

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 31 July 2021)



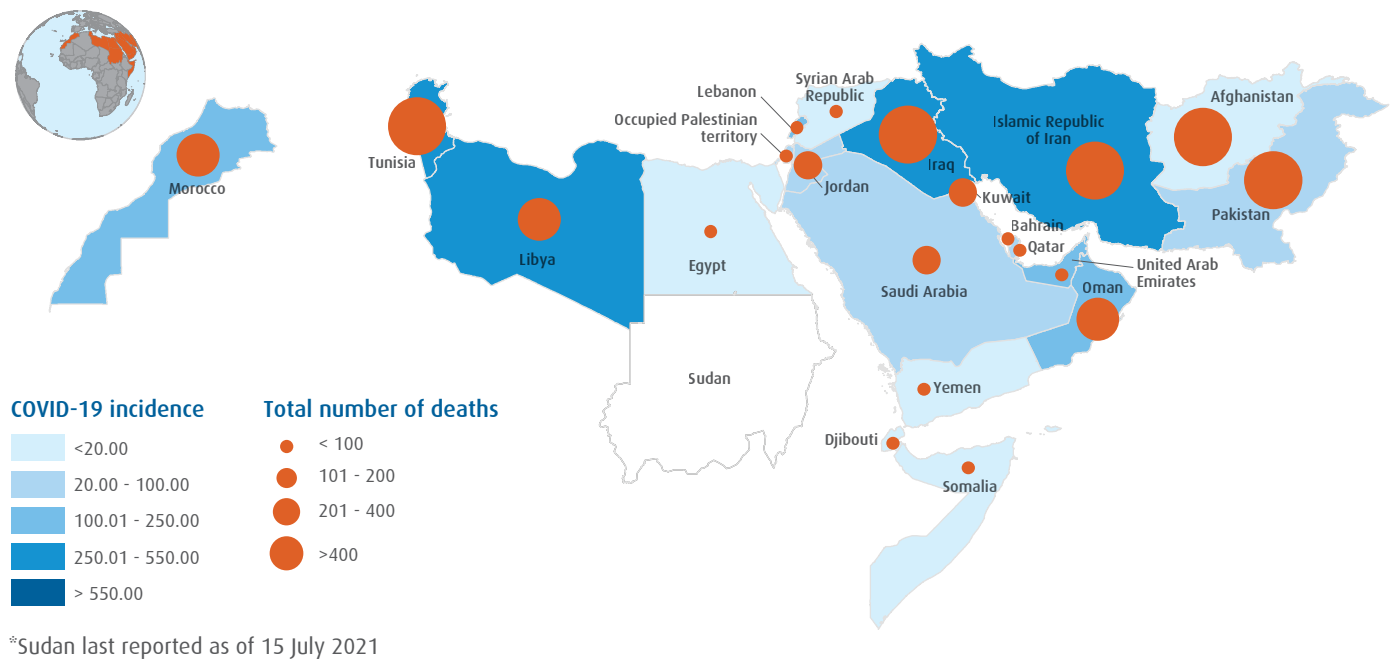
Since 8 May 2021, COVAX has delivered a total of 8 million vaccine doses to Pakistan, including 2.5 million doses of AstraZeneca, 100 000 doses of Pfizer, and 5.5 million doses of Moderna.

