

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 10 April 2021)



57,600 COVID-19 vaccine doses arrived in Libya through the COVAX Facility on 8 April 2021.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 10 April 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported 8,066,207 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 165,313 deaths since the start of the pandemic. The total number of tests in the Region has reached 120,599,057, with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 10.5% (range from 1.2% to 28.4%).
- During this reporting period, the trend in new cases has continued to increase: the number of reported cases was 24% higher than during the two previous weeks. The number of reported deaths also showed a 23% increase compared to the two previous weeks.
- A biweekly increase in cases and deaths was reported by 15 and 14 countries respectively. However, a biweekly decrease in cases was reported by Jordan (-29%), Somalia (-24%), Lebanon (-16%), Syria (-10%) and Libya (-7%).
- To date, 16 EMR countries have reported the detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs).
- All 22 EMR countries currently have vaccines. 21 countries have started vaccination campaigns prioritizing frontline healthcare workers, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases. Over 30 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far across the Region.

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

28 March- 10 April 2021

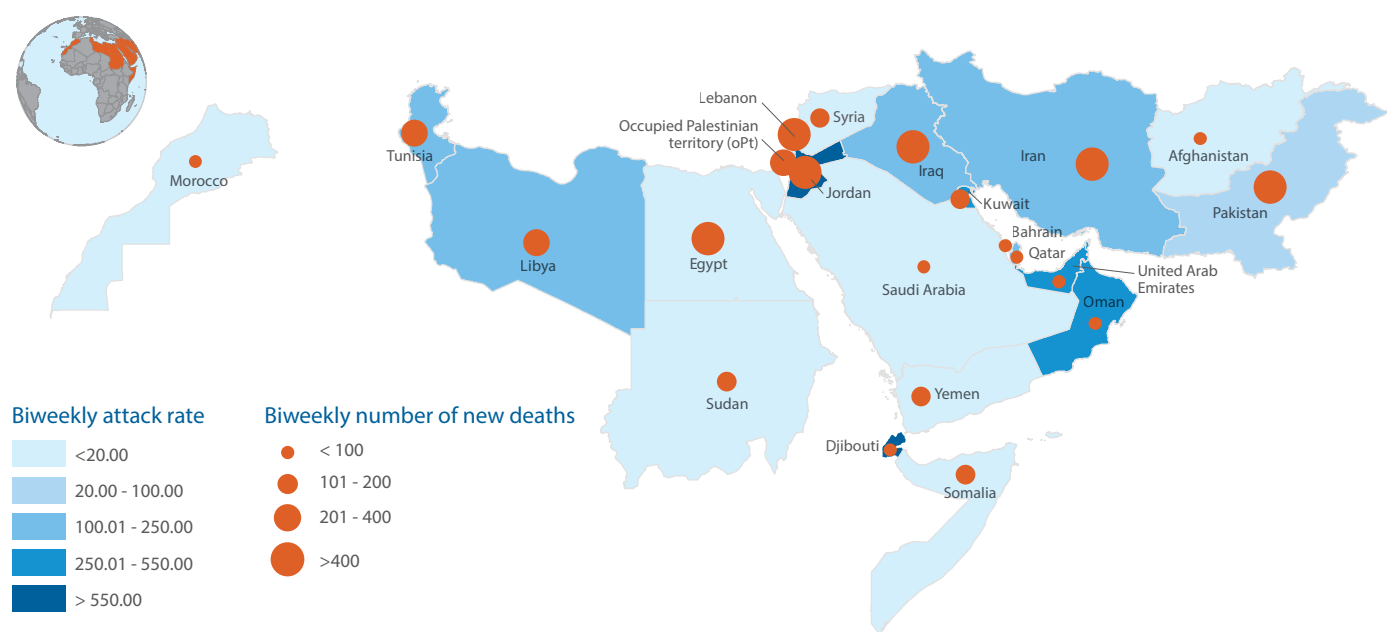


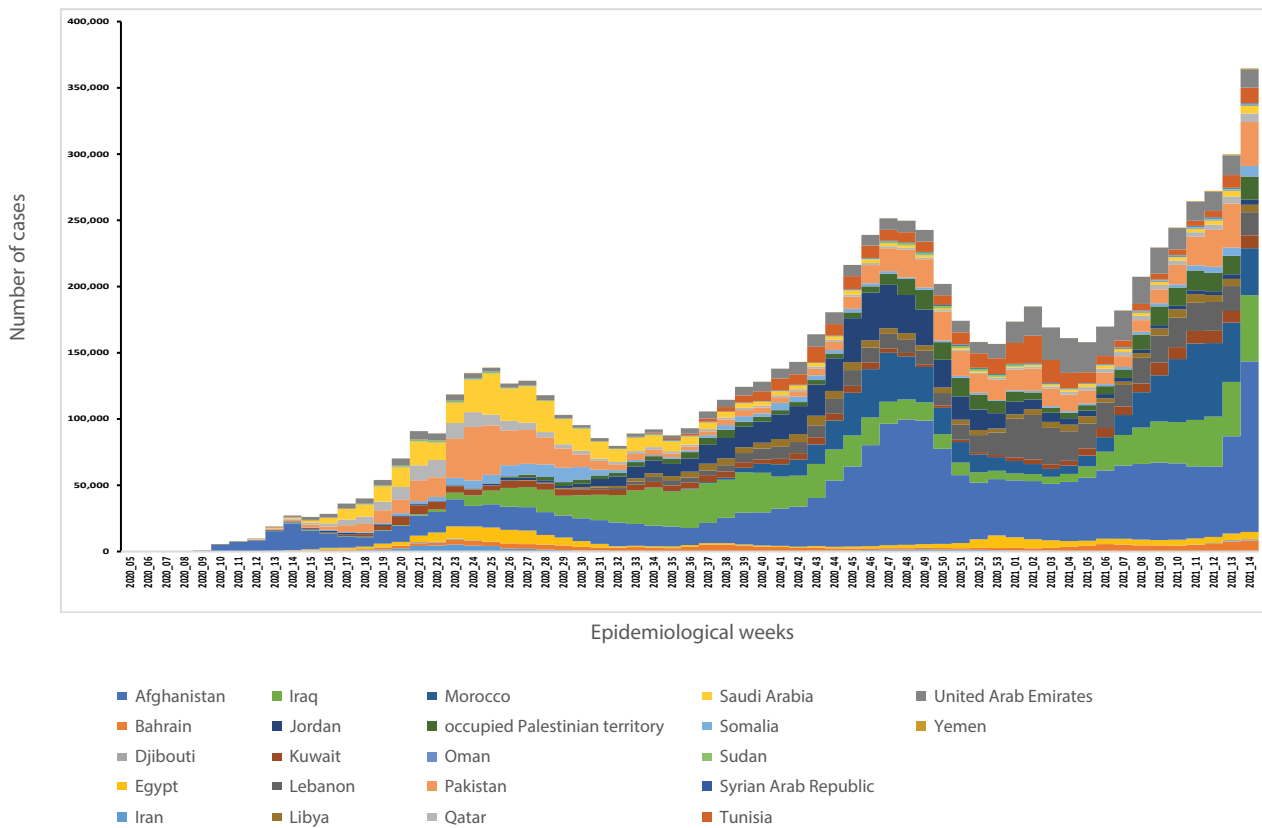
Table 1: Regional Epidemiological Situation

28 March- 10 April 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	920	57,242	57	2,529	4.4%	51,989	369,631
Bahrain	14,584	155,402	41	554	0.4%	143,889	3,761,531
Djibouti	2,473	9,722	27	93	1.0%	7,763	138,936
Egypt	10,313	209,677	560	12,405	5.9%	159,054	2,682,135
Iran	202,155	2,049,078	1,924	64,232	3.1%	1,702,062	13,577,057
Iraq	90,998	918,155	501	14,678	1.6%	809,663	8,469,899
Jordan	80,262	662,395	1,236	7,708	1.2%	588,353	6,294,123
Kuwait	18,526	245,704	124	1,403	0.6%	229,846	2,151,495
Lebanon	36,295	494,633	572	6,630	1.3%	402,279	3,831,761
Libya	10,976	167,825	205	2,823	1.7%	152,921	929,537
Morocco	7,330	501,688	93	8,891	1.8%	488,015	5,590,179
Oman	31,419	294,639	292	3,102	1.1%	259,458	1,628,739
Pakistan	14,167	168,005	97	1,747	1.0%	149,969	1,077,141
Palestine	66,427	721,018	1,228	15,443	2.1%	631,700	10,734,960
Qatar	11,929	189,064	47	331	0.2%	169,086	1,797,325
Saudi Arabia	9,842	397,636	104	6,747	1.7%	382,776	15,738,545
Somalia	1,433	12,271	117	605	4.9%	5,129	142,145
Sudan	1,145	32,857	110	2,170	6.6%	25,266	363,617
Syrian Arab Republic	1,762	20,118	141	1,368	6.8%	13,895	67,151
Tunisia	21,296	271,861	558	9,293	3.4%	224,907	1,180,807
United Arab Emirates	28,868	481,937	52	1,529	0.3%	466,804	40,021,387
Yemen	1,307	5,280	199	1,032	19.5%	2,029	50,956
Total	664,427	8,066,207	8,285	165,313	2.0%	7,066,853	120,599,057

