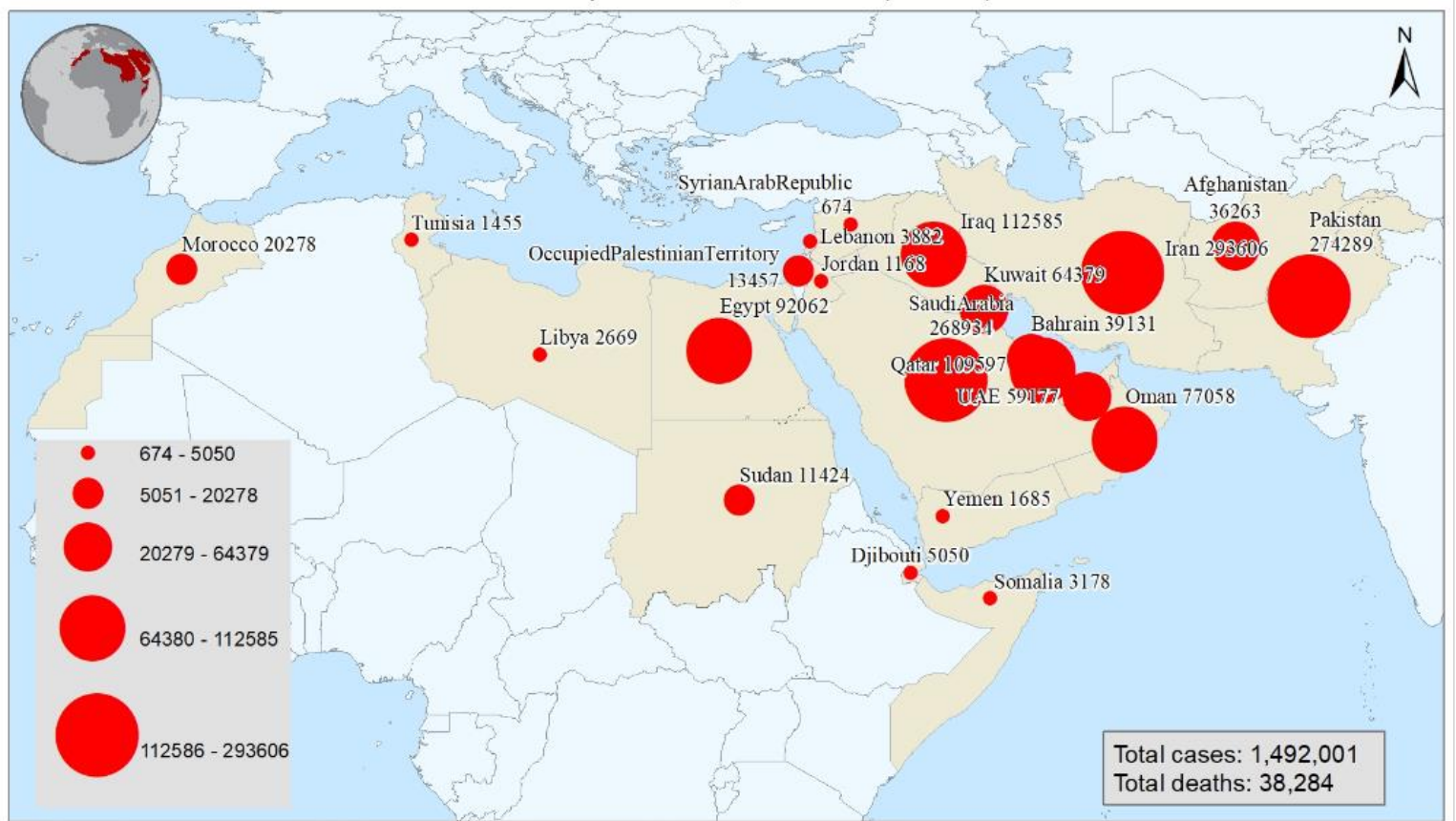




<b>22</b>	<b>1 466 597</b>	<b>37 379</b>	<b>1 173 623</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>18 million</b>
<b>Countries and territory reporting cases</b>	<b>Total laboratory-confirmed cases reported (7% increase from previous week)</b>	<b>Total deaths reported (10% increase from previous week)</b>	<b>Total recovered cases reported</b>	<b>Laboratories testing for COVID-19 across the Region</b>	<b>PPE items shipped to 105 countries in 6 WHO regions from the logistics hub in Dubai</b>

