



# ASIA PACIFIC REGION

A Red Cross volunteer in Cook Islands helps with COVID-19 vaccinations and talks to people about staying safe in case of an outbreak. Source: Cook Islands Red Cross Society

<b>494.6M</b> Total reported cases	<b>6.4M</b> New cases <small>7 DAYS SINCE DATA DATE</small>	<b>6.2M</b> Total deaths	<b>11.3B</b> Total vaccination doses administered
<b>145.1</b> Doses administered per 100 people	<b>152</b> NS involvement in at least 1 vaccination related activity	<b>27</b> Number of WHO approved vaccines in circulation	<b>78%</b> Percent vaccine acceptance

## Financial Overview



### Funding Requirements:

**CHF 130 million\***

### Income to date:

**CHF 102.6 million**

### EA Coverage for Asia Pacific

**79%**

\*The funding requirement has been **revised** to CHF 130 million as half of the income received is earmarked to India and Bangladesh, while many countries in the region are still in need of funding support.

## National Society involvement per COVID -19 Operational Priority



**38 National Societies** Sustaining Health and WASH



**37 National Societies** Addressing Socio-economic Impact

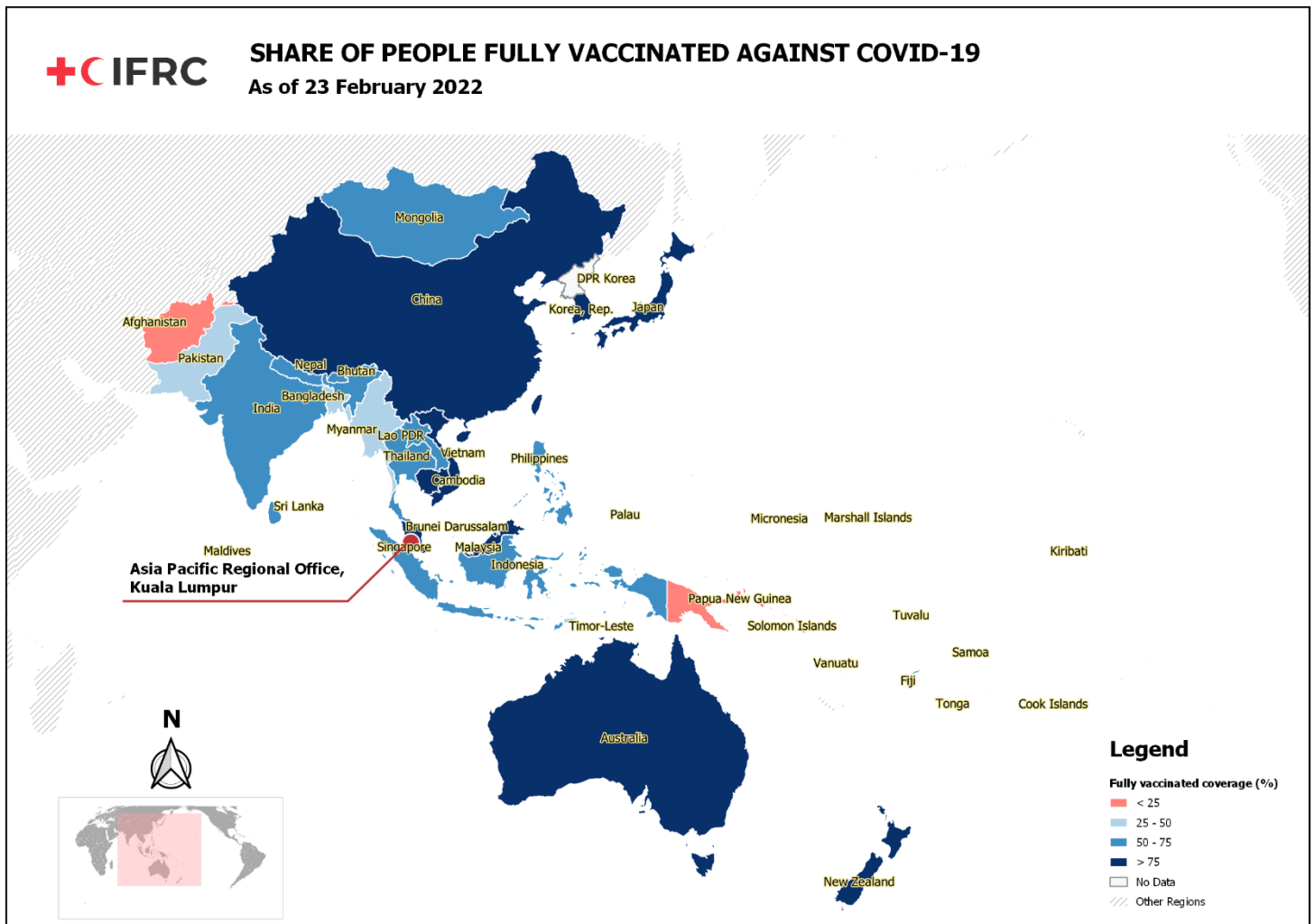


**35 National Societies** Strengthening National Societies



35 National Societies in the region are actively supporting their health authorities in the vaccination roll -out.

## Regional overview



The Asia Pacific region continues to grapple with COVID-19, with 83 million confirmed cases and more than 980,000 deaths. Overall, daily infections in the region have been increasing as countries experience new waves of the virus fueled by the Omicron variant. Although the new variant is less severe than the Delta variant, there is still a steady increase in deaths since December. The countries with the highest daily confirmed cases are Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Korea. The true extent of the pandemic is likely much higher than official figures due to low testing levels and high positivity rates among those tested for COVID-19 in many countries. The positivity rate for most countries in the region is now over the five per cent threshold set by the World Health Organisation.

Before and during the Christmas, New Year and Lunar New Year festive season, National Societies, particularly in South Asia, Southeast and East Asia, have been preparing for the new wave and outbreaks with the support of the IFRC secretariat. National Societies have been planning for possible scenarios, ramping up vaccinations to the most vulnerable, promoting vaccine acceptance and repositioning PPE, goods and medical equipment.

COVID-19 response plans continue to focus on vaccination campaigns in many Asia Pacific countries. However, vaccination rates in Asia and the Pacific differ significantly. In Brunei Darussalam, 91 per cent of the population have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, while only 3.3 per cent received two doses in Papua New Guinea. More than 80 per cent of the population have been fully vaccinated in Palau, Singapore, China, Brunei, and Cambodia. In Afghanistan and Solomon Islands, the fully vaccinated stand at less than 15 per cent of the population. Countries are

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escalating vaccination campaigns to provide booster doses to help protect people against the highly transmissible Omicron variant. Under the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer<sup>1</sup>, migrant populations like the Afghan refugees at the borders of Pakistan will receive 600,000 Sinopharm vaccination doses, with the IFRC secretariat and Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) support ([funding for operational costs](#) is still needed). Although vaccination rates are increasing, many governments have reimposed some control measures as the new variant spreads.

Some countries that have avoided the pandemic in the past are experiencing breakthrough cases and outbreaks. The Solomon Islands Red Cross, in particular, has scaled its response to a surge in COVID-19 community transmission. To support its government in dealing with a large outbreak since January 2022, the Hong Kong Red Cross branch of the Red Cross Society of China has increased community preparedness and outreach measures.

The [revised Emergency Appeal](#) was launched in December 2021. The new funding requirement for the Asia Pacific stands at CHF 130 million, with increases mainly in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. IFRC welcomes flexible funding to the wider Asia Pacific region through the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal (MDR50001). Donors are encouraged to ensure the implementation timeframe is in line with the appeal timeframe till 31 December 2022 with minimal or no earmarking. Flexible funds allow the IFRC to respond to evolving needs in various geographic contexts and address emerging socio-economic gaps. The [24-month Operations Update](#) linked to the global COVID-19 Emergency Appeal is also available, of which this update is a subset.

## Priority 1: Sustaining Health and WASH

### Epidemic control measures

The IFRC secretariat and National Societies in the Asia Pacific are prepared for the potential new wave. A new wave preparedness document has been shared with the leadership of all the National Societies in the region. The document highlights four different ways to reduce the impact of the potential new wave. These measures are:

- Scaling up public health and social measures.
- Scaling up roll out of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Preparing for COVID-19 safe disaster response.
- Scenario planning and preposition of medical consumables and PPEs.

COVID-19 safe best practices are updated and shared with all National Societies in the region to better prepare for a COVID-19 safe response.

### Risk communication, community engagement, and health and hygiene promotion

Asia Pacific National Societies are working alongside public authorities, in helping to save lives and contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff and volunteers are running information campaigns and helping with urgent vaccine roll-outs. Lifesaving ambulance services and healthcare are being provided in many countries, focusing on vulnerable communities.

Many National Societies are also seeking to support vaccination programmes by promoting vaccine acceptance, including through risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), e.g. posters, brochures, social and traditional media, and sometimes community/door-to-door visits. Some National Societies are operating telephone helplines assisting callers with questions about COVID-19 and vaccinations.

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<sup>1</sup> The COVAX [Humanitarian Buffer](#) ensures people in conflict zones or humanitarian settings that can't be reached by government vaccination campaigns do not get left behind.

### **Infection prevention and control and WASH**

Emphasis continues to increase access to appropriate WASH facilities, such as handwashing stations and latrines, and distribute suitable personal or environmental items to maintain hygiene, such as soap, disinfectants and cleaning materials.

### **Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS)**

National Societies in the Asia Pacific region respond to the need for MHPSS, operating telephone helplines, providing psychosocial support at isolation/quarantine centres, and sharing materials in communities. For the World Mental Health Day theme, "Mental Health in an unequal world: What brings us together and what sets us apart", the IFRC held an online event on 19 October 2021 with speakers from the Movement. The Asia Pacific MHPSS Training and Learning Collaborative facilitated the session for the region, with Hong Kong, Mongolia and Indonesia discussing COVID-19 impacts on their National Societies. On 18 October 2021, the second regional training on "Psychological First Aid (PFA) for Vaccine Hesitancy" was held. A new PFA training package for pandemic fatigue will soon be launched in the second quarter (Q2) of 2022, and the first Asia Pacific MHPSS network will be introduced.

