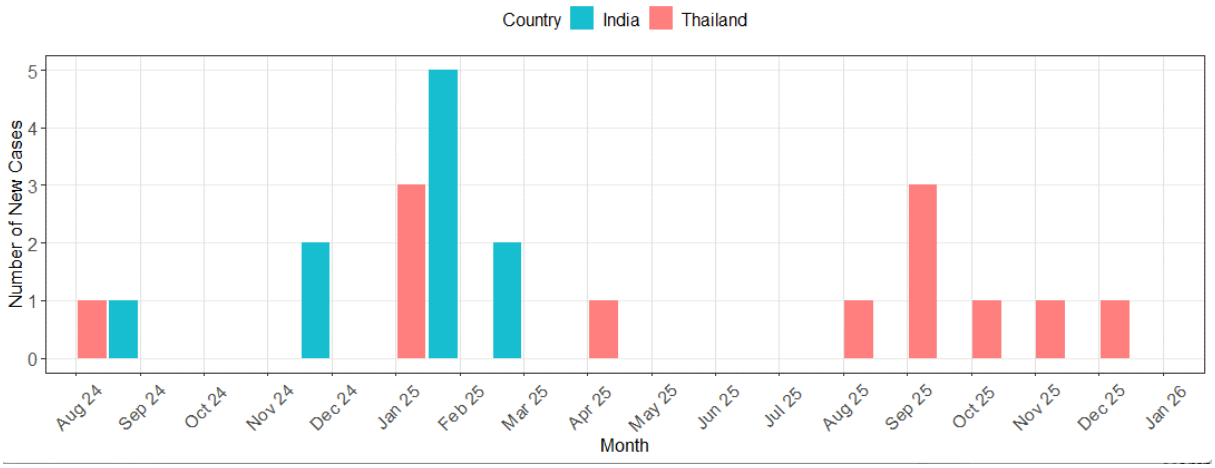
- In week 1 and 2 (29 December 2025 to 11 January 2026), one new mpox case was reported from India.
- As of 11 January 2026, in the WHO South-East Asia Region, a total of 1 176 laboratory-confirmed mpox cases including 14 deaths, have been reported since 14 July 2022 (Figure 6).
- Twenty one MPXV clade 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 – 11 January 2026)



* 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 11 January 2026) *



* 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 11 January 2026)

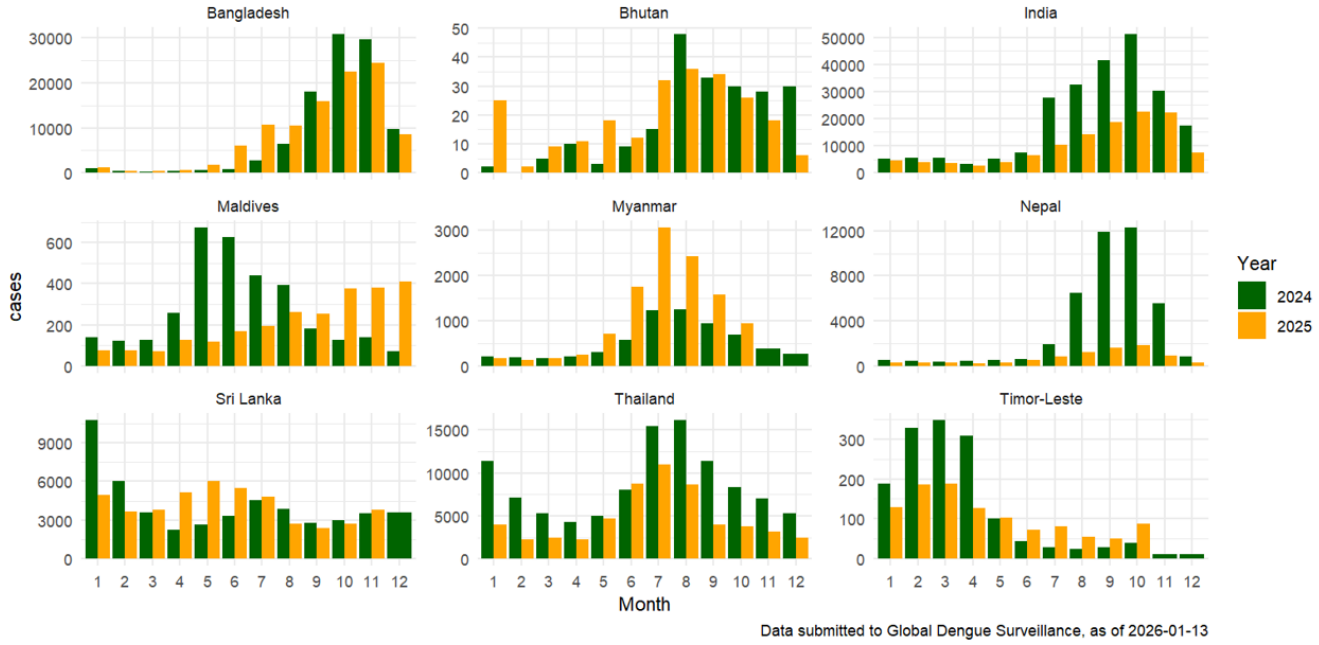
	Total (N=21)
Country	
India	10 (48%)
Thailand	11 (52%)
Recent International Travel	
No	1 (5%)
Yes	20 (95%)
Age Group	
Less than 18	0 (0%)
18-29	7 (33%)
30-39	10 (48%)
40-49	3 (14%)
50 and over	1 (5%)
Gender	
Female	7 (33%)
Male	14 (67%)

