

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 5 June 2021)



12

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



4

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths



10 284 428

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



9 374 986

Total reported recovered cases



205 301

Total reported deaths



144 811 162

Total tests performed in EMR countries



Ahmad Jawad, Sayed Ahmad Zia and Ahmad Ramiz extract swab samples prior to testing them for COVID-19 at the Herat Regional Reference Laboratory in Afghanistan, where all COVID-19 tests for the western provinces of Herat, Badghis and Ghor are conducted.

Credit: WHO Afghanistan

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 5 June 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 10,284,428 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 205,301 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- **Epidemiological trend:** During the reporting period:
 - A stabilization in the number of new reported cases was observed in comparison to the two previous weeks, however a 5% decrease was reported in week 22 compared to week 21.
 - The trend of new deaths has continued to decline: the number of reported deaths shows a 21% decrease compared to the previous two weeks.
 - A biweekly increase in cases and deaths was reported by 12 and 4 countries respectively.
 - A biweekly decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by 10 countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests conducted in the Region has reached 153,759,383, with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 10.3% (range from 1.1% to 30.8%). During the reporting period, the number of tests conducted in the Region increased by 16% when compared to the previous two weeks.
- **SARS-CoV-2 variants:** To date, 17 countries in the Region have reported the detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs).

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

23 May - 5 June 2021

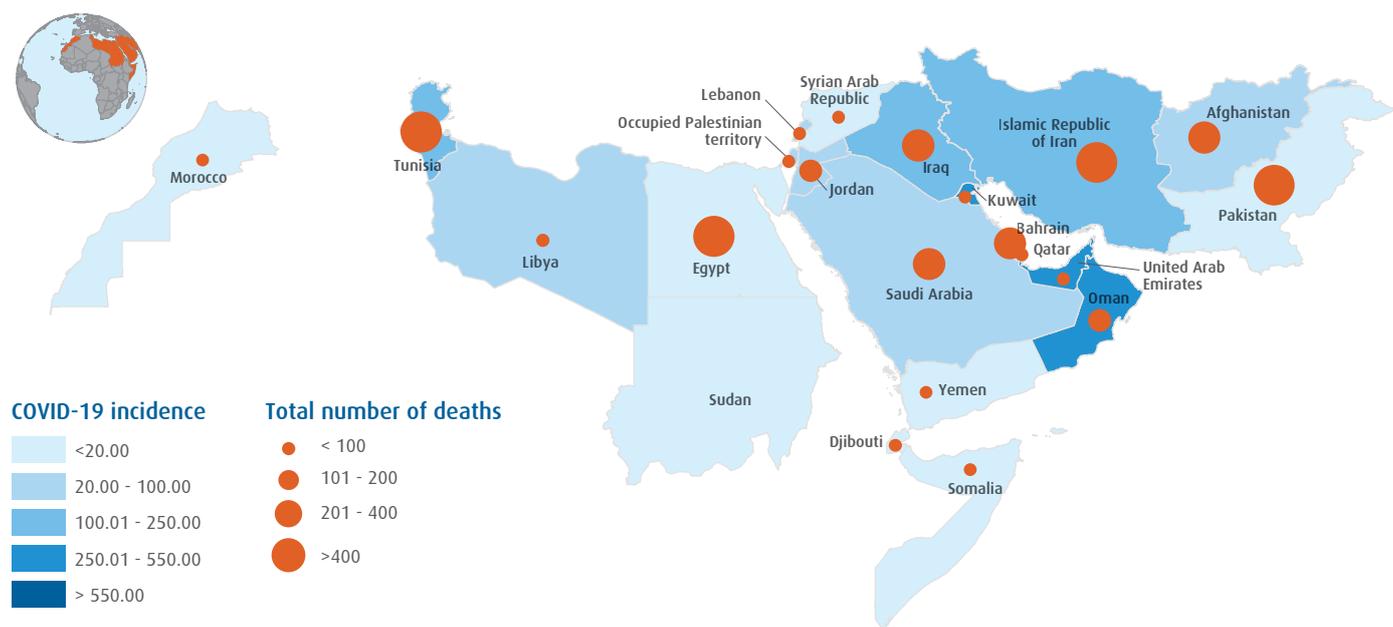


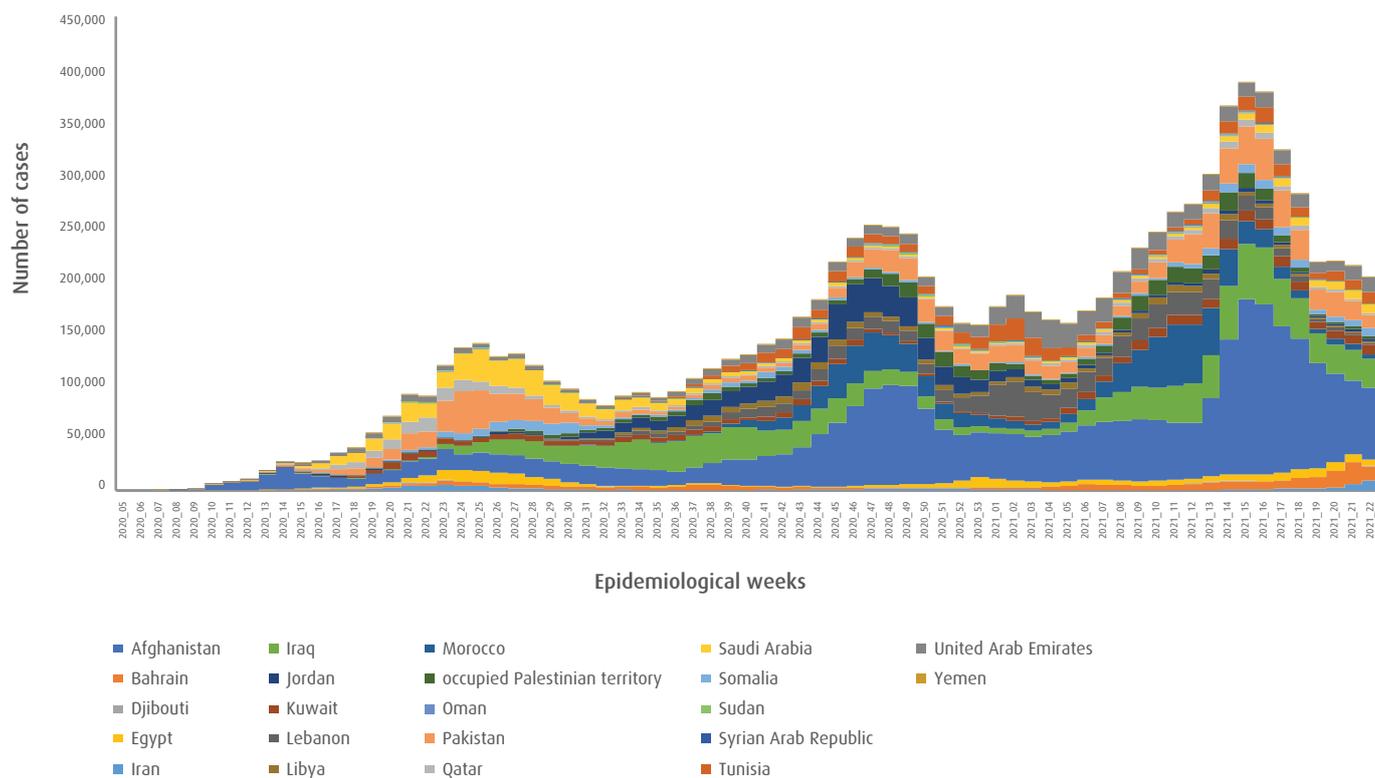
Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

