COVID-19: WHO EMRO Biweekly Situation Report #19

Epi Weeks 36-37 (12-25 September 2021)

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 25 September 2021)

4
Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases

6
Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths

15 662 684
Total laboratory-confirmed cases

14 507 426
Total reported recovered cases

287 118
Total reported deaths

230 491 106
Total tests performed



As part of a large scaled-up response against COVID-19, WHO has recently established a new COVID-19 lab in Nimroz, Afghanistan in efforts to enhance COVID19 testing, which has significantly declined since last month.

Photo credit: WHO Afghanistan.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 25th September 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported 15,662,684 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 287,118 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

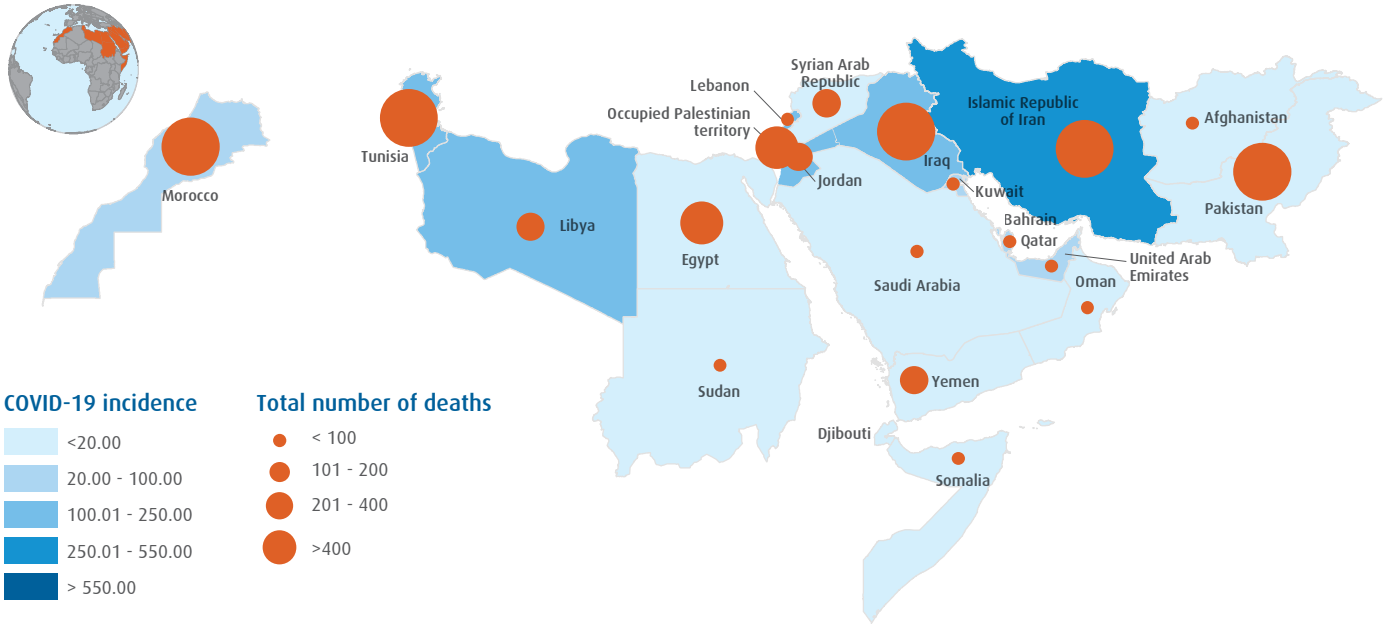
- **Epidemiological trend:** during the reporting period, in comparison with the previous two weeks:
  - The number of reported cases has decreased by **34%**
  - Deaths have by decreased by **29%**
  - Testing rates have stabilized
  - **4** and **6** countries have reported an increase in cases and deaths respectively.
  - A decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by **12** countries.

