



COVID-19 Situation Report August 2022

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 31 August 2022, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported 22 987 963 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 347 604 deaths since the start of the pandemic with the total number of tests reaching 423 872 100.
- During the reporting period, in comparison with the previous month¹:
 - The number of cases decreased by 51%
 - The number of deaths increased by 51%
 - The number of conducted tests decreased by 12%
 - 3 countries reported an increase in cases
 - 6 countries reported an increase in deaths
 - 10 countries reported a simultaneous decrease in cases and deaths
- To date, 17 EMR countries have reported the detection of the Omicron variant of concern (VOC), with 15 countries reporting the BA.1 sub-lineage, 13 countries reporting the BA.2 sub-lineage, one country reporting the BA.3 sub-lineage, four countries reporting the BA.4 sub-lineage, and two countries reporting the BA.5 sub-lineage.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

(as of midnight GMT+2, 31 August 2022)



3

countries reported increases in cases



6

countries reported increase in deaths



22 987 963

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



347 604

Total reported deaths



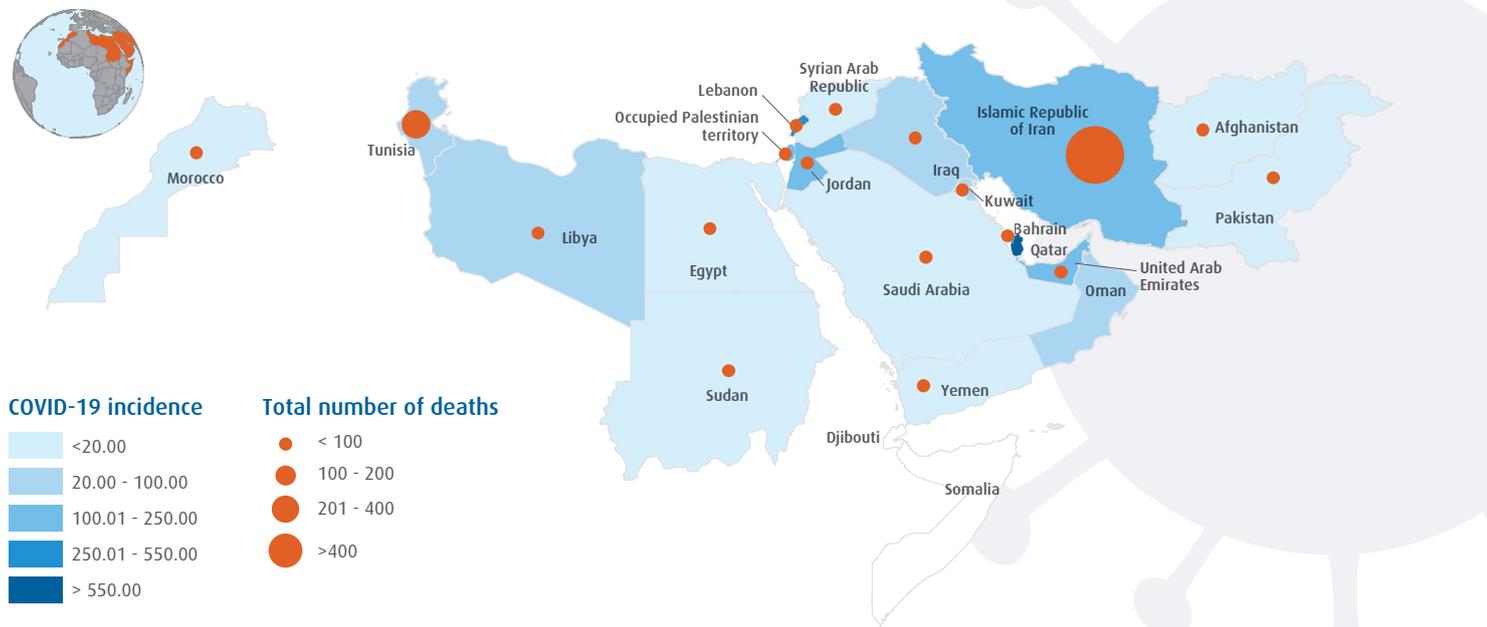
423 872 100

Total tests

¹ Among countries having reported updated and complete monthly data. Figures should be interpreted with caution in countries on weekly reporting.