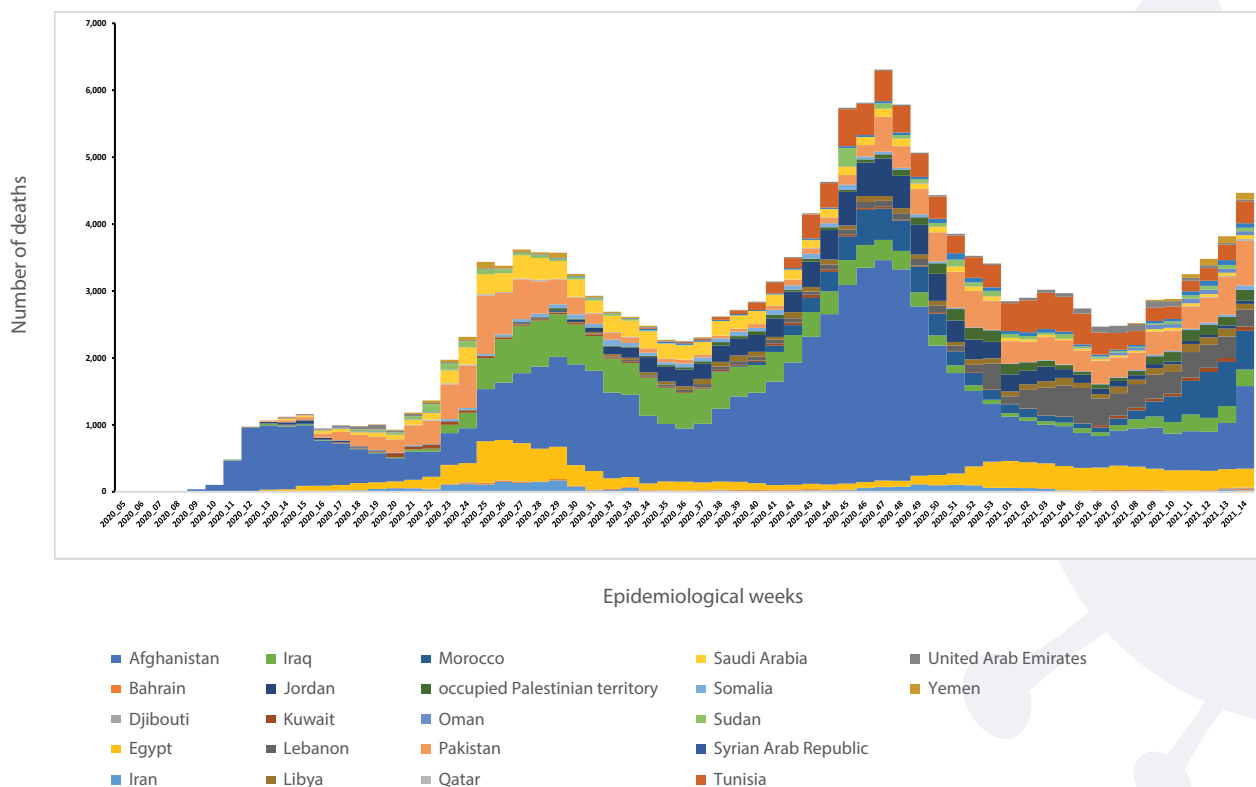
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 10 April 2021



