



Australian Government

## VACCINE RESPONSE PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Securing equitable access to safe, affordable and effective COVID-19 vaccines is the highest priority for Australia and our Southeast Asian neighbours.
- Australia's own recovery is intrinsically linked to the region's health security and economic recovery.
- Australia is providing end-to-end support in rolling out the COVID-19 vaccines across the region.
- Australia will provide around \$300 million over 2020-2023 to Southeast Asia under the \$500 million regional Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative. Our funding and world-class expertise positions us well to provide partners with safe and effective vaccines.
- Australia will also provide \$100 million for a Quad Vaccine Partnership with the United States, Japan and India to increase COVID-19 vaccine supply and support effective delivery in the Indo-Pacific region.

Activities	2020-21 (INDICATIVE)	2021-22 (INDICATIVE)	2022-23 (INDICATIVE)	TOTAL
Regional Procurement, Delivery Support and Health Advice	\$75,700,000	\$165,400,000	\$42,200,000	\$283,300,000
ACPHEED	\$6,000,000	\$15,000,000	-	\$21,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$81,700,000</b>	<b>\$180,400,000</b>	<b>\$42,200,000</b>	<b>\$304,300,000</b>

### 1. AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT

Australia is providing end-to-end support in rolling out the COVID-19 vaccines across the region. Australia will contribute approximately \$300 million to Southeast Asia under the \$500 million Regional Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative (the Initiative) over three years. This assistance recognises the importance of Southeast Asian countries as close neighbours with significant people-to-people links and key trading partners.

All ASEAN member countries are partners in the Initiative, as is Timor-Leste. Our support includes bilateral efforts (as set out in the [Southeast Asia country Vaccine Response Plans](#)), and our assistance to ASEAN. Depending on the country context, Australian support will include assistance for vaccine procurement and delivery. In Timor-Leste, we will help ensure full coverage of the population. Our funding also includes \$21 million in support for the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED). Funded by Australia, Japan and ASEAN member states, ACPHEED will support ASEAN's COVID-19 response and establish architecture to prevent, detect and respond to future public health emergencies.

This funding builds on contributions Australia has already made, including \$5 million for the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative, which includes support to combat zoonotic diseases and scholarships for ASEAN public health officials, and \$1 million to ASEAN's COVID-19 Response Fund.

At the first Quad Leaders' Summit on 13 March 2021, the Prime Minister announced \$100 million for a Quad Vaccine Partnership. The partnership, to be guided by a Quad Vaccine Experts Group, will expand and coordinate the efforts of the US, Japan, India and Australia to increase vaccine supply and support effective delivery in the Indo-Pacific region.

The initiative complements Australia's \$80 million to the [Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment](#) (COVAX AMC). The COVAX AMC is supporting vaccination coverage in 92 developing countries (up to 20 per cent of the total population in each country in the first instance). As at March 2021, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines have all received



doses. All COVAX AMC eligible countries<sup>1</sup> are expected to receive 20 per cent population coverage by the end of 2021. AMC countries are also eligible to procure additional doses beyond their 20 per cent allocation, with some delivered in 2021 and the majority (of these additional doses) delivered in 2022. Beyond 2020-21, our support may also include donations from Australian stock.

The Initiative is being delivered in addition to an estimated \$1 billion of Official Development Assistance to Southeast Asia in 2020-21, and the \$500 million in new economic, development and security measures to support Southeast Asia's COVID-19 recovery. This was announced by Prime Minister Morrison at the 2020 ASEAN-Australia Leaders' Summit. These investments, along with the Initiative and the \$1.5 billion loan to Indonesia for budgetary support, comprise the largest package of Australian support for Southeast Asia since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

To amplify the impact of our funding, Australia will also advocate on issues such as vaccine safety, efficacy, equity of access and transparency.

## 2. HOW WE WILL DELIVER

We will work in close partnership with governments and institutions in the region to maximise the value of our assistance. Where possible, we will use existing investments and work closely with established mechanisms.

Our financial support for the procurement of doses will be complemented by technical assistance to ensure vaccines are delivered safely and effectively across the region. We will use world-class Australian expertise, build on our long-standing bilateral programs, and draw on trusted partners to help tackle country-specific challenges.

Our response will be flexible and tailored to countries' priorities. Australian support can source technical assistance, including through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#), facilitate institutional or peer-to-peer linkages, and help countries optimise financing for their own vaccine purchase. Where there are capacity gaps, we can contribute to vaccine procurement and delivery more directly. Australian assistance will seek to

target women and vulnerable groups for support. We will also seek to respond to vaccine hesitancy.

Australia is exploring the establishment of financing mechanisms with multilateral partners to support vaccine procurement and delivery across the region. This would enable coordination of procurement and delivery with other multilateral partners and donor contributions (including vaccine support via the COVAX AMC). It would also allow for more efficient purchasing and funding flexibility - and greater value for money - over the life of the investment.

## 3. COORDINATION WITH OTHER PARTNERS

We will work closely with ASEAN and ASEAN-led health architecture to coordinate the region's response to COVID-19. We will partner with Japan as the originator of the ACPHEED proposal, to support the ASEAN-led establishment of the Centre. All ASEAN member states, including Brunei and Singapore, will benefit from ACPHEED once established.

We will support Brunei as the Chair of ASEAN in 2021 with a range of technical exchanges, and coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development. Australia will work with Singapore as co-chair of the Friends of COVAX Facility to facilitate technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning, logistical support along the vaccine supply chain, and potential manufacturing capacity. We will also engage closely with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi as one of three co-chairs of the COVAX AMC Engagement Group.

Australia will remain alert to opportunities to attract additional financing to the Southeast Asia region from other donors. We will ensure our Initiative remains coordinated with, and complementary to, our partners' efforts. The multilateral development banks, the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the COVAX AMC, will be key partners.

## 4. COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

Transmission rates vary across the countries of Southeast Asia. As at early 2021, the majority of cases in the region had been recorded in the Philippines and Indonesia. Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam have managed their responses well, and Laos has so far escaped the

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible countries in Southeast Asia include: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam



worst of the pandemic. However, until there is widespread vaccine coverage, all countries in the region remain exposed.

### 5. COVID-19 VACCINE PREPAREDNESS

Vaccination campaigns in Southeast Asia face significant risks and challenges. The region has a population of more than 650 million people, with shared borders and regular transboundary movement including significant irregular movement. Other issues include high infection rates and

geographic dispersion in Indonesia and the Philippines, remote or hard to reach locations and ongoing conflict and displacement across the region.

The capacity of health systems varies across Southeast Asia. Beyond procurement, countries will need the appropriate policies, people and procedures in place to deliver vaccines, including transport and logistics, as well as robust monitoring systems.