

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 21 May 2022, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 21 753 093 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 342 740 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- During the reporting period and compared to the previous two weeks¹:
 - The Region reported 36 821 new cases (31% increase) compared to 28 133.
 - Number of deaths has decreased by 23%.
 Thirteen countries reported an increase in cases while four countries reported an increase in deaths. Five countries have reported simultaneous decrease in cases and deaths.
- Additionally, the number of tests conducted over the reporting period increased by 11%. Cumulatively, the total number of tests in the Region has reached 388 975 550 with a median cumulative test positivity ratio of 10.1% (range from 0.6% to 33%).
- To date, 17 countries in the Region have reported the detection of the Omicron variant of concern (VOC) including 15 countries having reported the detection of the BA.1 sub-lineage, 12 countries having reported the detection of the BA.2 sub-lineage, and 1 country having reported the detection of the BA.5 sub-lineage.

¹ Among countries having reported complete updated biweekly data

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(as of midnight GMT+2, 21 May 2022)



13

Countries reporting a biweekly increase in numbers of cases



4

Countries reporting a biweekly increase in number of deaths



21 753 093

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



342 740

Total reported deaths



21 241 310

Total reported recovered cases

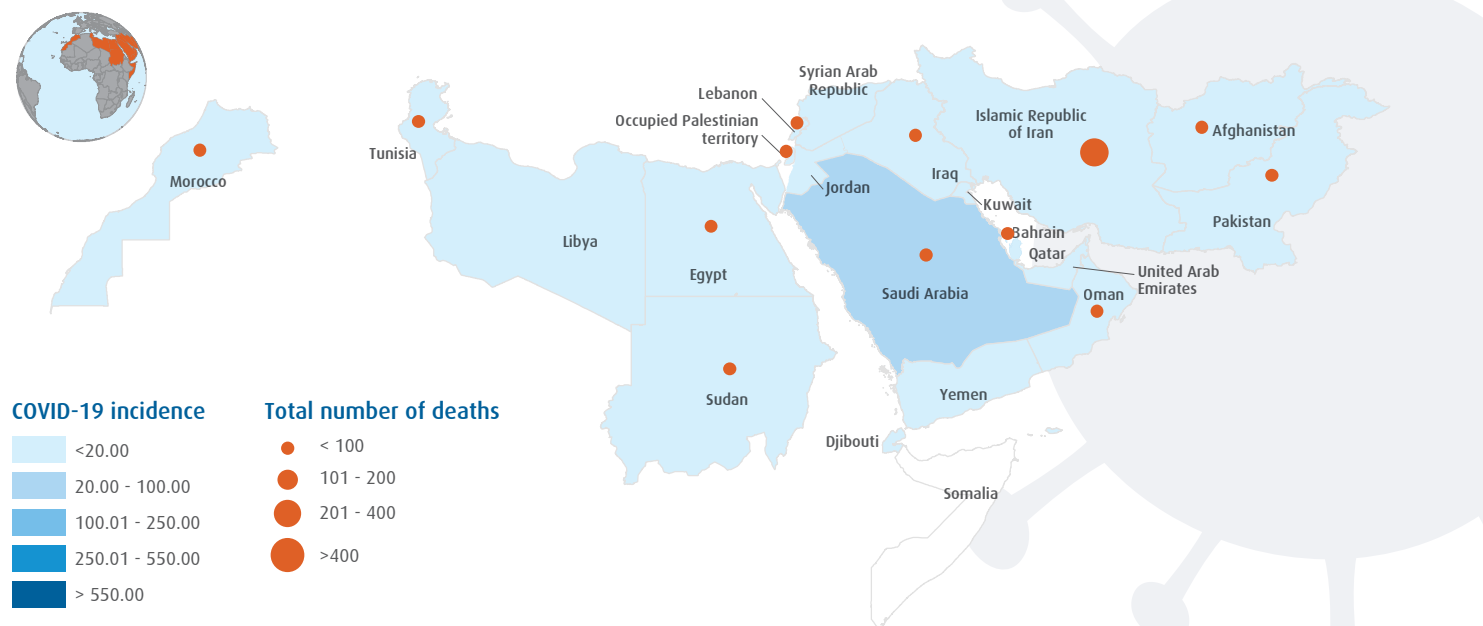


388 975 550

Total tests

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

8-21 May 2022



IN FOCUS: SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs)

