

As of 10 June 2023, the global cumulative incidence of COVID-19 reached 766,920,852 reported cases and 6,959,380 associated deaths with a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 0.91%. Meanwhile, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported a total of 23,381,967 cases representing 3.05% of the global count, with 351,308 associated deaths (CFR 1.5%). Most countries in the region are in the community transmission phase. This report doesn't not represent the accurate COVID-19 situation in the EMR given that updates are not received from all 22 Member States regularly.

During epidemiological week 23 of 2023, a total of 1,984 lab confirmed COVID-19 cases and 23 associated deaths were reported from 6 Member States (CFR: 1.16%). This indicates a 17% and 10% decrease in the number of cases and deaths respectively compared to week 22. No updates were received from 16 Member States during week 23. The weekly number of cases has decreased in almost all the reporting Member States except in Kuwait which reported 18% increase in the number of cases in week 23. The number of COVID-19 associated deaths also decreased in all the reporting Member States in week 23. A total of 63,300 COVID-19 laboratory tests were conducted in week 23 in 6 Member States (Positivity Rate: 8.2%) which indicates a 62% decrease in the number of tests as compared to the previous week. This brings the cumulative number of COVID-19 laboratory tests in EMR to 448,798,277 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 (56,720,462; 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) (7,612,001; 32.56% of the Region's total), followed by Iraq (2,465,545; 10.56%) and Jordan (1,746,997; 7.48%). IR Iran also reported the highest number of total covid19-associated deaths (146,273; 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 (0.14%) while the highest CFRs were reported by Yemen (18.07%) followed by Sudan (7.89%) and Syria (5.51%) respectively.

