

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of midnight GMT+2, 7 May 2022)



1

country reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



3

country reporting biweekly increase in number of deaths



21 716 236

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



21 179 132

Total reported recovered cases



342 456

Total reported deaths



384 137 744

Total tests



WHO delivered six advanced genome sequencing machines to three reference centers (the National Influenza Reference Laboratory, the Pasteur Institute of Tehran, and the Virology Research Center of Masih Daneshvari Hospital) in the Islamic Republic of Iran as part of a large-scale response to strengthening national genome sequencing capacity.

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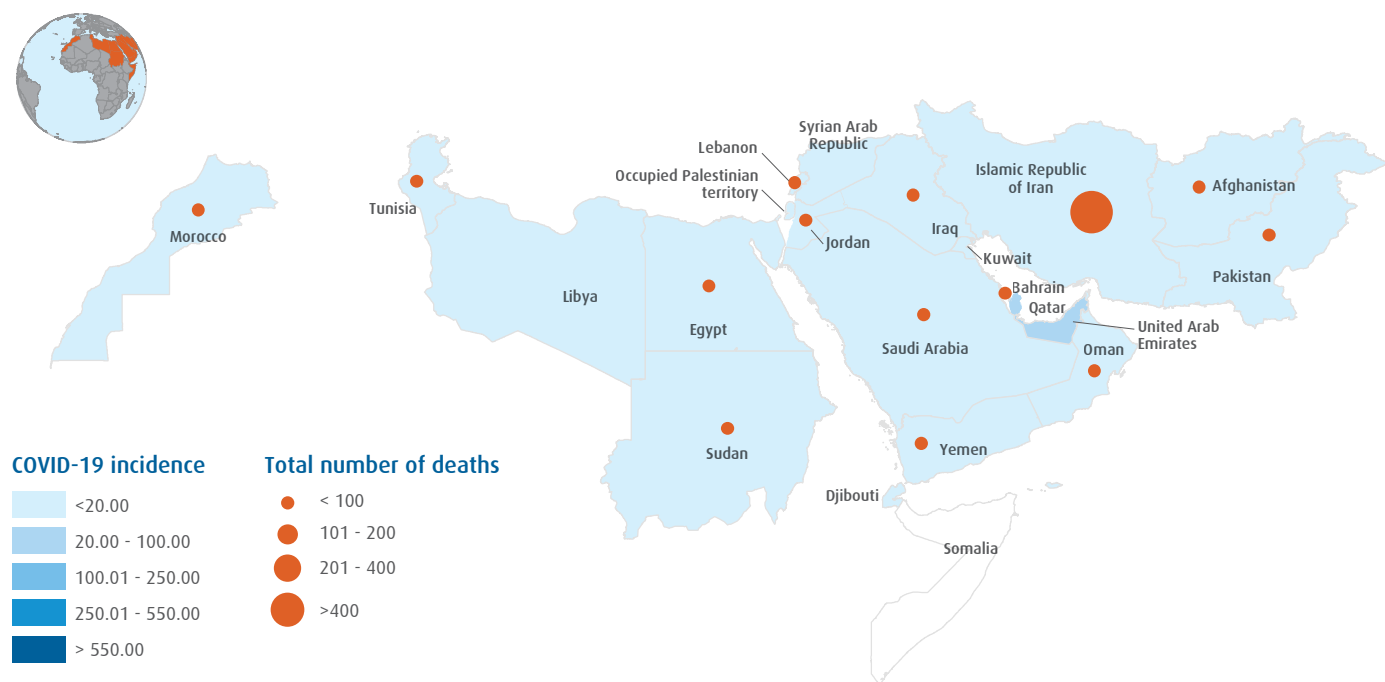
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 7 May 2022, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 21 716 236 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 342 456 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- **Epidemiological trend:** during the reporting period, in comparison with the previous two weeks¹:
 - The number of reported cases decreased by 46%
 - The number of reported deaths decreased by 42%
 - The number of conducted tests decreased by 18%
 - One country reported an increase in cases
 - Three countries reported an increase in deaths
 - Eleven countries reported a simultaneous decrease in cases and deaths
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 384 137 744 with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 10.1% (range from 0.6% to 34%).
- **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.
 - 20 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Delta VOC.
 - 17 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Omicron VOC.