- The Omicron variant of concern (VOC) is the dominant variant circulating currently, accounting for nearly all sequences reported to GISAID globally.
- The Omicron VOC has evolved into different sublineages (such as BA.4 and BA.5) since it was designated as a VOC by WHO on 26 November 2021. The main features of the Omicron sublineages are the high growth advantage over other variants, which is mainly driven by immune evasion.
- Three Omicron sublineages: BA.4, BA.5 and BA.2.12.1, have mutations that may impact their characteristics. Current data indicates that the numbers of cases and countries reporting the detection of these three sublineages are rising globally, but current limited evidence does not indicate a rise in hospital admissions or other signs of increased severity.
- WHO continues to closely monitor the circulation of Omicron sublineages and works closely with scientists across the world to accelerate data generation on these sublineages and assess their impact.

Map 2: Countries reporting SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOCs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

8-21 May 2022

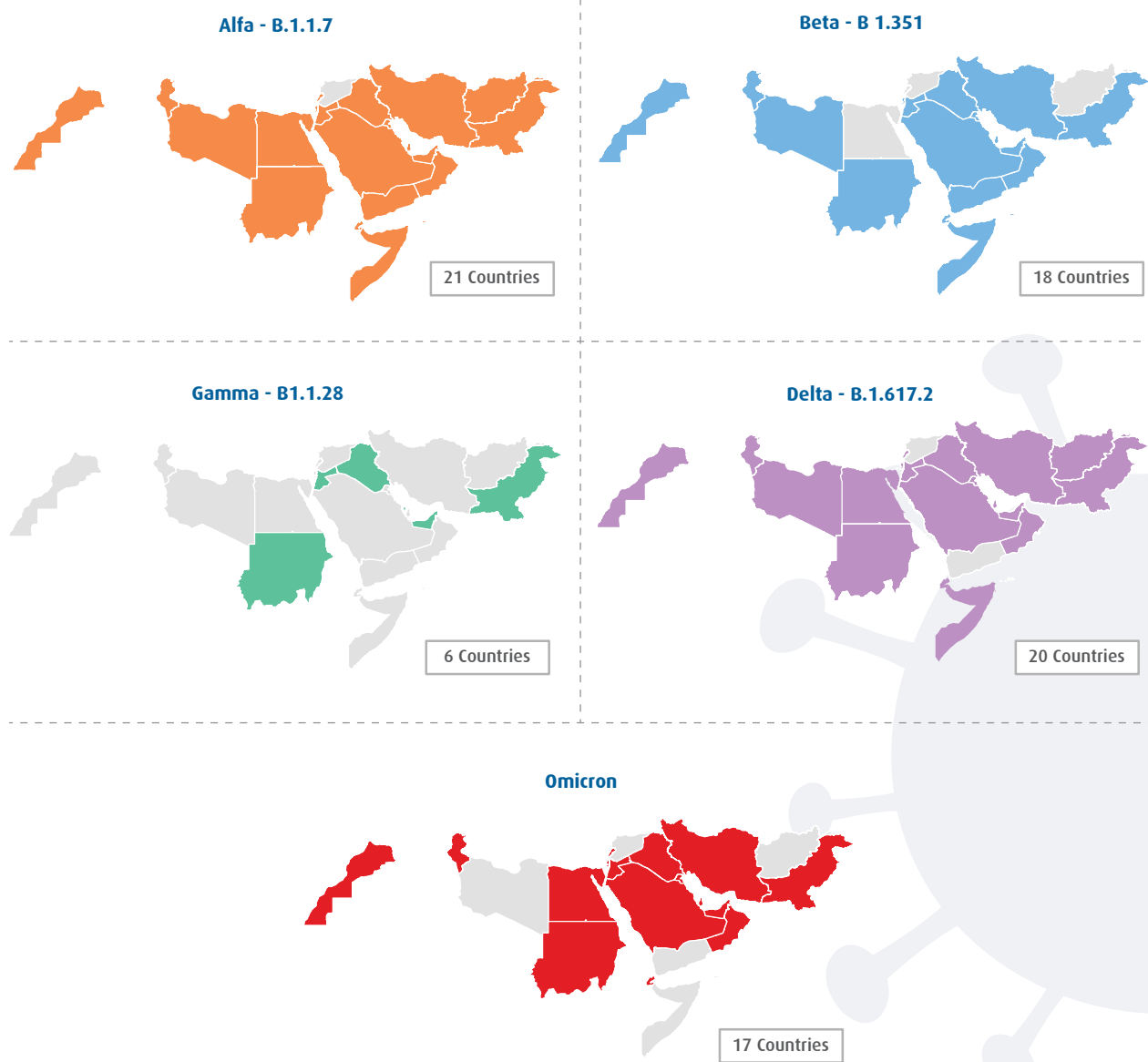


