

The coronavirus disease COVID-19 continues to spread at the regional and global levels. As of seven January 2023, the global cumulative incidence reached 743 078 799 reported cases and 6 747 366 associated deaths at a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 0.91%. Meanwhile, the 22 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) have reported a total of 23 227 426 cases representing about 3.13% of the global count, with 349 140 associated deaths (CFR 1.5%). Most countries in the Region are in the community transmission phase.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the country that has reported the highest number of total cases in the Region is Islamic Republic of Iran (7 561 808; 32.56% of the Region's total), followed by Iraq (2 465 545; 10.61%) and Jordan (1 746 997; 7.52%). Islamic Republic of Iran also reported the highest number of total covid-19 associated deaths (144 706; CFR 1.91%), followed by Pakistan (30 638; CFR 1.94%) and Tunisia (29 288; CFR 2.55%). The highest CFRs were reported by Yemen (18.07%), followed by Sudan (7.84%) and Syria (5.51%), while the lowest CFRs were reported by United Arab Emirates (0.22%), Bahrain (0.22%) and Qatar (0.14%).

During epidemiological week 1, the Region reported a decrease in cases by 4% as compared to the previous week (4067 cases compared to 4240 cases). An increase by 50% was also observed for associated deaths (48 deaths in the current week compared to 32 deaths in the last week).

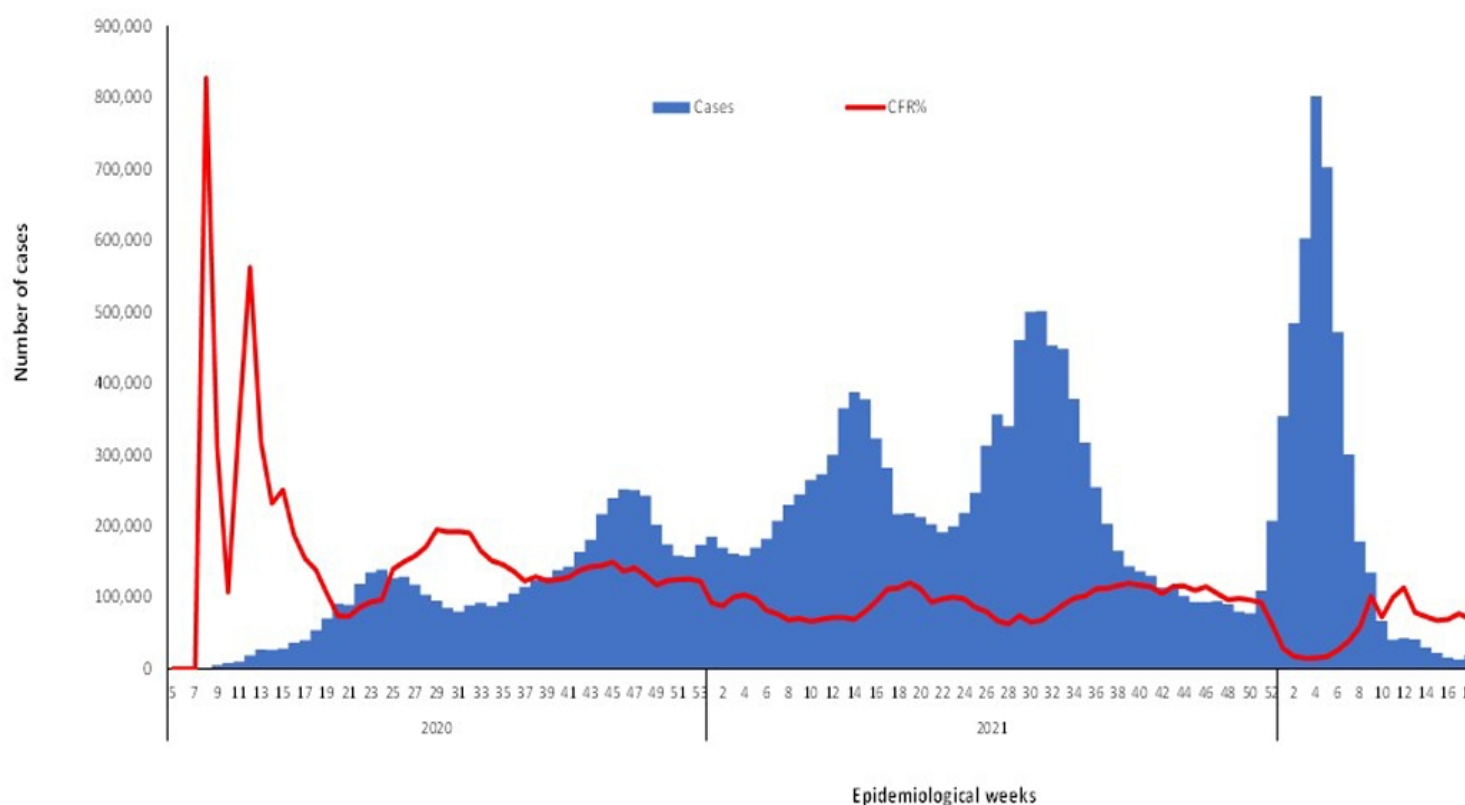
The weekly number of cases have decreased in all countries of the Region except in 3 out of 22 countries as compared to the previous week. This week the number of COVID-19 associated deaths also decreased in most of the countries except in five out of 22 countries of the region as compared to the previous week.*

