



#### **Editorial**

# CONSULTANTS ASEAN SECRETARIAT

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## **Mpox global situation**

From 1 May 2022 through August 25, 2024, a cumulative total of 103,429 laboratory-confirmed cases of mpox with 225 deaths, were reported to WHO from 121 countries in all six WHO Regions (Figure 1).

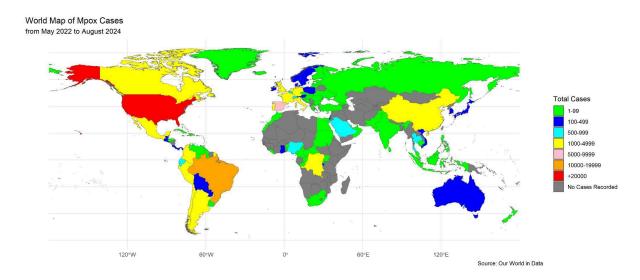


Figure 1. Global Distribution of Mpox Cases

Source: Our World in Data (<a href="https://raw.githubusercontent.com/owid/monkeypox/main/owid-monkeypox-data.csv">https://raw.githubusercontent.com/owid/monkeypox/main/owid-monkeypox-data.csv</a>)

Several outbreaks of different clades of mpox have occurred worldwide. The map shows that most countries are affected by the clade IIb variant, while in Africa the variation is more diverse, with the clades of Ia, Ib and IIb.

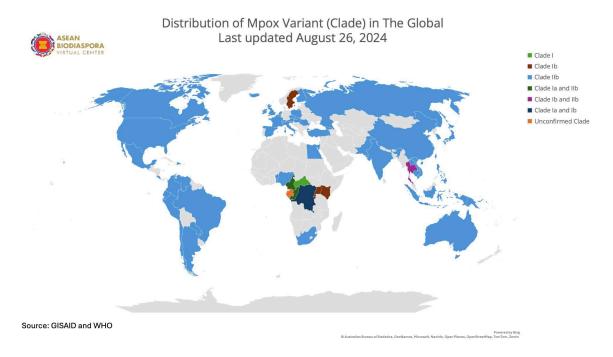


Figure 2. Global variant distribution of mpox cases

Source: Our World in Data (https://raw.githubusercontent.com/owid/monkeypox/main/owid-monkeypox-data.csv)

Figure 3 shows epidemic curves of weekly aggregated laboratory-confirmed cases of mpox from June 1, 2022, to August 26, 2024, across six WHO regions:

- 1. In the African Region, the cases fluctuate with noticeable peaks and troughs throughout the period. A significant rise in cases occurs since mid-2022 towards the end.
- 2. In the Asian Region, case fluctuations have occurred since 2022, with the peaks in September to October 2023, and gradually decreased.
- 3. In the European Region, cases rose since June 2022, peaks in July to August in the same year, then gradually declined.
- 4. In the North American Region, cases increased from June 2022 to August in the same year, then gradually declined.
- 5. In the Region of Oceania, mpox cases fluctuated, with sharp increases in some periods since June 2024.
- 6. In South American region, the cases increased from June 2022 to August in the same year, then gradually declined.

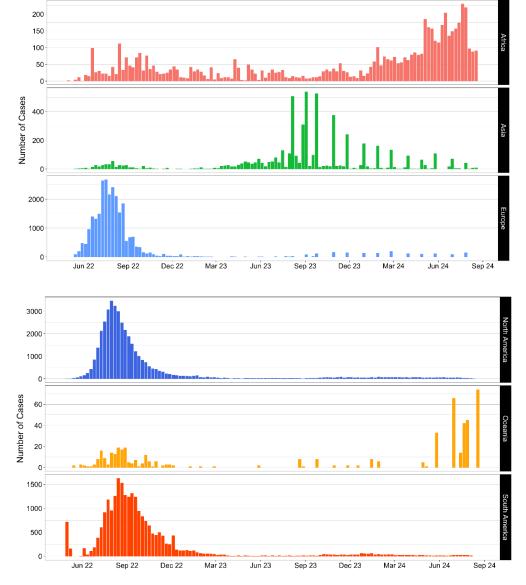


Figure 3. Weekly epidemic curves of mpox by region

Source: Our World in Data (https://raw.githubusercontent.com/owid/monkeypox/main/owid-monkeypox-data.csv)

### **Mpox situation in Africa**

As of August 26, 2024, mpox cases have been reported in several African countries, with the DRC leading with over 1,000 reported cases. Neighboring countries like Burundi, Central African Republic and Congo have also seen hundreds of cases. Cameroon, Nigeria, and South Africa are experiencing dozens of cases, while Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, and Uganda have reported a smaller number of cases (Figure. 4).

