

The coronavirus disease COVID-19 continues to spread at the regional and global levels. As of 8 October 2022, the global cumulative incidence reached 618 473 139 reported cases and 6 549 660 associated deaths at a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 1.06%. Meanwhile, the 22 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) have reported a total of 23 108 237 cases, representing about 3.74% of the global count, with 348 480 associated deaths (CFR 1.51%). 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 (7 551 357; 32.68% of the Region's total), followed by Iraq (2 460 844; 10.65%) and Jordan (1 746 997; 7.57%). Islamic Republic of Iran also reported the highest number of total COVID-19 associated deaths (144 478; CFR 1.91%), followed by Pakistan (30 623; CFR 1.95%) and Tunisia (29 254; CFR 2.55%). The highest CFRs were reported by Yemen (18.08%), followed by Sudan (7.83%) and Syria (5.52%), while the lowest CFRs were reported by United Arab Emirates (0.23%), Bahrain (0.22) and Qatar (0.15%).

During epidemiological week 40, the Region reported a decrease in cases by 8% when compared to the previous week (16 810 cases compared to 18 238 cases). A decrease of 2% was also observed for associated deaths (83 deaths in the current week compared to 85 deaths in the previous week).

The weekly number of cases have decreased in all countries of the Region except in 4 out of 22 countries as compared to the previous week. This week the number of COVID-19 associated deaths also decreased in all countries of the Region except in 3 out of 22 countries as compared to the previous week.*

In terms of testing, a total of 433 671 369 laboratory tests were conducted since the start of the outbreak across the Region including 1 325 315 tests in week 40, which shows a 27% decrease as compared to the previous week when 1 820 212 tests were conducted. The highest number of PCR tests were reported from United Arab Emirates (191 992 446), followed by Islamic Republic of Iran (54 173 441) and Saudi Arabia (44 385 560). The average positivity rate for the Region is 5.32%. 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 827 235 796. Pakistan has administered the highest number of doses at 310 629 295, followed by Islamic Republic of Iran at 154 528 952 and Egypt at 98 911 424. On the other hand, Bahrain (3 471 936), Yemen (1 065 395) and Djibouti (267 794) administrated the lowest number of COVID-19 vaccine 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.