¹ Among countries reporting updated and complete biweekly data

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

24 April – 7 May 2022



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

- The Omicron variant of concern is the dominant variant circulating currently, accounting for nearly all sequences reported to GISAID globally.
- Omicron 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 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 variants are rising, 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

24 April – 7 May 2022

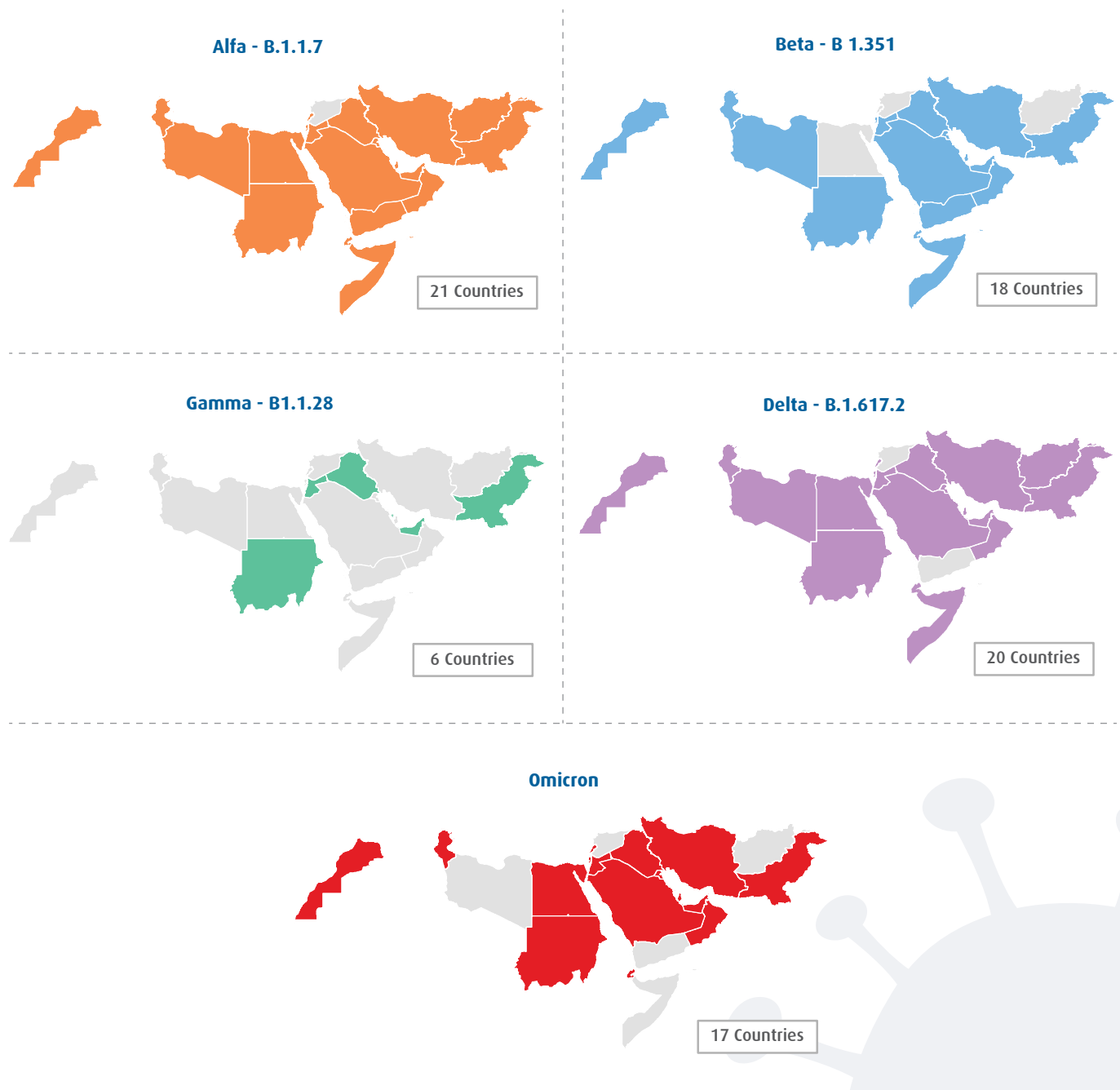


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

24 April – 7 May 2022

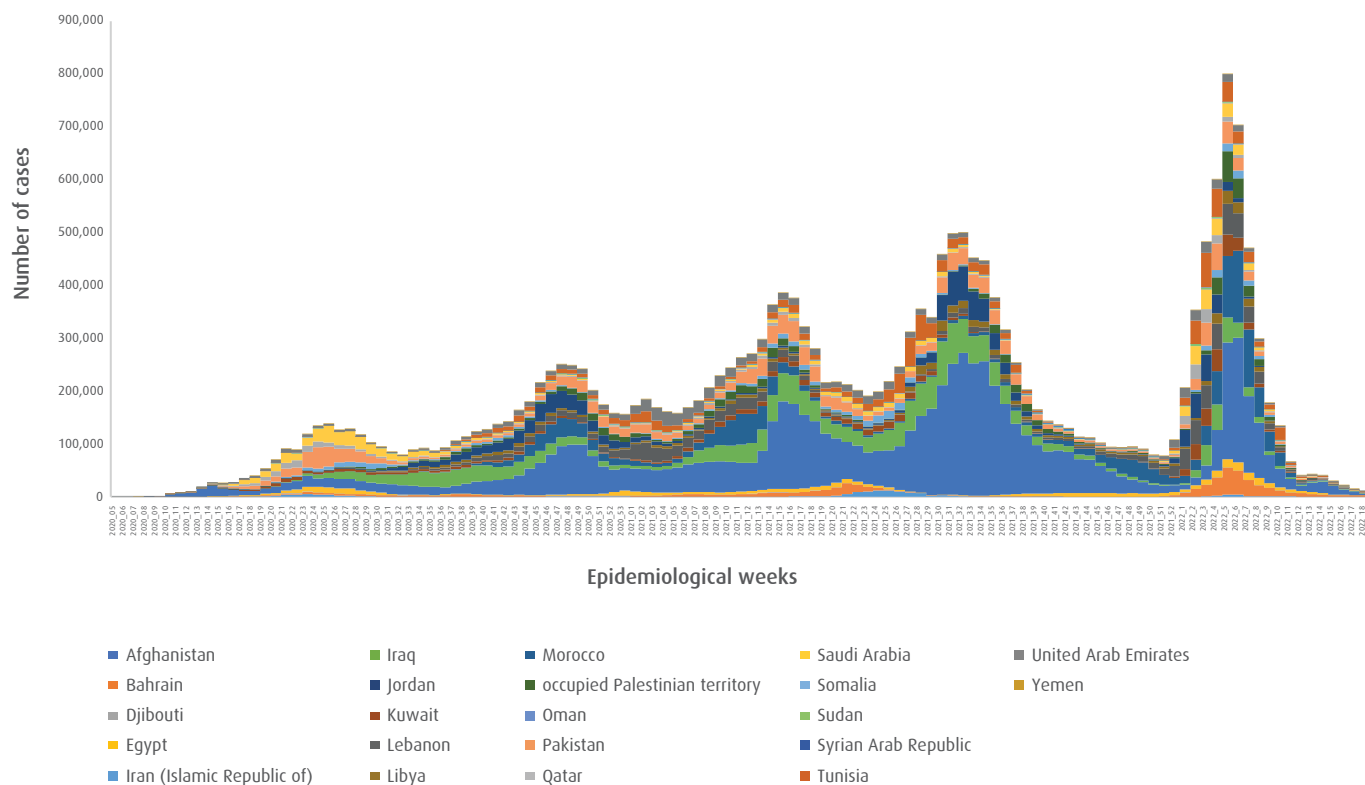
Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total Recovered	Total Tests ²
Afghanistan	292	178 981	2	7 684	4.3%	161 962	945 802
Bahrain	6 252	572 082	2	1 477	0.3%	566 702	9 746 082
Djibouti*	20	15,631	0	189	1.2%	15 427	305 941
Egypt	378	513 846	63	24 669	4.8%	445 282	11 673 580
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	9 189	7 224 701	203	141 165	2.0%	7 002 258	51 446 960
Iraq	1 381	2 325 522	9	25 213	1.1%	2 298 995	18 496 907
Jordan	309	1 696 054	2	14 066	0.8%	1 681 934	16 765 117
Kuwait	520	631 929	0	2 555	0.4%	628 998	8 066 442
Lebanon	1 172	1 097 492	23	10 398	0.9%	1 083 698	10 574 891
Libya	15	501 919	0	6 430	1.3%	491 050	2 500 304
Morocco	536	1 165 206	5	16 070	1.4%	1 148 856	11 505 651
Occupied Palestinian territory*	133	657 193	0	5 657	0.9%	651 403	3 360 600
Oman	237	389 273	2	4 259	1.1%	384 486	1 986 264
Pakistan	882	1 528 738	6	30 375	2.0%	1 495,126	28 241 286
Qatar	969	365 058	0	677	0.2%	363 817	3 461 921
Saudi Arabia	1 744	755 076	23	9 099	1.2%	742 451	41 966 629
Somalia		26,485		1 361	5.1%	13 182	469 631
Sudan	46	62 161	5	4 936	7.9%	30 928	475 025
Syrian Arab Republic	52	55 847	0	3 150	5.6%	52 305	168 131
Tunisia	1 004	1 041 197	25	28 575	2.7%	1 027 261	4 592 916
United Arab Emirates	3 134	900 026	0	2 302	0.3%	883 975	157 058 072
Yemen	1	11 819	1	2 149	18.2%	9 036	329 592
Total	28 266	21 716 236	371	342 456	1.6%	21 179 132	384 137 744