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

1-31 August 2022



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

till 31 August 2022

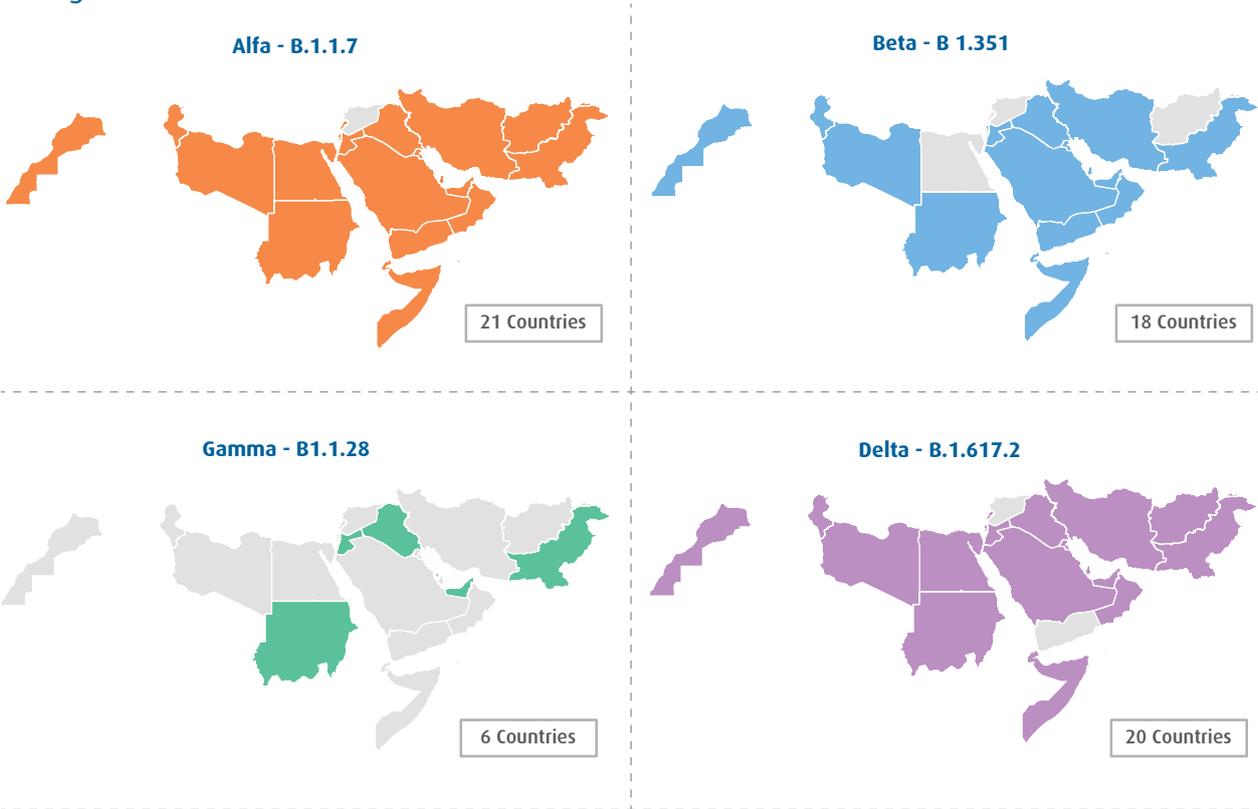


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

1-31 August 2022

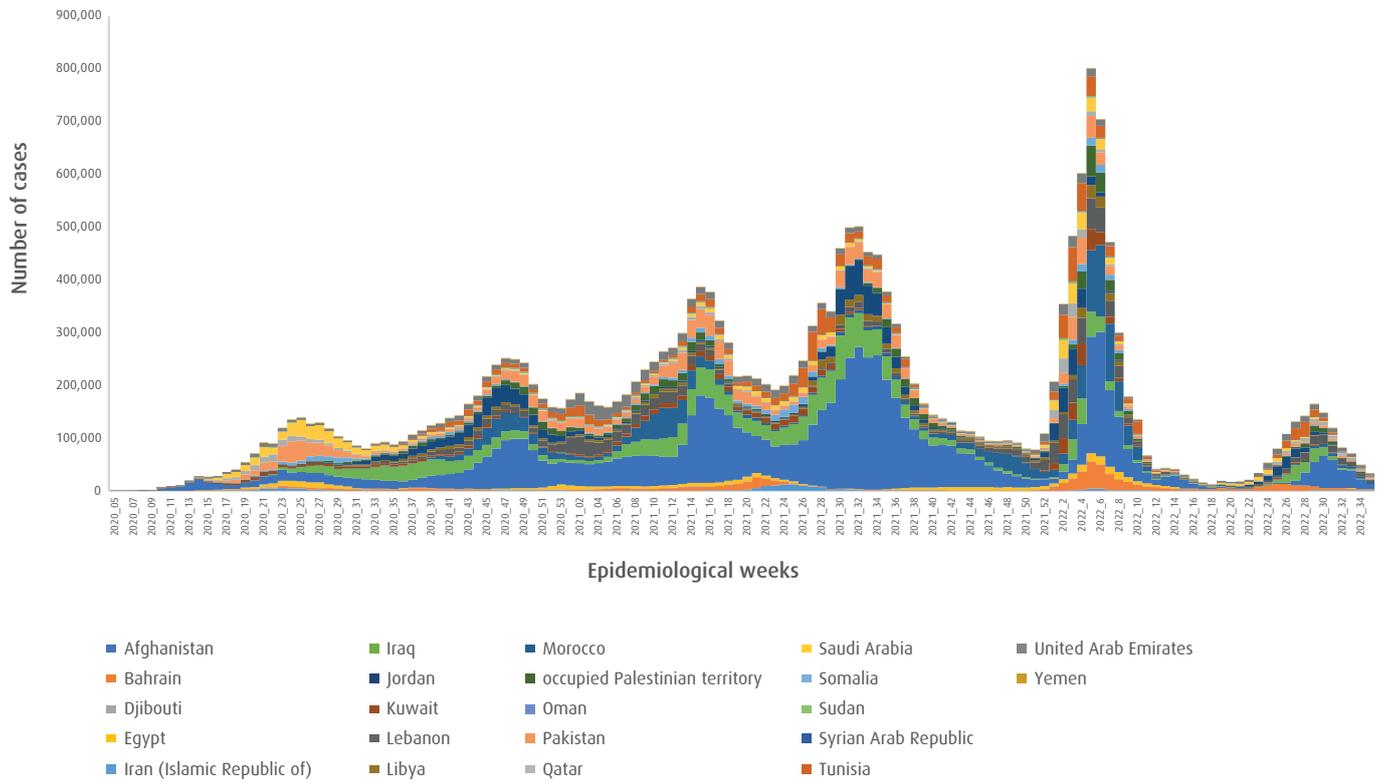
Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total Recovered	Total Tests ²
Afghanistan	7 685	193 615	27	7 778	4.0%	171 956	1 070 182
Bahrain	12 050	671 697	6	1 515	0.2%	668 654	10 277 727
Djibouti*		15 690		189	1.2%	15 497	319 153
Egypt	417	515 308	19	24 794	4.8%	450 667	12 031 399
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	137 935	7 528,961	1 869	143 867	1.9%	7 296 683	53 801 192
Iraq	13 073	2 457 871	31	25 346	1.0%	2 429 962	19 212 736
Jordan	20 199	1 735 495	27	14 110	0.8%	1 718 032	17 128 152
Kuwait	2 799	657 613	1	2 563	0.4%	654 704	8 346 098
