

Reporting Period: 14 May - 2 June 2020

Regional Highlights

- With over 207,000 confirmed cases, India has seen a rapid rise and now has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the Asia Pacific region. Iran, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indonesia continue to experience a rapid increase in confirmed cases.
- Several countries in the region are responding to natural disasters during the pandemic, including India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste.
- In countries with fragile health systems, refugees and displaced populations are extremely vulnerable. More than 20 cases have been confirmed in the overcrowded Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, with the first COVID-19-related death of a Rohingya refugee confirmed.
- Cross-border movements can make countries such as Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Nepal vulnerable to new cases.
- Small island states with weak health systems are also vulnerable. The Maldives has seen a rapid rise in cases.
- At least nine country offices and the Pacific Sub-Regional Office (PSRO) are implementing activities tailored to the needs of people with disabilities, including customisation of dignity kits, development of safety apps and accessible information dissemination.
- At least ten country offices and the PSRO are meeting the needs of older men and women by implementing activities tailored to their unique needs, such as provision of community-based health care services, customisation of dignity kits and risk communication.
- UNFPA is supporting innovative remote and tele-health service delivery for both SRH and GBV.
- While additional resources have been mobilised, a significant funding gap remains. Other challenges include disruptions to supply chains, movement restrictions impacting service delivery and ensuring services reach vulnerable migrant populations.

Asia and Pacific Region

COVID-19
Situation Report No. 4

United Nations Population Fund



Situation in Numbers



686,452 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



24,425 COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO 4 June, 2020

Key Population Groups



50 M Pregnant Women



1 B Women of Reproductive Age

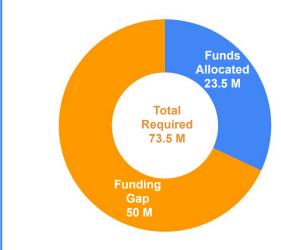


965 M Young People (age 10-24)



347 M Older Persons (age 65+)

Funding Status for Region (US\$)



Regional Response Summary

Coordination

The UNFPA response in the region aligns with the <u>2030 Agenda</u>, <u>WHO global strategic preparedness and response plan</u>, <u>UN-coordinated global humanitarian response plan</u>, <u>UN framework for socio-economic response to COVID-19</u> and UNFPA COVID-19 global response plan.

National level

- UNFPA's activities are in support of government response plans and are conducted in partnership with the UN country team, humanitarian country team and/or disaster management team. Activities are coordinated through national and sub-national coordination mechanisms, including through the cluster/sector system where activated.
- UNFPA leads or co-leads the GBV and/or SRH sub-sectors/clusters or working groups, as well as co-leads selected pillars of the UN's framework for the socio-economic response to COVID-19 in several countries.

Regional level

- UNFPA co-leads the regional ad-hoc protection against sexual and exploitation abuse (PSEA) task team, with
 dedicated emphasis on supporting inter-agency coordination on PSEA during COVID-19 response. On May 14,
 the ad-hoc PSEA task team organised a regional webinar on PSEA and COVID-19 for Resident Coordinators and
 Humanitarian Country Teams in the region.
- UNFPA also co-leads the UNiTE working group on eliminating violence against women and the Risk Communication sub-group on Vulnerable and Marginalised Populations.
- UNFPA is an active member of several regional interagency working groups, including the COVID-19 Working Group, Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group and the Logistics Working Group.
- UNFPA hosts the inter-agency Regional Emergency GBV Advisor (REGA) team.

Pacific sub-regional level

• The UNFPA PSRO is co-leading the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) cell and co-leads the health services delivery cell.

Continuity of SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

All 22 UNFPA country offices in Asia Pacific and the PSRO are supporting continuity of SRH interventions by:

- Ensuring the continuity of and access to quality lifesaving SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth.
- Supporting national- and local-level planning, coordination and monitoring to ensure access to SRH services. This includes advocacy, provision of technical and programmatic assistance as well as information management support.

In addition:

- 19 country offices and the PSRO are strengthening operational and logistics support to global supply chains, including provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) to health workers and ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other commodities.¹
- 9 country offices and the PSRO are **investing in SRH capacity building**, including training frontline health workers and partners on maternal and newborn health services, including infection prevention and control.²

Country examples:

- **Afghanistan:** Provision of emergency reproductive health kits to meet the SRH needs of an overall affected population of 290,000 people for three months in Mazar and Jalalabad City.
- **Bangladesh:** 220 obstetric fistula survivors received tele-counselling and services and built awareness on infection prevention and control. 70 fistula survivors received rehabilitation and reintegration support.
- **DPRK**: Facilities in eight counties are being strengthened with life-saving reproductive health kits, as well as delivery and midwifery kits to manage basic and emergency obstetric services.
- India: 4,396 elderly people have received health checkups through mobile health camps in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha in collaboration with HelpAge India. 541 elderly people have received essential commodity support.