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

8-21 May 2022

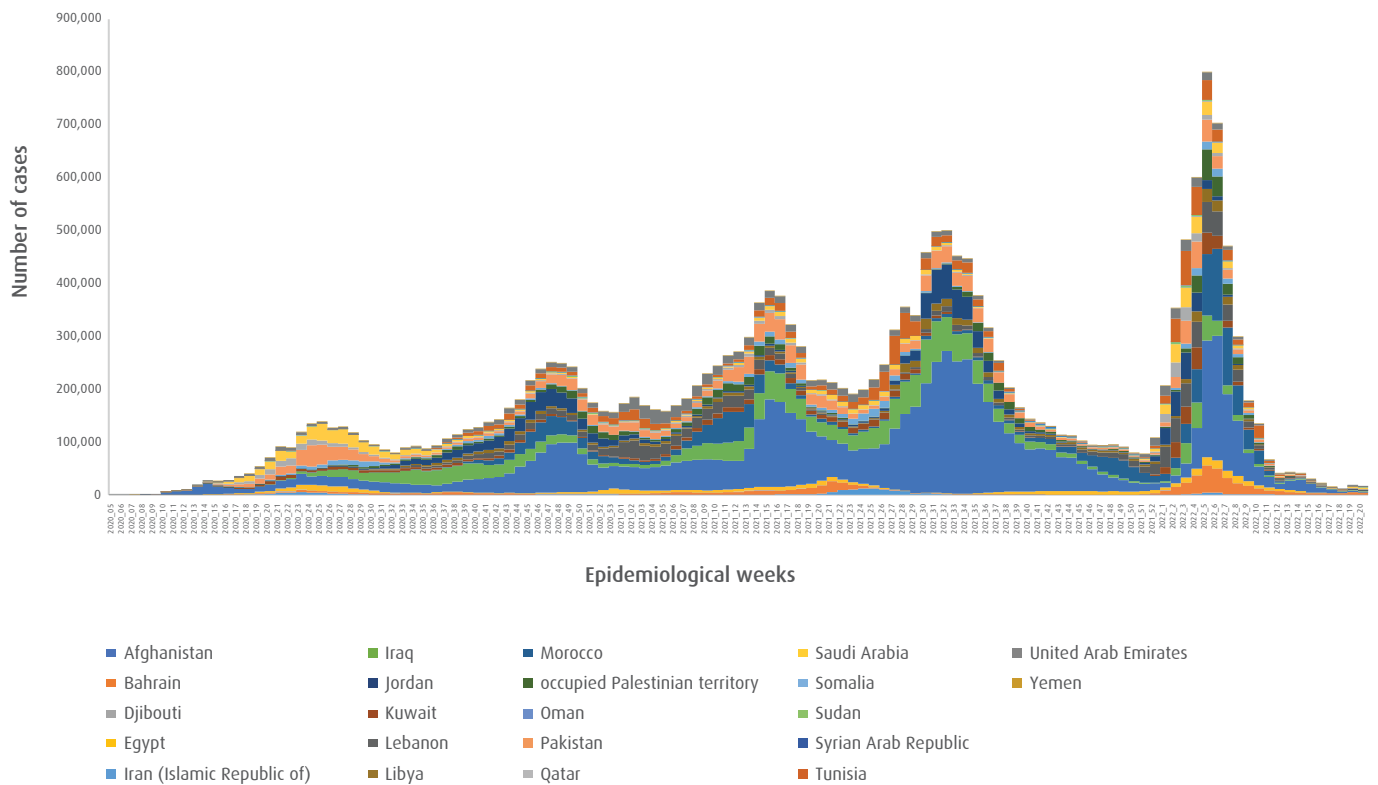
| Country | New Confirmed Cases | Total Confirmed Cases | New Deaths | Total Deaths | CFR | Total Recovered | Total Tests ² |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Afghanistan | 735 | 179 716 | 14 | 7 698 | 4.3% | 162 741 | 958 454 |
| Bahrain | 8 715 | 580 797 | 3 | 1 480 | 0.3% | 574 805 | 9 811 591 |
| Djibouti* | 44 | 15 675 | 0 | 189 | 1.2% | 15 482 | 311 902 |
| Egypt | 70 | 513 916 | 35 | 24 704 | 4.8% | 445 591 | 11 714 630 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 5 040 | 7 229 741 | 106 | 141 271 | 2.0% | 7 032 212 | 51 969 634 |
| Iraq | 1 670 | 2 327 192 | 3 | 25 216 | 1.1% | 2 300 754 | 18 554 061 |
| Jordan | 614 | 1 696 668 | 0 | 14 066 | 0.8% | 1 682 364 | 16 803 235 |
| Kuwait | 852 | 632 781 | 0 | 2 555 | 0.4% | 629 695 | 8 098 920 |
| Lebanon | 1 012 | 1 098 504 | 19 | 10 417 | 0.9% | 1 085 682 | 10 616 449 |
| Libya | 68 | 501 987 | 0 | 6 430 | 1.3% | 495 494 | 2 503 591 |
| Morocco | 1 324 | 1 166 530 | 5 | 16 075 | 1.4% | 1 149 476 | 11 598 623 |
| Occupied Palestinian territory* | 380 | 657 573 | 3 | 5 660 | 0.9% | 651 785 | 3 366 884 |