### **Isolation and clinical case management for COVID-19 cases**

The recent surge in cases in some Asia Pacific countries has led to significant numbers of COVID-19 patients isolating at home, including in Viet Nam, Thailand and the Republic of Korea. The Red Cross Movement has moved to support health authorities responding to the associated needs by procuring pulse oximeters and thermometers to monitor patients' health, providing basic needs, such as meals, and assisting with monitoring.

### **Maintain access to essential health services (clinical and paramedical)**

IFRC has delivered medicines, oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders, oximeters, thermometers and other lifesaving supplies to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. Additional supplies are being procured, and some are in transit to some countries like India.

### **Support for immunization**

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society and IFRC secretariat Humanitarian buffer proposal to reach 300,000 people targeting Afghan refugees and IDPs in three provinces has been approved. Resource mobilization to support the operational cost is ongoing. On the recommendation of the COVAX secretariat, the National Society is revising the target population from 105,000 to 300,000 in three provinces of Pakistan. In the meantime, Myanmar Red Cross received 200,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine from the Red Cross Society of China.

## **Priority 2: Addressing Socio-economic impact**

### **Livelihoods and Household Economic Security**

Many National Societies in the Asia Pacific region, such as Bangladesh, Thailand and Laos, are distributing food to those in most need, including those whose incomes have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Some respond with other in-kind support, such as dignity kits and other household items (HHI).

A research study is being carried out to understand the negative socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in five countries: Mongolia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, the Philippines and Fiji. It is also envisaged that the research findings will guide IFRC and National Societies for effective COVID-19 interventions towards longer-term recovery.

### **Shelter and Urban settlements**

Some National Societies have commenced cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programmes, increasing resilience and providing a safety net for people affected. To address the compounding crisis of COVID-19, National Societies have initiated an integrated approach for community response programmes. At the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the COVID-19 response targets people impacted by the pandemic, civil unrest and natural disasters. In Sri Lanka, the

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National Society has assisted communities affected by a cargo ship accident, most of whom were fisher folks, whose livelihood already suffered in the pandemic.

### **Community Engagement and Accountability, and Community Feedback Mechanisms**

A [Community Feedback Dashboard](#) was launched by the IFRC in February 2021. The dashboard analyzes community voices from Nepal, Indonesia, Fiji, Cambodia and Pakistan in its qualitative, original form. Knowledge and awareness of socio-behavioural trends and community insights at localized levels support the development of an impactful community-led response to COVID-19. Community feedback can help provide actionable information based on community needs, address mis/dis-information, fill information gaps, and increase vaccine uptake.

Fiji and Cambodia launched their feedback mechanism in 2021. Bangladesh started a branch level hotline in Cox's Bazar for population movement operations to serve the host community and collect feedback in the camps. As part of the response to community feedback, National Society youth collaborated with the IFRC to produce short videos answering [young people's questions across the region on COVID-19](#).

Several countries like Nepal, Malaysia and Fiji rolled out perception surveys to better understand public information needs on COVID-19 and vaccines, their trusted sources of information and existing concerns. The newest community [Perception Survey Dashboard can be found here](#).

### **Capacity building and coordination**

Adapting to the COVID-19 situation, Community Engagement and Accountability training went online for staff and volunteers for 14 National Societies, including Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Singapore, Laos, Afghanistan and Pakistan. CEA E-Learning module translations were finalized and published in FedNet in Bengali, Japanese, Korean and Bahasa. Several CEA sessions were included in other trainings, such as the regular health webinars.

The IFRC secretariat co-chaired the regional risk communication and community engagement working group with UNICEF and WHO. The IFRC in the Asia Pacific also co-facilitated a six-week online interagency CEA training on the vaccine roll-out with WHO and UNICEF. The training was a great opportunity for country teams to engage with their Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WHO counterparts and draft a joint risk communication and community engagement plan (access the training [here](#)).

## **Priority 3: Strengthening National Societies**

### **National Society readiness**

The move to greater digitization in some Asia Pacific National Societies maintains and enhances communication. A significant focus on capacity building for staff and volunteers enables field teams to conduct a broad range of new activities safely and effectively and ensures existing programmes incorporate COVID-safe practices.

### **Support to volunteers**

Most National Societies in the Asia Pacific Region have purchased volunteer PPE supplies, such as personal floatation devices, safety helmets, rain suits and medical PPEs. Sixteen National Societies were supported in re-engaging the IFRC Global Volunteer Insurance scheme to ensure duty of care towards volunteers are fulfilled. Five National Societies (Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Pakistan) have been further strengthened through the Volunteer Solidarity Fund.

### **Communications**

Key media highlights include [significant media coverage](#) about the socio-economic report, “Drowning just below the surface: The socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic”; an opinion article about [COVID-19's impact on Asian children should give countries hoarding vaccines pause](#); an [IFRC press release](#) and media about the Pacific COVID-19 vaccine divide; an [IFRC press release](#) and [opinion article](#) about [the surge in cases in Papua New Guinea](#); and media coverage about the [Thai Red Cross migrant workers COVID-19 vaccination drive](#). There has been coverage on [Omicron in South Asia](#), the health crisis in the [Philippines after a super typhoon](#), and the [health impact of the Tonga volcano and tsunami](#). The IFRC Asia Pacific regional emergency health coordinator and head of the regional health unit provided comments to several high-profile media, including the [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Deutsche Welle Digital](#), the [Associated Press](#) and [the ASEAN Post](#).

Extensive photo and video content packages from across the region encourage engagement from global audiences on IFRC and National Society social media channels, digital platforms, and Newswire and Slack. The photos and videos have also been used in stories published on [Exposure](#). A series of social media cards on how to ['Stay Safe in the Festival season'](#) was well received.

### **Logistics and Supply Chain**

In the past four months, close to CHF 12 million goods and equipment have been procured, 25 per cent of it local procurement. International procurement worth CHF 9 million was concluded for PPE, oxygen-related equipment, household items, ambulances, blood collection and COVID-19 testing vans. At the same time, the Global Fleet Unit supports the procurement of COVID-19 related vehicles in Dubai. These are essential for COVID-19 response and preparedness for the new wave, including to hard-to-reach countries like Afghanistan, Myanmar or DPRK. All procurement activities supporting Asia Pacific National Societies follow IFRC logistics and procurement procedures and quality assurance guidelines.

On other logistics support, in the past months, five [mobilization table\(s\)](#) have been launched for Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Timor Leste, seeking in-kind donations worth approximately CHF 14.5 million. Transportation and in-country lockdown restrictions have led to various supply chain disruptions. To meet the challenges, the IFRC secretariat collaborates with ICRC, UN agencies, and private logistics partners in finding solutions that ensure goods are delivered in time to support National Societies' response in countries. In anticipation of the third Omicron-driven wave, the IFRC secretariat in the Asia Pacific supports the mapping exercise of potential COVID-19 needs and related items. The initiative ensures that countries are well-prepared and are able to speed up the procurement and mobilization process. The [logistics and procurement dashboard for COVID-19](#) reflects tracking of all local/regional procurement activities, including medical supplies.

### **Information Management**

Information management provides technical support to community engagement and accountability (CEA) and its' COVID-19 community perception and feedback surveys conducted in the Asia Pacific region. During the reporting period, the IFRC secretariat assisted several National Societies (Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal, Tuvalu, Pakistan) in implementing the survey by developing the online questionnaire and training volunteers in KoBo. The data analysis and visualization support results can be seen through [the Community Perception](#) and [Feedback dashboard](#).

In collaboration with the IFRC health team, the IM team has made several improvements to increase the shared information's accuracy and effectiveness. The updated dashboards are accessible at the [COVID-19 Portal](#). For better analysis, the biweekly death per million indicator replaced the death per million indicator in the [COVID-19 Country Profile](#). New data on national COVID-19 vaccine approval and people vaccinated against COVID-19 is added into the [Vaccine Landscape dashboard](#).

### **Resource Mobilization**

IFRC is actively soliciting support for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to roll-out vaccines under the Humanitarian Buffer. In August 2021, IFRC and PRCS developed an application for COVID-19 vaccine doses through the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer to vaccinate migrant populations, including Afghan refugees in border provinces in Pakistan. The IFRC and PRCS application was approved in December, and COVAX allocated 600,000 Sinopharm doses. To date, IFRC and PRCS urgently require CHF 2.1 million to cover the operational costs, which will ensure vaccines make it into the arms of the most vulnerable migrants and refugees at the Pakistan border. Several Partner National Societies, government and private sectors have been contacted to support PRCS. Efforts are ongoing, and an investment case is under development.

### **Security**

Security continues with supporting measures recommended by staff health and in close collaboration with business continuity, helping IFRC delegations keep an elevated level of operational ability and applying high Duty of Care standards for staff. Delegations have been supported in fast readjustments to changes in the pandemic.

## **Financial Analysis**

A total confirmed income of CHF 105 million had been received for the Asia Pacific. There is still a funding gap of CHF25 million. Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Pacific currently have huge funding gaps, which will potentially affect the implementation of planned activities until the end of the appeal (December 2022). Many countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific still need further funding, which is the focus of the revised appeal. Almost 91 per cent of the funding received are heavily earmarked to specific countries. To enable more flexibility and agility in mobilizing existing funds to respond to new waves, there is a need for more flexible funding (unearmarked).

