

The coronavirus disease COVID-19 continues to spread at the regional and global levels. As of 4 February 2023, the global cumulative incidence reached 754 641 439 reported cases and 6 843 554 associated deaths at a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 0.91%. Meanwhile, the 22 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) have reported a total of 23 246 005 cases representing about 3.08% of the global count, with 349 371 associated deaths (CFR 1.5%). Most countries in the Region are in the community transmission phase.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the country that has reported the highest number of total cases in the Region is Islamic Republic of Iran (7 564 663; 32.54% of the Region's total), followed by Iraq (2 465 545; 10.61%) and Jordan (1 746 997; 7.52%). Islamic Republic of Iran also reported the highest number of total COVID-19 associated deaths (144 756; CFR 1.91%), followed by Pakistan (30 640; CFR 1.94 %) and Tunisia (29 312; CFR 2.55%). The highest CFRs were reported by Yemen (18.07%), followed by Sudan (7.84%) and Syria (5.51%), while the lowest CFRs were reported by United Arab Emirates (0.22%), Bahrain (0.22) and Qatar (0.14%).

During epidemiological week 5, the Region reported a decrease in cases by 12% when compared to the previous week (3500 cases compared to 3994 cases). An increase by 33% was also observed for associated deaths (64 deaths in the current week compared to 48 deaths in the previous week).

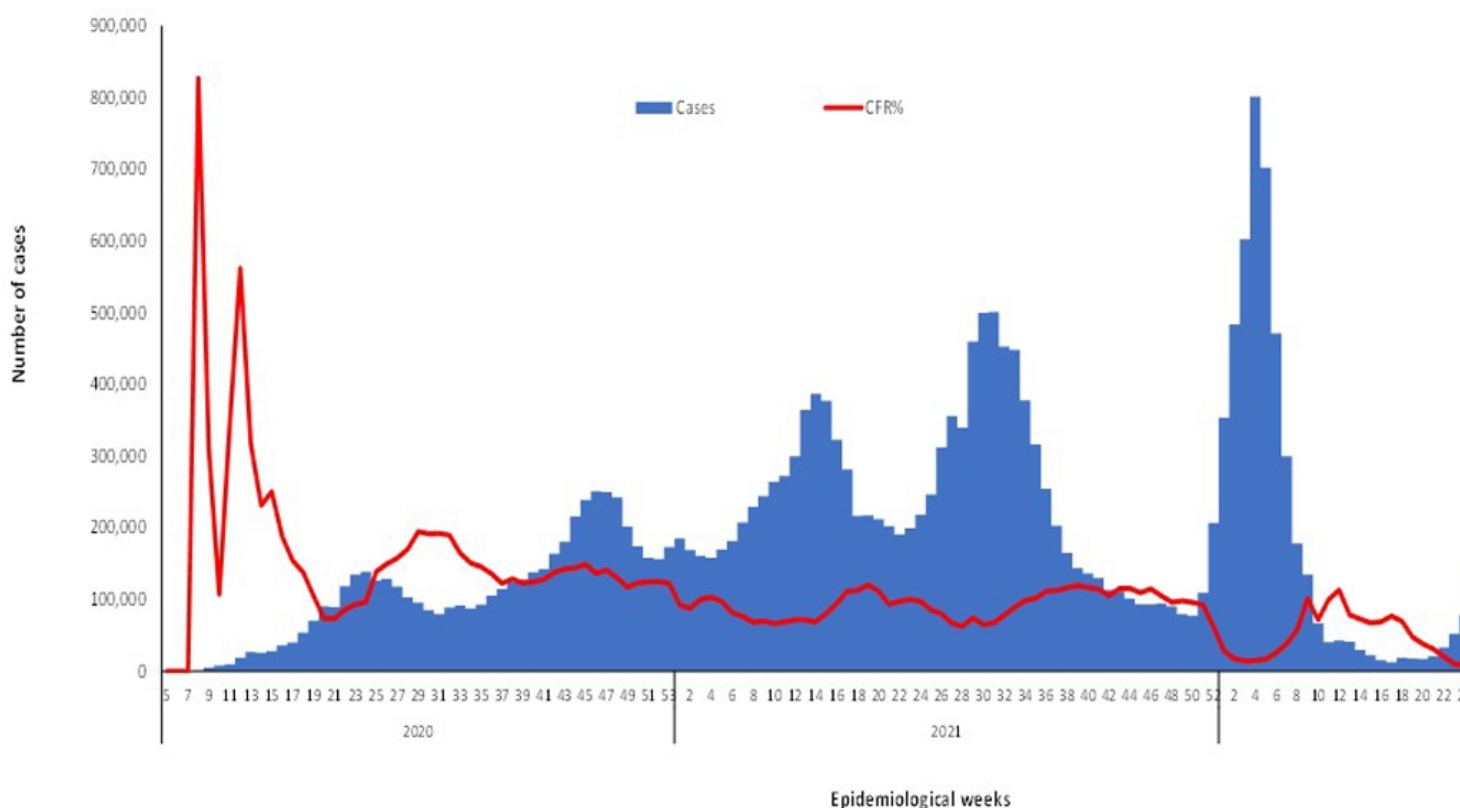
The weekly number of cases has decreased in all countries of the Region except in 4 out of 22 countries as compared to the previous week. This week the number of COVID-19 associated deaths also decreased in all countries of the Region except in 3 out of 22 countries as compared to the previous week.\*

