

COVID-19 Weekly Situation Report

# of Countries Reporting	New Cases Reported in the Week	New Deaths Reported in the Week	Total Cases Reported	Total Deaths Reported
11 out of 11	598 178	4 680	15 226 534	222 540

# of Countries introduced COVID-19 vaccine	Total number of doses administered	# of person received first dose	# of persons fully vaccinated	First COVID-19 dose per 100 population (of countries vaccinating)
10 out of 11	111 537 954	95 680 518	15 857 436	4.5

Highlights

- South East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region with 15.2 million cases, after the Americas Region (n=56.6 million cases) and European Region (n=45.9 million cases). Between weeks 12 and 13, there has been a 6.3% increase of cases globally. All WHO Regions but Africa have reported increases in new cases during this period.
- In SEAR, there has been a 35.5% increase of new cases (n=598,178) between weeks 12 and 13. All affected countries in the Region but Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand reported increase of new cases
- More than 111 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given by nine countries in SEAR with more than 88 million in India alone
- Timor Leste started COVID-19 vaccination on 7 April 2021 and became the tenth country in the Region to provide vaccination for COVID-19

Overview of situation (epidemiological week #12 for period between 29 March – 4 April 2021)

- Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to report 'community transmission'; India, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and Timor Leste are reporting 'clusters of cases'. Bhutan is reporting 'sporadic Cases' and DPR Korea continues to report 'no cases'
- Bangladesh continues to report an increase in new cases since week 6. Between weeks 12 and 13, there has been a 67.7% increase of new cases (n=41 650). 84% of new cases in week 13 are reported from Dhaka division followed by Chattogram division (9% of cases). 60.8% of all reported cases are from Dhaka city alone. There is a steep rise in Test Positivity Rate (TPR) and at 21.1% it is the highest in the Region
- India is reporting a rapid increase in new cases for the seventh consecutive week and is now reporting the highest daily number of cases globally. Between weeks 11 and 12, there has been a 38% increase of new cases (n=513 885). 81% of new cases are from eight States- Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. In addition to these 8 states, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are also showing upsurge of cases
- Maldives reports a 24.5% increase of new cases (n=1 259) between weeks 12 and 13. Majority of the cases continue to be reported in Greater Male Area
- In Myanmar, the political situation since 1 February 2021 continues to hamper detection and testing.
- Nepal has been reporting an upsurge of cases for the past 3 weeks. Between weeks 12 and 13, there has been a 18.4% increase of new cases (n=1 105). 57% of new cases in the last 2 weeks are reported from Bagmati province followed by Gandaki province (22%). The TPR is also increasing for the past 3 weeks and is currently at 4.5%
- Thailand shows a decline in number of new cases; between weeks 12 and 13 there has been a 57.8% decline. New cases detected included those at Narathiwat Prison cluster (n=112 cases as of 3 April 2021) and cases linked to entertainment venues in Bangkok and vicinity

- Indonesia reports a 6.3% increase in number of new cases (n=38 170) between weeks 12 and 13. Banten and Bengkulu provinces reported more than 50% increase of new cases in the period. The Ministry of Health has reported detection of E484K mutation in SARS CoV2 virus
- Sri Lanka continues to report a declining trend of new cases, between weeks 12 and 13 there is a 28.6% decline. The TPR also shows a decline and is currently at 2.3%
- Timor-Leste continues to report an increasing trend of new cases for the past 6 weeks. Between weeks 12 and 13, there is a 35.2% increase of new cases (n=223)
- WHO SEARO, in collaboration with WHO Country offices continues to monitor the detection and reporting of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (Table 1)

Table1: SARS CoV2 Variants of Concern (VOC) reported in SEAR as of 30 March 2021

SARS CoV2- Variants of Concern	Number of countries reporting in SEAR	Countries
VOC 202012/01 (UK Variant)	6	Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand
501Y.V2 (South African variant)	4	Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
P.1 (Brazil Variant)	1	India
E484K mutation (unclear VOC)	1	Indonesia