Credit: WHO Pakistan

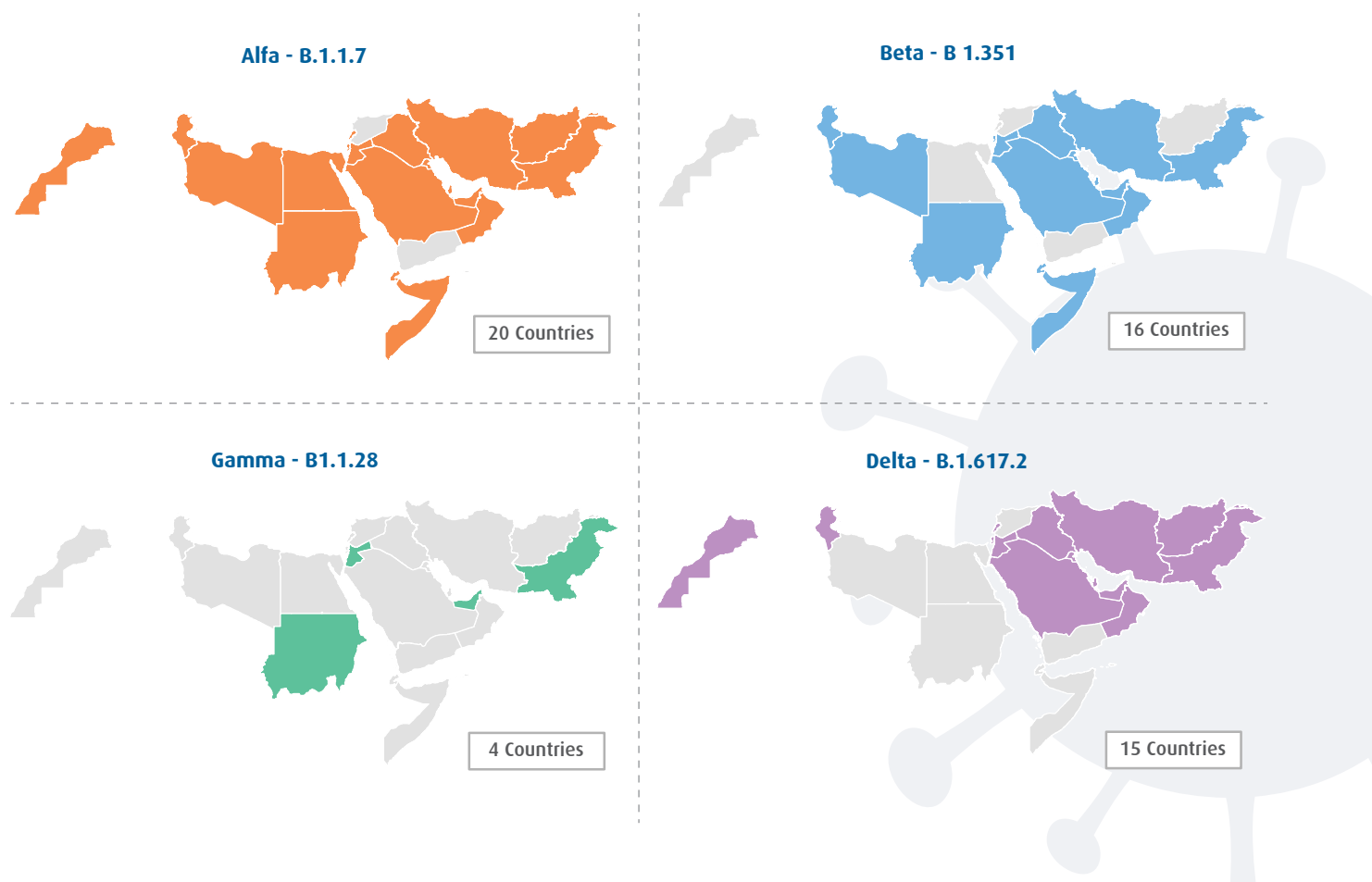
## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 31 July 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported 12,608,611 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 236,576 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 increased by 20%.
  - Deaths have increased by 29%.
  - Testing rates have stabilized.
  - Increase in cases and deaths was reported by 12 and 9 countries, respectively.
  - Decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by 5 countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** Total number of tests in the region has reached 191,158,586; median cumulative positivity ratio is 9.4% (range from 1.0% to 30.8%).
- **SARS-CoV-2 variants:**
  - **Twenty** 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 and the United Arab Emirates.
  - **Sixteen** 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, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.
  - **Four** countries have officially reported the **Gamma VOC:** Jordan, Pakistan, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.
  - **Fifteen** countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of the **Delta VOC**, bringing the total to of countries having reported the detection of this VOC to fifteen: Afghanistan, Bahrain, 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 18-31 July 2021



# Map 2: Countries reporting SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) and variants of interest (VOIs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region As of 31 July 2021



## IN FOCUS: The Delta variant takes its toll in the Region

- The arrival of the Delta variant contributed to a substantial increase in cases and deaths reported in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Over 367,000 new cases and 4,386 deaths have been reported on average on a weekly basis during the last 4 weeks.
- Given its high transmissibility, the Delta variant is becoming the dominant strain of the virus in several EMR countries. It was first officially detected by Morocco on 03 May 2021 (See table 1). It is now being reported in 15 of the 22 countries of the Region.
- A remarkable increase was observed in hospitalization rates during the last few weeks, and some referral hospitals are reaching full capacity and facing a shortage of intensive care beds and oxygen supplies.
- Surges in cases and deaths caused by the Delta variant occurred as countries in the Region saw a relaxation of public health and social measures during the Eid feast and the summer holiday season, which provided an opportunity for the Delta variant and other detected variants of concern to circulate.

