



More than 250 women with disabilities in Pakistan received dignity kits through STEP with the support of UNFPA © STEP Pakistan

Asia and Pacific Region

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 5

United Nations Population Fund



Reporting Period: 1 - 30 June 2020

Regional Situation

- With over 600,000 confirmed cases, India continues to see a rapid rise and has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the region. Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to experience increase in new cases.
- Maldives has the highest number of COVID-19 cases per million population in the Asia Pacific region, although new cases are now decreasing.
- In countries with fragile health systems, refugees and displaced populations are extremely vulnerable. More than 46 cases have been confirmed in the overcrowded Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.
- Countries in the region are responding to natural disasters in addition to the pandemic, including India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste.

UNFPA Response Highlights

- **At least 68,655 youth have received support through youth health lines** in Afghanistan (15,300), Bangladesh (4,642), India (19,640), Lao PDR (25,000) and Nepal (4,073).
- **46,515 women and adolescent girls have received dignity kits** in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Maldives, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan and in the Pacific. The majority of kits have been customised for the COVID-19 context with additional protective items and information on available GBV services.
- **At least 15 country offices and the Pacific Sub-regional Office (PSRO) are investing in GBV capacity building** of health and social workers, case managers, counsellors, social mobilisers and/or Government staff.

Situation in Numbers



1,446,955 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



45,046 COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO 2 July 2020

Key Population Groups



50 M Pregnant Women



1 B Women of Reproductive Age

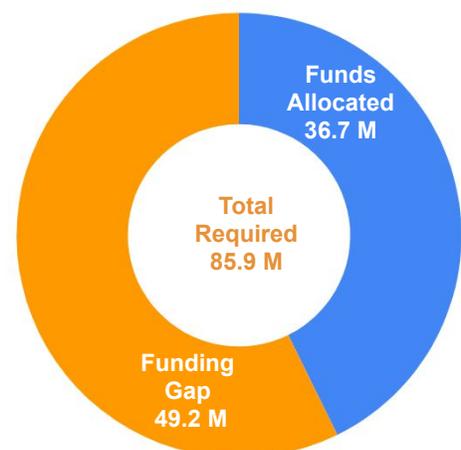


965 M Young People (age 10-24)



347 M Older Persons (age 65+)

Funding Status for Region (US\$)



Right: 17 women and 13 adolescent girls in quarantine centers in Susta, Nepal, received dignity kits.

Far right: A woman receives a dignity kit following floods in Hera, Timor-Leste,



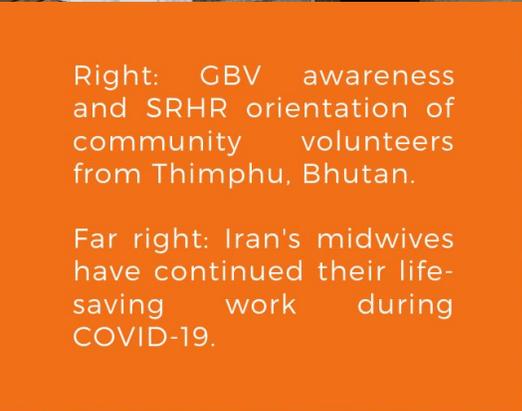
Left: Midwife Zahra provides services to women at a family health house in Bamyán, Afghanistan.

Right: Malani Rathanayaka, a Sri Lankan midwife of 20 years, ensures women have access to services during the pandemic.



Left: Mobile health camp for elderly in Bihar, India.

Far left: Zarmina, a young widow, receives psychosocial support and health services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.



Right: GBV awareness and SRHR orientation of community volunteers from Thimphu, Bhutan.

Far right: Iran's midwives have continued their life-saving work during COVID-19.



Left: Pacific island youth express their voices through an online survey on how COVID-19 has influenced their lives.

Right: UNFPA Malaysia is supporting an assessment of SRH and GBV implications and facility readiness.



Regional Response Summary

Coordination

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.
- UNFPA 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. In June, the team reached 172 emergency responders with remote capacity building sessions on 'GBV in Emergencies Basics' delivered in collaboration with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and World Vision International.

