

# COVID-19 Weekly Situation Report

# of Countries Reporting cases	New Cases Reported in the Week	New Deaths Reported in the Week	Total Cases Reported	Total Deaths Reported
10 out of 11	180 759	4 966	43 963 132	692879

as of 31 October 2021

# of Countries introduced COVID-19 vaccine	Total number of doses administered	# of person received at least one dose	# of persons fully vaccinated	Fully vaccinated per 100 population
10 out of 11	1 479 551 893	980 365 609	499 186 284	24.15

as of 2 November 2021

## Highlights

- The WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region with 43.9 million cases, after the Americas Region (93.6 million cases) and European Region (76.8 million cases).
- Globally, there has been an increase in new cases for the second consecutive week, including 3% increase in new cases (n=3 021 634) in the week 43 compared to the previous week.
- However, in the WHO South East Asia Region during week 43, there was a 8.6% decrease in new cases (n=180 759) compared to the previous week. All the countries in the region reported a decline in COVID-19 cases in the past week, except Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- More than 1.47 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given by ten countries in the SEAR with more than 1.06 billion doses in India alone.

## Overview of situation (epidemiological week #43 for the period between 25-31 October 2021)

- India reported a 9.2% decrease in new cases (n=97 832) in week 43 compared to the previous week. The state of Kerala alone is contributing to 55% of new cases reported in the country, but cases are gradually declining in the state. The state of West Bengal is reporting a 13.5% increase in number of new cases (n=6 453) compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence is 6.8 per 100 000 population in week 43. During this period, there was an 83% increase in number of new deaths (n=3 917) compared to the previous week, out of which, 79% were reported in Kerala due to backlog reporting of deaths. The test positivity rate (TPR) is at 1.2% at the national level and is at similar levels compared to the previous week.
- Thailand reported a decline in new cases for the tenth consecutive week and in week 43, there was a 7.8% decline in new cases (n=61 542) as compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence is 87.2 per 100 000 population. Higher case incidence (>200 cases per 100 000 population) continues to be reported in the southern provinces including Pattani, Yala, and Songkla which are bordering Malaysia. The TPR is 13.9% at the national level and is at similar level compared to the previous week.
- Myanmar reported a 9.4% decrease in new cases (n=5 810) in week 43 compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence is 9.3 per 100 000 population. The average daily testing has increased from 15 782 tests reported in the week 42 to 19 128 tests reported in week 43. The TPR has reduced and is 4.8% at the national level.
- Sri Lanka reported a 12.5% increase in new cases (n=4 989) in week 43, after reporting a decline for seven consecutive weeks. The weekly case incidence is 20.7 per 100 000 population. In week 43, Northwestern province, Southern Province, Eastern province and Northern province are reporting increase in new cases compared to previous week. Southern province is reporting more than 100% increase of new cases compared to previous week and all the districts in this province are reporting more than 50% increase. The TPR is at 9.9% at the national level, a slight decline from the previous week.

- Indonesia continues to report a decline in new cases. In week 43, there was a 17.5% decline in new cases (n=4 339) compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence is 1.6 per 100 000 population. The TPR has reduced and is at 0.4% at the national level.
- Nepal reported a 12.6% decrease in the number of new cases (n=3 514) in week 43 compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence is 10.7 per 100 000 population. Of the total new cases reported in week 43, 51% were reported from Bagmati province. The TPR has reduced from the previous week and is at 7% at the national level.
- Bangladesh continues to report a declining trend in new cases. In week 43, there was a 16.2% decrease in new cases (n=1 847) compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence is 0.9 per 100 000 population. All divisions in the country reported a decrease in new cases except Rajshahi (2%, n=111), Rangpur (8%, n=68) and Sylhet (4%, n=58). Dhaka division contributed 70.4% of the new cases and 42.2% of the new deaths in the past week. The TPR has further declined to 1.6% at the national level.
- Maldives continues to report an increase in new cases for the third consecutive week; there was a 13.9% increase in new cases (n=862) in week 43 compared to the previous week. In week 43, 68.2% (n=588) of the new cases were reported outside of the Greater Male Region. The weekly case incidence is 134.9 per 100 000 population. The TPR has slightly increased and is at 3.8% at the national level.
- Timor-Leste reported a 64.3% decrease in new cases (n=20) in week 43 compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence is 0.9 per 100 000 population. The TPR has declined and is at 2.2% at the national level.
- In Bhutan, four new cases were reported in week 43. All four cases are detected among incoming travelers; and for the past eleven consecutive weeks, no community cases were reported. The weekly case incidence is 0.5 per 100 000 population. (See Table 1)

Figure 1: The COVID-19 epidemiological curve for WHO South-East Asia Region from 1 January to 31 October 2021.

