

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 11 September 2021)



7

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



8

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths



15 205 042

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



13 814 450

Total reported recovered cases



277 804

Total reported deaths



220 824 006

Total tests performed



Thabit Ali is a health care worker at Al Sadaqqa hospital in Aden, Yemen, where he has been working for the past four years. When the hospital's isolation unit became operational, Thabit was one of the first to begin working with COVID-19 patients.

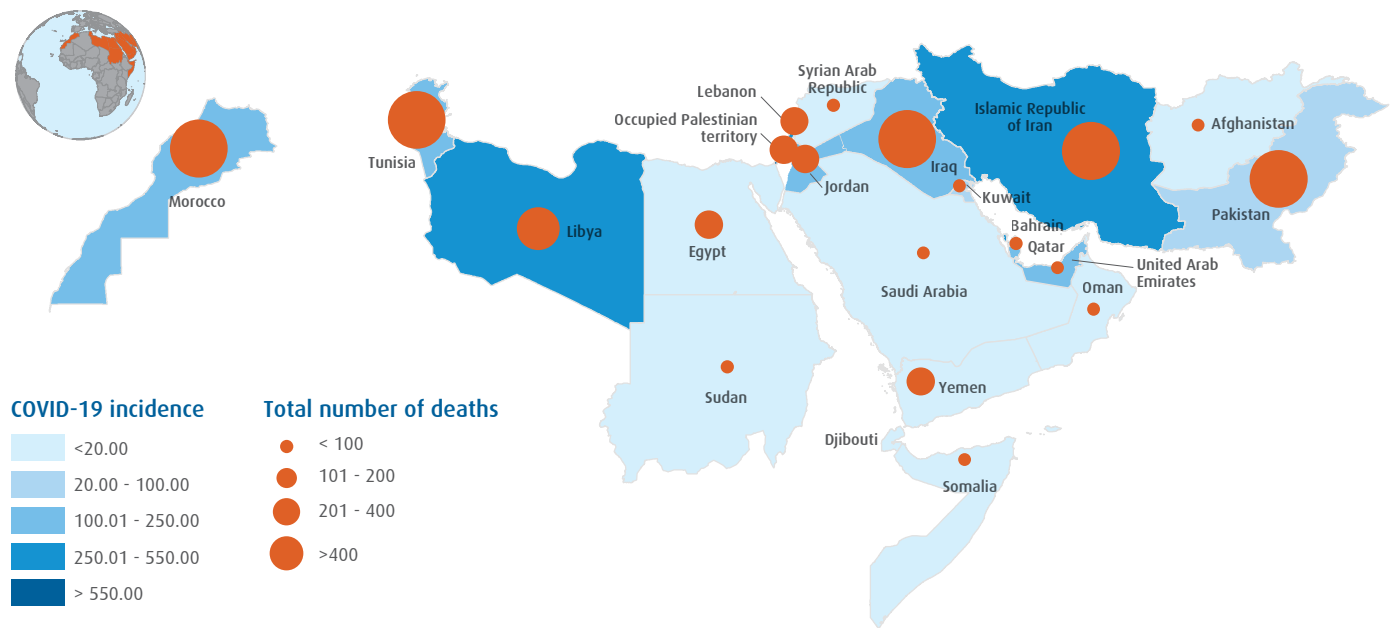
Photo credit: WHO Yemen.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 11 September 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported 15,205,042 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 277,804 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- **Epidemiological trend:** during the reporting period, in comparison with the previous two weeks:
 - The number of reported cases has decreased by 23%
 - Deaths have decreased by 13%
 - Testing rates have stabilized
 - 7 and 8 countries have reported an increase in cases and deaths respectively.
 - A decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by 12 countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** Total number of tests in the Region has reached 220,824,006 with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 9.3% (range from 0.9% to 30.8%).
- **SARS-CoV-2 variants:**
 - 21 countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of the **Alpha variant of concern (VOC)**: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
 - 18 countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of the **Beta VOC**: Bahrain, Djibouti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
 - During the reporting period, Bahrain reported the detection of the **Gamma VOC**, bringing the total of number of EMR countries reporting the detection of this variant to 6: Bahrain, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates.
 - 16 countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of the **Delta VOC**: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.