Map 1. Distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths in EMR as of 25 July 2020 (18:00 Cairo time)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data source: World Health Organization  
Map production: Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment (HIM) Unit  
World Health Organization

## Key situation highlights

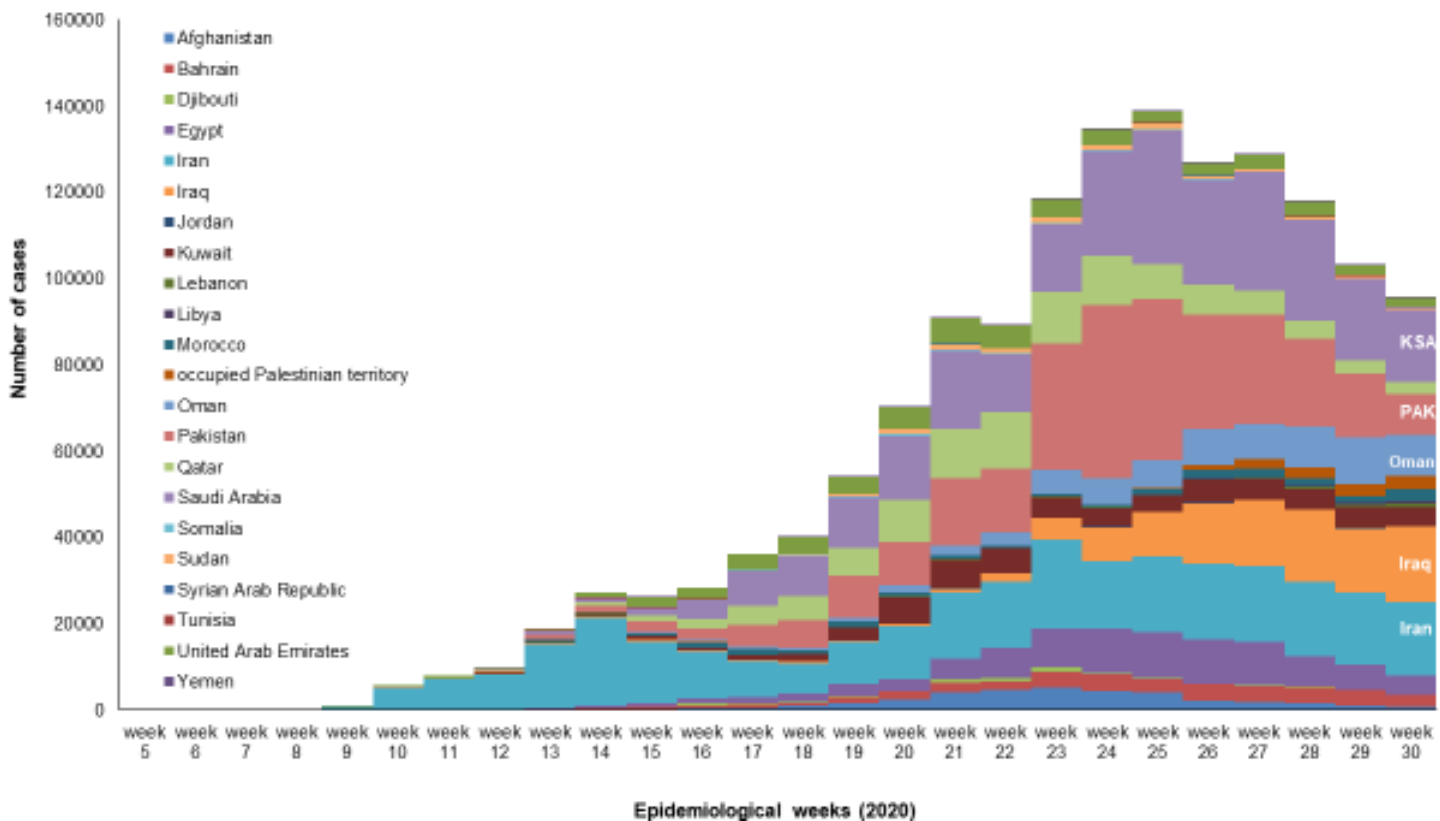
- Cases in the Region increased from 1,371,060 to 1,466,597 (7% increase compared to 8% previous week).
- Deaths in the region increased from 34,087 to 37,379 (10% increase; compared to 12% previous week).
- The overall regional trend of reported cases and deaths appears to have stabilized and is even decreasing. However, a mixed picture is observed at individual country level. Some countries are reporting a decrease in cases and stabilization in deaths; some are reporting increasing numbers of cases; while some are reporting plateauing, stabilizing or decreasing numbers of cases.
- With countries lifting restrictions and airports opening, new travel-related cases are being reported, and some countries are showing a resurgence of new community-transmitted cases after an initial dip.
- Saudi Arabia has shared the risk assessment conducted for the Hajj pilgrimage, for which only a couple of thousand people have been accepted. A survey is being conducted to identify upcoming mass gathering events in the Region and support will be provided based on needs.
- The outbreak in some countries has also spread to migrant workers, and health authorities are employing aggressive mass laboratory testing to target migrants or expatriates working in these countries.
- A [guidance note on Edi Al Adha in the context of COVID-19](#) has been developed for countries and communities on public health measures to consider.

