

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 28 August 2021)



10

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



12

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths



14 510 758

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



12 985 313

Total reported recovered cases



264 660

Total reported deaths



210 954 848

Total tests performed



Amid a spike in COVID-19 cases and deaths, a critical shipment of COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Somalia. A consignment of 302 400 doses of Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccines was donated by the United States of America through the COVAX Facility.

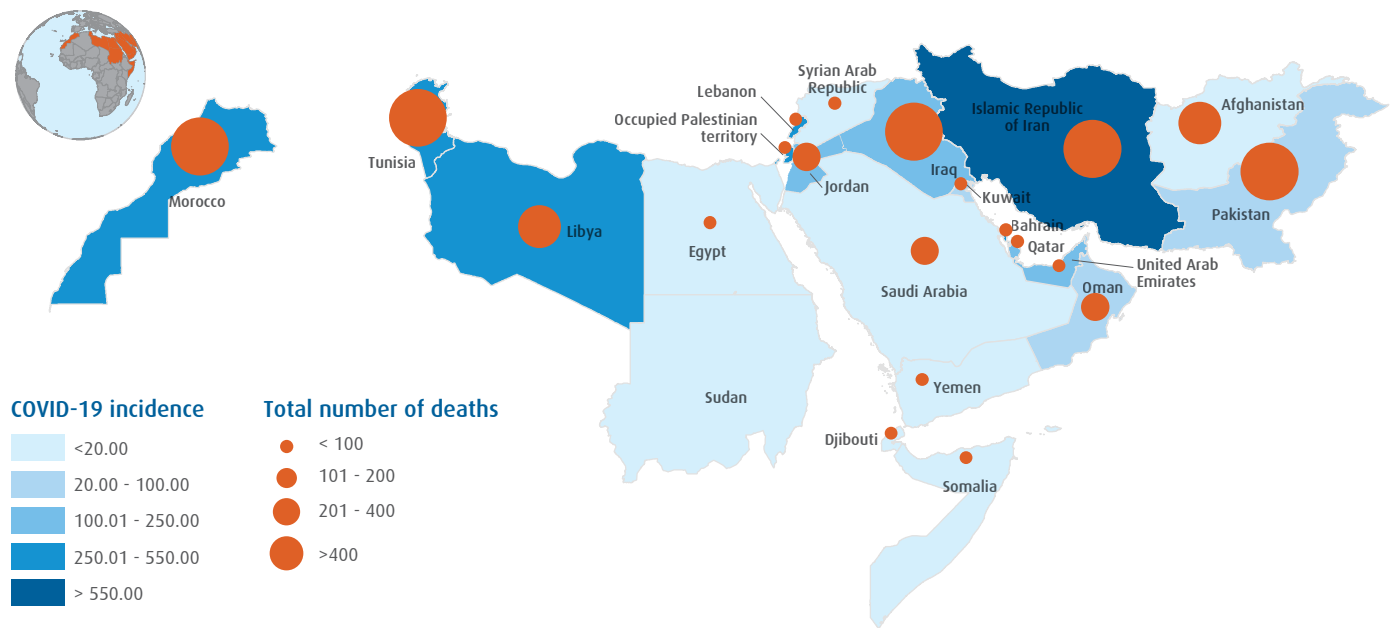
Photo credit: WHO Somalia

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 28 August 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported 14,510,758 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 264,660 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- **Epidemiological trend:** during the reporting period and compared to the two previous weeks:
 - The number of reported cases has decreased by **10%**.
 - Deaths have increased by **16%**.
 - Testing rates have stabilized.
 - 10 and 12 countries have reported an increase in cases and deaths respectively.
 - A decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by 6 countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 210,954,848, with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 9.5% (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.
 - During the reporting period, the Islamic Republic of Iran reported the detection of **the Gamma VOC**, bringing the total of number of EMR countries reporting the detection of this variant to 5: Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates.
 - During the reporting period, Egypt reported the detection of **the Delta VOC**, bringing total the total number of EMR countries reporting the detection of this variant to 16: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the