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

29 August- 11 September 2021



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

29 August- 11 September 2021

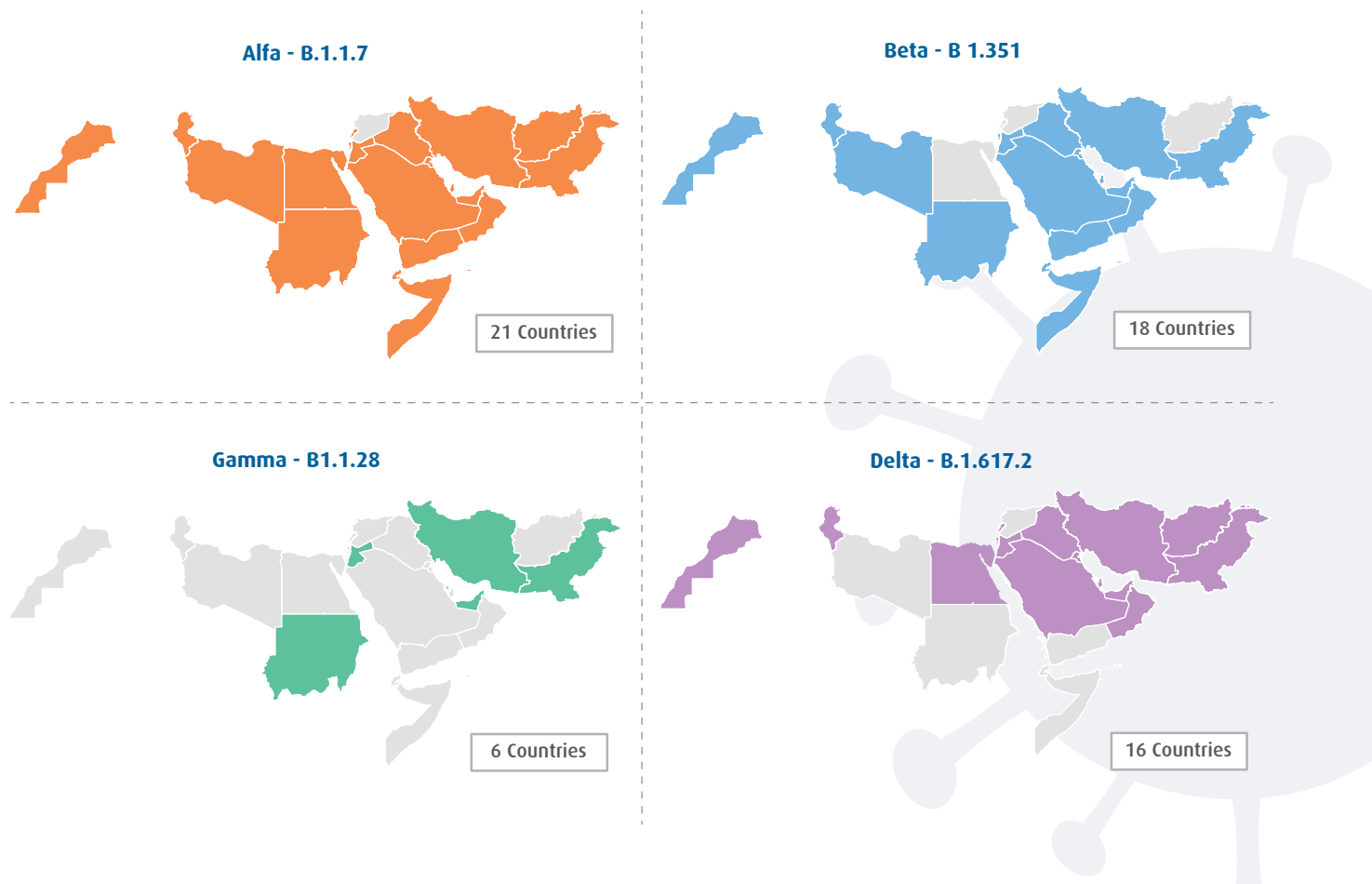


Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

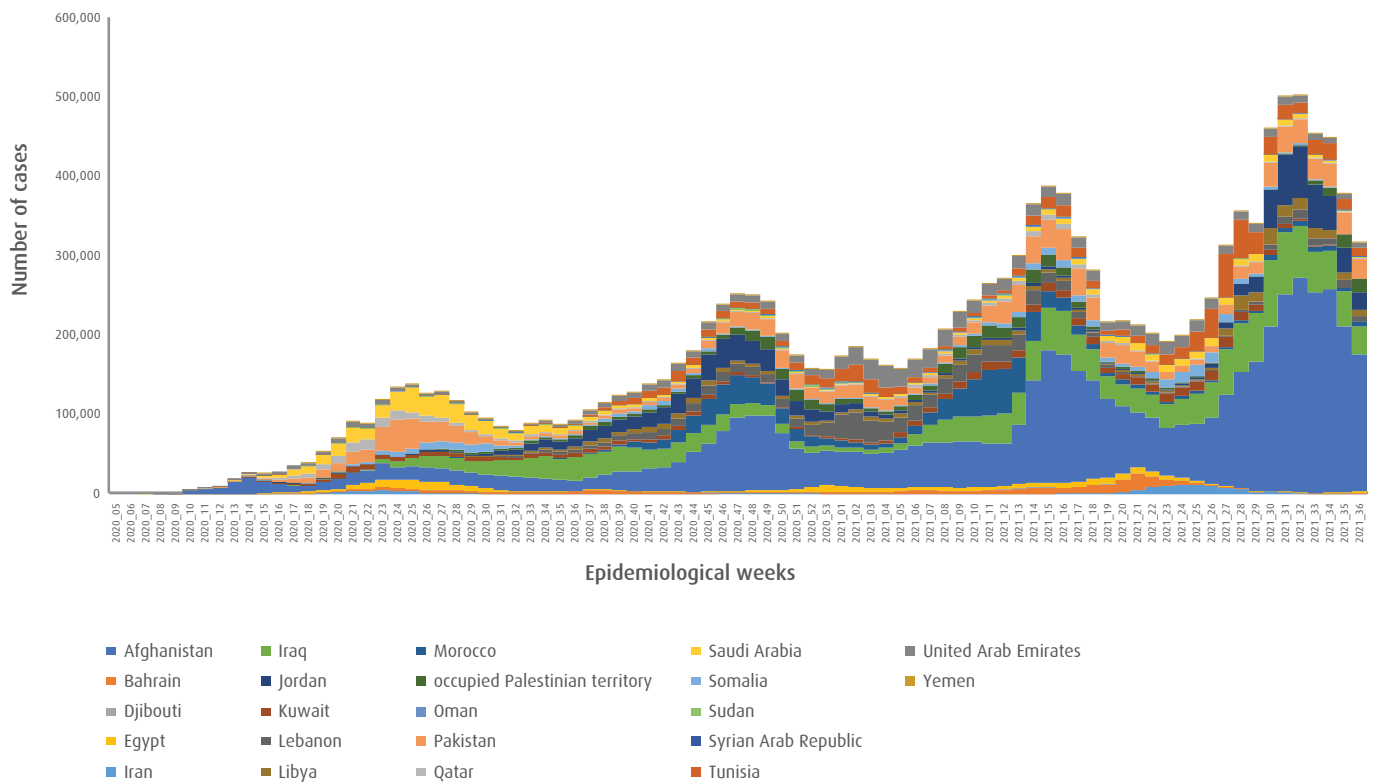
29 August- 11 September 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	946	154,094	53	7,169	4.7%	117,579	754,969
Bahrain	1,376	273,622	0	1,388	0.5%	271,302	6,133,321
Djibouti	117	11,845	0	157	1.3%	11,619	211,095
Egypt	4,832	292,476	146	16,860	5.8%	246,075	3,693,381
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	380,119	5,275,567	7,923	113,824	2.2%	4,538,419	30,123,729
Iraq	78,859	1,947,211	813	21,445	1.1%	1,815,377	14,735,225
Jordan	12,151	806,501	174	10,542	1.3%	783,808	9,552,258
Kuwait	1,371	410,734	14	2,430	0.6%	407,001	3,931,807