Pacific sub-regional level

- The UNFPA Pacific Sub-regional Office (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
- 10 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:** UNFPA has deployed four psychosocial support counselors to the Herat Maternity hospital and the Kabul COVID-19 hospital to provide psychosocial support to pregnant women.
- **Bangladesh:** 200 female commercial sex workers received relief services from the Government as a result of advocacy from UNFPA's implementing partner Light House through support from UNFPA. Services included provision of medicine for sexually transmitted infections and screening for cervical cancer through the Civil Surgeon Office.

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, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam



7,000

**young people will
be reached
nationwide.**

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH E-LEARNING

In Mongolia, marginalised young people, including children of herder families, young people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and young people living in remote areas with limited access to technology, were unable to access an effective health education programme inclusive of comprehensive sexuality education during the first period of the COVID-19 lockdown.

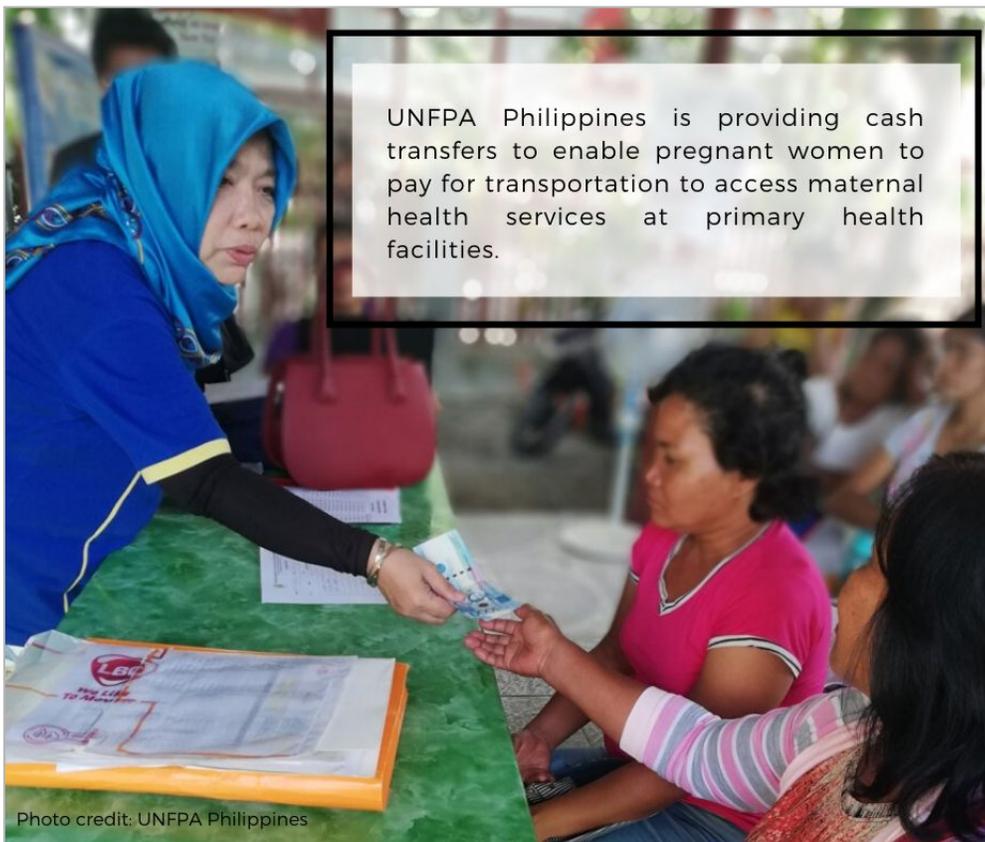
UNFPA is part of a UN joint project with UNICEF and UNESCO supporting the Government in its e-learning education sector interventions to ensure continuity, inclusiveness and accessibility of quality comprehensive sexuality education for all young people. Content for comprehensive sexuality education will be strengthened to ensure accessibility to young people with special needs. Offline learning content will be distributed to young people without access to e-learning.

Comprehensive sexuality education enables young people to protect their health, well-being and dignity. As programmes are based on human rights principles, they also advance gender equality and the rights and empowerment of young people.

