

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of midnight GMT+2, 29 January 2022)



17

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



13

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths



18 852 057

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



17 433 937

Total reported recovered cases



321 212

Total reported deaths



321 738 308

Total tests performed



Boosting vaccination supply, nearly four million doses of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the Syrian Arab Republic on 26 January 2022, donated by Italy through the COVAX facility.

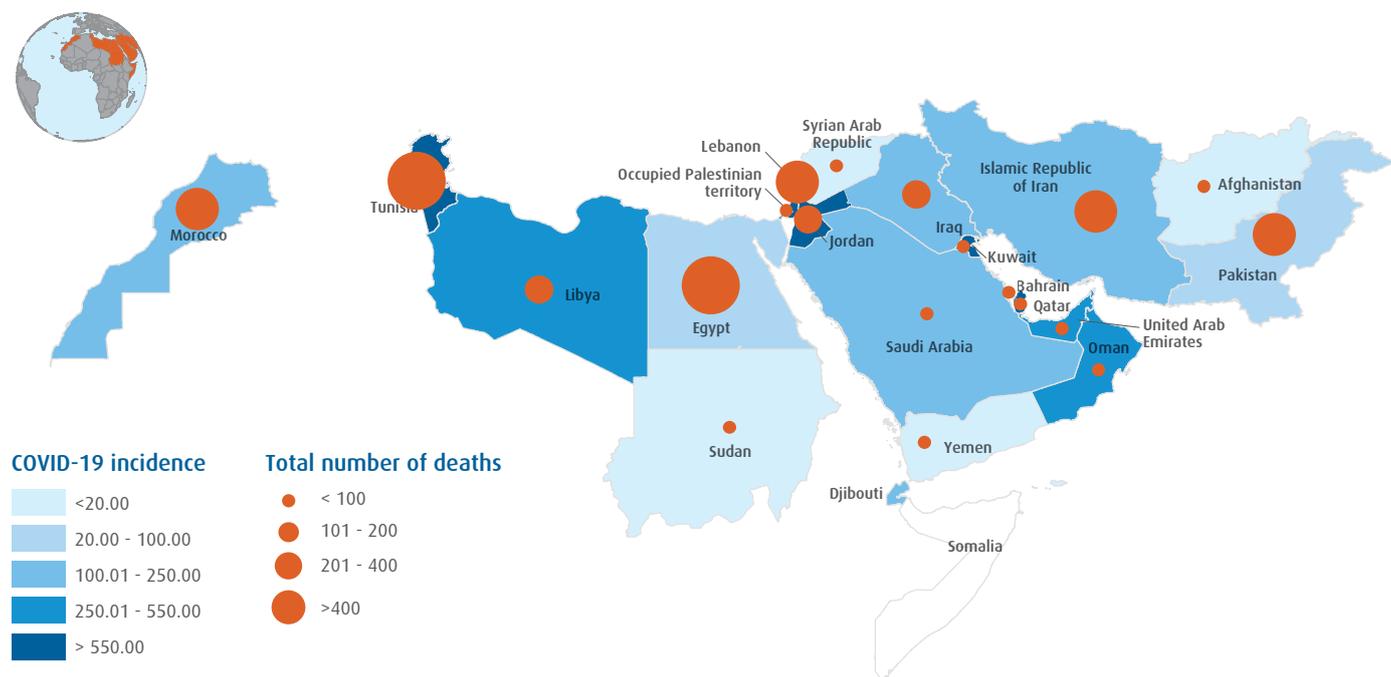
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## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 29 January 2022, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 18 852 057 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 321 212 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 increased by 94%.
  - The number of reported deaths decreased by 35%.
  - The number of conducted tests increased by 24%.
  - 17 and 13 countries reported an increase in cases and deaths respectively.
  - No country has reported a simultaneous decrease in cases and deaths.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 321 738 308 with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 9% (range from 0.7% to 30.9%).
- **Variants of concern (VOCs):**
  - 21 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Alpha VOC.
  - 18 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Beta VOC.
  - 6 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Gamma VOC.
  - 18 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Delta VOC.
  - 15 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Omicron VOC.