**Table 1. Regional update of COVID-19 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region as of 25 July (18:00 Cairo time)**

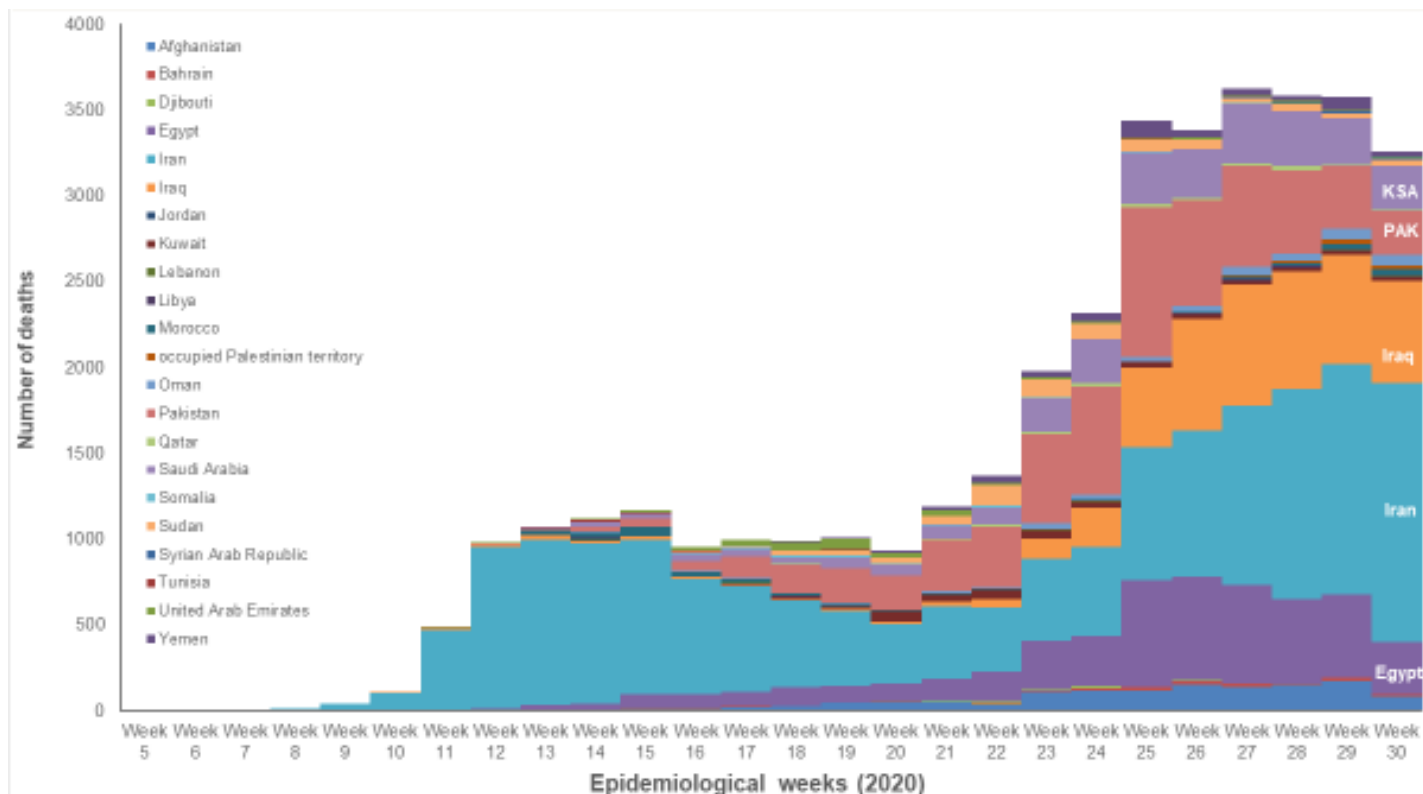
Country	New cases	New deaths	Total cases	Recovered	Total deaths	CFR	Tests/100,000	Positivity ratio %
Afghanistan	48	23	36036	24793	1248	3.5	221	41.8%
Bahrain	462	1	38458	34826	137	0.4	45340	5.0%
Djibouti			5039	4949	58	1.2	5640	9.0%
Egypt	659	38	91072	31970	4518	5.0	409	21.8%
Iran	2316	195	288839	251319	15484	5.4	2741	12.5%
Iraq	2862	72	107573	73317	4284	4.0	2226	12.0%
Jordan	8		1310	1056	11	0.8	5473	0.2%
Kuwait	684	4	63309	53607	429	0.7	11317	13.1%
Lebanon	147	3	3407	1666	46	1.4	3581	1.4%
Libya	111	1	2425	504	57	2.4	702	5.0%
Morocco	570	7	18834	16100	299	1.6	2994	1.7%
oPt	383	4	12795	4256	77	0.6	3555	7.1%
Oman	1067	12	74858	54061	371	0.5	5753	25.5%
Pakistan	1487	24	271887	236596	5787	2.1	835	14.7%
Qatar	398		109036	105750	164	0.2	16279	23.2%
Saudi Arabia	2201	31	264973	217782	2703	1.0	8617	8.8%
Somalia			3171	1499	93	2.9	48	42.0%
Sudan			11302	5855	715	6.3	56	46.4%
Syria			608	184	35	5.8	28	12.5%
Tunisia			1425	1124	50	3.5	743	1.6%
UAE	313		58562	51628	343	0.6	48298	1.2%
Yemen	20	8	1678	781	470	28.0	16	34.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13736</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1466597</b>	<b>1173623</b>	<b>37379</b>	<b>Med=1.9</b>	<b>Med=2868</b>	<b>Med=12.2</b>

