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Dengue Bulletin

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World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR South-East Asia

From the Editor's Desk

Dengue has emerged as the most widespread and rapidly increasing vector-borne disease in the world. Of the 2.5 billion people around the world living in dengue endemic countries and at risk of contracting dengue fever, 1.3 billion live in dengue endemic areas in 10 countries of the WHO South-East Asia (SEA) Region. All Member States in the Region, except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, being endemic to dengue, the Region contributes to more than half of the global burden of the disease. Five countries (India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand) are among the 30 most highly endemic countries in the world. In spite of control efforts, there has been a significant increase in the number of dengue cases over the years, though improvement has been seen in both case management and reduction of case-fatality rate (CFR) to below 0.5%.

Compared with 2015, dengue cases in the SEA Region increased by 46% by 2019, i.e. from 451 442 cases in 2015 to 658 301 cases in 2019; and deaths decreased by 2%, i.e. from 1584 in 2015 to 1555 in 2019, representing a decline in the case-fatality rate (CFR) from 0.35% to 0.24%. A variety of factors are responsible in the SEA Region for the expansion and distribution of the dengue mosquito vector and viruses, namely high rates of population growth, inadequate water, sewer and waste management systems, rise in global commerce and tourism, global warming, changes in public health policy, and the development of hyper-endemicity in urban areas, among others. The current situation of the high burden of dengue cases in the SEA Region is aggravated by the absence of effective treatment and lack of comprehensive vector control.

All these resulted in researchers engaging in studies on the clinical features, management, vector biology and control of dengue. In line with this priority, the *Dengue Bulletin* is published by the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia every year, encouraging researchers to explore different aspects of the disease and contribute to the knowledge gap and evidence base for combating its rapid spread. This 41st Volume of *Dengue Bulletin* is in your hands. It consists of papers on the dengue burden, wolbachia, vaccines, diagnostic or therapeutic applications, early warning systems, entomological surveillance and environment management, insecticide resistance, and also the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on dengue prevention and control efforts.

We also invite contributions for Volume 42 of *Dengue Bulletin*. The deadline for the receipt of the manuscripts is 31 May 2021. Contributors are requested to adhere to the instructions given at the end of this *Bulletin* during the preparation of their manuscripts. Contributions should either be accompanied by flash drives and sent to the Editor, *Dengue Bulletin*, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, Parsvnath Red Fort Capital Tower 1, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi 110001, India, or by email as a file attachment to the Editor at *se_denguebulletin@searo.who.int*. Readers who want copies of the *Dengue Bulletin* may write to the same address or the WHO Country Representative in their country of residence. The pdf version will be available on the WHO Regional Office website.

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Contents

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The manuscripts were reviewed by Dr B.N. Nagpal and Dr Mohammad A. Jamsheed with respect to format, content, conclusions drawn, including review of tabular and illustrative materials for clear, concise and focused presentation, and the bibliographical references.