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

15-28 August 2021



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

15-28 August 2021

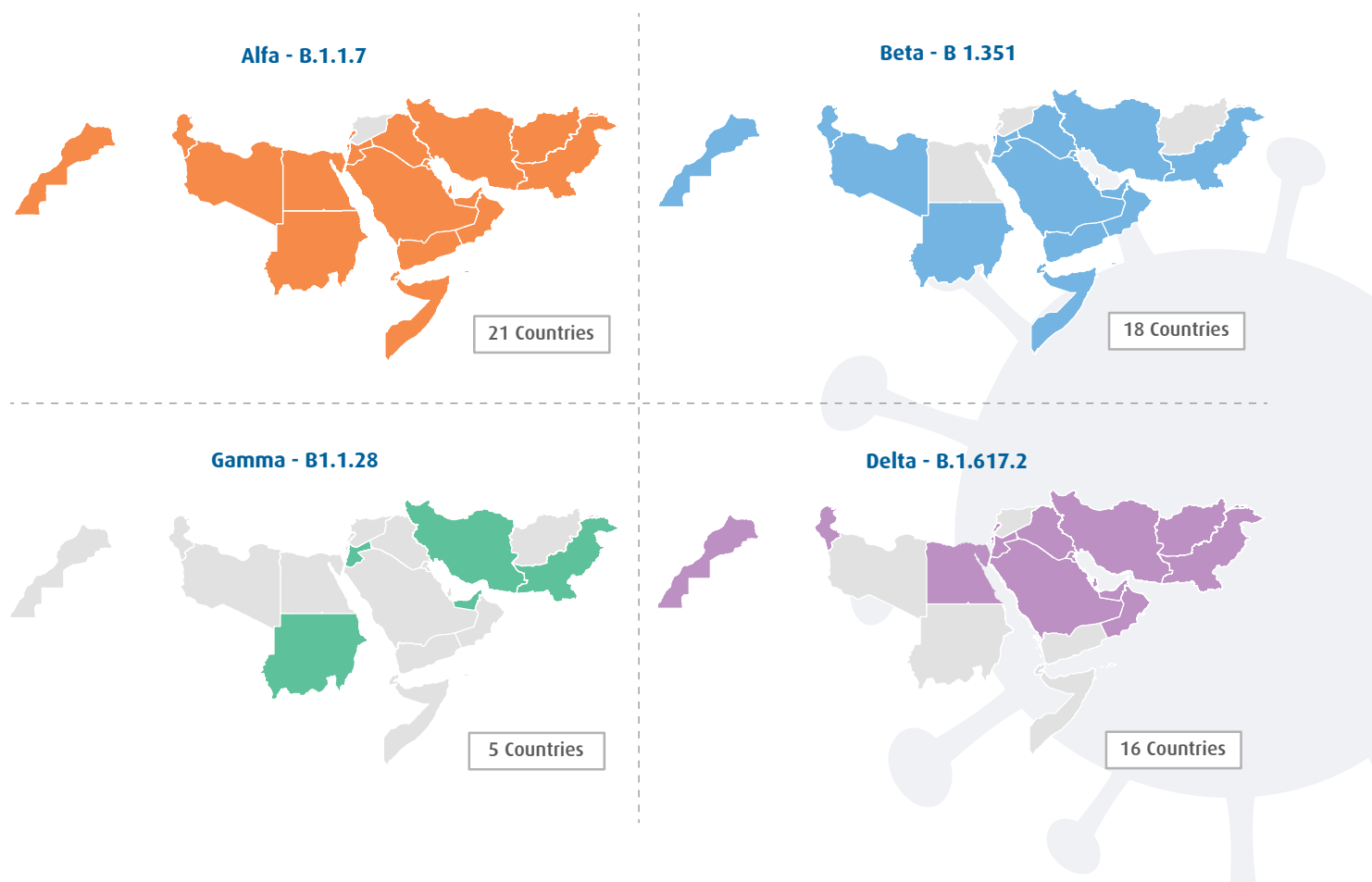


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

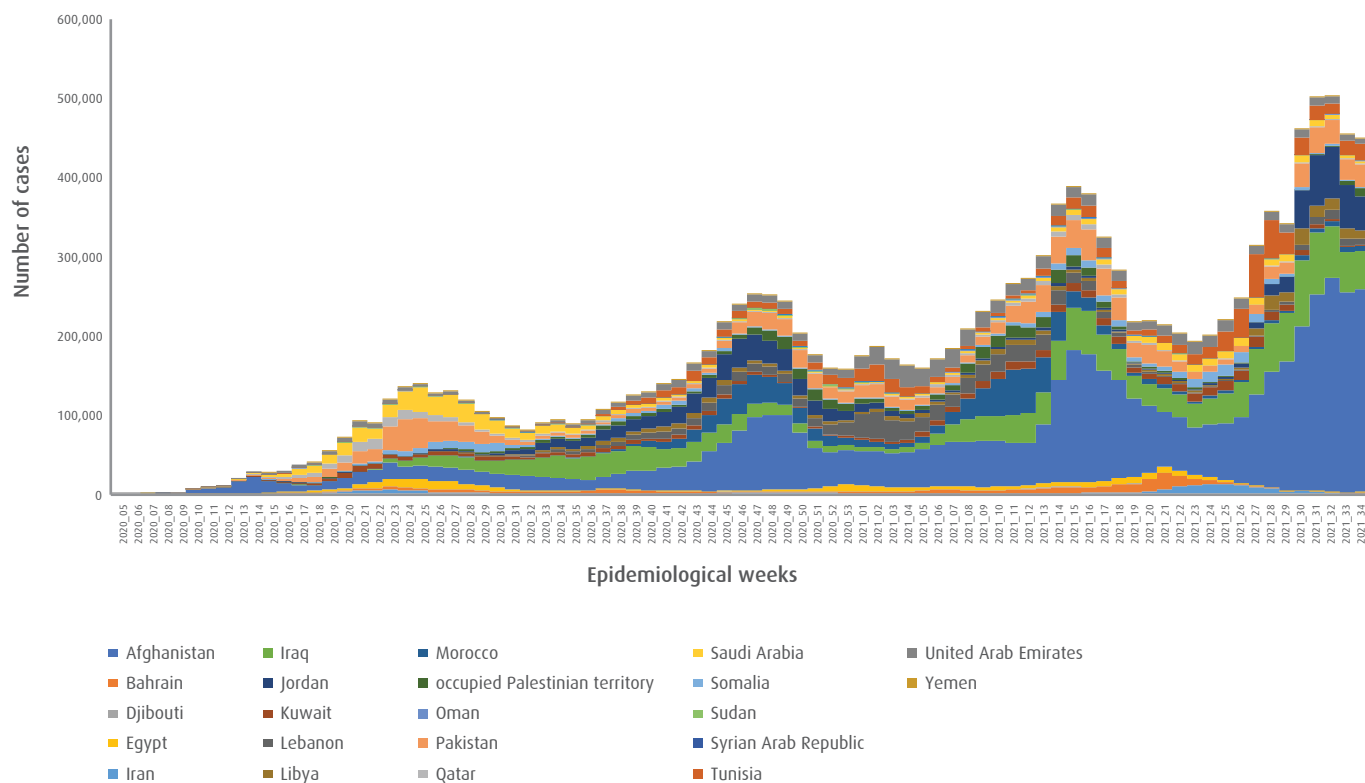
15-28 August 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	1,006	153,148	91	7,116	4.6%	109,922	751,116
Bahrain	1,430	272,246	4	1,388	0.5%	269,904	5,882,304
Djibouti	50	11,728	1	157	1.3%	11,538	205,580
Egypt	2,387	287,644	99	16,714	5.8%	237,817	3,596,833
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	506,363	4,895,448	8,693	105,901	2.2%	4,117,098	28,556,919
Iraq	99,599	1,868,352	1,026	20,632	1.1%	1,711,405	14,240,478
Jordan	12,140	794,350	165	10,368	1.3%	771,842	9,170,129
Kuwait	3,129	409,363	30	2,416	0.6%	404,217	3,750,289