*New cases/deaths are reported since previous day 06 pm*

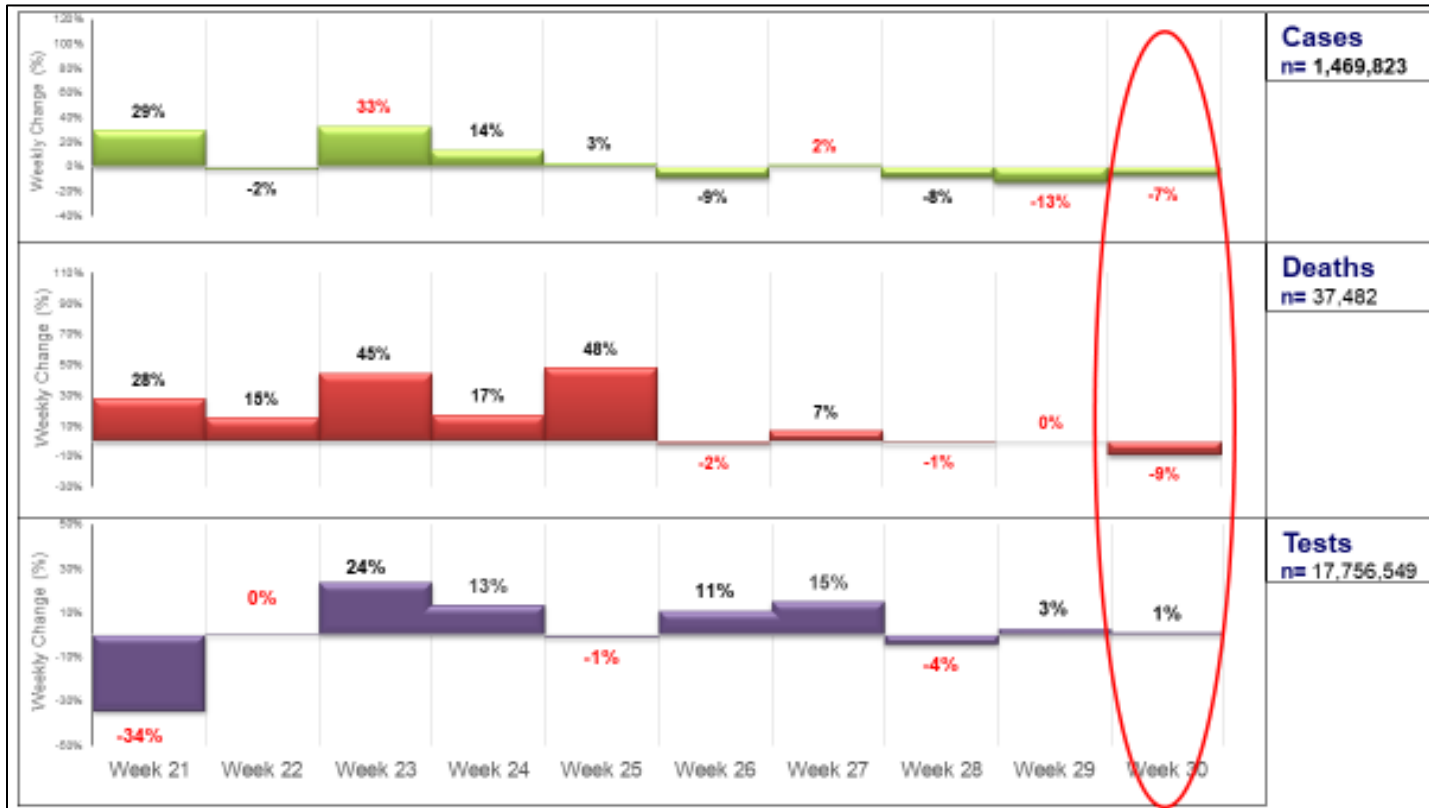
**Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 29 Jan – 25 July (18:00 Cairo time)**