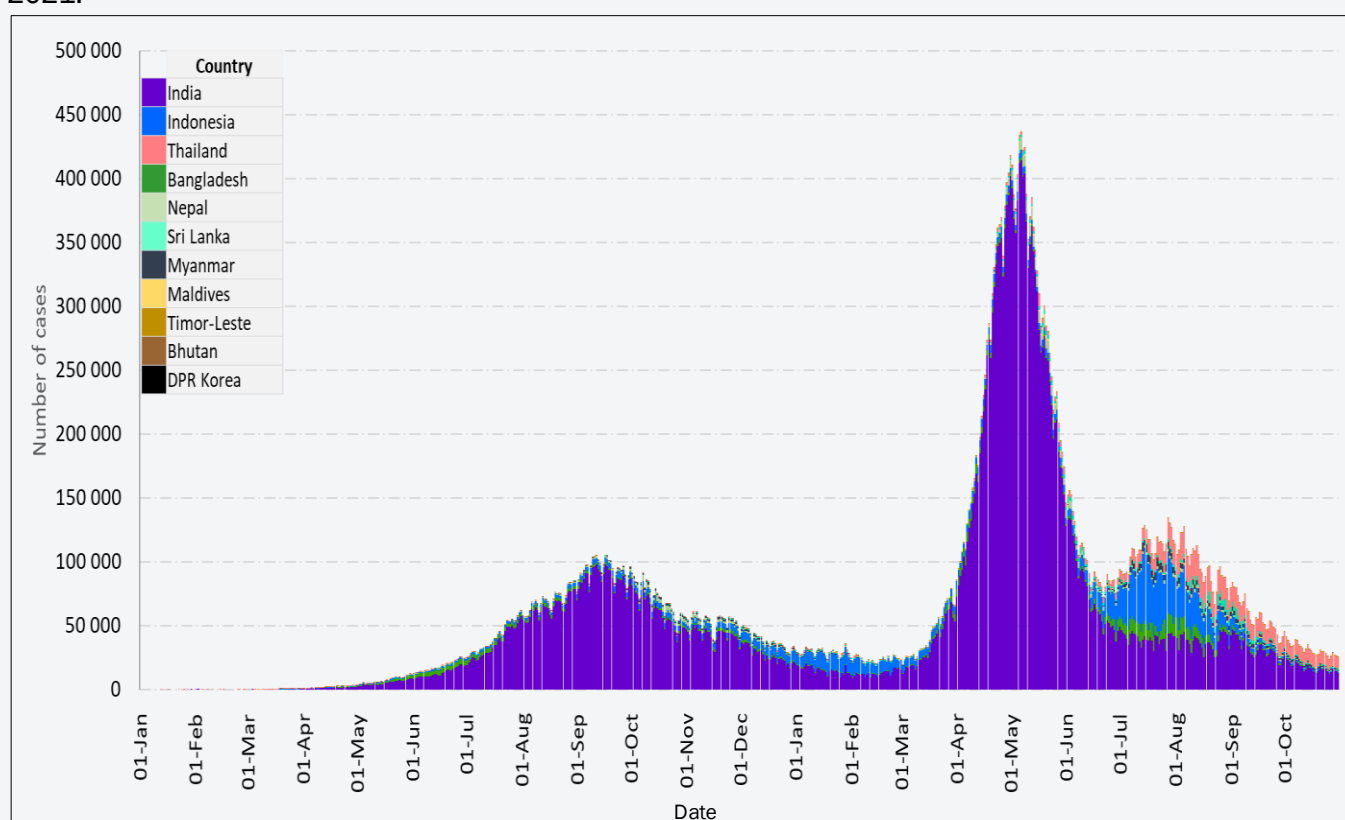


Table 1: Regional COVID-19 situation, as of 31 October 2021

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		34 273 300	24 836	458 186	1.3	97 832	-9.2	1.2	5.9
Indonesia		4 244 358	15 517	143 405	3.4	4 339	-17.5	0.4	4.1
Thailand		1 912 024	27 393	19 205	1.0	61 542	-7.8	13.9	4.7
Bangladesh		1 569 539	9 530	27 868	1.8	1 847	-16.2	1.6	0.8
Nepal		812 570	27 888	11 407	1.4	3 514	-12.6	7.0	1.8
Sri Lanka		541 073	25 268	13 743	2.5	4 989	12.5	9.9	1.8
Myanmar		500 073	9 191	18 697	3.7	5 810	-9.4	4.8	2.5
Maldives		87 784	162 400	243	0.3	862	13.9	3.8	39.6
Timor-Leste		19 790	15 010	122	0.6	20	-64.3	2.2	1.3
Bhutan		2 621	3 397	3	0.1	4		0.0	14.0
DPR Korea		0							
<b>SEAR total</b>		<b>43 963 132</b>	<b>21 749</b>	<b>692 879</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>180 759</b>	<b>-8.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Note: CFR, TPR and average test per 1 000 population are not calculated at SEAR level, due to a large variation in the size of denominator across the countries.

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 2 November 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 revealed that as the number of cases are declining, 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.

**Operations Support and Logistics:**

- 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

**Research:**

- To ensure open access to the results of UNITY and its aligned studies, WHO is promoting principal investigators to upload the same on Zenedo (an open access repository <https://zenodo.org/>). WHO regional as well as country offices are coordinating with principal investigators to share unpublished sero-prevalence aggregated data on the Zenedo platform.
- WHO supported Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal to participate in a multi-centres study on 'Oxygen requirement and approaches to respiratory support in patients with COVID 19 support in Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs)'.

**Key country updates****Bangladesh:**

- The vaccination campaign for school students aged between 12 to 17 year started will start from 1 November 2021.
- The government revised 'on arrival quarantine measures', by allowing fully vaccinated travellers without any quarantine requirement with exception to arriving travelers from 13 countries categorized by Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) that will have to undergo home quarantine for 7 days.

