

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	150 404	2 424	13 196 338	202 878

Highlights

- The global decline continues for five consecutive weeks [49% decline since the peak on week 1 (4 to 10 January 2021)]
- The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region (~13.19 million cases), after the Americas Region (n=48.22 million cases) and European Region (n=36.61 million cases). Overall there is a 12.8% decrease in new cases in week 6 compared to the previous week for SEAR
- The Regional Review Committee (RRC) completed the review of all 10 COVID-19 National Deployment and Vaccination Plans (NDVPs) submitted by Advance Market Commitment (AMC) countries and approved them for vaccine allocation. The Global allocation committee of the COVAX facility will prioritize vaccine allocation for the first and second quarters of 2021 and inform countries
- AstraZeneca Vaccines manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and the SK Biopharmaceuticals, South Korea received WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) on 15 February 2021

Overview of situation (epidemiological week #6 for period between 8 - 14 February 2021)

- Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to report 'community transmission'; India, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bhutan and Thailand continue to report 'clusters of cases'. Timor-Leste reported 'sporadic cases' and DPR Korea continues to report 'no cases'
- In Myanmar, the political situation since 1 February has disrupted COVID-19 case detection and laboratory testing capacity
- In Maldives, reported new cases continue to show an increasing trend between week 5 and week 6 (10.9% increase, 1 045 cases). Increasing numbers of cases are being reported in Greater Male' while the number of new cases is slightly declining in other parts of the country
- In Thailand, confirmed cases in the new wave (i.e. since 15 December 2020) have been reported in 63 provinces. Since the beginning of the current week (14 February 2021), new cases have been reported in 16 provinces. A 74% decline of new cases has been observed between week 5 and week 6
- In Sri Lanka, the number of new cases increased by 21.5% (n=6 303) between the week 5 and 6. The large cluster identified in Peliyagoda (garment factory) since 5 October 2020 has led to 72 370 additional new cases (94% of total reported COVID-19 cases in the country). Since the beginning of this year, the peak of cases is yet to be observed with the reported number of new cases varying between 600 and 800 cases per day
- In Indonesia, a decline in new cases has been observed for two consecutive weeks. Concurrently there is also a decline in the number of tests performed for the same period. The Test Positivity Rate (TPR) continues to remain high at 27%
- In India, there is a continuing decline in cases and deaths with the TPR at 1.7%; however, an increased number of new cases is being reported in Kerala and Maharashtra which together constitute most of the new cases (~70%) reported in India in the past week

Table1: SARS CoV2 Variants of Concern (VOC) reported in SEAR as of 17 February 2021

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

Figure 1: Reported COVID-19 Cases and the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in SEAR from 1 January 2020 to 14 February 2021