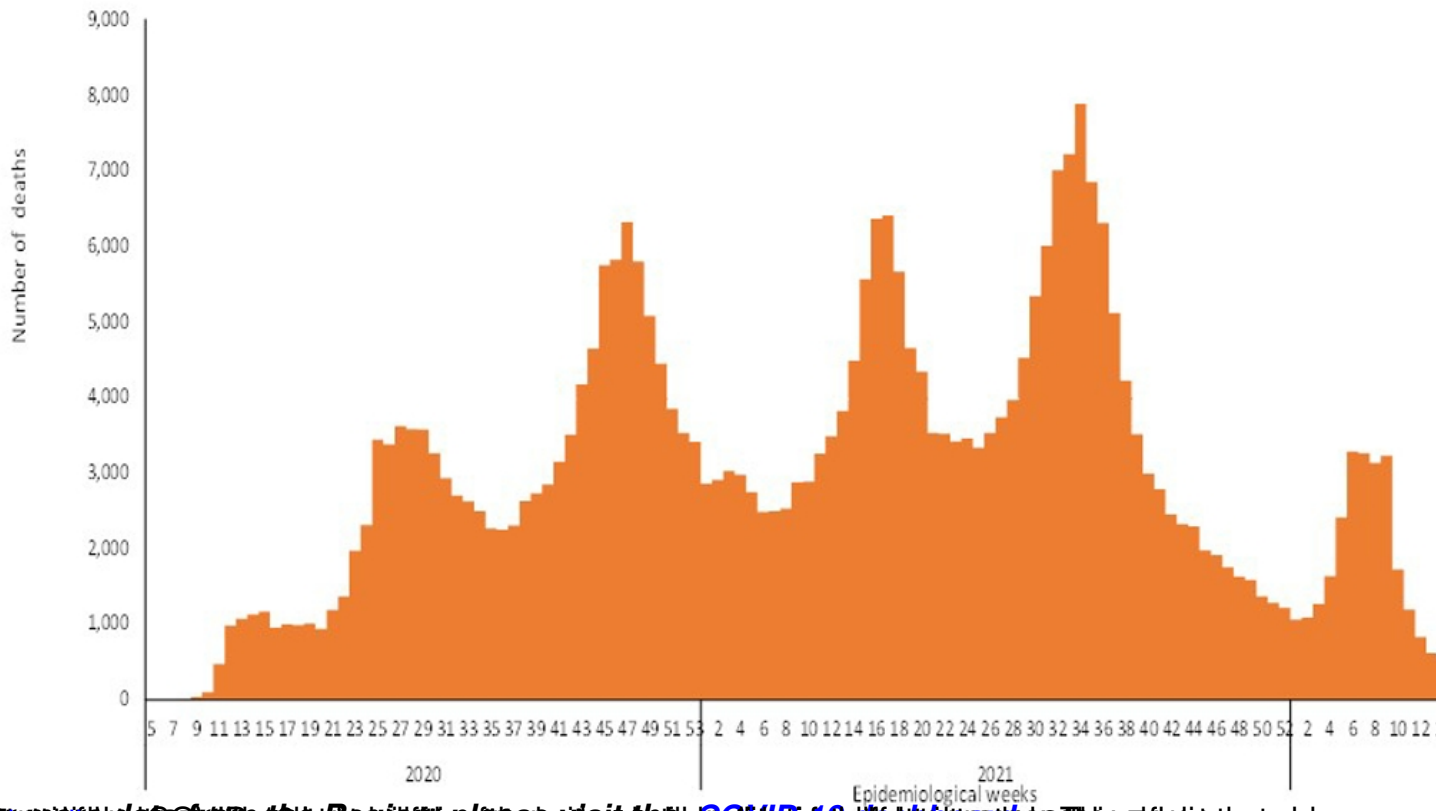
In terms of testing, a total of 444 023 866 laboratory tests were conducted since the start of the outbreak across the Region, including 292 746 tests in week 5, which shows a 11% decrease as compared to the previous week when 329 273 tests were conducted. The highest number of PCR tests were reported from United Arab Emirates (198 729,622), followed by Islamic Republic of Iran (55 059 148) and Saudi Arabia (45 061 447). The average positivity rate for the Region is 5.24%. WHO recommends a positivity rate of around 3% to 12% as a general benchmark indicating adequate testing, which was achieved in most countries of the Region.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 vaccination continues across the Region. The total number of doses administered so far in the 22 countries is 866 493 878. Pakistan has administered the highest number of doses at 333 510 412, followed by Islamic Republic of Iran at 155 011 109 and Egypt at 102 088 497. On the other hand, Bahrain (3 476 633), Yemen (1 242 982) and Djibouti (383 474) administrated the lowest number of COVID-19 doses in the Region.\*\*

### 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.





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