

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 19 June 2021)



8

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



7

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths



10 675 071

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



9 831 874

Total reported recovered cases



212 180

Total reported deaths



162 861 826

Total tests performed



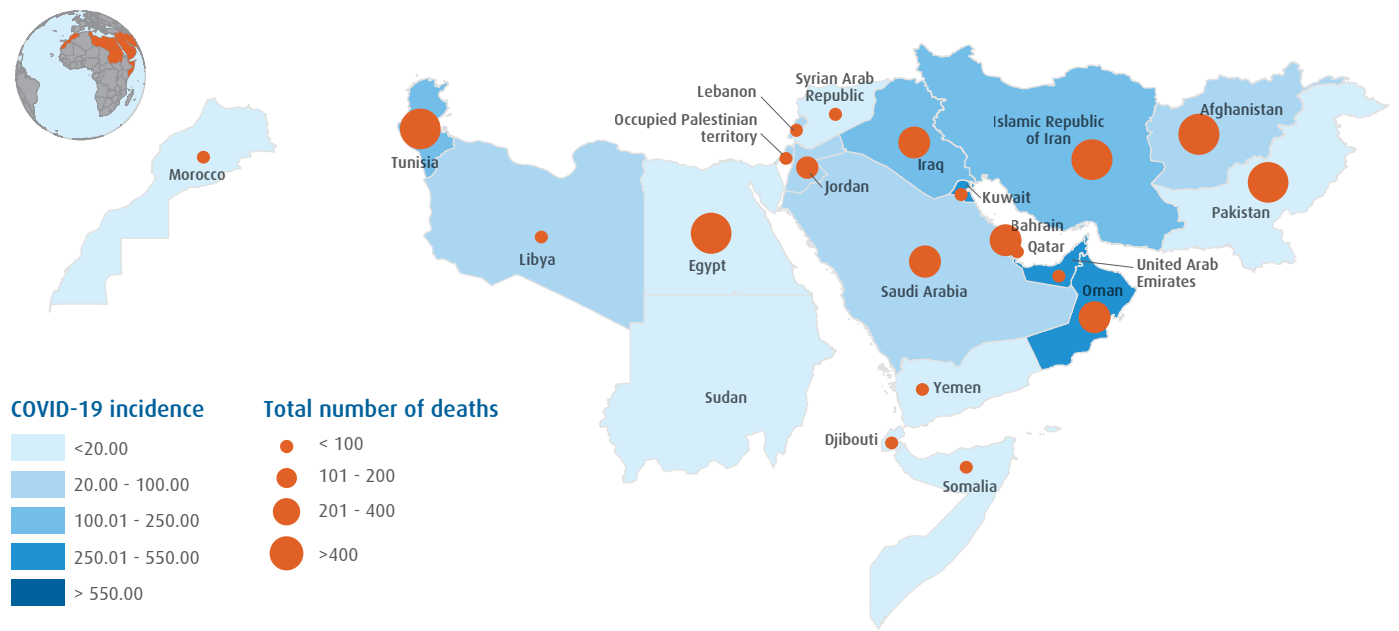
WHO supports surveillance and contact tracing of COVID-19 cases in Somalia.

Credit: WHO Somalia

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 19 June 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 10,675,071 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 212,180 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- **Epidemiological trend:** Compared to the previous two weeks of the reporting period:
 - The number of cases decreased by 6%.
 - A stabilization in the number of deaths was observed.
 - The number of tests conducted has stabilized; however, testing levels declined in some countries and increased in other countries.
 - An increase in cases and deaths was reported by 8 and 7 countries respectively.
 - A decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by 11 countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests conducted across the Region reached 162,861,826, with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 10.1% (range from 1.1% to 30.8%).
- **SARS-CoV-2 variants:** To date:
 - **Seventeen** countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of VOC Alpha (UK): Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, oPt, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, KSA, Tunisia, and UAE.
 - **Eleven** countries have reported the detection of VOC Beta (RSA): Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, oPt, Pakistan, Qatar, KSA, Tunisia, and UAE.
 - **Three** countries have officially reported the detection of VOC Gamma (BR): Jordan, Pakistan, and UAE; in addition,
 - **Seven** countries have so far reported VOC Delta (B.1.617) (IND): Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Qatar.
 - On 6 June, Iraq uploaded genome sequence samples matching Beta VOC on GISAID, and Saudi Arabia announced the detection of Delta VOC.

