Global and Regional Efforts on the COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness and Response

November 9, 2021
Presenter: Dr. Vikram Rajan
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Global Perspectives

Challenges, Actions, and Future Outlook
While vaccination coverage has been increasing rapidly, huge inequities remain.

While vaccine production is increasing massively in 2021, 12 billion doses are not immediately available to LICs.

Chronic delays in delivery have been a major constraint.

Donations mitigate, but too few doses will arrive in 2021 without concerted, collective action.

As deliveries increase, countries will require increased support.
Collective Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Actions taken</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Track and address gaps</td>
<td>Accelerate dose redistribution to LICs/LMICs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Address trade &amp; supply chain barriers &amp; bottlenecks</td>
<td>Increase transparency of manufacturing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Identify problems to inform data-driven advocacy that promotes access to COVID-19 tools in LICs and LMICs</td>
<td>Eliminate trade and regulatory barriers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery</td>
<td>Address gaps in readiness &amp; delivery</td>
<td>Diversify production capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Invest in and diversify LMIC Vx production</td>
<td>Advocate filling financing gap</td>
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**The WBG is also coordinating with Governments, bilateral donors, Regional Development Banks, and Technical Agencies on its response to COVID-19**
Global Support

WBG support on vaccination

1. Strategic investing to increase manufacturing capacity for tomorrow
2. Dialogue with countries to understand country demand and source of barriers
3. Financing to acquire and deploy vaccines and strengthen systems, in collaboration with COVAX, AVAT and manufacturers
4. Monitoring countries’ capacity to deploy vaccines, in collaboration with partners
5. Supporting countries with solutions to strengthen deployment capacity to ensure doses are delivered

Estimated Allocation of Bank Financing for Approved Projects ($M)

- Vaccines $3,717 (63%)
- Deployment $1,167 (20%)
- Other $971 (17%)

*Other includes general COVID health response, systems strengthening, M&E, project management, training, communication, vaccine storage, regulatory.

Estimates include the restructuring in Philippines, Lebanon, North Macedonia and Pakistan. Trust Funds are also included: Global Financing Facility (GFF), Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Trust (HEPR), Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) and Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF)
Active Dialogue at Global & Country Levels

The financing and coordination needs are huge and there is a need for active partnerships and cooperation to fulfill these needs.

Dialogue at global level is important, but solutions must be country-focused.
Recovery and Future Outlook

The world needs to recover the gains in health and human capital through resilient, inclusive development.

- ~97m more people are living on less than $1.90/day due to pandemic
- School closures have resulted in loss of ~0.9 years (about 11 months) of learning adjusted schooling
- Tuberculosis deaths in 2020 have increased for the first time in over a decade
  - Childhood immunization rates are going back to levels of the 1990s
  - For every reported COVID death, 2 women and children die due to disrupted health services
- The world is not likely to eliminate COVID-19 but will learn to live with it
- Vaccines are our surest, swiftest pathway back to normality and will allow us to end the pandemic and manage COVID-19 as an endemic virus
- The WBG is maintaining a focus on the future, supporting countries to recover the gains in health and human capital while preparing for and preventing future pandemics
- The WBG will reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity, and improve the lives for future generations with partner countries
East Asia and Pacific Region
Regional Updates
### EAP COVID-19 Status Overview

#### Cases

- **Relative percent change in new COVID-19 cases (October 8—22, 2021)**
- The number of new cases in most EAP countries decreased.
- Only 3 countries reported an increase: Laos PDR (+14%), Papua New Guinea (+80%), and Singapore (+51%)
- Most countries reported an average of fewer than 1,000 new cases per million people, however, Singapore and Mongolia reported close to eight times more than that average; 7,666 and 7,656 new COVID-19 cases per million people.

#### Testing

- **Tests conducted per new confirmed case of COVID-19**
- Testing efforts have increased in most countries in the region.
- Testing rates declined only in Laos PDR (-12%) and Singapore (-57%).
- Notably, Mongolia has ramped up testing by +59%. However, Mongolia (with a relatively high number of cases) still has reduced testing rates.
- For most of the PICs, information on testing patterns remains very limited.
The emerging data shows that the Delta variant is the prevalent variant in new cases in the region, while the capacity for SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing across EAP remains very limited.

- The number of deaths per million people decreased relatively.
- Apart from three (Malaysia - 35, Mongolia - 65, and Singapore - 22), all countries reported less than 20 deaths per million.
- However, Laos PDR (+243%), PNG (+275%), Philippines (+34%), Singapore (+109%), and South Korea (+41%) are experiencing an increase. Notably, China and most of the PICs (apart from Fiji and PNG) reported zero new deaths in this period.
Vaccination Roll-Out Progress

While vaccine roll-out has continued to pick up pace in EAP, progress is still slower outside of high-income countries, due to a mix of vaccine supply and deployment constraints.

Notably, some LMICs such as Cambodia, Samoa, and Mongolia, all Bank-financed, lead in vaccines roll-out in the region.