National Societies and IFRC in the Asia Pacific region have requested no-cost extension for several pledged funds to ensure that implementation can be carried out and reported in a timely manner. The flexibility of donors to extend project timeframes has been much appreciated. Being the most disaster-prone region in the world, many countries, like Afghanistan, the Philippines and Pakistan, are also facing concurrent emergencies that have caused delays in implementation. Managing concurrent emergencies have stretched local capacities and delayed community outreach activities to the affected population.

Due to the second wave of COVID, countries like India, Nepal, and Bangladesh had increased needs and income, creating pressure to implement and spend on time. On the other hand, countries like PNG, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and some Pacific islands have spent more than 80 per cent of the confirmed income. Hence, they greatly need additional funds to support the response.

## National Society response – key highlights

### Afghanistan Red Crescent Society

As of 31 December 2021, the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan (MoPH) data showed cumulatively 158,381 confirmed cases (32.3 per cent positivity rate) of COVID-19, with 7,373 associated deaths (4.6 per cent case fatality rate) have been reported in Afghanistan since February 2020. COVID-19 vaccination through MoPH has now been opened to all those above 18 years of age. Vaccination is currently available in selected health facilities and through mobile vaccination teams. Furthermore, out of 8,167,923 vaccinated people, 3,809,353 (13.1 per cent) people have been fully vaccinated and 4,358,570 (15.0 per cent) people have been partially vaccinated.

Since the start of the COVID-19 response, ARCS has focused on the following: duty of care for responders; epidemic control measures (initial COVID-19 screening); risk communication, community engagement, and health and hygiene promotion; infection prevention and control and WASH at community level; isolation and clinical case management for COVID-19 cases; maintaining access to essential health services; support for maintaining routine immunization activities; support for COVID-19 vaccine roll-out; addressing vaccine hesitancy; and addressing socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Some of the key highlights:



*MoPH master trainer delivering a COVID-19 awareness and vaccination session to around 500 ARCS volunteers in a 6-day workshop. (Photo: ARCS)*

- 9.6 million people reached with a range of services including COVID-19 prevention awareness raising, RCCE, hygiene promotion, and screening via its network of 140 health facilities, including 70 mobile health teams (MHTs) and a COVID-19 hospital in Kabul. The health facilities of ARCS were provided with medicines, essential medical items, and PPE for front-liners.
- 5,106 staff and volunteers are supporting the screening of COVID-19 patients and they are actively engaged in the community-based surveillance for COVID-19.
- 1,200 youth volunteers (360 female, 840 male) were mobilized and engaged for conducting awareness on COVID-19 prevention, accompanied with distribution of soap for handwashing. Some, 33,150 bars of soap were distributed to 6,800 displaced or poor households in Herat, Balkh, and Nangarhar provinces.
- Women in Marastoons – which are safe shelters for widows and their children – were provided with inputs/resources for producing masks and PPE. The masks produced by the women were used for COVID-19 prevention awareness raising.
- 440,000 people screened for COVID-19, through ARCS COVID-19 hospital in Kabul and its network of 140 health facilities.
- 3,649 people administered COVID-19 vaccines in ARCS COVID-19 hospital in Kabul, which doubled as a COVID-19 vaccination centre.
- 565 volunteers mobilized and trained across four provinces (Kabul, Kandahar, Nangahar and Nuristan) for intensified RCCE and efforts aimed at reducing vaccine hesitancy; 1 million people were reached in the four provinces through intensified RCCE campaign supported by IFRC.
- ARCS – in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) – supported airing of public service announcements (PSA) on COVID-19 via leading television and radio stations, reaching more than 10 million people with messages to prevent COVID-19 as well as to encourage them to be vaccinated.
- 5,647 households provided with emergency food packages: 1,000 in Bamyán, 747 in Ghazni, 1,200 in Herat, 2,000 in Kabul and 700 in Kandahar.

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- 10,219 households provided with cash and voucher assistance (CVA): 1,233 in Badghis, 1,952 in Balkh, 5,196 in Daikundi, 1,138 in Herat and 700 in Samangan.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was procured and distributed to front line personnel, reaching some 1,000 staff and 6,250 volunteers. Additionally, salary and food allowances of medical personnel at ARCS COVID-19 hospital in Kabul was also covered, as well as death allowances were provided to families of ARCS staff who died after contracting COVID-19 in the line of duty.
- Essential staff were provided with solar panels and Internet data solutions so that they could work from home - to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among staff whilst ensuring business continuity.

### Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

With the support of IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNSs), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the country. From the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the IFRC Country Delegation (CD) and its in-country members, ICRC and other local partners have been actively supporting the response efforts of BDRCS.

More than 14,000 staff, youth and community volunteers have been mobilized in the COVID-19 response operation by BDRCS. One of the most crucial roles they are playing in supporting the government in country wide COVID-19 vaccination is that, on an average, 1,600 volunteers are assisting the vaccination programme every day. On the other hand, BDRCS supported around 26.7 million individuals in receiving their COVID-19 jab as a part of nationwide vaccination campaign. Some of the key highlights:

- 55,599 marginalized people have been supported for registration of vaccination till 26 December 2021.
- 25,119,992 individuals assisted in receiving respective vaccines support under regular and mass/special vaccination campaigns: 1) 25,119,992 vaccinated people assisted in receiving 1st Dose; 2) 18,976,562 vaccinated people assisted in receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose; 3) 1,327,275 vaccinated people have been assisted by BDRCS in receiving booster dose.
- Assisted the government's vaccination process and campaign in Korail, with the target of inoculating slum dwellers through on-the-spot registration; 16,221 people of Korail Slum have been vaccinated between 16 - 19 November 2021 for 1st dose and 15-18 January 2022 for 2nd dose.
- Under the COVID-19 Response Operation, Red Crescent volunteers supported the government to inoculate 5,286,487 people with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 4,896,589 people with 2nd dose in PROVASH supported 20 districts.
- 753,442 students received 1st dose and 455,345 students received 2nd doses of pfizer vaccine from 22 schools and colleges/centers in Dhaka through the special vaccination drive for school students, which started from 1 November 2021.
- 4,924 people with the life-saving free 24/7 oxygen support through the provision of oxygen cylinders and concentrators: 640 oxygen cylinders and 148 oxygen concentrators were sent to 68 BDRCS branches, including Mother and Child Care (MCH) centres located at the remote areas. At the same time, 7 sets of high-flow nasal cannula were distributed to the Holy Family Medical College Hospital in Dhaka and 3 sets to Magura district 250 government general hospital.
- 2,344 COVID-19 patients with free ambulance services in the worst affected districts: 21 units ambulances hired for providing emergency 24/7 transportation service to the critical COVID-19 patients.



*BDRCS volunteer supporting government's COVID-19 vaccination campaign (Photo: IFRC)*

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- 12,088,449 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) distributed, including facemasks, hand gloves, coveralls, face shields, glasses, sanitizers, soaps and many more.
- 1,956 people reached with psychosocial support (PSS) during October 2021-January 2022; overall, 39,606 people have been reached with PSS service.
- 2,781 tests conducted by the PCR lab at the Holy Family hospital, with confirmed 517 positive cases as of December 2021.
- 4 refrigerated vaccine-transportation vans handed over to the Government of Bangladesh with support from the IFRC and USAID on 15 November 2021.
- 36,862 households reached with conditional/unconditional cash and voucher support. Additionally, 125 Small Businessmen, from Ershadnagar, Tongi Gazipur, provided with conditional cash support, followed by their business plan development. A total of BDT 18,75,000.00 transferred to the individual bank account through bank transfer process.
- Cooked food distributed in the most 19 impacted districts. During 21 June to 3 December 2021, 176,850 people were provided with cooked food pack, especially whose livelihood adversely affected due to country wide movement restriction.
- 402 calls received through the CEA hotline number related to information request, service request, vaccination information, etc.
- A two-days long training programme titled "Volunteer Engagement for COVID-19 Vaccination" organized by BDRCS at Caritas Development Institute (CDA) Dhaka. Objective of this programme is to Instruct young volunteers on relevant awareness issues regarding COVID-19, so they can better disseminate respective information to mass people.

## Population Movement Operation (PMO), Cox's Bazar in COVID-19 Response

- According to WHO, as of 27 January 2022, a total of 3,703 have been recorded in the camp settlement, with 20,101 cases among the host community in Cox's Bazar district. The cumulative death count from 2020 to 30 January 2021 stands at 35 in the camp community and 257 in the host community.
- Phased vaccinations of the camp population, undertaken by the government, began in August 2021. On 1 December 2021, the second phase of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign for displaced people in the camp settlement, was instituted by the government in collaboration with the UN-led Inter Sector Coordination Group. Six BDRCS health facilities were among the 34 facilities (across 34 camps) utilized for the vaccinations. Up to 29 December 2021, 306,727 people from the camps received their first dose (comprising 79 per cent of the intended target). In the first phase of vaccinations conducted in the camps in August for individuals aged 55 years and above, a total of 33 386 people were vaccinated.
- 85,725 people in both camp and host communities were reached between 1 October-31 December 2021 through the Isolation and Treatment Centre (ITC) services in the camp settlement and community outreach activities such as hygiene promotion and handwashing sessions complemented with key health messages aimed at spreading awareness of COVID-19. The ITC saw a decline in inpatients - in December 2021, 19 new patients were admitted with COVID-19 symptoms, out of which 2 were positive, while in November, 34 patients were admitted and 5 of them were positive cases.

### Bhutan Red Cross Society

The Bhutan Red Cross Society (BRCS) plays a vital role in complementing the government's effort in combating the COVID-19 pandemic especially during lockdowns, through various national response activities supported by its dedicated staff and volunteers.

Furthermore, BRCS has been accredited by the government's Health Emergency Management Committee as the lead agency for dead body management and cremation related activities. Specialized volunteers have also handled the management and transportation of any COVID-19 related and suspected deaths. Some of the key highlights:

- In coordination with the Royal Centre for Disease Control, supported health screenings organized at Bhutan's border entries, as well as surveillance and disinfection activities, including ensuring public compliance to

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health protocols, disinfection of vehicles and commodities and public advocacy on the COVID-19 preventive measures, especially in the southern areas categorized as high-risk areas. As of Jan 2022, some 2,309 contacts have been traced with the support of BRCS.