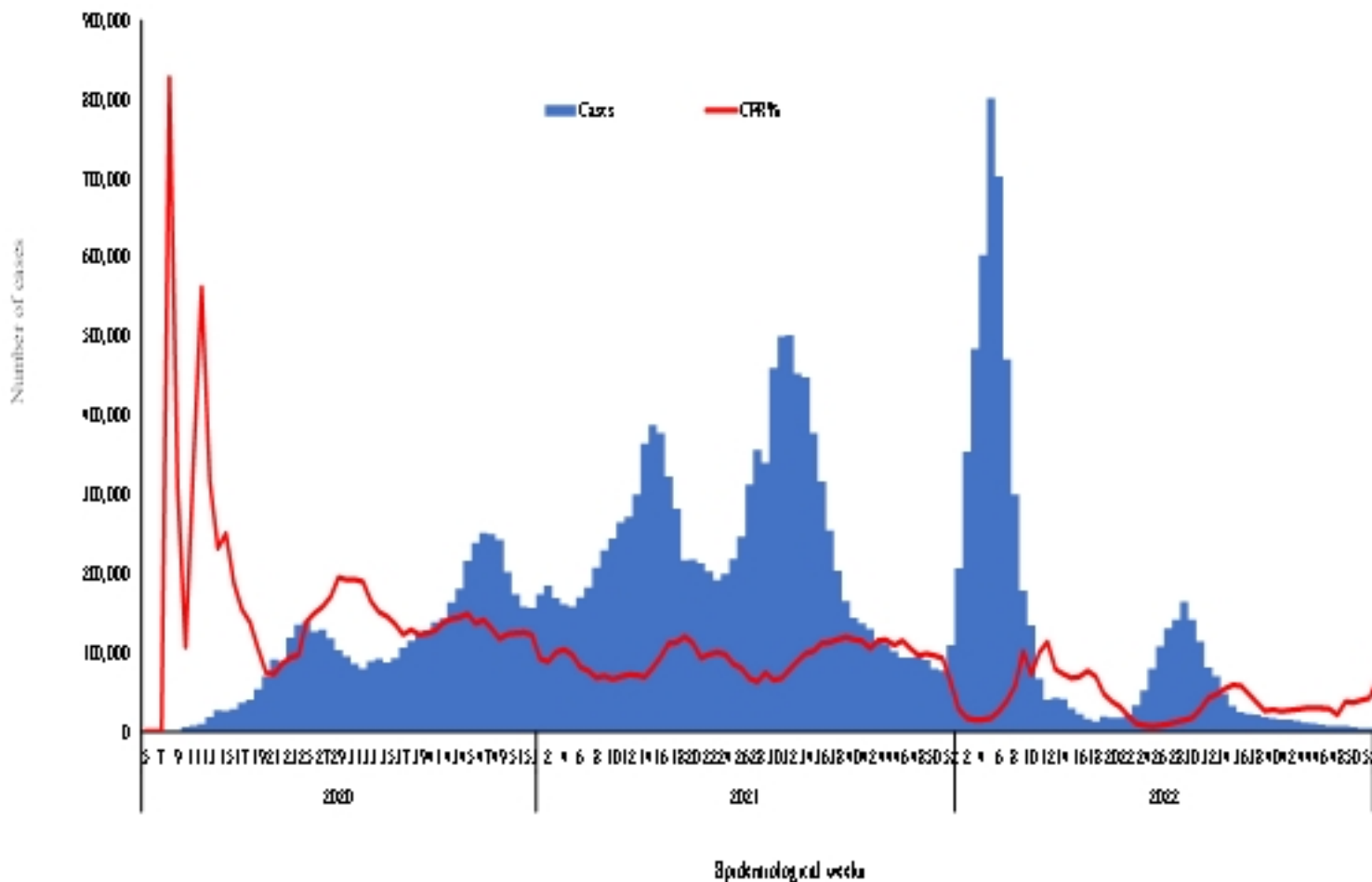
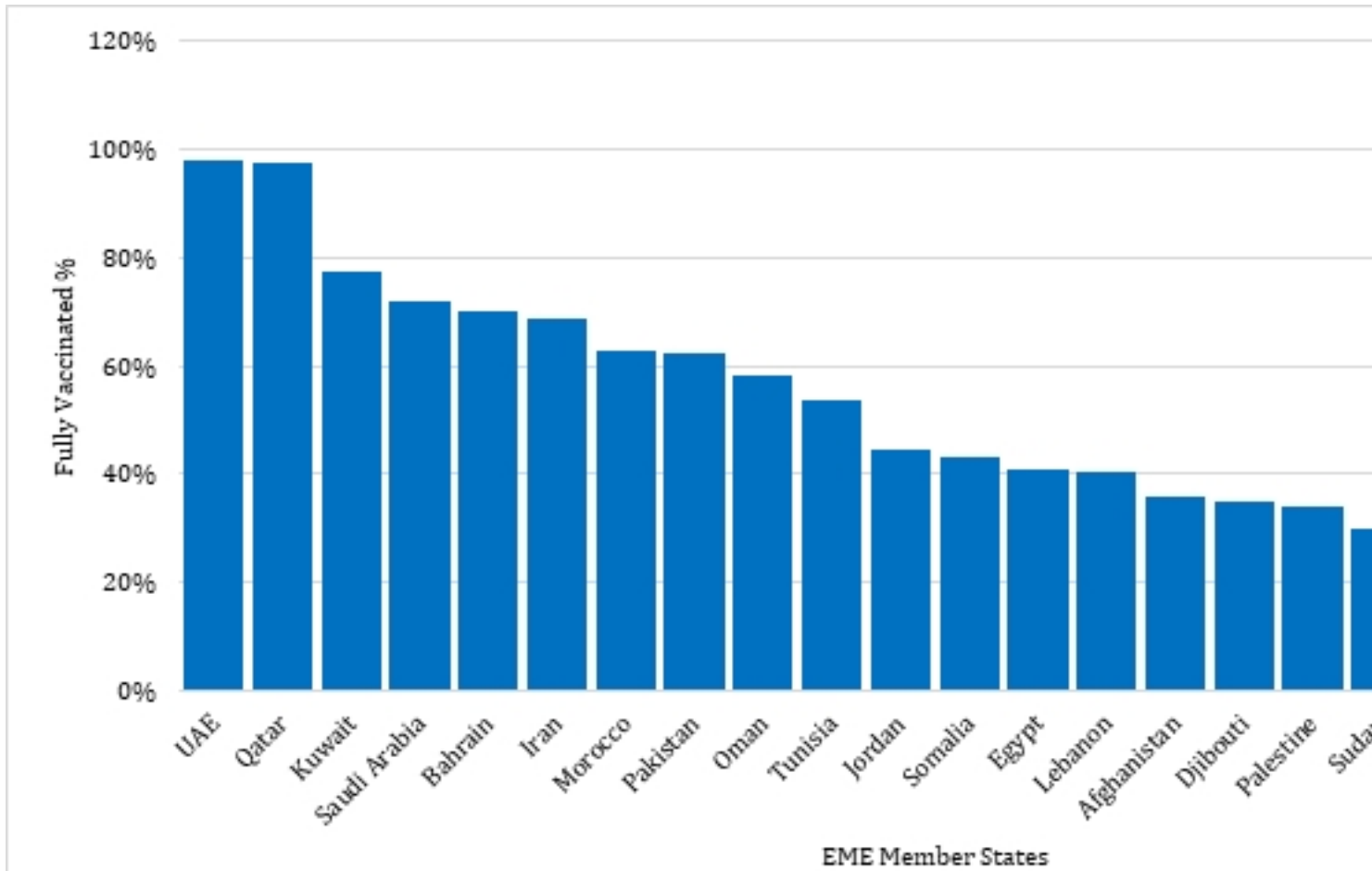


Figure 2: 2020-2023 curve of COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases and CFR, EMR, Supporting countries in the Region

The regional incident management support team continues to coordinate the response and provide technical support to countries and partners in the Region in the areas of coordination and partnership, surveillance, laboratory capacity, clinical management, infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement, points of entry according to the International Health Regulations (2005), research, health systems, and essential health services among others. Furthermore, COVID-19 vaccination continues across the Region. The total number of doses administered so far in the 22 countries is 897,580,750 and the average coverage of fully vaccinated population in the Region is 50%. The United Arab Emirates (98%), Qatar (97%) and Kuwait (77%) has reported the highest number of fully vaccinated coverage while Libya (18%), Syria (13%), and Yemen (3%) the lowest number of fully vaccinated coverage in the Region (Figure 2).



Source: WHO COVID-19 Dashboard for EME Region, 04-10 June 2023. Data for 18 countries