¹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, DPRK, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pacific Sub-Regional Office, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam

² Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pacific Sub-Regional Office, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste

Regional Response Summary (Continued)

- Indonesia: 150 new mothers have received kits containing essential items for themselves and their newborns in the areas most affected by COVID-19.
- Mongolia: Students with disabilities will benefit from comprehensive sexuality education tele-sessions tailored to their specific needs through a joint UN project.
- Nepal: Through a popular phone-in radio programme, experts are providing critical SRH information and advice to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Pakistan: From February to April, trained health care providers have supported 2,280 live births at UNFPA supported health facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.
- Papua New Guinea: UNFPA is helping Family Support Centres provide essential GBV and SRH services and is working with other agencies to ensure people living with TB, HIV and people with disabilities are not left behind.



- **Philippines**: Pregnant women who are facing difficulties accessing birth facilities during the lockdown are benefiting from information and advice through a 24/7 hotline.
- **Timor-Leste**: Midwifery services are being scaled up through provision of training and supplies; 34 health care workers have received training on pregnancy and COVID-19.
- Viet Nam: Health facilities serving vulnerable populations including ethnic minorities and migrant workers have been provided with contraceptives, medical equipment and supplies, PPE and hand sanitisers to ensure continued provision of quality SRH and family planning services.
- Pacific sub-region: Modern contraceptives have been provided to the Ministries of Health in a number of Pacific Island countries to ensure availability despite supply chain disruptions to avoid stockouts until logistics stabilise.

Addressing Gender-Based Violence

UNFPA Country Offices are addressing GBV by:

- **Supporting national strategies and response plans** to strengthen GBV prevention and response services through technical and programmatic assistance.⁶
- Investing in capacity building of GBV response service providers, including health practitioners, to provide timely, quality and confidential services to survivors of GBV. Topics include adapting to remote service delivery modality for case management, psychosocial support, updating referral mechanisms and safe and ethical data gathering.
- Ensuring the continuity and accessibility of lifesaving GBV services for women and adolescent girls. This
 includes medical support, psychosocial counseling, hotlines, shelters, one-stop crisis centres, case management,
 dignity kit distribution and referrals.⁸
- Leading or co-leading inter-agency coordination mechanisms for GBV risk mitigation and response in emergencies.9

⁵ Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu

⁶ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pacific Sub-Regional Office, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste

⁷ Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Fiji, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pacific Sub-Regional Office, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Thailand

⁸ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pacific Sub-Regional Office, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste

⁹ Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh (national GBV cluster and Cox's Bazar GBV sub-sector); India (UN sub group on GBV), Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and the Pacific region.

Regional Response Summary (Continued)

Country examples:

- Afghanistan: Family Response Units remain functional in 26 targeted provinces providing police and legal services, including referrals for survivors of GBV. In May, 233 survivors of GBV accessed police services. Women Friendly Spaces are functional in 8 provinces providing essential GBV services, including psychosocial services and referrals.
- **Bangladesh**: 6,254 dignity kits for women and girls and kits specifically designed for transgender people are being procured and will be distributed with key messages and information on GBV services.
- India: Co-developed a course on addressing GBV during COVID-19 in partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority and trained 650 volunteers on gender equality promotion and addressing GBV in collaboration with the COVID Academy.
- Indonesia: Elderly people are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 and are at risk of violence and neglect. UNFPA has developed guidance and is supporting community engagement, provision of psychosocial support and distribution of essential supplies to elderly women living in temporary shelters in Central Sulawesi Province.
- **Iran:** UNFPA led an annual work planning workshop for the Women and Girls' Protection Sub-sector to coordinate preparedness and response activities for 2020.
- Lao PDR: UNFPA is working with government and other partners to shape education programmes to engage men and boys in adopting positive and equal, healthy relationships.
- **Myanmar:** UNFPA is supporting a scale-up to hotlines and the provision of remote services to reach the most vulnerable through existing Women and Girls' Centres, Youth Centres and Safe Spaces.
- **Pakistan**: 694 people have received tele-psychosocial support on stress and issues related to COVID-19, reproductive health, GBV, emotional and physical abuse, and family conflicts through UNFPA's partner ROZAN.
- **Philippines**: Persons with severe mental illness are among the most marginalised during emergencies. UNFPA provided cash for protection for 50 people to meet basic needs such as food, medicine, education and transportation to protection services while minimising GBV risk and supporting healing and recovery.



