

As of 10 June 2023, the global cumulative incidence of COVID-19 reached 767,128,669 reported cases and 6,961,089 associated deaths with a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 0.91%. Meanwhile, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported a total of 23,383,069 cases representing 3.05% of the global count, with 351,329 associated deaths (CFR 1.5%).

Most countries in the region are in the community transmission phase. This report doesn't represent the accurate COVID-19 situation in the EMR given that updates are not received from all 22 Member States regularly.

During epidemiological week 24 of 2023, a total of 1,104 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases and 21 associated deaths were reported from 7 Member States (CFR: 1.9%). This indicates a 44% and 9% decrease in the number of cases and deaths respectively compared to week 23. No updates were received from 15 Member States during week 24. The weekly number of cases has decreased in almost all the reporting Member States except in IR Iran which reported a 299% increase in the number of cases in week 24. The number of COVID-19-associated deaths also decreased in almost all the reporting Member States except Afghanistan and IR Iran which reported 100 and 183% increase in the number of COVID-19-associated deaths in week 24. A total of 65,737 COVID-19 laboratory tests were conducted in week 24 in 7 Member States (Positivity Rate: 1.7%) which indicates a 171% increase in the number of tests as compared to the previous week. This brings the cumulative number of COVID-19 laboratory tests in EMR to 448,864,014 since the start of the outbreak. The highest number of PCR tests were reported from United Arab Emirates (200,761,593; 44.7%), followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (56,782,369; 12.6%), and Saudi Arabia (45,484,848; 10.1%). The average positivity rate for the Region in 2022 is 4.1% (ranging from 0.3%-10.9%). 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 outbreak, the country that has reported the highest number of total cases in the Region is the Islamic Republic of Iran (IR Iran) (7,612,280; 32.55% of the Region's total), followed by Iraq (2,465,545; 10.54%) and Jordan (1,746,997; 7.47%). IR Iran also reported the highest number of total covid19-associated deaths (146,290; CFR 1.92%) followed by Pakistan (30,656; CFR 1.94 %) and Tunisia (29,423; CFR 2.55%). The lowest CFRs were reported by the United Arab Emirates (0.22%), Bahrain (0.22), and Qatar (0.13%) while the highest CFRs were reported by Yemen (18.07%) followed by Sudan (7.89%) and Syria (5.51%) respectively.

