

As of 2 December 2023, the global cumulative incidence of COVID-19 reached 772,143,014 reported cases and 7,003,610 associated deaths, with a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 0.91%. Meanwhile, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported 23,406,897 cases, representing 3.03% of the global count, with 351,822 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 43	Week 44	Week 45	Week 46	Week 47	Week 48	Weekly Trend
Cases	772,143,014	147,550	148,234	146,586	137,217	159,393	113,130	
Deaths	7,003,610	1,037	1,025	831	956	421	201	
CFR	0.91%	0.70%	0.69%	0.57%	0.70%	0.26%	0.18%	
Cases	23,406,897	1,643	1,284	1,266	908	697	764	
Deaths	351,822	51	56	33	27	19	22	
CFR	1.5%	3.1%	4.4%	2.6%	3.0%	2.7%	2.9%	

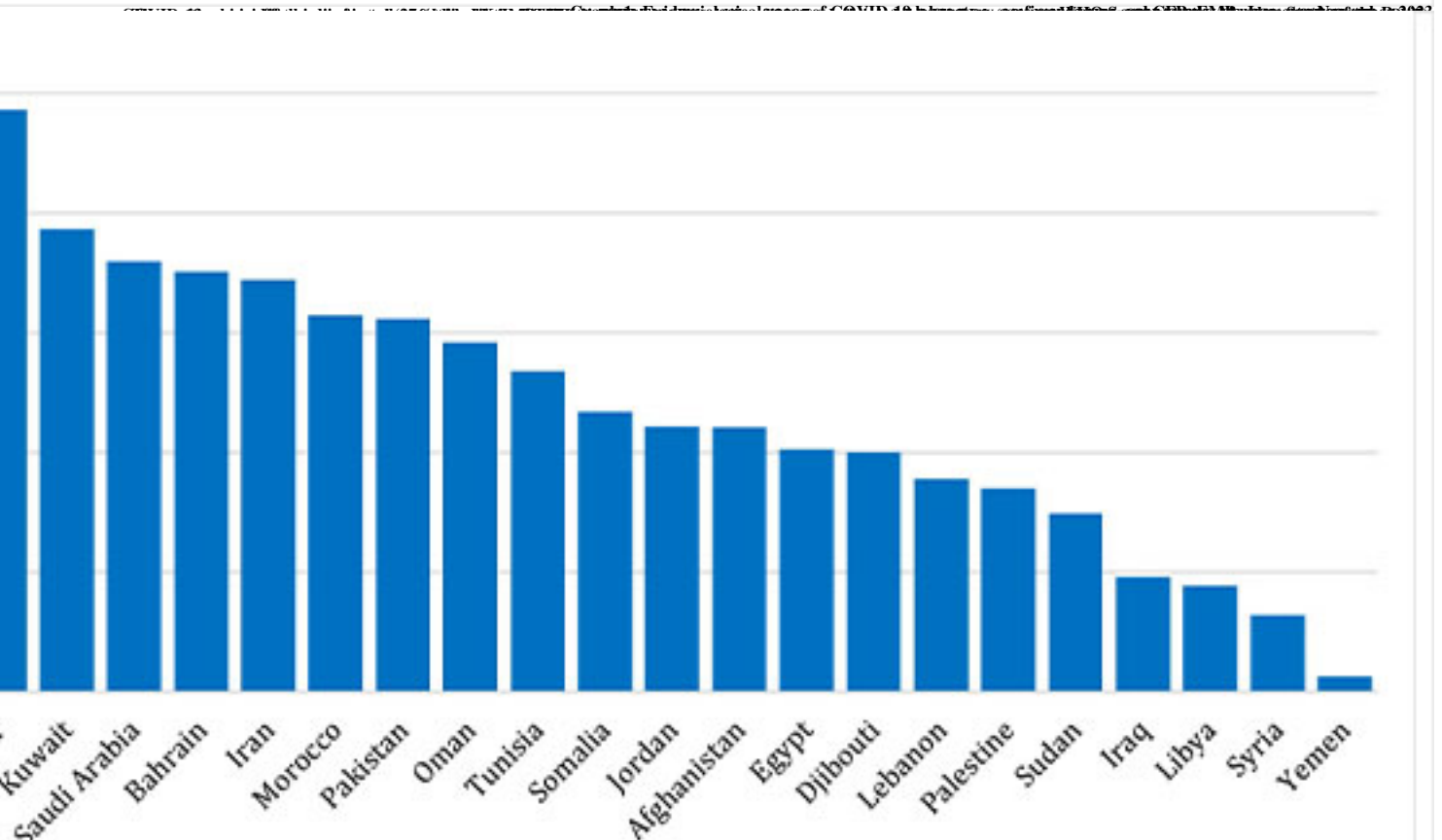
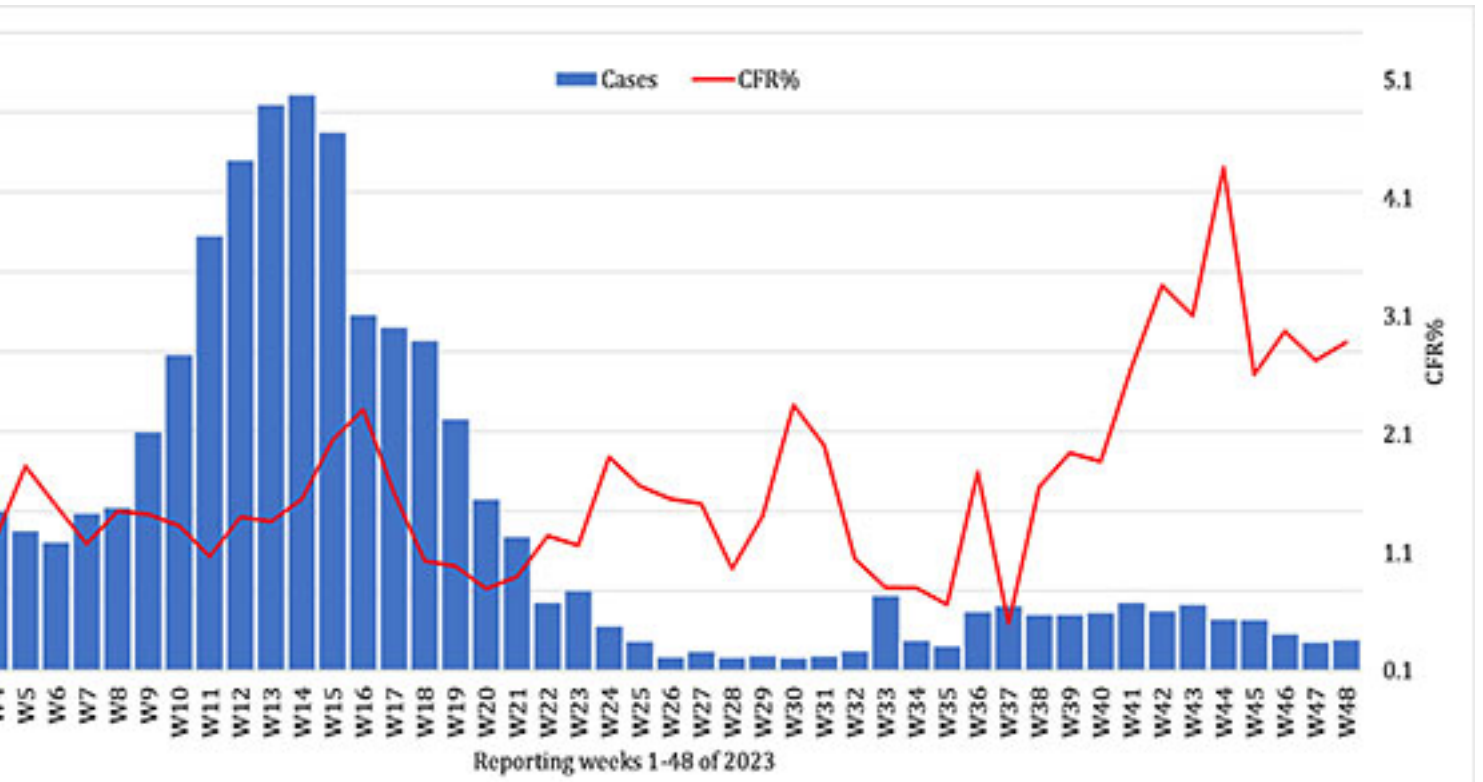
Table 1: COVID-19 cases, deaths, and CFR, global and EMR, as of 2 December 2023

During the epidemiological week 48 of 2023, a total of 764 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases and 22 associated deaths (CFR: 2.9%) were reported from 4 Member States: Afghanistan (347 cases; 2 death), IR Iran (292 cases; 19 deaths), Kuwait (9 cases; 0 death) and Morocco (116 cases; 1 death). This indicates a 10% and 16% increase in the number of cases and deaths respectively compared to week 47.

A total of 64,067 COVID-19 PCR tests were conducted this week in the 3 Member States (Positivity Rate: 1.2%) which indicates a 23% increase in the number of tests compared to the previous week. This brings the cumulative number of COVID-19 laboratory tests in EMR to 450,320,578 (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 (58,125,479; 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 (7,624,699; 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 (146,724; 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.



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