- Extensive specialized volunteer network of BRCS has been used to provide public service delivery to those stranded and in need in rural and urban areas, especially during national lockdowns. Prior to the lockdown, BRCS carried out an extensive COVID-19 advocacy programme and set up a total of 43 WASH facilities in 20 Dzongkhags.
- 758,355 people have been reached through risk communication and community engagement for health, hygiene promotion and other risk reduction activities.
- 'Red Cross Ride for Health' initiative of BRCS provided free transportation, within districts and across districts, to 361 patients from their homes to hospitals and back and 260 meal boxes to travellers during lockdowns.
- Supported the Government of Bhutan's effort in the COVID-19 vaccination roll out programme and in transporting health workers to help the public register for the vaccination. As of January 2022, 241,213 individuals have been supported to get COVID-19 vaccinations since the beginning of the COVID-19 response.
- 2,785 people have been reached with food or other in-kind assistance.



BRCS volunteers assist in conducting COVID screening (Photo: BRCS)

### Cambodian Red Cross

Cambodia has the highest rate of vaccination among the four Mekong countries of Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos<sup>2</sup>. Currently, it has vaccinated 81 per cent of its eligible population and has among the lowest current daily case load with 331

cases reported daily.

By the end of 2021, The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) has trained 1,757 (including 678 women) staff and volunteers on Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) & Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) through weekly online trainings in collaboration with WHO and Royal University of Phnom Penh.

In consultation with local authorities and partners, 11 Red Cross Branches are using the collective effort of Red Cross Volunteers/Youths to promote behaviour change among local communities to cope with COVID-19. Teams from the branches are conducting home visits, meetings in small groups of less than 10 people and spreading messages on prevention of COVID-19 using posters, flyers, banners,



COVID-19 prevention and protection awareness raising being carried out in rural communities by CRC staff and volunteers.

Source: CRC

<sup>2</sup> For the countries of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia – all data regarding daily caseloads and vaccinations have been taken from [OurWorld in Data](#)

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mobile loudspeakers, and peer educators. By November, they have reached a total of 184,326 people (100,428 females) and 2,664 migrants (1,506 females) in 1,205 villages.

CRC adapted IEC materials received from the Ministry of Health and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and subsequently procured and distributed 25000 pieces of flyers on COVID-19 prevention and Mental Health, and 385 T-Shirts and 385 caps printed with the key MHPSS messages to support risk communication and health promotion activities.

### Red Cross Society of China

From 17 October 2021 until the end of January 2022, China reported sporadic cases of COVID-19 in several provinces. In response to the outbreaks, RCSC headquarter actively dispatched medical equipment, transferred funds and procured negative pressure ambulances to RCSC branches in need. In November 2021, the Chinese Red Cross Foundation donated 11 negative pressure ambulances and 200,000 surgical masks to RCSC branches in Inner Mongolia and Gansu for COVID-19 control work, including patient transferring and PCR tests. In December 2021, the RCSC Hubei branch dispatched the ambulance transfer team to Xi'an in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

### International support by RCSC

In November 2021, RCSC donated 200,000 and 100,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine to the Pakistan Red Crescent and Laos Red Cross, respectively. In early December, RCSC donated 50,000 COVID-19 testing kits to the Mongolian Red Cross Society. As of 2021, RCSC has actively donated COVID-19 vaccines to 11 countries, including Ethiopia, Lebanon, Syria, Thailand, Cambodia, Georgia, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Laos.

Since the end of January 2022, Hong Kong SAR has been experiencing its largest wave of COVID-19. In response to the resurgence, the Hongkong Red Cross a branch of the RCSC (HKRC) has supported the HKSAR government COVID-19 response measures, established a [HKRC COVID-19 support hotline](#) to the public, and strengthened its existing services. From December 2021 to February 2022, HKRC conducted a new round of community preparedness actions, including community outreach activities, provision of PPE to vulnerable groups and delivery of risk communication messages. HKRC updated the guideline for community service and volunteer mobilization, and all services, training and meetings resumed normally under specific epidemic measures. A seven-day psychosocial support (PSS) hotline service (under the programme named "Shall We Talk") was launched during 22-28 January 2022. The hotline has provided emergency psychological support service to those who suffered mental distress during the fifth wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in Hongkong. One-off cash assistance was provided to the unemployed/underemployed affected by the business closure and COVID-19 restrictions to release their economic burden.



*The RCSC Hubei branch ambulance transfer team. Source: RCSC*

### Cook Islands Red Cross Society

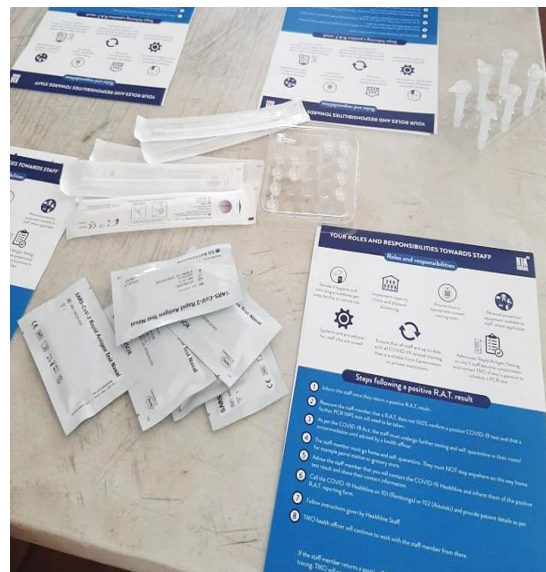
CIRCS staff and volunteers have supported three major vaccine roll-outs between October 2021-January 2022. CIRCS staff and volunteers were deployed to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) with the vaccination roll-out, which included supporting registration, controlling the crowd and catering services. During the vaccination roll-out, **12,704 people** were supported.

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CIRCS has been working closely with MoH to prepare for contact tracing with training on MoH Godata and the track and trace system. MOH and CIRCS have conducted rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) training staff are certified by the Health Ministry to conduct the tests.

Public awareness continues to increase as the threat of the virus spreading in the communities is expected to rise with opening international borders. Red Cross and MoH visited Ministries/agencies/churches and some businesses and briefed on Omicron, what to expect, how to prepare for it and what support they can access once there is an outbreak here.

Communication teams from RCS and MoH also developed booklets for people in isolation and quarantine. The wellness diary has information on how individuals can look after their health.



CIRCS staff receive RAT training from the Ministry of Health. Photo: CIRCS

### Red Cross Society of Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The government of the DPRK has put emergency anti-epidemic work as a top priority in the state affairs that should be powerfully conducted with no allowance given to slight slackness, gap and drawback.

The Government, in response to the rapid spread of new COVID-19 variants, including Omicron, around the world with high infectivity and mortality, is scaling up the anti-epidemic campaign to maintain a public anti-epidemic atmosphere and nationwide conformability on a voluntary basis, considering the strict observance of anti-epidemic rules and regulation as their vital requirement and habit.

The DPRK RCS has been fulfilling its responsibilities and roles in the anti-epidemic campaign, as an auxiliary to the government. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the DPRK RCS, through its wide network of volunteers and branches across the country, conducted sessions on hygiene promotion for public awareness, disinfection and screening in close collaboration with the national stakeholders including Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the State Anti-Epidemic authorities.

Main activities:

- The staff and Red Cross volunteers of the branches were mobilized to conduct health and hygiene promotion in cooperation with household doctors.

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- DPRK RCS with the support of IFRC country delegation has started procurement of PPE kits.
  - Achievements
- During the reporting period, around **101,300 RC volunteers** were mobilized across the country to disseminate key health and hygiene messages to around **1.02 million people** in close collaboration with the household doctors and anti-epidemic staff.
- Around **12,000 RC volunteers** were trained to deliver messages on hygiene promotion and preventive measures relating to COVID-19 through public education networks in their respective cities and counties in close cooperation with anti-epidemic authorities and household doctors.
- The procurement of PPE kit was finalized by end of December 2021 and the items are temporarily stored in the warehouse of Dalian city, China.



RC volunteers supporting screening. *Photo: DPRK RCS*

### Fiji Red Cross Society

As the second wave of COVID-19 continued to rise in Fiji, FRCS deployed over 280 volunteers from RC branches to assist the MoH at vaccine sites. Support was provided to Western, Central and Eastern divisions in the main island of Viti Levu and extended

to the Northern Island of Vanua Levu as well in the reporting period.

FRCS support in Vaccine registration compriseded the following tasks:

- Assisting in venue/booth set up
- Assisting in crowd control
- Completing registrations for the general public through;
- Verification of ID's
- Carrying out Birth Registration Number (BRN) searches
- Filling in offline and online Vaccine registration forms



FRCS volunteers assisting the Ministry of Health n by verifying data and vaccine registrations. *Source: FRCS*

People reached through the support given by volunteers:

- **Registration** – registered number of people to receive their first (vaccination dose). The number of people reached is reported from nine branches: Labasa, Savusavu, Seaqaqa, Lautoka, Nadi, Rakiraki, Sigatoka, Tavua and Suva.

Vaccination Activity	Males	Females	People Reached
Registration for first dose	n/a	n/a	44,292
Verification for the second dose	47,606	42,306	89,912

*People reached by FRCS COVID-19 vaccination activities.*

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- **Verification** – people’s information being verified against system record before receiving their second vaccination dose. The number of people reached is reported from the nine branches: Labasa, Savusavu, Seaqqa, Lautoka, Nadi, Rakiraki, Sigatoka, Tavua and Suva.
- **Blood Donation** – In October – November 2021, the Suva branch reached and collected blood from 867 people. Other Branches did not participate in the blood drive.

