

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of midnight GMT+2, 15 January 2022)



17

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



9

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths



17 765 253

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



16 828 241

Total reported recovered cases



318 319

Total reported deaths



306 944 509

Total tests performed



COVAX has delivered one billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 144 countries around the world, including countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

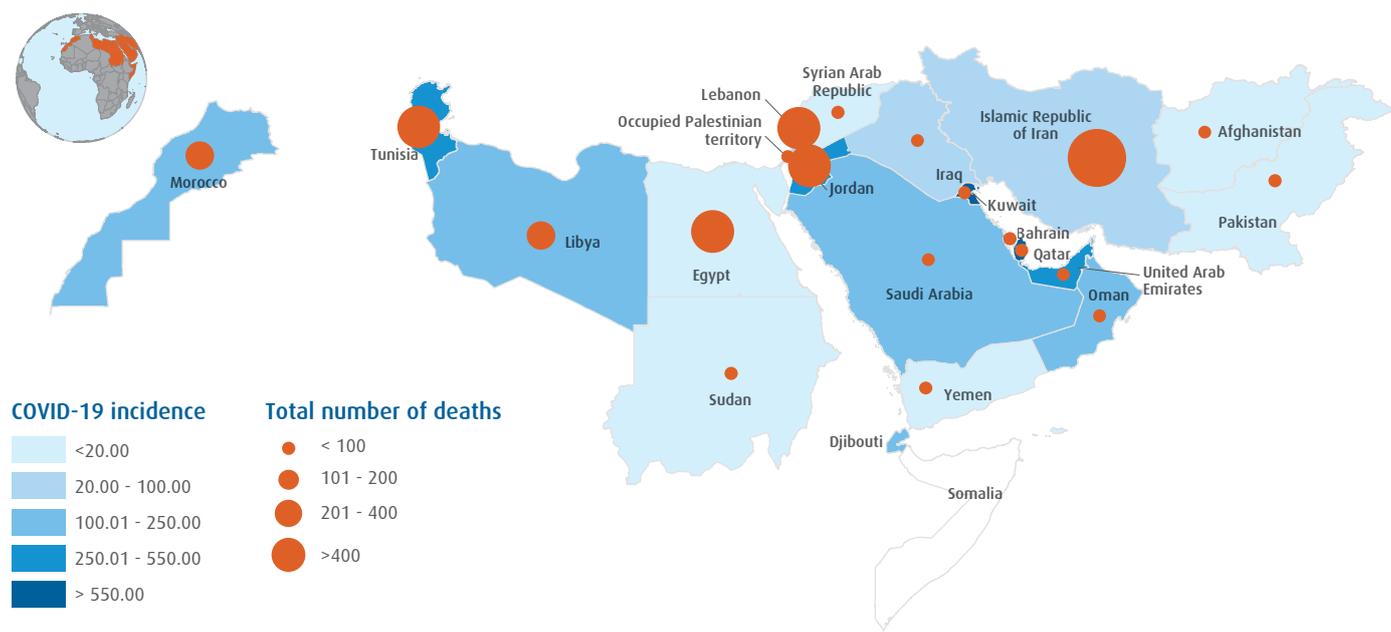
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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 15 January 2022, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 17 765 253 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 318 319 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 increased by 202%.
 - The number of reported deaths decreased by 14%.
 - The number of conducted tests increased by 13%.
 - 17 and nine countries reported an increase in cases and deaths respectively.
 - A decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by two countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 306 944 509 with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 8.4% (range from 0.7% to 30.9%).
- **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.
 - 18 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Delta VOC.
 - 15 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Omicron VOC.