- **COVID-19 testing:** Total number of tests in the region has reached 230,491,106; median cumulative positivity ratio is 9.1% (range from 1.0% to 30.8%).

- **SARS-CoV-2 variants:**
  - **21** countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of the **Alpha variant of concern (VOC)**: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
  - **18** countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of **the Beta VOC**: Bahrain, Djibouti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
  - **6** countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of **the Gamma VOC**: Bahrain, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates.
  - **16** countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of **the Delta VOC**: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Map 1: COVID-19 bi-weekly attack rate per 100,000 population and number of new deaths per country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

12-25 September 2021



Map 2: Countries reporting SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) and variants of interest (VOIs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

12-25 September 2021

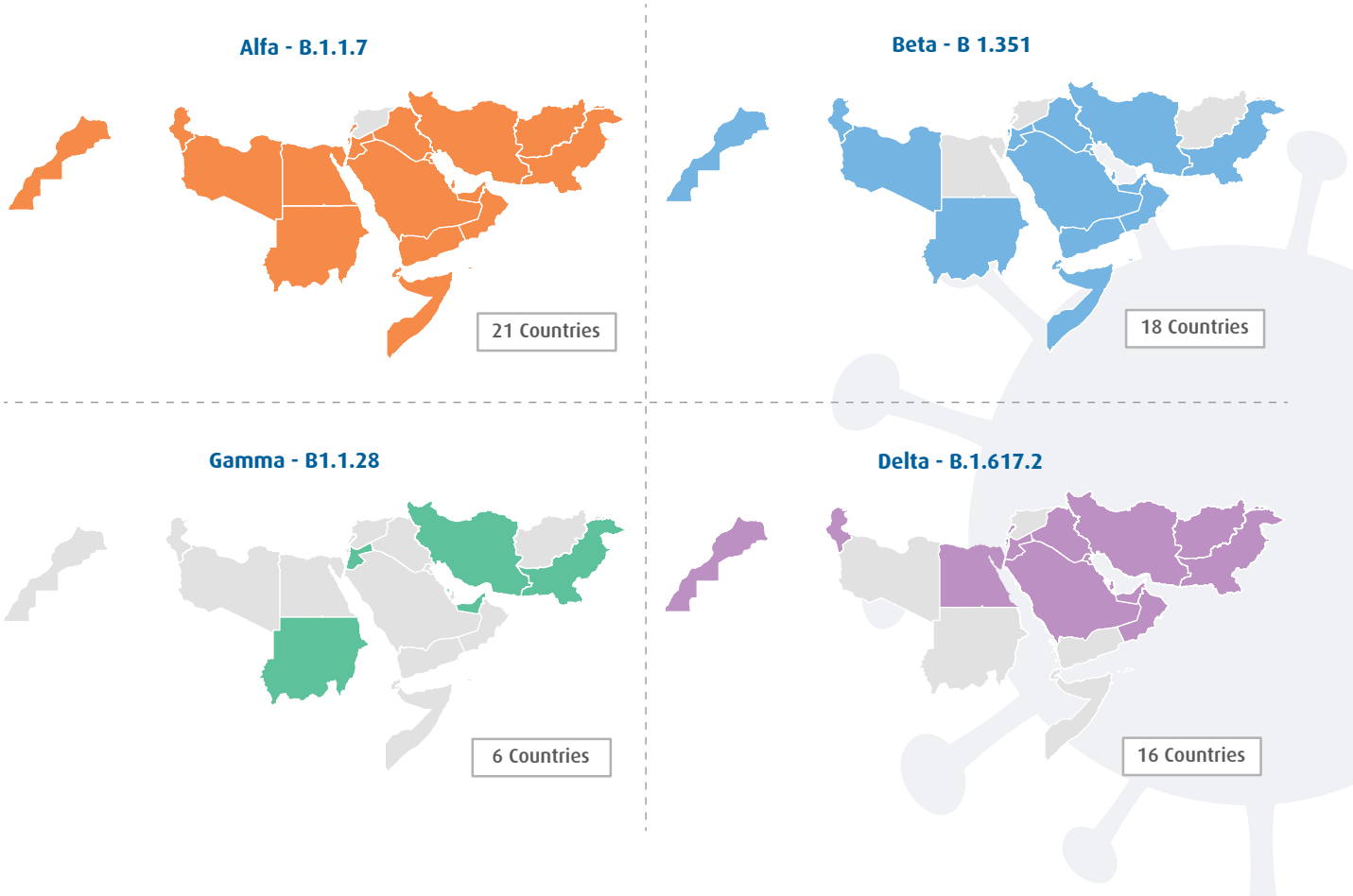


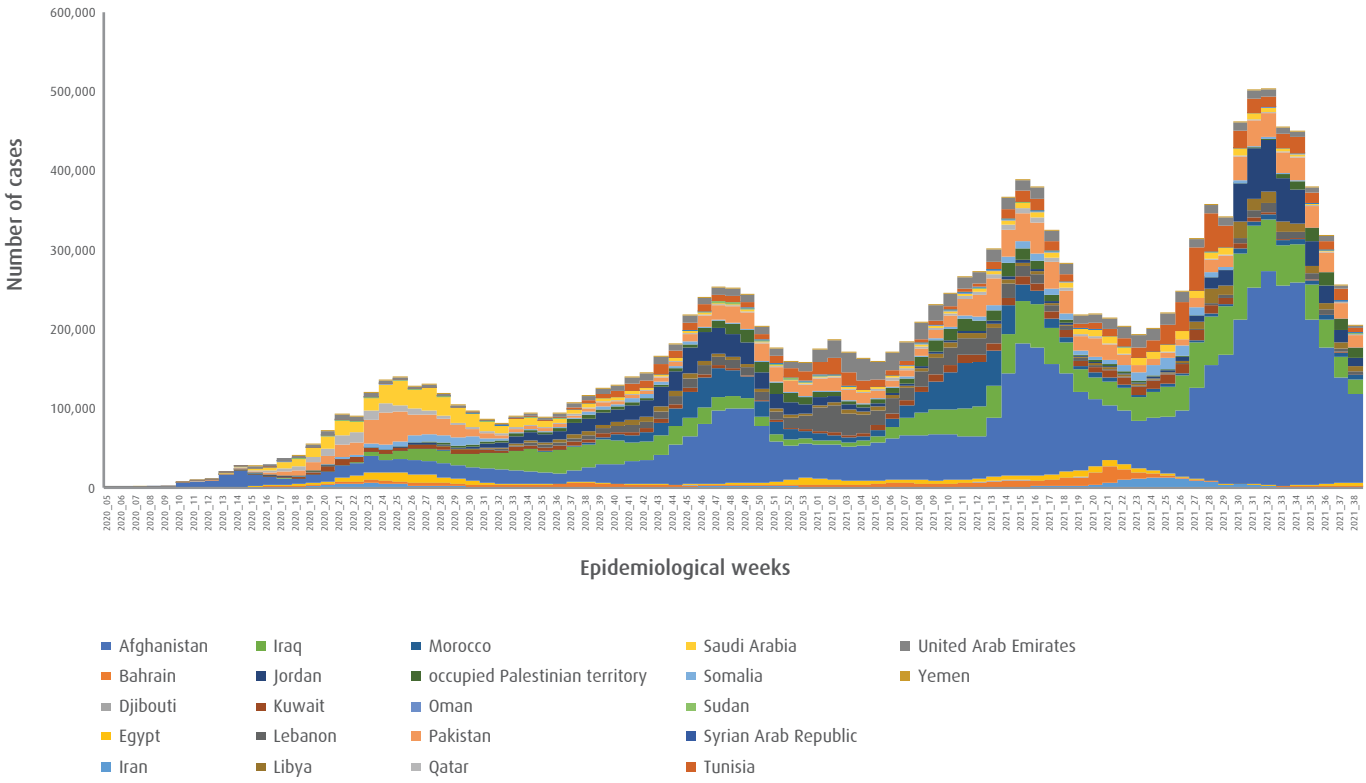
Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

