



Service provision has continued in all 22 UNFPA-supported health facilities in Cox's Bazar © UNFPA Bangladesh

Asia and Pacific Region

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 7

United Nations Population Fund



Reporting Period: 1 - 31 August 2020

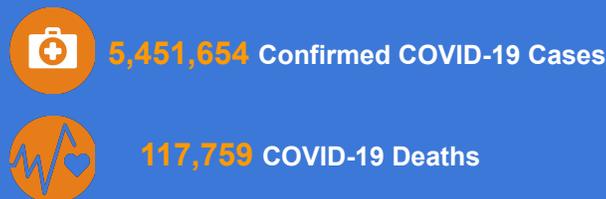
Regional Situation

- With over 3.8 million confirmed cases, India has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the region, and third globally.
- The pandemic continues to spread across Asia and the Pacific. India, Iran, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines and Indonesia continue to experience a steady increase in new cases.
- Many countries in the region are responding to humanitarian emergencies in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Afghanistan is experiencing flash floods and armed clashes in several provinces.
 - Indonesia continues to respond to the flooding in North Luwu District.
 - Myanmar's Rakhine and Chin states have continued to experience conflicts, displacing an additional 77,000 people this year who are highly vulnerable with limited access to services.
 - In the Philippines an earthquake struck Masbate province, impacting access to services.

UNFPA Capacity Building Highlights

- Across the Asia and Pacific region, UNFPA has provided capacity building initiatives, reaching:
 - 223,973 front line SRH service providers (including maternal health, family planning, and infection prevention and control).
 - 9,300 front line GBV service providers (including case management, referral pathways, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)).
- In India, 12,989 doctors were trained on maternal care services; 77,550 health professionals on SRH services; and 131,287 front-line health functionaries on preventive measures and maintaining essential SRH services during COVID-19.

Situation in Numbers

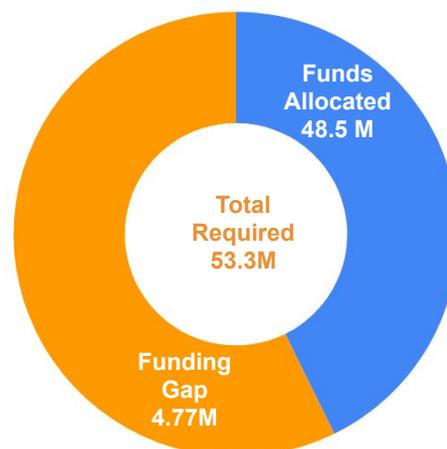


Source: WHO 3 September 2020

Key Population Groups



Funding Status for Region (US\$)



Papua New Guinea (right): Anti-shock garments prevent hemorrhagic shock of mothers giving birth in UNFPA-supported hospitals.



Papua New Guinea (far right): Nicrosi Grem, mother of a newborn, received a UNFPA dignity kit during the pandemic.



Mongolia (left): With support from Luxembourg Cooperation, UNFPA Mongolia CO is providing a total of 2,590 dignity kits to women and girls including frontline workers and people with disabilities who are in mandatory quarantine.



India (right): An Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) providing family planning services to pregnant women in Odisha, India.



Indonesia (far left): During the North Luwu floods, displaced women and girls received dignity kits from UNFPA.

Pakistan (left): UNFPA Pakistan has produced wide-reaching videos that advocate for the special needs of people with disabilities during COVID-19.



Sri Lanka (left): UNFPA Sri Lanka partnered with designer Amilani Perera during the Colombo Fashion week to raise awareness on Gender Based Violence.



India (right): UNFPA India donated PPE to its frontline partners in Odisha, India.

Lao PDR (far right): UNFPA Lao PDR is supporting the Ministry of Education to integrate "Phed Suk Sa", or comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) into the primary school curriculum



Pakistan (right): A woman and her newborn receive a UNFPA dignity kit during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 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 Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) task team. UNFPA also co-leads the UNiTE working group on eliminating violence against women and the Risk Communication sub-group on Vulnerable and Marginalised Populations.
- UNFPA chairs the H6 platform for the countries in the WHO SEARO region to coordinate support on Sexual and Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH). The H6 recently completed a SRMNCAH service disruption baseline survey for 10 countries.
- UNFPA is a member of several regional inter-agency 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, who in August trained 89 emergency responders in the region.
- APRO/kNOwVAWdata, UN Women and WHO have jointly developed "[Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19: Decision Tree](#)" to guide actors to decide when and how to best collect data on women's experiences of violence and their access and use of relevant services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNFPA and UNICEF Regional Offices in partnership with REGA organised a [learning session on addressing the needs of child and adolescent survivors of violence](#).
- UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office¹ co-leads the mental health and psychosocial support cell and 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.
- **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.

In addition:

- 18 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 supported clinics to screen almost 30,000 Afghan travelers, including returnees from Iran and Pakistan, and has provided emergency RH kits to Kunduz regional hospital to ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services.
- **Bangladesh:** 13 female mid-level midwives and paramedics in Cox's Bazar completed a training in Family Planning Counselling, and 294 community health workers were trained on enhanced community-based surveillance community home-based care for COVID-19 patients.