Lebanon	35 607	1 209 478	95	10 627	0.9%	1 087 596	10 696 009
Libya	1 825	506 822	6	6 437	1.3%	500 178	2 531 746
Morocco	3 457	1 264 435	36	16 273	1.3%	1 247 776	12 454 380
Occupied Palestinian territory	11 267	702 332	16	5 704	0.8%	685 951	3 467 213
Oman	1 271	397 993	0	4 628	1.2%	384 946	3 737 036
Pakistan	14 048	1 569 295	94	30 582	1.9%	1 530 159	30 129 068
Qatar	20 740	429 396	0	681	0.2%	424 381	3 866 366
Saudi Arabia	3 789	813 461	44	9 295	1.1%	800 618	44 117 450
Somalia*		27 020		1 361	5.0%	13 182	530 196
Sudan	161	63 252	3	4 961	7.8%	41 297	475 025
Syrian Arab Republic	735	57 043	13	3 163	5.5%	53 404	177 517
Tunisia	9 202	1 143 862	129	29 234	2.6%	1 128 926	4 918 504
United Arab Emirates	23 834	1 015 398	6	2 341	0.2%	994 358	184 255 359
Yemen	49	11 926	4	2 155	18.1%	9 119	329 592
Total	320 143	22 987 963	2 426	347 604	1.5%	22 308 046	423 872 100