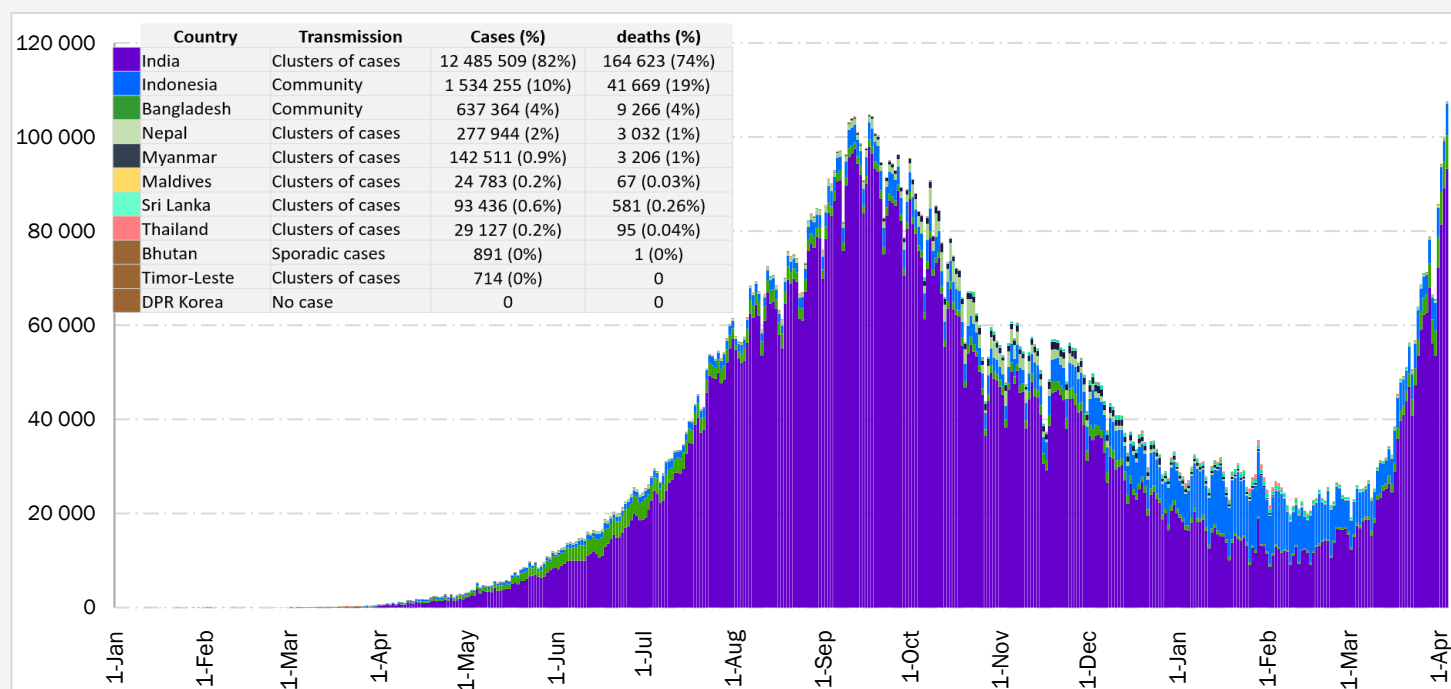
Summary of published Seroprevalence studies in SEAR:

So far, 3 countries in SEAR have published results of seroprevalence studies including India (n=38 studies), Thailand (n=1 study) and Nepal (n=1 study). Other countries in the region (e.g., Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka) have conducted seroprevalence studies, results are still awaited.

As per available information at SEARO, studies started as early as April 2020 and were conducted as recent as February 2021 (as per published studies). Targeted populations of these studies ranged from hospital settings, slums, city, district, states to nationwide while the sample size ranges from 244 health care workers to around 29,000 samples from households at the community level.