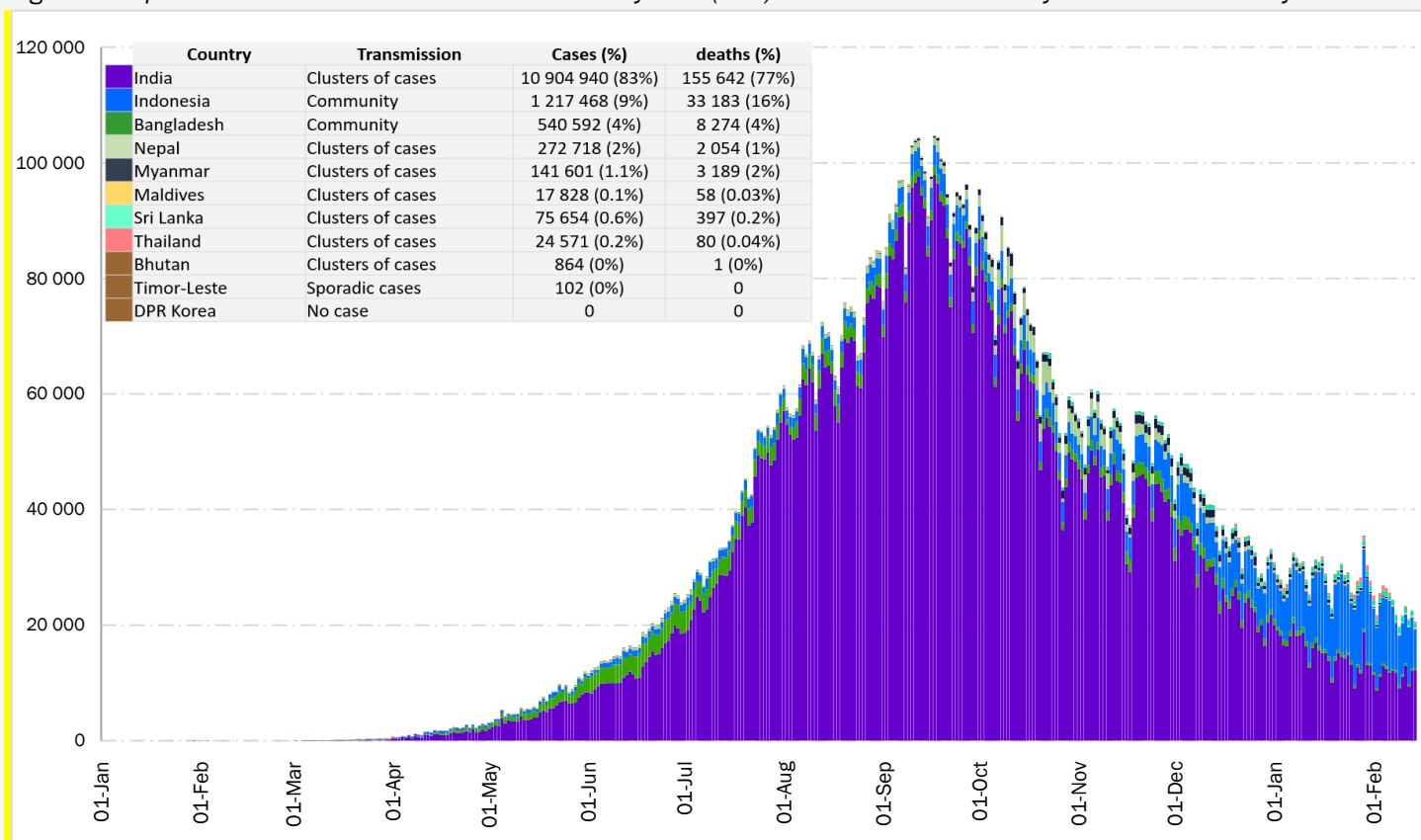


Figure 2: Regional COVID-19 Situation (14 February 2021)

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		10 904 940	7 902	155 642	1.4	78 577	-2.0	1.7
Indonesia		1 217 468	4 451	33 183	2.7	59 631	-25.0	27.2
Bangladesh		540 592	3 282	8 274	1.5	2 530	-13.4	2.6
Nepal		272 718	9 360	2 054	0.8	793	-17.9	3.3
Myanmar		141 601	2 602	3 189	2.3	297	-74.4	1.5
Sri Lanka		75 654	3 533	397	0.5	6 306	21.5	5.5
Maldives		17 828	32 982	58	0.3	1 045	10.9	3.8
Thailand		24 571	352	80	0.3	1 200	-73.9	7.1
Bhutan		864	1 120	1	0.1	3	50.0	0.1
Timor-Leste		102	77		0.0	22	120.0	4.9
DPR Korea		0						
SEAR total		13 196 338	6 528	202 878	-	150 404	-14.3	-