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

26 January 2020 – 10 April 2021



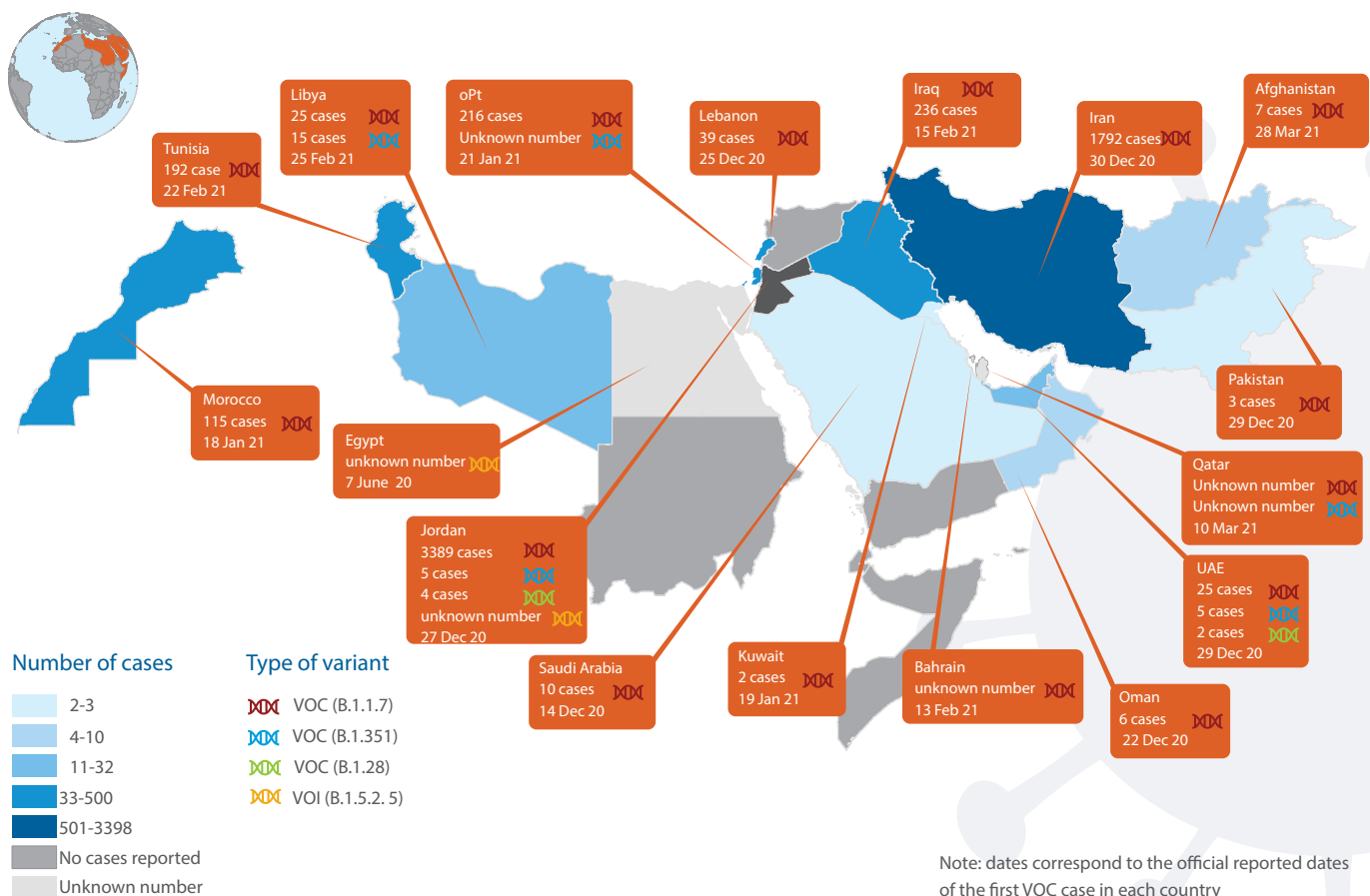
IN FOCUS: COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

- All 22 EMR countries currently have vaccines. 21 countries have started vaccination campaigns prioritizing frontline healthcare workers, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases. Over 30 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far across the Region.
- Out of 22 countries in the Region, 14 have received COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Tunisia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen) with the first shipment landing in Sudan on 3 March 2021, and the latest shipment arriving in Libya on 8 April 2021. Two EMR countries are yet to receive their first vaccine shipment via COVAX (Syria and Pakistan).
- The first round of the AstraZeneca vaccine allocation within COVAX is wrapping up. WHO EMRO is discussing the second round of shipments of AstraZeneca vaccines through the COVAX Facility with manufacturers.

