

COVID-19 STATUS REPORT

SOUTH ASIA - 12 MAY 2020

BANGLADESH

Reported infections stayed low until the end of March and began to increase since mid-April while now having over 1,000 cases on a single day. Government declared complete lock-down of the country since 22 March that further extended until 14 May, followed by the weekend on 15-16 May. Educational institutions will remain closed until further notice. The lockdown is not applicable for essential services and they were instructed to strictly follow the health advisories and to maintain social distancing. Other industries, agriculture and services related to production and distribution will be resumed at a phased manner by considering the evolving Coronavirus situation in the country.

GWP Bangladesh Staff are practicing working from home.

BHUTAN

Bhutan is having the lowest number of reported cases of Coronavirus in the region with mild infection level. The government encouraged all the employees to practice working from home. The international borders of the country are being locked and under very strict surveillance by deploying heavy armed personnel. Airport is closed until further notice.

INDIA

Situation in India continues to be grim and number of COVID cases are raising at 3,500 per day since last 3 days. All the districts of Delhi are marked as red zones while borders of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana where most of the GWP India staff resides, have been sealed to control movements. Therefore, the staff attendance to office remained at 40 percent. Indian cities like Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Indore, Delhi, etc. continue to remain in the red zone. Prime Minister of India calling for an online meeting with all the State Chief Ministers asked to take stock on their respective states in response to the crisis prior to make decision on the country lockdown, which is in force until 17 May.

HIGHLIGHTS

Situation in South Asia (by WHO)

Updated on 12 May at 9.32am

Country	Cases	Deaths
Bangladesh	15,691	239
Bhutan	9	0
India	67,152	2,206
Nepal	121	0
Pakistan	30,941	667
Sri Lanka	863	9

Globally there are 4,058,252 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 281,736 deaths

ON GOING ...

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– making smart water decisions visible

Now open for submissions - GWP South Asia Country Water Partnerships inviting submissions from Partners who have shaped water decisions at the village/district/country level that have helped build climate resilience.

Submission closes on 7 June



NEPAL

Government of Nepal extended the nationwide lockdown until 18 May with some relaxation in the agricultural, industrial and construction sectors. The Ministry of Health and Population developed a step-down strategy for the upcoming transition period and the progress would depend on the number and nature of new cases. International flights will remain suspended until 31 May except for emergency services, repatriation of expatriates and for cargo with medicines/medical equipment and essential supplies. International borders will remain closed until 31 May.

GWP Nepal Staff are also practicing working from home regulations.

PAKISTAN

Punjab is having the highest number of infected cases at over 11,500, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has reported the most deaths in the country, 245. Nationwide lockdown imposed on 1 April was extended twice with the announcement of the Prime Minister and decided to ease lockdown phase wise, from 9 May 2020. Now from 11 May, the country is opened for operation with strict SOPs. Local transport within city area is open for public while the educational institutions will be closed until 15 July 2020.

GWP Pakistan scheduled the steering committee meeting for 13 May to discuss the way forward.

SRI LANKA

The island-wide curfew was lifted on 11 May except in Colombo and Gampaha Districts. Government has permitted all government and private sector organisations to resume operations countrywide with 1/3 of their respective workforce determined as essential to the respective organisation. All residents in the districts of Colombo and Gampaha who have not been called to work are requested to observe curfew by remaining at home. Further, curfew become operational every day to the entire country from 8.00 p.m to 5.00 a.m. until further notice. Residents of the districts of Colombo and Gampaha will only be allowed to go to the nearest supermarket/grocery store or pharmacy, however residents are only be allowed to go out based on the last digit of the National Identity Card (NIC) number which can be used as their curfew pass.

Public transportation have been arranged to office staff under strict health and social distancing guidelines while people are encouraged to arrange private transport. Hotels/restaurants and schools are still under lockdown until further notice. All immigrants are subjected to two-week quarantine on arrival at centers and for 2 weeks self-quarantine.

Although, the government departments and other private sector organisations commenced partial operations from 11 May, GWP Sri Lanka was instructed to continue to work from home by the hosting institution, IWMI until further notice expected during this week. The GWP Sri Lanka planned activities for 2020 will be postponed for several months due changed priorities in the country, social distancing guidelines as well as general elections due in June.