

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of midnight GMT+2, 26 March 2022)



0

country reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



0

country reporting biweekly increase in number of deaths



21 551 271

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



20 854 064

Total reported recovered cases



340 310

Total reported deaths



362 965 967

Total tests



Distribution of COVID-19 laboratory supplies to 34 provinces in Afghanistan.

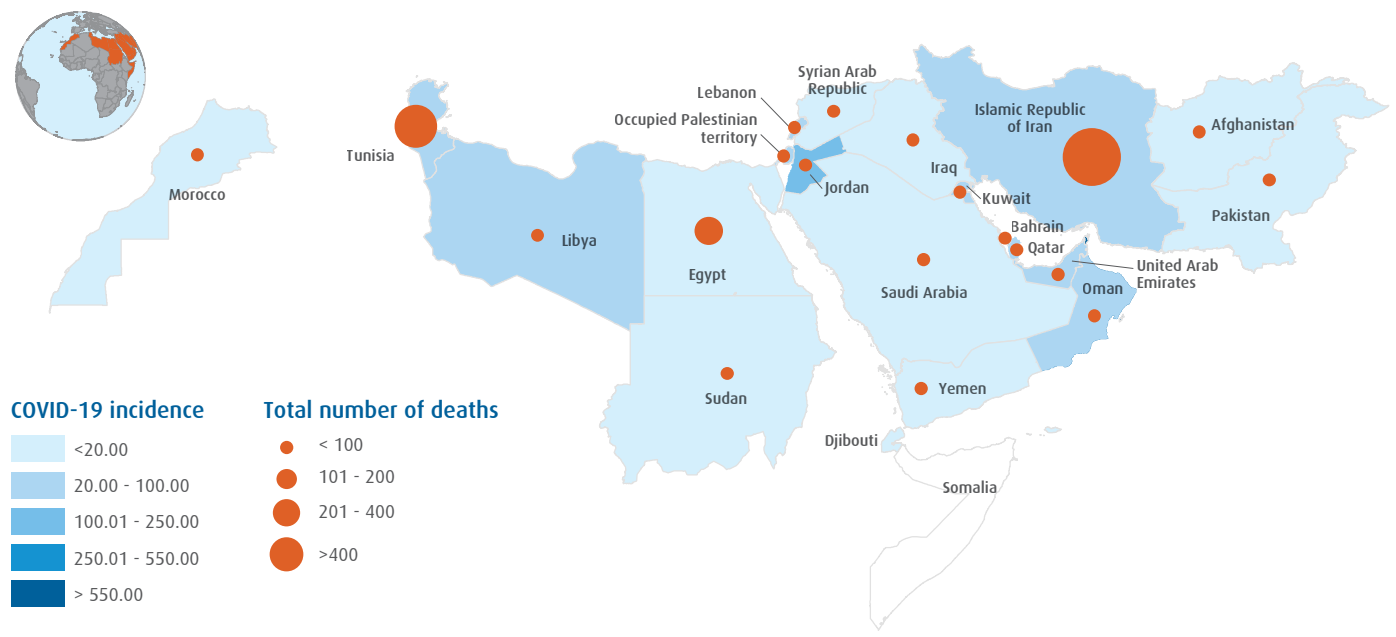
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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 26 March 2022, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 21 551 271 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 340 310 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 decreased by 66%
 - The number of reported deaths decreased by 60%
 - The number of conducted tests decreased by 22%
 - No countries reported increases in deaths or cases
 - 21 countries reported a simultaneous decrease in cases and deaths
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 362 965 967 with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 10.3% (range from 0.6% to 34.8%).
- **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.