12-25 September 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	978	155,072	31	7,200	4.6%	123,664	759,407
Bahrain	1,123	274,745	1	1,389	0.5%	272,626	6,365,943
Djibouti	479	12,324	5	162	1.3%	11,893	217,905
Egypt	8,469	300,945	289	17,149	5.7%	254,060	3,784,605
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	244,161	5,519,728	5,248	119,072	2.2%	4,920,978	31,653,798
Iraq	44,417	1,991,628	627	22,072	1.1%	1,892,413	15,116,604
Jordan	12,295	818,796	127	10,669	1.3%	795,832	9,932,178
Kuwait	713	411,447	15	2,445	0.6%	408,338	4,159,015
Lebanon	9,022	621,735	96	8,277	1.3%	588,577	6,694,519
Libya	13,050	336,980	179	4,606	1.4%	254,895	1,671,407
Morocco	25,877	928,571	644	14,132	1.5%	897,252	8,699,453
Occupied Palestinian territory	28,460	426,033	219	4,286	1.0%	392,258	2,434,801
Oman	577	303,613	7	4,094	1.3%	295,168	1,986,264
Pakistan	34,148	1,238,668	846	27,566	2.2%	1,160,412	19,191,787
Qatar	1,722	236,231	0	604	0.3%	234,134	2,637,276
Saudi Arabia	970	546,882	77	8,694	1.6%	535,892	28,672,153
Somalia	1,350	19,723	80	1,103	5.6%	9,414	281,445
Sudan	250	38,201	12	2,841	7.4%	30,867	475,025
Syrian Arab Republic	3,222	32,580	127	2,198	6.7%	23,458	79,630
Tunisia	19,496	705,295	544	24,788	3.5%	673,044	2,907,111
United Arab Emirates	6,330	734,596	27	2,089	0.3%	726,806	82,441,188
Yemen	533	8,891	113	1,682	18.9%	5,500	329,592
Total	**457,642**	**15,662,684**	**9,314**	**287,118**	**1.8%**	**14,507,481**	**230,491,106**