Continuity of SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

Country examples continued:

- **China:** Continued technical support to uphold the strengthened health system capacity to ensure accessibility and availability of SRH services during potential future outbreaks of COVID-19.
- **DPRK:** Ongoing consultations with the Ministry of Public Health and the National Coordination Committee to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life-saving SRH commodities.
- **India:** 219 outreach health workers trained on SRHR-HIV integration in partnership with the HIV Alliance and Gujarat State AIDS Control Society.
- **Iran:** Online training workshops on HIV prevention among women, men, adolescents and youth most at risk.
- **Lao PDR:** 24 youth volunteers from the Lao Youth Union, the Vientiane Youth Centre and the National University of Laos trained on leading actions for mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on adolescents and youth.
- **Maldives:** Findings from UNFPA Maldives' analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on maternal health and family planning show that the numbers of pregnancies and births are expected to increase due to the pandemic and the associated lockdown. UNFPA has provided policy recommendations to strengthen SRH programmes to ensure improved and accessible SRH services.
- **Mongolia:** Adolescents and youth are receiving online counseling, including provision of information on SRH, family planning and mental health.
- **Myanmar:** Elderly people are most vulnerable to COVID-19, yet often do not receive adequate care and support. Together with the Department of Social Welfare, UNFPA provided 85 ageing homes with hand sanitizers, surgical masks, soap, antiseptic disinfectant and infrared thermometers.
- **Pakistan:** Women Friendly Health Spaces for Afghan refugees in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh continue to provide case management, referral, and basic GBV and SRH services including care for pregnant women, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postpartum care, family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.
- **Pacific Sub-regional Office:**⁵ Continued support to the Ministries of Health in ensuring continuity of essential services through dedicated antenatal and postnatal care facilities, mobile clinics and recruitment of retired midwives.
- **Philippines:** UNFPA supported the Condom Hero Programme, a community initiative that provides free condoms to people affected by quarantine measures through delivery via bicycles.



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



ENSURING CONTINUITY OF LIFE-SAVING GBV SERVICES

Recognising the increased risks of GBV during the COVID-19 outbreak, UNFPA Myanmar has invested in the continuity of critical and life-saving GBV response services such as GBV case management, psychosocial support and temporary safe houses/shelters for survivors of GBV.

UNFPA has developed guidance on GBV service provision to provide practical tips to partners to continue provision of life-saving GBV interventions while minimising the risk of infection. UNFPA has developed guidance on GBV referrals to guide non-GBV actors. Existing GBV referral pathways are regularly updated to reflect the rapidly changing availability of services for GBV survivors and to facilitate timely provision of and referral to services.

UNFPA and the Department of Social Welfare conducted an online training for 90 case managers on basic psychosocial support as well as training for 50 safe house and helpline staff on addressing GBV in humanitarian settings, basic psychosocial support and self-care. The health sector response to GBV has been supported through training of 35 staff from Global Fund partners and 220 nurses and midwives on GBV, guiding principles and referrals.

To ensure a comprehensive GBV response, UNFPA has set up a MHPSS roster team which has provided training to more than 350 people on psychological well-being, basic psychosocial support skills, online psychoeducation and psychological first aid and self-care.

MYANMAR

Photo credit: UNFPA Myanmar

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.⁷ 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

Regional level:

- **UNFPA APRO (through the kNOwVAWdata Initiative), UN Women and WHO jointly developed "[Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19: Decision Tree](#)"** to guide UN, national statistical offices, policymakers and researchers on when and how to best collect data on women's experiences of violence as well as on their access and use of services without compromising their safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Country examples:

- **Afghanistan:** With support from UNFPA, the Family Response Unit and Criminal Investigation Department provides GBV case management mentorship during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Balkh Province.
- **Bhutan:** A GBV awareness and sensitisation package was integrated into the accelerated Guardian of Peace National Volunteer training programme. 2,950 trainees (2,350 male and 600 female) received the training.
- **Cambodia:** Dignity kits were provided to 250 women in Battambang Province to support their immediate hygiene and protection needs.
- **India:** UNFPA and UNICEF held consultations with Civil Society Organisations in Rajasthan to strengthen the reporting of child marriage and violation of child rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Indonesia:** Findings of an online survey conducted by UNFPA Indonesia's Youth Advisory Panel show that 38% of respondents feel unsafe in their environment.
- **Malaysia:** GBV referral pathway has been updated to better support migrants and refugees, including updates to enable reporting of violence through embassies, employers and NGOs.
- **Nepal:** Establishment of tents to shelter and protect women and children at the holding area and transit quarantine in Trinagar, Kailali.
- **Pacific Sub-regional Office:** Inclusion of GBV, mental health and psychosocial support messaging as part of an information and support package is being developed to support Faith Based Organisations and church leaders, in partnership with WHO.
- **Pakistan:** Provision of psychosocial support through community midwives. Two teams, each including a physician and a Lady Health Visitor midwife, are training community midwives in psychosocial support and preventive health actions in Balochistan.
- **Papua New Guinea:** Provision of psychosocial support to GBV survivors through a counseling hotline that will enable GBV survivors from remote areas to access counseling services.
- **Philippines:** A nationwide community based peer-mentoring system was established by the Philippine Commission on Human Rights to collect data on needs faced by women with disabilities.
- **Viet Nam:** UNFPA, along with sister agencies, launched a new UN project to address GBV during COVID-19.

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, Thailand and Viet Nam

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, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam

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



"As a midwife, I feel proud because I can save many lives of both mothers and newborns"

**Ite Khatun, midwife
Cox's Bazar**

MIDWIVES SAVE LIVES WHILE BRAVING COVID-19 IN COX'S BAZAR

Over 46 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the densely populated and overcrowded Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar. Physical distancing is extremely challenging. Humanitarian needs are high.

22 UNFPA supported health facilities that serve both Rohingya and host communities continue to provide comprehensive SRHR services that include 24/7 emergency obstetric and newborn care. UNFPA is deploying 126 additional midwives. Clad in gloves, masks, goggles, and gowns, the midwives are our frontline heroes. They are braving the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure that every child birth is safe and that no mother dies while giving life.

Isolation areas have been set up for managing COVID-19 cases in selected health facilities. Triage and referral systems have been updated in all health facilities to segregate suspected cases, reduce the risk of transmission and improve health service delivery.

All 23 of UNFPA's Women Friendly Spaces in the camps and host community remain operational, providing life-saving GBV services. This includes providing integrated SRH services, mental health and psychosocial support to survivors and adapting referral pathways.

Through COVID-19 risk communications sessions, UNFPA has reached over 10,000 adolescents and youth, as well as over 3,250 key community members - the majority of whom are parents and caregivers of adolescents and youth.

Photo credit: UNFPA Bangladesh

BANGLADESH

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

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and PSRO 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:

- 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 (**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/or 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, Papua New Guinea, 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 Viet Nam**)
- Assessment of secondary impacts on women of reproductive age and/or older persons including those with disabilities (**China, India, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam**)
- Assessment of the impact on youth (**China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines and PSRO**)
- Vulnerability population mapping and analysis with UN agencies (**Lao PDR and Mongolia**)
- Impact on maternal health and family planning: estimates and modelling scenarios (**Afghanistan**)
- APRO supported modelling of the 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 communications 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, GBV and MHPSS information for women of reproductive age, pregnant women, young people, elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ communities, female health workers and internally displaced populations; and supporting toll-free hotlines where people can access accurate information.¹⁰

- **Indonesia:** Promoting youth leadership in addressing the pandemic through online public discussions reaching 9,067 people.
- **Sri Lanka:** The needs of older persons are often overlooked in COVID-19 responses. In connection to the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, UNFPA launched a social media campaign to stop the systematic abuse of older persons.
- **Thailand:** UNFPA and partners disseminate information and conduct awareness raising targeting pregnant women.
- **Timor-Leste:** UNFPA supported the Government in disseminating information on COVID-19, GBV and healthy lifestyles to communities in border areas of Maliana and Covalima.



¹⁰ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Iran, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Viet Nam



WHILE OLDER PEOPLE ARE HARDEST HIT BY THE PANDEMIC, ASIA AND THE PACIFIC LAGS BEHIND IN TERMS OF FOCUSING ON OLDER PEOPLE, DESPITE BEING THE FASTEST AGEING CONTINENT

HelpAge International and the UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office have initiated a monitoring project of the situation of older persons in Asia and the Pacific. It is clear that older people are experiencing a wide range of serious impacts from the pandemic.

