

As of 25 November 2023, the global cumulative incidence of COVID-19 reached 772,096,241 reported cases and 7,003,409 associated deaths with a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 0.91%. Meanwhile, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported a total of 23,406,133 cases representing 3.03% of the global count, with 351,800 associated deaths (CFR 1.5%). Most countries in the Region are in the community transmission phase. This report does not represent the accurate COVID-19 burden in the EMR given that updates are not regularly received from all 22 Member States (Table 1).

Indicator	Cumulative	Week 42	Week 43	Week 44	Week 45	Week 46	Week 47	Weekly Trend
Cases	772096241	147550	148234	146586	137217	159393	113130	
Deaths	7003409	2765	1037	1025	831	956	421	
CFR	0.91%	1.87%	0.70%	0.70%	0.61%	0.60%	0.37%	
Cases	23406133	1506	1643	1284	1266	908	697	
Deaths	351800	50	51	56	33	27	19	
CFR	1.5%	3.3%	3.1%	4.4%	2.6%	3.0%	2.7%	

Table 1: COVID-19 cases, deaths, and CFR, global and EMR, as of 25 November 2023

During the epidemiological week 46 of 2023, a total of 697 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases and 19 associated deaths (CFR: 2.97%) were reported from 4 Member States: Afghanistan (389 cases; 2 death), IR Iran (295 cases; 17 deaths), Kuwait (9 cases; 0 death) and Morocco (104 cases; 0 death). This indicates a 23% and 30% decrease in the number of cases and deaths respectively compared to week 44.

A total of 52,082 COVID-19 PCR tests were conducted this week in the 3 Member States (Positivity Rate: 1.34%) which indicates a 29% decrease in the number of tests compared to the previous week. This brings the cumulative number of COVID-19 laboratory tests in EMR to 450,256,511 (positivity rate 5.2%) since the start of the pandemic. The highest number of PCR tests were reported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (200,761,593; 44.6%), followed by IR Iran (58,066,426; 12.9%), and Saudi Arabia (45,484,848; 10.1%).

WHO recommends a positivity rate of around 3–12% as a general benchmark indicating adequate testing, which was achieved in most countries of the Region.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the highest number of total cases in the Region was reported by IR Iran (7,624,407; 32.57% of the Region's total), followed by Iraq (2,465,545; 10.53%), and Jordan (1,746,997; 7.46%). IR Iran also reported the highest number of total COVID-19-associated deaths (146,705; 41.70% of the Region's total) followed by Pakistan (30,656; 8.71%) and Tunisia (29,423; CFR 8.36%). The lowest CFRs in the region were reported by Qatar (0.13%), Bahrain (0.22), and the UAE (0.22%), while the highest CFRs were reported by Yemen (18.07%) followed by Sudan (7.89%) and Syria (5.51%) respectively.