Dengue

Situation in the WHO South-East Asia Region [15]

- In December 2025, Bangladesh 8 465 cases, followed by India with 7 539 cases. Data for December were not available for Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. (Figure 9)

Figure 9. Reported dengue cases by country, January 2024 – December 2026



Notes:

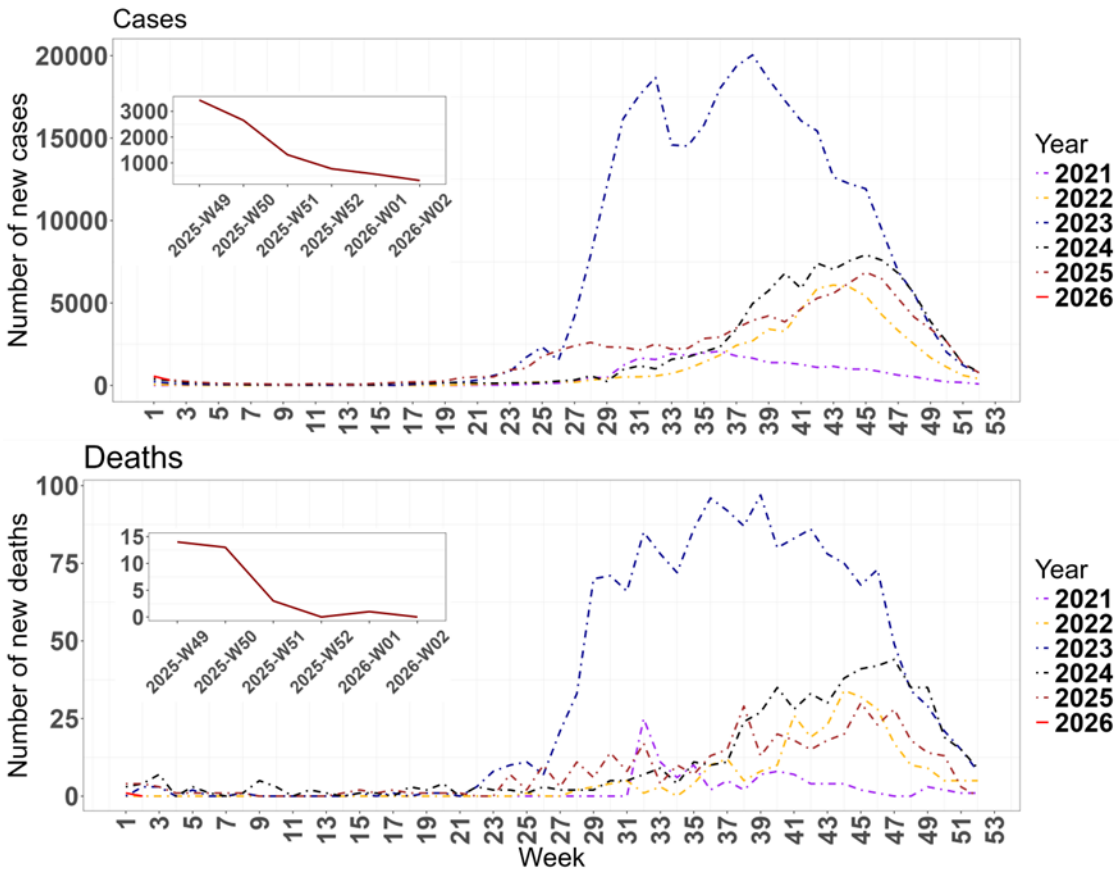
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Timor-Leste show confirmed cases.
- Bangladesh reports only hospitalized cases.
- The majority of Myanmar cases are hospitalized cases.