IN FOCUS: NEW SARS-COV-2 VARIANTS

- To date, 16 EMR countries have officially reported the detection of VOCs: Afghanistan, Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- On 28 March, Afghanistan announced the identification of the B.1.1.7 variant ("UK variant") in 7 out of 11 tested samples.

Map 2: Countries reporting SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) and variants of interest (VOIs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region as of 10 April 2021



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Partnership and Coordination

- Held the biweekly meeting with partners, which included a presentation by the Migrant and Refugees Working Group. The upcoming biweekly meeting will discuss modelling and COVID-19 vaccination, including vaccination of refugees in the Region.

Operations Support and Logistics

- Continued to provide support to countries, especially emergency countries, with daily shipments.
- Maintained the steady triage of stocks in the Dubai Logistics Hub.

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
 - * Conducted a mission to Pakistan, visiting COVID-19 isolation and vaccination centers in Islamabad and Larkana, and providing recommendations.
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
 - * Introduced Intensive Care Unit (ICU) training to nurses in Gaza, occupied Palestinian territory, during the clinical management mission conducted until 29 March.
 - * Assessed ICUs in COVID-19 hospitals in Gaza.
 - * Provided a presentation to UNRWA on post-COVID-19 symptoms.

Health Information Management and Surveillance

- Completed the sixth round of the modelling analysis for Jordan, which was presented on Jordan television by the Minister of Health, and the fifth round of the modelling analysis for Lebanon.
- Developed an online survey to assess COVID-19 infections among WHO staff in the EMR, in support of the medical services unit.
- Integrated Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) in COVID-19 surveillance in Afghanistan, Tunisia, and Sudan.
- Implemented the surveillance of adverse events following immunization (AEFI), including data collection and management, and platform management, with the COVID-19 Vaccine Pillar.

International Health Regulations and Social Measures

- Conducted the first of a series of webinars on strengthening social listening and community feedback. The webinar included 26 participants and many more are on a waiting list for future sessions.
- Finalized the guidance for Ramadan and presented it to Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)/Inter-Agency Working Group networks.
- Updated the EMR Travel Platform to reflect vaccination parameters, with the first report issued on 9 April.

Research and Knowledge Management

- Planned studies in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, and Yemen, in addition to the ongoing sero-epidemiology studies in Egypt, Lebanon, and Tunisia.
- Discussed the impact of the emergency context on use of evidence in policymaking when meeting with institution members of the Regional Network for Evidence and Data to Policy (NEDtP) on 30 March.
- Started maternal and neonatal outcomes studies in Iran, Pakistan, and Tunisia.
- Delivered a keynote speech during the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) Regional COVID-19 Operational Research Symposium on 8 April.

Essential Health Services and Systems

- Conducted an assessment of the disability-inclusiveness of the COVID-19 response, including the continuity of rehabilitation and assistive technology services, in 18 countries.
- Developed the policy document “Protecting food security and nutrition during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond in the EMR” for technical support to countries.
- Hosted a webinar on “Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in COVID-19: Implications for the Arab Region” on 29 March jointly with UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDP.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Coordinated the response to the safety signal around AstraZeneca vaccines, including investigations, WHO statements, and other communications. Facilitated the completion of the last COVAX shipments of the first allocation.
- Organized the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities related to COVID-19 vaccine acceptance, including Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) surveys.

COUNTRY SITUATION HIGHLIGHTS

Libya

- The first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines to Libya through the COVAX Facility arrived at Mitiga International Airport in Tripoli on 8 April 2021, containing 57,600 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. This first batch targets priority groups including healthcare workers in isolation centers, people above 75 years of age, and people with chronic diseases. Two days after delivery of the shipment, on 10 April 2021, Libya launched the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
- WHO facilitates sending selected specimens from the National Center for Disease Control laboratory to WHO reference laboratories in Europe for genetic sequencing, in order to identify new variants.

Yemen

- Amid the reported upsurge in COVID-19 cases, Yemen received its first allocation of COVID-19 vaccines: 360,000 doses shipped via the COVAX Facility.
- WHO is refining its response strategies, including surveillance, contact tracing, risk communications, technical guidance and training, case testing and verification, and provision of medical devices and supplies.



360,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were shipped to Yemen via the COVAX Facility on 31 March 2021.

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

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int