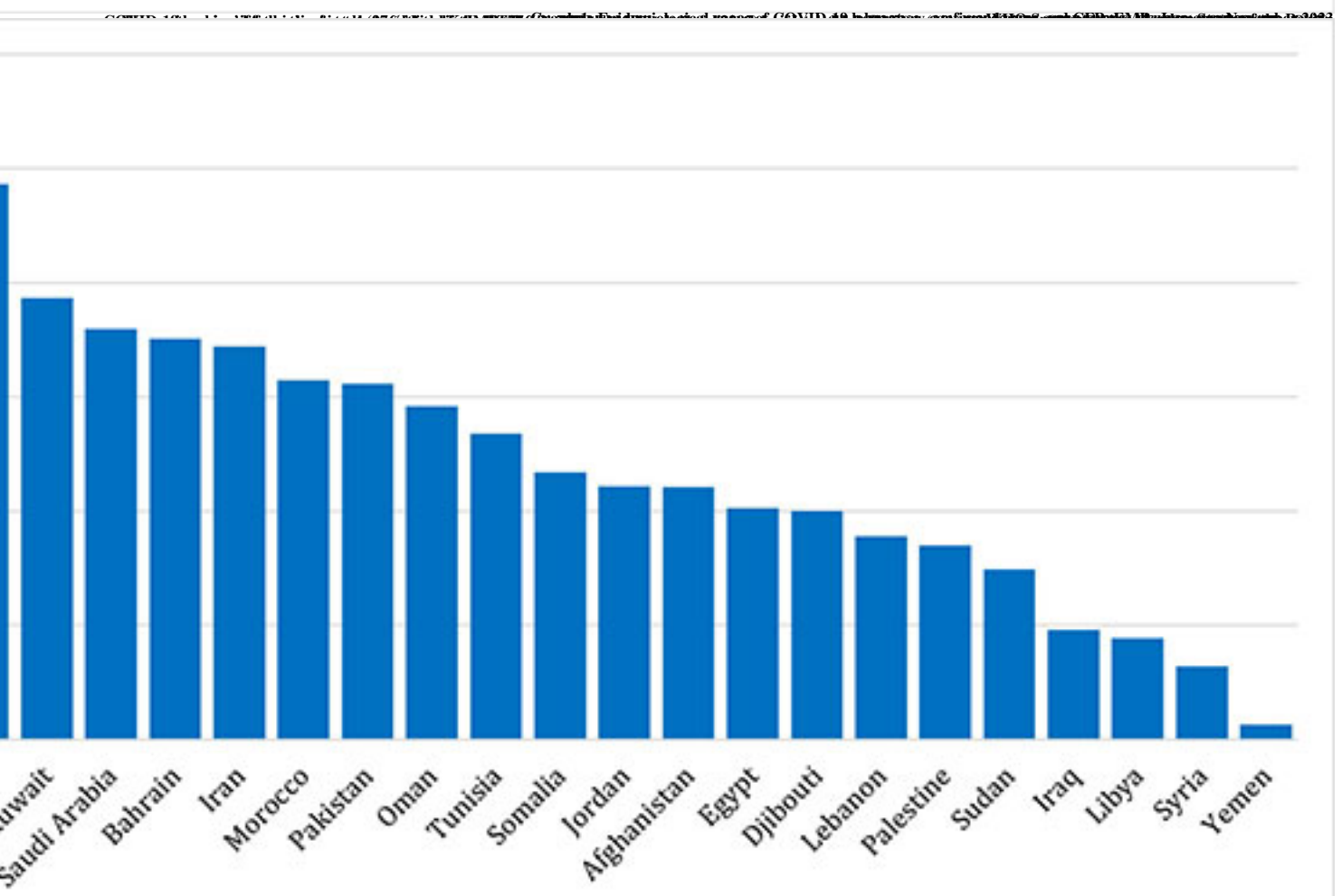
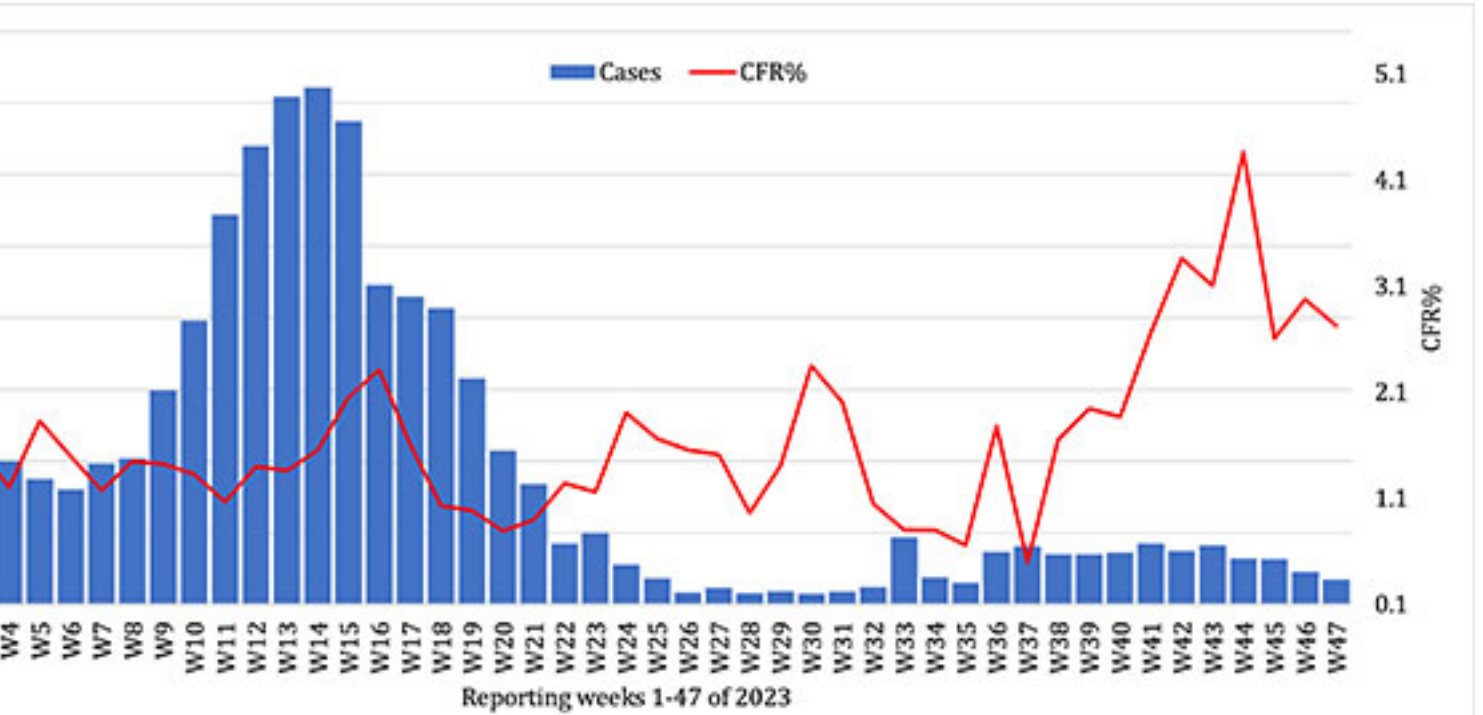


Figure 1. COVID-19 situation updates for epi week 47 (19-25 November 2023). Graph 1. COVID-19 Reporting by Country, EMRO Region, 2023. Thursday 9th of November 2023 5:37:45 AM