*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

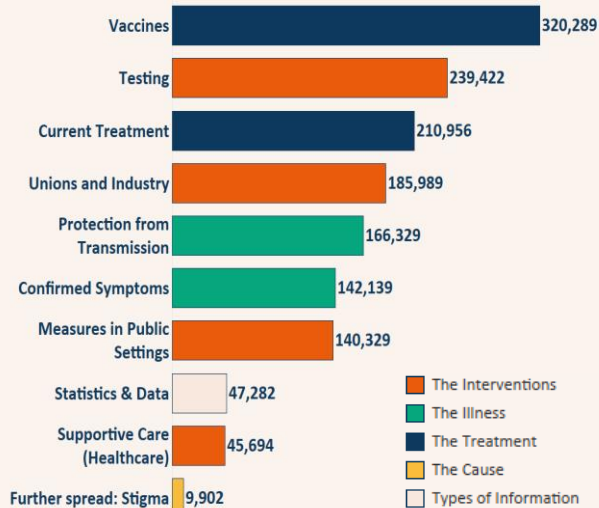
Key operational updates

Risk communication and community engagement:

- Key findings from the weekly SEAR Infodemic intelligence reveals conversations around rumours of origins of the new coronavirus, and positive feedback on the decision to vaccinate those at the greatest risk of COVID-19. The highest volume of questions being asked on digital media continues to be on vaccines this week, but rising topics include the cause of the disease, risk demographics and travel
- RCCE tools for acceptance and demand for COVID-19, developed by WHO HQ, have been shared with all countries

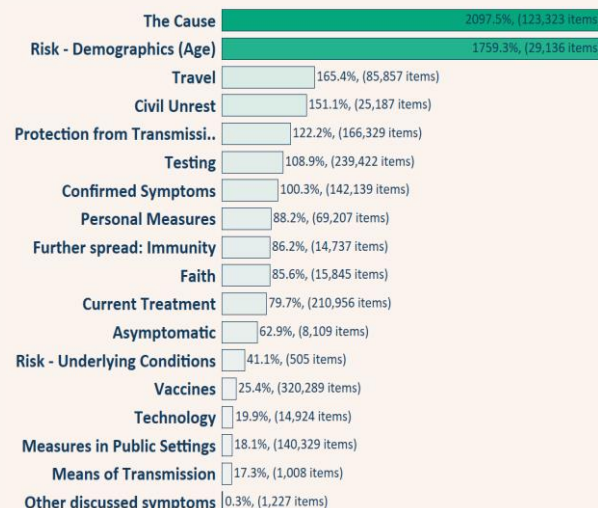
Top 10 topics by volume

Social media mentions of selected categories per taxonomy



Top rising topics

Based on % change of conversation volume from the previous week



8-14 FEBRUARY 2021

Operation support and logistics (cumulative supplies as of 17 February 2021):

- Diagnostics: SEAR coordinated shipment and delivery of 1 936 700 tests of manual polymerase chain reaction (PCR), 260 000 tests of antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic tests (Ag RDTs), 2 268 950 swabs, and 1 886 166 of extraction kits since the start of the pandemic
- Personnel Protective Equipment: 6 940 500 three-ply face masks, 2 125 500 examination gloves, 555 300 gowns, 604 495 respirators, 86 510 goggles, 371 836 face shields, 39 500 aprons and 30 000 biohazard bags have been shipped to the countries since the beginning of the pandemic
- Case management: 2 440 units of nasal canula, 106 units of patient monitors, 769 units of oxygen concentrators, 250 units of pulse oximeter, 110 infrared thermometers and 610 venturi masks have been shipped since the onset of the covid19 pandemic

Key country updates

Bangladesh:

- A total of 905 466 people has received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as of 14 February 2021
- Bangladesh is set to start administering the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from end of March 2021, following the government decision to administer the second dose eight weeks after the first dose

Bhutan:

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has tentatively scheduled to start training of health care workers on COVID-19 vaccine management by the last week of February 2021
- The MoH reiterates the need for strict adherence with the COVID-19 protocol. The Police and Dessups (volunteers) strictly monitor compliance of people with the COVID-19 preventive protocol
- A mandatory quarantine period of 7 days continues for people travelling from high risk border areas followed by testing for COVID-19 before they travel to other part of the countries
- WHO in collaboration with the MoH will conduct an intra action review (IAR) for COVID-19 preparedness and response from 25 to 27 February 2021

DPR Korea:

- No reported cases of COVID-19 as of 11 February 2021
- Surveillance is ongoing, samples are being tested for COVID-19 in 15 laboratories including 13 sub-national laboratories

India:

- In India 7 million vaccinations against COVID-19 were carried out in only 26 days, making it the fastest implementation rate worldwide
- The vaccination with the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination started from 13 February for those beneficiaries who have completed 28 days after receipt of the first dose
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) released the SOP on preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 in offices
- WHO released champion videos wherein influencers encouraged citizens to follow the 3Ws (wearing a mask, washing hands regularly with soap, and watching physical distance). Thus far, over 3 million people have watched these videos

Indonesia:

- The President announced a new amendment including administrative sanctions for COVID-19 vaccination refusals and compensation mechanisms for serious adverse events following immunization (AEFI) resulting in disability or death.
- The Government of Indonesia will start the second round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign on 17 February 2021, targeting 38.5 million people including workers in essential public sectors, the elderly population, workers in hospitality, transportation and tourism sectors, as well as members of the media
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) is collaborating with the Indonesian National Army and National Police to support contact tracing activities at the community level, including community units, neighbourhood units, villages, districts and cities
- The Government will start using antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic tests (AgRDTs) to support contact tracing and improve the testing capacity in the country
- WHO supported the Ministry of Health in conducting the second round of monitoring of the implementation of Intra-Action Review recommendations

Maldives:

- More than 43 817 persons have been vaccinated across the country in two weeks since the launch of COVID-19 vaccination on 1 February 2021
- The Health Protection Agency (HPA) extended the vehicle ban implemented in the Greater Male' Region to a 12-hour period from 06:00 PM to 06:00 AM following the recent surge in COVID-19 cases
- In Gnaviyani Atoll island of Fuaah Mulak, curfew has been imposed due to an increase in number of cases reported. The curfew restricts vehicle movements between 08:00 PM to 04:00 AM, a ban has been imposed on public gatherings, and schools (all grades) have been closed. The atoll has been put under monitoring status and travel to and from the island has been stopped to facilitate contact tracing and sample collection

Myanmar:

- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) held a coordination meeting on the COVID-19 prevention and vaccination programme and future healthcare services. The Health Minister discussed arrangements to provide timely treatment to COVID-19 patients
- More than 104 000 health care workers were vaccinated in the phase 1 of the vaccination campaign launched on 27 January 2021. Two million doses of COVID-19 vaccines arrived from India as a part of a bilateral agreement in addition to 1.5 million doses of the vaccine gifted by the Indian Government earlier
- A few public health laboratories, State and Regional hospital laboratories resumed testing for COVID-19

Nepal:

- The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has reduce the charges for a PCR test to half of the existing charge of NPR 2 000 in all government designated COVID-19 laboratories for elective confirmation of diagnosis. However, its free of any charge if referred by a physician and labelled as a close contact detected during contact tracing process
- The management and treatment of COVID-19 cases will now be conducted by government COVID-19 designated hospitals (earlier private medical college hospitals were also designated as COVID-19 hospitals) as decided by the MoHP
- WHO is providing technical support to the MoHP to initiate the second nationwide seroprevalence survey for COVID-19
- WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to strengthen the genomic sequencing capacity of the National Public Health Laboratory

Sri Lanka:

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has planned mass vaccination starting from 1 March 2021.
- The MoH issued a circular allowing the administration of vaccine remaining in the COVISHIELD vaccine vial after a full 10 doses have been given, subject to fulfilling certain conditions. This would in effect allow for the administration of an 11th dose from a 10-dose vial.
- The WHO Envoy along with other experts provided their recommendations to the National Task Force on COVID-19 on COVID-19 response and vaccination. Priority areas for interventions include risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) on COVID-19 vaccines, review of the laboratory testing strategy, planning and coordination across agencies on vaccination and availability of real-time data accessible in a common platform for analysis and decision-making
- WHO is supporting the nationwide expansion of an innovative digital solution for real time monitoring of COVID-19, after pilot implementation in Western Province. The digital solution includes a real-time database, a dashboard, and a mobile application which are available to health staff and public free of charge