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

16-29 January 2022

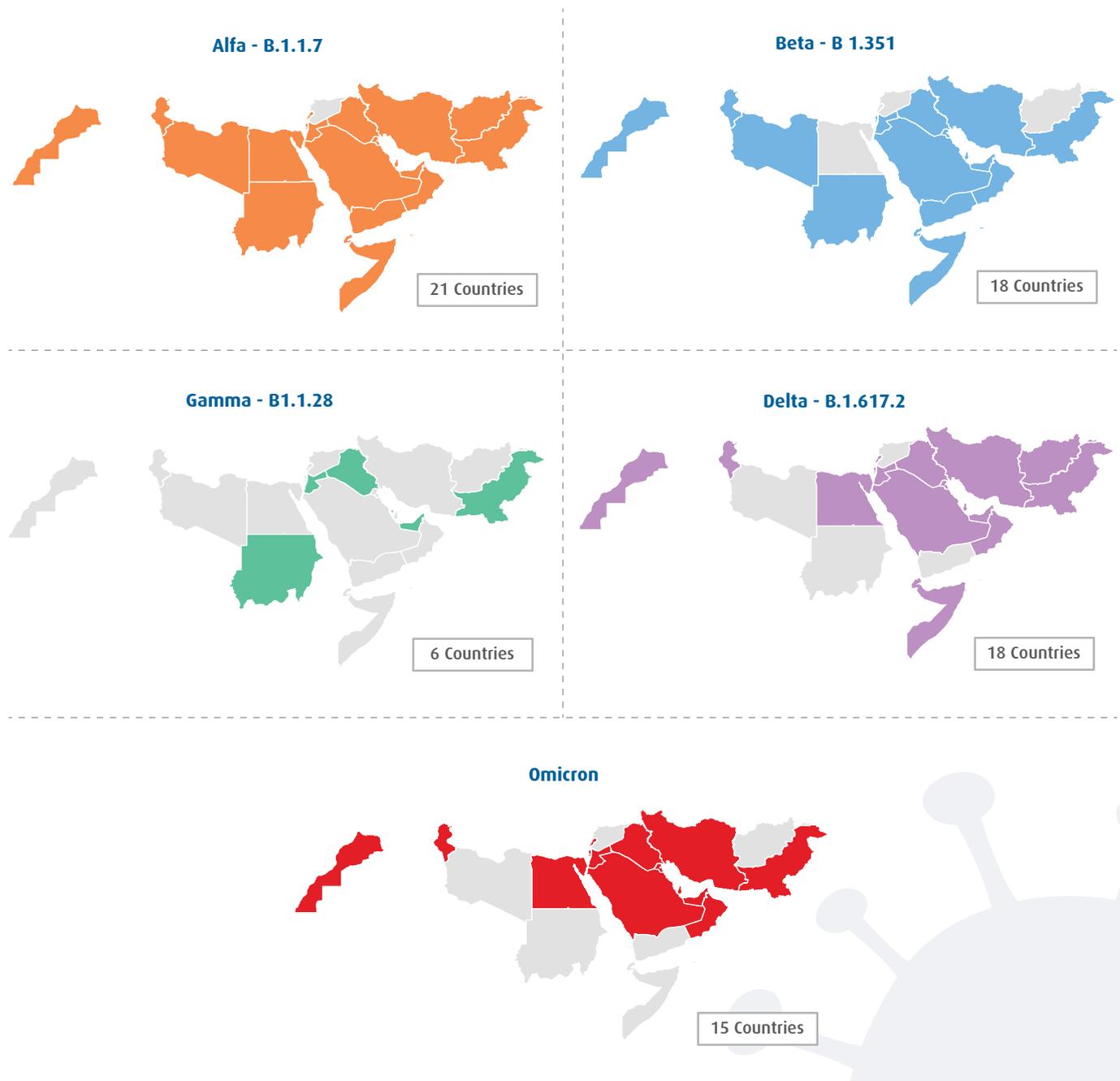


## IN FOCUS:OMICRON VARIANT OF CONCERN

- Since WHO designated it as a Variant of Concern (VOC) on 26 November 2021, several lineages of Omicron have been identified. By the end of January 2022, the rapidly circulating Omicron accounted for 96.4% of sequences submitted to GISAID from around the world.
- WHO is closely working with researchers worldwide to gain a better understanding of the Omicron VOC's specificities and how it may impact diagnosis, treatment, and vaccines.
- WHO encourages countries to increase sequencing efforts to better understand circulating COVID-19 variants and to submit complete genome sequences and associated metadata to a publicly available database, such as GISAID.
- WHO urges for the continued implementation of effective public health and social measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and for an evidence- and risk-based approach when applying travel measures in accordance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005). Read more: <http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/omicron-voc-questions-and-answers.html>.