Lebanon	13,415	612,713	141	8,181	1.3%	570,186	6,466,358
Libya	18,137	323,930	243	4,427	1.4%	237,665	1,605,826
Morocco	53,162	902,694	1,127	13,488	1.5%	853,397	8,429,527
Occupied Palestinian territory	32,564	397,573	130	4,067	1.0%	361,942	2,305,173
Oman	1,007	303,036	31	4,087	1.3%	293,007	1,986,264
Pakistan	52,039	1,204,520	1,116	26,720	2.2%	1,086,785	18,468,570
Qatar	2,322	234,509	2	604	0.3%	231,922	2,563,493
Saudi Arabia	2,116	545,912	91	8,617	1.6%	534,983	28,014,260
Somalia	1,163	18,373	70	1,023	5.6%	9,000	266,663
Sudan	243	37,951	38	2,829	7.5%	30,867	475,025
Syrian Arab Republic	1,819	29,358	73	2,071	7.1%	22,713	79,630
Tunisia	23,047	685,799	814	24,244	3.5%	666,431	2,738,005
United Arab Emirates	12,872	728,266	26	2,062	0.3%	719,163	77,959,835
Yemen	607	8,358	119	1,569	18.8%	5,209	329,592
Total	694,284	15,205,042	13,144	277,804	1.8%	13,814,450	220,824,006