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

Bangladesh [16]

- During week 2 of 2026 (05 January 2026 to 11 January 2026), a total of 316 new dengue cases were reported in Bangladesh, a 43.6% decrease compared to 560 cases reported during week 1 of 2026 (29 December 2025 to 04 January 2026).
- During week 2, no new dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh, compared to one death reported during week 1 of 2026.
- In 2025, as of week 52, a total of 105 276 dengue cases and 2 440 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 102% of the number of cases (n= 103 040) and 94% of the number of deaths (n = 2 599) reported in 2024.

Figure 8. Number of new dengue cases and deaths by week in Bangladesh from week 1 of 2020 to week 2 of 2026.

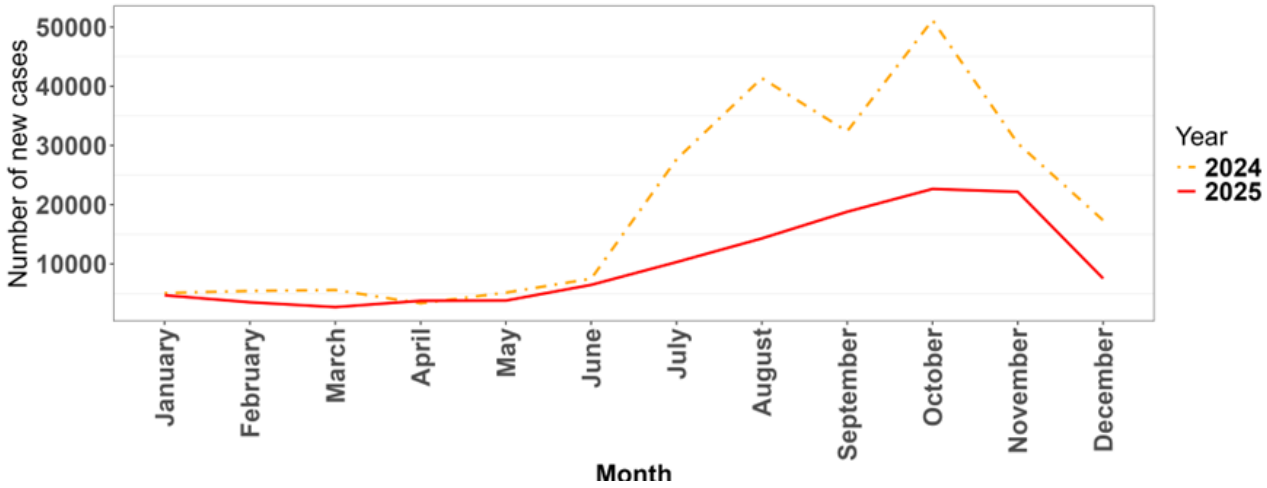


[16] Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh. Daily Dengue Status Report [Internet]. Dhaka: DGHS; 2025 Available from: https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report

India

- During December 2025, a total of 7 539 cases of dengue were reported in India, a 66% decrease compared to November 2025 (n = 22 175).
- In 2025, as of 31 December, a total of 120 729 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 232 425 cases during the same period in 2024.