**Table 1: Delta variant circulation in EMR countries**

Country	Date reported <sup>6/Jul/21</sup>
Afghanistan	6/Jul/21
Bahrain	10/May/21
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	6/May/21
Iraq	13/Jul/21
Jordan	18/May/21
Kuwait	15/Jun/21
Lebanon	2/Jul/21
Morocco	3/May/21
occupied Palestinian territory	27/Jun/2021
Oman	1/Jul/21
Pakistan	6/Jun/21
Qatar	28/May/21
Saudi Arabia	25/May/21
Tunisia	24/Jun/21
United Arab Emirates	27/Jun/21



**Table 2: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

18-31 July 2021

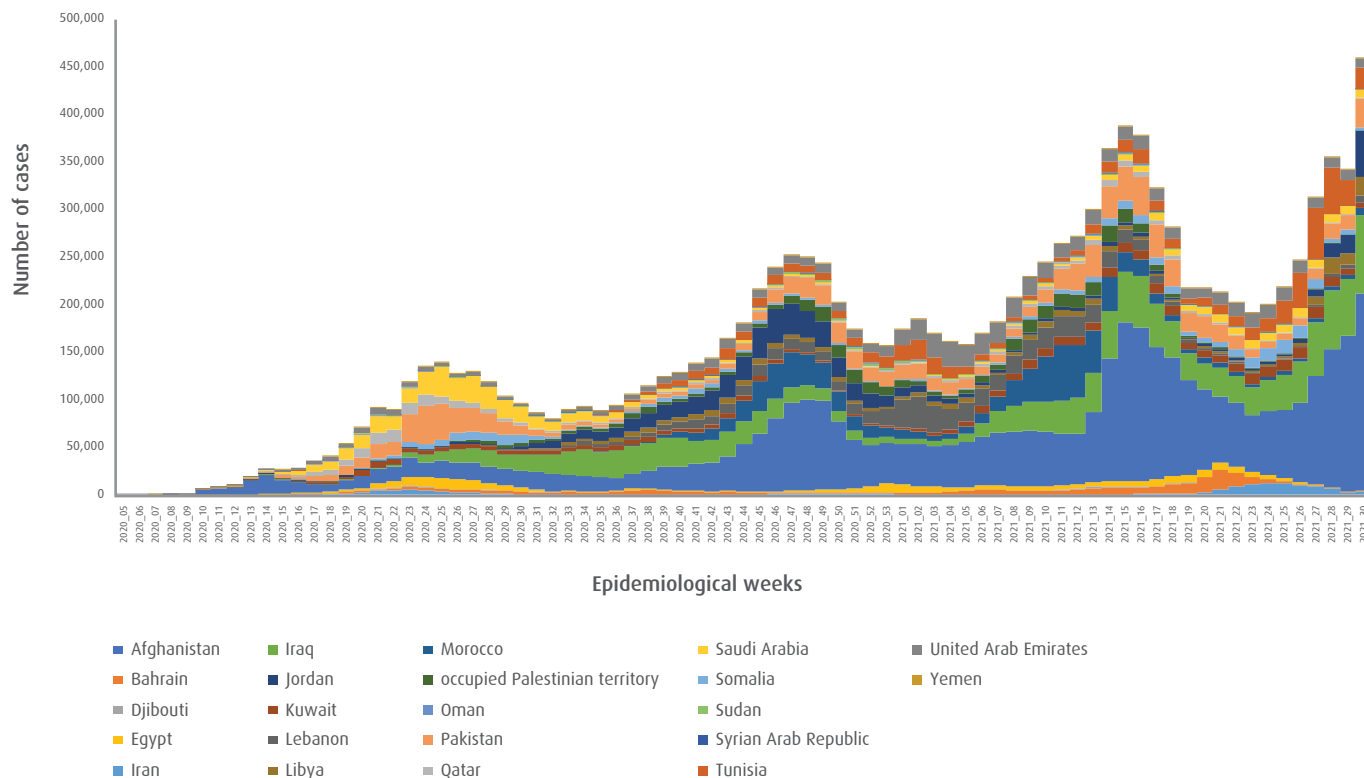
Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	6,486	147,985	561	6,774	4.6%	99,449	709,930
Bahrain	1,390	269,186	4	1,384	0.5%	266,796	5,447,238
Djibouti	29	11,651	1	156	1.3%	11,490	191,385
Egypt	626	284,262	85	16,524	5.8%	230,368	3,413,190
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	369,929	3,871,008	3,664	90,630	2.3%	3,367,272	25,917,921
Iraq	143,585	1,626,599	868	18,657	1.1%	1,464,273	13,076,929
Jordan	10,162	770,712	145	10,032	1.3%	750,518	8,493,724
