



Dengue awareness-raising campaigns through loudspeakers, leaflet distribution, etc. are being conducted by the BDRCS in different hotspots amid the rise of Dengue cases in the country. Photos: BDRCS volunteers, NHQ and Chattogram.

Situation Update # 01: Dengue in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)

17 July 2023

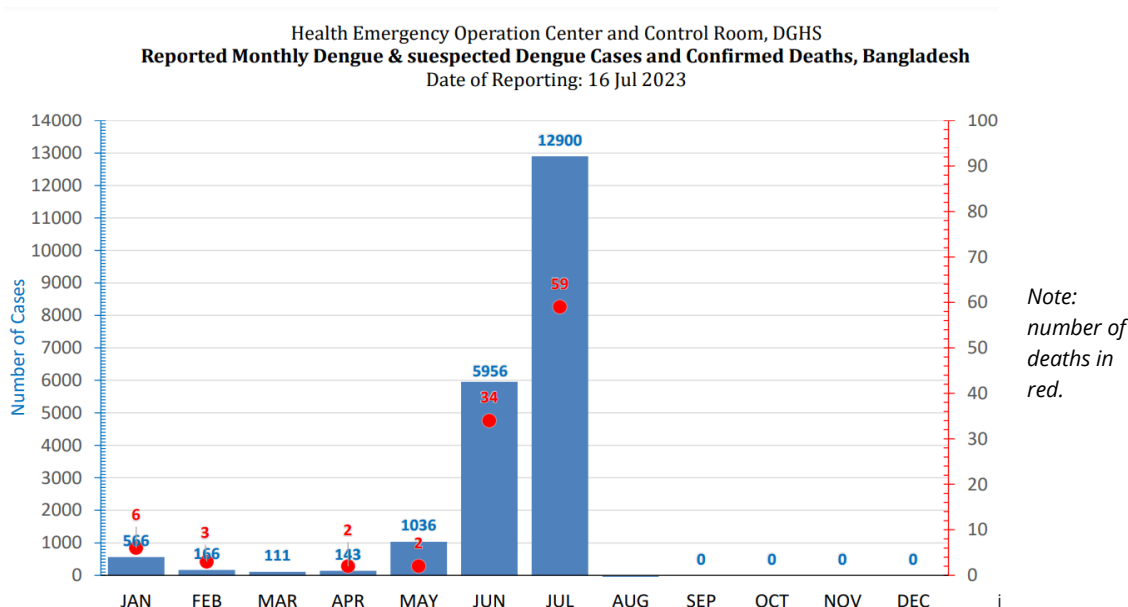
Current Situation:

The dengue outbreak in Bangladesh has taken a worrisome turn as the number of cases and fatalities continue to rise, signalling an alarming trend this year. The total number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh 114 this year which is 05 times higher compared to 2022. According to the [media](#), dengue has already spread in 63 districts of the country. Public health experts believe that the dengue situation is getting complicated and due to the continuous deterioration of the situation, there is a risk of dengue affecting a large number of people this year.

In Dhaka city, only 63 hospitals (20 public and 43 private) out of several hundred hospitals/clinics are assigned to report dengue cases to the current surveillance system. Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute opened a separate dengue cell and 800-bed Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Hospital has been declared as a dengue dedicated hospital to cope with the pressure of patients. The government has asked all medical colleges and public hospitals in the country to open dengue wards and corners amid the rising numbers of infections and fatalities across the country.

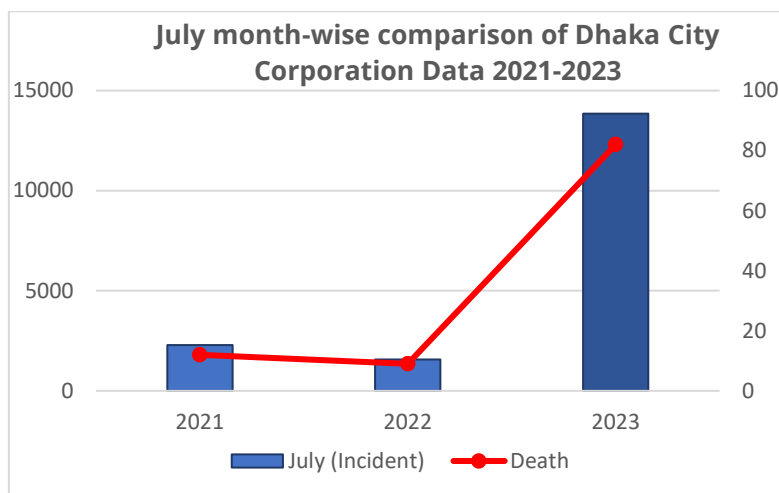
According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), this year the density in number of mosquitoes is much higher than in 2019-2020. This year, the monsoon has come late, and it is expected to end later than the usual years previously. The dengue season is expected to be at least as long as last year which can be led up to November.

- On 16 July 2023, a total of 1,424 patients were admitted to the hospital due to dengue.
- As of 16 July 2023, overall, the total number stood at 20,878 patients who were admitted to the hospital and a total of 106 patients died due to dengue infection.