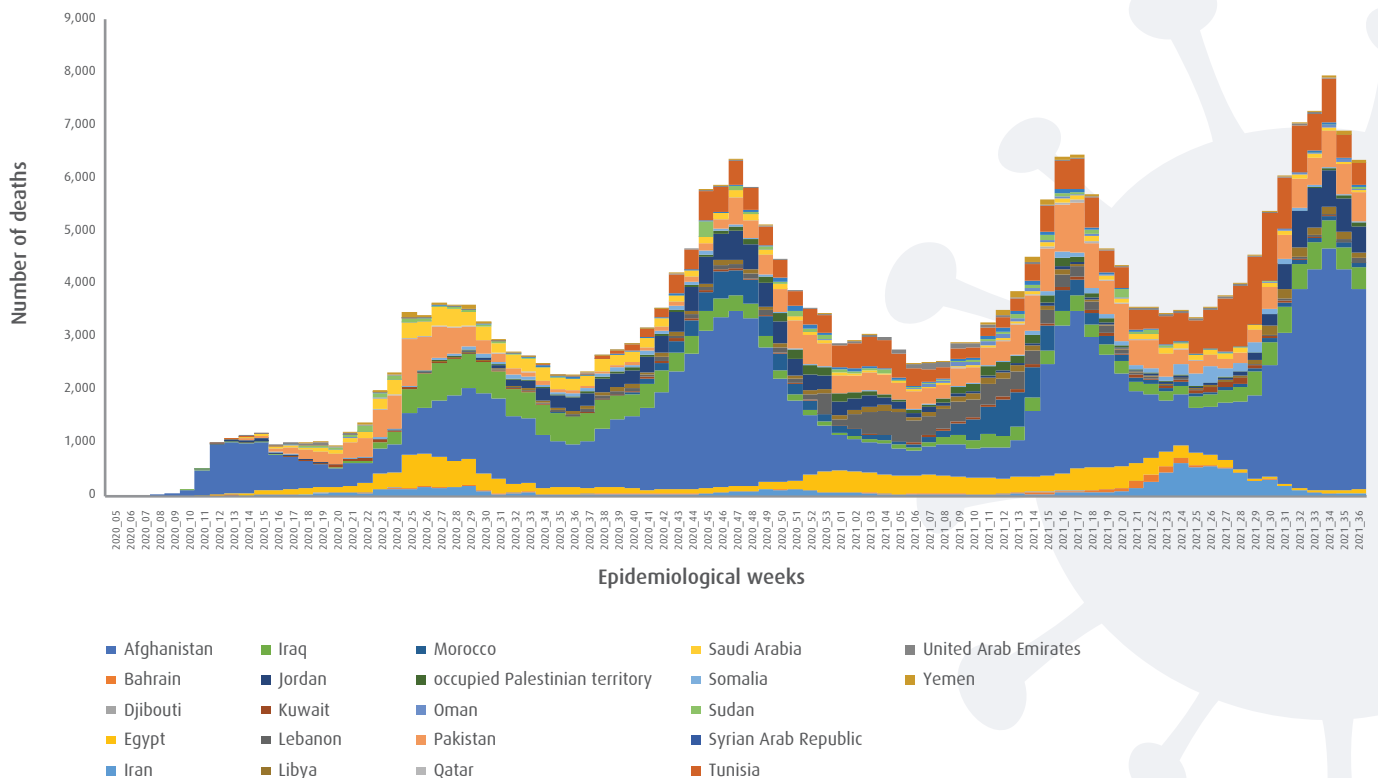
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 11 September 2021