Month/Year	Activity	Total People Reached
November 2021	Blood Donation	411
October 2021	Blood Donation	456
<b>Total People reached</b>		<b>867</b>

*People who donated blood through the FRCS.*

A feedback form was developed and deployed through the KOBO toolbox to enable all FRCS staff and volunteers to record and respond to various COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccine issues. Online training on the feedback form was conducted for FRCS staff and volunteers. FRCS deployed 80 volunteers in October to conduct CEA and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy survey. A total of 107 feedbacks were received from 50 women and 57 men in the Cakaudrove and Ba provinces of Fiji. Feedback was primarily related to observations or comments about the vaccine and how it influenced access to different services. The community feedback survey can be found [here](#).

Preventative Radio COVID-19 messages have been aired at five communication stations – FM96, Navtarang, VITIFM, Legend FM and Sargam for 30 seconds on the following:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly with soap and water
- Maintain social distancing
- Talk to loved ones
- Coughing etiquette

Each station targeted different community segments in the three main languages (Itaukei, English and Hindi). This campaign would have reached about 250,000 people through the different radio stations, with most of the reached population within the Suva-Nausori corridor.

### Indian Red Cross Society

India faced the Omicron wave from late December 2021, and the highest number of daily cases was recorded on 21 January 2022, which was 347,254 according to WHO. Since then, the number dropped to 167,059 on 31 January 2022. In the meantime, the number of daily deaths increased from the middle of January 2022 and reached 959 on 31 January 2022. As of 29 January 2022, 53.4 per cent of the population were fully vaccinated and 67.4 per cent finished the first dose.

Some of the key highlights of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) COVID-19 response during the reporting period:

- Supported people to access vaccinations through the state governments' vaccination programme.
- Raised community awareness of COVID-19 and immunization, including handwashing demonstrations.
- Completed the conversion work on 39 ambulances, which were modified to install medical equipment. Additionally, progress was made on the conversion of 48 blood collection vans and 7 mobile-testing and vaccinations vans. The tender for one boat ambulance was also launched.
- 10,000 volunteer jackets received from the IFRC.
- 300,000 hygiene kits and 100,000 blankets procurement and delivery completed.
- Procurement of 75,000 kitchen sets and 100,000 tarpaulins is under process. Deliveries for both will be completed by May 2022.
- IT equipment for emergency operations centres was delivered in 18 state branches and installation is completed.

## COVID-19 Asia Pacific Region | National Society Highlights

- Finalization of the implementation plan.



IRCS volunteers distribute hygiene kits in the state of Gujarat (Photo: IRCS)



IRCS volunteers help with health checks in the state of Manipur (Photo: IRCS)

### Indonesian Red Cross Society

With the support of IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNSs), The Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI) continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the country. Indonesia experienced its third wave of COVID-19 in January 2022, and the daily cases have reached over 20,000 in the middle of February. PMI plays a vital role in complementing the government's effort in combating the COVID-19 pandemic through various national response activities supported by its dedicated staff and volunteers of more than 6,000 personnel have been mobilized in 34 provinces and 403 PMI districts/cities all over Indonesia.

One of the most crucial roles they are playing in supporting the government in country wide COVID-19 vaccination is that, on an average, more than 1,000 professional medical personnel and volunteers are assisting the vaccination programme. On the other hand, PMI supported around 2 million individuals in receiving their COVID-19 jabs as a part of nationwide vaccination campaign. In addition to that, some of the key highlights include:

- More than 8,000 COVID-19 patients, outpatients, suspects, and deaths have been treated and administered at PMI Hospital Bogor.
- Health services have reached 1,846,028 people, while home-based care and mental health and psychosocial support services have reached 38,046 people.
- Health and hygiene promotion activities have reached 7,642,953 people.
- PMI has facilitated the transportation of 1,474 suspect/confirmed COVID-19 cases and has provided dead body management services for 1,399 deceased patients. In addition, PMI is currently upgrading six ambulances in 6 big provinces to meet the COVID-19 infection, prevention and control (IPC) standards.
- Around 982,420 health and cleaning kits have been provided for communities.
- More than 6 million pieces of various PPEs and equipment have been distributed.
- More than 100,000 IEC materials such as posters and banners have been distributed to PMI offices all over Indonesia.
- 99,381 patients have received convalescent plasmas from 42 PMI Blood Donor Units all over Indonesia for COVID-19 therapy treatment at the hospital.
- Household and public sanitizing have reached approximately more than 38 million people in 116,750 locations.
- PMI maintained its support to fill the gap of oxygen needs by delivering oxygen related supplies to PMI clinics, health centres, communities, and families most in need, a total of 500 oxygen cylinders provided in 10 provinces that benefitted approximately more than 1,000 people.
- PMI with the support of IFRC is actively co-leading the RCCE Working Group in the country that comprises of various stakeholders from private, non-profit, and independent institutions.

## COVID-19 Asia Pacific Region | National Society Highlights

- PMI strengthens its COVID-19 vaccination campaign through #BeraniVaksinKeren tagline in several platforms such as radio live talk show, podcast, webinar, and social media posts that have reached approximately 4 million people. Additionally, PMI also strengthened its campaign through SMS blast; approximately 48,000 elders were reached.
- PMI published a COVID-19 Vaccine perception survey that reached more than 5,000 respondents. Furthermore, with the rapid changes of the COVID-19 situation in the country, PMI is reviewing its RCCE guideline, especially to emphasize on COVID-19 vaccination).

### Japanese Red Cross Society

Japan entered its sixth wave of COVID-19 in January 2022, with a record 54,581 daily cases reported on 22 January, the highest since the COVID-19 outbreak. The booster shot has started for medical staff and seniors over 65 years old since December 2021. However, only 2 per cent of the total population has got the third dose as of January 2022.

Overall, 90 out of 91 Japanese Red Cross Hospitals have been involved in the COVID-19 operations. As of 9 January 2022, 253 inpatients and 19,797 patients were admitted to Japanese Red Cross hospitals. These 90 hospitals have treated cumulative 204,108 COVID-19 outpatients. In addition, Japanese Red Cross Hospitals have deployed 16,160 medical personnel to other medical facilities, social welfare facilities, prefectures/local governments and PCR testing sites, as well as vaccination campaign sites to get involved in COVID-19 related tasks.

Due to the surge of the sixth wave of COVID-19 with the more transmissible Omicron variant virus, JRCS has decided to suspend face-to-face training/meetings since the end of January 2022.

### The Republic of Korea National Red Cross

South Korea suffered its fifth wave of COVID-19 in January 2022, and the daily cases have reached over 100,000 in the middle of February. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, The Republic of Korea

National Red Cross (KNRC) hospitals have continued to carry out COVID-19 programmes, including COVID-19 treatment, screening and vaccination. KNRC has been providing psychological consultations to support people who are in need since the start of the pandemic.

Children are one of the most vulnerable groups affected by COVID-19 strict restrictions on outdoor activities and public gatherings and the closure of community care services. From November 2021 to April 2022, the KNRC implements its PSS programme for children and adolescents under 18, mainly covering students from vulnerable families or those supported by community childcare centres. KNRC will conduct PSS activities and provide education allowance to support vulnerable children and deliver masks through the programme.

In addition, woman's volunteer groups in the KNRC Seoul chapter packaged and delivered 'Gift of Love Boxes' to vulnerable families with children. The programme has been running since the 1960s with the support of women's volunteer groups. The boxes mainly consist of clothes, foods, daily necessities, PPE, and nutritional supplements to boost the immune system in response to the pandemic.



Woman's volunteer groups in Seoul chapter are packing 'Gift of Love Boxes'. Source: KNRC

## COVID-19 Asia Pacific Region | National Society Highlights

Unexpected self-quarantine makes marginalized families' livelihoods harder as they have limited access to or lose the means of living. To respond to their needs in the face of the surge of Omicron in South Korea, KNRC delivered 300 COVID-19 response kits, consisting of food, sanitizers and masks to low-income families under self-quarantine.

### Kiribati Red Cross Society

In October, 229 students (129 females and 100 males) in 13 primary schools received training in first aid, which included information about COVID-19 prevention.

- The KRCS, in collaboration with the Global Handwashing Day and the World Toilet Day Committee, three government ministries and other stakeholders, visited Maiana Island and developed a roadshow that reached **1,354 people** in ten communities' four schools. The roadshow raised awareness on water safety, handwashing, proper waste disposal and the second dose of COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The health coordinator attended the national WASH committee meetings led by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy.

### Lao Red Cross

Nearly 60 per cent of the eligible population in Laos has been fully vaccinated, and children in the age group of 6-11 years will begin receiving their vaccinations next month. Although Omicron variant has been reported in the country, the daily cases remain relatively low at 335 cases per day. The government has removed lockdown measures while still urging everyone to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and opened the country for tourism. Lao Red Cross continues to support COVID-19 prevention and response measures by raising awareness, distributing PPE, training staff and volunteers, and providing food assistance to people under quarantine.

During October- December 2021, LRC conducted training in five provinces of Khammuan, Savanakheth, Champasak, Salavan, Attapeu provinces for 104 (49 women, 55 men) staff members from the provincial branches, local government staff and youth volunteers. The training topics included basic knowledge about Covid-19, covid-19 vaccinations, prevention measures, cleaning and disinfection techniques, crowd management at vaccination centres and communication skills for public awareness-raising.

Awareness sessions were held at 122 villages in 11 districts of these provinces, reaching 24,556 people (13,202 women, 11,354 men). They raised awareness on COVID-19 prevention measures, the use of PPE and vaccinations.

LRC provides cooked food boxes for people admitted to COVID-19 field hospitals in the provinces of Khammuan, Champasak and Vientiane. With a decreasing number of people in these hospitals, this support is currently being extended only for two hospitals in Champasak province for 1,340 persons (591 women, 749 men).