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

2-15 January 2022



IN FOCUS:OMICRON VARIANT OF CONCERN

- **Transmission:** The overall risk related to the Omicron VOC remains very high for many reasons. On top of the global risk of COVID-19, which remains very high overall, current data indicate that the Omicron VOC has a significant growth advantage over the Delta VOC, leading to rapid spread in the community. The rapid increase in cases will likely lead to an increase in hospitalizations, overwhelm health care systems and lead to significant morbidity, particularly in vulnerable populations.
- **Diagnostics:** The existing diagnostic tools, both PCR tests and antigen rapid diagnostic tests, continue to adequately identify infections with the Omicron VOC.
- **Risk of reinfection:** Emerging data suggests an increased risk of reinfection with the Omicron VOC, but more data is needed to draw firmer conclusions.
- **Disease severity:** Data on the clinical severity of patients infected with the Omicron VOC is growing but is still limited. As of now, the Omicron VOC is not associated with severe hospitalization, but more data is still needed to confirm this. It is still unclear to what extent the observed reduction in hospitalization can be attributed to immunity from previous infections or vaccination, and to what extent it can be attributed to the Omicron VOC causing less severe disease.
- **Treatment:** It is expected that corticosteroids and interleukin-6 receptor blockers will remain effective in the management of patients with severe disease; however, preliminary data suggest that monoclonal antibodies may be less able to neutralize the Omicron VOC.
- **Vaccines:** Preliminary data suggest that vaccines may likely have reduced effectiveness against infections by the Omicron VOC. However, all available vaccines continue to be effective against severe disease and hospitalization.
- **Impact on epidemiological trend:** The current global epidemiology of COVID-19 is characterized by the emergence of the Omicron VOC, the declining prevalence of the Delta VOC, and the very low circulation of Alpha, Beta and Gamma VOCs. Following the initial identification of travel-related Omicron cases, many countries now report clusters and community transmission of this VOC.