¹ Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu

² Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, DPRK, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam

Continuity of SRH interventions, including protection of health workforce

Country examples:

- **Bhutan:** A nationwide sensitization on the "Guideline for RMNCAH during COVID-19" was conducted as part of continuing medical education for health care providers from 20 districts, with 642 frontline health functionaries trained on preventive measures and maintaining essential SRH services during COVID-19.
- **Cambodia:** Key technical guidance has been translated into Khmer language to support healthcare providers.
- **China:** An estimated 732,854 beneficiaries have been reached through UNFPA's response.
- **India:** 946 medical faculty and students were oriented on clinical approaches to STI / RTI and family planning services during COVID-19, and 74 chemists from five districts have received orientations on family planning commodities and youth friendly services.
- **Indonesia:** A content management platform for digital sexuality education has been established.
- **Lao PDR:** UNFPA is developing guidelines to provide psychosocial support to health workers who have been providing non-stop services since COVID-19 began.
- **Mongolia:** Strengthening diagnostic capacity for COVID-19 at the National Center for Maternal and Child Health, Ulaanbaatar City Mother and Child Hospital and two hospitals in the border provinces.
- **Nepal:** Visiting Service Providers have been mobilised to provide Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives.
- **Papua New Guinea:** UNFPA has provided PPE for health workers in 25 health facilities in 5 provinces targeting those working in maternity wards and family support centres providing GBV services, and has provided four tents to help with triaging in the National Capacity District and Morobe Province.
- **Philippines:** UNFPA has deployed 1 Emergency Maternity Tent Facility, 200 Dignity Kits and Maternity Packs to the earthquake-affected province of Masbate, and continues to ensure access to maternal health services given the strain that the increase in COVID-19 is placing on the health system.
- **PSRO:** Developed two guidance documents on Ensuring Continuity of Essential ANC, Intrapartum and PNC Services, and on Ensuring Continuity of Essential FP Services which will be adapted and rolled out to all PICTs in conjunction with training of service providers.
- **Pakistan:** collaborated with UNAIDS to support the Global HIV Prevention Coalition by providing 3400 PPE to Country Coordination Mechanism to protect community frontline workers, including the transgender community.
- **Timor Leste:** UNFPA developed protocols on antenatal, intrapartum and immediate postpartum care for pregnant women and mothers with COVID-19 which have been endorsed by the Ministry of Health. More than 250 health professionals have been trained on these protocols.
- **Viet Nam:** UNFPA has supported procurement of contraceptives, EmONC equipment and supplies, PPE, sanitizers, and dignity kits for selected health facilities.



Volunteers and women support group members in Women Friendly Spaces in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh have produced over 1,500 washable cloth masks. The masks are primarily being distributed to women and girls who attend the Women Friendly Spaces and to the SRHR health facilities for pregnant women and new mothers.

Photo credit:
UNFPA Bangladesh



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TRAVERSING REMOTE PATHS TO SAVE LIVES AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

In Afghanistan, 76 percent of the population live in rural areas and of these, 10 percent live in hard to reach and remote regions. In Badakhshan, Afghanistan's northern most and largest province, UNFPA supports Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) who travel on unpaved roads, pass along river paths and cross high mountains to provide essential services, including sexual and reproductive health services, to women and girls. The MHTs, operated by the Afghan Red Cross Society and comprised of doctors, midwives, nurses, pharmacists and drivers, accept security threats and the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic to reach those in need.

Throughout the pandemic, the MHT has continued to provide general health care, antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning services, assistance for home based deliveries, vaccination services, health promotion education, referral of chronic diseases, nutrition status screening, and psychosocial support and counseling.

On a recent mission, MHT midwife Friba Delaway helped a mother safely deliver a baby boy despite issues of chronic anemia and high blood pressure which she also helped treat and manage through regular antenatal visits. With the high cost of transportation to far away district clinics being a challenge, the mother was appreciative of the support provided by the MHT.

Supporting vulnerable women and serving pregnant mothers is the daily mission of the MHTs on the ground. "Despite the security and access problems, I'm committed to my mission to support women and girls in these remote locations", Friba says. "COVID-19 is an additional life-threatening risk, but I follow the infection prevention measures and try my best to help the women who need my support."

AFGHANISTAN

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.³
- **Investing in capacity building of GBV response service providers, including health practitioners**, to provide timely, quality and confidential services to survivors of GBV.⁴ 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.⁵
- **Leading or co-leading inter-agency coordination mechanisms for GBV** risk mitigation and response in emergencies.⁶

Country examples:

- **Afghanistan:** the GBV sub-cluster, led by UNFPA, worked with the Humanitarian Country Team to identify areas of progress, gaps and recommendations for strengthening coordination of GBV interventions for the next HPC.
- **Bangladesh:** The GBV sub-sector team in Cox's Bazar facilitated trainings on staff care and wellbeing for GBV partners on topics including vicarious trauma and how to deal with it, and suicide prevention and interventions.
- **Bhutan:** Vulnerable groups (girls working in the entertainment sector, LGBTI, CSW, street hawkers) were provided with support and referrals to relief services, and information on access to sexual and reproductive health services including family planning, ANC and the One Stop Crisis center for IPV were provided.
- **Cambodia:** UNFPA is supporting media engagement on mental health in support of the Resident Coordinator's Office.
- **India:** 576 staff from one stop centres, family counselling centres and special cell for women in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Bihar were trained on Protection of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act and on counselling of survivors and their families.
- **Indonesia:** Guidelines on Health Sector Response to GBV during Pandemic Situations have been developed and will be disseminated to Hospitals and Primary Healthcare Clinics across Jakarta.
- **Malaysia:** In partnership with UNHCR, WFP and local NGOs, 5000 dignity kits were distributed to refugee and migrant populations affected by the movement restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Mongolia:** 2,590 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls, and female health care and emergency workers in quarantine through the national emergency management agency and MOH.
- **Myanmar:** UNFPA facilitated a session on GBV basics and safe referrals to more than 80 CSOs who are receiving funding from Access to Health Fund, a large multi-donor programme targeting Myanmar's conflict-affected states.
- **Nepal:** 2,963 dignity kits and kishori kits (adolescent kits) have been distributed to women and girls in quarantine facilities and isolation centres across the country.
- **Pakistan:** During the months of July and August, Rozan's helpline for GBV survivors responded to 1,190 calls at the national level (783 women and 407 men).
- **Papua New Guinea:** UNFPA continues to support mental health and psychosocial support through remote 1-Tok counseling services.
- **Philippines:** Three women friendly spaces have been set up in BARMM to support the 5,000 returning Filipinos from Sabah.

³ 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

⁴ 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

⁵ 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

⁶ 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

RESPONDING TO THE SHADOW PANDEMIC OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN BHUTAN

© UNFPA BHUTAN

"This lockdown has brought the whole country to a standstill but domestic violence and violence against women and girls have proliferated. I have been extremely busy providing tele counseling services to survivors of physical and sexual violence ever since the lockdown."

Pema, a UNFPA trained community volunteer in Bhutan with 12 years of work experience, highlights the shadow pandemic that is growing amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Increases in gender based violence during lockdowns threaten the lives and livelihoods of women and girls all over the world.

"For the last 5 days, I have been attending to a severe marital rape case through the telephone. The perpetrator has already been reported and is under police custody. Today, my client has called me over 7 times and I am a bit worried. I want to visit her so I am applying for a movement order from the COVID-19 taskforce. I am so thankful to UNFPA for bringing the multi-sectoral task force and community-based volunteers together. This is a time when nothing moves without proper coordination."

The lockdown has compromised access to lifesaving services and justice at a time when these are needed most, and many survivors have relied on hotlines to receive support. Like Pema, there are over 100 committed volunteers reaching out to communities and working tirelessly across 20 districts and 4 major town areas in Bhutan. They have all been working around the clock, committed to providing referral support to their clients through tele counseling despite the challenges posed by the lockdowns.



BHUTAN

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

Afghanistan, Bhutan, 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:

- Assessment of maternal deaths in the first half of 2020 to explore an association with COVID-19 (**Mongolia**)
- Female beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme participated in a study to assess their knowledge of COVID-19, and to analyse the effects of the pandemic on their lives, their mental health and well-being, as well as their access to reproductive health and family planning services (**Pakistan**)
- 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, Bhutan, 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, Pakistan, 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**)
- Rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on HIV services (testing, ART and outreach services) (**Indonesia**)
- APRO supported modelling of the potential impacts of COVID-19 on maternal health and family planning in **Bangladesh, Cambodia, DPRK, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Viet Nam**.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