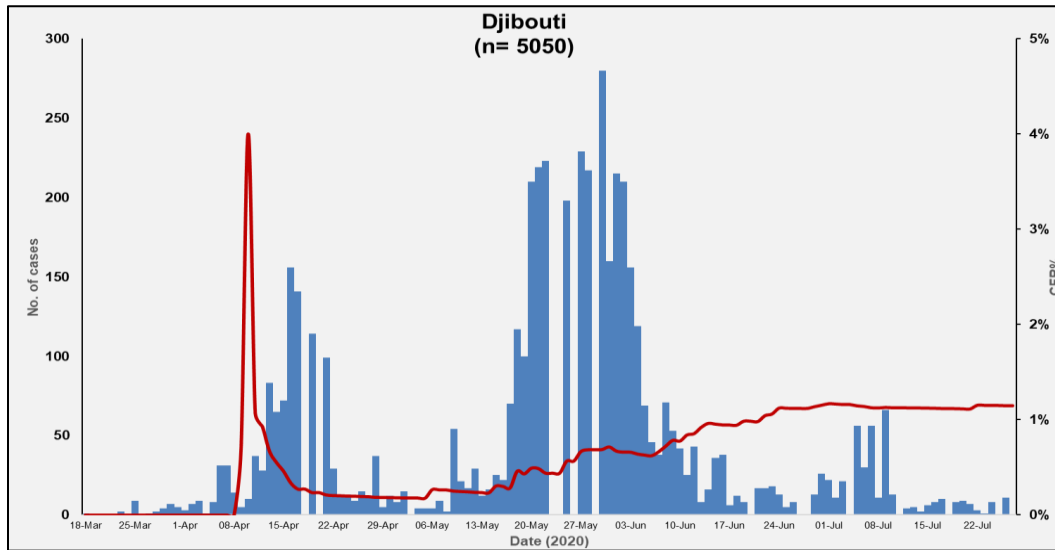
**Graph 2: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 29 Jan – 25 July (18:00 Cairo time)**