Trainers demonstrating the use of PPE at a training session. Picture courtesy: LRC

Malaysian Red Crescent Society

Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) continues mobile vaccination activities, targeting migrants, indigenous communities and

vulnerable households, including people with disabilities, seniors, and people with illnesses. Vaccination activities have reached **35,018 people** since July 2021. MRCS is rolling out the booster campaign with the Ministry of Health to target vulnerable families and migrants.

MRCS started distributing home care guidance and home kits to vulnerable households under home quarantine since December 2021. Up to now, 600 home kits have been distributed. MRCS continues to conduct RCCE activities by providing information on COVID-19 prevention, vaccination, and home care for self-quarantine in different states. When conducting RCCE activities, MRCS also distributed PPE and home kits to the communities.

With support from WHO, MRCS completed the third and fourth round of the Perception Survey on COVID-19 Issues nationwide. The final report is currently waiting for the endorsement from WHO, after which it will be shared with other stakeholders.

MRCS MHPSS is preparing mental health awareness activities conducted at the community level. This increases awareness of mental health issues in the community and promotes the Careline Centre's usage at the community level. MRCS continue their Careline Centre to provide MHPSS services to a community level.



Mobile vaccination in one island, Sabah.  
Photo credit: MRCS

Maldivian Red Crescent Society

The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) has been a part of the Health Emergency Operations Center (previously the National Emergency Operations Center) set up by the Health Protection Agency and Ministry of Health, with representation of all response agencies and stakeholders. The National Society has been focusing on the following areas: Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), Migrant support services, Medical relief services, and Support for Immunization. Some of the key highlights:

- 7,745 volunteers were trained/oriented in psychosocial support (PSS) and PFA between March 2020 – December 2021
- PSS provided to the public through a nationwide toll-free PSS helpline service along with risk communication and community engagement activities. The established nationwide PSS helpline serviced 5,455 calls during this period.
- A toll-free migrant support helpline was established by MRC Male City Unit to provide assistance to migrants in need, especially to those living in hard-to reach areas. During 2021, this helpline received 4,172 calls.
- Migrant Meal Provision Programme activity was resumed between February to end-August 2021, in Male', Addu City and Lh. Hinnavaru Island, providing 5,309 meals and distributing 3,479 hygiene kits among migrants.
- As of 31 December 2021, MRC teams supported the rapid response teams of the Health Emergency



MRC volunteers engaging in talks with migrant workers (Photo: 11/01/2022 16:48)

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Operation Centre in the Movement of 947 COVID-19 positive patients (primarily elderly or bed-ridden patients) to treatment facilities. To address the challenges in blood supply during the COVID-19 pandemic, 10 blood camps were organized during 2021, with 297 donors donating blood.

- Since February 2021, MRC has been supporting the Health Protection Agency in supporting its' nationwide COVID-19 vaccination efforts. A total of 200 volunteers were mobilized to provide support at vaccination centres, supporting over 15,000 people with their COVID-19 vaccination. In January 2022, MRC supported 4,133 migrants get the COVID-19 booster shots. MRC continued its' support in carrying out mobile vaccination for bed-ridden and high-risk elderly patients living in Greater Male' Region completing 553 mobile vaccination trips.

### Marshall Island Red Cross Society

A team of ten Red Cross volunteers continue to provide full-time support to the MoH in registering individuals for vaccination. The team is based at headquarters and is deployed with vaccination teams as required. The health coordinator at MIRCS, a qualified nurse, is deployed as part of the vaccination team.

The MoH team and the MIRCS continued with the vaccination roll-out in Rearlaplap Arno atoll. MIRCS reached five communities and vaccinated **118 adults**.

The vaccination teams also reached Lae Atoll, where **109 people** were vaccinated over three days. COVID-19 awareness was delivered in the communities, and 20 people participated in a two-day workshop for CPR and first aid.

Throughout the island, MIRCS continues to reach the population of Marshall Islands via radio station V7AB, which disseminates COVID-19 safety measures such as how to use masks, social distancing and washing of hands. Also, MIRCS uses the Marshall Islands Journal weekly newspaper, where COVID-19 information and other important events are published.



An MIRCS nurse administering the COVID-19 vaccine to a woman, accompanied by her child. Source: MIRCS



Volunteers registering people for vaccinations. Source: MIRCS

### Micronesia Red Cross Society

In support of both the National and State Government, the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) has mobilized **60 staff and volunteers** to support the COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation efforts. MRCS has assisted with risk communication, localization, translation, and dissemination of health messages and hygiene promotion in coordination with stakeholders.

In October, MRCS joined the Federated State of Micronesia (FSM) Health, World Health Organization and UNICEF to conduct two planning meetings to propose the adolescent vaccination roll-out process in Yap State. Total of **460 students (222 male and 238 female)**, about 55 per cent of students, are now vaccinated and homeschooled.

MRCS engaged with communities in Yap to deliver COVID-19 preventative measures messages. Up to **67 people** received community messaging in the Gaagil Elementary School, Tomil community, and North Fanif Elementary school.

**Mongolian Red Cross Society**

Mongolia suffered its fourth wave of COVID-19, with the daily cases reaching over 3,000 in late January 2022. Omicron cases accounted for over 90 per cent of the daily cases in the country. As of 26 January 2022, 66.7 per cent of the total population received two COVID-19 vaccine doses, while 1,002,623 people have received the third dose. More than 76,100 Mongolians have received a fourth dose, which the country started to administer on 7 January voluntarily.



Vaccination promotion brochure front and back side. Source: MRCS

MRCS trained around 400 volunteers in infectious disease surveillance. They have been working at the Field Epidemiology Unit of the National Centre for Communicable Disease across 112 family health centres in the capital city. The volunteers conduct surveillance, research and surveys, trace close contacts, provide psychological support and deliver health packages to confirmed cases in respective districts.

Online training funded by IFRC on disseminating and promoting vaccinations in local areas was organized on 20 October 2021 with the support of the capital city's National Health Centre and the National Centre for Communicable Diseases. A total of 150 volunteers from the Red Cross mid-level

branches in 21 provinces were involved. Vaccination promotion brochures were made according to the online training, and it has been published and distributed to target groups through Red Cross mid-level branches.

In November 2021, IFRC conducted field trips with MRCS in Mongolia to visit and interview beneficiaries and volunteers at vaccination sites and communities in Tuv province and Ulaanbaatar. The trip helped monitor project implementation and collect materials for communication and publicity, for publishing a series of communication materials: [Mongolia COVID web story](#), [Mongolia photo collection](#), and two videos ([video 1](#)) ([video 2](#)), which increase the awareness of the problems and urge to the public to support MRCS operations.

In late December 2021, with the support of IFRC, MRCS conducted unconditional cash transfers to 1,000 vulnerable households in nine districts of Ulaanbaatar suffering from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Myanmar Red Cross Society**

The rate of daily positive cases began at 7.83 per cent in the beginning of October 2021 and then peaked at 8.63 per cent on 10 October 2021 before falling dramatically to 1.85 per cent and remain less than 2 per cent until end of Dec 2021. There were mild fluctuations with a gradual decline of confirmed cases towards the third week of January 2022. However, the number of daily cases has begun to rise again in Myanmar in the last week of January, dominated by the new Omicron variant while zero deaths were reported until the end of Jan 2022. The vaccination rate increased to 40.2 per cent, of which 85.2 per cent are fully vaccinated (received two doses).

By the end of January 2022, a total of 536,393 people in the country had tested positive for COVID-19 and more than 19,000 deaths had been recorded by the Ministry of Health (MoH). The MOH announced that there is a total of 283 cases related to the Omicron infections from 28 December 2021 until 28 January 2022. With this potential new wave, MRCS continues to contribute to COVID-19 control measures, including supporting quarantine facilities, health screening, vaccination roll-out efforts, as well as scaling up provision of oxygen therapy supplies, hygiene items and PPE.

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- more than **2.6 million people** have been supported in receiving COVID-19 vaccination doses
- nearly **56,000 people** supported living under quarantine measures, and **1,954 people** transported by ambulance services.
- The MRCS maintained its support to fill the gap of oxygen needs and as preparedness measures for new wave by delivering oxygen-related supplies to health centres, communities and families most in need. A total of 544 oxygen cylinders provided in 10 states/regions benefitted 2,126 people during the same period. This was made possible through support from the IFRC and other MRCS partners.



MRCS strives to ensure continuous access to basic health care and referral services to the people affected. (Photo: MRCS)

### Nepal Red Cross Society

Nepal is experiencing the third wave of COVID-19 infection starting from the mid of December 2021 with pre-dominant variant being Omicron. The peak was reached in the mid-January 2022 after which it started to recede gradually. As of 31 January 2022, the recovery rate is 90.5 per cent along with the case fatality rate of 1.3 per cent.<sup>3</sup>

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been implementing its COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operation since January 2020 with the support of IFRC and its membership. Some key highlights:

- 503 female community health volunteers were trained on the proper use of the pulse oximeter in coordination with the local health authorities. The trained volunteers will be mobilized to support the people in home isolation due to COVID-19 infection to monitor the oxygen level; one of the major indicators to determine the requirement of the hospitalization.
- 219 people infected with COVID-19 or probable case of COVID-19 requiring hospital care were supported with Red Cross ambulance transport service.
- 2,540 health kits provided to COVID-19 centres, isolation sites and people residing in home isolations.
- 11 hand washing stations in the isolation sites, hospitals and schools repaired to promote the handwashing practices in those centres. In addition, 4,085 people reached with the hand washing demonstrations in the communities.
- 2.9 million people reached through the Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Accountability activities in the community.



NRCS volunteers distributing mask in the communities amidst the third wave of the COVID-19 infection (Photo: NRCS)

<sup>3</sup> <https://heoc.mohp.gov.np/update-on-novel-corona-virus-covid-19/>

## COVID-19 Asia Pacific Region | National Society Highlights

- 131,697 people reached with WASH activities in the communities.
- 4,570 people reached with mental health and psychosocial support services.
- 137,563 people support and services from more than 600 Red Cross volunteers mobilized at the vaccination sites.