Map 1: COVID-19 bi-weekly attack rate per 100,000 population and number of new deaths per country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 6-19 June 2021



Map 2: Countries reporting SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) and variants of interest (VOIs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region as of 19 June 2021

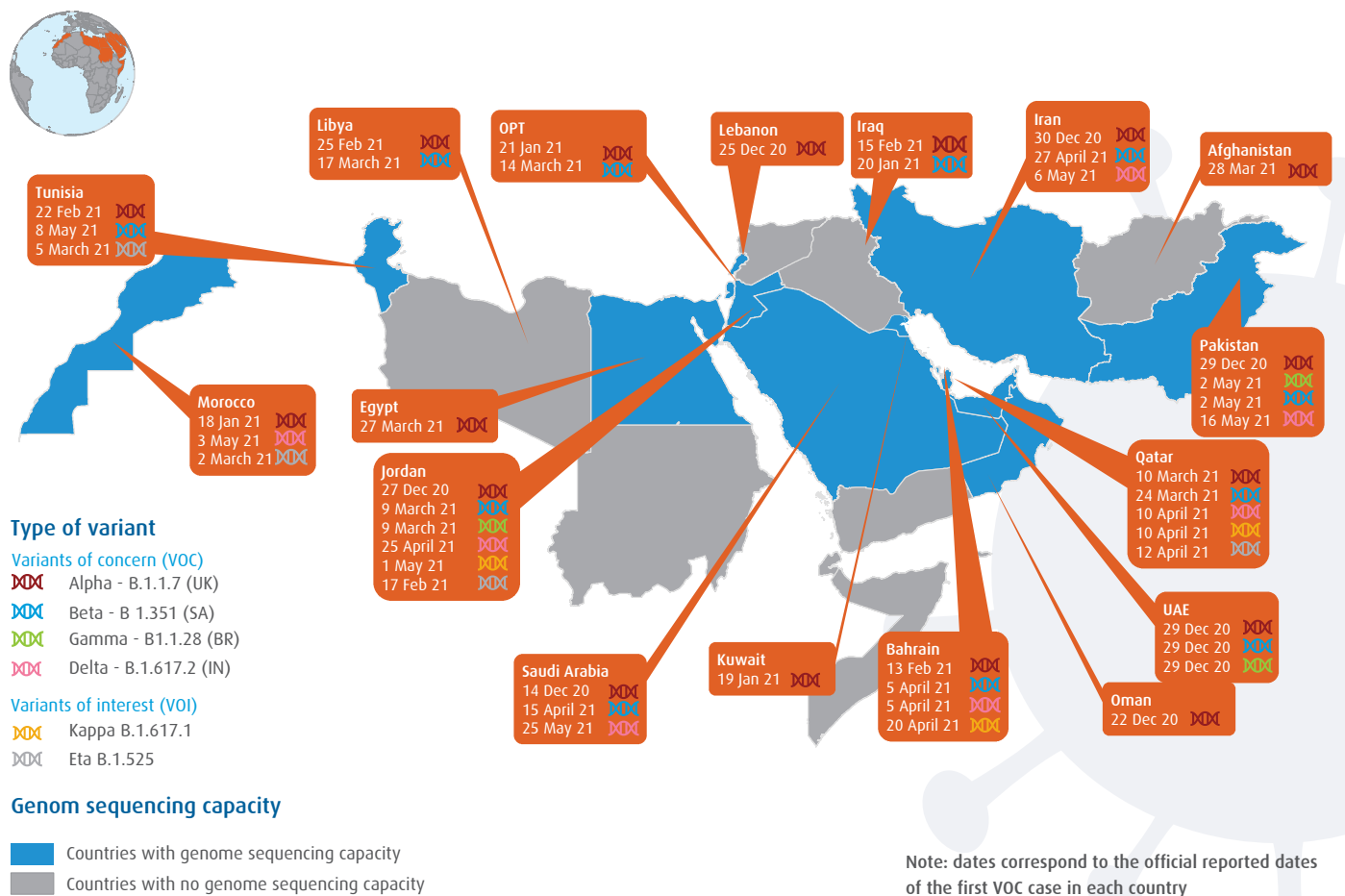


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

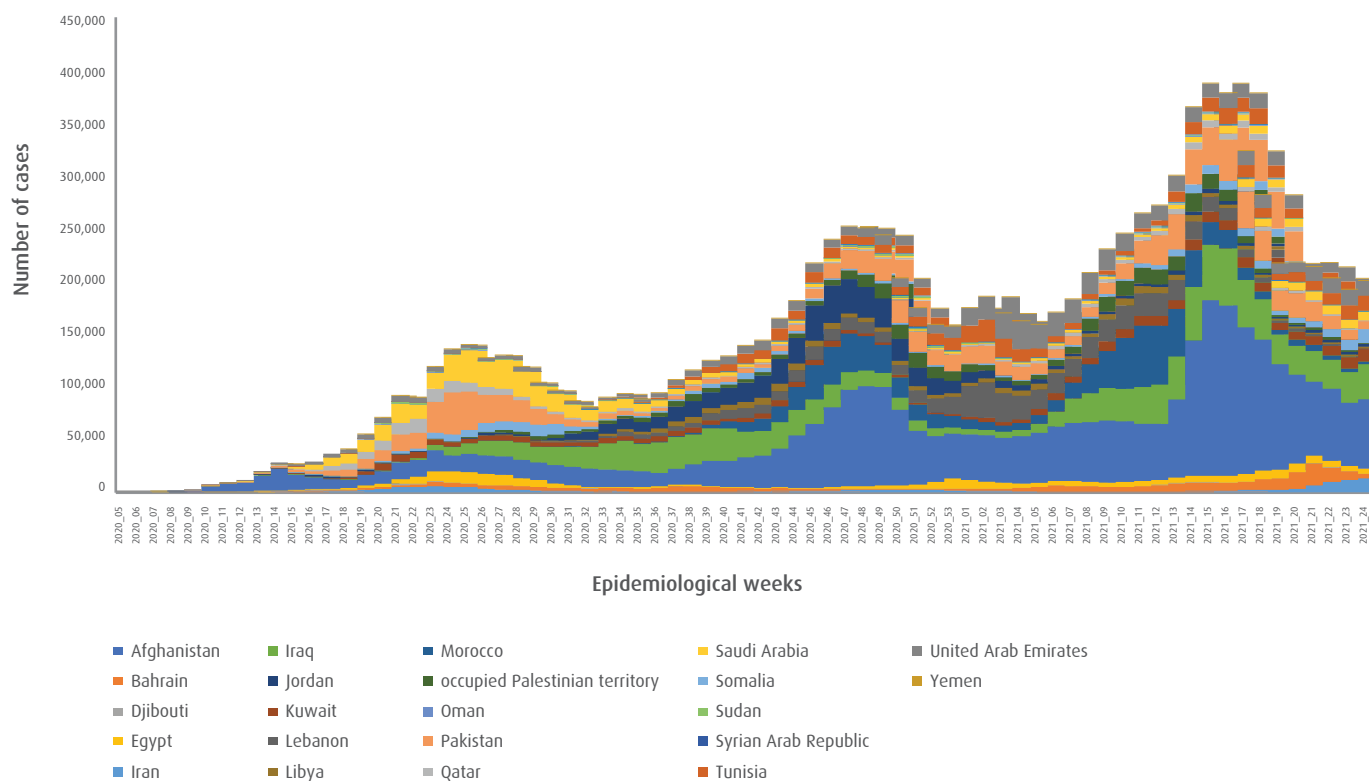
23 May – 5 June 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	23,061	103,902	1,028	4,215	4.1%	64,401	562,501
Bahrain	12,845	262,427	206	1,297	0.5%	252,848	4,897,598
Djibouti	31	11,587	1	155	1.3%	11,424	167,895
Egypt	9,585	276,756	520	15,829	5.7%	205,157	2,977,198
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	126,223	3,086,974	1,913	82,854	2.7%	2,736,013	22,321,457
Iraq	61,627	1,283,305	342	16,860	1.3%	1,196,114	11,232,559