A majority of LICs and other LMICs continue to lag behind HICs and UMICs. However, apart from PNG and Kiribati, all countries have already deployed more than 66% of the doses delivered to them.

Notably, apart from the Philippines, Myanmar, PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, all countries in the region are projected to reach 40% vaccination coverage by the end of 2021, assuming two-dose vaccines.

Sources: Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics (link)
## Vaccination Deployment Constraints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constraints</th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>Fiji</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Laos PDR</th>
<th>Kiribati</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
<th>PNG</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Samoa</th>
<th>Solomon Islands</th>
<th>Timor-Leste</th>
<th>Vanuatu</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited ultra cold-chain capacity</td>
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<td>Shortage of human resources</td>
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<td>Vaccine hesitancy</td>
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<td>Limited waste management capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaps in vaccine administration information systems</td>
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<td>Misaligned vaccine supply schedules (short-dated supplies)</td>
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<td>Limited access to remote areas</td>
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<td>Civil and political unrest</td>
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</table>
Summary of WB EAP COVID-19 Portfolio

- Number of countries: 19
- Number of projects: 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Total $M</th>
<th>Disbursed $M</th>
<th>Disbursed %</th>
<th>Committed $M</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved MPA COVID-19 Response Projects (MPA/FTCF)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$474.20</td>
<td>$394.74</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>$166</td>
<td>Approved projects under the MPA in Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, RMI, Mongolia, Myanmar, PNG, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands. $30 million from the original Philippines loan was reallocated to vaccine purchase.</td>
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<td>Approved vaccine AF (IDA/IBRD/TF)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$1,139.10</td>
<td>$203.98</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>$380.40</td>
<td>Indonesia, Philippines, Mongolia, Lao PDR, PNG, Cambodia. Vaccine-related commitment and disbursement include $30 million from the original Philippines COVID-19 project, as per December 2020 restructuring. Uncommitted amount of IPF only is around $199M (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline Vaccine AF preparation (IBRD/IDA/TF)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$308.00</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Philippines Second Vaccine AF ($300M), Solomon Islands HEPRTF grant ($3M), Timor-Leste HEPRTF grant ($5M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries with approved PEF grants (AF, co-financing or RETF)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$17.89</td>
<td>$17.64</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td></td>
<td>All grants are legally closed, except for Myanmar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries with portfolio action (CERC, Cat-DDO, reallocation)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$40.51</td>
<td>$37.42</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cambodia, China, FMS, Mongolia, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Tuvalu and Tonga are the only undisbursed actions.</td>
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Korea-WBG Partnership

COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness and Response
Objective

• To promote knowledge generation and exchange as well as adaptation of international best practices in preparing for and responding to subsequent phases of COVID-19 and any future pandemics

Focus

• To develop informed approaches to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic as well as preparing and responding to future threats learning from the experience of East Asian countries

Aspects

1. Developing a comprehensive understanding of successful responses to COVID-19 in the EAP region, including with regards to governance and institutions; process and procedures; key policies and legal and regulatory framework; and health systems capacity to prevent, detect and respond

2. Drawing lessons on what has and has not worked and why, and highlight some of the challenges that remain ahead

3. Sharing the lessons with countries challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to empower them to adapt the best practices, taking country contexts and capacities into account, as they respond to the pandemic
**Activity Summary**

**Knowledge Generation**
- In-depth country case studies: South Korea, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, and Vietnam
- Thematic policy notes: Testing & tracing, hospital responses, elderly & LTC, risk communication, health financing, ICT leapfrogging

**Knowledge Exchange**
- Knowledge sharing through a series of webinars
- Preliminary findings and progress updates through blog postings

**Sustainable Platform**
- A sustainable platform for collaboration on pandemic preparedness and response
- A microsite to house a blog series, relevant information and knowledge products
Framework for COVID-19 Country Case Studies

- **Socio-economic impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic**
  - Epidemiology
  - Macro-economic indicators, including impacts on poverty and equity

- **Preparedness**
  - Policy and governance for disease surveillance and preparedness
  - Health system (financing, service delivery, infrastructure and workforce)

- **Response**
  - Governmental response to contain COVID-19 (broader Government response)
  - Health system response
  - Public’s response
  - Vaccination
  - Protecting vulnerable people (elderly, poor and women)
  - Innovation through leapfrogging
  - Measures to contain COVID-19 with a human capital perspective (education, social protection and WASH)

- **COVID-19 impact on the progress of UHC and sustainability**
  - Service coverage
  - Financial risk protection
  - Financing for vaccination

- **Lessons for other countries**
  - Best practices and challenges
Knowledge Exchange Framework

Webinar Series
1. 3 webinar series to present country case studies
2. 3 webinar series to present thematic policy notes

Blog Series
- Findings and lessons from the country case studies and thematic policy notes

Knowledge Exchange Platform
- **Objective**: To sustainably manage information
- **Platform 1**: A microsite under the Korea office website to house ASA project outputs and ENP seminar series
- **Platform 2**: SNU School of Public Health
Thank you