Lebanon	17,801	599,298	68	8,040	1.3%	551,433	6,214,710
Libya	23,863	305,793	280	4,184	1.4%	218,534	1,529,186
Morocco	97,456	849,532	1,428	12,361	1.5%	773,619	8,037,017
Occupied Palestinian territory	15,901	365,009	46	3,937	1.1%	345,325	2,148,876
Oman	2,062	302,029	68	4,056	1.3%	291,039	1,986,264
Pakistan	54,071	1,152,481	1,198	25,604	2.2%	1,033,373	17,647,941
Qatar	3,206	232,187	1	602	0.3%	228,740	2,486,059
Saudi Arabia	5,813	543,796	127	8,526	1.6%	531,733	27,279,215
Somalia	945	17,210	75	953	5.5%	8,286	250,944
Sudan	152	37,708	11	2,791	7.4%	30,867	475,025
Syrian Arab Republic	1,247	27,539	63	1,998	7.3%	22,410	79,630
Tunisia	37,064	662,752	1,525	23,430	3.5%	610,878	2,583,737
United Arab Emirates	14,807	715,394	39	2,036	0.3%	700,548	73,776,974
Yemen	478	7,751	49	1,450	18.7%	4,785	305,622
Total	900,970	14,510,758	15,087	264,660	1.8%	12,985,313	210,954,848



