Update on the Dengue situation in the Western Pacific Region

Northern Hemisphere

Cambodia
As of epidemiological week 50 of 2022, a total of 12,591 dengue cases and 19 deaths (case fatality rate (CFR) 0.2%) were reported to the National Dengue Surveillance System in Cambodia. The number of cases reported during weeks 41 to 50 of 2022 are higher than the mean number of cases in the same period from 2015–2020 (excluding 2019) however cases have been decreasing since week 43 (Figure 1).

China
In November 2022, 174 dengue cases were reported respectively in China. There has been a total of 537 dengue cases and no deaths in the country from January 2022 to November 2022. The trend for 2022 remains low (Figure 2).
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
During epidemiological week 51 of 2022, 184 dengue cases were reported. This is lower compared to the 274 cases reported in the previous week (Figure 3). The cumulative number of cases reported since epidemiological weeks 1–51, 2022 is 29,138. This is 20 times higher compared to the 1,355 cases reported during the same period in 2021. The cumulative number of deaths in 2022 to date is 28 (CFR 0.1%).

Malaysia
During epidemiological week 51 of 2022, 2018 dengue cases were reported. This is an increase compared to the 1,950 cases reported in the previous week. From epidemiological weeks 1–51 of 2022, a total of 64,078 cases were cumulatively reported. This is an increase of 148.4% compared to 25,794 cases reported during the same period (epidemiological weeks 1–51) in 2021. Up until epidemiological week 51 of 2022, a total of 50 deaths due to dengue had been reported (CFR 0.07%) in 2022, compared to 19 deaths during the same period in 2021 (CFR 0.08%).
Philippines

During epidemiological week 49 of 2022, a total of 473 dengue cases were reported. The number of cases is 71% lower compared to the same period in 2021 (n=1,633). From 1 January to 10 December 2022 (week 49), there have been 216,927 dengue cases and 706 deaths (CFR 0.3%), which is 187% higher compared to the 75,529 cases reported in the same period in 2021. Of the 216,927 reported dengue cases 591 cases were confirmed via PCR. The most prevalent dengue serotype was DEN-1 (360.6%), followed by DEN-2 (135.2%).

Figure 5: Dengue cases reported weekly from 2021 and 2022 in the Philippines
Source: Department of Health, the Philippines
(Note: there is a 3-4 week systematic delay in reporting and numbers should be interpreted with caution)

Singapore

During epidemiological week 51 of 2022, 272 dengue cases were reported in Singapore, leading to a total of 31,892 cases for the year 2022 (Figure 6). This is an increase of 515% compared to 5182 dengue cases reported during the same period (epidemiological weeks 1–51) in 2021. Preliminary results of all positive dengue samples serotyped in December 2022 showed DEN-1 (21.6%), DEN-2 (13.5%), DEN-3 (60.8%) and DEN-4 (4.1%) respectively.

Figure 6: Dengue cases reported weekly from 2015-2022 in Singapore
Source: Communicable Diseases Division, Ministry of Health, Singapore
Viet Nam
During epidemiological week 52 of 2022, there were 4,275 cases and no deaths reported in Viet Nam. A reported 3,371 (79.0%) cases were hospitalized. Compared to week 51 (6,547 cases, 5,336 hospitalizations, 0 deaths), the number of cases increased 34.7 % and the number of hospitalizations decreased 36.8%. From epidemiological weeks 1–52 of 2022, there were 367,729 dengue cases and 140 deaths (CFR 0.04%) cumulatively reported in Viet Nam. Compared to the same period in 2021 (72,88 cases and 27 deaths, CFR 0.04%), the cumulative number of cases was 5 times higher.

Southern Hemisphere
Australia
There were 26 dengue cases reported in Australia during the last reported fortnight (28 November to 11 December 2022). In 2022, the number of cases is increasing but remains low at 331 for the year to date (until 11 December 2022), compared with the trend for the years before 2020 (Figure 8). This may be attributed to COVID-19 related travel restrictions in 2020-2021. Prior to COVID-19, Australia had seen notifications in overseas-acquired cases from travellers returning from dengue endemic areas.
Pacific Islands Countries

New Caledonia

There are no further updates since the previous report. From 1 January to 30 September 2022, 3 confirmed dengue cases were reported in New Caledonia (Figure 9). This is lower compared to the same period in 2021 when a total of 116 dengue cases were reported. Of the 3 confirmed dengue cases in 2022, two were imported cases. All 3 dengue cases were DENV-2.

Figure 9: Dengue cases reported by week from 2020 to 2022 in New Caledonia

Source: Network of sentinel physicians, New Caledonia

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) – Dengue-like illness (DLI) Surveillance

During epidemiological week 50 of 2022, Pacific Island Countries and Areas with available surveillance data (14/18 PICs) are reporting no or low numbers of DLI cases. Fiji, French Polynesia, Vanuatu, and Wallis & Futuna reported a higher weekly number of cases compared with the corresponding epidemiological week of 2021.
Dengue Situation Update 662
Figure 10. Reported cases of dengue-like illness in Pacific Islands Countries and Areas

Source: WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support

*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.

FSM: Federated States of Micronesia