Jordan	6,659	745,978	140	9,656	1.3%	729,663	7,657,848
Kuwait	21,471	337,371	68	1,862	0.6%	318,419	2,825,482
Lebanon	1,948	543,371	61	7,819	1.4%	529,618	4,845,290
Libya	3,467	190,748	31	3,174	1.7%	176,217	1,107,676
Morocco	5,168	526,363	64	9,237	1.8%	513,382	6,178,092
Occupied Palestinian territory	2,752	341,446	34	3,818	1.1%	334,739	1,873,423
Oman	23,607	246,406	282	2,683	1.1%	213,880	1,887,569
Pakistan	16,128	948,268	712	21,977	2.3%	892,319	14,113,670
Qatar	2,238	220,693	16	582	0.3%	218,098	2,110,802
Saudi Arabia	16,550	473,112	223	7,663	1.6%	454,404	20,877,394
Somalia	123	14,852	2	775	5.2%	7,150	188,074
Sudan	426	36,430	43	2,740	7.5%	30,249	420,356
Syrian Arab Republic	437	25,076	51	1,841	7.3%	21,727	79,630
Tunisia	27,218	382,950	1,058	14,038	3.7%	332,962	1,611,363
United Arab Emirates	28,982	610,179	56	1,752	0.3%	589,235	54,780,525
Yemen	97	6,877	28	1,353	19.7%	3,855	145,424
Total	390,643	10,675,071	6,879	212,180	2.0%	9,831,874	162,861,826