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

2-15 January 2022

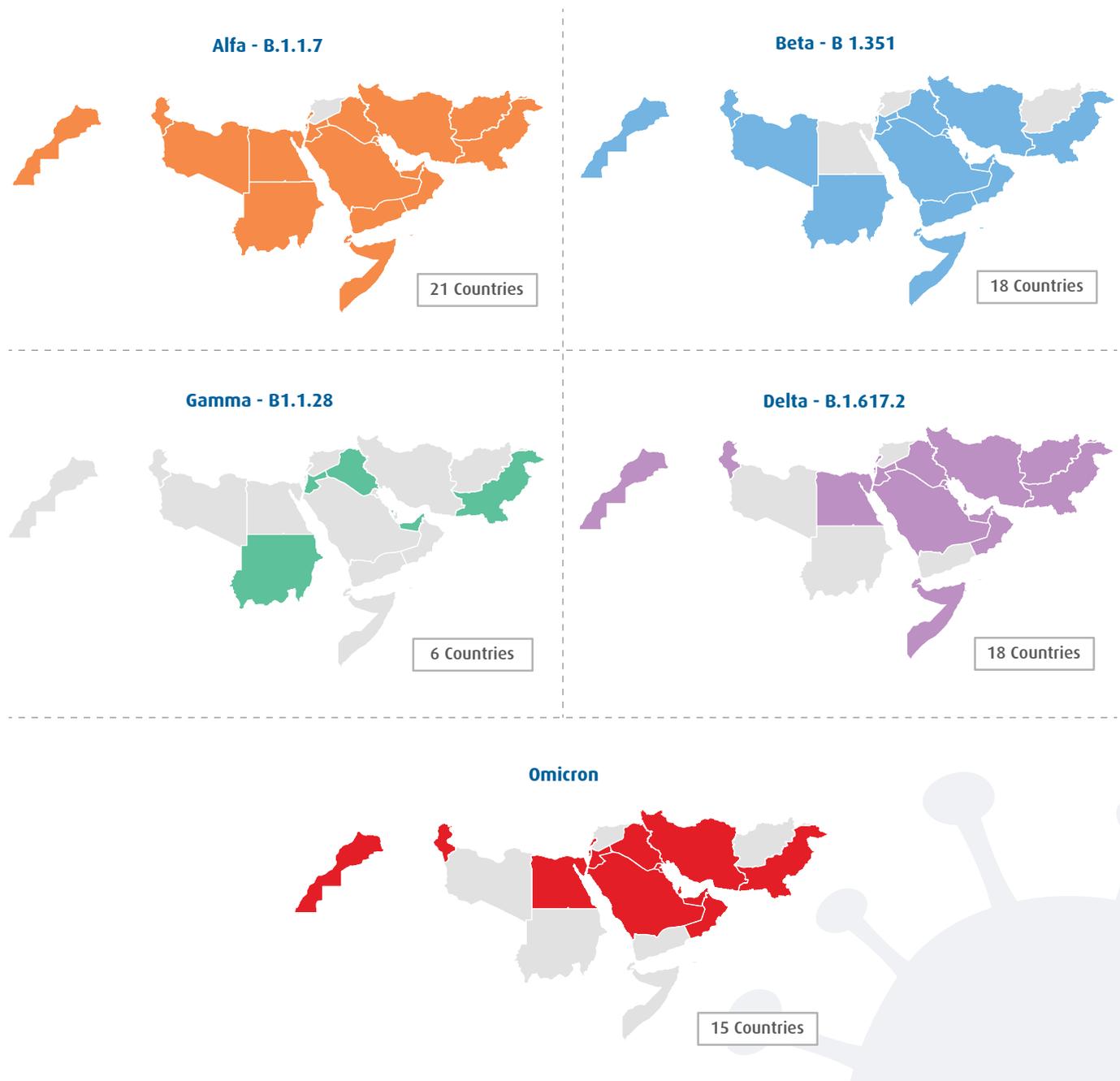


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

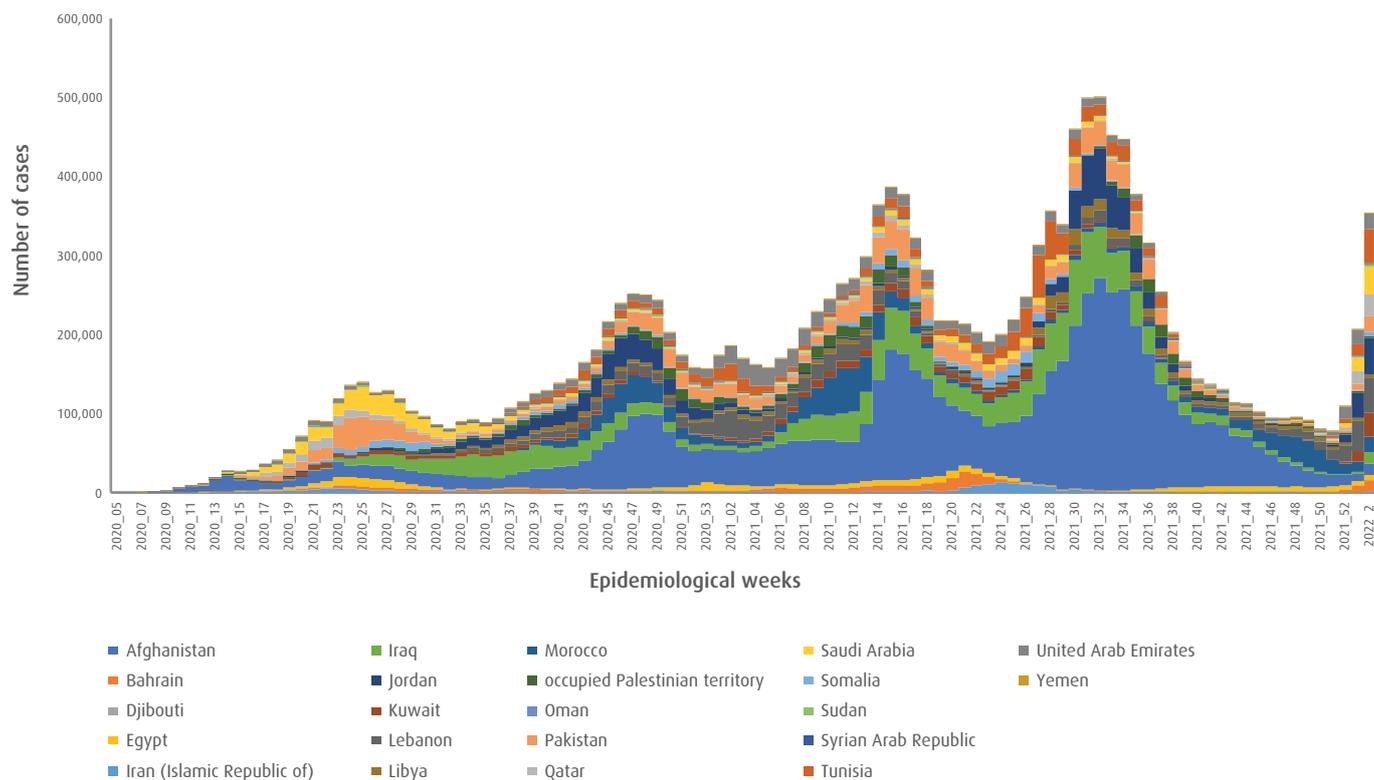
2-15 January 2022

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total Recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	581	158,737	18	7,379	4.6%	145,975	836,245
Bahrain	22,737	305,414	4	1,398	0.5%	285,305	8,383,186
Djibouti	1,173	14,841	0	189	1.3%	13,984	266,658
Egypt	12,521	398,879	355	22,123	5.5%	332,531	5,840,832
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	23,338	6,218,741	405	132,044	2.1%	6,062,633	43,326,629
Iraq	16,792	2,110,683	79	24,242	1.1%	2,069,459	17,025,776
Jordan	33,197	1,097,474	290	12,974	1.2%	1,059,217	14,066,057
Kuwait	43,105	460,828	7	2,475	0.5%	419,199	6,414,145
