

7.4. COVID-19 Data

This section looks into the cumulative data of COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths since 11 March 2020 when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it as a pandemic. Infographics in this section show the global COVID-19 situation as well as the situation in ADRC member countries. The source of all data, as used in this section, is from the *World Health Organization Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard*, <https://covid19.who.int/>, 21 September 2021.

7.4.1. Global Situation

Since 11 March 2020, the number of confirmed cases has been peaking for several occasions (Figure 7.14). The highest peak was on 26 April 2021, recording a global total of 5,695,585 confirmed cases on that day.

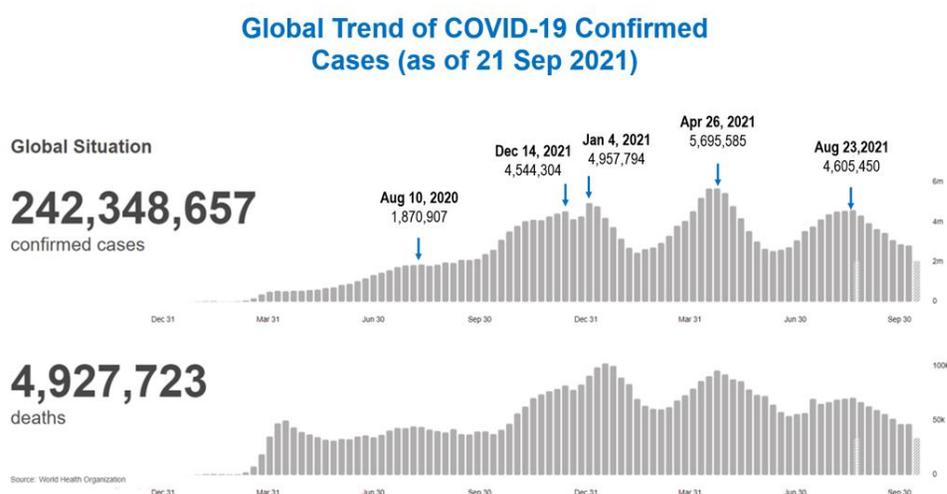


Figure 7.14 Global Situation of COVID-19 (WHO, 2021)

In January 2021, western countries started rolling out COVID-19 vaccines which may be contributing to the declining number of confirmed cases of infection during the months of February and March. However, during those times, there were also new variants of COVID-19 (e.g., delta variant) that were more transmittable. It is likely that the variants contributed to the increasing number of confirmed cases, reaching the highest record in 26 April 2021.

7.4.2. Situation in ADRC Member Countries

At the outset, it should be noted ADRC has a total of 31 member-countries. However, due to lack of data reported to the WHO, only the COVID-19 situation of 20 member-countries are presented (Figure 7.15).

COVID-19 Situation in ADRC Member Countries (as of 21 Sep 2021)

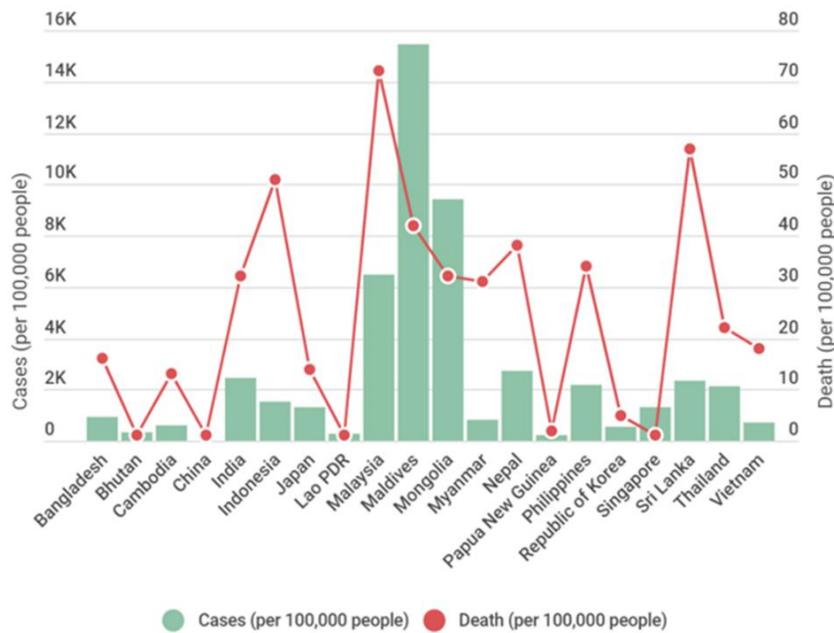


Figure 7.15 COVID-19 Situation in ADRC Member Countries (WHO, 2021)

The data indicates that countries in Asian region are so diverse in terms of policies and programs in controlling the spread of COVID-19 infection (as partly explained in Section 2.2). Why is it that countries like Bhutan, China, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea and Singapore could minimize the number of deaths from COVID-19 while India, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka could not? One likely explanation is that ADRC member countries vary in the degree of implementing the common countermeasures for COVID-19 (e.g., face covering, social distancing, and hand sanitation) due to differences of local situations, including economic conditions and socio-political contexts. For instance, Japan and the Republic of Korea did not implement nationwide lockdowns nor strict travel restrictions while countries like India and the Philippines imposed lockdowns, and even commanding the military to enforce those restrictions.