Kuwait	13,258	397,831	109	2,320	0.6%	384,062	3,404,612
Lebanon	10,888	561,380	22	7,906	1.4%	537,111	5,617,025
Libya	31,941	253,436	267	3,548	1.4%	192,184	1,323,893
Morocco	68,040	623,528	351	9,785	1.6%	561,930	6,985,179
Occupied Palestinian territory	1,220	345,702	17	3,872	1.1%	340,491	1,994,784
Oman	7,528	296,570	338	3,836	1.3%	278,195	1,986,264
Pakistan	45,562	1,034,837	641	23,422	2.3%	941,659	16,052,118
Qatar	2,079	226,239	2	601	0.3%	223,732	2,332,220
Saudi Arabia	17,209	525,730	174	8,237	1.6%	506,089	25,029,275
Somalia	318	15,403	30	811	5.3%	7,533	218,269
Sudan*		37,138		2,776	7.5%	30,867	475,025
Syrian Arab Republic	136	25,963	10	1,914	7.4%	21,987	79,630
Tunisia	49,299	595,532	2,540	20,067	3.4%	516,831	2,273,172
United Arab Emirates	21,409	680,858	53	1,949	0.3%	658,198	65,922,553
Yemen	84	7,061	7	1,375	19.5%	4,185	214,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>801,178</b>	<b>12,608,611</b>	<b>9,889</b>	<b>236,576</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>11,395,220</b>	<b>191,158,586</b>