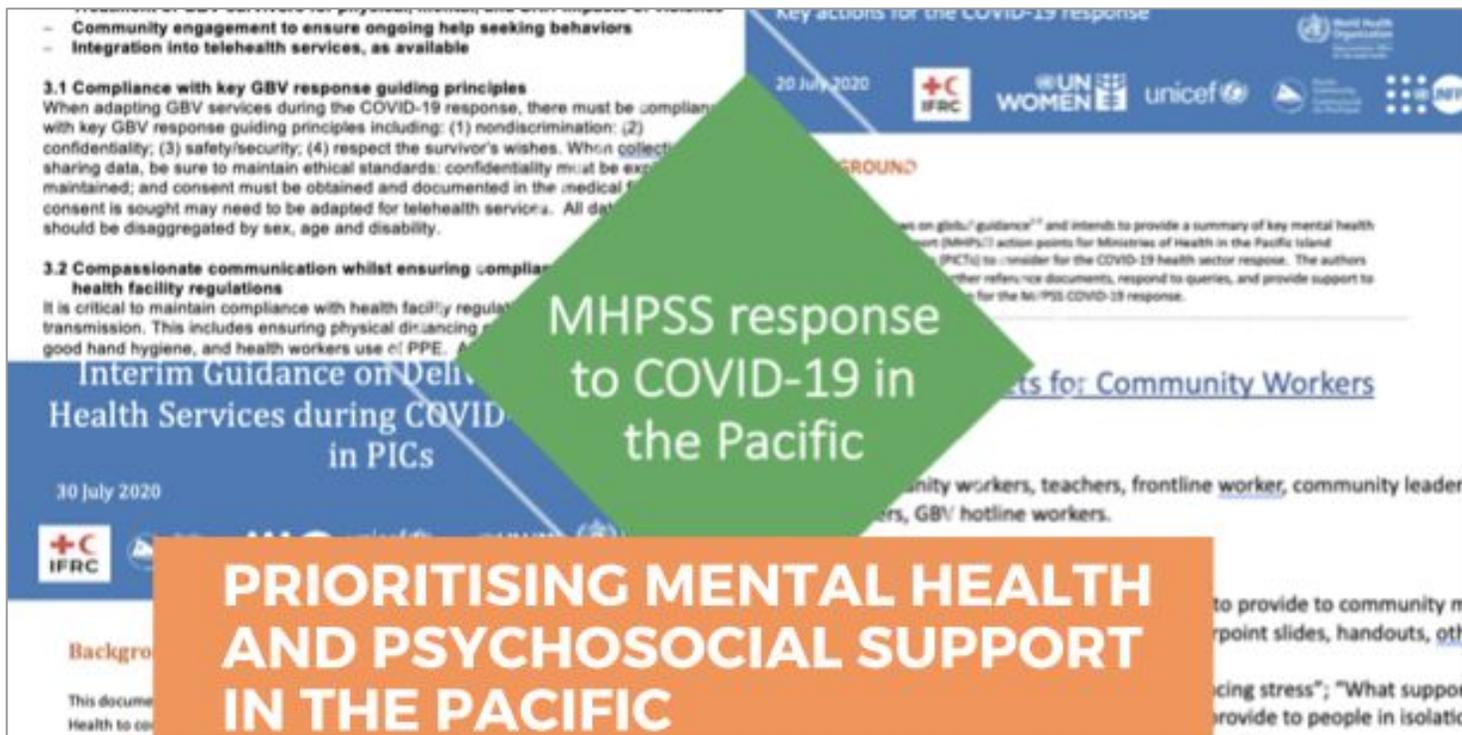
UNFPA continues to provide support to strengthen PSEA in COVID-19 response across the Asia-Pacific Region.

- UNFPA chairs or co-chairs the PSEA Task Force/Networks in a number of countries including China, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Myanmar, and the Pacific sub-region.
- In Myanmar, UNFPA hosts the inter-agency PSEA Coordinator who leads the PSEA Network and has seen COVID-19 specific materials translated and disseminated to humanitarian and development partners across Myanmar.
- In Papua New Guinea, a PSEA code of conduct has been adopted and is being rolled out in collaboration with the Government.

Risk communication 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, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTQI communities, female health workers and internally displaced populations; and supporting toll-free hotlines where people can access accurate information.⁷

⁷ 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



One of the greatest impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is upon mental health and well-being, particularly of women and young people. Increasing rates of gender based violence (GBV) across the Pacific island countries are compounded by lack of access to usual services and reduced resources to travel to urban centres for specialised GBV response services. The UNFPA Pacific sub regional office (PSRO) has co-led the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) cell under the overarching Joint Incident Management Team established to support Pacific regional COVID-19 response efforts.

Under the MHPSS cell, UNFPA has supported the development of key tools and guidance documents to support Pacific nations in their efforts to initiate and integrate MHPSS response services led by Ministries of Health. These tools include Ensuring Continuity of Essential Services for Gender-Based Violence, Interim Guidance on the Delivery of Mental Health Services during COVID-19 Response in PICs, MHPSS Key Actions during the COVID-19 Response, and MHPSS COVID-19 Tip Sheets for Community Workers. Adaptation of the MHPSS tools will be supported by UNFPA including through telehealth initiatives, through which significant investment will be made in a Community of Practice for MHPSS practitioners to support capacity building, including the creation of in-country referral networks.

Investment in MHPSS, including integration into GBV response services, will ensure improved access to quality services and enable women's empowerment and wellbeing.

PACIFIC SUB-REGION

Risk communication and community engagement, continued

Country

examples:

- **Afghanistan:** The Youth Health Line supported by UNFPA has reached almost 5,000 young people from all 34 provinces, providing information and adolescent SRH services.
- **Bhutan:** Over 429,000 people were reached through the publication of UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador's message in the national newspaper - Kuensel.
- **Cambodia:** Through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, UNFPA Cambodia has been working along the Cambodia-Thai border to provide returning migrants with SRHR and GBV/PSEA key messages and tools, reaching 822 local authority representatives and returning migrants with information and services.
- **Indonesia:** UNFPA has been supporting the National Network of Sex Workers to develop outreach guidelines and online training materials, infographics and videos on HIV, mental health and COVID-19 to minimize infection among Female Sex Workers.
- **Iran:** UNFPA has supported risk communication and awareness raising on hygiene and health practices that target pregnant women and older persons living in State Welfare Organisation centres.
- **Mongolia:** A National Youth forum under the theme "Let's listen to our youth: The youth in the pandemic" was held with 70 in-person participants as well as online participants to discuss how the youth are being affected by the pandemic in terms of health, education, employability and social participation. The forum was widely covered by all major national media outlets with follow-up of extensive social media coverage. The forum produced a set of recommendations that decision-makers should consider towards youth during and after the pandemic. 20% of the participants were from rural area and 20% were of groups with disability.
- **Myanmar:** In collaboration with BBC Media Action, UNFPA organized a webinar on "Youth and Mental Health" which was live streamed on the BBC Media Action Facebook page. The number of viewers reached 12,000.
- **Nepal:** Animated videos on pregnancy danger signs and frequently asked COVID-19 related questions for pregnant women and lactating mothers are being prepared.
- **Papua New Guinea:** 48 village health volunteers in Matkomnae, North Fly district of Western Province, conducted awareness sessions on pregnancy danger signs, family planning, SRHR awareness raising, referrals, risk communications including COVID-19 infection symptoms and related hygiene messages.
- **Pakistan:** A Neighborhood Watch Programme engaging 600 young people (university students, midwives and community workers) continues to raise awareness among people on COVID-19 in socio-economically disadvantaged communities in 6 districts of Karachi.
- **Thailand:** UNFPA is working in collaboration with partners on developing a model of COVID-19 community responses to support older persons.