| Oman | 200 | 389 473 | 1 | 4 260 | 1.1% | 384 669 | 1 986 264 |
| Pakistan | 989 | 1 529 727 | 4 | 30 379 | 2.0% | 1 496 054 | 28 461 954 |
| Qatar | 1 894 | 366 952 | 0 | 677 | 0.2% | 365 254 | 3 508 132 |
| Saudi Arabia | 7 499 | 762 575 | 29 | 9 128 | 1.2% | 746 999 | 42 311 633 |
| Somalia | | 26 521 | | 1 361 | 5.1% | 13 182 | 479 593 |
| Sudan | 79 | 62 240 | 5 | 4 941 | 7.9% | 30 928 | 475 025 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 31 | 55 878 | 0 | 3 150 | 5.6% | 52 591 | 168 494 |
| Tunisia | 1 165 | 1 042 362 | 57 | 28 632 | 2.7% | 1 028 282 | 4 618 974 |
| United Arab Emirates | 4 440 | 904 466 | 0 | 2 302 | 0.3% | 888 228 | 160 327 915 |
| Yemen | 0 | 11 819 | 0 | 2 149 | 18.2% | 9 042 | 329 592 |
| Total | 36 821 | 21 753 093 | 284 | 342 740 | 1.6% | 21 241 310 | 388 975 550 |

* Retrospective reported data is included in new cases and deaths

² Data on conducted tests is collected by WHO and affected by the national publishing frequency. Hence, presented figures for some countries maybe not up-to-date and the COVID-19 epidemiological situation should therefore be interpreted with caution.

