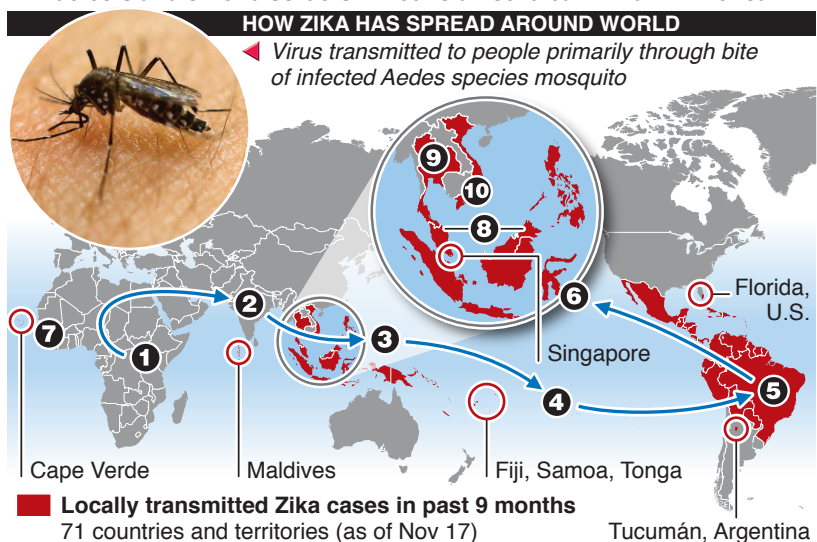


# Threat of Zika virus looms in Asia

Health officials are monitoring hundreds of new Zika infections in Asia to determine whether the mosquito-borne virus could cause the same birth defects and other disorders linked to an outbreak in Latin America

## HOW ZIKA HAS SPREAD AROUND WORLD

◀ Virus transmitted to people primarily through bite of infected *Aedes species* mosquito



**1 1947:** African strain of virus first discovered in Uganda's Zika forest

**2 1960s-1980s:** Asian strain expands across band of countries, including India, Malaysia and Indonesia

**3 2007:** First large Zika outbreak in humans on Micronesia's Yap Island

**4 2013:** Link suspected between Zika and birth defects during outbreak in French Polynesia

**5 2015:** Asian Zika hits Brazil. Virus associated with surge in neurological disorders and microcephaly – abnormally small heads – among newborn babies. Zika spreads quickly across Latin America and Caribbean. First cases reported in Cape Verde

**6 Jun 2016:** Zika infections spread into Southeast Asia. Thailand and Singapore worst affected

**7 Sep 1:** Virus in Guinea-Bissau linked to African strain. Five cases of microcephaly under investigation

**8 Sep 14:** Malaysia identifies two Asian strains – one local and one from Americas – suggesting both could be circulating in some countries

**9 Sep 30:** Thailand confirms two cases of Zika-linked microcephaly

**10 Oct 30:** Third microcephaly case being investigated in Vietnam, where there are no reports of imported Zika. Link to virus would suggest local strain could cause birth defects