Photo credit: UNFPA Myanmar

- Thailand: UNFPA and UN Women co-chair the UN Working Group on GBV, aiming to strengthen coordination and build synergy among GBV actors, line ministries and civil society organisations.
- Pacific sub-region: UNFPA has provided technical support to integrate GBV risk mitigation into all aspects of the pandemic response and ensure it is included in national contingency/preparedness and humanitarian response plans, and in food security, health and WASH responses.
- **Regional**: UNFPA APRO continues to provide technical guidance to country offices to enhance the quality of programme interventions. The REGA team, hosted by UNFPA APRO, continues to provide technical advice and support for coordination of GBV interventions and inter-agency partners, including for the Women and Girls' Protection Sub-sector in Iran, the GBV Sub-cluster in Afghanistan and the GBV Cluster in Bangladesh.

Impact assessment on the health and socioeconomic impact of COVID-19

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam are currently engaged in, or have completed, inter-agency assessments of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. In some countries, UNFPA is developing more thematic-specific assessments:

Regional Response Summary (Continued)

- Impact surveys focusing on vulnerable children and youth, including those from ethnic groups or deep south provinces, stateless persons, teen mothers and persons with disabilities, were developed with partners (**Thailand**)
- Collaborative work with research and educational institutions to determine the impact of COVID-19 on the elderly with the aim of influencing government policies for COVID-19 response and the 'new normal' (**Philippines**)
- Assessment of the SRH and GBV implications of COVID-19 and the readiness of facilities and service providers to respond (Cambodia, China, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam)
- Assessment of increased maternal death and assessment of the readiness of SRH service provision, including maternal health services (Mongolia, Bangladesh and Vietnam)
- Assessment of secondary impacts on women of reproductive age and older persons (**China**, **India**, **Iran**, **Malaysia** and **Thailand**)
- Assessment of the impact on youth (India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Pacific Sub-Regional Office)
- Vulnerability population mapping and analysis with UN agencies (Lao PDR and Mongolia)
- Multi-sectoral anticipatory impact and needs analysis (**Bangladesh**)
- Impact on maternal health and family planning: estimates and modelling scenarios (**Afghanistan**)
- APRO supported modelling potential impacts of COVID-19 on maternal health and family planning in **Bangladesh**, **Cambodia**, **Indonesia**, **Lao PDR**, **Nepal**, **Philippines**, **Viet Nam**, **DPRK**, **Maldives** and **Papua New Guinea**.

Risk communication and community engagement

UNFPA country offices are undertaking SRH and GBV risk communications and community engagement activities adapted to the local context and language. This includes sharing key messages and health education materials, and GBV, MHPSS information for women of reproductive age, pregnant women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTQI communities, female health workers and internally displaced populations; and supporting toll-free hotlines where people can access accurate information.¹⁰

Country examples:

- **Bhutan:** Developed and disseminated COVID-19 messages targeting disabled women and men, LGBTIQ and other vulnerable groups.
- Cambodia: Conducting a social media campaign to promote access to quality ANC, safe delivery, and emergency
 obstetric and newborn care targeting pregnant women, women of reproductive age, garment factory workers and
 migrant returnees.
- China: Joint media and social media on disease prevention and control, gender equality and combatting discrimination and xenophobia with the National Center for Women and Children's Health and Xinhua News Agency.
- Malaysia: Advocacy and awareness raising activities tailored to pregnant women, youth, people at risk of GBV and people living under stressful conditions.
- Maldives: UNFPA is working to end stigma around menstruation and ensure availability of supplies for menstrual hygiene management.
- Sri Lanka: With many families at home together due to COVID-19, home care work that was previously invisible is much more visible. UNFPA has launched a social media campaign that outlines 10 ways men can step up and contribute at home.



Media & Communications

UNFPA raises awareness, shares guidance and showcases achievements through media outreach.

Asia Pacific Regional Office:

- The pandemic within a pandemic: GBV amid lockdowns
- UNFPA participates in Devex Facebook live on how unconventional data can help inform GBV responses.
- <u>UNICEF Innocenti Think Piece: Remote data collection on violence against women during COVID-19: A</u> conversation with experts on ethics, measurement & research priorities
- Devex Inside Development: Has it become too dangerous to measure violence against women?

