Update on the Dengue situation in the Western Pacific Region

Northern Hemisphere

Cambodia
As of epidemiological week 25, 2021, a total of 790 dengue cases, including one death, have been reported in Cambodia for 2021. This cumulative number of cases represents approximately a five-fold decrease as compared to the number of cases reported during the same period in 2020 (n=3,103). The number of cases reported weekly remains lower than the normal range of cases reported from 2015 to 2020 (Figure 1). The reported number of dengue cases is lower in all provinces compared to trends observed in 2020.

![Figure 1: Dengue cases reported weekly from 2021 vs 2020 Mean and Mean+2SD during 2015-2020, *excluding 2019 in Cambodia](image1.png)

*Source: Ministry of Health, Cambodia*

China (no update)
In May 2021, five dengue cases and no deaths were reported in China. The trend in 2021 follows an expected seasonal trend (Figure 2).

![Figure 2: Dengue cases reported monthly from 2013-2021 in China](image2.png)

*Source: National Health Commission, China*
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
During epidemiological week 26 of 2021, 45 dengue cases and no deaths were reported in Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Figure 3). The number of cases reported as of epidemiological week 26 2021 is 450; this is almost 4.5 times lower compared to the same period in 2020 when 2,011 cases were reported. The trend is within seasonally expected levels.

Malaysia
During epidemiological week 26, 2021, a total of 585 dengue cases and no deaths were reported. As of 3 July 2021, the cumulative number of reported cases is 14,081. This is a significant decrease compared to 54,391 cases reported during the same period in 2020. As of epidemiological week 26, a total of nine deaths due to dengue have been reported in 2021, compared to 92 deaths during the same period in 2020.
Philippines
In epidemiological week 25, from 20 to 26 June 2021, a total of one hundred forty-eight (148) dengue cases have been reported with one (1) reported mortality. This is 84% lower compared to the same period in 2020 (n=911). From 1 January to 26 June 2021, there has been a total of 31,321 dengue cases with 112 deaths (CFR 0.36%) reported, this is 44% lower compared to the 56,309 cases reported in the same period in 2020.

![Figure 5: Dengue cases reported weekly from 2021 in the Philippines](source: Department of Health, the Philippines)

Singapore
In epidemiological week 26 of 2021, 113 dengue cases were reported in Singapore and a total of 3,387 cases have been reported since epidemiological week 1 of 2021 (Figure 6). Weekly trends are within expected seasonal levels.

![Figure 6: Dengue cases reported weekly from 2015-2021 in Singapore](source: Communicable Diseases Division, Ministry of Health, Singapore)
Viet Nam

During week 26 of 2021, there were 1,660 cases and no deaths reported from 42 out of 63 provinces. The number of cases decreased by 16.6% compared to the previous week (1,990 cases including two deaths). As of 4 July 2021, a total of 37,420 cases of dengue, including nine deaths, have been reported in Viet Nam. Compared to the same period in 2020 (38,167 cases including five deaths), the cumulative number of cases decreased by 2%, with four more deaths reported.

Southern Hemisphere

Australia

As of 14 July 2021, one cumulative case of dengue has been reported in Australia to-date (Figure 8). In contrast, there were 220 dengue cases reported in Australia in January to June 2020 indicating a marked reduction in the number of cases. The significant drop in dengue cases for 2021 in Australia as compared to previous years during the same time period may be attributed to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. Prior to COVID-19, Australia had seen increasing notifications in overseas-acquired cases from returning travellers to dengue endemic areas.
Pacific Islands Countries

Cook Islands (no update)
Between 1 January and 25 May 2021, a total of 200 dengue cases with no deaths were reported in the Cook Islands where a dengue type-2 (DENV-2) outbreak has been ongoing since February 2021 (Figure 9). Among the reported cases, there are 153 probable cases positive by NS1 antigen (NS1 Ag+) and 47 cases confirmed to have DENV-2 infection based on PCR testing.

![Figure 9: Dengue cases reported monthly from 2021 in Cook Islands](Source: Ministry of Health, Cook Islands)

French Polynesia
During epidemiological weeks 23 and 24 of 2021, of 34 suspected dengue cases tested for dengue-specific IgM (Figure 10) none tested positive. In 2021, the proportion of dengue-like illness (DLI) cases among consultations at sentinel sites has remained below 2%.

![Figure 10: Samples and confirmed cases of dengue reported weekly from 2020-2021 in French Polynesia](Source: Centre for Occupational Health and Public Safety, French Polynesia)
New Caledonia
During epidemiological weeks 1 to 26 of 2021, a total of 113 dengue cases were reported in New Caledonia, including 91 confirmed cases, 21 probable cases, and one suspected case (Figure 11). This is an increase compared to the same period in 2020 when a total of 50 cases were reported. DENV-2 was detected in 85 out of the 91 confirmed cases as of 13 July 2021.

Wallis and Futuna
During epidemiological weeks 25 to 27 of 2021, three confirmed cases of dengue were reported in Wallis and Futuna (Figure 12). As of epidemiological week 27 2021, there have been 63 cases reported. Among them, 59 cases were reported in Futuna and four cases reported in Wallis. In 2020, there were 124 cases (confirmed and probable).
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) – Dengue-like illness (DLI) Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, during epidemiological week 26 of 2021, there was an increase in DLI cases reported in the Cook Islands. Meanwhile, the number of DLI cases reported in the Solomon Islands and Wallis and Futuna have decreased. The decrease in Solomon Islands may be due to fewer sentinel sites reporting. (Figure 13). Other Pacific Island Countries and Areas with available surveillance data are reporting no or very low numbers of DLI cases.

* Caution should be taken in interpreting these data as there may be changes in the number of sentinel sites reporting to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System.

Figure 13. Reported cases of dengue-like illness in Pacific Islands Countries and Areas

Source: PacNet Bulletin