Highlights

- 322,693 dengue cases, including 1,272 deaths, reported from 1 January to 21 September 2019: 115% higher than in 2018.
- 8,856 newly reported dengue cases and 15 deaths between 15 and 21 September, decreased from 9,815 cases in the preceding week, but 25% higher than in the same epidemiological week in 2018.
- Weekly Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 0.17% in epidemiological week 38 (15-21 September 2019) is lower than in the same time period in 2018 (0.45%).
- A National Dengue Epidemic was declared on 6 August 2019.
- 15 out of 17 regions exceed either the alert or the epidemic threshold.

Current Situation

Between 1 January and 21 September 2019, 322,693 dengue cases including 1,272 deaths were reported through the DOH routine surveillance system, with a CFR of 0.39% (Table 1).

Since the beginning of the outbreak, children aged 5-9 years have consistently been the most affected age group among dengue cases (23%) and deaths (38%). Similarly, the majority of dengue cases are consistently male (56%), and the majority of dengue deaths are female (54%).

Between 15 and 21 September, 8,856 cases and 15 deaths were reported, compared to 9,815 cases and 37 deaths in the preceding week, but still 25% higher than in 2018. Similarly, the weekly CFR of 0.17% in epidemiological week 38 is lower than in the same time period in 2018 (0.45%) (Figure 1 and 2).

Please note that weekly cases are subject to change after inclusion of delayed reports.

Table 1: Cumulative Reported Dengue Cases per Region
Philippines, epidemiological week 1-38 2018 and 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>CFR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>149,849</td>
<td>322,693</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>774</td>
<td>1,272</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.52%</td>
<td>0.39%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between 1 January-21 September 2019

Figure 1: Weekly reported dengue cases in #
Philippines, epidemiological week 1-38 2018 and 2019

Figure 2: Weekly dengue Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in %
Philippines, epidemiological week 20-38 2018 and 2019
Response so far

Risk assessment

In spite of a steady decrease in the number of weekly reported cases in the past 7 weeks (Figure 1), the overall risk at the national level remains high, especially because of the large number of deaths. With the rainy season expected to continue until well into November, there is increased risk of more breeding sites for vector proliferation.

The current outbreak is already seeing the largest number of cases and deaths reported in the Philippines in the past 10 years (Figure 3), with 3 more months to go until the end of the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall risk</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dengue outbreaks are continuing in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam, as well as on pacific islands like the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, Tuvalu, Palau, and Cook Islands.

Laboratory testing

As per 21 September 2019, 160,789 samples (50% of the total number of cases) were tested for dengue, of which 1% at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and the remainder through Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT). Of all tested samples, 92% were confirmed. Of all laboratory confirmed dengue cases, the majority are dengue virus serotype (DENV) 3 (68%).

Case management

The incidence rate (number of cases divided by total population) for most affected regions shows a constant decline (Figure 4).

* Until 21 September 2019
Whereas the CFR (number of deaths divided by number of cases) has decreased when compared to previous years, it is a still cause of significant concern (Figure 5).

Poverty, geographical remoteness, malnutrition and poor hygiene and sanitation are all contributing factors to the high mortality rate, besides a chronic shortage of (adequately trained) health staff. The various causes for high mortality are structural and require a longer-term solution. WHO is working closely together with DOH to strengthen effective risk communication for health workers and the broader population to prevent mortality from late health seeking behavior. Ensuring effective treatment of severe dengue cases will be addressed by updating of clinical management guidelines through a Technical Working Group.

![Figure 5: Annual CFR for dengue in the Philippines 2009-2019*](image)

* Until 21 September 2019

**Monitoring**

A thorough evaluation of the response is currently being planned, focusing on best practices in different technical areas (risk communication, vector control, case management, dengue fast lanes, blood supply, surveillance, coordination, hygiene promotion) from all affected regions, provinces and municipalities.