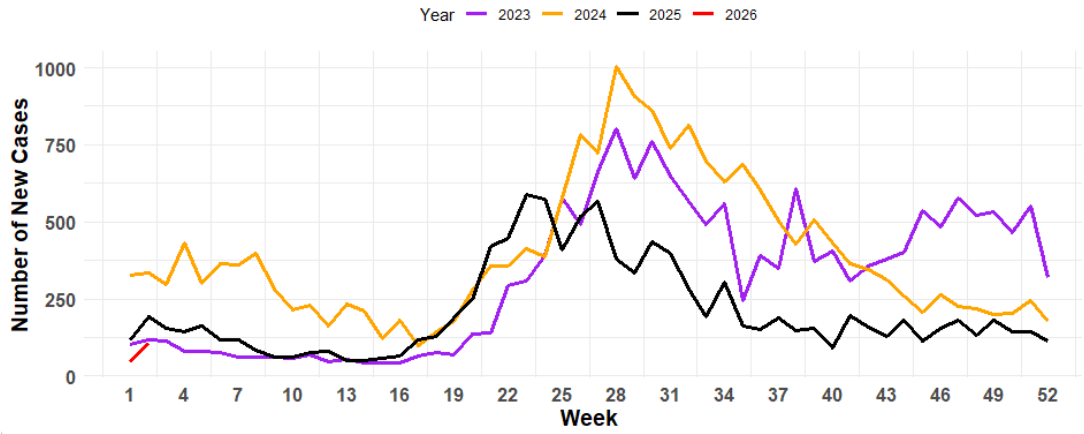
Figure 9. Number of new cases of dengue by month in India from January 2024 to December 2025



Kerala[17]

- 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 2 of 2026

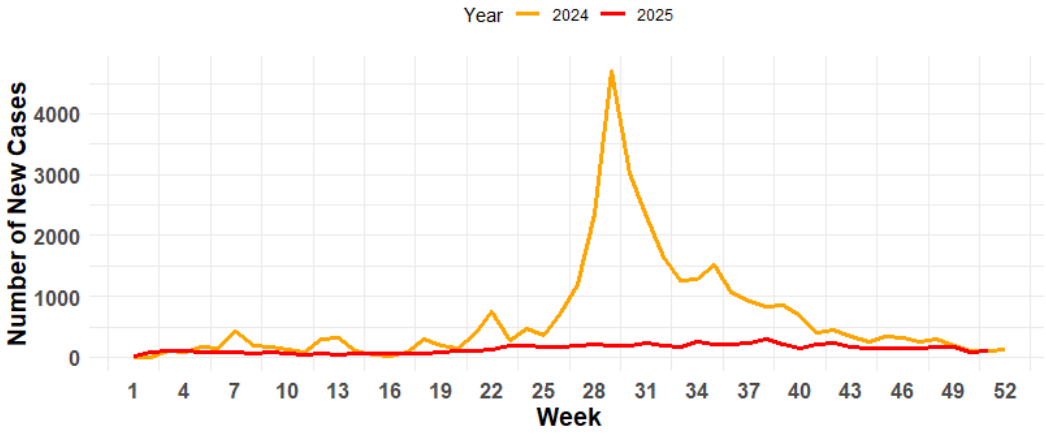


[17] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala. Health Dashboard – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) [Internet]. Thiruvananthapuram: DHS Kerala; 2025 Available from: https://dashboard.kerala.gov.in/

Karnataka[18]

- In Karnataka, in 2024, dengue cases peaked at over 4 500 in week 29, while in 2025, case number remains low as of week 51.

