

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
10 out of 11	214 984	2 933	43 584 700	684 604

as of 17 October 2021

# of Countries introduced COVID-19 vaccine	Total number of doses administered	# of person received at least one dose	# of persons fully vaccinated	At least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine per 100 population (of countries vaccinating)
10 out of 11	1 357 035 862	930 064 431	426 971 431	45.10

as of 21 October 2021

Highlights

- The WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region with 43.6 million cases, after the Region of Americas (92.1 million cases) and European Region (73.3 million cases).
- Globally, a 2.3% decrease in new cases (n=2 824 390) was reported as compared to the previous week. During this period, all regions except European region (12.0% increase), reported decline in the number of new cases compared to the previous week.
- In SEAR during week 41, there was a 13.2% decrease in new cases (n=214 984) compared to the previous week. All countries in the region reported a decline of COVID-19 cases in the past week, except Maldives.
- More than 1.35 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given by ten countries in the SEA Region
- India reported administration of more than one billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine as of 21 October 2021.

Overview of situation (epidemiological week #41 for the period between 11-17 October 2021)

- India reported a 18.1% decrease in new cases (n=114 244) in week 41 compared to the previous week. All states in the country are reporting decline in new cases. The test positivity rate (TPR) has declined and is at 1.5% at the national level; Kerala is the only state in India reporting TPR >10 %, at 12%.
- Thailand reported a decline in new cases for the eighth consecutive week; in week 41, there was a 0.9% decline in new cases (n=72 817) as compared to the previous week. The rate of decline in the new cases has been slowing down in the past few weeks. Higher case incidence continues to be reported in the southern provinces including Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkla which are bordering Malaysia. TPR as of 8 October 2021 is 14.7% at the national level.
- Myanmar reported a 9.7% decrease in new cases (n=9 202) in week 41 compared to the previous week. However higher case incidence was reported in Kayah (65 cases per 100 000 population) during the reporting week. The top 5 states/regions reporting the highest number of new cases in the last week are Shan South, Shan North, Magway, Kachin and Shan East. The TPR remains at 8.0% at the national.
- Indonesia continues to report a decline in new cases, and in week 41, there was a 21.1% decline (n=6 826) compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence is now at 3.2 per 100 000 population at the national level. All provinces reported a case incidence of less than 20 per 100 000 population except North Kalimantan (32.4), which declined compared to the previous week. The TPR has also declined further and is at 0.5% at the national level.

- Sri Lanka reported a 11.5% decline in new cases (n=5 265) in week 41 compared to the previous week. This decline was seen in all provinces except for Eastern province (22% increase) and Western Province (0.4% increase). The TPR has declined from the previous week and is at 10.8% at the national level.
- Bangladesh continues to report a declining trend in new cases. In week 41, there was a 28.8% decrease in new cases (n=3 129) compared to the previous week. All divisions in the country reported a decrease in new cases. Dhaka division contributed 71.1% of new cases in the past week. TPR has declined to 2.3% at the national level.
- Nepal reported a 43.3% decline in the number of new cases (n=2 839) in week 41 compared to the previous week. The daily testing numbers have declined and in week 41 there was an average of 4 555 daily tests compared to 8 682 daily tests in the previous week. Of the total new cases reported in week 41, 85% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini provinces. The TPR is at 9.5% at the national level and has slightly increased compared to the previous week.
- Maldives reported a 21.9% increase in new cases (n=617) in week 41 compared to the previous week. The highest number of cases outside of the Greater Male Region (GMR) is reported from Southern-most atoll of Addu City, with 232 active cases across 5 districts. The TPR has slightly increased from previous week and is at 2.2% at the national level.
- Timor-Leste reported a 54.9% decline in new cases (n=41) in week 41 compared to the previous week. In the week 41, 53% of the new cases were reported in Dili. The TPR has declined further and is 3.5% at the national level.
- Bhutan reported 4 imported new cases in week 41. For the past nine consecutive weeks, no community cases were reported in Bhutan. The TPR is at 0.04% at the national level.