* Available data for new cases and deaths is for one week only

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

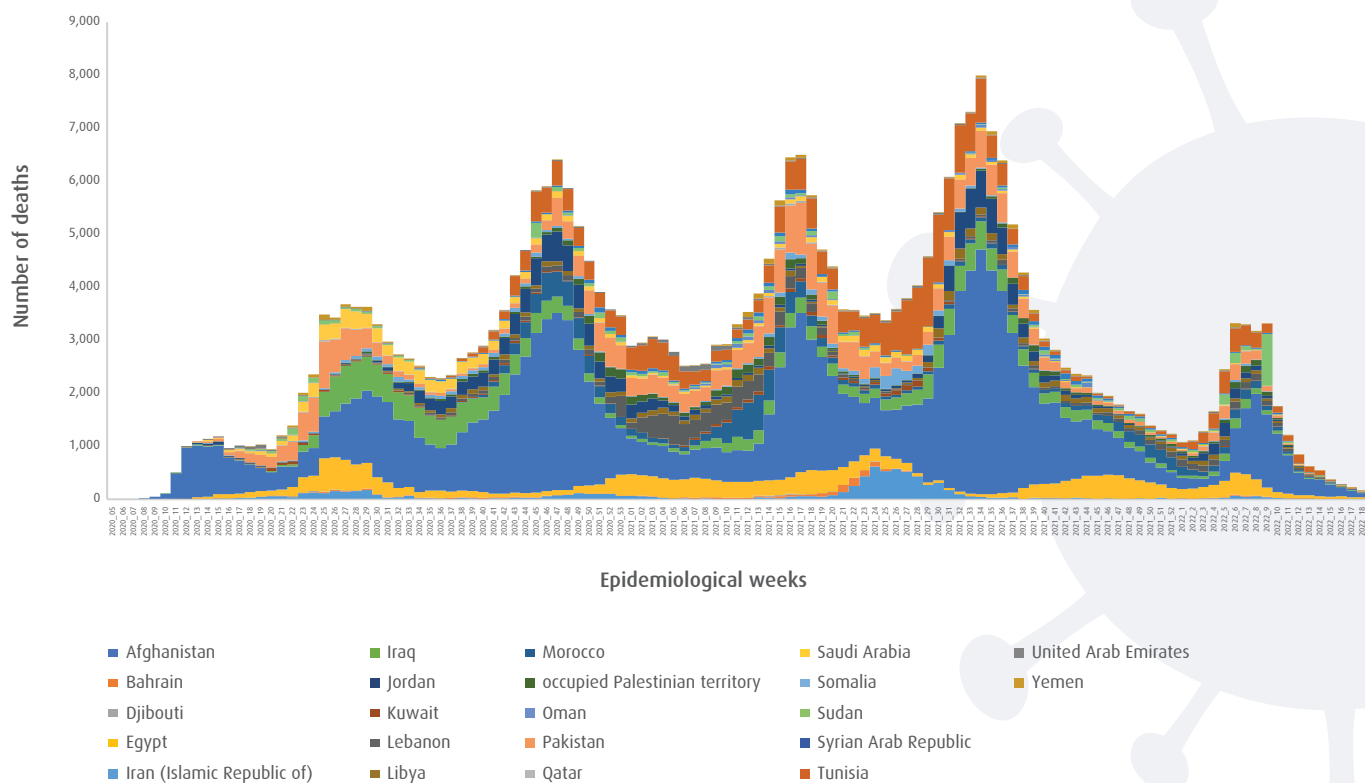
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020-7 May 2022



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

26 January 2020-7 May 2022



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Developed social media tiles and the WHO Regional Director's message (targeting health care workers, IPC practitioners, health care facility managers, and policymakers) to mark World Hand Hygiene Day 2022. The Campaign materials developed in Arabic, English, and French were shared with all EMR WHO country offices.

Operations Support and Logistics

- Dispatched US\$ 585 763 in health supplies across four WHO Regions including EMR.
- Physically managed an average of 115 metric tons of health commodities weekly in WHO's logistics hub in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Sent a joint letter from WHO's Director General, UNICEF's Executive Director, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's Chief Executive Officer to Heads of State of all priority countries regarding COVID-19 vaccination, advocating to increase vaccine uptake.
- Assisted countries in preparing and updating their demand forecasting based on new COVAX allocations.

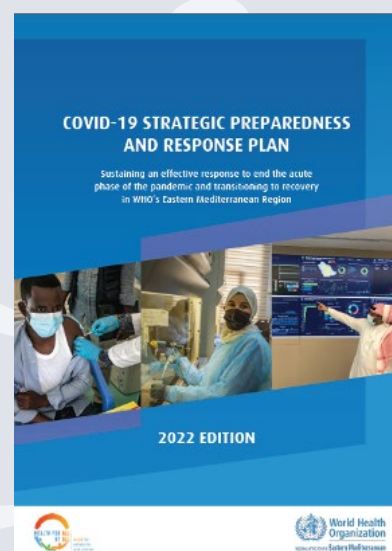
IN FOCUS: REGIONAL COVID-19 STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN FOR 2022

Built around the aim of sustaining an effective response to end the acute phase of the pandemic and transitioning to recovery in WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, the Regional Office launched the regional COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan's 2022 edition. The new edition is an update to the 2021 edition and paves the way forward for 2022.

The document sets the goal and objectives to guide the response in 2022 and the priority actions that WHO will undertake to sustain, strengthen, adapt, and transition the COVID-19 response.

Access the EMR COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for 2022 here:

<https://applications.emro.who.int/docs/WHOEMCSR513E-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