Lebanon	83,343	814,631	231	9,367	1.1%	686,801	8,841,381
Libya	7,669	397,319	119	5,841	1.5%	384,473	2,119,430
Morocco	77,805	1,043,225	112	14,963	1.4%	972,291	10,238,814
Occupied Palestinian territory	5,028	475,686	74	5,016	1.1%	465,597	2,897,558
Oman	5,988	311,698	3	4,119	1.3%	301,458	1,986,264
Pakistan	27,620	1,324,147	71	29,012	2.2%	1,263,584	24,136,709
Qatar	43,860	295,221	6	624	0.2%	255,431	3,260,304
Saudi Arabia	52,871	609,953	27	8,905	1.5%	561,542	35,198,422
Somalia		24,261		1,335	5.5%	13,182	396,594
Sudan	5,140	52,330	50	3,390	6.5%	30,897	475,025
Syrian Arab Republic	364	50,674	43	2,944	5.8%	34,394	79,630
Tunisia	59,752	788,012	217	25,803	3.3%	704,030	3,660,414
United Arab Emirates	37,688	802,181	23	2,188	0.3%	759,213	117,164,844
Yemen	191	10,318	4	1,988	19.3%	7,045	329,592
Total	560,763	17,765,253	2,138	318,319	1.8%	16,828,241	306,944,509