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

26 January 2020 – 11 September 2021



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Operations Support and Logistics

- Dispatched over 424 metric tons of supplies valued at more than USD 4.5 million through the WHO Dubai logistics hub to Ethiopia in an unprecedented surge in emergency response operations.
- Completed five charter operations including the single largest ever conducted by the WHO Dubai logistics hub.
- Continued supporting the COVID-19 response by distributing diagnostics, personal protective equipment (PPE), and biomedical supplies, representing at least one third of all shipments from the WHO Dubai logistics hub.
- Dispatched WHO trauma and emergency surgery kits (TESKs) and critically needed COVID-19 PPE to Syria.
- Dispatched 30 tons of critical COVID-19 supplies and essential medicines worth over USD 1.2 million in a charter flight to Sana'a, Yemen.

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Laboratory Diagnostics

- Provided continuous support to Afghanistan to ensure the continuity of COVID-19 testing.
- Continued providing technical support to Syria for the implementation of PCR assays coupled with genomic surveillance of variants of concern (VOCs) and variants of interest (VOIs)

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Reviewed and updated the national IPC COVID-19 guidelines for Jordan.
- Investigated an outbreak of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO) among COVID-19 patients in Libya.

Clinical Management

- Conducted a mission to Yemen from 1 to 13 September to review the work done since the mission in 2020, as well as overall clinical management, the transition from the COVID-19 surge response intensive care unit/critical care training programme to a longer-term critical care capacity-building training programme, oxygen capacity scaling up, and the introduction of an oxygen mapping project.
- Contributed to the WHO COVID-19 case management webinar series on 31 August on the management of patients with critical COVID-19.
- Worked on the Unitaid and WHO Health Emergencies Programme fund distribution to priority countries. The fund is designed to support the biomedical engineering workforce in scaling up oxygen and biomedical equipment. Somalia, Yemen, Libya, and Sudan have expressed interest in receiving this funding, and in hiring national biomedical engineers in the process.

International Health Regulations and Social Measures

- Facilitated a meeting between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq to discuss and agree on public health measures at points of entry in the context of mass gatherings.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Conducted situation analyses on EMR countries struggling with vaccine deployment and facing low vaccination coverage.
- Completed and submitted a manuscript on vaccine deployment in the Region for publication in an international health journal.

Vaccination against COVID-19 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region in numbers

As of 11 September 2021



239 million
COVID-19 doses
were administered
in the EMR



COVAX has allocated
86 million
doses
to EMR countries



COVAX has delivered
52 million
doses
to EMR countries



Regional COVID-19 website: <http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/index.html>
For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int