Update on the Dengue situation in the Western Pacific Region

Northern Hemisphere

Cambodia
As of epidemiological week 38, 2021, a total of 1,257 dengue cases, including three deaths, have been reported in Cambodia for 2021. 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 August 2021, three dengue cases and no deaths were reported in China. The trend in 2021 is below usual seasonal trend, as compared to previous years, as compared to previous years (Figure 2).
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
During epidemiological week 40 of 2021, 50 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 40 2021 is 1,150. This is a significant decrease compared to 6,469 cases reported during the same period in 2020. The trend is within seasonally expected levels.

Malaysia
During epidemiological week 40, 2021, a total of 490 dengue cases and one death was reported. As of 9 October 2021, the cumulative number of reported cases is 20,376. This is a significant decrease of 74% compared to 78,303 cases reported during the same period in 2020. As of epidemiological week 40, a total of 14 deaths due to dengue have been reported in 2021, compared to 127 deaths during the same period in 2020.
Singapore
In epidemiological week 40 of 2021, 105 dengue cases were reported in Singapore and a total of 4,488 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](image)

Source: Communicable Diseases Division, Ministry of Health, Singapore

Viet Nam
During week 40 of 2021, there were 1,463 cases and no deaths reported from 47 out of 63 provinces. The number of cases increased by 16.5% compared to the previous week (1,256 cases including no deaths). As of 10 October 2021, a total of 53,489 cases of dengue, including 20 deaths, have been reported in Viet Nam. Compared to the same period in 2020 (89,271 cases including 14 deaths), the cumulative number of cases decreased by 40.1%, with six more deaths reported.

![Figure 7: Dengue cases and deaths reported weekly from 2020-2021 in Viet Nam](image)

Source: General Department of Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam
Southern Hemisphere

Australia
As of 26 September 2021, three cumulative cases of dengue have been reported in Australia to-date (Figure 8). In contrast, there were 221 dengue cases reported in Australia in January to September 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.

![Figure 8: Laboratory-confirmed dengue cases reported monthly from 2015-2021 in Australia](Source: Department of Health, Australia)

Pacific Islands Countries

French Polynesia
During epidemiological weeks 39 and 40 of 2021, out of 16 suspected dengue cases tested for dengue-specific IgM, no samples tested positive. In 2021, the proportion of dengue-like illness (DLI) cases among consultations at sentinel sites (Figure 9) started to increase between weeks 31 and 34, along with a peak in COVID-19 cases.

![Figure 9: Proportion of DLI cases among consultations at sentinel sites by week from 2020-2021 in French Polynesia](Source: Centre for Occupational Health and Public Safety, French Polynesia)
New Caledonia (no update)
During epidemiological weeks 1 to 33 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 10). 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 23 August 2021.

Wallis and Futuna (no update)
During epidemiological weeks 36 to 37 of 2021, no confirmed cases of dengue were reported in Wallis and Futuna (Figure 11). As of epidemiological week 37, 2021, there have been 68 cases reported. Among them, 63 cases were reported in Futuna and five cases reported in Wallis. In 2020, there were a cumulative of 124 cases confirmed; DENV-2 is in circulation.
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) – Dengue-like illness (DLI) Surveillance

During epidemiological week 40 of 2021, Pacific Island Countries and Areas with available surveillance data are reporting no or very low numbers of DLI cases. Vanuatu, however, is currently experiencing a DENV-2 outbreak.
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 12. Reported cases of dengue-like illness in Pacific Islands Countries and Areas

Source: PacNet Bulletin