### Pakistan Red Crescent Society

End of December marked the start of the fifth wave of COVID-19 in Pakistan with the rapid spread of the infectious Omicron variant. The positivity rate peaked at 13 per cent on 22 January, the highest rate since the outbreak's start. A decrease in number of cases is being experienced February onwards, with positivity rate dropping to 3.27 percent as of 20 February while 42 percent of the population fully vaccinated. Some key highlights of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) COVID-19 response:

- vaccination centres expanded to 11 static and 15 mobile centres across the country, vaccinating 502,595 people. Extra attention has been provided in centre location selection to ensure coverage in areas home to large host communities, migrants, refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and hard to reach communities. To further ensure the inclusion of marginalized population groups excluded from the national campaign, 600,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine have been secured under the Humanitarian Buffer, already have vaccinated 2,641 refugees.
- Efforts are ongoing to address vaccine hesitancy through volunteer mobilization and mass media campaigns. A television commercial was broadcasted nationwide in December 2021 to help encourage the population to get vaccinated, linking to PRCS hotline number 1030 for additional information and queries to be addressed. Also, Radio advertisements broadcasted across hard-to-reach areas of Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ensure full coverage.
- Two perception surveys conducted to gauge the community and frontline workers views on COVID-19 and vaccination hesitancy across 63 districts. The collected data will be used to tailor RCCE messages directly addressing the concerns and hesitancy in communities through the volunteers in the process of being trained on the PRCS RCCE module developed under the response.
- 24,526 household hygiene kits and 1,000 household water filters distributed across the country to further promote the integration of good hygiene practices in the daily routine of households, reaching 262,862 people.



PRCS volunteers are assisting with COVID-19 vaccination under the nationwide campaign. (Photo: PRCS)

### Palau Red Cross

PRCS targeted to reach 11,500 people between 18-65 with COVID-19 information, education, and communication (IEC) through their widely used Facebook page from October to December 2021. PRCS has also participated in a radio talkback show to address COVID-19 preventative measures, reaching a total of **4,081 people**.

In December, **25 participants** from PRCS headquarters and representatives from ten states participated in a two-day community-based surveillance (CBS) for the COVID-19 workshop. Participants received refresher training on COVID-19, symptoms, transmission and prevention, proper handling of PPE and contact tracing. Red Cross disaster action teams (RDATs) and volunteers were trained to conduct COVID-19 community-based surveillance and assist the community disease unit at the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) with surveillance and referrals.

In preparation for an outbreak of COVID-19, 532 COVID-19 hygiene kits containing face masks, alcohol-based hand rubs, and IEC materials were distributed to children at four daycare centres to target the unvaccinated population.

PRCS conducted a vulnerability assessment of residential barracks identified as vulnerable in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. In the barracks, residents live in crowded living quarters, often with communal facilities, yet, current data was unavailable for the community. The survey drew participation from **185 people**. As part of the assessment, PRCS collected data on the demographics of the residents, their living conditions and WASH facilities. The data will be used for preparedness and enable rapid assistance to the most vulnerable in the event of an outbreak.



Hygiene kit delivery at one of the day centres. Source: PRCS

### Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society

As of 13 February, the cumulative total of confirmed COVID-19 cases is now 38,671 in PNG. There was an increase of 1,401 cases reported in the last fortnight, a 70 per cent jump from previous weeks. The number of confirmed deaths is now 610. The vaccination campaign is rebounding slowly. As of 13 February, 406,556 vaccination doses have been administered nationwide: 143,296 were the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and 20,169 were the Sinopharm vaccine. As of 13 February, 3,911 booster shots have been administered nationwide: 3,084 were AstraZeneca and 827 were Johnson & Johnson.

Large amounts of PPEs were distributed in 13 provinces across PNG through the Cola-Cola Euro Pacific distribution networks. The PPE has the potential to serve 3,000-5,000 people across the provinces through the delivery of 636,000 surgical masks, 65,000 examination gloves and 360 infrared thermometers. The PPE is distributed to Public Health Authority (PHA), Provincial Disaster Management Agency and local Red Cross branches. With support from the Australian Red Cross and IFRC, PNGRCS engaged Cola-Cola to support its COVID-19 operation and build a strong partnership on commercial first aid training.

Currently, PNGRCS has developed their 2022 COVID-19 Response Plan that emphasizes addressing vaccine hesitancy through community engagement and accountability. The plan also covers operating the vaccine centre in collaboration with PHA in some branches, home-based care for self-quarantine to reduce medical facilities workload and mobilizing ambulance service in collaboration with existing services in the capital to support the surge.

### Philippine Red Cross

During the last week of December 2021 up to the first two weeks of January 2022, the COVID19 situation in PH has worsened.

The Philippines must focus on increasing the vaccination rate nationally and do booster shots. PRC has continued its ongoing support to healthcare authorities, especially regarding aggressive vaccination activities. Through its Bakuna Centers Bakuna Bus and team augmentation, PRC has administered **856,209 doses of the vaccine**: 431,990 through the Bakuna Center and 262,911 through the Bakuna Bus.



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PRC launched an anti-COVID-19 System Q&A Open Chat Forum initiative. A Facebook Page was created wherein people can participate in a question-and-answer open forum about queries on COVID-19 and vaccines, together with a medical consultant. The initiative provided a platform for differently abled and marginalized persons to access COVID-19 information.

Meanwhile, in managing COVID19 cases, PRC, with the Movement support, operates and manages four active isolation facilities in the country. On top of these, PRC's notable accomplishment includes:

- Setting up **111 medical field tents**, serving more than **270,000 patients**;
- Collecting 1,1171 units of blood plasma through the Convalescent Plasma Center, serving **1,024 patients** from 113 hospitals, is one of the integral interventions for those who require this treatment;
- Operationalizing molecular laboratories in 14 areas, with **over 5.3 million tests** conducted and as well as participation in genome sequencing to determine the variants that are present in the country;
- Reaching out to **12 million people** with health and hygiene awareness activities as part of risk communication and community engagement initiatives.



*To support the government's effort in providing enough isolation facility for those COVID-19 patients, Philippine Red Cross has set up four isolation facilities. Photo: PRC*

### Samoa Red Cross Society

The Samoa Red Cross Society (SRCS) collaborated with the Ministry of Health to support the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in October 2021-December 2021. Most Samoans are well-informed about the developments related to COVID-19 and its spread, relying on television, internet/social media and radio to access information, especially from SRCS and MoH awareness programs.

During the vaccination programme outreach, SRCS has reached **57,371 people (35,303 males, 20,620 females, and 1,448 people with disabilities)** for this reporting period. Volunteers engaged with different communities to provide trusted information on the vaccine and address misinformation. Approximately **52 volunteers** have been deployed with the MoH team at 23 vaccination sites, providing first aid standby, crowd management, community mobilization, and monitoring people following vaccination.

SRCS organized blood drives to maintain blood supply throughout the pandemic, collecting blood from **3,550 individuals** from Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital, Poutasi and booths set up by SRCS in urban areas.



*Mobile vaccine teams registering people for vaccinations. Source: SRCS*

To expand the capacity of SRCS to respond in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, **36 new volunteers and staff** have completed training in WASH, correct use of PPE, epidemic control for volunteers, first aid, psychosocial first aid and blood donor recruitment.

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### Solomon Island Red Cross Society

Under the National Society health programme, the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) has continued to deliver COVID-19 community preparedness training from October-December 2021. Twenty communities in the Solomon Islands have been trained on COVID-19 preventative measures by two volunteers and one staff of SIRCS.

Two volunteers have supported the Ministry of Health Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) in communication and administration, such as data management during the vaccine roll-out.

Since January 2022, the Solomon Islands has confirmed community transmissions of COVID-19. With cases rising rapidly in the communities, SIRCS scaled up its response to support the Ministry of Health (MoH).

- A core team of eleven staff and two volunteers have started work at EOC.
- SIRCS continues to provide catering services to quarantine facilities in the Solomon Islands.
- Four volunteers support MoH in the National Health Emergency Operation Centre (NHEOC), and six volunteers in COVID-19 contact tracing.
- SIRC supports the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) on COVID-19 key messaging and awareness on IPC measures and social distancing.
- In Temotu branches, four volunteers support vaccination roll-out and risk communication awareness.
- In Malaita Branch, five volunteers participated in the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training conducted by provincial health. Six more volunteers support the Provincial Health Authority in COVID-19 contact tracing and screening.
- In Rennell Bellona Branch, five volunteers and one staff are trained in IPC facilitated by provincial health.

### Community Perspective

"We have all made sacrifices over the past few months to keep our families and communities safe. This collective effort has made a huge difference through developing community preparedness and response plan for COVID-19.

"It is [a] great opportunity and privilege to have such humanitarian support. Through information shared, this enlighten our understanding and the reality on how severe COVID-19 [is]. This enhances our community safety with [the] right COVID-19 community preparedness plan if there is a COVID-19 community transmission" (Horabau Community Chairman, 2021).



### Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has been responding to the pandemic from its onset in accordance with the dynamics of the pandemic's impact on the country. SLRCS also has a lead role in facilitating vaccine roll out within 17 districts out of 25 districts. The Sri Lankan government opened the country and re-opened schools in October 2021. In December, the first person to be infected with the Omicron variant was identified by the Sri Lankan health authorities. Considering the critical situation due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, the Sri Lankan government expedited the COVID-19 immunization among all citizens, including school children. Vaccination of children above the age of 12 years started from January 2022 and the elderly were advised to get the booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Some of the key highlights:

- Facilitated vaccine roll out in 17 districts by deploying medical assistant volunteers in community vaccination centers and school vaccination centers.