* No available data for September 2022

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

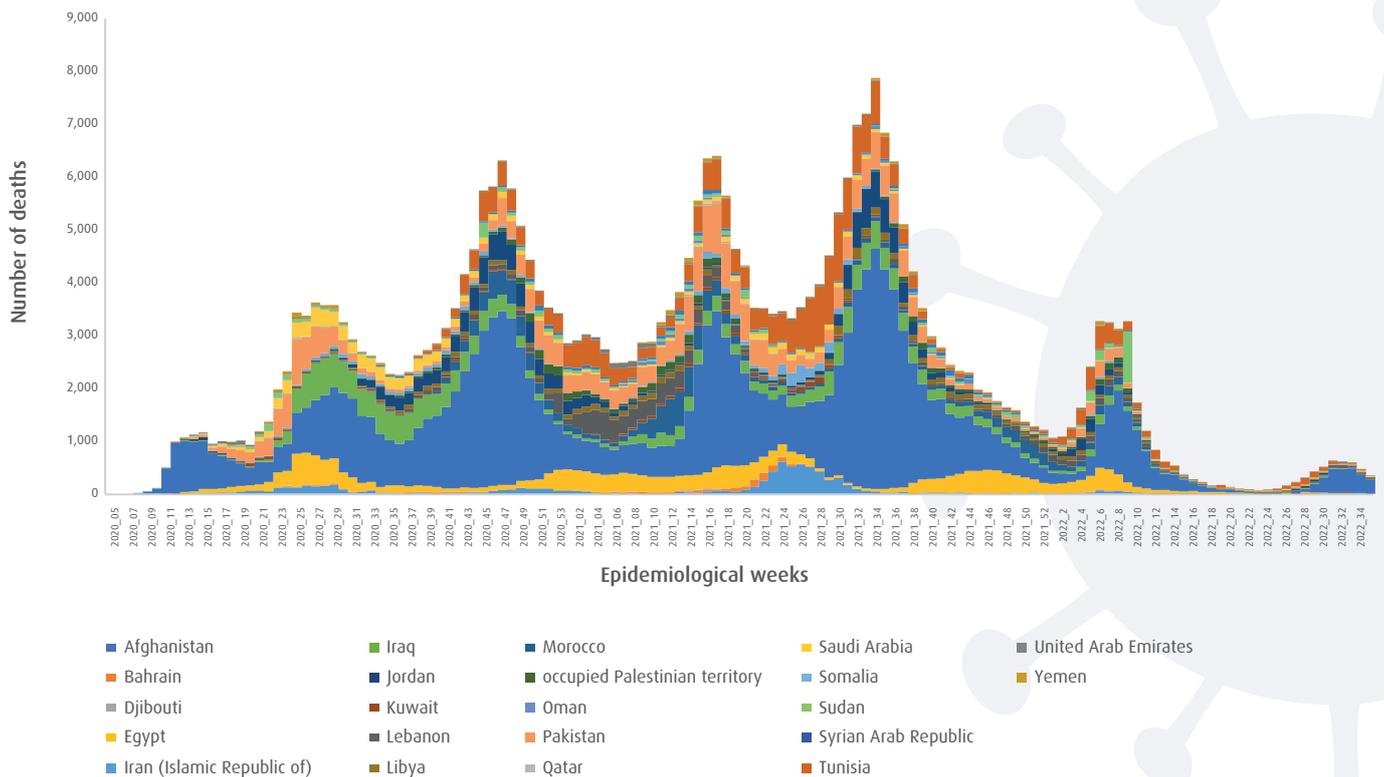
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 31 August 2022



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

26 January 2020 – 31 August 2022



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Health Information and Technical Expertise

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Trained 35 IPC professionals of national and hospital IPC teams from ten public and private health care facilities in Syria on methods and tools for the surveillance of COVID-19 infections among health care workers (1-2 August).
- Held a regional webinar for over 150 participants on “Hospital IPC preparedness, readiness and response to emerging pathogens” on 22 August with the WHO collaborating center in Saudi Arabia.
- Supported Lebanon to review and update its national COVID-19 IPC guidelines and plans.