Cambodia:

• <u>UNFPA provides 2,100 dignity kits for distribution to vulnerable migrant returnees, particularly pregnant women and women at high risk of GBV (link, link, link)</u>

India:

- Putting menstrual hygiene first in India
- Listen to her
- Delivery in a time of coronavirus: One mother's story
- Video on guidelines for Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers during COVID19
- Video on role of Community Health Workers during the COVID-19
- Newspaper advertisement on guidelines on responsibly celebrating Eid during COVID-19 (Hindi and Urdu)
- Articles published on UNFPA supported Swaasthi helpline (The Hindu, Maharashtra Times, Navbharat Times)
- Joint oped: Dr Natalia Kanem (UNFPA) and Mark Lowcock (OCHA) in The Quint
- Menstrual Hygiene Day: the UNFPA supported Samriddhi Project in Madhya Pradesh (Indian Express article)
- Listen to Her: A film by Nandita Das on GBV during COVID-19 lockdown

Indonesia:

- UNFPA in the news:
 - Locked down and pregnant: Clinics are no longer the safe places they used to be, what can be done?
 - Lack of family planning access due to COVID-19 could cause a rise in unintended pregnancies
 - Sex during the pandemic: From lack of contraceptives to prohibition against pregnancy
 - 6 UN Messages for Indonesia to ensure healthy lifestyle for poor and vulnerable families
 - Women and children suffer greatly during the pandemic
 - <u>Family planning participation declines due to limited access to contraceptives</u>
 - o Birth rate expected to increase, fear of COVID-19 resulting in the decreased contraceptive purchase (link)
 - o Baby boom could potentially occur post-pandemic
 - To prevent malnutrition among children and pregnant women, here are the UN's recommendations (link)
 - UN Join Statement by FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, WFP, WHO and UNICEF
- Social media:
 - Young people voice their opinions and needs through a survey on the pandemic (Fb Twitter Instagram)
 - UNFPA's Youth Advisory Panel facilitated a discussion through an Instagram Live event and highlighted the leadership of young people in responding to the pandemic (Fb Twitter Instagram)
 - Private midwifery practice provides sense of safety and comfort to expecting mothers
 - Midwives celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise and unite

Iran:

Midwives save lives but amid COVID-19, many are losing theirs

Lao PDR:

- My job teaches me humanity everyday
- Realising my dream job of providing SRH services
- "Noi Yakhoo Mobile App": Keeping Lao youth healthy and safe!
- Engaging men and boys for a more equal post COVID-19 society

Mongolia:

Video: COVID-19 and UNFPA Mongolia's programmatic actions (English link, Mongolian link)

Media & Communications (continued)

Myanmar

United Nations in Myanmar is working towards ensuring continuity of SRH services amid COVID-19 pandemic

Nepal:

- In Nepal, COVID-19 turning pregnancy excitement into fear
- Establishment of hotline service to provide SRH counselling
- International media outreach: interview with a nurse on Menstrual Hygiene Day
- A live phone-in radio programme targeting pregnant women and lactating mothers

Pakistan:

- Protecting health workers, ensuring health and safety for everyone, especially pregnant women, mothers & newborns
- Short public service messages from OBGYN on pregnancy care, breastfeeding and family planning
- Message on continuation of family planning services narrated by Information Minister, Mr. Shibli Faraz
- Message on continuation of family planning services narrated by Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology
- <u>Psychosocial support and health services provision through 5 health facilities supported by UNFPA and DFAT in Afghan refugees and hosting communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</u>
- <u>UNFPA with NDMA, ROZAN and NCSW developed 'Guidelines on Minimum Standards of Care during COVID19"</u>
 for Darulaman and women centres
- <u>UNFPA supported series of interactive sessions on Facebook with experts on psychosocial wellbeing, menstrual hygiene and GBV (link, link, link, link, link, link, link)</u>
- <u>Infection prevention and control trainings for quarantine medical staff including managers and healthcare providers at quarantine facilities</u>
- Training of trainers in infection prevention and control (link, link)
- <u>UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP join hands for a youth perception survey as a baseline assessment to analyse the impact of the pandemic on young people's lives</u>
- UNFPA salutes Midwives on International Day of the midwife
- COVID-19 may lead to higher fistula cases
- Testimony from the field UNFPA Pakistan's active response to COVID19



Media & Communications (Continued)

Philippines:

- Lifesaving supplies reach pandemic frontline responders in the southern Philippines
- Advocacy/BCC and tribute video to nurses, midwives, female doctors including OBGYN, psychosocial counselors, social workers and every female frontliner in the COVID-19 response
- <u>UNFPA Country Representative served as a panelist in "Usapang Human Development" an online policy talk</u> show series hosted by the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development
- Advocacy/BCC video on family planning
- Press release: UNFPA through DFAT donated PPE to BARMM frontliners