SARS CoV2-related seroprevalence data in SEAR are compiled from online sources into a list that can be accessed at '[published seroprevalence studies](#)¹' Please note that this is ongoing work, and the list is non-exhaustive

Figure 1: Reported COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in SEAR from 1 January 2020 to 04 April 2021



*Note that the transmission classification is that of 04 April 2021

¹ SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence tracker of published data in South East Asia Region as of Apr 6, 2021

Table 2: Regional COVID-19 Situation (4 April 2021)

Country	Total cases	Total cases per 1 million pop	Total deaths	CFR	New cases (last 7 days)	% change in new cases*	TPR (last 7 DMA)
India	12 485 509	9 047	164 623	1.3	513 885	38.0	6.5
Indonesia	1 534 255	5 609	41 669	2.7	38 170	6.3	12.1
Bangladesh	637 364	3 870	9 266	1.5	41 650	67.7	21.1
Nepal	277 944	9 539	3 032	1.1	1 105	18.4	4.5
Myanmar	142 511	2 619	3 206	2.2	126	-27.2	1.2
Sri Lanka	93 436	4 363	581	0.6	1 348	-28.6	2.3
Maldives	24 783	45 848	67	0.3	1 259	24.5	5.1
Thailand	29 127	417	95	0.3	393	-57.8	3.8
Bhutan	891	1 155	1	0.1	19		0.0
Timor-Leste	714	542		0.0	223	35.2	4.3
DPR Korea	0						
SEAR total	15 226 534	7 533	222 540	-	598 178	36.5	-

*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior.

CFR=Case Fatality Rate; DMA= Day Moving Average; TPR=Test Positivity Rate

Key Operational / Country Updates

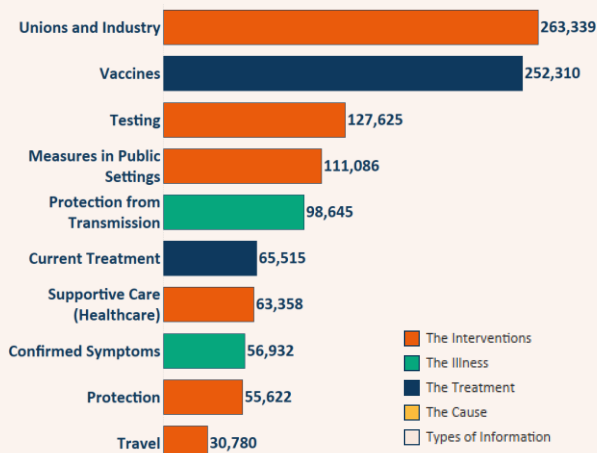
Key operational updates

Risk communication and community engagement:

- WHO SEARO and UNICEF Regional Office South Asia (ROSA) have developed an article for the public on '[What to do before, during and after getting vaccinated for COVID-19](#)'
- The weekly infodemic intelligence report for COVID-19 shows that vaccines, especially concerns about side-effects, dominate. Concerns are also being expressed about people not taking protective measures.

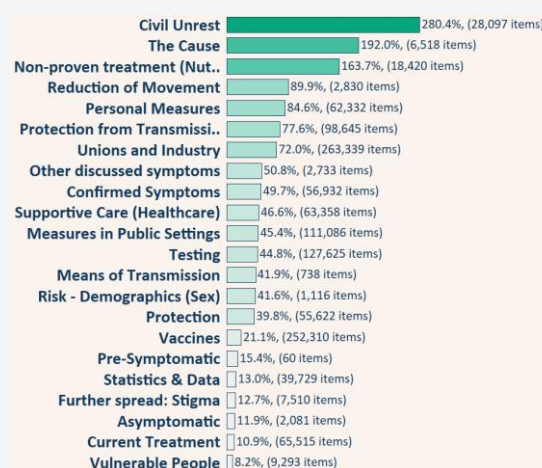
Top 10 topics by volume

Social media mentions of selected categories per taxonomy



Top rising topics

Based on % change of conversation volume from the previous week



29 MARCH – 4 APRIL 2021

Operation support and logistics:

- WHO-SEARO responded to an urgent request from Timor-Leste for the shipment of COVID-19 medicines and GeneXpert cartridges. These commodities were loaded into the chartered flight carrying vaccines from COVAX that arrived on 5 April 2021
- Ongoing discussion to assess the damage of COVID-19 supply stocks in Timor Leste due to flash floods on 5 April 2021, and further support required from SEARO. Shipment of medical mask donation (920 000 masks) and procurement of gloves (720 000 gloves) in pipeline to Timor Leste are being expediated while other essential items from SEARO stockpile in India and Dubai warehouse are being prepared for dispatch
- WHO SEARO donated 320 000 disposable sampling kits (swabs and VTMs) to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India on 1 April 2021

Key country updates

Bangladesh:

- The Government announced a week-long countrywide lockdown from 5 April 2021 to curb the new wave of COVID-19 infections
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation issued fresh guidelines for passengers travelling from European countries and United Kingdom to undergo mandatory 14-day institutional quarantine with effect from 30 March 2021
- Bangladesh to roll out second COVID-19 vaccine dose from 8 April 2021

Bhutan:

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) launched door to door COVID-19 vaccination campaign for people who are bedridden from 5 April 2021
- People travelling from high risk border areas still need to stay in 7 days mandatory quarantine
- MoH is conducting multi-media advocacy on importance of COVID-19 preventive protocol and vaccination

DPR Korea:

- No case of COVID-19 has been reported as of 1 April 2021
- Cumulatively 23 121 persons have been tested with reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at an interval of 10 days (total samples: 45 968) and all were found negative for COVID-19. These include 732 persons who were tested during the period of 26 March – 1 April 2021, of which 115 were people with influenza-like illness and/or severe acute respiratory infections

India:

- The Government started COVID-19 vaccination of all people above 45 years of age from 1 April 2021 and issued guidance note on operationalisation of COVID-19 vaccination centres at both government and private workplaces from 11 April 2021
- The Prime Minister chaired a high-level meeting to review COVID-19 pandemic situation and vaccination program and directed for sustainable COVID-19 management, community awareness and community involvement
- The Central Government has assembled 50 high level multi-disciplinary public health teams and deployed them to 50 districts across Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Punjab which are reporting large numbers of daily new COVID-19 cases and daily mortality

Indonesia:

- The President of Indonesia joined world leaders for a joint call for an international pandemic treaty to prepare for next global health crisis
- The third phase of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign has been postponed from April to June due to the limited vaccine stock and delays in the shipment of AstraZeneca vaccines from the COVAX Facility as stated by Ministry of Health
- The Minister of Education advised provincial governments to take the necessary preparatory steps to ensure safety precautions and measures are in place before the start of the new academic year in July 2021
- WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) in the development of the national influenza pandemic contingency plan

Maldives:

- The Government has extended the State of Public Health Emergency till May 2021
- The Director General of Public Health (DGPH) lifted all restrictive measures imposed on the Greater Male region. However, wearing of masks is still mandatory across the country
- Students of all grades in the Greater Male' Region have returned to schools, after a two-month suspension of school sessions
- WHO supported Maldives National University (MNU) for developing short term Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) for Maldives and facilitated launching of project to strengthen healthcare waste management through a Canadian grant of CAD 1.35 million, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada and Ministry of Health (MoH)

Myanmar:

- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) updated SOP for domestic flights in accordance with health standards regarding COVID-19
- 248 of 330 townships have conducted COVID-19 vaccination using Covishield during 1 February – 31 March 2021 supported by States and Regional administrative authorities and military personnel

Nepal:

- The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) decided to administer 800 000 doses of Sinopharm vaccines received from China to new target group identified by MoHP
- WHO is supporting Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) to establish a telemedicine center at major hospitals located at all 7 provinces
- Government of Nepal (GoN) has reactivated Incident Command System (ICS) and strengthened screening at points of entry (PoEs) following surge in cases since mid-March 2021

Sri Lanka:

- Ministry of Health (MoH) has issued guidelines for the Sinhala/Tamil new year celebration
- Effective Vaccine Management Assessment (EVMA) training was completed and targeted EVMA started from 7 April 2021
- The Government approved procurement of additional 6 million doses of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine, leading to a total of 13 million approved by the Cabinet
- The Government has reinforced points of entry surveillance of repatriated persons to curtail risk of importation of COVID-19 variants of concern (VoC)