Women and girls receiving COVID-adapted dignity kits in Bihar, India.

Photo credit: UNFPA India

- **Timor Leste:** UNFPA strengthened the geographic reach and frequency of mobile clinics targeting key populations in remote and isolated locations to ensure that sex workers and their clients, MSM and transgender people continue to have access to SRH-HIV information and HIV testing services.



CASH FOR PROTECTION (C4P) INITIATIVE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Survivors of disasters and emergencies often encounter mental health issues like depression and anxiety - some more severe than others. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented additional strain on mental and psychological wellbeing for survivors, especially women and young people. Increased social isolation, anxiety about their health, and the economic downturn have affected their overall welfare, and loss of jobs has made it more difficult to seek medical attention.

A new “Cash for Protection” (C4P) initiative in the UNFPA Philippines reduces economic barriers in accessing critical and essential mental health and psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health services, and response services for gender based violence by extending cash assistance to survivors, particularly women and girls affected by the Mindanao earthquake in 2019 and by the COVID-19 pandemic. C4P provides PHP10,000 (approximately USD200) in cash assistance to cover the necessary medical expenses. Survivors of gender-based violence, such as domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, among others are also supported by the C4P initiative.

“Without this, I don’t know if we could sustain my daughter’s treatments. This helps us maintain hope for our daughter’s recovery,” the father of a C4P recipient wishes.

Ms. Sunny Saniel, a mental health coordinator, appreciates UNFPA’s C4P “because our own funds allocated for mental health were not enough. With support from partners like UNFPA, we are able to continue to provide the minimum assistance needed by the increasing number of clients in our town, to ensure that their mental health and wellbeing needs are met”.

PHILIPPINES

Media & Communications

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

Asia Pacific Regional Office:

- Twitter post on the importance of menstrual supplies as essential items, even during the pandemic. ([Link](#))

Afghanistan:

- Young people in Afghanistan challenges: Twitter post ([Link](#))

Bangladesh:

- Twitter post of VIDEO on reproductive health & gender-based violence work in the Rohingya refugee camps despite COVID-19 ([Link](#))

Cambodia:

- Social Media Campaign “Women During COVID-19” – 4 video animations have reached near 1.9 Million people with over 30K post engagements. ([Link](#))

India:

- A radio show on the role of youth in combating COVID, Stigma and Discrimination and COVID appropriate behaviours was broadcasted in All India Radio, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- A panel discussion on All India Radio, Odisha was organized on the eve of International Youth Day on 12th August focusing on the role of young people on appropriate behaviour and dispelling myths and combating stigma during the pandemic
- 20 messages on youth related themes in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic were broadcasted on private radio channel Red FM across State capitals of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan and the National Capital Region
- UNFPA developed a mobile application “COVID SANGRAMEE 20-20 CHALLENGE” which was launched by the health department in Odisha. It aims to reach the young people with correct information and messages on COVID 19 and to address stigma and discrimination ([Link](#))
- Six IEC materials (3 videos and 3 media cards) on COVID Appropriate Behaviours were developed
- UNFPA developed videos on COVID Appropriate Behaviours by youth volunteers and sanitation workers on stigma and discrimination and disseminated through social media ([Link 1](#)) ([Link 2](#)) ([Link 3](#))
- Video on Safe disposal of COVID waste, menstrual waste at household level and addressing stigma and discrimination finalized ([Link](#))
- A webinar on "Conversations with Change Champions" organised for International Youth Day on August 11 and was broadcasted live on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) . The webinar was interspersed with messages on COVID-19 and role of youth.
- A story on Humanitarian Hero 'Bank Madam' Ms Salami Shashankar from Mission Uday was tweeted by the Chief Minister of Odisha and subsequently published in the Orissa Post and UN News Hindi ([Link](#))
- Ongoing dissemination of videos for the digital campaign #YouthAgainstCOVID19 by UNFPA and PREZI. ([Link 1](#)) ([Link 2](#))

Indonesia:

- Guide to Contraceptives in the Time of Pandemic: Alternative contraceptive methods ([link](#))
- Guide to Contraceptives in the Time of Pandemic: The best contraceptive method for the COVID-19 pandemic ([link](#))
- Guide to Contraceptives in the Time of Pandemic: Changing your contraceptive method during the pandemic ([link](#))
- Guide to Contraceptives in the Time of Pandemic: Removing or replacing your implant/IUD ([link](#))
- Guide to Contraceptives in the Time of Pandemic: The importance of providing contraception/family planning services & information during the COVID-19 pandemic ([link](#))
- #RealLifeHeroes: Debryna Dewi Lumanauw ([link](#))
- #RealLifeHeroes: Agus Haryono ([link](#))

Lao PDR:

- Factors influencing sexual and reproductive health among adolescents in Lao PDR ([link](#))
- Human Capital Investments: Comprehensive sexuality education to empower adolescents for realizing their full potential ([link](#))
- Reaching every young girl in Lao PDR wherever she lives ([link](#))
- Comprehensive sexuality education to empower adolescents in Laos ([link](#)) page 12
- Building strong family planning programmes: investing in midwives, commodities and behaviour change ([link](#))
- Protecting Lao adolescent girls in times of COVID-19 ([link](#))
- Life skills in schools save lives Comprehensive Sexuality Education is a must ([link](#))

Mongolia:

- Luxembourg Cooperation, UNFPA join to promote health, dignity of Mongolian people amid pandemic ([link](#))
- UNFPA will support the maternal health service and ensure health and dignity of girls and women with support of 1.1 billion MNT from Luxembourg ([link](#))
- Youth National Forum was held with the title “Let’s listen to youth: COVID-19 impacts on our lives” ([link](#))
- VIDEO: Luxembourg Cooperation and UNFPA join to promote health, dignity of Mongolian people during COVID-19 ([link](#))

Media & Communications (continued)

Mongolia :

- "Reproductive Health" annual national conference: Maternal Health Services during COVID-19 ([link](#))
- GBV and COVID-19 in Mongolia Social Media Card series (ongoing) ([link 1](#) [2](#) [3](#))
- National Conference on Maternal Health Services During COVID-19 ([link](#))

Pakistan:

- Persons with disabilities and COVID19 Outbreak - Infographics video ([link](#))
- Youth Engagement project- Infographics on how to cope in a post COVID-19 "new normal" environment as educational institutions reopen. ([Link 1](#)) ([Link 2](#))
- Virtual 5 Day training on Supply Chain Management during emergencies for Department of Health officials. ([Link](#))
- UNFPA Pakistan collaborated with UNAIDS to support the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, by providing 3400 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to Country Coordination Mechanism. ([link](#))
- Punjab Safe Cities Authority Partnering with UNFPA to upgrade the app that provides emergency assistance to women at risk of violence, including women with disabilities & strengthen referral pathways for reporting during COVID19. ([link](#))
- Distribution of hygiene kits to juvenile and women inmates in collaboration with Sindh Prison Department. ([Link](#))

Philippines:

- Basic Infection Prevention Controls reminder for Pregnant Women to avoid having COVID-19. ([Link](#))
- Information about FAQs on risk for pregnant women on contracting COVID-19. ([re-release link](#)) [link 1](#), [Link 2](#))
- UNFPA deployment of PPEs and Hygiene supplies for WFS facilitators in Mindanao. ([Link](#))
- Philippines has recorded over 203,000 live births to adolescent Filipinas, Hontiveros said, citing report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) ([Link](#))
- FAQs on different Family planning methods. ([link](#))
- The Red Whistle, an advocacy group focused on filling in gaps in the country's HIV response through community programs and the use of creative platforms, put together The Condom Heroes ([Link](#))
- Why The Philippines Has So Many Teen Moms ([Link](#))
- Kabayanihan - Extended call for Youth-led Projects ([Link](#))
- To address gender-based violence amid COVID-19, we need creativity, collaboration, and courage ([Link](#))
- Video in celebration of the World Humanitarian Day - Tribute to #RealHeroes ([Link](#))
- UNFPA gets P13.1M grant from New Zealand for health, rights project ([Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#))
- [Unwanted Pregnancies Is Expected To Reach 2.56 Million In The Philippines](#)
- [Quarantine to hike domestic violence, maternal deaths](#)
- [Bangsamoro Adopts Youth Priority Agenda](#)
- [Quarantine to hike domestic violence, maternal deaths](#)
- [Popcom reminds couples to practice RH amid MECQ](#)

PNG

- 'The garment kept her alive' - media story on saving mothers lives using anti-shock garments to prevent hemorrhagic shock in UNFPA-supported hospitals in PNG ([link](#))
- UNFPA building 'lifesaving' capacities of frontline workers. ([link](#))

Sri Lanka:

- Panel Discussion at the 133rd Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Medical Association ([Link](#))
- Media Sensitization Session [on ethical reporting of Sexual and Gender-based Violence](#) ([Link](#))
- Commemoration of World Youth Day - Social Media campaign ([Link](#))
- Partnership with local fashion Designer Amilani Perera to showcase the collection "**UNBREAKABLE**" at the Colombo Fashion Week 2020 to address the negative stereotypes that perpetuate violence against women and girls! ([Link](#))

Timor-Leste:

- Media Campaign under the project "Addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence" funded by the Government of Canada with the objective creating awareness about the importance of addressing the issue, and a call for action to break the silence around this grave human rights violation. ([link](#))
- Panel Discussion at the 133rd Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Medical Association ([Link](#))
- Media Sensitization Session on ethical reporting of Sexual and Gender-based Violence ([Link](#))
- Commemoration of World Youth Day - Social Media campaign ([Link](#))
- Partnership with local fashion Designer Amilani Perera to showcase the collection "**UNBREAKABLE**" at the Colombo Fashion Week 2020 to address the negative stereotypes that perpetuate violence against women and girls! ([Link](#))

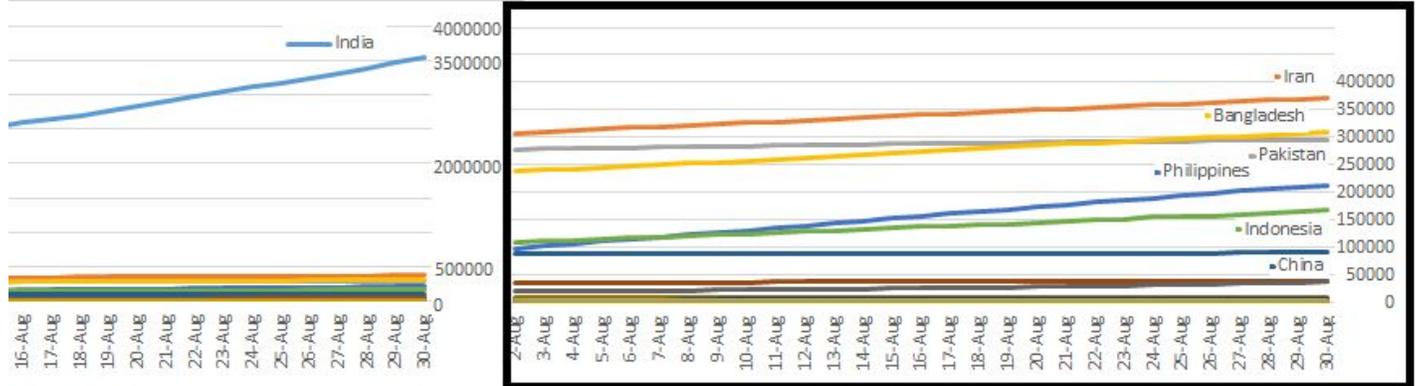
Viet Nam:

- Training on emergency obstetric care during COVID-19 ([link](#))

Confirmed Cases and Deaths

Number of cumulative cases

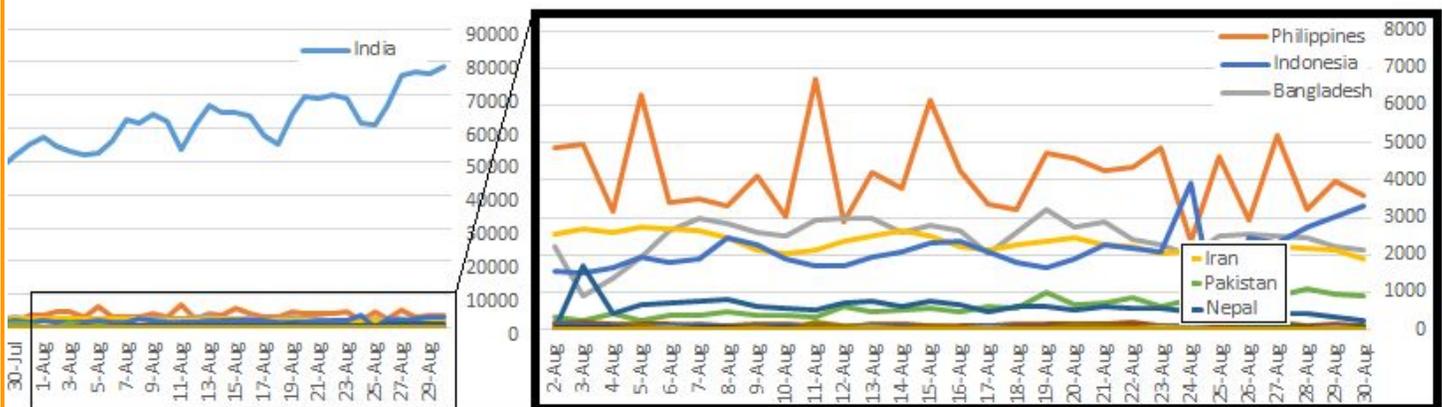
Asia Pacific countries with # > 10,000 cumulative cases, 2 Aug - 31 Aug 2020 (WHO, <https://covid19.who.int/>)



- **India** has the most cumulative cases in the Asia Pacific region, reaching more than 3.5 million cases alone.
- **Iran, Bangladesh** and **Pakistan** each has over 300K cases, followed by **Philippines, Indonesia** and **China**.