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

16-29 January 2022



**Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

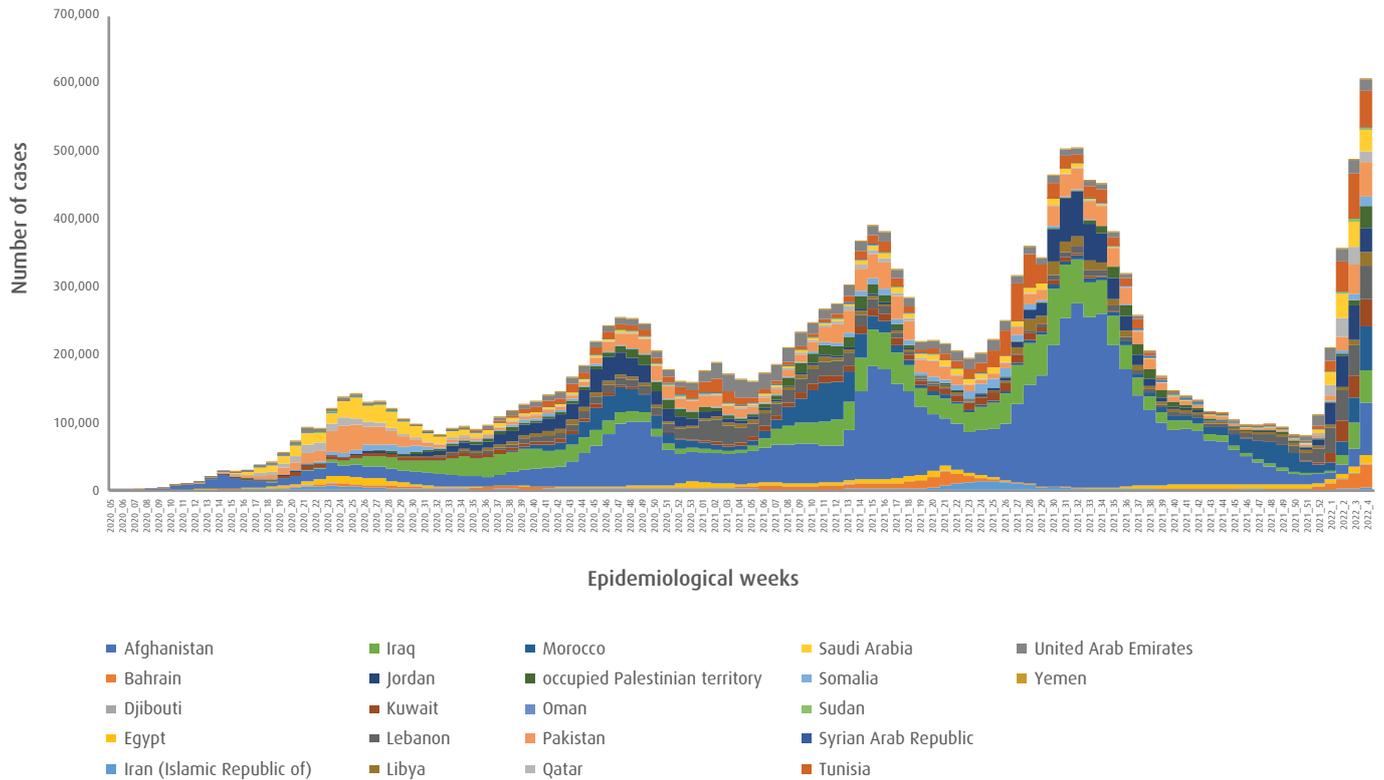
16-29 January 2022

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total Recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	3 403	162 140	30	7 409	4.6%	146 529	853 003
Bahrain	56 608	362 022	6	1 404	0.4%	320 946	8 720 442
Djibouti	599	15 440	0	189	1.2%	15 147	273 223
Egypt	22 599	421 478	443	22 566	5.4%	354 300	5 893 855
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	103 442	6 322 183	336	132 380	2.1%	6 098 675	44 607 091
Iraq	87 100	2 197 783	119	24 361	1.1%	2 099 336	17 374 475
Jordan	99 776	1 197 250	200	13 174	1.1%	1 106 177	14 592 197
Kuwait	73 234	534 062	19	2 494	0.5%	481 137	6 853 435
Lebanon	93 193	907 824	209	9 576	1.1%	714 064	9 330 078
Libya	27 918	425 237	166	6 007	1.4%	391 758	2 224 290
Morocco	85 915	1 129 140	365	15 328	1.4%	1 064 199	10 602 598
Occupied Palestinian territory	40 373	516 059	71	5 087	1.0%	473 076	3 027 122
Oman	23 005	334 703	15	4 134	1.2%	308 825	1 986 264
Pakistan	93 844	1 417 991	236	29 248	2.1%	1 288 738	24 957 306
Qatar	40 860	336 081	21	645	0.2%	309 188	3 300 850
Saudi Arabia	69 431	679 384	28	8 933	1.3%	630 816	37 596 846
Somalia		25 388		1 335	5.3%	13 182	403 959
Sudan	5 302	57 632	51	3 441	6.0%	30 897	475 025
Syrian Arab Republic	610	51 284	40	2 984	5.8%	38 008	79 630
Tunisia	119 227	907 239	468	26 271	2.9%	766 677	4 026 806
United Arab Emirates	38 558	840 739	51	2 239	0.3%	775 172	124 230 221
Yemen	680	10 998	19	2 007	18.2%	7 090	329 592
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 085 677</b>	<b>18 852 057</b>	<b>2 893</b>	<b>321 212</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>17 433 937</b>	<b>321 738 308</b>