**Bhutan:**

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has conducted a rapid assessment of health care functionality during ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- MoH has started administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to children aged 12-17 years who were vaccinated with first dose during 13-15 September 2021.

**DPR Korea:**

- No case of COVID-19 has been reported as of 28 October 2021.
- Cumulatively 44 133 persons were tested with reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at an interval of 10 days (total samples: 87 992 and all were found negative for COVID-19. These include 669 persons who were tested during the period of 22-28 October 2021, of which 98 were people with influenza-like illness or severe acute respiratory infections and rest 571 were health care workers.

**India:**

- India's first indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine 'Covaxin' by Bharat Biotech was granted the much-awaited emergency use listing (EUL) from WHO.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has extended COVID-19 containment measures until 30 November 2021 to prevent any further spread of the pandemic.

**Indonesia:**

- The government revised regulation related to the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for domestic travel. Passengers travelling via airplane to and from areas in Bali and Java can choose one of two COVID-19 test.
- Indonesia received approximately 6.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines on 29 October 2021. The shipment consisted of around 1.2 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, around 1.3 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, and 4 million doses of Sinovac vaccine.

- The Ministry of Health conducted a rapid assessment of the continuity of essential health services during the pandemic in community health centres (CHCs) in Bali. Almost half of the CHCs (46.7%) reported a decline in service utilization for all PHC services during the pandemic.

#### Maldives:

- The government has extended the state of public health emergency until 30 November 2021. This is the twentieth extension since 12 March 2020.
- Over 3 300 people have received a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The government started administering a booster shot (third dose) to frontline healthcare workers and high-risk individuals who have completed six months since the second dose.

#### Myanmar:

- Schools re-opened on 1 November 2021, except in 46 townships which are under special investigation.
- The government extended temporary measures to prevent importation of COVID-19 through international air travel until 30 November 2021.

