

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 18 December 2021)

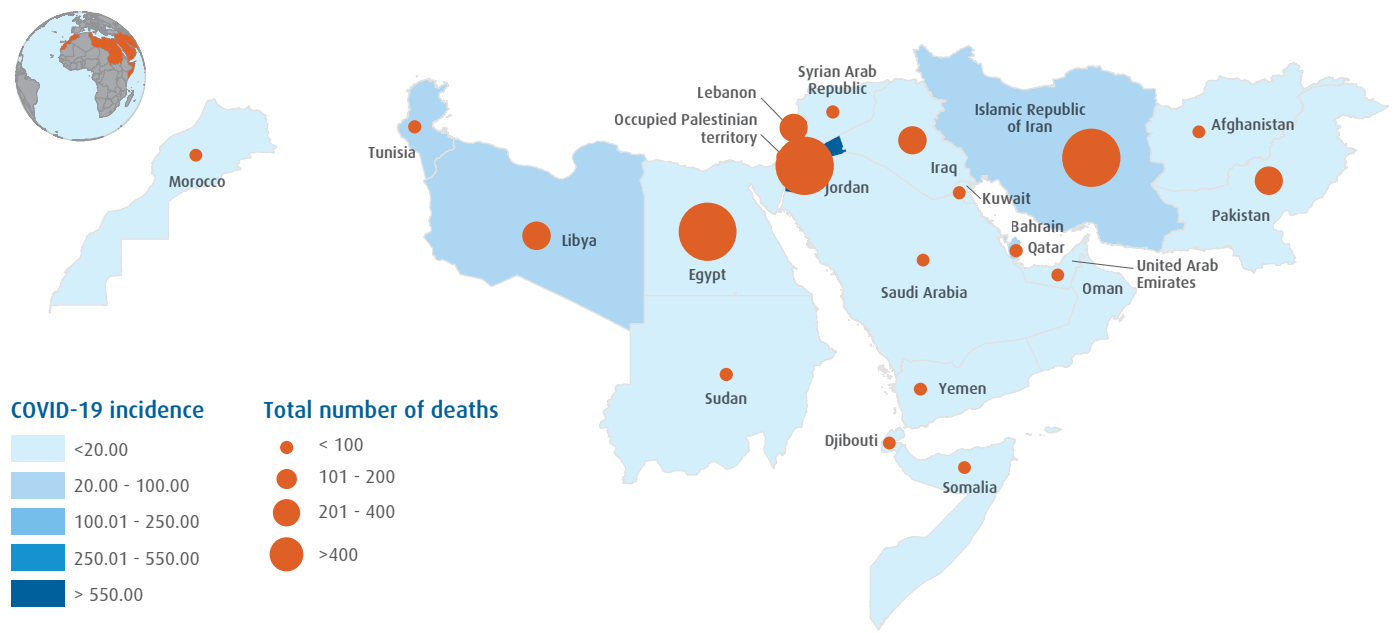


EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 18 December 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 17 017 800 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 313 697 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 has decreased by 10%.
 - The number of reported deaths has decreased by 13%.
 - The number of conducted tests has increased by 7%.
 - Thirteen and eight countries have reported an increase in cases and deaths respectively.
 - A decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by five countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 284 401 304 with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 7.9% (range from 0.7% to 30.8%).
- **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.
 - 18 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Delta VOC.
 - 13 countries 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