Case Management and Clinical Operations:

- Facilitated a nine-week national training program for 24 nurses and 24 physicians in critical care and intensive care units in Yemen.
- Progressed on the implementation of the Live Oxygen platform which captures national oxygen capacities and gaps. 18 countries in the Region currently participate in this platform, and eleven national biomedical engineers have been hired in eleven countries for technical support such as installment, optimal use, maintenance and repair of oxygen plants and biomedical equipment, and advice to WHO Country Offices and Ministries for oxygen scaling up.

Research and Knowledge Management

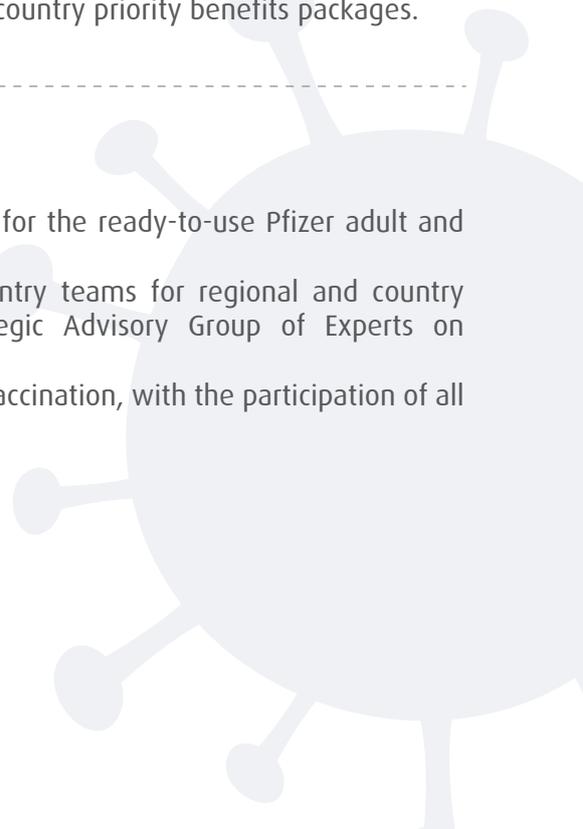
- Completed the special call for COVID-19 research, with twelve proposals recommended for funding from six Member States: Islamic Republic of Iran, Oman, Pakistan, occupied Palestinian territory, Qatar, and Sudan.

Essential Health Services and Systems

- Initiated the second round of the frontline services readiness assessment in Afghanistan, Libya and Tunisia.
- Participated in the global review of the Pulse Survey for maintaining essential health services.
- Supported Jordan, Sudan and Syria in the development and review of country priority benefits packages.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Supported countries to issue the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the ready-to-use Pfizer adult and pediatric vaccine in several countries in the Region.
- Held two Regional Working Group meetings with partners and country teams for regional and country updates, partner presentations, and a presentation of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) recommendations.
- Held country support team calls for the eight countries prioritized for vaccination, with the participation of all partners at regional and country levels.



IN FOCUS: Donors making a difference toward ending COVID-19

USAID and WHO team up to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Somalia

The World Health Organization (WHO) country office for Somalia and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched a new project which aims to fill current needs to prevent community spread of COVID-19 across Somalia. The project will address existing gaps in coordination, surveillance, vaccination and the operational response to COVID-19 and help the country's health system recover from the pandemic towards a more inclusive and equitable system.

As of 24 August 2022, Somalia had 27 137 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 1351 related deaths. The country's disease surveillance system remains fragmented and weak. Currently, only 62% of health facilities in Somalia are reporting through the early warning and alert and response network. The country was able to vaccinate only 15% of its population against COVID-19 fully, leaving a large number of high-risk populations unvaccinated. Somalia's fragile health system has been struggling to sustain the progress made in containing and mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 among vulnerable populations, especially among around 47% of people who live in hard-to-reach areas, where disease reporting is weak and incomplete.

Read more:

<https://www.emro.who.int/somalia/news/usaid-and-who-team-up-to-mitigate-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-somalia.html>



Healthcare workers visit households to share messages on how to prevent COVID-19 and manage cases.
Credit: WHO Somalia

Regional COVID-19 website:

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

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int