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

13-26 March 2022



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

13-26 March 2022

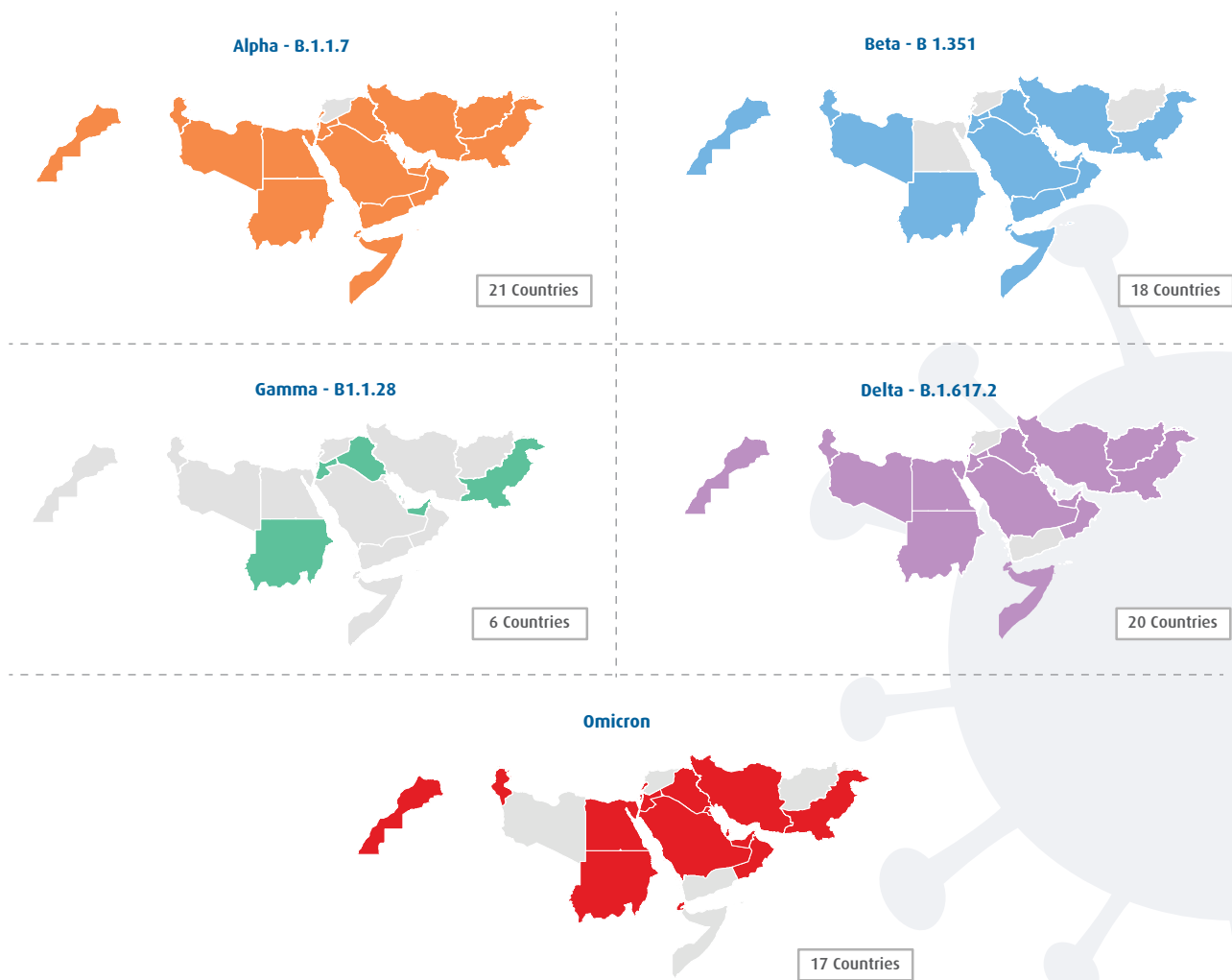


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

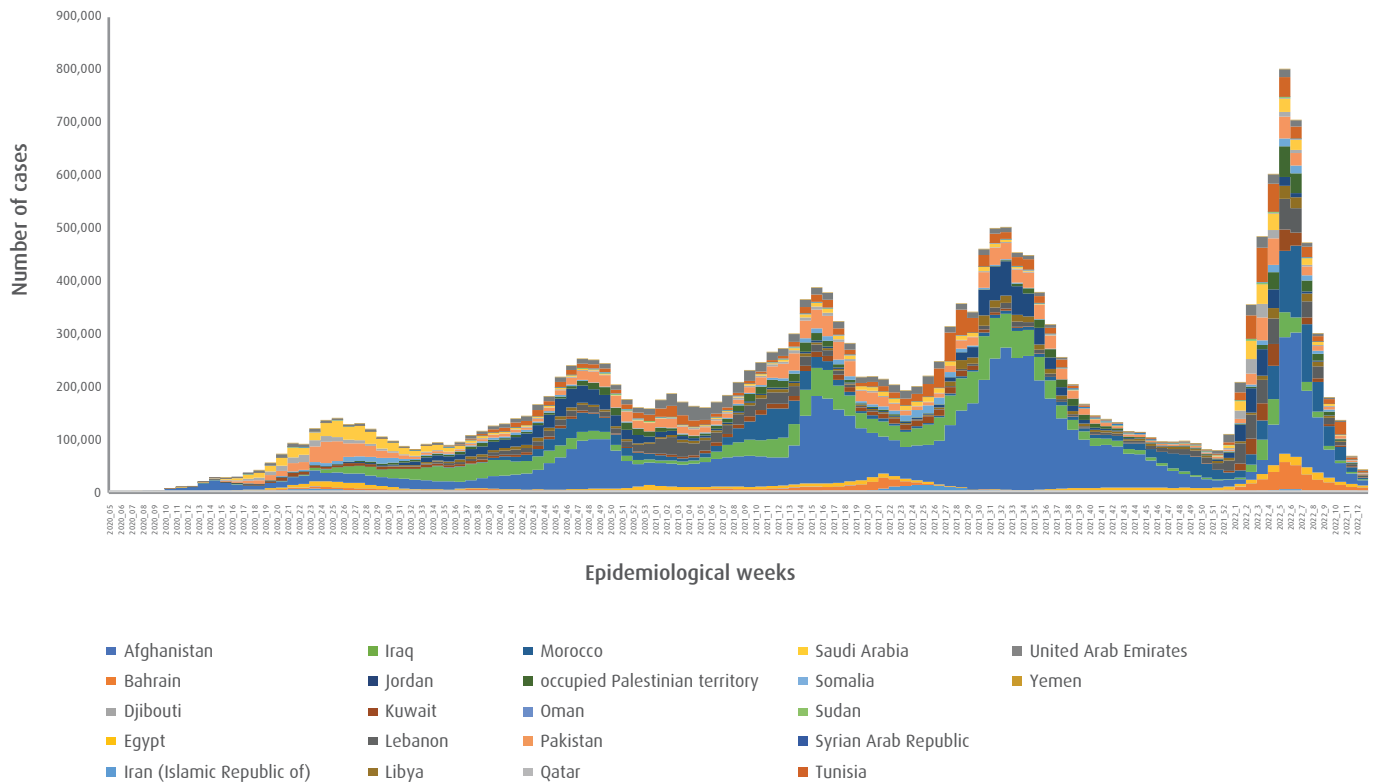
13-26 March 2022

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total Recovered
Afghanistan	1 343	177 544	19	7 662	4.3%	160 649
Bahrain	14 121	550 362	6	1 468	0.3%	541 056
Djibouti	16	15 580	0	189	1.2%	15 383
Egypt	9 891	505 264	140	24 417	4.8%	434 506
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	29 026	7 148 789	1 140	139 971	2.0%	6 850 525
Iraq	5 455	2 317 747	52	25 149	1.1%	2 278 726
Jordan	12 306	1 692 485	72	14 031	0.8%	1 670 936
Kuwait	2 999	628 460	3	2 553	0.4%	623 828
Lebanon	6 384	1 090 498	78	10 278	0.9%	1 049 584
Libya	1 495	501 495	60	6 404	1.3%	489 231
Morocco	883	1 162 923	21	16 057	1.4%	1 146 239
Occupied Palestinian territory	2 088	655 750	43	5 655	0.9%	648 885
Oman	1 714	388 039	0	4 250	1.1%	381 949
Pakistan	5 208	1 523 900	38	30 345	2.0%	1 485 316
Qatar	1 676	360 704	2	677	0.2%	358 870
Saudi Arabia	1 634	750 258	21	9 038	1.2%	733 146
Somalia		26 410		1 361	5.2%	13 182
Sudan	216	61 929	33	4 905	7.9%	30 928
Syrian Arab Republic	321	55 650	19	3 133	5.6%	51 423
Tunisia	6 288	1 035 884	261	28 323	2.7%	1 018 540
United Arab Emirates	4 708	889 797	0	2 302	0.3%	862 229
Yemen	19	11 803	3	2 142	18.1%	8 933
Total	107 791	21 551 271	2 011	340 310	1.6%	20 854 064