Figure 11. Weekly number of new dengue cases in Karnataka state from week 1 of 2024 to week 51 of 2025

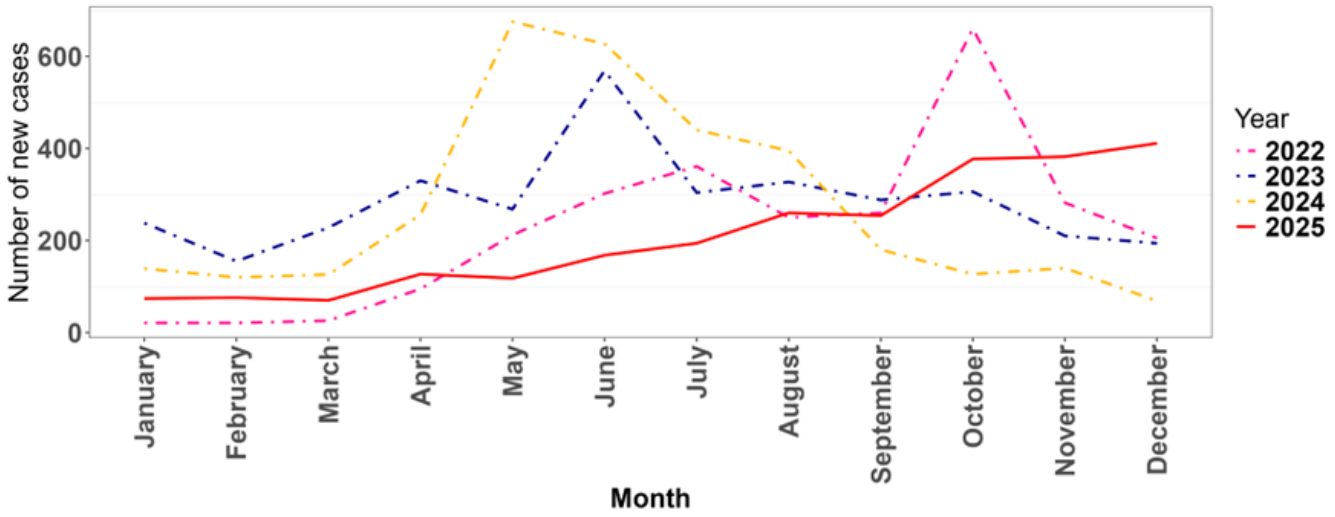


[18] Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka. PRISM-H Disease Surveillance Dashboard [Internet]. Bengaluru: DHFW-GoK; 2023 Available from: https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in/info-4/Weekly%20Infectious%20Disease%20Report/en

Maldives [19]

- During December 2025, a total of 411 cases of dengue were reported in the Maldives, an 8% increase compared to November 2025 (n=382).

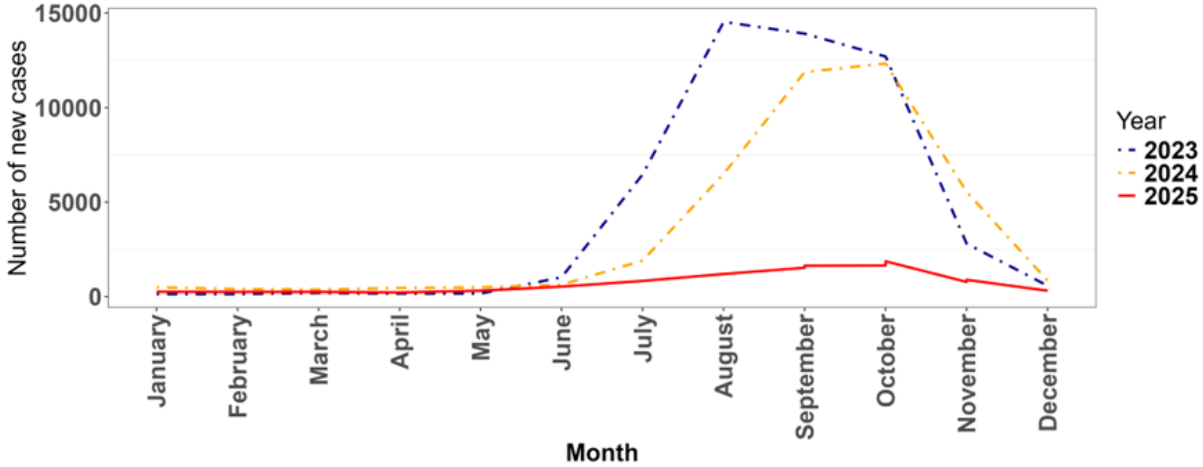
Figure 11. Number of new cases of dengue by month in Maldives from January 2022 to December 2025



