Update on the Dengue situation in the Western Pacific Region

Northern Hemisphere

Cambodia
As of epidemiological week 30, 2021, a total of 929 dengue cases, including two deaths, 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=5,631). 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.

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

Figure 1: Dengue cases reported weekly from 2021 vs 2020 Mean and Mean+2SD during 2015-2020, *excluding 2019 in Cambodia
Source: Ministry of Health, Cambodia

Figure 2: Dengue cases reported monthly from 2013-2021 in China
Source: National Health Commission, China
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
During epidemiological week 30 of 2021, 64 dengue cases and no deaths were reported in Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Figure 3). The cumulative number of cases reported as of epidemiological week 30 2021 is 652; this is nearly five times lower compared to the same period in 2020 when 3,333 cases were reported. The trend is within seasonally expected levels.

Malaysia
During epidemiological week 30, 2021, a total of 492 dengue cases and one death were reported. As of 31 July 2021, the cumulative number of reported cases is 16,194. This is a significant decrease compared to 62,615 cases reported during the same period in 2020. As of epidemiological week 30, a total of 10 deaths due to dengue have been reported in 2021, compared to 105 deaths during the same period in 2020.
Philippines (no update)
In epidemiological week 26, from 27 June to 3 Jul 2021, there was a total of one hundred eighty-six (186) dengue cases with one (1) reported mortality. This is 83% lower compared to the same period in 2020 (n=1,079). From 1 January to 03 July 2021, there has been a total of 32,555 dengue cases with 119 deaths (CFR 0.4%) reported, this is 43% lower compared to the 57,388 cases reported in the same period in 2020.

Singapore (no update)
In epidemiological week 30 of 2021, 82 dengue cases were reported in Singapore and a total of 3,727 cases have been reported since epidemiological week 1 of 2021 (Figure 6). Weekly trends are within expected seasonal levels.
Viet Nam
During week 30 of 2021, there were 753 cases and no deaths reported from 38 out of 63 provinces. The number of cases decreased by 33.3% compared to the previous week (1,129 cases including two deaths). As of 1 August 2021, a total of 43,028 cases of dengue, including 13 deaths, have been reported in Viet Nam. Compared to the same period in 2020 (48,415 cases including six deaths), the cumulative number of cases decreased by 11.1%, with seven more deaths reported.

Southern Hemisphere
Australia
As of 11 August 2021, one cumulative case of dengue has been reported in Australia to-date (Figure 8). In contrast, there were 221 dengue cases reported in Australia in January to July 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 11 July 2021, a total of 217 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 170 probable cases positive by NS1 antigen (NS1 Ag+) and 47 cases confirmed to have DENV-2 infection based on PCR testing.

French Polynesia

During epidemiological weeks 27 and 28 of 2021, out of 36 suspected dengue cases tested for dengue-specific IgM (Figure 10), one sample tested positive. In 2021, the proportion of dengue-like illness (DLI) cases among consultations at sentinel sites has remained at 2% or below.
New Caledonia (no update)
During epidemiological weeks 1 to 30 of 2021, a total of 115 dengue cases were reported in New Caledonia, including 92 confirmed cases, 22 probable cases, and one suspected case (Figure 11). This is an increase compared to the same period in 2020 when a total of 50 total dengue cases were reported. DENV-2 was detected in 85 out of the 92 confirmed cases as of 28 July 2021.

Wallis and Futuna
During epidemiological weeks 28 to 29 of 2021, three confirmed cases of dengue were reported in Wallis and Futuna (Figure 12). As of epidemiological week 29, 2021, there have been 66 cases reported. Among them, 62 cases were reported in Futuna and four cases reported in Wallis. In 2020, there were a cumulative of 124 cases confirmed.
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) – Dengue-like illness (DLI) Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, during epidemiological week 30 of 2021, there was an increase in DLI cases reported in Palau and Wallis & Futuna. Meanwhile, the number of DLI cases reported in Fiji and the Federated States of Micronesia have decreased. 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