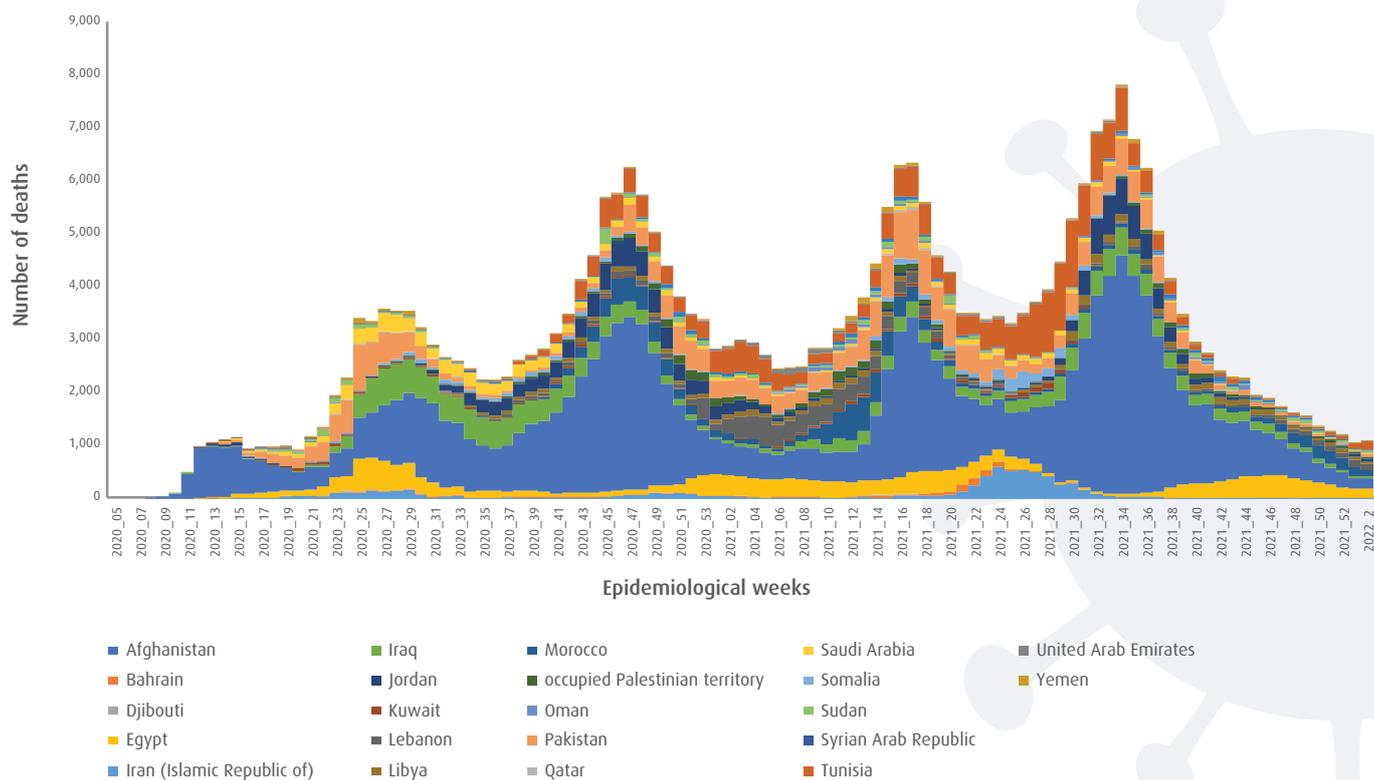
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 15 January 2022



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

26 January 2020 – 15 January 2022



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Partnership and Coordination

- Continued updating partners and sharing information on the COVID-19 situation and COVID-19 vaccination updates.

Operations Support and Logistics

- Dispatched over US\$ 376 000 in health supplies to 15 countries across four WHO Regions.
- Prepared large shipments of personal protective equipment to Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Case Management and Clinical Operations

- Shared new guidance on therapeutics:
 - Publication of new therapeutics recommendations for JAK inhibitors and for sotrovimab: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-therapeutics-2022.1>.
 - New strong recommendation for the use of baricitinib as an alternative to interleukin-6 (IL-6) receptor blockers, in combination with corticosteroids, in patients with severe or critical COVID-19 (published 14 January 2022): <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/nBk01E/rec/E5A0aN>.
 - New conditional recommendation against the use of ruxolitinib and tofacitinib for patients with severe or critical COVID-19 (published 14 January 2022): <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/nBk01E/rec/j10yav>.
 - New conditional recommendation for the use of sotrovimab, conditional to those at highest risk of hospitalization (published 14 January 2022): <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/nBk01E/rec/LA69PM>.
- Initiated the allocation of COVID-19 therapeutics to countries via the Partners Platform.
 - Through the partnership under the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Therapeutics Pillars with WHO, UNICEF, Global Fund and UNITAID, the joint initiative ensures equitable access and allocation of therapeutics to meet countries' needs.
- Finalized the Live Oxygen Platform and Regional Roadmap for oxygen scaling up.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Monitored COVID-19 vaccine supply and coverage.

Vaccination coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

As of 15 January 2022, a total of 566,952,371 million vaccine doses have been administered in the Region



- At least one dose: 40%
- Fully vaccinated: 32%
- Partially vaccinated: 8%

- Supported countries in the application to the COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Support (CDS), and with costing of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plans.
- Finalized and disseminated the results of the second phase of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) study on COVID-19 vaccination in several countries in the Region.

Regional COVID-19 website:

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

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int