Number of new cases per day

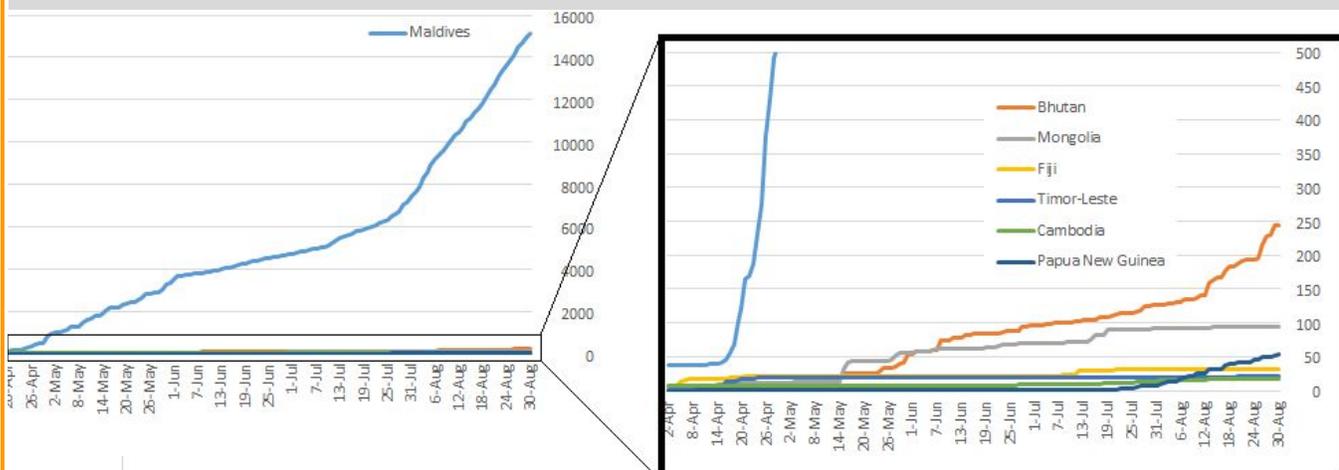
Asia Pacific countries with > 300 new cases per day on average in Aug 2020, 30 Jul - 31 Aug 2020 (WHO, <https://covid19.who.int/>)



- (1) **India** continues to experience a sharp increase of new cases, currently at around 80,000 new cases per day.
- (2) **Philippines** and **Indonesia** are seeing rapidly growing new cases, with 3,000 - 4,000 new cases per day.

Number of cumulative cases per million population

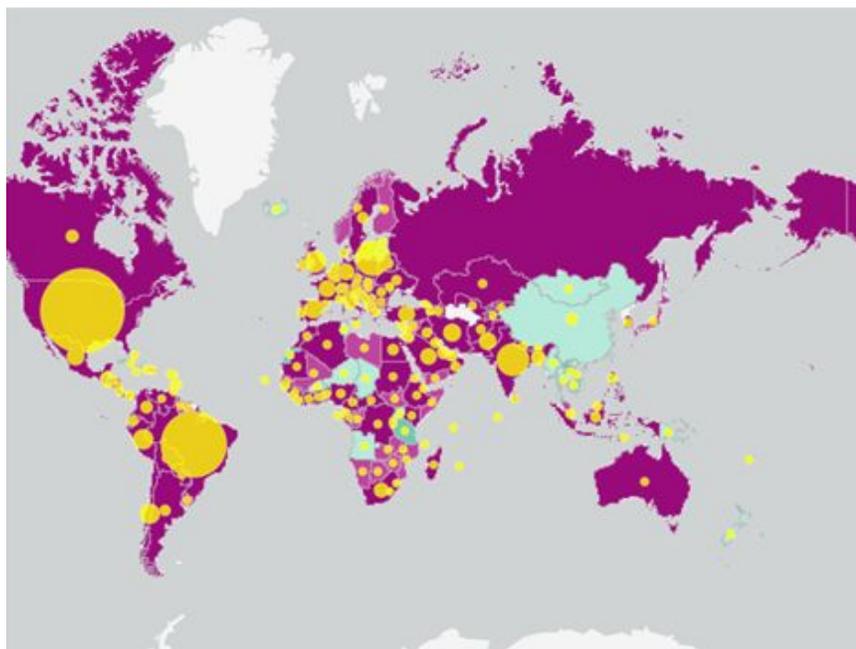
In Asia Pacific countries with small population size (< 5 million), 8 Apr - 31 Aug 2020 (WHO, <https://covid19.who.int/>)



Among Asia Pacific countries with small population size (< 5 million), **Maldives** has the highest number of cumulative cases per million population (**15,156 cases/ million population**) as of 31 Aug, 2020.

Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 3 September 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Afghanistan	38,288	1,410
Bangladesh	317,528	4,351
Bhutan	227	0
Cambodia	274	0
China	90,442	4,734
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0	0
India	3,853,406	67,376
Indonesia	180,646	7,616
Iran	378,752	21,797
Lao People's Democratic Republic	22	0
Malaysia	9,360	128
Maldives	8,140	29
Mongolia	306	0
Myanmar	1,058	6
Nepal	41,649	251
Fiji	29	1
Pakistan	297,014	6,328
Papua New Guinea	471	5
Philippines	226,440	3,623
Sri Lanka	3,102	12
Thailand	3,427	58
Timor-Leste	27	0
Viet Nam	1,046	34
TOTAL	5,451,654	117,759



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