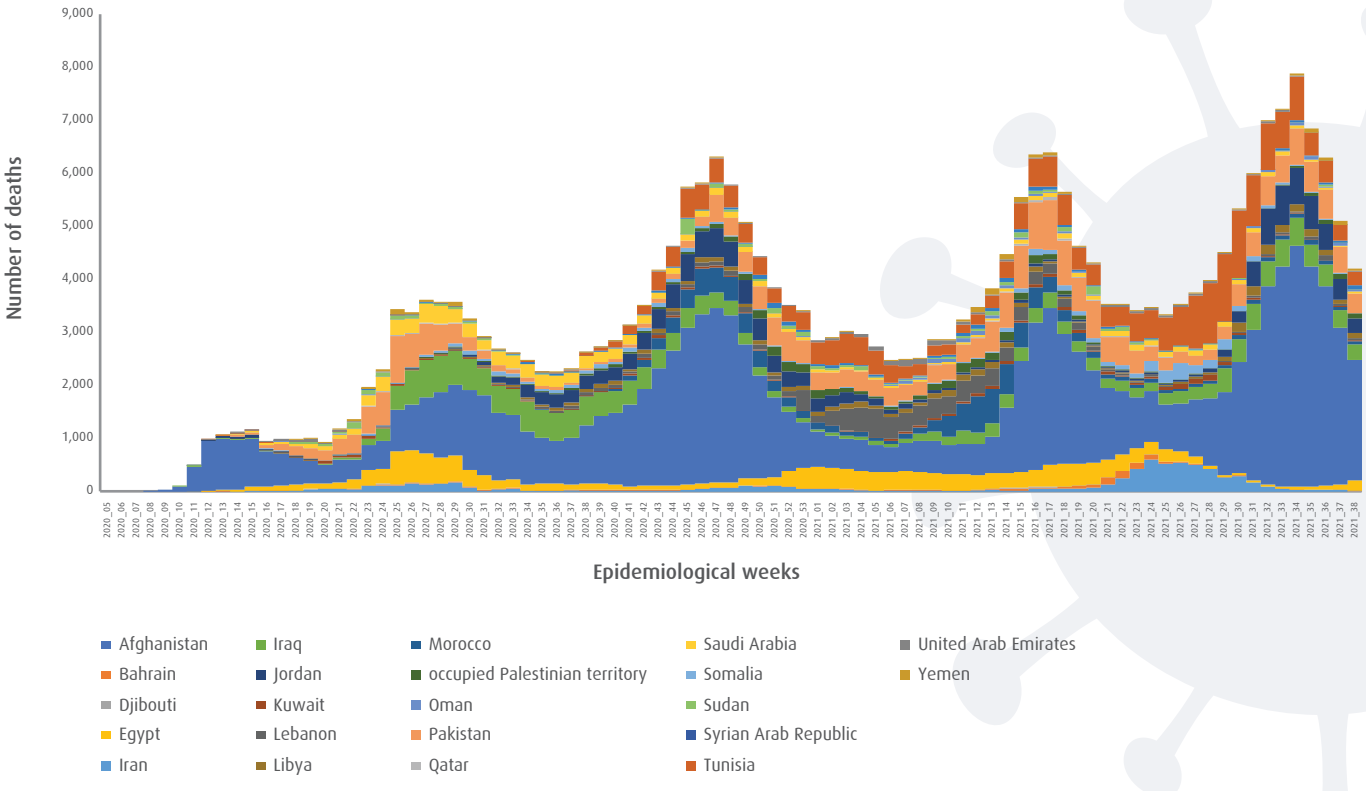
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 25 September 2021



Graph 2: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 25 September 2021



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Operations Support and Logistics

- Dispatched medical supplies at more than US$ 2.7 million value to support COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 health emergency responses during the reporting period.
- Coordinated the delivery of 30 tons of trauma and surgical supplies to Kabul, Afghanistan.

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Clinical Management

- Conducted mission between 2-12 September to Yemen, focusing on:
  - Scaling up critical/ICU care training and oxygen/biomedical supply at national level.
  - Analyzing current issues and challenges in overall clinical management and operations.
  - Enhancing coordination between Oman and Yemen for a longer-term critical care training program as a twinning project.
  - Developing a fit-for-purpose oxygen scale up program for Yemen.
- Updated the WHO Living guideline for Therapeutics and COVID-19 (published 24 September 2021): https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-therapeutics-2021.3
- Coordinated allocation of Tocilizumab (IL-6 RB) for identified resource-limited countries.

Health Information Management and Surveillance

- Held a virtual training for the Ministry of Health in Iraq on the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) media scanning tool.

Research and Knowledge Management

- Reviewed proposals of vaccine effectiveness study.
- Revisited plans for continuation of sero-prevalence household surveys.
- Received Somalia's first case study which focused on use of research evidence in COVID-19 response as part of Network of Institutions for Evidence and Data to Policy (NEDtP) work.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Monitored COVID-19 vaccine supply, utilization, and progress in vaccination coverage
- Attended the meeting with the Regional Director, consulted with WHO Representatives in countries with low vaccination coverage to review challenges and offer solutions.
- Reactivated country support teams for low performing countries.

Vaccination against COVID-19
in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
in numbers

As of 23 September 2021

Over **279.5 million**
COVID-19 doses
administered
in the EMR

7 countries in the Region
have vaccinated more than
40% of their population
with at least one dose,
while **6** additional countries
have vaccinated more than
20% of their population

9 countries
are still falling behind,
with less than **5%**
of their population vaccinated

Regional COVID-19 website: http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/index.html
For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int