- Despite wide recognition of age as a key risk factor in COVID-19 mortality, global and regional level surveillance **are not disaggregated by age**.
- Despite having the highest risks, people with care needs and their family caretakers in low and middle income countries are **largely under the radar** of government COVID-19 support.
- The **loss of working hours, jobs and salary** are impacting older people both directly and indirectly.
- Older people in Asia are more likely to live in **larger households**. Living arrangements affect transmission patterns as well as experience with social isolation.
- **Age discrimination** in Asia has been the selective restriction of movement on older people in some countries.

UNFPA is focusing on human rights, health and protection of older persons in its COVID-19 response, aligned with the various frameworks of the UN's response to COVID-19 which all prioritise older persons.

Media & Communications

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

Afghanistan:

- Amidst poverty and conflict, an Afghan father shows his daughter that she counts ([link](#))

Asia Pacific Regional Office:

- News article by El País (Spanish language): Thailand has a serious violence against women problem, but no recent prevalence data to show it. The last violence against women prevalence survey was conducted 20 years ago and official statistics only show the tip of the iceberg ([link](#))

Bangladesh:

- Australia & UNFPA support COVID-19 response in Bangladesh ([link](#))
- First-ever virtual training for healthcare professionals on providing life-saving services for women and girls during COVID-19 crisis ([link](#))

India:

- Articles around the State of the World Population 2020 launch focused on the COVID-19 pandemic ([link](#))
- A video message by Municipal Commissioner, Patna Municipal Corporation addressing stigma and discrimination faced by the sanitation workers ([link](#))
- A radio show with sanitation workers addressing stigma and discrimination ([link](#))
- Video message by the Sanitation workers on their routine during pandemic ([link](#))
- A video message by famous singer Maithili Thakur appealing to citizens of Patna to respect the work done by the sanitation workers ([link](#))
- Poster on Geriatric Care – Madhya Pradesh ([link](#))
- Poster - Graveyard guidelines in Madhya Pradesh ([link](#))
- Poster - Guidelines on opening of shopping malls during unlock period in Madhya Pradesh ([link](#))

Indonesia:

- Prioritising youth needs in national COVID-19 response ([link](#))
- Reaching domestic violence survivors amid the pandemic ([link](#))
- Midwife Riyanti helps a delivery with PPEs from UNFPA and Canada ([link](#)):
- Dignity kits distribution supported by DFAT ([link](#))
- Youth Employment Situations and Challenges Survey ([link](#))
- #YouthAgainstCovid19 Prezi Campaign ([link](#))
- Infographics of guide for elderly people in facing the pandemic ([link](#))
- Podcast Episode: Youth Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic Situation ([link](#))
- Instagram Live: Youth Discuss Mental Health During the Covid-19 Pandemic ([link](#))
- Instagram Live: Innovations to Help Young Workers During the Covid-19 Pandemic ([link](#))
- Instagram Live: Youth Discuss Reproductive Health During the Covid-19 Pandemic ([link](#))
- Instagram Live: Youth Discuss Relationships & GBV ([link](#))

Maldives:

- The Impact of COVID-19 on Maternal Health and Family Planning in Maldives ([link](#))

Mongolia:

- Opening of two One Stop Service Centres to counter the rise of GBV in COVID-19 pandemic ([link](#))

REFERRAL IN MALDIVES

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO HELP A SURVIVOR IS TO LISTEN TO THEM AND ASSIST THEM TO REACH THE SUPPORT THEY NEED

	Helplines	
	Min. of Gender Family and Social Services	1421
		3328393
	Child Helpline	1412
	Police	
	Maldives Police Services	9790163
		3000600
	Psychosocial Support	
	Maldivian Red Crescent	1425

#ENDVIOLENCE 

Myanmar:

- United Nations in Myanmar is working towards ensuring continuity of sexual and reproductive health services amid COVID-19 pandemic ([link](#))
- Interview with UNFPA Myanmar Country Representative: UNFPA's COVID-19 response activities ([link](#))
- Irrawaddy Interview with UNFPA GBV Programme Specialist: MHPSS and COVID-19 ([link](#))
- International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence on Women in Conflict Video Campaign: UNFPA Country Representative, Norway Ambassador, Gender CSO, Women Organisation and local Ethnic CSOs ([link](#))
- UNFPA and UNODC social media campaign to disseminate key message on GBV in pandemic. ([link](#), [link](#))