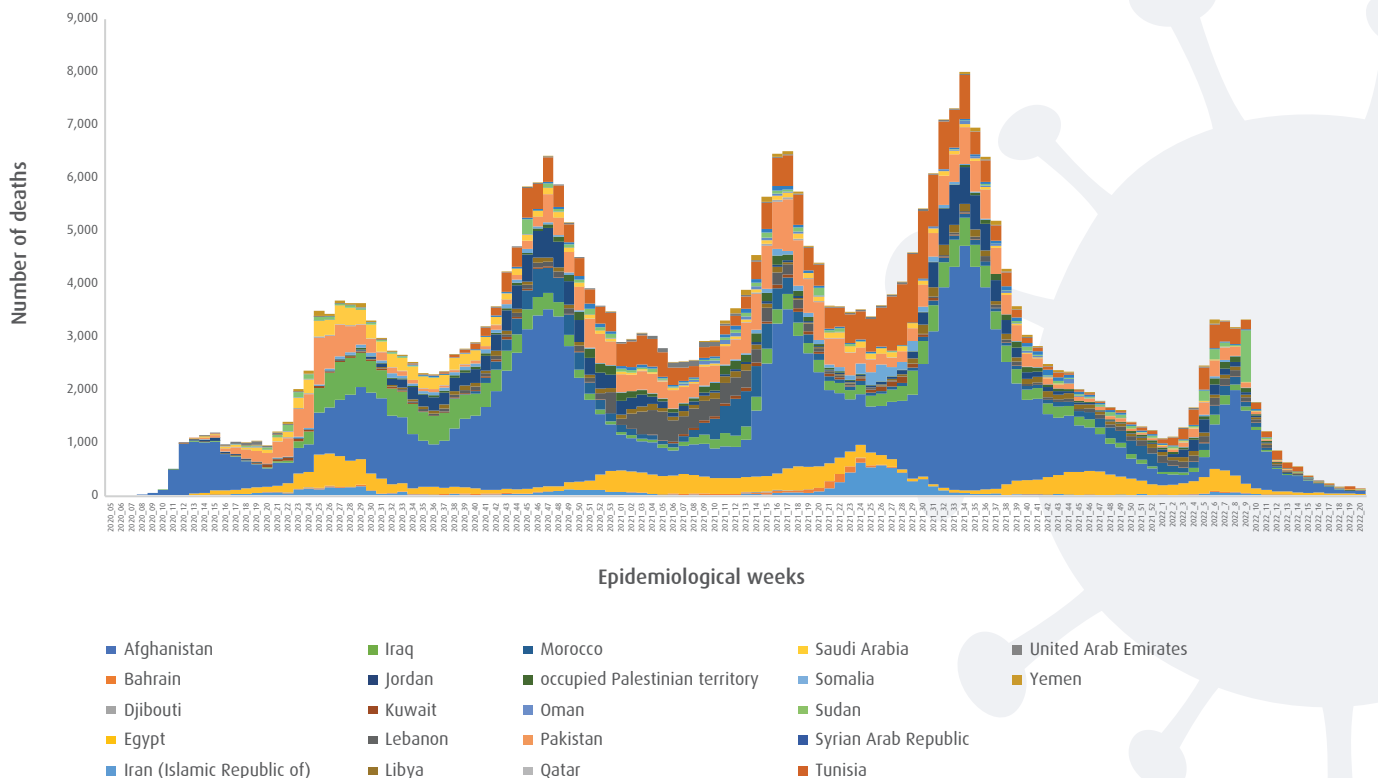
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020-21 May 2022



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

26 January 2020-21 May 2022



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Operations Support and Logistics:** Delivered US\$ 115 000-worth of RT-PCR test (real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) equipment to Sudan.
- **Health Operations and Technical Expertise: Infection Prevention and Control (IPC):** Supported the occupied Palestinian territory which formally endorsed its national infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines. The guidelines will be disseminated for hospital-wide implementation as a practical reference for basic IPC standards and COVID-19-specific IPC measures.
- **Essential Health Services and Systems:** Developed materials on strengthening health service performance measurement and monitoring for the multi-country workshop in Geneva from 31 May to 3 June 2022.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine:** Conducted a high-level mission to Syria for COVID-19 vaccination advocacy from 12 to 13 May and allocated additional resources for COVID-19 vaccine deployment operations for priority countries.

Regional COVID-19 website:

<http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/index.html>

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int