Thailand:

- The first case of the 'South Africa' variant of COVID-19 was detected in Thailand on 14 February 2021
- Three manufacturers have requested Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) emergency use authorization of COVID-19 vaccines, including the AstraZeneca (approved), Sinovac (in process), Johnson & Johnson (requesting) vaccines
- Samut Sakhon province has completed intensive active case finding in large-scale factories. Provincial authorities and the Ramathibodi Hospital are conducting antibody based COVID diagnostic tests in these factories and results will be used to develop a strategy for reopening them.

Timor-Leste

- The Council of Ministers (CoM) endorsed the emergency use of COVID-19 Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine following discussions with the Prime Minister and the WHO Representative in Timor Leste
- The Integrated Centre for Crisis Management (ICGI) established three situation rooms in two border municipalities – Bobonaro and Covalima and in the special administrative region Oecusse to further strengthen coordination on COVID-19 response in border areas
- The Government decided to impose a health sanitary fence in two border municipalities – Bobonaro and Covalima to put a check on the high number of illegal crossings in the two municipalities. Travel to and from both municipalities and others is prohibited from 16 February till 3 March 2021
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) is conducting a week-long contact tracing and surveillance activities in two municipality ' border areas and the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse
- MoH continues to advocate on mass testing, contact tracing and surveillance with the engagement of communities

COVID-19 vaccine deployment in WHO's South East Asia Region (SEAR): the India experience

India launched the first phase of world's largest vaccination drive on 16 January this year, with a target to vaccinate 300 million health care workers, frontline workers and elderly population by July 2021. By 8 February 2021, close to 6.26 million people had been vaccinated.

While continuing with surveillance, active testing for diagnosis, case finding, isolation and treatment, the Government of India began planning to launch a vaccination drive of a mammoth scale.

In August 2020, the government constituted a multi-disciplinary National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 to guide all aspects of COVID-19 vaccine deployment. These aspects included regulatory guidance on vaccine trials, financing, prioritization of population groups, vaccine selection, procurements, equitable distribution, delivery mechanisms, vaccine-safety surveillance, communication and media engagement. It is also worth noting India's support to the vaccination drive in the South-East Asia Region through provision of vaccines to neighbouring countries to initiate the vaccination programmes for COVID-19'.

In this endeavor, the WHO Country Office for India played a significant contribution. It has been providing technical assistance to the Government of India, States/Union Territories (UT) s in preparing for and rolling out of COVID-19 vaccination. The technical assistance entailed development of operational guidelines and other training materials for state and district programme managers and vaccinators, drafting of operational plans, training of various groups of human resources, conducting dry runs, monitoring of all activities, and establishing tracking and accountability frameworks. At least 260,000 vaccinators and around 475,000 other vaccination team members have already been trained across the country with support from WCO India teams.
















































WHO India field staff played a supportive role to the government in the world's biggest vaccination drive. The WHO field staff based across the country are already engaged in all aspects of the fight against COVID-19 which include surveillance and contact tracing, assessment of preparedness of dedicated COVID-19 health facilities, capacity building on infection prevention and control, and supporting the national rapid-response teams in the containment of the outbreak. The newest addition was engagement in the vaccination drive. In this vaccination campaign, WHO field teams supported vaccination dry-runs preceding the launch of the COVID-19 vaccination drive. The purpose of it was to ensure smooth vaccine rollout and give real-time feedback on the use of the Information Technology -enabled application called Co-WIN for vaccine management, registration of beneficiaries, and reporting of vaccination coverage as well as adverse events following immunization (AEFIs).

Further to above mentioned response activities by the WHO India field staff, on the request of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, WCO deployed 29 field medical officers to the North East States to support ramping up of preparedness for COVID-19 vaccination drive rolled out on 16 January.

On the inaugural day of the vaccination drive, more than 1,500 COVID-19 vaccination sessions were monitored by WHO India staff across the country to provide real-time feedback to local and national governments for corrective actions.