Nepal:

- In Nepal, adolescent girls band together, showing communities 'she counts' ([link](#))
- Meeting family planning needs in Nepal's quarantine centres ([link](#))

Pacific Sub-regional Office:

- Press Release Pacific Youth COVID-19 Survey ([link](#))

Pakistan:

- UNFPA and Federal Ministries of Planning and Health held consultation on the Family Planning National Action to guide family planning programming during the pandemic ([link](#))
- UNFPA, UNODC and UN Women launched a webinar series on GBV promoting the availability and accessibility of protection and essential services for survivors of GBV during COVID-19 ([link](#))
- 110 master trainers trained on infection prevention and control and standard operating procedures ([link](#))

Philippines:

- Gatchalian warns of teenage pregnancy surge amid COVID-19 pandemic ([link](#))
- ABSCBN: Nearly 2 million babies expected next year: POPCOM ([link](#))
- Esquire Magazine: Nearly 2 million births are expected in the Philippines this year ([link](#))
- ABSCBN: Adolescent pregnancy ([link](#))

Sri Lanka:

- Canada grants CDN\$400,000 to UNFPA to strengthen Government response for COVID19 pandemic in Sri Lanka ([link](#))

Thailand:

- Media reports (in Thai) from the launch of ICPD after 25 years with calls from Thai public and private sectors along with UNFPA Thailand for the urgency to invest in human capital and innovation to reduce inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic ([PPTV](#), [Line Today](#), [Bangkok Today](#), [Naew Na](#))

Viet Nam:

- Blue Heart: Joining hands in Viet Nam to protect children and women ([link](#))

The graphic features a decorative border at the top and bottom with a repeating geometric pattern. On the left, there are logos for UNFPA (a globe with orange dots), COVID-19 RESPONSE (a globe with a red cross), and the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (a blue flame logo). The main text reads: "Pacific Youth Voice on COVID-19 A Survey For Young People (15 to 24 years)". On the right, there is a portrait of Akuila Sovanivalu, a man with short dark hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with a UN logo, standing with his arms crossed. Below the portrait is a quote: "The COVID-19 crisis has had a real socioeconomic impact on youths in the Pacific, we should make sure that the protection and promotion of human rights is at the centre of our work. The meaningful participation of future generations is paramount, if we are to see the realization of their rights." At the bottom right, the name and title of Akuila Sovanivalu are listed: "Akuila Sovanivalu Human Rights Officer Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Regional Office for the Pacific Fiji".

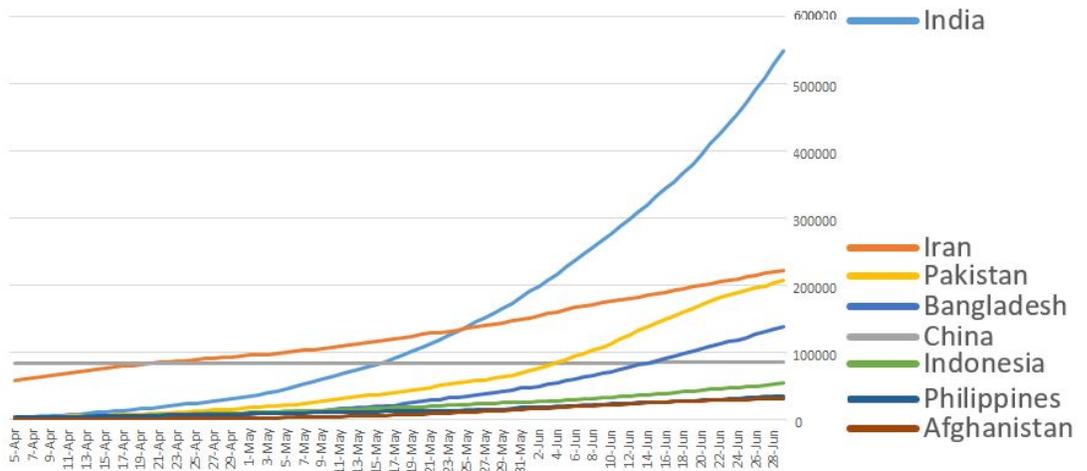
Confirmed Cases and Deaths

Number of cumulative cases

Asia Pacific countries with # > 10,000 cumulative cases, 5 Apr - 29 June 2020 (WHO, <https://covid19.who.int/>)

India, Iran and Pakistan have seen >200K cumulative cases respectively.