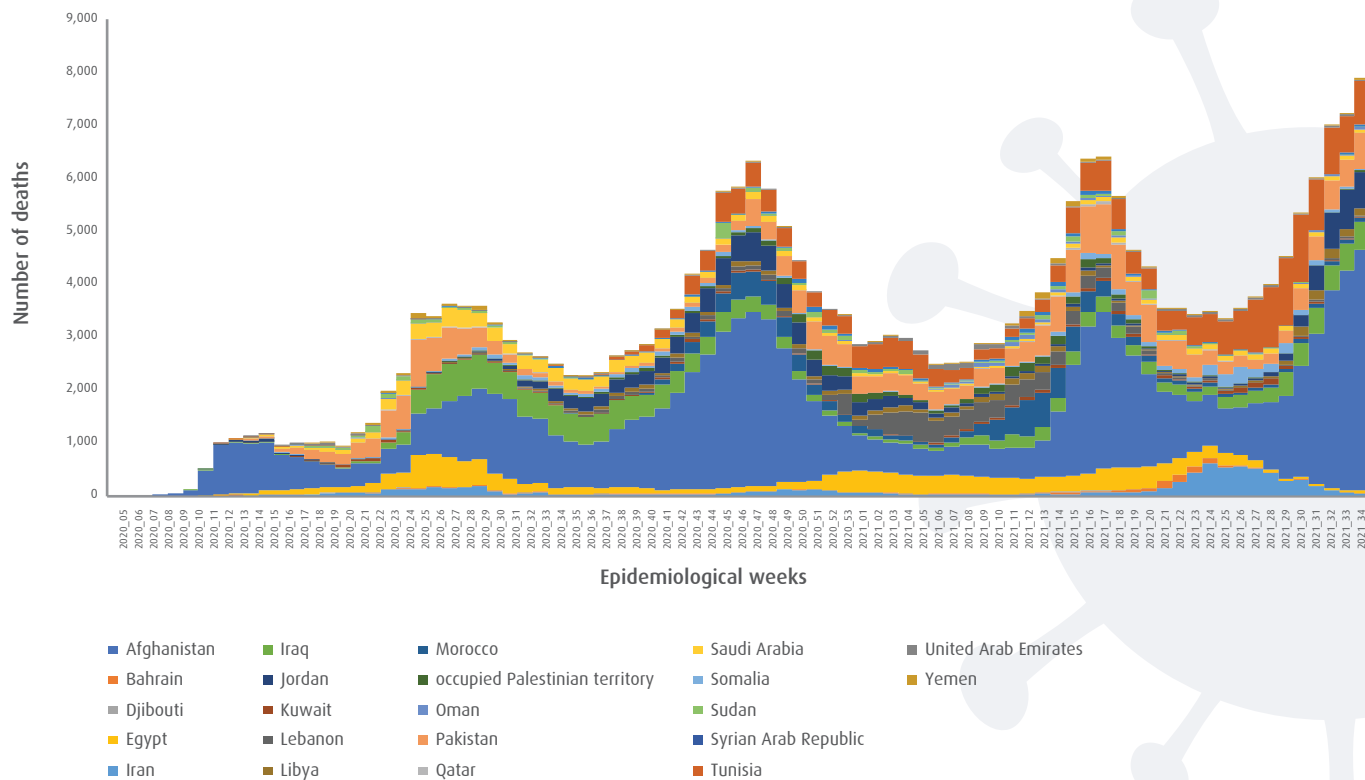
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 28 August 2021



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

26 January 2020 – 28 August 2021



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Trained 42 IPC focal points in 12 hospitals in Yemen.
- Reviewed and updated the national IPC guidelines for the Gaza Strip, occupied Palestinian territory.