5-18 December 2021



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

5-18 December 2021

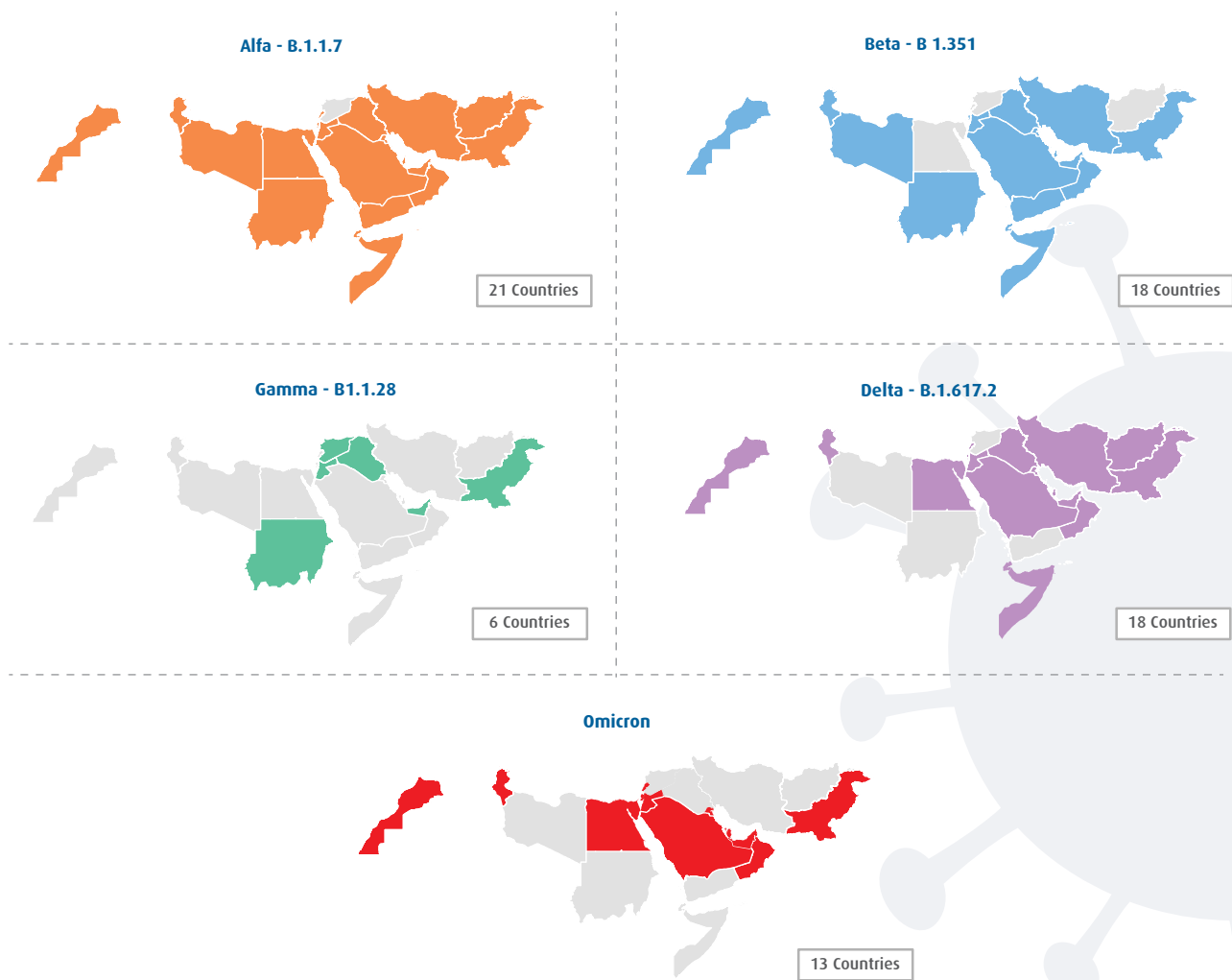


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

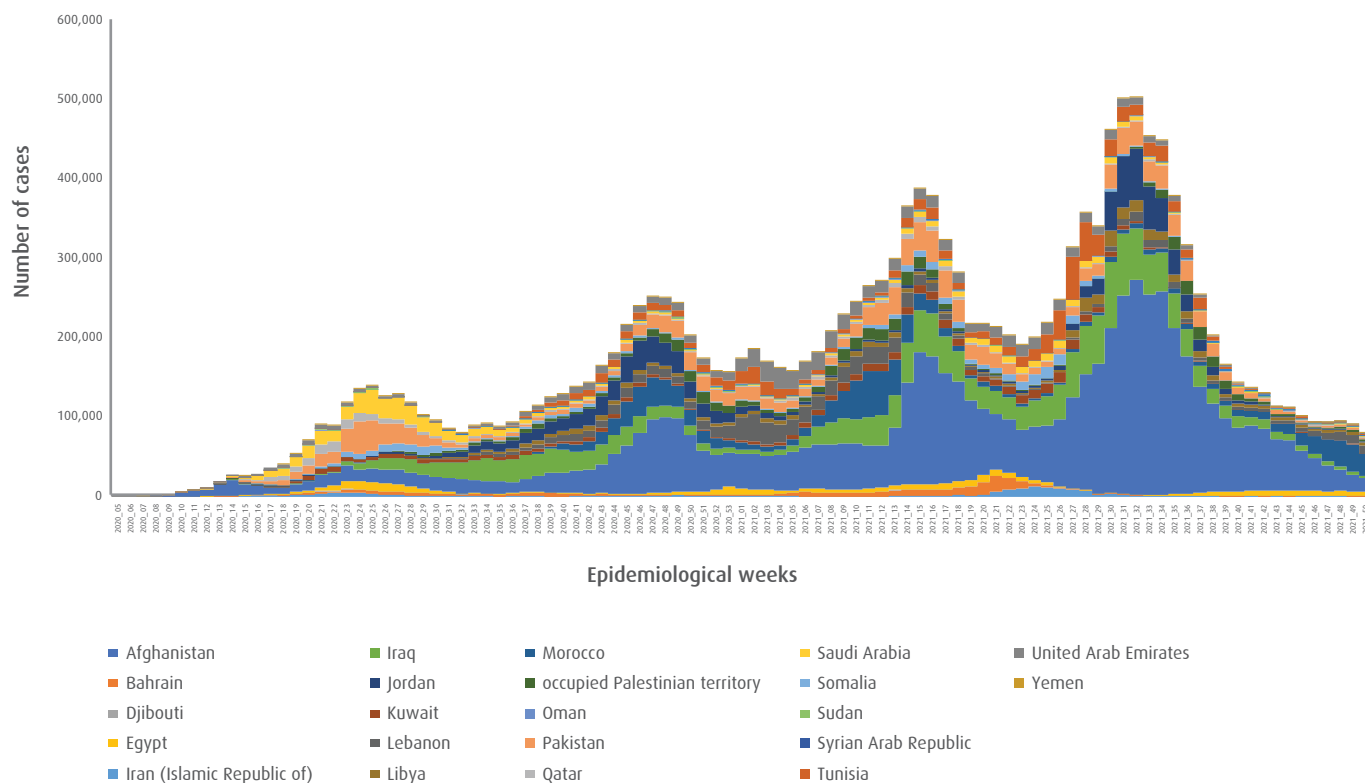
5-18 December 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total Recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	333	157,787	23	7,335	4.6%	145,234	811,195
Bahrain	607	278,410	0	1,394	0.5%	276,538	7,754,577
Djibouti	20	13,528	2	189	1.4%	13,304	253,514
Egypt	12,151	374,411	633	21,315	5.7%	311,637	5,746,207
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	37,655	6,169,011	909	131,033	2.1%	5,999,860	40,671,057
Iraq	6,319	2,090,208	178	24,051	1.2%	2,059,474	16,654,158
Jordan	62,068	1,033,469	476	12,191	1.2%	959,210	13,027,272
Kuwait	559	414,023	1	2,466	0.6%	411,059	5,694,721