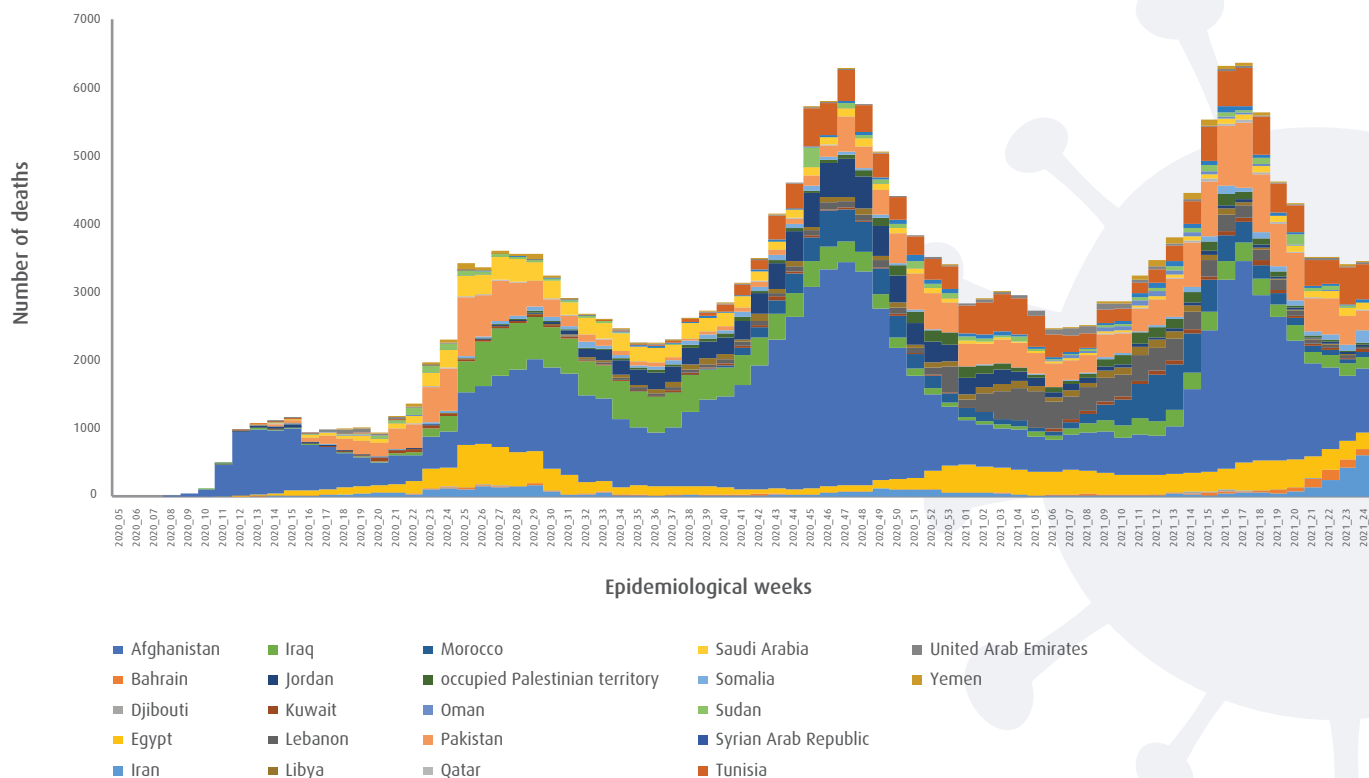
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 19 June 2021



Graph 2: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 19 June 2021



IN FOCUS: COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

- Over 80 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the Eastern Mediterranean Region so far.
- WHO urges countries in the Region to expand and accelerate vaccination campaigns, increase the number of vaccination sites, and prepare to use additional doses that will be made available through the COVAX Facility.
- WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean provides technical support to track vaccine use and regulations, issue emergency use authorization (EUA) to all vaccine products under WHO emergency use listing, and is in close collaboration with ministries of health to follow up on severe adverse events following immunization, raise awareness about vaccines, and address rumors and misinformation that play a key role in vaccine hesitancy.

REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Operations Support and Logistics

- Dispatched US\$ 2,038,052 in health commodities to 17 countries across five WHO Regions through the WHO Dubai logistics hub, with EMR countries representing 41% of the recipients.
- Delivered 307 Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test kits to Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Syria, and Colombia, to support the Unity Studies.
- Received approximately US\$ 350,000 worth of health supplies for pre-positioning, while simultaneously dispatching 64 metric tons of supplies.

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Infection Prevention and Control

- Conducted a five-day training workshop between 6 and 10 June, targeting 19 IPC focal persons at national and facility levels in the Gaza Strip.
- Trained 18 IPC focal persons in a five-day training-of-trainers workshop on "Basic and COVID-19 IPC measures" between 13 and 17 June in Libya.

Clinical Management

- Conducted a mission to assess the intensive care unit (ICU) of the European Gaza Hospital in support of speeding up MEDEVAC processes, including an ICU refresher training as a follow up to the December 2020 training.
- Supported countries to procure oxygen and biomedical equipment through multiple channels, including finding feasible solutions to fill current oxygen shortages in Afghanistan.
- Provided technical support to 14 eligible countries in the Region for their Global Fund application.

Health Information Management and Surveillance

- Trained 40 participants on COVID-19 monitoring and evaluation in Libya, in collaboration with the WHO Country Office in Libya, the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Global Health Cluster, the Sphere Project, and with funding from the European Union.
- Conducted a mission to Syria to assess and follow up on information management activities, including for COVID-19.
- Trained WHO Syria staff on enhancing COVID-19 alerts using social media tools.
- Analyzed COVID-19 trends between Ramadan/Eid 2020 and Ramadan/Eid 2021. Key findings as follows.
 - Weekly average of cases increased from 80,138 in 2020 to 260,878 in 2021.
 - Weekly average of deaths increased from 1,513 in 2020 to 4,685 in 2021.
 - A continuous increase in cases was shown during 2020, while a systematic decrease was observed in 2021 with stabilization observed during the last week.
 - A continuous increase in deaths in 2020, while an increase was observed in the first 2 weeks, followed by sharp decline, then stabilization in 2021.
 - Tests per 1000 population increased from 12.3 in 2020 to 42.2 in 2021.
 - Test positivity ratio was 10.2% in 2020 compared to 9.8% in 2021.
 - Attack rate (cases/100,000 population) increased from 60 in 2020 to 524 in 2021

International Health Regulations and Social Measures

- Communicated with Saudi Arabia regarding the latest guidance on Hajj.
- Updated WHO guidance on safe practices during Eid Al Adha.
- Developed case studies on public health mitigation measures for COVID-19 during specific events such as mass gatherings.

Research and Knowledge Management

- Disseminated a call for expression of interest on “Oxygen requirements and approaches to respiratory support in patients with COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries: a WHO study”.
- Cleared the fourth round of the protocol for the sero-survey in Jordan.
- Met with the Unity Studies team in WHO Headquarters to expand their support to the Region.
- Conducted a training of trainers in Tunisia on writing and coding medical notifications of COVID-19 deaths, medical certifications of cause of death, and introducing rapid mortality surveillance.

Essential Health Services and Systems

- Providing support to Jordan and Pakistan to update their mental health strategies; supported a series of consultations involving stakeholders.
- Built capacity of staff in WHO Pakistan to ensure technical support to the national integration of mental health as part of Universal Health Coverage.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Performed an equity analysis on COVID-19 vaccination in the Region.
- Monitored supply and consumption of COVAX-supplied vaccine doses in the Region.
- Provided support to the mission to Syria on risk communication and community engagement to address vaccine hesitancy.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS - FROM THE FIELD

WHO builds critical care capacities for COVID-19 in Iraq



The clinical management pillar of WHO's regional incident management support team has completed a training of trainers for intensive care medical staff in Iraq. Six rounds of a three-day workshop were held between 16 May and 4 June to train 87 health care professionals from all governorates in Iraq. These included 42 doctors and 45 nurses and anesthesia technicians. The training provided an introduction to intensive care and critical care for COVID-19 patients, and covered core life support skills and the management of critically ill patients through a variety of methods and demonstrations.

Continue reading:

<http://www.emro.who.int/pandemic-epidemic-diseases/news/who-builds-critical-care-capacities-for-covid-19-in-iraq.html>

Regional COVID-19 website: <http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/index.html>

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int