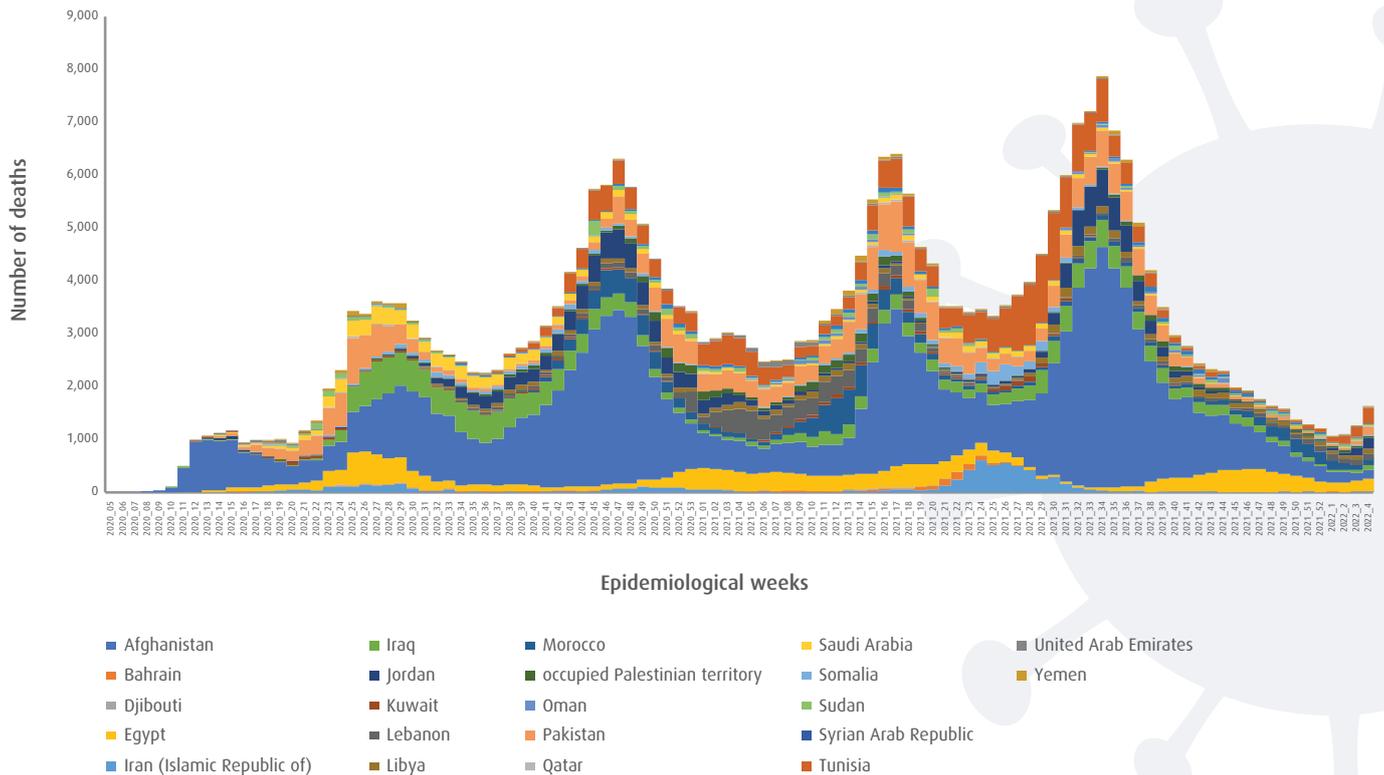
# Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 29 January 2022



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

26 January 2020 – 29 January 2022



## REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Health Operations and Technical Expertise

#### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Conducted a training on IPC standard precautions and measures for COVID-19, targeting 1 200 healthcare workers in the Gaza Strip, occupied Palestinian territory.
- Trained 60 healthcare workers at Al-Jumhuriyah Hospital in Yemen on hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, the management of blood spills, the use of proper personal protective equipment (PPE), and screening and triage.

#### Case Management and Clinical Operations

- Conducted a regional demonstration session on the “Live Oxygen Platform” on 27 January 2022, which allows the real-time identification of national oxygen production capacities and needs, so countries can monitor and respond to gaps in a timely manner. The ownership of this platform is given to each country (co-ownership of WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health).
- Negotiated prices with drug manufacturers and worked on ensuring supply availability for low-middle income countries, alongside Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator partners. The procurement of tocilizumab (IL-6 receptor blockers to treat severe and critical patients) is ongoing through this platform.

### COVID-19 Vaccine

- Oriented and supported the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) countries on the new COVID-19 vaccine allocation mechanism for 2022, including vaccine demand forecasting and updating the COVAX Collaboration Portal (CCP).
- Supported six priority countries with low COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the development of their National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) and in submitting the funding proposals for “COVID-19 Delivery Support” (CDS).
- Supported countries in focusing their vaccination strategies towards high-priority groups according to the interim recommendations of WHO’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE).

#### Vaccination coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 27 January 2022

Over 586 million vaccine doses have been administered in the Region.



- Fully vaccinated population: 34%
- Partially vaccinated population: 8%

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)