Lebanon	22,290	699,464	159	8,924	1.3%	647,268	8,051,651
Libya	6,760	381,749	105	5,598	1.5%	369,774	1,997,609
Morocco	2,127	952,628	21	14,808	1.6%	936,348	9,688,350
Occupied Palestinian territory	4,383	466,327	53	4,867	1.0%	457,687	2,801,820
Oman	230	304,829	0	4,113	1.3%	300,122	1,986,264
Pakistan	4,283	1,291,108	105	28,872	2.2%	1,252,647	22,821,495
Qatar	2,296	246,367	3	614	0.2%	243,415	3,096,279
Saudi Arabia	861	550,738	19	8,861	1.6%	539,981	32,302,267
Somalia	118	23,169	2	1,333	5.8%	12,903	383,006
Sudan	1,826	45,901	95	3,295	7.2%	30,867	475,025
Syrian Arab Republic	1,155	49,693	69	2,841	5.7%	31,061	79,630
Tunisia	2,588	721,031	69	25,470	3.5%	694,052	3,268,283
United Arab Emirates	1,574	743,852	3	2,151	0.3%	738,505	106,507,332
Yemen	76	10,097	23	1,976	19.6%	6,965	329,592
Total	170,279	17,017,800	2,948	313,697	1.8%	16,437,911	284,401,304