23 May – 5 June 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	14,566	80,841	375	3,187	3.9%	58,625	497,018
Bahrain	34,712	249,582	282	1,091	0.4%	225,159	4,716,287
Djibouti	65	11,556	2	154	1.3%	11,385	160,974
Egypt	14,481	267,171	639	15,309	5.7%	195,871	2,903,723
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	136,864	2,960,751	2,560	80,941	2.7%	2,537,092	20,564,209
Iraq	57,529	1,221,678	360	16,518	1.4%	1,137,695	10,646,529
Jordan	9,613	739,319	159	9,516	1.3%	720,190	7,389,739
Kuwait	17,677	315,900	70	1,794	0.6%	299,795	2,661,002
Lebanon	3,205	541,423	88	7,758	1.4%	523,476	4,646,108
Libya	3,970	187,281	32	3,143	1.7%	173,189	1,064,257
Morocco	4,383	521,195	54	9,173	1.8%	508,850	6,040,467
Occupied Palestinian territory	4,652	338,694	57	3,784	1.1%	330,243	1,839,696
Oman	12,875	222,799	145	2,401	1.1%	202,021	1,613,116
Pakistan	31,601	932,140	1,014	21,265	2.3%	863,111	13,523,599
Qatar	3,295	218,455	23	566	0.3%	214,950	2,044,926
Saudi Arabia	16,715	456,562	203	7,440	1.6%	439,459	19,676,611
Somalia	106	14,729	6	773	5.2%	6,905	179,288
Sudan	811	36,004	103	2,697	7.5%	29,716	391,565
Syrian Arab Republic	587	24,639	61	1,790	7.3%	21,630	79,630
Tunisia	20,387	355,732	744	12,980	3.6%	311,340	1,514,922
United Arab Emirates	26,681	581,197	48	1,696	0.3%	560,734	51,483,924
Yemen	127	6,780	20	1,325	19.5%	3,550	121,793
Total	414,902	10,284,428	7,045	205,301	2.0%	9,374,986	153,759,383

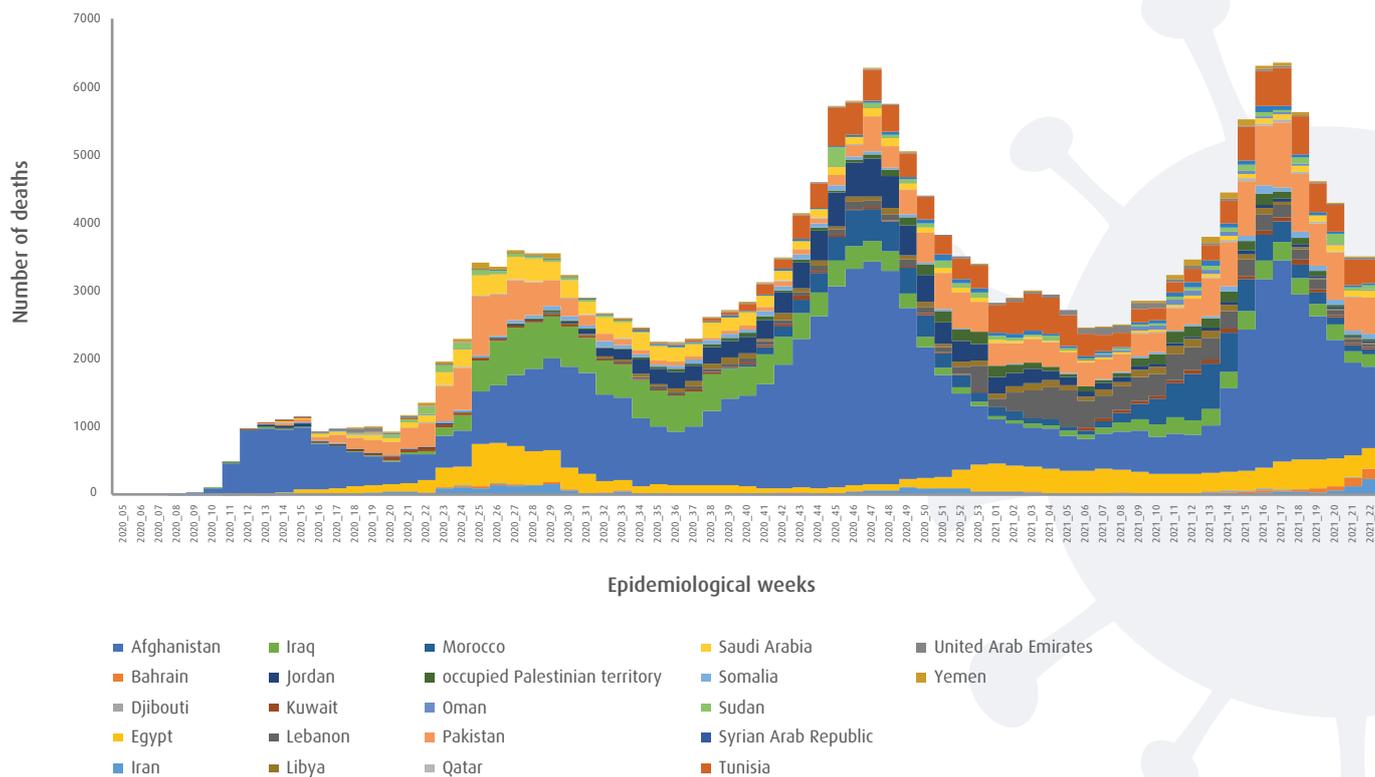
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 5 June 2021