Communication is a vital component for any vaccination campaign. Recognizing this need, WHO India is also supporting risk communication interventions along with UN partners on COVID-19 vaccines and COVID-19 appropriate behaviours. WHO India continues to monitor the epidemiologic situation in all states/UTs and provide regular feedback for containing the pandemic. In addition to responding to the pandemic and playing a role in pandemic vaccine deployment, WHO is supporting states/UTs in intensification of routine immunization, elimination of tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases, maternal, reproductive and child health services and control of non-communicable diseases as a part of its support to maintain essential health services in the country.

Update on the Public Health and Social Measures (10 – 16 February 2021)

Member State	Stay at Home	Public transport (Inter province movement)	School measures	Public gathering	Mask use
Bangladesh	None 	Resumed 		 Ban	Mandatory
Bhutan	None 	Resumed 		 Ban >25	Mandatory
DPR Korea	None 	Restricted*  (Capital to provinces and inter-province movement restricted)		 Ban > 5	Mandatory
India	Partial  (Movement restricted in areas determined by Local authorities and in Containment zones)	Resumed 	 (Schools reopened for some /all grades and measures vary across States)	 Allowed (States to decide on requirements for gatherings)	Mandatory
Indonesia	Partial  (Implementation of micro-level restrictions on community activities (neighbourhood/ward) in Java and Bali)	Restricted* 	 (Vary across provinces)	 (Vary across Provinces)	Mandatory
Maldives (Emergency extended until 5 March 2021)	Partial  (Curfew from 2300 to 0430 hrs. at Greater Male Region from 3 February)	Restricted*  (Vehicle movement banned between 2300 to 0430 hrs.)	 (Preschool and day care centres closed)	 Ban > 15	Mandatory
Myanmar	Partial  (Curfew imposed 0200 to 0400 hrs.)	Restricted* 		 Ban > 5	Mandatory
Nepal	None 	Resumed 		 Allowed	Mandatory
Sri Lanka	Partial  (Restrictions imposed in a few small areas)	Resumed 	 (Schools reopened across the country except in Western Province)	 Ban > 10	Mandatory
Thailand (Emergency extended until 28 February 2021)	None  (Restriction on movement in Samut Sakhon)	Resumed 	 (Schools closed in Samut Sakhon & some schools in other provinces)	 (Certain gatherings not allowed)	Mandatory
Timor-Leste (Emergency extended until 3 March 2021)	None 	Resumed 		 Allowed	Mandatory
* Public transport allowed with limited capacity, limited timings and/or limited routes – variations at Sub National level					
Red icons	Complete restriction (applied to all or most areas or populations nationwide)			Bus, taxi/ private vehicle, Train	
Yellow icons	Partial restrictions (targeted to some areas or populations)			Waterways- boat	
Green icons	No restrictions			Airways	

Update on Pandemic Vaccine Deployment

- The Regional Review Committee (RRC) completed review of all 10 National Deployment and Vaccination Plans (NDVPs) submitted by Advance Market Commitment (AMC) countries. The RRC for review of NDVP was comprised of members from GAVI Independent Review Committee, WHO SEARO and WHO headquarters, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) and East Asia and Pacific Regional office (EAPRO) and other independent consultants
- All 10 standard review forms (SRF) were approved for vaccine allocation, which is to be decided by the global allocation committee
- AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and SK Biopharmaceuticals received WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) on 15 February 2021
- Nine out of 10 AMC countries received letters from the COVAX facility informing them of a forthcoming letter in the week of 22 February 2021 about final allocations of doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Countries were requested to pursue emergency use authorization and signing indemnity agreement with the manufacturer
- Support to countries to implement the next steps to receive the allocated COVAX vaccines, including completion of national regulatory processes is on-going
- The following countries are currently offering COVID-19 vaccines in the region: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. These COVID-19 vaccines were obtained through bilateral agreements with manufacturers or donations. These countries mainly use the COVISHIELD vaccine from India