#### Nepal:

- Nepal received 201 600 million doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from Government of Maldives under COVAX facility on 31 October 2021.

#### Sri Lanka:

- All primary schools were reopened on 25 October 2021.
- The government has allowed inter-provincial travel from 1 November 2021. Trains and inter-provincial buses have resumed functions.

#### Thailand:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced on 30 October 2021, the updated list of 63 countries and territories where individuals are permitted to enter Thailand without quarantine.
- The government eased restrictions on control measures from 1 November 2021. No curfew except for 4-hours in seven provinces under maximum controlled and strict zones.
- The Ministry of Health issued guidelines for vaccinating infected persons.

#### Timor-Leste

- The government extended the state of emergency for another 30 days from 30 October to 28 November 2021.
- Health workers working at isolation centres are now exempted from quarantine post completing their shift. A swab for COVID-19 test will be collected on the last day, and if tested negative, the health workers will return to their families.

### 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.

## Nepal Launches Mask Campaign - #TapaikoMaskKhai



Photo: MoH Nepal

*The week-long event (7 to 13 August 2021), to create awareness on the effectiveness of wearing a mask to prevent COVID-19, creates momentum across the country.*

A campaign to encourage citizens to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 was launched under the leadership of National Health Education Information and Communication Center (NHEICC) on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Population, and in coordination and support of different partner agencies, such as UNICEF, Save the Children, and World Health Organization (WHO), Country Office for Nepal.

The campaign to promote mask wearing behavior in the context of COVID-19 in Nepal and to create social pressure, garnered public commitment, recognized mask-wearing champions, and witnessed strong collaboration between municipalities, provincial leaders, civil society, and partners.

Multiple stakeholders from government agencies and partner organization participated and committed to continue to support the advocacy and implementation of the activities for mask wearing as one of the key health promotion tools along with other public health and social measures.

Key messages on different themes such as the risk of not wearing mask, correct ways of wearing a mask, and civic duty of wearing a mask, were developed and shared across all levels of government and partners.

The campaign engaged local authorities on proper use of masks to 753 health units across 7 Provinces by partners. Compulsory mask initiative also started at Dhangadhi and Nepalgunj Kirtipur, Tokha, Rupandehi, Kapilbastu districts Province 2 and various point of entries. Further, 35 women groups in Rupandehi were trained on making masks. Additionally, masks were also distributed in 15 districts.

Private sectors such as DishHome, Bhatbhateni, SastoDeal, and e-Sewa, and community volunteers and social mobilisers from 15 districts, were also mobilized to spread awareness. The event also saw engagement and ownership from various sectors like transport, lions, Rotary, Nepal Red Cross Society, scouts, youth groups, and Jaycees.

Partners engaged celebrities and influencers, including the Prime Minister of Nepal, who endorsed the campaign through various platforms. Local Government, Police, CDOs, private sectors, RCCE cluster members owned the campaign and many celebrities shared one-minute videos to amplify the key message on wearing the mask properly. Political leaders and the youth wing of Congress also issued a circular calling its members to support the campaign nationwide. The campaign received wide media coverage with more than 200 news pieces.

Lighting of the famous Dharahara monument for five days garnered frontpage media coverage and wide fanfare. The program also incorporated other activities such as LED screen displays in strategic locations, virtual musical concerts, and dissemination of multimedia content via various social media platforms.

Table 3: Summary of International Travel Measures Implemented by Countries in SEAR (as of 2 November 2021)

Country	Entry and Visa Restrictions	Quarantine upon Arrival	COVID-19 Testing Requirement	Proof of vaccination or Recovery from infection
Bangladesh	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	7 day facility quarantine & testing on Day 7 Or 14 day home quarantine (depending on countries of departure and vaccination status)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure RT-PCR on 7 day after arrival for those under facility quarantine	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 (travellers from specified countries at risk and not listed as Category A are required 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 certain countries	Home quarantine exempted for the fully vaccinated, if they are from category A countries even if the countries are listed as at risk
Indonesia	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	5 day facility quarantine followed by 14 day self-quarantine 14 day facility quarantine for Indonesian citizens from the country with a high case incidence of COVID-19	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure RT-PCR on 4 day after arrival	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 most of 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	No restriction on entry and 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 <sup>th</sup> day after arrival for those not fully vaccinated	Facility quarantine requirement exempted with proof of full vaccination
Sri Lanka	No restriction on entry and visa	7 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	No restriction on entry and 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	No quarantine if on arrival RT PCR test negative for fully vaccinated travellers from 63 countries
Timor-Leste	Some restriction on entry and visa	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