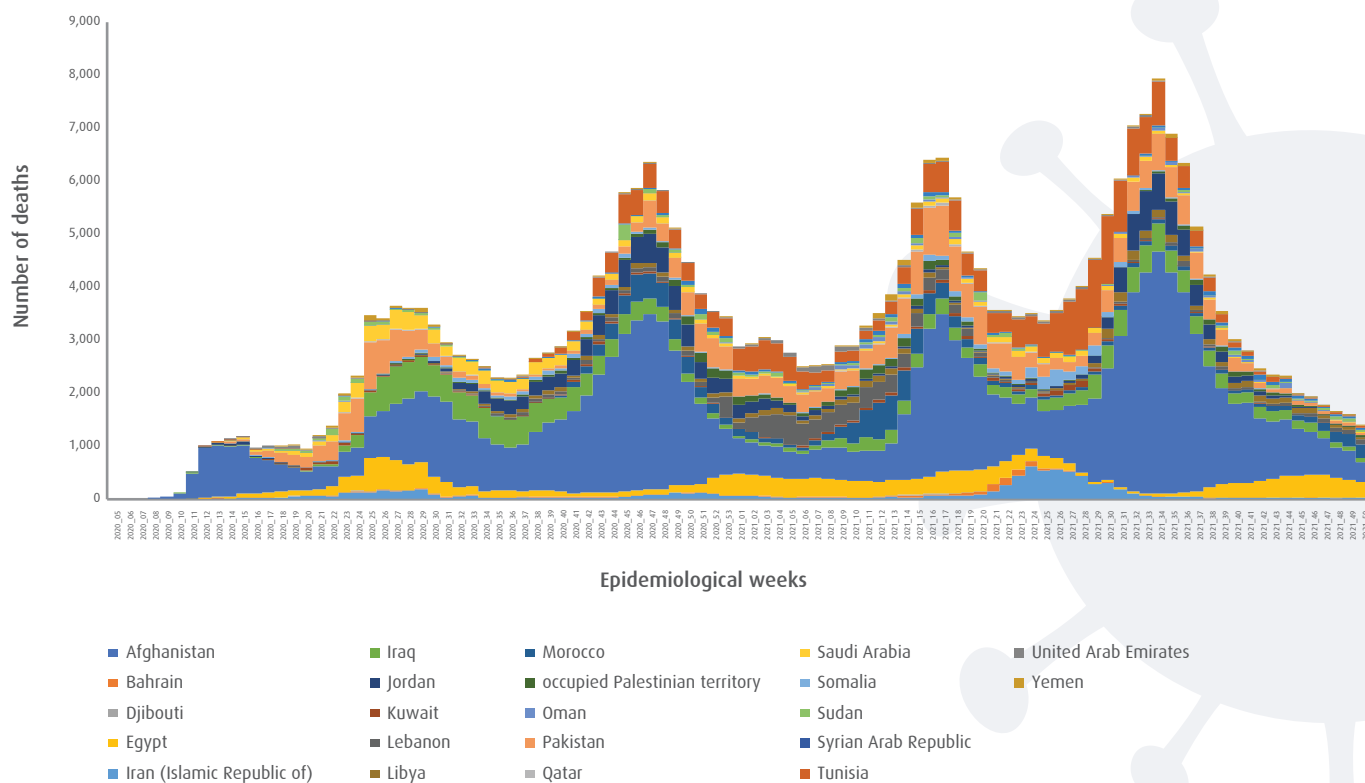
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 18 December 2021



