

# COVID-19 STATUS REPORT (5)

SOUTH ASIA - 26 JUNE 2020



*An outbreak of pneumonia of unknown reason was first reported on 31 December 2019 from Wuhan City in Hubei Province of China. On 7 January, it was diagnosed as "Novel Corona Virus". On 30 January WHO has declared it as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 11 February WHO renamed the disease as COVID-19 and on 11 March declared as a pandemic. The incubation period of the virus is reported as 2-14 days.*

## BANGLADESH

As of 26 June 2020, there have been a total of 130,474 confirmed cases in the country, with 53,133 recoveries. The capital city of Dhaka is currently the most affected district. In order to manage transmitting the disease to the country, the Government of Bangladesh stopped both domestic and international flights and suspended on-arrival visas for all countries. All the educational institutions that were closed in March are planned to reopen on 6 August. The government started easing the lockdown from 1 June with strict social distancing guidelines. The health related advisories strictly maintained at public places and at public transportation.

Given the circumstances, staff of GWP Bangladesh are continue working from home and seeking the possibility of conducting the operations interacting with its Partners remotely through virtual means. The annual IWRM training is scheduled online in July – the office is planning to gather pros and cons from the participants of the virtual training in order to decide on the next IWRM trainings in coming years. Field activities i.e. youth and gender awareness programmes are restricted due to the closure of educational institutes. Therefore, there is a very high possibility of postponing some of the field activities to Q3/4.

## BHUTAN

Bhutan is having the lowest number of reported cases of Coronavirus in the region with mild infection level. Fifty percent of the infected persons have recovered and the rest are under isolation. There is no information about community transmitted cases and all confirmed cases are from immigrants. Government of Bhutan started reopening the

## HIGHLIGHTS

Situation in South Asia (by WHO)  
Updated on 25 June at 2.25pm CEST

Country	Cases	Deaths
<b>Bangladesh</b>	122,660	1,582
<b>Bhutan</b>	70	0
<b>India</b>	473,105	14,894
<b>Nepal</b>	10,728	24
<b>Pakistan</b>	192,970	3,903
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	2,001	11

**Globally there are 9,296,202 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 479,133 deaths**

## UPCOMING ...

[HELP-GWP consultation on Draft Principles on Addressing Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\) During Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

**30 July 2020**

The online consultation is co-organised by HELP and GWP and supported by National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). It is expected to have nearly 80 participants from Pan Asia to attend the consultation representing GWP and key representatives from institutions that have influence on investment and financing for water-related disaster and pandemic efforts.

country at a stage wise approach with strict social distancing guidelines. Still, public transportation services are suspended as well as the international borders of the country are being locked and under very strict surveillance. Airport is closed until further notice. The schools (for only high and middle school children) and education institutes reopening will be commenced from 1 July with similar social distancing practices and hygiene precautions. Thereafter, it is expected to increase the business timing of malls and boutiques from 2hrs.

Restrictions imposed by the government to avoid gatherings are still remain and as a result GWP Bhutan had to withheld its regular IWRM sensitization programmes. However, these planned sensitisations are important to educate the communities who are benefiting from the recently restored water intake and distribution tanks. The CWP is looking forward to schedule these meetings soon.

#### INDIA

In India, although the rate of COVID recovery cases has improved upto 55.49 percent, there is also an alarming increase of the death toll per day particularly on 17 June it marked the highest which was 2,003 where it remained less than 500 in rest of the period. Confirmed cases in Delhi-NCR is reaching 70,000 and 2,301 deaths reported by 23 June. Globally, India remains at the 4<sup>th</sup> place in terms of number of infected cases and at the 8<sup>th</sup> place for death toll. The shocking circumstances conduced the Government of India to extend the lockdown period especially for high-risk zones till 30 June, and to practice phases wise approach to reopen the areas outside containment zones.