Nepal [20]

- During December 2025, a total of 313 dengue cases were reported in Nepal, a 59.8% decrease compared to November 2025 (n = 778).
- In 2025, as of 31 December, a total of 8 563 cases of dengue have been reported compared to 41 865 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 December 2025

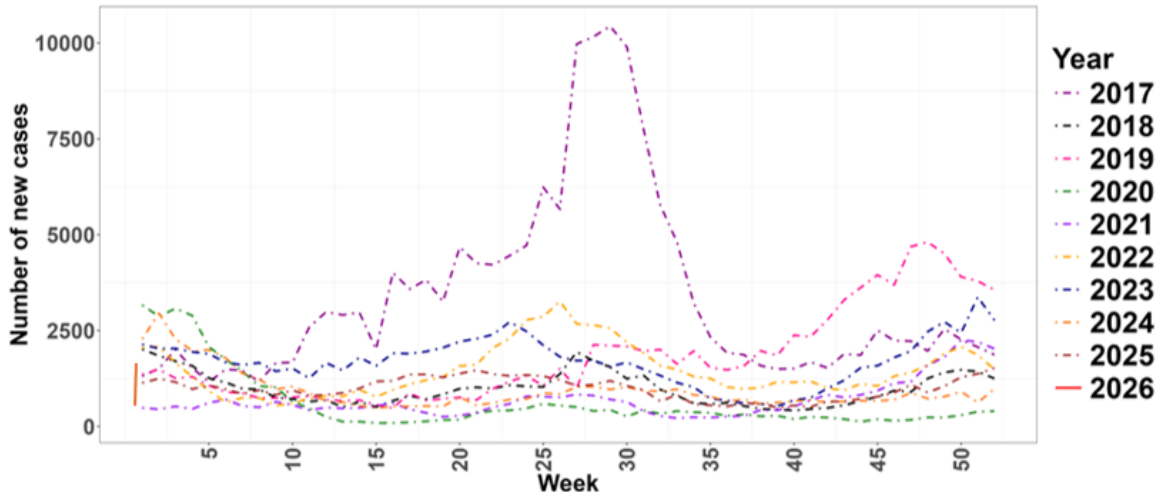


[19] World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/
[20] World Health Organization. Global dengue surveillance. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/dengue_global/

Sri Lanka [21]

- During week one (29 December 2025 to 04 January 2026), a total of 1 689 new dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka, a 48.4% increase compared to 1 522 cases reported during week 52 (22 to 28 December 2025).
- In week one of 2026, a total of 1 689 cases were reported compared to 51 539 and 46 367 cases during the same period in 2025 and 2024, respectively.
- The Western Province accounted for 56.5% of total cases, with the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) contributing 6.7%, the rest of Colombo District 24.2%.

Figure 13. Number of new dengue cases by week in Sri Lanka from week 1 of 2017 to week one of 2026.