While **Indonesia and Philippines** are still seeing continued increase of cases, **India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Iran** have the fastest growing trends.

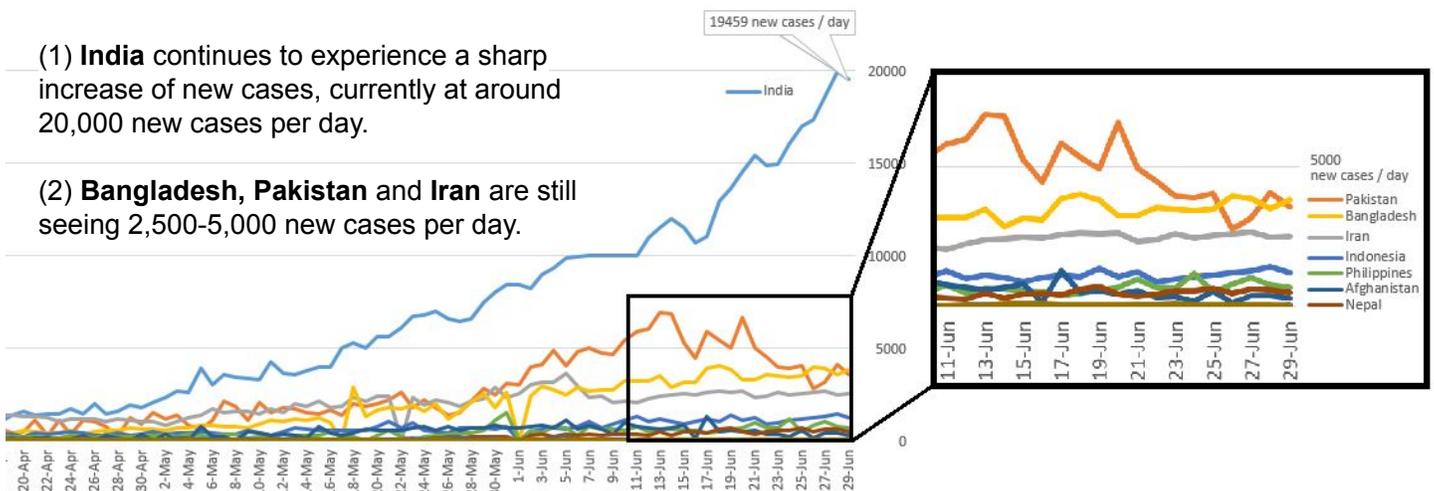


Number of new cases per day

Asia Pacific countries with > 300 new cases per day in Jun 2020, up to 29 Jun 2020 (WHO, <https://covid19.who.int/>)

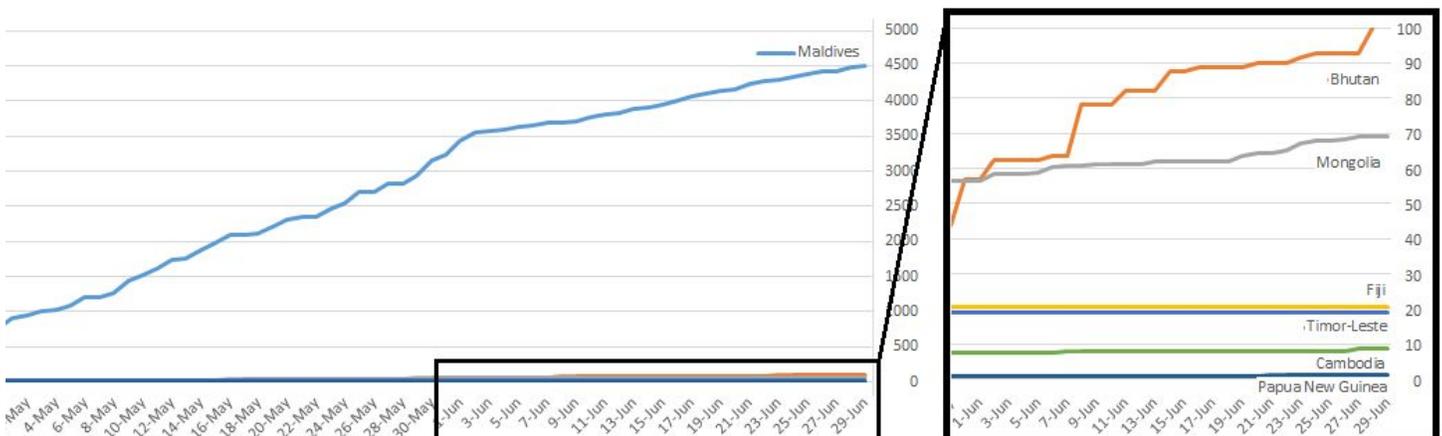
(1) **India** continues to experience a sharp increase of new cases, currently at around 20,000 new cases per day.