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

26 January 2020 – 18 December 2021



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

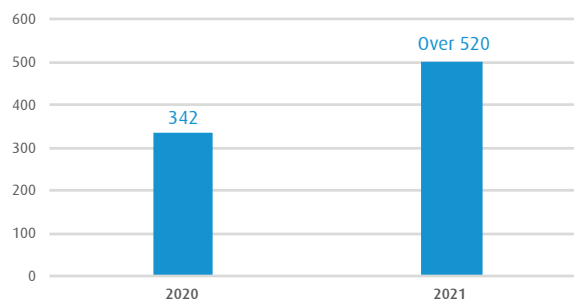
Partnership and Coordination

- Presented epidemiological and vaccination updates, and discussed the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey conducted by CARE in Iraq, during the regional partners' meeting on 5 December.

Operations Support and Logistics

- Dispatched over US\$ 4.3 million worth of health supplies through WHO's Logistics Hub in Dubai to 14 countries across four WHO Regions. Health supplies included personal protective equipment, laboratory diagnostics and biomedical supplies.
- Continued to support the genomic surveillance studies, Solidarity vaccine trials, and WHO Unity Studies with shipments of ancillary equipment and supplies to support ongoing research and programs.
- Responded to over 520 requests across all six WHO Regions in support of 129 countries in 2021, representing a 52% increase compared to 2020.

Requests processed by WHO's Logistics Hub in Dubai



Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Conducted a regional webinar on 9 December about the "Role of IPC in construction and renovation of health facilities" attended by 100 participants.
- Trained 17 national IPC focal points from Gaza, occupied Palestinian territory, on IPC leadership over two days (14-15 December).

Laboratory Diagnostics

- Organized the sub-regional training on SARS-CoV sequencing and molecular phylogenetics for seven national influenza and COVID-19 laboratories in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.
- Shipped equipment and ancillary reagents to establish SARS-CoV-2 sequencing capacity in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

International Health Regulations and Social Measures

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Completed second round of the three-part regional KAP survey jointly with UNICEF, collecting insights from participants across 23 countries on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccination.
- Trained community health workers on RCCE in Libya in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the National Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, UNICEF, and the Libyan Red Crescent to promote COVID-19 vaccine uptake and address hesitancy.
- Delivered an RCCE session as part of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness course in collaboration with the Moroccan Association of Medical Students.
- Finalized a training in Tunisia for 150 scouts on community-centered contact tracing approaches and principles, to facilitate community inclusion and acceptance of contact tracing and response efforts.
- Finalized the Regional Community Engagement Initiative, undertaken by eight Member States, to support and engage civil society organizations in the COVID-19 response at national and local levels. Over 100 000 community members were consulted on the impact of the pandemic, 66 000 received direct support, and 540 received training to provide direct support to communities.

Research and Knowledge Management

- Held two capacity building workshops on vaccine effectiveness study on 13 and 15 December.

Essential Health Services and Systems

- Coordinated Libya's participation in the assessment of frontline services readiness.
- Initiated discussions with the Health Services Learning Hub colleagues for support to Member States on maintaining essential health services.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Monitored COVID-19 vaccination coverage, analyzing it in relation to vaccine supply and consumption.
- Supported countries to develop funding requests to Gavi.
- Supported countries in updating their National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for 2022 and its budgeting and costing tool (CVIC).

Regional COVID-19 website:

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

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int