Sri Lanka

- Diaper handover post
- Human Interest Story linking COVID-19 to Menstrual Health Day
- Prezi campaign



Timor-Leste

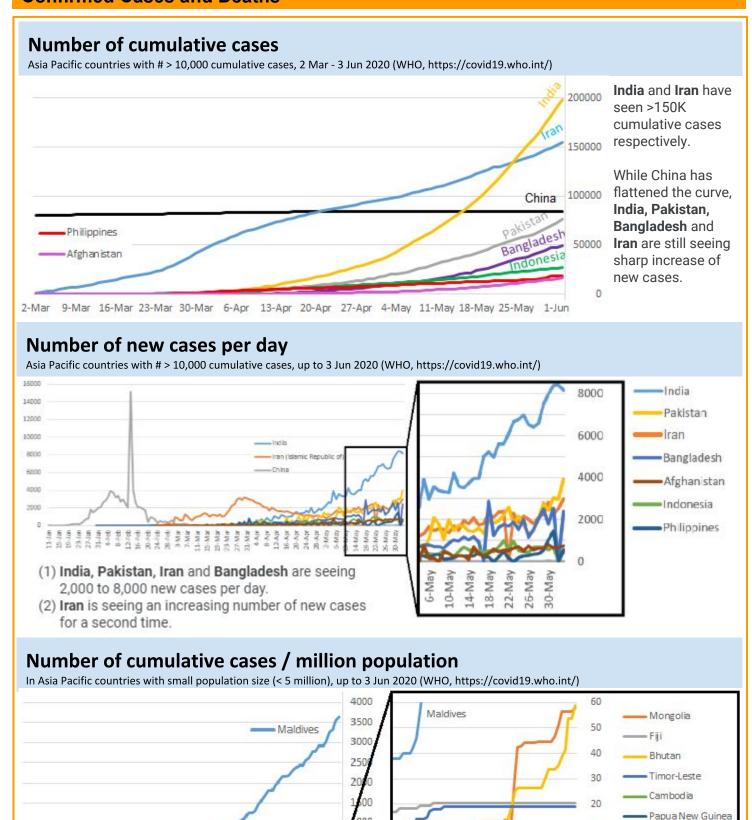
- UNFPA delivers 1,000 dignity kits to support more than 4,000 families affected by floods
- UNFPA organises nationwide distribution of family planning commodities and maternal health medicines
- UNFPA provides training for health care workers on pregnant women and COVID-19
- UNFPA distributes hygiene kits for those in guarantine
- Govt of Timor-Leste and UN sign 5-year Cooperation Framework UNSDCF
- UNFPA Timor-Leste dignity kits distribution (link., link)
- UN Timor-Leste joint COVID-19 response May 2020 edition
- Press release: EU and UN committed to ensuring safety and protection of women and girls
- International Women's Day celebration video
- IEC Materials on COVID-19
 - o CoronaVirus: Fast facts and what you can do
 - Do you need help on COVID-19?
 - o Q&A on COVID-19 and HIV
- Social Media Message
 - o Happy Day of Families
 - Abuse isn't always physical
 - o Q&A on contraception/family planning and COVID-19 on Facebook (link, link)
 - Happy Mothers Day!! Thank you for all your love and support
 - Women's loss of employment as a result of COVID-19 can increase their financial dependence
 - Contraceptives should be available and accessible at all times, especially now

Confirmed Cases and Deaths

31-Mar

21-Mar 26-Mar 5-Apr 10-Apr 20-Apr 25-Apr 30-Apr

5-May 10-May 15-May 20-May



Among Asia Pacific countries with small population size (< 5 million), **Maldives** has the highest number of cumulative cases per million population (3,658 cases/ million population).

500

0

10

0

Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 4 June 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Afghanistan	17,891	299
Bangladesh	55,140	746
Bhutan	47	0
Cambodia	125	0
China	84,603	4,645
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0	0
India	216,919	6,075
Indonesia	28,233	1,698
Iran	160,696	8,012
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	0
Malaysia	7,970	115
Maldives	1,850	7
Mongolia	185	0
Myanmar	234	6
Nepal	2,300	9
Fiji	18	0
Pakistan	85,264	1,770
Papua New Guinea	8	0
Philippines	19,748	974
Sri Lanka	1,749	11
Thailand	3,101	58
Timor-Leste	24	0
Viet Nam	328	0
TOTAL	686,452	24,425

Confirmed Cases by Country and Region