The conditions badly affected to GWP India's field operations and delayed the activities that are being initiated at the beginning of the year. The GWP India Secretariat is putting their maximum efforts to overcome the challenges and using online platforms to bring back the activities back to new normal. They are also coordinating with the Partners seeking avenues to executing the projects and having regular contacts with them to get to know the status of ongoing work. As a result, call for applications for youth for GWP India's Water Champions Youth Fellowship, 2020 project was launched and a panel of Jury have already shortlisted the interviewees. An online interview is scheduled for 30 June and the selected fellows will be assigned to several companies to proceed their tasks virtually.

The secretariat is also concentrating on developing the social media platforms and developing reports and publications and sharing those with partners as a way of interacting with them regularly.

#### NEPAL

Number of infected cases are increasing rapidly in Nepal with the migrant workers returning from other countries, especially from India. The Government of Nepal has unveiled a phase-wise plan to ease the lockdown and some sectors were allowed to open with strict protocols to follow. Accordingly, the health, agriculture and agri-business, industry and other businesses, banks and financial institutions, electricity, media have been prioritised as essential sectors. Further the government offices and private and NGOs are allowed to open in two shifts and only private vehicles on Kathmandu Valley is allowed still with strict public health safety standards. Restaurants are open only for take-away services. The education institutes, international and domestic flights, all kinds of gatherings and shopping malls and public transportation is still banned until further notice.

In the given situation, GWP Nepal is still practicing working from home and engaging with the tasks that are possible to handle virtually. At the moment, the assessments that are planned under 2020 workplan, are being carried out by the consultants using secondary data and expecting to be ready with the literature review and secondary data analysis by the time the country is open for field operations. Still if the country situation is unstable and restricts remain they may require some alterations to the schedule.

#### PAKISTAN

As of 25 June 2020, there have been about 192,970 confirmed cases with 81,307 recoveries and 3,903 deaths in the country. Sindh has recorded the most cases at over 74,070, while Punjab has reported the most deaths in the country, a total of 1,602. In early June, after testing began to pick up once again, case numbers began rising far faster, after levels of new cases in 24 hours breaking 3,000 on 31 May and raised more than 4,000 per day in June who tested positive for COVID-19. Evidence shown that every single district in the four provinces of Pakistan had at least one confirmed case. The Government of Pakistan eased the nation-wide lockdown on 9 May in phases. Local transport within city area has commenced for public while the educational institutions will be closed until 15 July 2020.

GWP Pakistan has started its operations and trying their best to bring the operations back to normal. The restrictions imposed on fieldwork as well as the gatherings and closing down of education institutes have further delay the planned awareness raising activities and trainings of farmers and youth. All these have adversely impacted GWP Pakistan workplan 2020.

#### SRI LANKA

On 11 May the Government of Sri Lanka began easing the lockdown for the whole country and allowed the work force to slowly return to their places of work. The public transportation services have restarted and shopping malls and small businesses reopened targeting rebuilding/stabilizing the economy of the country. Still, all these are operating with strict sanitation control measures, i.e. hand washing, social distancing and wearing of facemasks at public. The government advised all residents to remain indoors and restrict gatherings where possible as a measure of precaution. Now, there are no evidences of community spreading of the disease and all the recent cases are spotted through immigrant workers. All immigrants are subjected to 2 weeks quarantine on arrival at centers and for 2 weeks self-quarantine.

GWP South Asia/GWP Sri Lanka hosting institution, IWMI is closely following the developments of the country, following a phase wise approach for staff to return to the office, and facilitating safety measures within office premises. Likewise, during this “Phase 1” only one staff (<25% staff) of GWP Sri Lanka started coming to office since 8 June only for 3 days per week. Likewise, GWP Sri Lanka will follow IWMI “Return-to-work Guidance Document” in the coming weeks. GWP Sri Lanka workplan/collaborative activities are ongoing with the clear understanding of less presence of staff at all levels. Some of the activities/meetings are being carried out virtually as appropriate. The ground level programmes are likely to come on track only from 3Q that also can be influenced by the General Elections scheduled for 5 August 2020.