Figure 1: The COVID-19 epidemiological curve for WHO's SEAR. The inserted table shows the reported number of cumulative COVID-19 cases, deaths, and the case fatality rate (CFR) in the 11 countries in SEAR from 1 January 2020 to 17 October 2021

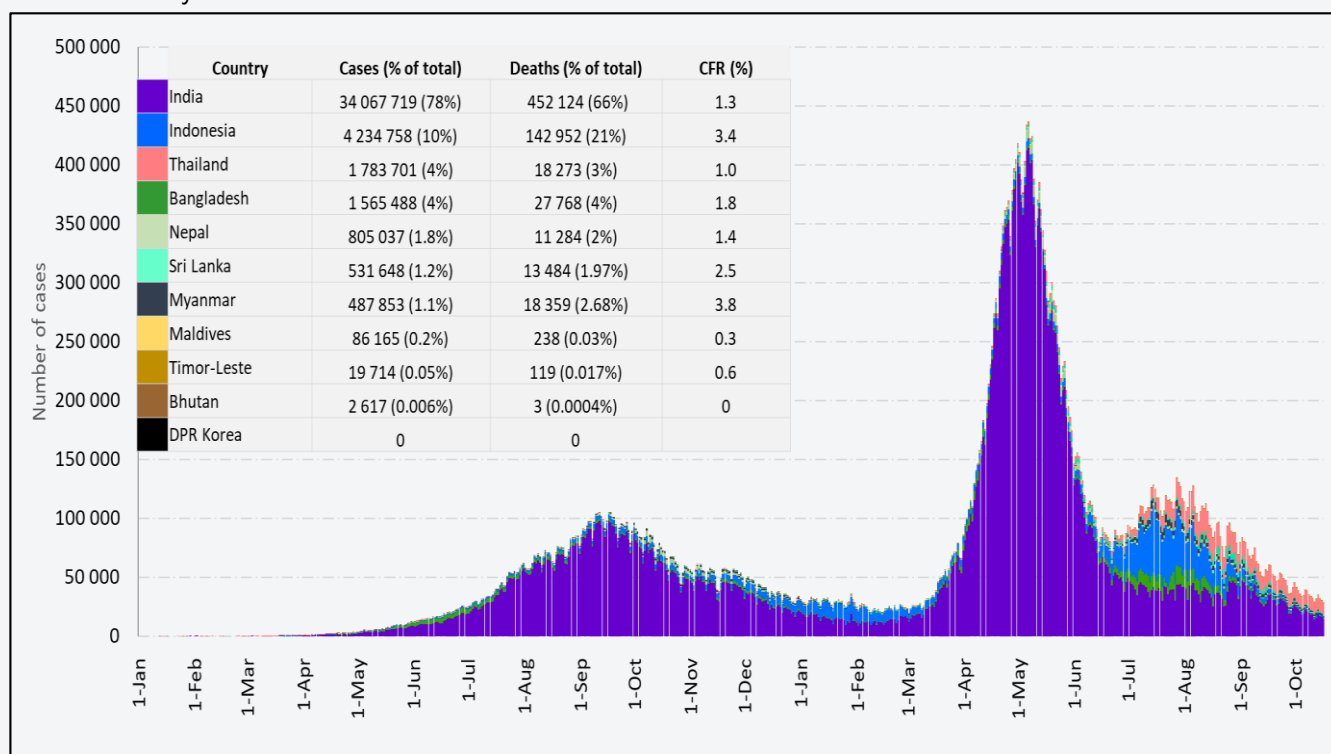


Table 1: Regional COVID-19 situation, as of 17 October 2021

Country		Total cases	Total cases per 1 million pop	Total deaths	CFR	New cases (last 7 days)	% change in new cases* (last 7 days)	TPR (last 7 DMA)	Average test per 1000 population per week
India		34 067 719	24 687	452 124	1.3	114 244	-18.1	1.5	5.8
Indonesia		4 234 758	15 482	142 952	3.4	6 826	-21.1	0.6	3.7
Thailand		1 783 701	25 554	18 273	1.0	72 817	-0.9	14.7	5.0
Bangladesh		1 565 488	9 506	27 768	1.8	3 129	-28.8	2.3	0.8
Nepal		805 037	27 630	11 284	1.4	2 839	-43.3	9.5	1.1
Sri Lanka		531 648	24 828	13 484	2.5	5 265	-11.5	10.8	2.1
Myanmar		487 853	8 966	18 359	3.8	9 202	-9.7	8.0	2.2
Maldives		86 165	159 405	238	0.3	617	21.9	2.2	49.6
Timor-Leste		19 714	14 952	119	0.6	41	-54.9	3.5	1.4
Bhutan		2 617	3 392	3	0.1	4	-20.0	0.0	11.1
DPR Korea		0							
SEAR total		43 584 700	21 562	684 604	-	214 984	-13.2	-	-

WHO SEARO, in collaboration with WHO Country offices, continues to monitor the detection and reporting of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) in the region (Table 2).