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- Provided mobile vaccination support by offering transportation facility for vulnerable community members who were unable to reach vaccination centres as well as medical staff who visited the disabled, elderly and unreachable members for COVID-19 immunization.
- SLRCS volunteers deployed to hospitals, intermediate care centres and quarantine centres to assist medical staff and patients.
- Personal protective gear and medical equipment, such as ICU ventilators, nebulizers, oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters, thermo guns and BiPAP machines donated/distributed to hospitals.
- Engaged in transmission risk reduction activities, including disinfection at public places. More than 6.8 million people have been reached or educated on preventive measures.
- With funding support from IFRC, SLRCS received two ambulances to support the Ministry of Health through patient transportation and medical staff transportation to vaccine centres.



IFRC Secretary General and Head of Country Cluster Delegation, Delhi hand over two ambulances to SLRCS (Photo: SLRCS)

### Thai Red Cross Society

Thailand saw a period of relatively low numbers during December 2021 when the daily caseloads hovered around 2,000 cases per day. However, with the rapid spread of Omicron variant in the country, the numbers reported daily now stand at 15,430 cases/ day. However, with 71 per cent of the eligible population being fully vaccinated, travel restrictions continue to be eased in Thailand with the 'Test and Go' policy being revived for international travelers and the Lao border being opened to allow migrant workers to return to Thailand.

The Thai Red Cross has been working in close coordination with government health departments across provinces, facilitating COVID-19 vaccinations for the local population as well as for migrant workers and displaced people. By January 2021, TRCS had vaccinated more than 40,000 people including more than 25,000 people. More than 5,000 displaced persons at temporary shelters in Ratchaburi province and Mae Hong Son province have also been fully vaccinated.

TRCS also produced IEC materials (posters and videos) in several languages (Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese) targeting migrant workers on prevention and protection from COVID-19 and on preventing stigma and discrimination. In addition, TRCS has developed guidelines for self-isolating at home if one tests positive for COVID-19.



COVID-19 vaccination being administered by TRCS staff. (Photo: TRCS)

TRCS has recently launched a mobile application for volunteer recruitment called "Thai Redcross Volunteer" application (in Thai), available on Android and IOS operating systems. Since the pandemic response, TRCS has been using 'Phonphai'- a disaster mitigation application to respond to requests for assistance from people in quarantine for COVID-19 or for those who lack support and need assistance. By February 2022, TRCS has distributed 432,810 relief kits to assist people as part of the COVID-19 response.

**Timor-Leste Red Cross Society**

In the first two weeks of January 2022, the country had no recorded any COVID-19 cases until two COVID-19 cases with Omicron variant were reported on 18 January. Now the country continues to report COVID-19 cases with an average of 10 – 20 daily cases. As an auxiliary to government, CVTL is also ramping up its efforts to support the government with tackling the current wave focusing on RCCE and Vaccination roll-out. Some of the key highlights include:

- CVTL is actively supporting the Government's effort in the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out programme and in transporting health workers to help the public register for the vaccination. As of February 2022, more than 9,000 individuals have been supported to get COVID-19 vaccinations since the beginning of the COVID-19 response.
- CVTL has been provided health services for 14,106 people across six municipalities, whilst mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) have reached 593 people in Dili isolation centre, and 594 people have been benefitted from receiving material support for home isolation.
- CVTL has also deployed more than 60 health personnel to provide health services such as health screening and monitoring regular medical check-ups at clinics. CVTL has supported as many as 61 health facilities in all 13 municipalities to maintain essential health services and response to COVID-19.
- As many as 37,634 people have been tested with the COVID-19 PCR Swab test by CVTL medical personnel.
- More than 10 CVTL volunteers have been deployed to support the MoH in dead body management and transportation, providing services for the community in Dili and outside of Dili.
- Mobile health and hygiene promotion activities have reached 380,034 people across 13 municipalities.
- A total of 221 tents have been installed at several border checkpoints and government's quarantine sites, used as COVID-19 screening tents for people entering Timor-Leste, alongside tents for professional health workers. Approximately 1,289 people reached.
- As many as 1,006 CVTL volunteers have supported the COVID-19 screening, reaching 151,926 people.
- Sanitizing services have been provided to hundreds of public and private places and have benefitted 383,908 people.
- More than 865 handwashing facilities have been set up and reached 70,993 people.



Figure 1. CVTL health personnel conducts mobile COVID-19 vaccinations. Source: CVTL

**Tuvalu Red Cross Society**

Even though Tuvalu is COVID free, the need for preparation has been critical before the virus makes its way to the island. In October 2021, community COVID-19 planning took place with various communities in northern and southern islands to assist local government and communities in developing a preparedness and response plan. This involved planning, implementing, testing, and revising the plan for community leaders to understand the COVID-19 vaccine. The TRCS has provided an initial strategic framework for local leaders to begin planning to reduce the outbreak's impact in the near term.

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A two-day psychological first aid training was attended by staff and volunteers and enabled them to gain intervention strategies and apply skills. Participants developed activities that were put into a 14-day well being diary, which was then given to those in quarantine to keep them busy with activities like exercising, riddles, stories and quizzes.

TRCS co-facilitated the introduction of the BioNTech Pfizer vaccine to staff and volunteers. These are the same volunteers who have undergone training for the AstraZeneca vaccine. They have familiarized themselves with the different types of vaccines and share the information at the community level through house to house visits.

The community feedback mechanism training using the KoBo application was also held to help partners identify and address information gaps surrounding COVID-19

and the vaccine. Volunteers have preregistered those eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, and it is easier now to contact and help registrants understand the Pfizer vaccine and address their questions about vaccinations.



*Volunteers visit communities to conduct surveys for the feedback mechanism.*

### Viet Nam Red Cross

Although Viet Nam has vaccinated nearly 80 per cent of its population for COVID-19, it is currently reporting 30,334 cases daily which is the highest rate among the four countries of Viet Nam, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. The Omicron variant is the reason behind this recent spike; however, deaths and hospitalizations have been less than earlier variants. The country is even considering removing all travel restrictions on international tourists from the middle of March 2022.

COVID-19 cases were expected to rise during the country's most important public holidays (Tet) for Lunar new year. As a preventive measure, VNRC (Viet Nam Red Cross) has included PPE in relief kits that are handed out annually among thousands of poor and vulnerable families who have suffered due to COVID-19 or have faced disasters or have been victims of Agent Orange.

The Viet Nam Red Cross has continued to raise awareness among the public, conduct blood donation drives and develop IEC materials on COVID-19 prevention and protection. More than 20 articles on prevention of COVID-19 were published in local print and electronic media and three videos on VNRC's COVID-19 prevention work have been produced.



*VNRC team members handing over a relief kit to a vulnerable family ahead of the Lunar New Year Festival. Photo: VNRC*

**Vanuatu Red Cross Society**

Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has actively supported the MoH in implementing the national COVID-19 preparedness, response plan and vaccination awareness and roll-out across Vanuatu. VRCS has scaled up its response for the following provinces and targeted populations:

Month	Name of Provinces	Name of Islands	Targeted Population
October	Tafea Province	Tanna	41,954
	Malampa Province	Malekula	40,809
November	Penama Province	Pentecost & Ambae	30,614
	Torba Province	Sola, Vanua-Lava	5,039

*People reached by the VRCS COVID-19 response operations.*

October - November 2021, the VRCS has engaged more than 200 volunteers to support the Ministry of Health and Provincial Health Offices with the ongoing COVID-19 vaccine campaign and roll-out plan in six provinces with:

- Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) through direct community outreach.
- Infection prevention and control, where VRCS supported the MoH in ensuring all infection prevention and control protocols are available at the vaccination sites.
- Support the government in vaccination data management, registration and reporting.
- This includes communicating with the National Statistics Office, updating the provincial database and reporting to provincial health ministers.



*Sanma Red Cross Branch volunteers supporting COVID-19 vaccine administration to frontline workers.*

In addition to the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, Sanma and Torba Red Cross Branch volunteers were trained by MoH to support the Provincial Health Officers in managing and transporting the vaccine cold-chain within different vaccination sites. Ten volunteers supported this activity.



*Shefa Red Cross Branch volunteer contact clients who are overdue for their second doses.*

MoH recorded that more than 31,000 people had not turned up for their second dose vaccine appointment. Additional support from VRCS was requested to engage two volunteers in each province to assist the Health Information System (HIS) team. By contacting the beneficiaries, VRCS and MoH discovered that people did not turn up because of vaccine misinformation on social media. MOH trained 120 RCS volunteers to advocate and promote COVID-19 vaccines in the communities to address vaccine hesitancy.

Through the support provided by VRCS, **20,000 people** returned to receive a second dose of the vaccine.

**Contact information in the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office**

- Alexander Matheou, Regional Director; email: [alexander.matheou@ifrc.org](mailto:alexander.matheou@ifrc.org)
- Juja Kim, Deputy Regional Director; email: [juja.kim@ifrc.org](mailto:juja.kim@ifrc.org)
- Joy Singhal, Head of Disaster, Climate and Crisis; email: [joy.singhal@ifrc.org](mailto:joy.singhal@ifrc.org)
- Kwan-Ho Timothy Lam, Operations Coordinator, COVID-19; email: [kwanho.lam@ifrc.org](mailto:kwanho.lam@ifrc.org)
- Dr Abhishek Rimal, Regional Emergency Health Coordinator; email: [abhishek.rimal@ifrc.org](mailto:abhishek.rimal@ifrc.org)
- Siokkun Jang, Regional Logistics Manager; email: [siokkun.jang@ifrc.org](mailto:siokkun.jang@ifrc.org)
- Alice Ho, Partnership in Emergencies Coordinator; email: [alice.ho@ifrc.org](mailto:alice.ho@ifrc.org)
- Fadzli Saari, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Manager; email: [fadzli.saari@ifrc.org](mailto:fadzli.saari@ifrc.org)