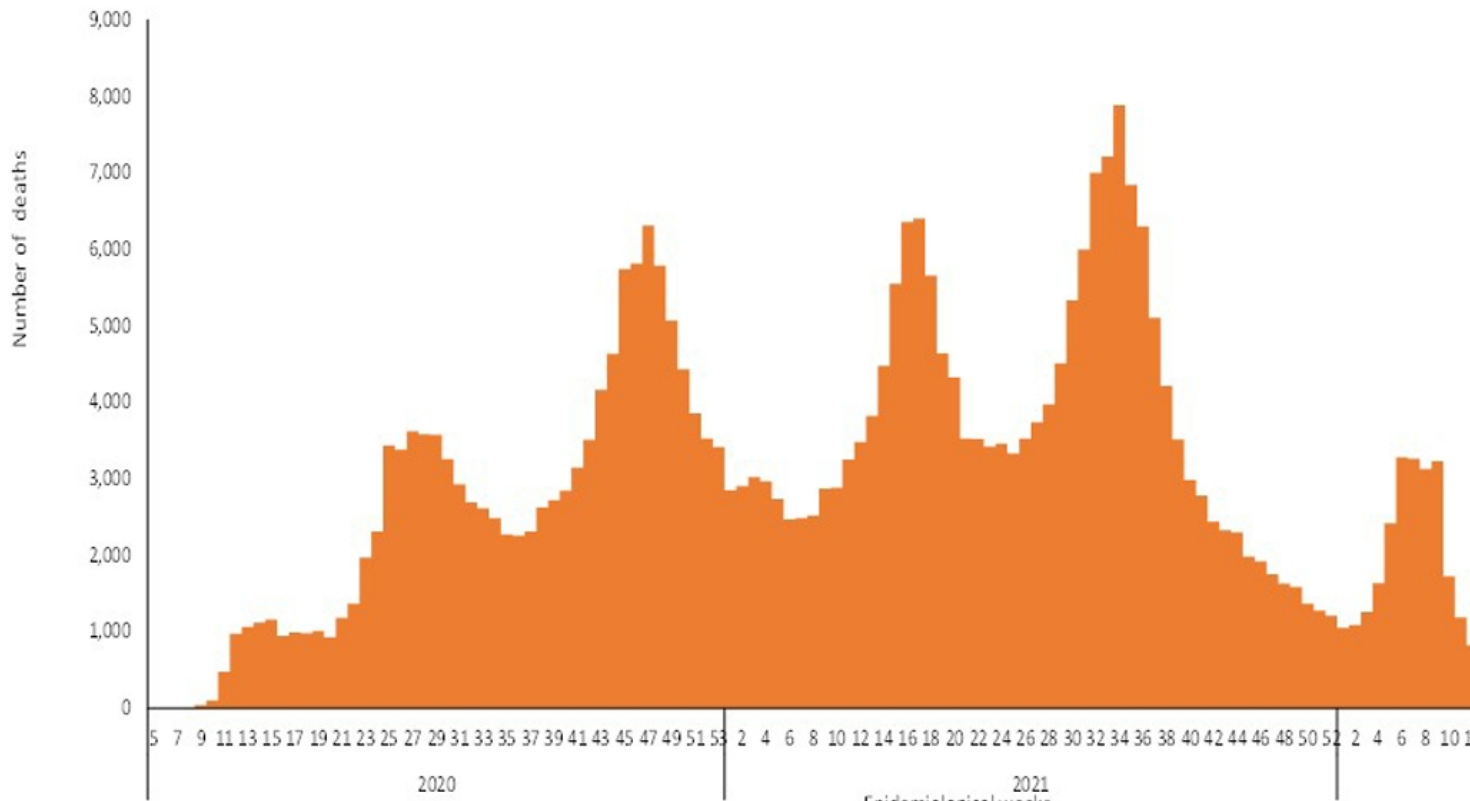
In terms of testing, a total of 442 792 821 laboratory tests were conducted since the start of the outbreak across the Region, including 283 004 tests in week 1, which shows a 24% decrease as compared to the previous week when 374 192 tests were conducted. The highest number of PCR tests were reported from United Arab Emirates (198 094, 234), followed by Islamic Republic of Iran (54 818 192) and Saudi Arabia (44 963 615). The average positivity rate for the Region is 5.25%. WHO recommends a positivity rate of around 3% to 12% as a general benchmark indicating adequate testing, which was achieved in most countries of the Region.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 vaccination continues across the Region. The total number of doses administered so far in the 22 countries is 845 240 914. Pakistan has administered the highest number of doses at 317 080 887, followed by Islamic Republic of Iran at 154 773 070 and Egypt at 100 993 230. On the other hand, Bahrain (3 476 633), Yemen (1 238 962) and Djibouti (338 051) administrated the lowest number of COVID-19 doses in the Region.**

Supporting countries in the Region

The regional incident management support team continues to coordinate the response and provide technical support to countries and partners in the Region in the areas of coordination and partnership, surveillance, laboratory capacity, clinical management, infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement, points of entry according to the International Health Regulations (2005), research, health systems, and essential health services among others.





[https://www.who.int/emro/situation-reports/data/covid-19-situation-reports](#)