Table 2: SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOC) in SEAR, as of 17 October 2021

Country	Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta
Bangladesh	●	●	-	●
Bhutan	●	●		●
India	●	●	● **	●
Indonesia	●	●	-	●
Maldives	●	-	-	●
Nepal	●	-	-	●
Sri Lanka	●	●	-	●
Thailand	●	●	● **	●
Timor-Leste	● **	-	-	●
Myanmar	●	-	-	●

** detection of VOCs only in incoming travelers under quarantine

Summary of published Seroprevalence Studies in SEAR:

The compiled SARS CoV-2 related seroprevalence data in SEAR can be accessed at “[published seroprevalence studies](#)”. Please note that this is an ongoing work, and the list is non exhaustive.

Key operational updates

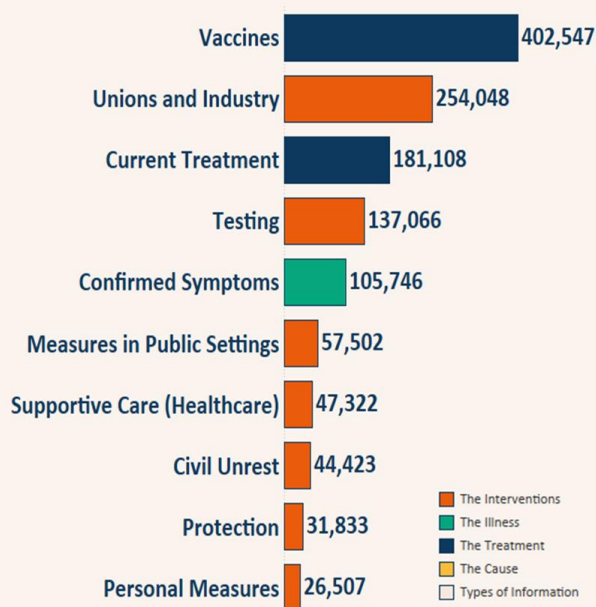
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE):

- The SEARO COVID-19 infodemic report reveals that as the number of cases are decline, there is also a decline in the number of digital conversations around COVID-19. Vaccines remain the main topic of conversation, with most conversations around vaccine rollout among young people.
- The number of rumours and misinformation are also showing a decline.

Figure 2: SEAR COVID-19 infodemic intelligence from –11 – 17 October 2021

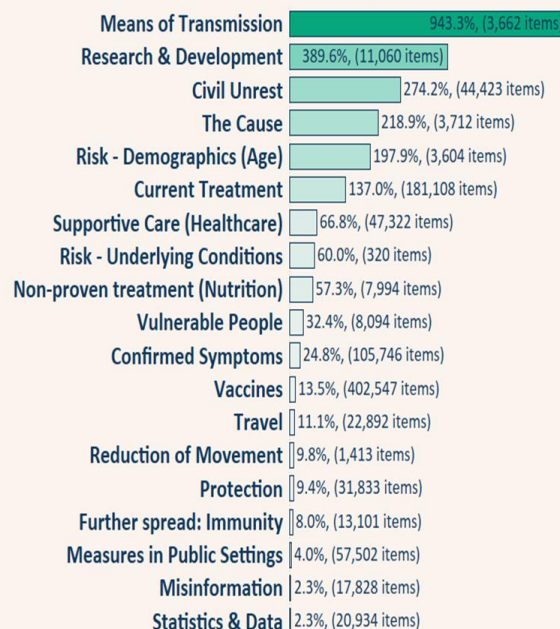
Top 10 topics by volume

Social media mentions of selected categories per taxonomy



Top rising topics

Based on % change of conversation volume from the previous week



Operations Support and Logistics:

- Ongoing coordination with SEAR Member States (MS) and WHO headquarters to facilitate expedition of the supply requests including personal protective equipment/biomedical/laboratory diagnostics items through COVID-19 supply chain system (CSCS) to the end users.
- Supported WHO country office of Thailand with Quality Assurance of biomedical equipment purchased under emergency procurement
- Coordinating with WHO headquarters for 1 000 oxygen concentrators for SEARO regional stockpile

Key country updates

Bangladesh:

- Bangladesh has received additional 1 million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine as a gift from Government of China
- Vaccination in adolescent population from 12-17 years of age was piloted in the Manikganj district of Dhaka division. The plan is to expand adolescent vaccination nationwide

Bhutan:

- Bhutan has not reported any community acquired COVID-19 case for more than 60 days from high-risk bordering districts, as of 19 October 2021.
- People continue to register online through Check Post Management System for inter-district travel including details of passengers.

DPR Korea:

- No case of COVID-19 has been reported as of 14 October 2021.
- Cumulatively 42 773 persons were tested with reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at an interval of 10 days (total samples: 85 272 and all were found negative for COVID-19. These include 678 persons who were tested during the period of 8-14 October 2021, of which 113 were people with influenza-like illness or severe acute respiratory infections and rest 565 were health care workers.

India:

- India reached 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine including both first and second doses.
- The government has revised the guidelines for international arrivals effective from 25 October 2021. As per the revised standard operating procedure (SOP), a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR report is mandatory before boarding a flight to India.
- Country's first 'One Health' consortium consisting of 27 organisations led by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology launched on 14 October 2021. This programme envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic nature as well as transboundary pathogens in India.

Indonesia:

- The Ministry of Health reported that more than 50% of the target population have been vaccinated with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Government reopened Bali for international tourists on 14 October 2021. The decision was implemented as one of the strategies to support the acceleration of national economic recovery.
- The national COVID-19 task force issued a new circular for entry of Indonesian citizens from abroad. According to the circular, seven points of entry (PoEs) have been designated and upon arrival mandatory quarantine applies depending on country of origin.

Maldives:

- Maldives has started administering Pfizer-BioNTech as third dose (booster dose) of COVID-19 vaccine irrespective of primary doses from 3 October 2021 for specific high-risk groups who have completed six months after second dose.
- As on 20 October 2021, 151 islands reported more than 90% vaccination with two doses of COVID-19 vaccination among residents above 12 years of age.

Myanmar:

- Myanmar received 4 million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines on 15 October 2021 through bilateral agreement and another 1 million doses of Sinovac donated by China on 14 October 2021.
- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has started administering Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine to students aged over 12 years from 17 October 2021, as government planned to reopen schools for offline classes.

Nepal:

- Nepal received 1 million doses of Covishield COVID-19 vaccine from the Serum Institute of India (SII) that plans to administer to people above 18 years of age.
- WHO is providing technical and financial support to the National Health Training Center (NHTC) for capacity building and training of doctors and nurses on Paediatric Essential Critical Care Training (PECCT) at provincial level.

Sri Lanka:

- Sri Lanka has vaccinated 67.4% of its population with first dose, while 58.4% of the population has received two doses as of 20 October 2021.
- The first phase of school reopening commenced on 21 October 2021 in accordance with the planned public health social measures.
- The Ministry of Health started vaccination of young adults aged 18-19 years on 21 October 2021 following pilot vaccination in Colombo on 15 October 2021.
- The government has extended the inter-provincial travel restrictions until 31 October 2021

Thailand:

- Thailand is preparing to reopen the country to fully vaccinated foreign visitors to boost tourism from 1 November 2021. The government approved quarantine-free entry for arrivals from 46 countries listed as low-risk countries.
- The Department of Disease Control has started issuing a vaccine passport called the 'COVID-19 Certificate of Vaccination' as per Royal gazette.
- The Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee has lifted restrictions effective from 16 to 31 October 2021. The night time curfew has been reduced from 6 to 4 hours between 23:00-03:00 hours.
- Ministry of Public Health COVID-19 investigations in southern provinces have revealed low vaccination rates and continued population gatherings including those related to religious and cultural customs and behaviors leading to continued high incidence

Timor-Leste

- Timor-Leste received 100 620 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine from US Government under COVAX facility on 15 October 2021.
- The Ministry of Health along with Ministry of Education is conducting advocacy for vaccine roll-out for parents of children 12-18 years old and schoolteachers supported by WHO and UNICEF.