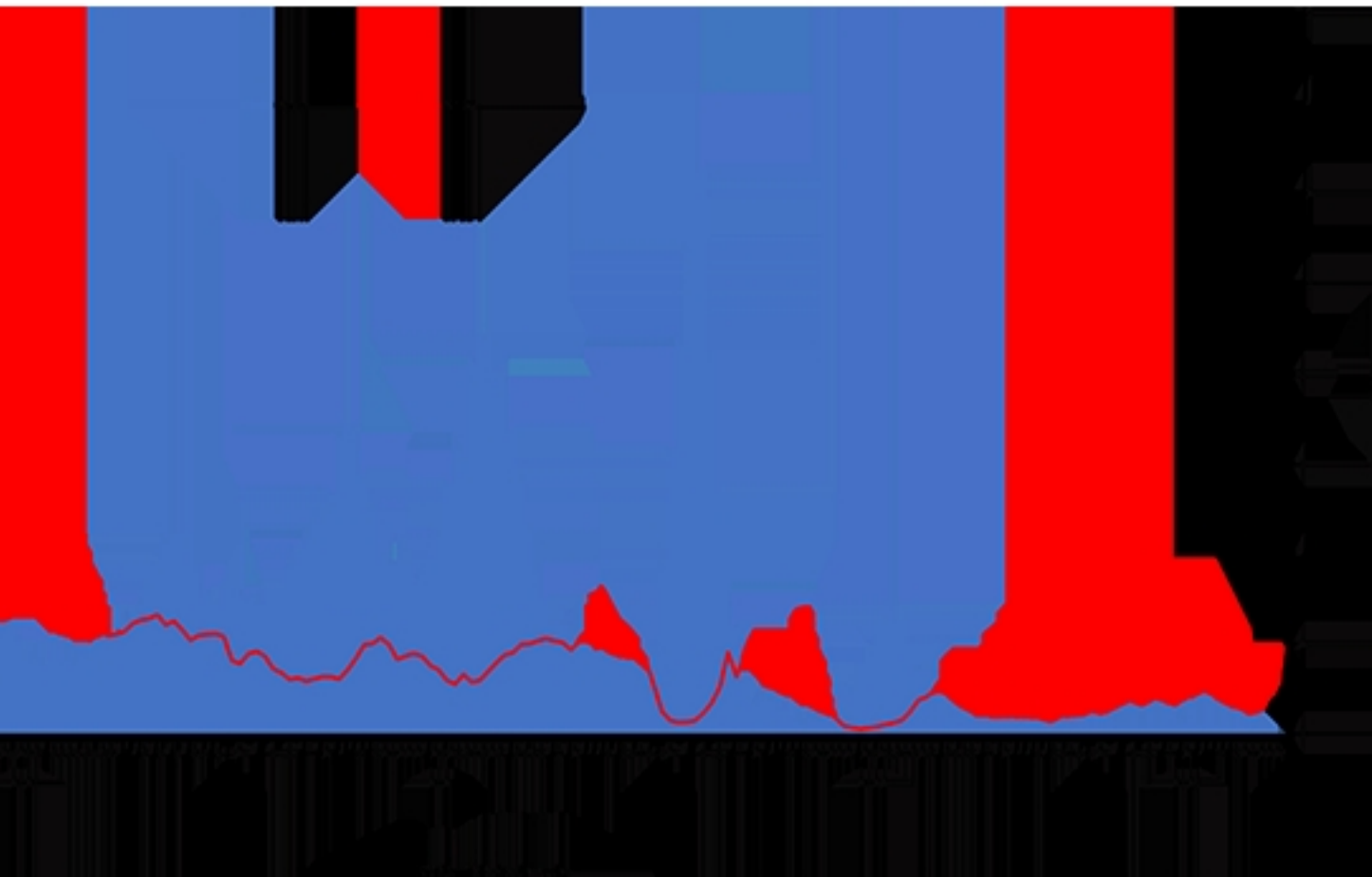


Figure 1. Daily reported cases and deaths from COVID-19 in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, February 2020, to June 2023

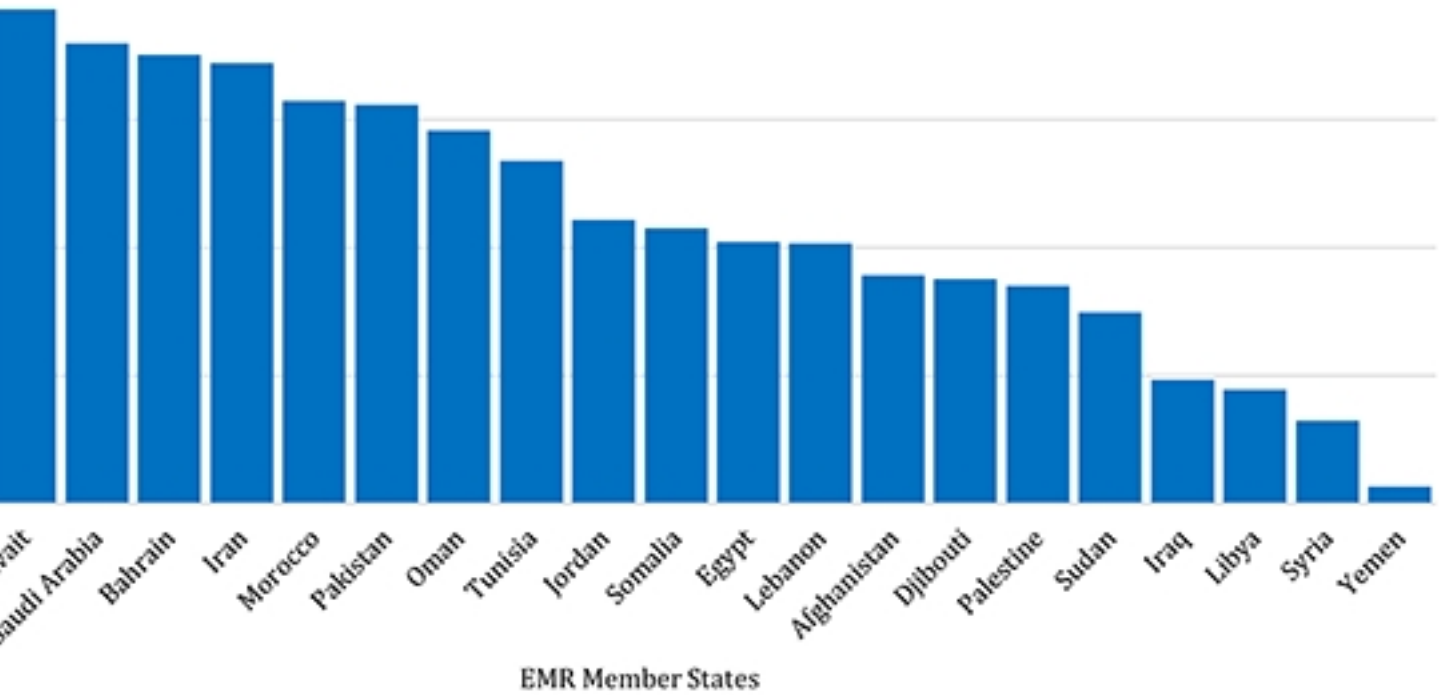


Figure 2: COVID-19 vaccine coverage by EMR Member States, June 2023  
 For more data from the Region, please visit the COVID-19 dashboard.

\*The data on vaccination is obtained from several sources including media reports and country websites for ministries of health.

\* We are currently reporting on weekly relative differences instead of cumulative differences to better reflect the extent of the COVID-19 pandemic as we are witnessing a decline in the reported cases. In addition, to a change in the frequency and quality of data sharing, countries started to move to weekly aggregate data, and less information is shared by countries. Subscribe to the monthly infectious hazard preparedness newsletter of WHO’s Health Emergencies Programme for the latest data and analysis on the epidemic- and pandemic-prone diseases, as well as news on outbreak preparedness and response within WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean Region.

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