

# Global Mission Partners (GMP) COVID-19 Update<sup>1</sup> #40

These updates incorporate all nations where GMP programs (COCOA, ICP and IMA) operate. GMP programs operate independently of one another, and adhere to their own processes and practices in line with the relevant oversight bodies.

Brackets indicate figures from (16/3).

**Green** = No cases, or situation under control.

**Yellow** = Cases growing or stable but well monitored, or cases potentially getting out of hand and a serious situation is likely to occur.

**Red** = Situation out of control and/or official figures cannot be trusted.

*Global cases sit at 128.2m and fatalities at 2.8m.*

*Globally, the situation is varying greatly. Places like Poland, India, Brazil and Turkey are recording worrying spikes. The US is slowly seeing cases drop as it rolls out an impressive vaccination program – the Biden administration aimed to have 100m vaccinations in its first 100 days, but achieved that in 60 days. The UK has also seen case numbers drop to approximately 5,000 per day, and Africa's cases have also slowed.*

**Australia (96<sup>2</sup>): 909 deaths; 29,293 cases. (909 deaths; 29,134 cases). Testing: 601,607 per million.**

Greater Brisbane is currently in a three-day lockdown due to the UK variant which has resulted in closed borders by the other States. Cases have been controlled in Australia at a broader level, but the vaccine roll-out has not been proceeding as quickly as anticipated.

**GMP Programs:** IMA, embody.

**India (4): 162,147 deaths; 12,095,329 cases. (158,892 deaths; 11,409,524 cases). T=174,001**

India is now experiencing the highest case numbers since October, and the government is putting this down to a more relaxed approach from citizens as the vaccine is rolled out: "The latest surge is centred in the western state of Maharashtra, which on Sunday reported 40,414 new coronavirus cases, almost two-thirds of the national total, many of them in the densely populated financial capital Mumbai... Cases are also rising in the capital New Delhi and states of Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh," reports *Aljazeera*. The festival of Holi is also being celebrated amidst this surge.

**GMP Programs:** COCOA, ICP.

**Bangladesh (40): 8,949; 600,895 cases. (8,571 deaths; 559,168 cases). T=27,830**

Active cases have leapt to over 54,000, up from 37,000 over last fortnight. Daily cases (over 5,000 yesterday) are at record levels. Restrictions have been put back in place and educational facilities will remain closed (they were due to open tomorrow). Public assembly has been prohibited in areas that are considered highly infectious.

**GMP Programs:** COCOA, ICP.

**Vietnam (170): 35 deaths; 2,594 cases. (35 deaths; 2,557 cases). T=26,521**

One of the few bright areas, Vietnam has seen daily cases plummet and active cases are down to 251. There have been 46,000 frontline and healthcare workers vaccinated in the past three weeks. **GMP Programs:** ICP.

**Indonesia (17): 40,581 deaths; 1,501,093 cases. (38,573 deaths; 1,425,044 cases.) T=45,635**

The daily case rate and fatalities have eased somewhat since the last reporting period but, as we have often said, the official figures do not reflect the true infection rate in Indonesia. There are over 120,000 active cases still in Indonesia, with Jakarta recording the most cases and the most fatalities are in East Java. **GMP Programs:** ICP.

**Fiji (197): 2 deaths, 67 cases. (2 deaths; 66 cases). T=33,309**

There is only one active case in Fiji. On a further positive note, season 41 of *Survivor* is reportedly going to be filmed in Fiji, according to *The Fiji Times*, which estimates the deal to be worth 400 jobs and a spend of \$30 million to Fiji. **GMP Programs:** ICP.

<sup>1</sup> Obviously, these numbers change rapidly. This is current as of 4pm on 30/3/21, according to <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<sup>2</sup> This number indicates – in terms of fatalities – where a nation is ranked of the 221 nations/territories/international conveyances that recorded cases of COVID-19.

**Vanuatu: (220) 0 deaths; 3 cases. (0 deaths; 3 cases) T=1,504.** There are two active cases in Vanuatu. **GMP Programs:** COCOA, ICP.

**Thailand (151): 94 deaths; 28,773 cases. (87 deaths; 27,005 cases). T=115,460** Active cases have almost doubled in Thailand to over 1,366 over the past two weeks. Testing had a large increase as well. The Thai government, according to *The Bangkok Post*, is planning to roll out 63 million vaccines by the end of the year. Tourism will open to vaccinated tourists on July 1 to Phuket, Chiang Mai, Krabi, Pattaya, Koh Samui and Phangnga – but not the capital, Bangkok, despite calls for it to be included. **GMP Programs:** COCOA, ICP

**South Sudan (147): 108 deaths; 10,119 cases. (104 deaths; 9,554 cases). T=11,527** Active cases dropped by approximately 1,000, down to 417 as South Sudan's situation stabilised. The *Sudan Tribune* reports that "South Sudan on Thursday received the first batch of 132,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccines provided with support from the COVAX Facility", and is planning to vaccinate 40 percent of its population over the next few months. **GMP Programs:** COCOA, ICP

**Zimbabwe: (85) 1,520 deaths; 36,839 cases. (1,504 deaths; 36,504). T=25,063** From an infection point of view, Zimbabwe improved enormously since the last reporting period. However, one of the ripple effects is the increase in food shortages, as reported by *Mirage News*: "Hunger in Zimbabwe's urban areas has increased over the past year with 2.4 million people now struggling to meet their basic food needs, according to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee... The lockdowns imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19 have dealt a severe blow to poor urban communities, many of whom were daily wage earners living hand to mouth. While unable to find work in cities, the ban on travel has meant that seasonal employment in rural areas is no longer an option for them." **GMP Programs:** COCOA, ICP

**Papua New Guinea: (168) 49 deaths; 5,349 cases. (26 deaths; 2,269 cases). T=7,022** Cases doubled in the past fortnight, and it was also the worst period for fatalities. The health system is inundated with cases and has little with which to fight the virus. There are now over 4,400 active cases in the country, and most people consider this as a low estimate due to inadequate testing. *CNN* reports that: "Low testing rates also mean PNG's case load is likely much higher – something authorities acknowledge. Meanwhile, rampant misinformation in the country means some people are still not taking the threat seriously. Onlookers warn the crisis could worsen next week as people in the predominantly Christian nation travel home for Easter – and are calling on neighbouring Australia and New Zealand to do more to help." It is feared that the health system is on the brink of collapse – and there are only 500 doctors to serve a population of nine million. **GMP Programs:** ICP

**The Philippines: (32) 13,186 deaths; 731,894 cases. (12,837 deaths; 626,893 cases). T=91,161** Manila is back in lockdown; cases doubled over the past fortnight (105,000) and there are over 115,000 active cases in the Philippines as the nation takes a significant step backwards in getting on top of the virus as it records its highest levels of cases since the pandemic began. *CNN* reports on the lockdown: "More than 25 million people across Metro Manila and nearby provinces Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal will be affected by the lockdown. The lockdown begins Monday, and runs until April 4 – or Easter Sunday, a day when Christians often celebrate with special church services. Religious gatherings are not allowed during the holy week." This includes a 6pm-5am curfew. **GMP Programs:** ICP