Key challenges in the Region

- Compliance with public health and social measures (PHSM) throughout the Region, as pandemic fatigue continues and upcoming mass gathering events like religious festivals.
- Maintaining minimum COVID-19 testing benchmark (1/1 000/week as per WHO guidelines) with decreasing number of daily cases.
- Sample referral for genome sequencing delayed by flight availability to regional reference laboratories.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the hard-to-reach areas and vulnerable populations and insufficient supply of COVID-19 vaccines to meet the needs of some Member States.
- Defining optimum and realistic COVID-19 vaccination policies for school reopening in many countries.

Table 3: Summary of International Travel Measures Implemented by Countries in SEAR (as of 19 October 2021)

Country	Entry and Visa Restrictions	Quarantine upon Arrival	COVID-19 Testing Requirement	Proof of Full vaccination
Bangladesh	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	14-day facility/ home quarantine (depending on countries of departure and vaccination status)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Facility quarantine requirement exempted with proof of full vaccination (home quarantine required)
Bhutan	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	21-day facility quarantine (14-day facility quarantine for those fully vaccinated)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Mandatory 14-day facility quarantine for fully vaccinated travellers (reduced from 21 days)
DPR Korea	Entry ban	30-day facility quarantine	Not applicable	Not applicable
India	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	14-day self-monitoring (except travellers from Brazil, South Africa and United Kingdom, South Africa, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, and Zimbabwe who need to undergo 7-day home quarantine and 7-day self-monitoring)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure Additional on-arrival self-paid PCR test for travellers from Brazil, South Africa and United Kingdom, South Africa, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, and Zimbabwe	Not applicable
Indonesia	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	5-day facility quarantine followed by 14-day self-quarantine	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Certificate for full vaccination required for entry of foreign nationals, except those with diplomatic or official visa or invited by Indonesian Ministry
Maldives	No restriction on entry and visa	No quarantine (tourist) 14-day facility quarantine (non-tourist)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure and PCR test within 5 -7 days of arrival	Quarantine requirement (non-tourist) exempted with proof of full vaccination or history of past infection within 60 days
Myanmar	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	Quarantine requirement exempted with proof of past infection within 90 days
Nepal	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	No quarantine for travellers who are fully vaccinated 10-day facility quarantine with PCR test on day 11 for those not fully vaccinated	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure; RT-PCR based COVID-19 on 11 th day after arrival for those not fully vaccinated	Facility quarantine requirement exempted with proof of full vaccination
Sri Lanka	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	14-day facility quarantine. Diplomatic/ UN staffs and family from unrestricted countries can opt for home quarantine.	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure; Unvaccinated children of 12-18 years released with those parents who are exempted for quarantine should undergo PCR test on day 1;	Quarantine requirement exempted with proof of full vaccination or history of past infection within 90 days and received at least one dose of vaccine
Thailand	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	7-day facility quarantine for those fully vaccinated and 10-14-day quarantine for those not fully vaccinated	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Quarantine requirement adjusted upon vaccination status & route (air, sea, land)
Timor Leste	Entry ban	14-day facility quarantine (7-day facility quarantine for those fully vaccinated)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Mandatory 7-day facility quarantine for fully vaccinated travellers

- Highlights on COVID-19 vaccines from the Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization SAGE meeting held from 4-7 October (Available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/10/04/default-calendar/sage-meeting-october-2021>):
 - SAGE recommended that moderately and severely immunocompromised persons should be offered an additional dose of all WHO EUL COVID-19 vaccines as part of an extended primary series.
 - For the Sinovac and Sinopharm inactivated vaccines, an additional (third) dose of the homologous vaccine should be offered to persons aged 60 and above as part of an extended primary series. The use of a heterologous platform vaccine for the additional dose may also be considered based on vaccine supply and access considerations. When implementing this recommendation, countries should initially aim at maximizing two-dose coverage in that population, and thereafter administer the third dose, starting in the oldest age groups
- Ongoing support for COVID-19 vaccine delivery, vaccine safety surveillance and reporting, conducting vaccine effectiveness studies and COVID-19 vaccine post-introduction evaluations (cPIE)
- Real time information on COVID-19 vaccination in SEA Region is available at <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/immunization/covid-19-vaccination>.