Thailand:

- The Prime Minister of Thailand joined world leaders for a joint call for an international pandemic treaty to prepare for next global health crisis
- Government released four-stage plan to allow vaccinated travelers to enter the country in a bid to revitalize the tourism sector. The first stage comes into effect on 1 April 2021, allowing tourists who have been fully vaccinated to enter the country (after a 7-day quarantine period).
- The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has issued advisory for Songkran Day festivities (Thai New Year)
- CCSA will temporarily close entertainment venues for 14 days in 41 provinces, effective from 10 April 2021.

Timor-Leste

- Timor-Leste received the first batch of COVID-19 vaccine on 5 April 2021. A specially chartered flight delivered 24 000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. This is the first instalment of the 20% that the country is eligible to receive through the COVAX facility
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) launched the COVID-19 vaccination campaign on 7 April 2021
- Timor-Leste recorded the first COVID-19 death on 6 April. A 44-year-old female who suffered from hypertension and renal failure was detected positive during targeted mass screening and died at Lahane Hospital in Dili

COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Bhutan: a continuum process of planning and execution

Bhutan started planning for the COVID-19 vaccination at the end of 2020. The country planned to inoculate all the eligible 533 558 persons irrespective of nationality within a period of one week. All adults above age of 18 years, except for pregnant mothers and those with any contraindication to the COVISHIELD™ vaccine were considered eligible. With the support of WHO Country Office, Bhutan's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan was developed.

Bhutan received its first consignment of 150 000 doses of COVISHIELD™ vaccine towards the end of January 2021, and its second shipment of 400 000 doses on 22 March 2021. Both donations were from India.

To support the vaccine's rollout, the Bhutan Vaccine System - an electronic registration system to register all the eligible population in advance was developed. Data from the system was used for planning vaccine deployment and for identifying vaccination posts across the country. Trainings for all vaccinators, support staff and other volunteers was conducted with the support of WHO Country Office.

Within two days of the arrival of the second shipment, the vaccine was transported to all twenty districts of the country. Helicopters were used to ship the vaccines to remote locations such as those with no road access. This ensured equal supply and access to vaccines for all. In total, vaccines were distributed at 1 217 vaccination posts across the country.

The nationwide vaccination campaign was launched on 27 March 2021 with a simple ceremony at the country's capital, Thimphu. This was immediately followed by the administration of the vaccine across the twenty districts. The Prime Minister and his family, several cabinet ministers and members of the parliament received their first dose on the same day at various vaccination posts. This action motivated and provided assurance to the population, especially those with reservations about the vaccine.

The nationwide vaccination campaign was successfully implemented without any significant issues and led to the vaccination of 453 595 individuals by the end of day seven. Following the one-week campaign, the Ministry of Health (MoH) conducted door-to-door vaccination for the elderly, and those with mobility issues who were unable to travel to the vaccination posts during the mass campaign. The MoH continues to vaccinate the remaining eligible population for COVID-19 through the existing health care facilities. As of 6 April 2021, Bhutan has vaccinated 468 297 individuals with the first dose of the COVISHIELD™ vaccine thus reaching over 87% of the eligible population.

To prepare for the second dose after 8 to 12 weeks, the MoH with support from WHO country office is planning to conduct an interaction review to take stock of the lessons learned and understand the challenges faced during the vaccination campaign.