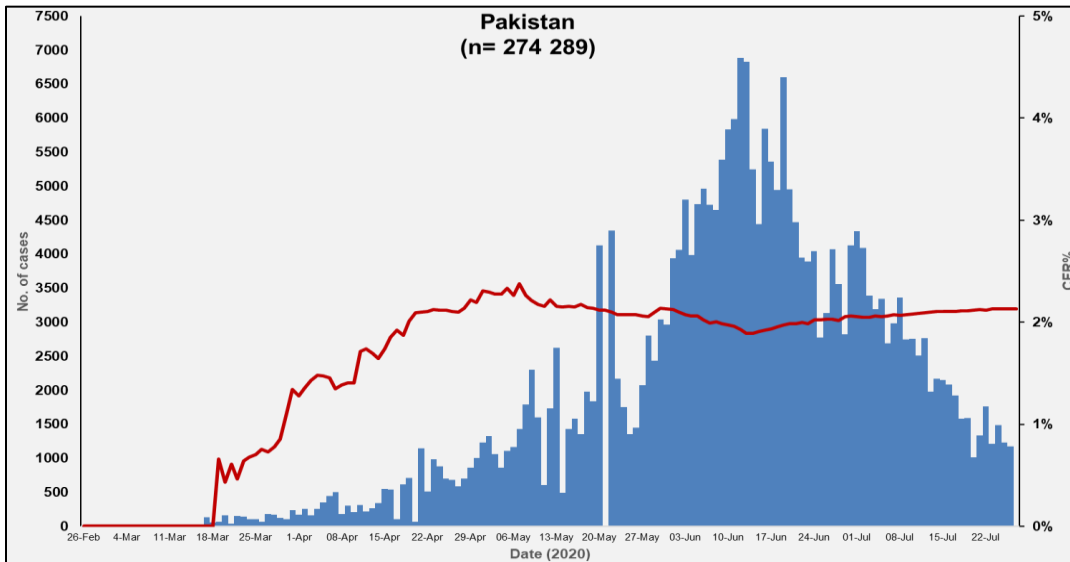
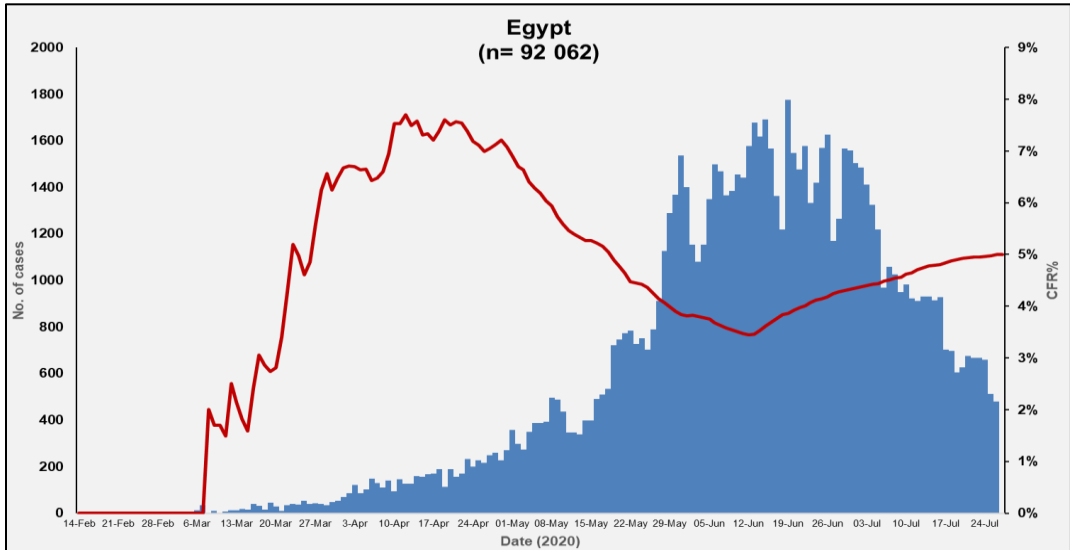
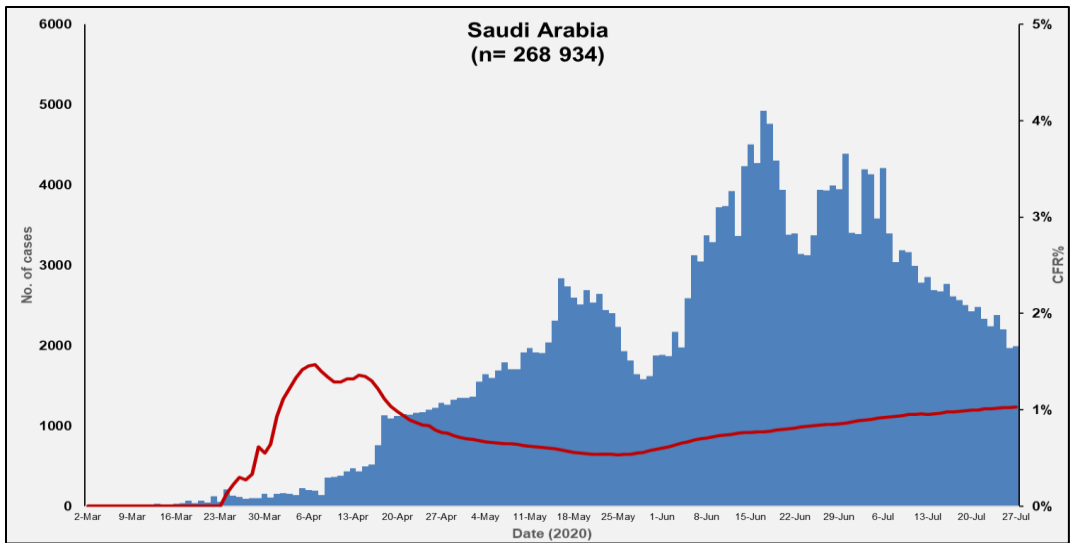