\*Sudan last reported as of 15 July 2021



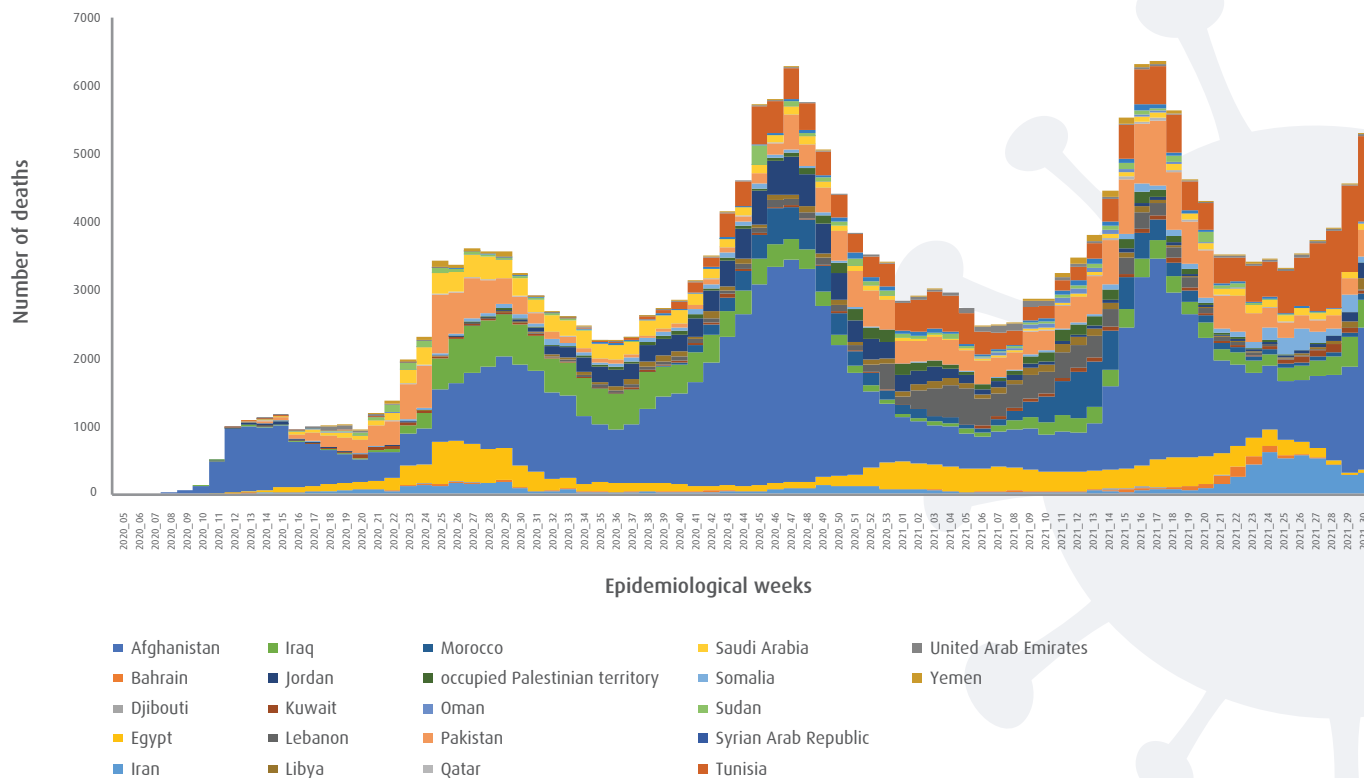
# Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 31 July 2021



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

26 January 2020 – 31 July 2021



## REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Operations Support and Logistics

- Completed 19 shipments to 18 countries across all 6 WHO regions (AFRO, EMRO, EURO, PAHO, SEARO, WPRO).
- Received 1.2 million in health commodities for pre-positioning.
- Organized a charter flight and charter vessel to carry medicines and medical supplies to Yemen by air and sea. We expect to move over 800 cubic meters of supplies valued at over USD 2.5 million.
- Distributed 90% of Elisa test kits requiring specialized cold-chain packaging and transport at +2C-+8C to support Phase 3 and 4 of the Unity Studies.
- Facilitated 2 shipments of ancillary vaccination equipment to support the Solidarity Vaccine Trials in Columbia and Mali.

### Health Operations and Technical Expertise

#### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Reviewed and updated the guideline of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to tailor to the COVID-19 response in Syria.
- Trained 80 IPC officers in Jordan on the use of COVID-19 risk assessment and surveillance among health care workers (HCWs) tool.

#### Clinical Management

- As surge response to a series of O2 related fire incidents in COVID-19 hospitals, a training was carried out on O2 and fire safety in Iraq. The training targeted 100+ health care workers (HCWs) on the safety use of biomedical equipment and O2. Hospital managers were trained on the assessment of O2 and fire safety in hospital.

### Health Information Management and Surveillance

- Analyzed the relationship between vaccination coverage and the change in the distribution of cases by age groups. Analysis indicates that COVID-19 infection is increasing among younger population in 2021 compared to 2020.
- Conducted training for a number of focal points on the new COVID-19 Monitoring and Evaluation framework for Iraq and Bahrain.

### International Health Regulations and Social Measures

- Completed first round of social and behavioral data collection for the regional knowledge, attitude and Practices (KAP) study. The analysis is underway to inform RCCE planning, products, and interventions in countries of the region.
- Launched pilot training on RCCE package for community health workers to manage vaccine hesitancy in Egypt after being conducted successfully in Syria.
- RCCE surge support has been deployed to WHO Djibouti Country Office.

### COVID-19 Vaccine

- Disseminated new and updated guidance, recommendations for vaccination priority issued by the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), vaccine products and others.
- Engaged with Joint Allocation Team for prioritization of allocation decisions for EMR countries.

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

For more information, contact [emrgonCoV@who.int](mailto:emrgonCoV@who.int)