**Coordination**

**DOH:**
- Conducted a health cluster meeting on 27 September 2019 to discuss polio and dengue outbreaks jointly with DILG, DepEd, OCD, PNP, AFP, PIA, PRC, PDRF, OCHA, UNICEF and WHO.
- Activated the Incident Command System (ICS) to streamline the dengue outbreak response
- Issued #2019-0315 *National Dengue Epidemic* 2 August 2019
- Issued #2019-0316 *Advisory on the Implementation of Search and Destroy of Mosquitoes’ Breeding Places Activities (Saboyang 4 O’clock Habit para Deng-Get Out)* in Health Facilities 8 August 2019
- Issued #2019-0317 *Guidelines in the Management of Surge Capacity during Dengue Epidemic* 2 August 2019
- Intensified health promotion and advocacies on Enhanced 4S Strategy (Search and destroy breeding sites, Self-protection, Seek early consultation and Say yes to fogging during outbreaks)
- Prepositioned and distributed commodities needed to Local Government Units
- Deployed Human Resources for Health
- Dengue case investigations and vector surveillance and control
- Provision of blood supply

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1 DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government), DepEd (Department of Education), OCD (Office of Civil Defence), PNP (Philippine National Police), AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines), PIA (Philippine Information Agency), PRC (Philippine Red Cross), PDRF (Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation), OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC):
- Issued Memorandum Circular #MC01-2019 *Enjoining All Member Agencies to Support the Nationwide Dengue Epidemic Response* 6 August 2019
- Issued 15 situation reports outlining actions carried out by regional and provincial level Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils.

**Partners’ engagement so far**

**PRC**
- Continuing to support 8 government hospitals with 10 fully equipped Dengue Emergency Medical Units treating patients
- Mobilising volunteers for health campaigns and clean-up drives.

**Americares**
- Printed and distributed tarps for Leyte, Cavite, Iloilo and Capiz provinces
- Supported information drives in barangays and schools as well as community clean up drives in target municipalities with high cases of dengue.

**CARE**
- Distributed mosquito repellent to Camp Sites and Transitory Sites in Marawi and selected Lanao Del Sur municipalities.

**Plan International**
- Supporting LGUs and RHUs with fever surveillance, dengue brigades, clean up drives, Family Development Sessions (FDS), distribution of insecticide treated bed nets, vector and environmental control interventions, community and school-based campaigns health education
- Printing and distributing of IEC materials including tarpaulins, hygiene promotion on proper hand-washing in schools and communities, health education during community meetings and household visits in East, North, and West Samar, Masbate, Occidental Mindoro, and Central Mindanao
- Other awareness raising activities involving Champions of Change (students trained by Plan International on radio broadcasting) and photography contests.

**Save the Children**
- Deployed surveillance officers to Regions IV-A and X to support with data validation and analysis;
- Working with priority LGUs in Lanao del Norte, Laguna, and Cavite in vector control management
- Supporting LGUs with 5S (4S + Sustain Hydration) in over 40 barangays and schools in Lanao del Norte, Laguna, and Cavite.
- Supporting communities with 5S in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, North Cotabato, and Saranggani
- Planning communication campaign on social media and partner radio stations

**WHO**
- Epidemiological analysis and risk assessment
- Information sharing and coordination among health partners for mobilization of additional resources
- Planning After Action Review to evaluate the different dengue response interventions in the country
Response plan

National-level DOH continues to:
- Coordinate response efforts with CHDs through the Task Force for Prevention, Control, and Response to Dengue Outbreak
- Sustained disease surveillance
- Sustained advocacy campaigns
- Hospital preparedness for surge capacity
- Lead the Health Cluster of NDRMMC
- Mobilization of human resources, logistics and funds to affected regions

DOH is requesting health partners for support with:
- NS1 rapid diagnostic test kits
- Tents for patient ward extensions
- Information campaign and advocacy
- Support with monitoring using the checklists
- Human resources

Regional, provincial and municipal health offices continue to:
- Provide daily dengue epidemiology analysis at barangay level
- Notify any cluster of dengue cases to DOH/EB for appropriate follow up.
- Advocate for community and school-based health education campaigns and clean-up drives
- Ensure supply of sufficient insecticides for vector control, in close collaboration with LGUs

WHO continues to support DOH with:
- Development and dissemination of targeted risk communication messages for health workers and communities
- Dissemination of key guidelines and IEC materials to health partners