**Graph 3: Weekly change in COVID-19 cases, deaths and tests in EMR & relative change between 2 consecutive weeks 17 May – 25 July 2020**



**Graph 4-6: Weekly COVID-19 trend for selective countries with positive indicators 29 Jan – 25 July (18:00 Cairo time)**





## Regional response highlights

- The seventh webinar of the COVID-19 Laboratory Community of Practice took place on July 22 with a focus on laboratory information management. This session was an opportunity to review the importance of laboratory information management systems and considerations for implementation, with a particular focus on the COVID-19 response. The Regional Incident Management Support Team is working with Syria to finalize the testing strategy and COVID-19 procurement plan for next year. The team is also continuing to support countries to understand and clear items on the procurement catalogue that are unclear, as well as continue supporting seroprevalence studies within the unity studies, and assist countries to choose and procure rapid diagnostic testing kits and Elisa kits.
- A surge support mission for clinical management is underway in Yemen, and a special webinar was conducted for Pakistan's National Institute of Health on COVID-19 clinical management, with a focus on secondary bacterial infection, which was attended by more than 100 medical experts.
- Technical support and guidance on the treatment of COVID-19 waste in northeast Syria was provided through the WHO Health Cluster for Syria.
- 20 countries have completed the rapid assessment of the impact of COVID 19 on mental health service delivery, and so far, 19 countries in the Region have Integrated the mental health and psychosocial support (MPHSS) component into their national response plans. 17 countries have established MHPSS hotlines and / or platforms for remote MHPSS service delivery to ensure continuity of specialized services. The qualitative phase of the psychosocial work environment survey is being completed.
- An assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health services (RMNCAH) has been launched as part of a project involving all the levels of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA. The aim of the project is to ensure dissemination of WHO interim guidance; provide technical guidance and support in developing and updating national response guides on RMNCAH, continuity of services, and inclusion of RMNCAH essential services within primary health care systems. Knowledge transfer and sharing of best practices experiences will also be conducted, as well as using technologies for a RMNCAH digital health response, coordination with the private sector. Funding is being mobilized for three priority countries: Pakistan, Sudan and Yemen.
- A few countries in the Region have announced re-imposing restrictions during the upcoming holy feast of Eid Al Adha. Repatriation, cargo and medical evacuations are ongoing by all countries.
  - Flights are resuming regularly in Egypt, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Libya.
  - PCR testing is required for incoming travelers by United Arab Emirates, Iran, Sudan and Lebanon; and health insurance is required from all incoming travelers by Egypt, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates.
  - Qatar is opening for international transfer passengers only, with inbound/outbound Qataris required to take PCR testing and home quarantine.
  - Bahrain is also requiring PCR and quarantine for travelers, and Sudan is open for limited routes (Egypt, UAE, Turkey).
  - Tunisia has set travel restrictions on foreign nationals from a number of countries, and Pakistan has announced limited flights with some airports remaining closed.
  - Saudi Arabia is resuming domestic flights only, and Jordan and Iraq have announced that they will reopen points of entry by end of July/beginning of August.
- The Regional Incident Management Support Team held meetings with Qatar, Afghanistan, Libya, and Jordan on the reopening of points of entry, and is developing a tool for countries on conducting risk assessments on reopening borders. Several meetings with other regional offices and HQ have been held to finalize the travel document and publish documents related to reopening points of entry. Meetings with Gulf countries were also held to review their subregional plan on points of entry. A document has been developed on key considerations for facility quarantine for passengers and discussions with GOARN are ongoing to conduct a study to assess the role of travel on COVID-19 transmission.