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

26 January 2020 – 5 June 2021



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

- Vaccine inequities continue to be observed in the Region, with only two out of 22 countries having administered at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose to over half of their populations.
- Only 70 million doses have been administered so far, although at least 300 million doses are needed to vaccinate priority groups making up 10% of the Region's population by September and 30% by the end of the year.
- Low rollout rates of the COVID-19 vaccine in the Region are attributed to global supply constraint to buy and deploying vaccine and vaccine hesitancy.
- 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 EUL; 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.

IN FOCUS: NEW SARS-CoV-2 VARIANTS

- WHO introduced a new simplified labelling system for VOCs and variants of interest (VOIs) to prevent stigma to countries and for easy reference in communication.

Table 2: Variants of Concern (VOCs)

WHO Label	Pango Lineage	Country of first identification
Alpha	B.1.1.7	United Kingdom
Beta	B.1.351	South Africa
Gamma	P.1	Brazil
Delta	B.1.617.2	India

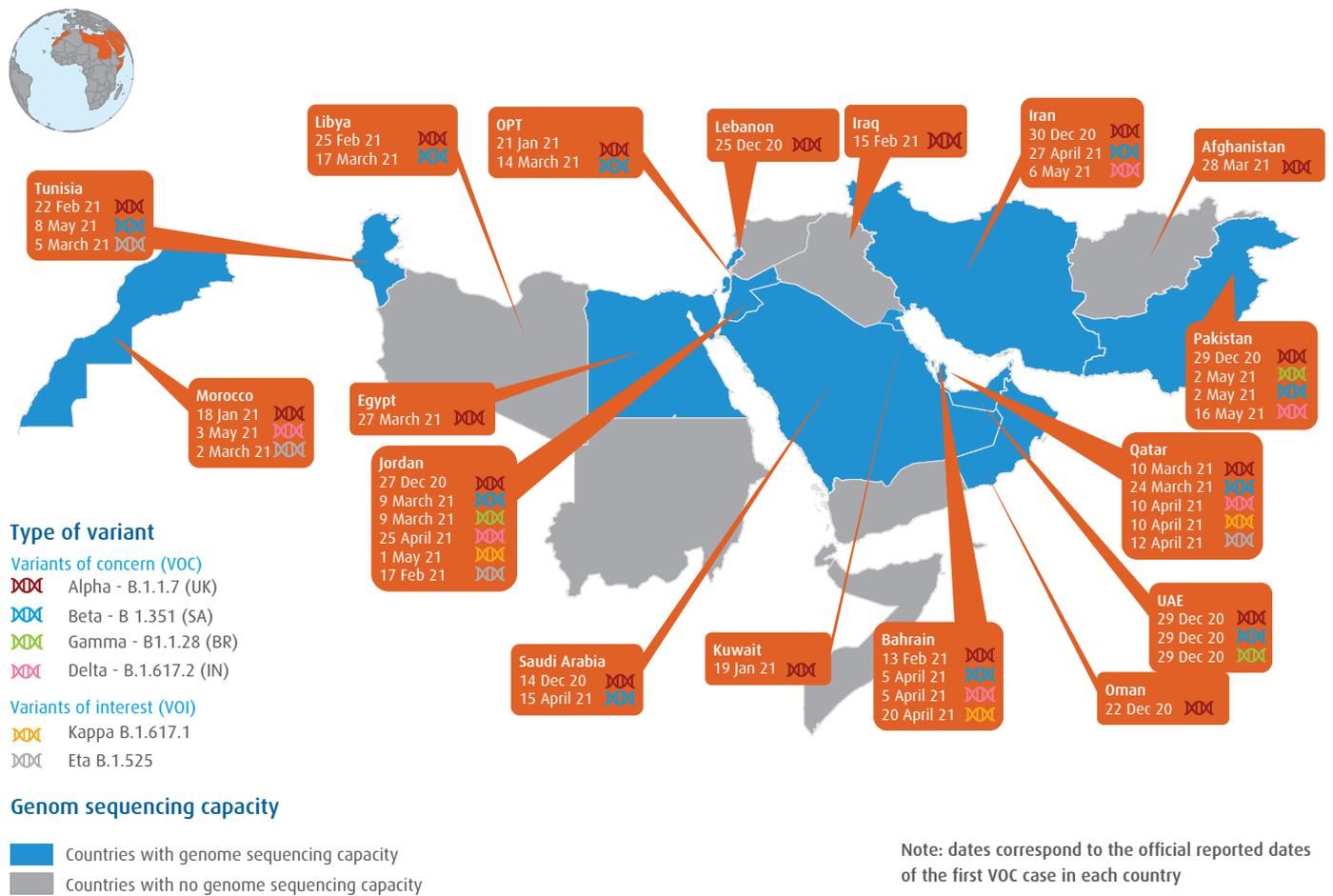
Table 3: Variants of Interest (VOIs)