From 18 June to 27 June 2023, a pre monsoon survey was conducted by the DGHS, covering 3,150 households across 98 wards in the two city corporations of Dhaka. According to the survey findings, 20.04 percent of houses under the Dhaka North City Corporation and 15.47 percent of houses under the Dhaka South City Corporation were found to have Aedes mosquito larvae.

According to the data below, it is identified that this year July's number of dengue cases and the number of death cases are higher than the previous two years within Dhaka City Corporation. Dhaka city alone accounted for about 80 per cent of deaths and 64.5 per cent of this year's total hospitalizations.



According to Health Minister, the number of patients infected with dengue in Bangladesh is five times higher than the number in the previous year in the past five months.

Comparing the incident data from 2021-2023 of all 8 divisions, it is determined that the incident number is highest in Chattagram, Dhaka and Barishal. According to DGHS data, the total official deaths this year is 114, 87 were reported in Dhaka city, 17 in Chattogram, 3 in Mymensingh, 2 in both Rajshahi and Khulna, and 1 each in Rangpur and Barishal divisions.

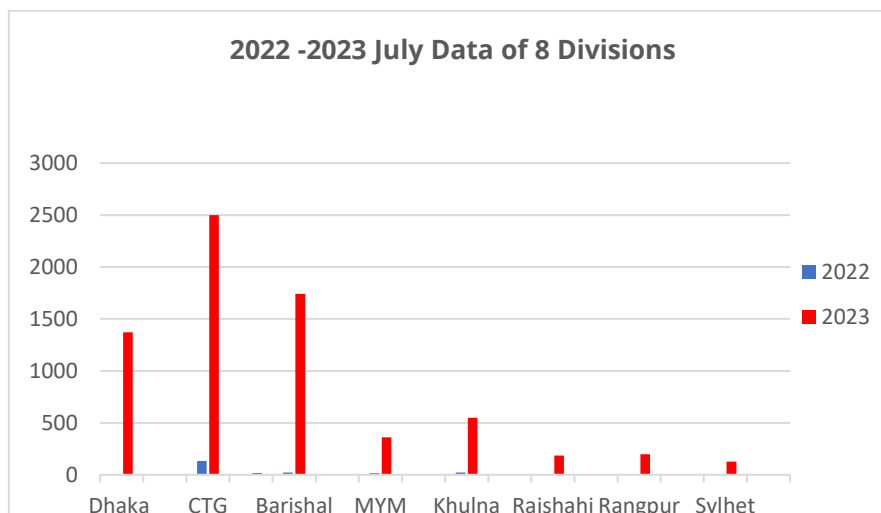


Fig: Graph showing that Dhaka, Chattagram and Barishal are most vulnerable division according to Data. Where CTG = Chattogram and MYM = Mymensingh

Hotspots:

A recent survey done by the DGHS has revealed that 55 wards in the two city corporation areas of Dhaka are at 'high risk' of dengue - among them, there are 28 wards of Dhaka South City Corporation area and 27 wards of the North City Corporation area.

Cox's Bazar Situation:

Along with Dhaka city, a massive outbreak is occurring in the Rohingya refugee camps, which provide shelters to nearly 1.2 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals in a highly restricted area of Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar district. The first case of dengue in camps was detected in 2017, which was followed by a small outbreak in 2021 with 1,530 cases and three deaths. However, the 2022 outbreak occurred at an even bigger scale, with 13,886 camp people infected, and 27 deaths recorded. Highly crowded Rohingya camps with poor sanitation systems may provide an optimal breeding ground for mosquitoes, and therefore, people are at higher risk of severe dengue infection because of secondary infection in upcoming years. Besides, it also appears that dengue is locally transmitted among Bangladeshi citizens at Cox's Bazar since nearly 42.7 per cent (1,466/3,427 cases) of all regional cases (Chattogram division) are recorded in this district. In 2023, dengue infections continue to spread among the Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar with a total of 2,745 patients as of 12 July 2023. According to the Line Director of Disease Control of the DGHS, some of the key reasons behind the infection rate in the camp settlements are the lack of awareness regarding dengue and its prevention, cultural differences, poor water supply systems for the Rohingya community, as they often collect water from various sources, including ditches, due to the lack of access to clean water.

Activities Undertaken by Dhaka City Corporation:

- Dhaka North City Corporation launched a special month-long campaign on 7 July to control mosquitoes to curb the spread of mosquito-borne diseases in the city. It is conducting awareness campaigns, imposing fines to those who fails to maintain hygiene protocols, fogging and increasing larvicide use.
- A letter has been sent to the education ministry urging the inclusion of dengue prevention-related content in the national textbooks.
- The Dhaka South City Corporation launched a dedicated central control room on 13 July as part of its measures to prevent the spread of dengue fever and control the proliferation of Aedes mosquitoes.
- The Dhaka South City Corporation started a special campaign from 10 July at the educational institutions of Dhaka city to combat dengue. It includes cleaning up of premises and surroundings of the educational institutions, sprinkling bleaching powder where necessary, and spraying insecticides to free the educational institutions from the Aedes mosquito.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Activities:

- BDRCS volunteers have started working with the Dhaka North City Corporation. They are currently working in Wards 27, 35 and 36. 40 volunteers are working per day to cover an entire ward. The activities include:
 - Distribution of awareness raising leaflets.
 - Public announcements.
 - Supporting the City Corporation's public announcement and awareness raising activities.
 - Supporting the North City Corporation's campaign to spray mosquito repellents.