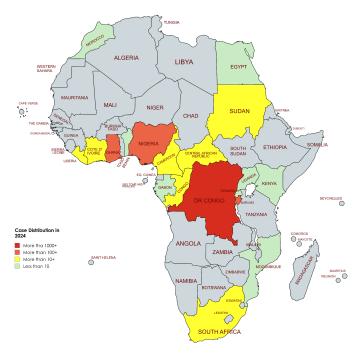


Figure 4. Distribution of Mpox cases in African Countries in 2024

Source: Our World in Data (https://raw.githubusercontent.com/owid/monkeypox/main/owid-monkeypox-data.csv)

The weekly trends of mpox cases in African countries is illustrated in Figure 5. As shown in the figure, Nigeria contributed to the most cases in the beginning of the mpox outbreak in 2022. Meanwhile, the DRC contributed the highest number of cases between 2023 and 2024.

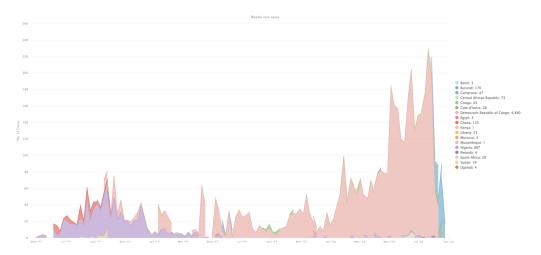


Figure 5. Weekly New Mpox Cases among African Countries

Source: Our World in Data (https://raw.githubusercontent.com/owid/monkeypox/main/owid-monkeypox-data.csv)

As shown in Figure 5, the African region experienced a significant increase in MPOX cases beginning in mid-2022. While the overall trend in most countries in the region was an increase in cases, the pace of growth varied. Some countries experienced sharp increases, while others experienced more gradual increases. More detailed information of these trends is shown in Figure 6 below.

#### Trends of Mpox in Affected African Countries May 2022 to August 26, 2024

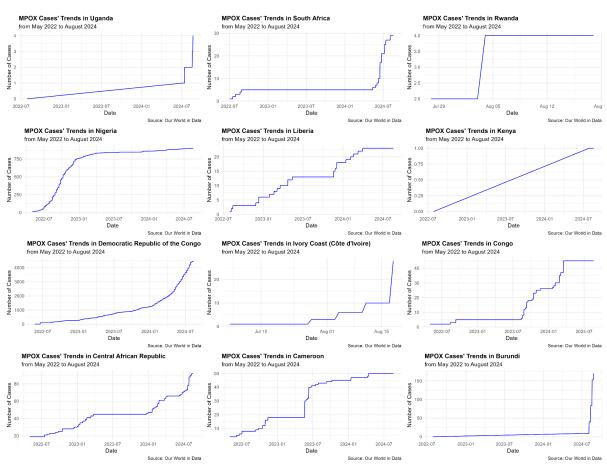


Figure 6. Trends of mpox cases in African countries, May 2022 to August 26, 2024
Source: Our World in Data (<a href="https://raw.githubusercontent.com/owid/monkeypox/main/owid-monkeypox-data.csv">https://raw.githubusercontent.com/owid/monkeypox/main/owid-monkeypox-data.csv</a>)

# Distribution of Mpox Variants (Clade) in Africa Last updates August 23, 2024 Clade I Clade Ia and IIb BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER ■ Clade Ia and Ib ■ Clade Ib ■ Clade IIb ■ Unconfirmed clade Source: GISAID and WHO

Figure 7. Distribution of mpox variants in Africa
Source: GISAID (https://www.epicov.org/epi3/frontend#269cc7)

Figure 7 shows that several outbreaks of different clades of mpox have occurred in different countries. The map suggests that Africa, particularly Central and West Africa, is a major hotspot for mpox with a variety of clades.