(2) **Bangladesh, Pakistan and Iran** are still seeing 2,500-5,000 new cases per day.



Number of cumulative cases per million population

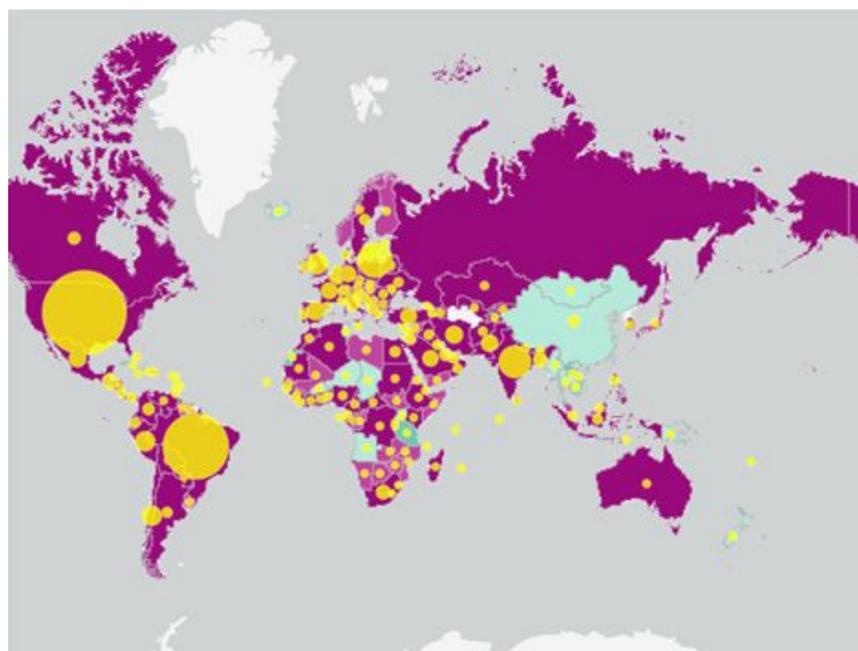
In Asia Pacific countries with small population size (< 5 million), up to 29 Jun 2020 (WHO, <https://covid19.who.int/>)



Among Asia Pacific countries with small population size (< 5 million), **Maldives** has the highest number of cumulative cases per million population (4,500 cases/ million population) as of 29 June, 2020.

Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 2 July 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Afghanistan	32,022	807
Bangladesh	149,258	1,888
Bhutan	77	0
Cambodia	141	0
China	85,263	4,648
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0	0
India	604,641	17,834
Indonesia	57,770	2,934
Iran	230,211	10,958
Lao People's Democratic Republic	19	0
Malaysia	8,640	121
Maldives	2,382	8
Mongolia	220	0
Myanmar	304	6
Nepal	14,046	30
Fiji	18	0
Pakistan	217,809	4,473
Papua New Guinea	11	0
Philippines	38,511	1,270
Sri Lanka	2,054	11
Thailand	3,179	58
Timor-Leste	24	0
Viet Nam	355	0
TOTAL	1,446,955	45,046



See UNFPA's [COVID-19 Population Vulnerability Dashboard](#) for real-time updates