- As it is already announced by the authority that 27 wards under North City Corporation are vulnerable to dengue infection. Here, BDRCS has a plan to deploy volunteers in these identified at-risk areas.
- Alongside, BDRCS is in Coordination with various government institutions, ministries, like the CDC of DGHS, Dhaka City Corporation to identify the plan of action and address gaps.
- Organized by Response department, a meeting was held on 16 July at Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) to analysis the current situation and discuss the possible intervention in coordination with concerned departments including health, youth & volunteers, unit affairs departments, and blood bank. Representatives from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) also joined the meeting. Considering the situation and request from City corporations and DGHS, BDRCS is preparing for Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) request to the IFRC. BDRCS team with the support of the IFRC and its membership is working on a possible plan of action.

Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital:

- On 16 July 2023, total number of 42 patients were admitted to the Holy Family Hospital in Dhaka.
- Till 16 July 2023, total 352 patients were admitted to Holy Family Hospital and received treatment.
- 151 dengue patients are still admitted in the hospital receiving medical attention.

BDRCS Blood Bank:

- For dengue patients, BDRCS Dhaka blood bank has distributed 438 bags of platelets (which was 152 bags in the previous year) to Holy Family Hospital and Bangladesh Shishu Hospital from 1 to 15 July 2023.
- Chattagram blood bank distributed 6,507 whole blood bags from January to 15 July 2023.

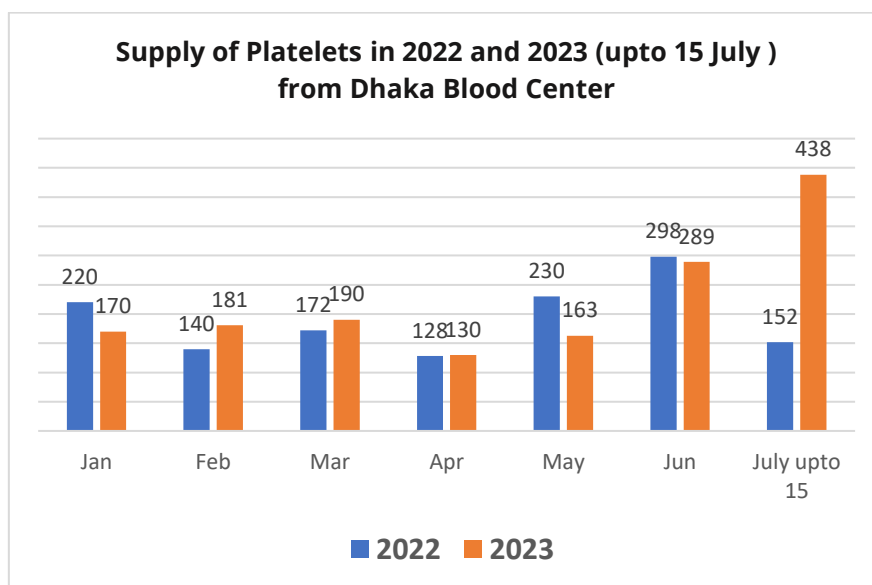


Fig: The above graph shows the increased demand of platelet in Dhaka city compared to last year

Population Movement Operation (PMO) in Cox's Bazar:

- 13 confirmed dengue patients were admitted to BDRCS Primary Health Care (PHC) and BDRCS field hospital and received treatment.

- Approximately, a total of 1,000 Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits were received from WHO to confirm the cases.
- BDRCS field hospital and PHC are prepared to perform complete blood count (CBC) as diagnostic test and prognosis of the disease.
- Community based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) trained volunteers have started health promotion at the community level. Since June 2023, a total of 569 sessions have been conducted by trained volunteers who reached a total of 3,681 people through health promotion activities.

IFRC and its Memberships Actions:

- The IFRC and its in-country memberships (Participating National Societies, PNSs) are closely monitoring the situation and providing technical guidance to BDRCS on possible responses.
- IFRC updated the GO platform (a platform to connect information on emergency needs with the right response) on the current dengue situation.
- Under the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness pillar of the Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP), BDRCS with the technical support of the Danish Red Cross (DRC) organised household health promotion through community volunteers since December 2022 in the implementation areas. This includes 12 wards of Dhaka South, Rajshahi and Sylhet city corporations and the prevention of dengue was prioritised in that promotion. Additionally, a couple of trainings were held for community volunteers, community gatekeepers, Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMCs), City Corporation health workers on the epidemic and pandemic preparedness including dengue. Some school-based and ward-based public health campaigns were also held. As per the request of Dhaka South City Corporation, BDRCS is planning to conduct school-based health campaign focusing on dengue prevention targeting 10 schools, as well as using media-based and ward-based health campaigns will be conducted too.

For Further Information:

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ⁱ <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/home/5200-daily-dengue-status-report>