- DRC are affected by the clades of Ia, Ib, and IIb
- Kenya and Uganda are affected by clade IIa and IIb
- Cameroon and Congo are affected by clade Ia and Ib
- Central African Republic, Gabon, and Sudan are affected by clade la

## Mpox situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

As of August 26, there are 4,480 confirmed mpox cases in the DRC with 21 deaths (as curated from our world in data (OWID), 2024). The Mpox outbreak in the DRC shows significant geographical variation, with some regions experiencing higher case concentrations. The visualizations illustrate the total number of reported cases and their relative percentages across different provinces, which is critical for understanding the epidemic's dynamics and implementing effective control measures (Figure 8).

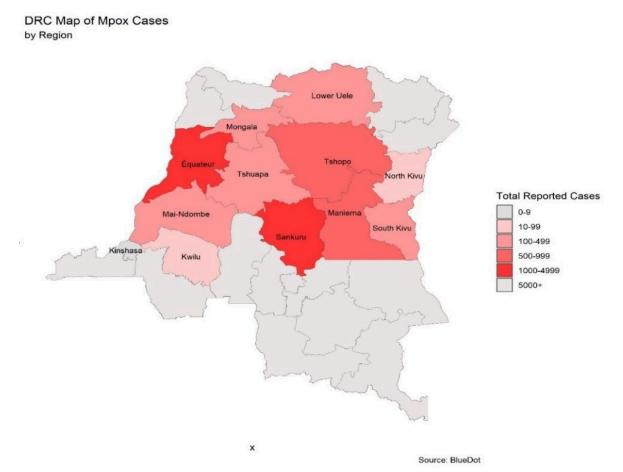


Figure 8. The distribution of Mpox Cases in DRC Source: Bluedot (<a href="https://portal.bluedot.global/">https://portal.bluedot.global/</a>)

## **Mpox situation in the ASEAN Region**

From January 1, 2023 to August 26, 2024, there are 1,155 confirmed cases including 18 deaths in the ASEAN region, with a CFR of 1.56%. The distribution of mpox cases in the ASEAN Region is shown in Figure 9.



Figure 9. The distribution of mpox cases in the ASEAN region

Further information on the number of cases in each ASEAN country is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Mpox cases in the ASEAN region (Jan. 1, 2023 to Aug. 26, 2024)

ASEAN Member	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths	CFR
States	2023-2024	2023-2024	
Cambodia <sup>1</sup>	13	0	0.00%
Indonesia <sup>2</sup>	87	0	0.00%
Lao PDR¹	1	0	0.00%
Malaysia <sup>1</sup>	9	0	0.00%
Philippines <sup>1</sup>	7	0	0.00%
Singapore <sup>3</sup>	44	0	0.00%
Thailand <sup>1</sup>	794	10	1.26%
Viet Nam¹	200	8	4.00%
ASEAN Total	1,155	18	1.56%

Source: <sup>1</sup>IBS Bluedot, <sup>2</sup>Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia, <sup>3</sup>Ministry of Health Singapore.

On August 19, 2024, the Philippines reported a new case of mpox virus infection after the WHO declared the disease a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). As of August 21, the case was confirmed to belong to clade II. On August 22, 2024, Thailand reported one cases of clade I variant, marking the first case reported among Asian countries. To date, no further cases have been reported. The distribution of mpox variants in ASEAN and neighbouring countries is shown in Figure 10.

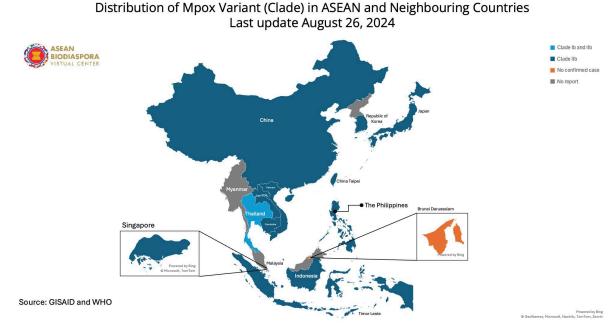


Figure 10. The distribution of mpox variants in the ASEAN region

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