Table 4. Summary of vaccination status in the countries of the SEA Region and the vaccine utilization (as of 21 Oct 2021)

Country	Vaccine name	Start date	Total doses administered	Persons vaccinated with one dose	Persons fully vaccinated	At least one dose per 100 total population	Fully vaccinated per 100 total population	Utilization rate	Last update
Bangladesh	AstraZeneca	27 Jan 21	13 461 870	8 029 642	5 432 228	22.67	11.36	93%	19-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	25 May 21	39 697 666	28 045 256	11 652 410			77%	
	Pfizer	21 Jun 21	451 971	395 858	56 113			7%	
	Moderna	13 Jul 21	5 189 548	2 698 192	2 491 356			94%	
Bhutan	AstraZeneca	27 Mar 21	1 103 506	585 993	517 513	77.50	68.44	65%	18-Oct-21
	Pfizer	22-Jul-21							
	Moderna	20 Jul 21							
	Sinopharm	20-Jul-21							
India	AstraZeneca*	16 Jan 21	1 001 565 895	708 873 396	292 692 499	49.90	20.60	100%	21-Oct-21
	Covaxin*	16 Jan 21							
	Sputnik V	14 May 21							
Indonesia	AstraZeneca	13 Jan 21	20 657 291	14 253 964	6 403 327	40.25	23.64	87%	19-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	23 Mar 21	2 590 205	1 433 107	1 157 098			32%	
	Sinovac	18 May 21	139 316 410	6 340 289	52 976 121			86%	
	Moderna	25 Jul 21	4 210 257	2 700 862	1 509 395			53%	
	Pfizer	23 Aug 21	5 291 056	3 788 062	1 502 994			54%	
Maldives	AstraZeneca	01 Feb 21	480 691	256 595	224 096	72.06	64.34	99%	19-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	22 Mar 21	188 472	97 253	91 219			83%	
	Pfizer	13 Apr 21	76 137	39 878	36 259			57%	
Myanmar	AstraZeneca	27Jan21	3 337 710	1 810 426	1 527 284	20.40	8.32	95%	16-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	June 21	12 459 993	9 412 859	3 047 134			86%	
Nepal	AstraZeneca	27 Jan21	4 377 046	2 824 687	1 552 359	28.35	21.48	99%	19-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	07 Apr 21	8 865 545	5 493 245	3 372 300			75%	
	Janssen	19 July 21	1 538 117	1 538 117	1 538 117			100%	
Sri Lanka	AstraZeneca	29 Jan 21	2 846 466	1 479 575	1 366 891	67.09	58.17	105%	18-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	05 Apr 21	21 954 919	11 850 642	10 104 277			85%	
	Sputnik V	06 May 21	314 688	159 096	155 592			95%	
	Pfizer	7 Jul 21	921 574	492 778	428 796			41%	
	Moderna	18 Jul 21	1 565 921	803 098	762 823			104%	
Thailand	AstraZeneca	16 Mar 21	27 941 974	10 544 061	17 397 913	56.94	39.35	145%	17-Oct-21
	Sinovac	28 Feb 21	22 082 237	18 563 304	3 518 933			119%	
	Sinopharm	25 Jun 21	10 867 059	6 289 403	4 577 656			72%	
	Pfizer	6 Aug 21	2 836 031	2 287 960	548 071			189%	
Timor-Leste	AstraZeneca	07 Apr21	754 892	467 778	287 114	39.47	25.46	74%	19-Oct-21
	Sinovac	8 Jun 21	90 715	47 172	43 543			91%	
TOTAL			1 357 035 862	930 064 431	426 971 431	45.10	20.70	96%	

Source: Bangladesh: MIS unit, DGHS; Bhutan: MoH; India: <https://pib.gov.in/PressRelease>; Indonesia: <https://www.kemkes.go.id/>; Maldives: HPA COVID19 update group; Myanmar: MoHS; Nepal: FWD. MoHP Nepal; Sri Lanka: Epidemiology unit, MoH; Thailand: DDC, MOPH; Timor-Leste: MoH.

*doses received is considered equivalent to total doses administered; ** AZ/Moderna given as second dose