

Covid-19 and its Association with Non-Communicable Disease in Southern Asia

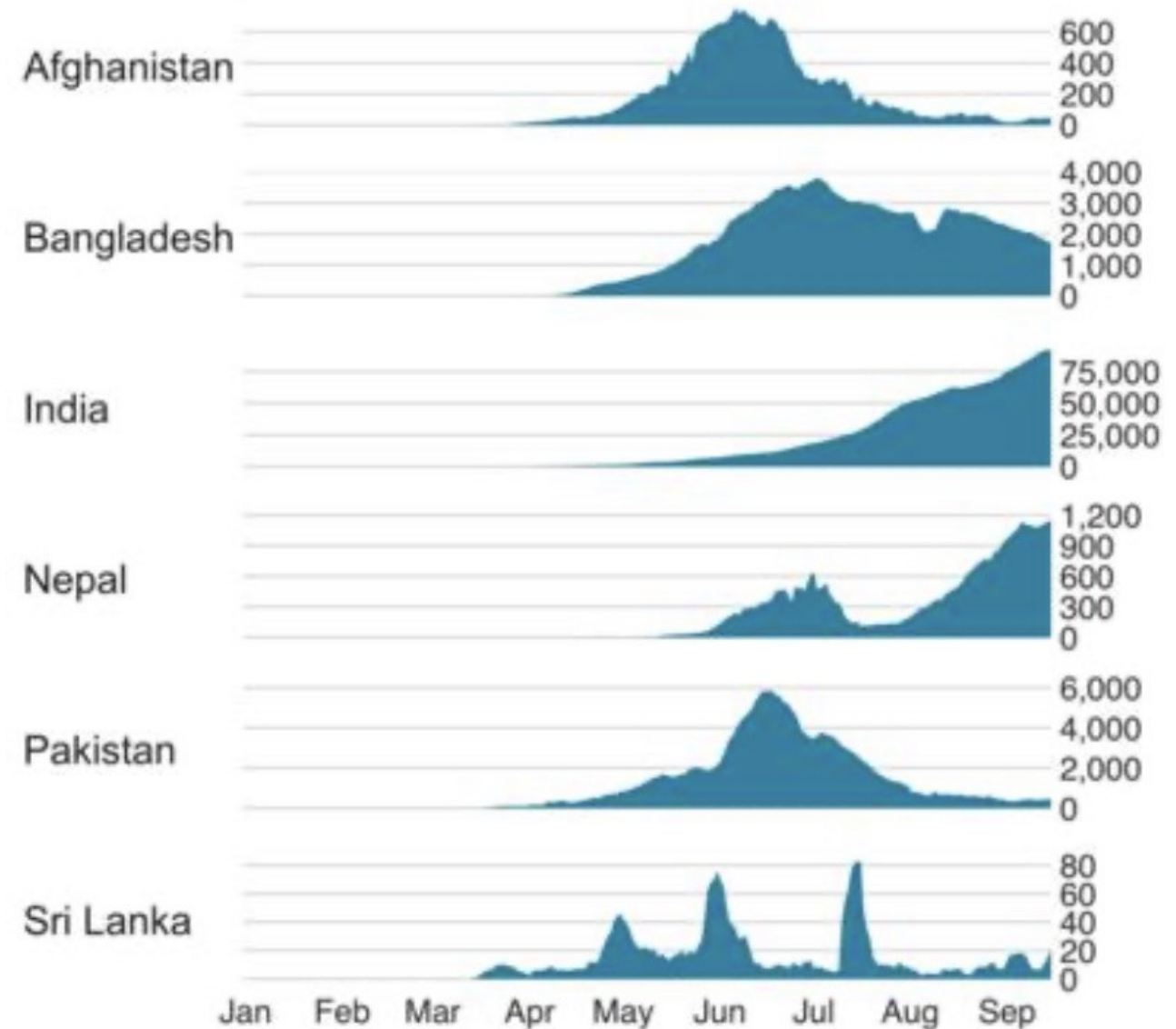


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COVID-19 Pandemic Paradox in South Asia

Coronavirus cases in South Asia

Number of cases per day, seven day rolling average.
Each country on its own scale



Source: ECDC and national public health agencies, data up to 15 Sep



Background:

There is increasing evidence that COVID-19 & NCD have been associated on multiple levels, resulting in potentially unexpected effects on health outcomes

A combination of frailty, ageing, and vascular comorbidities, together with COVID-19, represents a scenario that can exponentially increase:

- Hospitalization

- Intensive care unit admission

- Hospital readmissions.

This led to an increase in death rates for some countries, particularly among vulnerable patients with NCDs

Although, most South Asian countries still have some of the lowest testing rates in the world

Current Situation

Prevention and treatment services for NCDs has severely disrupted since the beginning of the pandemic

The more severe the transmission phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the more NCDs services are disrupted.

India: 30% fewer acute cardiac emergencies reached health facilities in rural areas in March 2020 compared to the previous year

Data collection of NCDs cases was interrupted especially NCD-related co-morbidities for COVID-19

Current Situation

Recommendations