Clinical Management

- Launched the oxygen capacity mapping project for 9 priority countries and provided funding support for the hiring of national biomedical engineers.
- Supported a long-term collaborative training program on intensive care units and critical care between Yemen and Oman, with Oman providing technical support to build health care worker capacity in Yemen.

Health Information Management and Surveillance

- Conducted the third round of the modelling analysis for Tunisia.
- Presented the COVID-19 monitoring and evaluation framework to Emergency Operations Centre members in Morocco.

International Health Regulations and Social Measures

- Conducted a mission to Iraq to support the WHO Country Office on preparedness for the mass gathering event of Imam Hussein Arba'een, in collaboration with the Health Information Management and Surveillance Pillar.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Conducted joint country reflections with UNICEF around RCCE preparatory work for safe back-to-school plans.
- Reviewed the content of the RCCE training package for community health care workers to address vaccine hesitancy following the successful pilot sessions in Syria and Egypt. Requests to conduct this training was received from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Research and Knowledge Management

- Reviewed vaccine effectiveness study protocols for Egypt and Jordan.
- Launched the WHO oxygen study in which Egypt, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Lebanon will participate at the facility level, and Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Tunisia will provide national data.

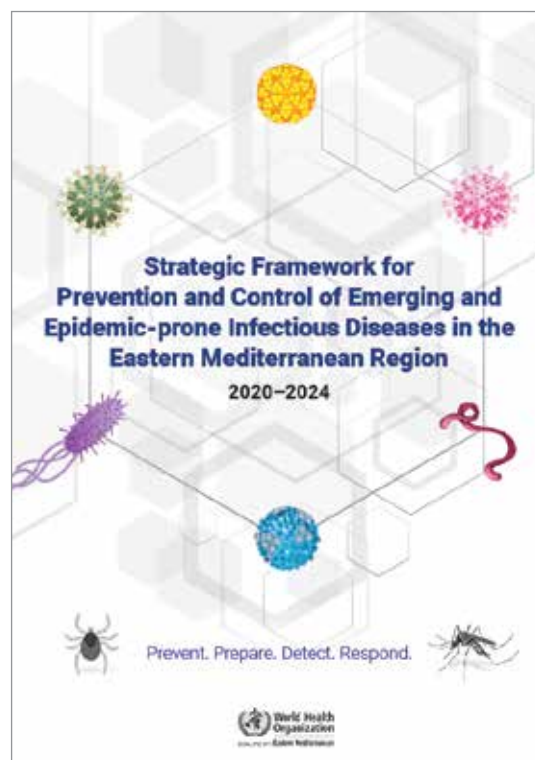
COVID-19 Vaccine

- Supported the COVAX facility for vaccine allocations to cover 20% of the population as targeted. Half of all EMR countries have achieved or are close to achieving 20% coverage in vaccination.

IN FOCUS: Strategic Framework for Prevention and Control of Emerging and Epidemic-prone Infectious Diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: 2020-2024

To enhance countries' capacities to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging and epidemic-prone infectious diseases, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean launched the Strategic Framework for Prevention and Control of Emerging and Epidemic-prone Infectious Diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: 2020-2024. The framework is to be used by countries as a resource towards the formulation of preparedness and response plans and sets out four strategic priorities:

- strengthen public health capacity
- strengthen capacity for early detection
- build capacity to implement high-impact control strategies for rapid response
- enhance knowledge management



Download the framework here:

<https://applications.emro.who.int/docs/9789290226161-eng.pdf?ua=1>.

Regional COVID-19 website: <http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/index.html>

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int