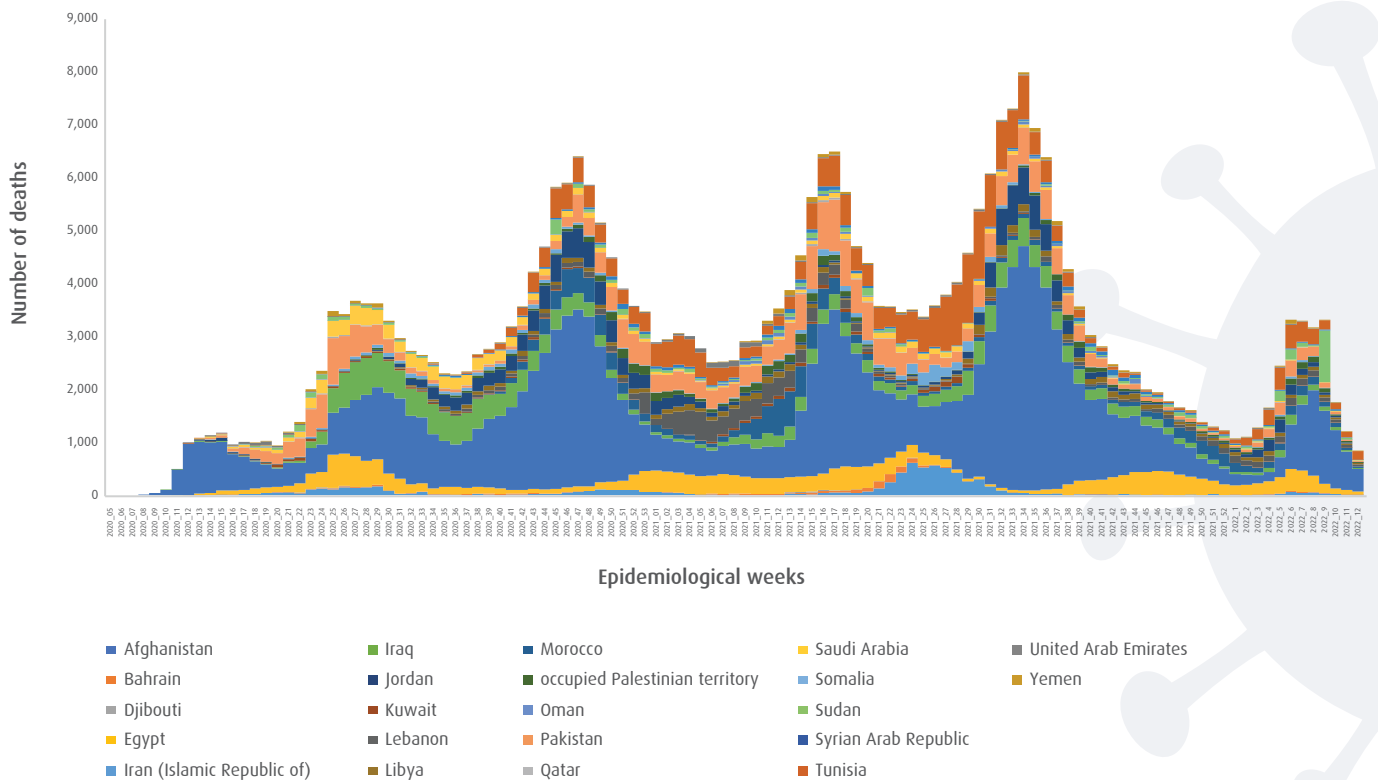
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020-26 March 2022



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

26 January 2020-26 March 2022



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Conducted a week-long mission to Yemen to follow up on the implementation of national and facility IPC programmes, supporting the implementation of priority IPC practices within hospitals, and training 75 health care workers from ten primary and tertiary healthcare facilities on IPC in the context of COVID-19.
- Conducted a week-long mission to Iraq to support the Ministry of Health in enhancing the national IPC programme, visiting four hospitals in Baghdad to support IPC implementation, and training 30 IPC staff from 10 hospitals, mainly on IPC multimodal interventions.
- Reviewed and updated the Syrian national IPC guidelines and documents in the context of COVID-19.

Research and Knowledge Management

- Organized a webinar on “Bioethics Education in the Challenging Times of COVID-19” on 14 March with WHO Collaborating Centers for Bioethics, hosted by EMR institutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, and Pakistan, and with UNESCO/Arab States sharing their experience.

Essential Health Services and Systems

- Initiated a plan for the Priority Benefits Package (PBP) in countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations.
- Prepared a summary of the key considerations for developing a PBP in the EMR.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Kicked off the COVID-19 Vaccination Delivery Partnership for Somalia and Syria where all partners provide support in a concerted manner.
- Completed country missions to Afghanistan and Yemen to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination.
- Supported the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) GAVI-eligible countries in applying for COVID-19 vaccine delivery support.
- Prepared cards with educational messages for Ramadan and updated the Ramadan guidance.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 23 March 2022

Over 684 million vaccine doses have been administered in the Region.



48% of the population have received at least one dose.

Regional COVID-19 website:

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

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int