

COVID-19 STATUS REPORT (4)

SOUTH ASIA - 27 MAY 2020



BANGLADESH

The highest number of infected cases are continue to be observed in Dhaka Division, while the Government extended the country lockdown until 30 May. Still the restrictions are not effective for those who engaged in processing of agricultural products, food, industrial goods, products/equipment of government projects, pharmacies, hospitals and emergency services; while the inter-District and inter-Upazila movement is controlled strictly. In addition, people are advised to maintain social distancing and other health related advisories strictly during Ramadan Season. Educational institutions will remain closed until further notice. Suspension of commercial flights to and from Bangladesh are extended until 30 May. All public transportations are banned and only limited movements are allowed using private transportations.

GWP Bangladesh Staff are continue working from home.

BHUTAN

Bhutan is having the lowest number of reported cases of Coronavirus in the region with mild infection level. All identified cases are from the people who returned to Bhutan from other countries and there are no any evidences of community transmission. 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

The number of COVID cases are raising in India despite the best practices and preventative measures taken by the Government. The daily confirmed cases in the country have increased upto 6,535 (reported on 26 May) and above. The highest number of death were reported on 5 May, which was 195 and remains at an increasing trend. The highest number of cases are being reported in Delhi that stands at 14,053, followed by Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The country lockdown has been extended until 31 May to prevent community spreading of the virus.

HIGHLIGHTS

Situation in South Asia (by WHO)

Updated on 26 May at 6.45pm CEST

Country	Cases	Deaths
Bangladesh	36,751	522
Bhutan	27	0
India	145,380	4,167
Nepal	722	4
Pakistan	57,705	1,197
Sri Lanka	1,278	10

Globally there are 5, 406,282 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 343,567 deaths

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Borders of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana where most of the GWP India staff resides, have been sealed to control people movements. Therefore, most of the staff are working from home.

NEPAL

Number of infected cases are increasing rapidly in Nepal compared to the last two weeks. The nationwide lockdown of the country has been extended until 2 June. The International and domestic flight suspension will continue until 14 June midnight except for emergency services, repatriation of expatriates and for cargo with medicines/medical equipment and essential supplies. International borders are also remain closed until further notice. People movements are being highly monitored and prohibited. The plan for opening the government educational institutions are yet to be announced and private schools are warned to take stern safety precautions if they are keen to take new student enrollments. The Ministry of Education has uploaded teaching materials on websites and schools have started taking online classes.

With this given situation, the GWP Nepal staff are still working from home. The office work is ongoing according to the workplan as most of the field operations are planned for 3Q. Still, if the country situation is unstable and lockdown remains it may require some alterations to the schedule.

PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, Sindh is having the highest number of infected cases at 22,934, while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has reported the most deaths in the country, 408. Daily reported cases in the country is remained at around 2,000 while the highest number of cases were report on 13 and 22 May that were 2,624 and 2,603 respectively. The death toll is also hiking where the number went upto 57 per day on 12 May and currently remains at 34 for last few days. Nationwide lockdown imposed on 1 April was extended and decided to ease phase wise, from 9 May. 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.

SRI LANKA

The island wide curfew was lifted on 26 May. Still it will be in forced daily from 10 pm to 4 am until further notice. While the curfew has been lifted also in the districts of Colombo and Gampaha, travel from these districts to other districts is prohibited. Rest of the control measures, i.e. social distancing, wearing of facemasks, are in place as practiced earlier. The government has advised all citizens and residents to remain indoors where possible as a measure of precaution. Currently there are no evidences of community spreading of the decease and almost all the recent cases are spotted through returnees from other countries. 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 will open their premises for staff after two weeks of cleaning (Phase 0). During Phase 1, only essential staff will be permitted to work - one GWP Sri Lanka staff member will attend office 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 their partner agencies. The ground level programmes are likely to come on track only from 3Q that also can be influenced by the postponed General Elections.