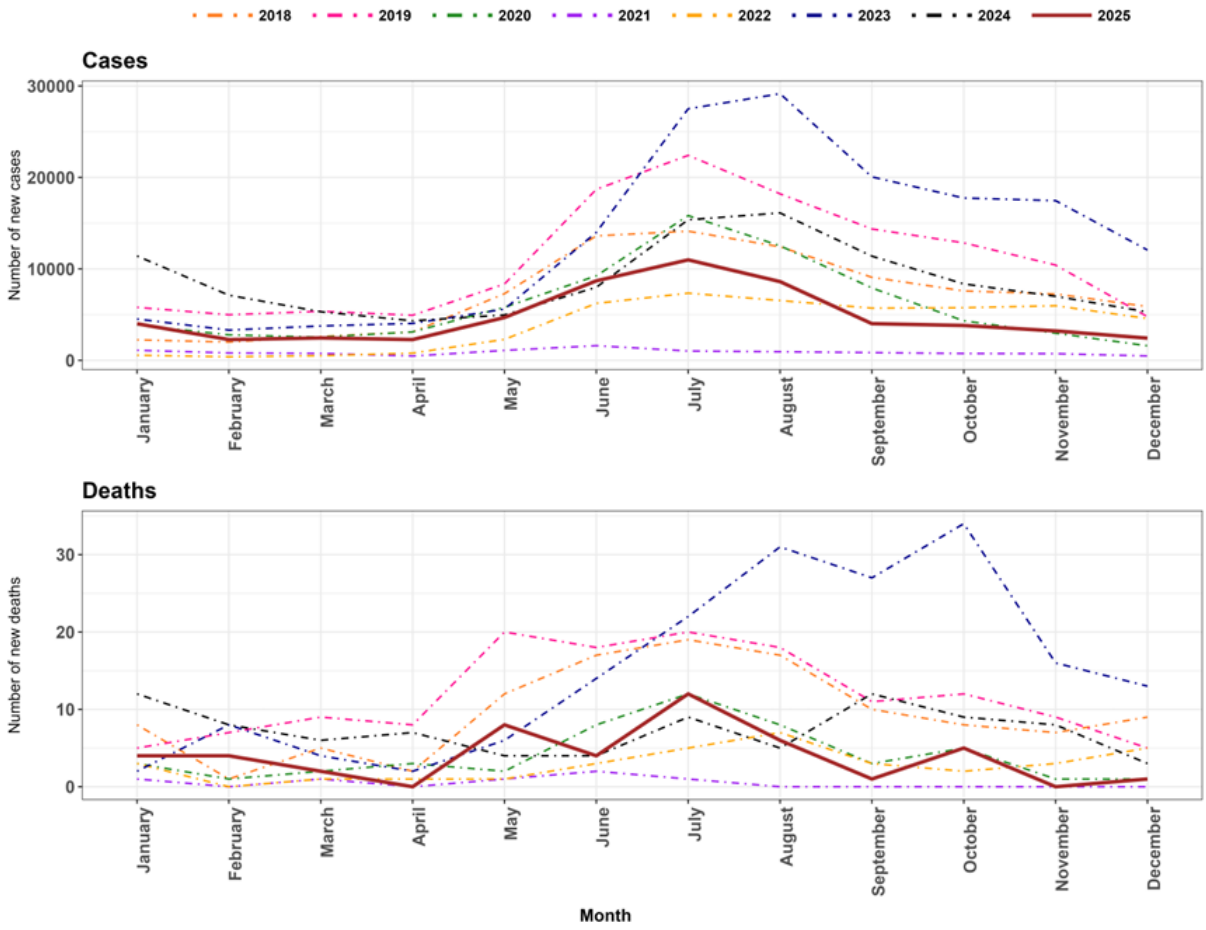
Sources: Epidemiology Unit and National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health - 2017 to 2020; 2021 to 2025

[21] National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU), Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. National Dengue Control Unit [Internet]. Colombo: MoH; 2025 [cited 2026 January 13]. Available from: https://www.dengue.health.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/

Thailand [22]

- During December 2025, a total of 2 427 cases of dengue were reported in Thailand, a 25% decrease compared to November 2025 (n=3 218).
- During December 2025, one dengue death was reported, which compares to nil death reported in November 2025.
- In 2025, as of 31 December, a total of 57 440 dengue cases and 47 dengue-related deaths have been reported. This is 55% of the number of cases (n=104 681) and 54% of the number of deaths (n=87) reported during the same period in 2024.

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



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