WHO Label	Pango Lineage	Country of first identification
Epsilon	B.1.427/ B.1.429	United States of America
Zeta	P.2	Brazil
Eta	B.1.525	Multiple countries
Theta	P.3	Philippines
Iota	B.1.526	United States of America
Kappa	B.1.617.1	India

- 17 countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have officially reported the detection of VOC Alpha: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.
- Ten countries in the Region have officially reported VOC Beta: Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Libya, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates. Three countries in the Region have officially reported the detection of VOC Gamma: Jordan, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Six countries have reported the detection of VOC Delta: Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan and Qatar.
- On 26 May, Qatar uploaded genome sequence samples matching VOC Delta on GISAID.
- On 28 May, Pakistan uploaded genome sequence samples matching VOC Delta on GISAID.

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

as of 5 June 2021



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

- Received and distributed averages of US\$ 2.3 million in value and 10.4 metric tons of health commodities per week.
- Dispatched US\$ 1,865,488 in health commodities to 27 countries across WHO Regions AFRO, EMRO, EURO, SEARO, and WPRO, of which 63% (US\$ 1,176,005) were related to COVID-19, mainly biomedical equipment and supplies, representing over 13 metric tons.
- Responded to the escalation in violence in the occupied Palestinian territory, delivering critical trauma and biomedical supplies to support the dual response to trauma injuries and COVID-19.
- Completed nine Unity Studies shipments across WHO Regions AFRO, EMRO, EURO, and WPRO.

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Provided training on IPC auditing to national and facility-level IPC teams in the Gaza strip.
- Rolled out a regional survey to assess the updated IPC response for COVID-19.

Health Information Management and Surveillance

- Trained medical students in Morocco on epidemiology and surveillance.
- Conducted a training on the R software in Lebanon with the presence of the Minister of Health.
- Presented the COVID-19 situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to the UN Operation Management Team of Arab States.
- Finalized the development of the COVID-19 adverse events following immunization (AEFI) platform.
- Finalized the global monitoring and evaluation training package coordinated by the WHO Headquarters Health Information Management and Surveillance team with the support of Sphere (the Sphere project) and the Global Health Cluster.

International Health Regulations and Social Measures

- Concluded a mission to the Syrian Arab Republic on risk communication and community engagement, particularly related to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Developed a travel measures bulletin for dissemination to WHO Country Offices.

Research and Knowledge Management

- Supported Jordan in the fourth round of the COVID-19 household sero-survey.
- Conducted a three-day regional meeting on “measuring and verifying excess mortality for all cause of death to measure impact of pandemic”, which was attended by 50 participants from 15 countries.
- Organized a workshop on the use of excess mortality tools, attended by 20 participants from 8 countries.
- Supported Sudan in the implementation of a health facility survey and of the DHIS2 module for COVID-19 vaccination.
- Finalized data collection for a survey of clinical practices for COVID-19 to assess medication safety concerns.

Essential Health Services and Systems

- Concluded a 10-day online course for hospital managers with 10 modules: 33 facilitators and 35 participants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Somalia, Sudan, and Kenya.
- Organized a joint webinar on noncommunicable diseases and mental health.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Conducted an intercountry webinar on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness studies in collaboration with the Research and Knowledge Management Pillar on 25 May, attended by more than 100 participants from over 10 countries of the Region.
- Conducted a training of trainers on the national package for collecting behavioral insights on COVID-19 vaccines in four countries.



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

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int