Summary of International Travel Measures Implemented by Countries in the South-East Asia Region (as of 6 April 2021)

Country	Entry and Visa Restrictions	Quarantine upon Arrival	COVID-19 Testing Requirement	Proof of Vaccination
Bangladesh	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	14-day facility quarantine (passengers from European countries & United Kingdom) 14-day home quarantine (passengers from other countries)	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Not applicable
Bhutan	Entry ban	21-day facility quarantine	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Not applicable
DPR Korea	Entry ban	30-day facility quarantine	Not applicable	Not applicable
India	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	14-day self-monitoring	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Not applicable
Indonesia	Entry ban	5-day facility quarantine	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 48 hours prior to departure	Not applicable
Maldives	PoE open	No quarantine (tourists) 10-day facility quarantine (non-tourists)	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Not applicable
Myanmar	Entry ban	14-day facility quarantine	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Not applicable
Nepal	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	10-day quarantine (5 day facility and 5 day home)	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Not applicable
Sri Lanka	PoE open	14-day quarantine (7day facility and 7day home) Tourist can visit sites under bio-security bubble during quarantine	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 96 hours prior to departure	Passengers who completed recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccination and arriving after two weeks of completion of vaccination are exempted from quarantine if on-arrival PCR negative test result
Thailand	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	10-day facility quarantine	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Passengers from countries with no case of COVID-19 variant strains, who have proof of vaccination conducted > 14 days before travel, require 7-day quarantine
Timor Leste	Entry ban	14-day facility quarantine	RT-PCR-based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Not applicable

Update on Pandemic Vaccine Deployment

- At the last weekly Country Readiness and Delivery (CRD) implementation and coordination call between WHO Headquarters and WHO and UNICEF Regional staff of South East Asia and Western Pacific Regions, the partners agreed to support countries in conducting intra action review of COVID-19 vaccine introduction, documenting and sharing of lessons learnt, and follow-up on allocation modalities for the buffer doses for humanitarian settings.
- WHO and UNICEF joint follow-up calls to strengthen vaccine safety surveillance with country focal points and other country partners continue. The objectives of these calls are: To discuss support to countries to address the recommendations of the Regional review committee of NDVPs- with specific focus on the budget, identification and addressing the gaps, and to discuss country vaccination plans in phased manner depending on vaccine availability.
- Ongoing collection, compilation and analysis of weekly COVID-19 vaccination data. The following table is a summary of vaccination status in the countries that are offering COVID-19 vaccines in the region

Country	Start date	Vaccine name	Last update	Total doses administered	Persons vaccinated with one dose	Persons vaccinated with two doses	First dose per 100 total population (countries vaccinating)	Source
Bangladesh	27-Jan-21	COVISHIELD	7-Apr-21	5 568 703	5 568 703		3.22	As per GOVT. Report
Bhutan	27-Mar-21	COVISHIELD	6-Apr-21	469 664	469 664		62.11	WHO Country Office
India	16-Jan-21	COVISHIELD/COVAXIN	7-Apr-21	88 372 277	77 127 122	11 245 155	6.22	https://pib.gov.in/PressRelease
Indonesia	13-Jan-21	CORONAVAC/AZ-SKBIO	7-Apr-21	13 751 130	9 196 435	4 554 695	5.05	https://www.kemkes.go.id/
Maldives	01 Feb 21	COVISHIELD/SINOPHARM	6-Apr-21	263 832	255 881	7 951	48.29	HPA COVID 19 update group
Myanmar	27-Jan-21	COVISHIELD	4-Feb-21	105 490	105 490		0.19	WHO Country Office
Nepal	27-Jan-21	COVISHIELD	23-Mar-21	1 758 333	1 758 333		5.82	FWD. MoHP Nepal
Sri Lanka	29-Jan-21	COVISHIELD	6-Apr-21	924 536	924 536		4.20	Epidemiology unit, MoH
Thailand	28-Feb-21	CORONAVAC/AZ-SKBIO	6-Apr-21	323 989	274 354	49 635	0.49	WHO Country Office
TOTAL				111 537 954	95 680 518	15 857 436	4.5	

Note: India data for one dose and two doses sourced from <https://dashboard.cowin.gov.in/> COWIN dashboard, MoHFW



WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi

Dr Jos Vandelaer, Regional Emergency Director; Email: IM_SEAR_2019nCoV@who.int

Website: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/outbreaks-and-emergencies/covid-19>

WHO SEARO Situation Reports: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/outbreaks-and-emergencies/novel-coronavirus-2019/sear-weekly-situation-reports>