- Saudi Arabi has shared the risk assessment conducted for the Hajj pilgrimage, for which only a couple of thousand people have been accepted. The Regional Office, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq will be speaking at an upcoming global webinar on mass gathering for religious events at the end of July. A survey is being conducted to identify upcoming mass gathering events in the Region and support will be provided based on needs. A [guidance note on Edi Al Adha](#) has been developed.
- The 8th webinar on Public Health Emergency Operations Centres took place with participation from more than 100 participants across the region, and online training for Libya is ongoing in this area.
- WHO and 11 other UN Agencies are finalizing the regional Joint Action Plan, 2020-2021 which includes numerous COVID-19 related actions for the coming 6 months. The weekly meeting with partners took place last week with discussions lock-downs, the epidemiological situation and the impact on the economy, and the delicate balance for countries to make decisions.
- A series of webinars on risk communications and community engagement (RCCE) are planned addressing back to school measures, including a regional webinar with UNRWA, UNICEF, UNESCO and the United Arab Emirates. Within the interagency RCCE group, a literature review has been initiated of pan-regional norms, culture and contextual factors that will influence long term sustainability of COVID-19 prevention behaviors to inform primary data collection efforts across the Region. New members joining the regional interagency taskforce include UNHCR, UN Habitat, UNRWA and OCHA. Collaboration with UNESCO and the American University in Cairo is ongoing to develop a series of regional webinars targeting communication officers and media on responsible coverage and informed reporting during COVID -19.
- To date, the Dubai hub has delivered more than 10 million surgical masks, 326,000 respirators, 7 million gloves, 78,000 goggles and 169,000 face shields as part of PPEs to all 6 WHO regions. The hubs also delivered more than 20,000 transport mediums and almost 300 oxygen concentrators to countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, with more than 700 more ready for delivery. Upcoming priority actions include distribution of the UAE-funded PCR kits, and charter flights to Libya and Yemen.
- Rapid diagnostic testing kits and ELISA kits have arrived in Pakistan and training of surveillance field teams has begun. Afghanistan has finalized their protocol and started data collection on 7<sup>th</sup> July, expected to be completed by the end of this week. Jordan has trained the field teams and started data collection; and will receive ELISA tests this week. Yemen has drafted a research protocol and the Regional Incident Management Support Team is supporting its revision. Lebanon, Sudan and Somalia are finalizing their protocols, and Syria is in the process of drafting its protocol.
- Objectives of an upcoming ethics seminar are to present and discuss role of lead bioethics centers in the EMR in support of bioethics, nationally / regionally; to present and discuss centers' / countries' experience / challenges in governance, monitoring and follow up of research ethics during COVID-19 pandemic; and to build consensus on recommendations for governance and monitoring of research ethics, based on lessons learnt and future prospects.
- Recommendations from the recent 4<sup>th</sup> webinar titled "Ethics of COVID-19 research: Governance, Regulations, Monitoring Mechanisms" which was held on 7 July include:
  - a. Developing a regional multilingual platform on bioethics and research ethics, which would facilitate networking and timely exchange of guidelines, charters, best practices and experiences;
  - b. Supporting various types of research including: Randomized Clinical Trials; health systems research; social science research;
  - c. Mapping EMR capacities / activities on biomedical ethics (centers, regulatory bodies, publications, research and academic collaborations, etc.); and
  - d. Encouraging collaboration in Medical Ethics education in the EMR via: designing convenient collaborative educational courses at different levels; exchange of interested faculty and students (to allow for experience exchange).

## Challenges

- Many countries in the Region have started to ease restrictions, lift lockdowns and resume air travel. However, this lifting of public health measures is not always done gradually and could result in a new resurgence of travel-related and community transmission cases in the coming weeks.
- As the Eid Al Adha feast approaches, there is increased risk of transmission as a result of social and religious mass gatherings.

## Regional and country response highlights

- [Region](#): More than one million patients in countries in Region have successfully recovered from COVID-19 since the first case was reported.
- Facebook Live event on polio campaigns [resuming](#) after 4-month pause.
- Facebook Live event on the role of countries and communities post-lockdown and with the [reopening of points of entry](#).
- [Somalia](#): While COVID-19 response dominates community health concerns, every missed opportunity for vaccination puts fragile gains made against polio at risk of being undone.
- [Iran](#): WHO delivers 16 CT scanners to Iran. The units, worth more than US\$ 4 million, were procured by WHO through support from the governments of Japan and Kuwait.
- [Iraq](#): A network of WHO-supported mobile medical clinics is delivering first-line health care services and helping to contain spread of COVID-19 in remote and conflict-affected areas.

Regional [dashboard](#)  
Regional COVID-19 [web site](#)

For more information, contact [emrgonCoV@who.int](mailto:emrgonCoV@who.int)