- WHO granted emergency use listing (EUL) to COVID-19 vaccine “Covaxin” developed by Bharat Biotech in India. The emergency use authorization was granted for use in persons 18 years and above as a two-dose schedule.
- 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 3 November 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	14 310 664	8 665 142	5 645 522	24.78	17.30	92%	26-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	25 May 21	52 227 099	30 683 225	21 543 874			90%	
	Pfizer	21 Jun 21	925 092	767 888	157 204			10%	
	Moderna	13 Jul 21	5 249 545	2 698 192	2 551 353			95%	
Bhutan	AstraZeneca	27 Mar 21	1 148 146	588 307	559 839	77.81	74.04	68%	24-Oct-21
	Pfizer	22-Jul-21							
	Moderna	20 Jul 21							
	Sinopharm	20-Jul-21							
India	AstraZeneca*	16 Jan 21	1 068 571 879	734 600 366	333 971 513	51.70	23.50	100%	26-Oct-21
	Covaxin*	16 Jan 21							
	Sputnik V	14 May 21							
Indonesia	AstraZeneca	13 Jan 21	23 601 718	16 375 189	7 226 529	44.58	27.63	93%	24-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	23 Mar 21	2 759 064	1 506 173	1 252 891			34%	
	Sinovac	18 May 21	156 939 452	93 955 280	62 984 172			90%	
	Moderna	25 Jul 21	4 705 561	2 909 741	1 795 820			59%	
	Pfizer	23 Aug 21	8 802 150	6 745 314	2, 056 836			62%	
	Janssen	28 Oct 21	2 497	2 497	2 497			0.5%	
Maldives	AstraZeneca	01 Feb 21	485 655	257 005	228 650	72.22	65.55	100%	19-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	22 Mar 21	188 905	97 351	91 554			83%	
	Pfizer	13 Apr 21	77 320	40 166	37 154			57%	
Myanmar	AstraZeneca	27Jan 21	3 337 710	1 810 426	1 527 284	24.08	12.82	74%	23-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	June 21	16 961 301	11 434 570	5 526 731			64%	
Nepal	AstraZeneca	27 Jan21	4 541 808	2 882 901	1 658 907	28.71	24.00	84%	25-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	07 Apr 21	9 778 004	5 727 123	4 050 881			82%	
	Janssen	19 July 21	1 538 766	1 538 766	1 538 766			100%	
Sri Lanka	AstraZeneca	29 Jan 21	2 885 997	1 479 631	1 406 366	71.12	61.27	106%	26-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	05 Apr 21	22 620 467	11 905 687	10 714 780			88%	
	Sputnik V	06 May 21	314 875	159 110	155 765			95%	
	Pfizer	07 Jul 21	1 765 897	1 323 984	441 913			61%	
	Moderna	18 Jul 21	1 585 449	803 098	782 351			106%	
Thailand	AstraZeneca	16 Mar 21	31 429 006	10 711 805	20 717 201	64.04	46.70	105%	25-Oct-21
	Sinovac	28 Feb 21	24 303 957	20 773 404	3 530 553			91%	
	Sinopharm	25 Jun 21	12 351 834	6 720 366	5 631 468			82%	
	Pfizer	6 Aug 21	5 214 887	4 182 890	1 031 997			79%	
Timor-Leste	AstraZeneca	07 Apr21	835 826	514 094	321 732	43.12	27.77	82%	26-Oct-21
	Sinovac	8 Jun 21	91 362	47 181	44 181			91%	
	Pfizer	27 Oct 21	6 939	6 939				7%	
TOTAL			1 479 551 893	980 365 609	499 186 284	47.43	24.15	94%	

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