

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 22 May 2021)



**3**  
Countries reporting biweekly  
increase in numbers of cases



**2**  
Countries reporting biweekly  
increase in numbers of deaths



**9 869 235**  
Total laboratory-  
confirmed cases



**8 881 653**  
Total reported recovered cases



**198 108**  
Total reported deaths



**144 811 162**  
Total tests performed  
in EMR countries

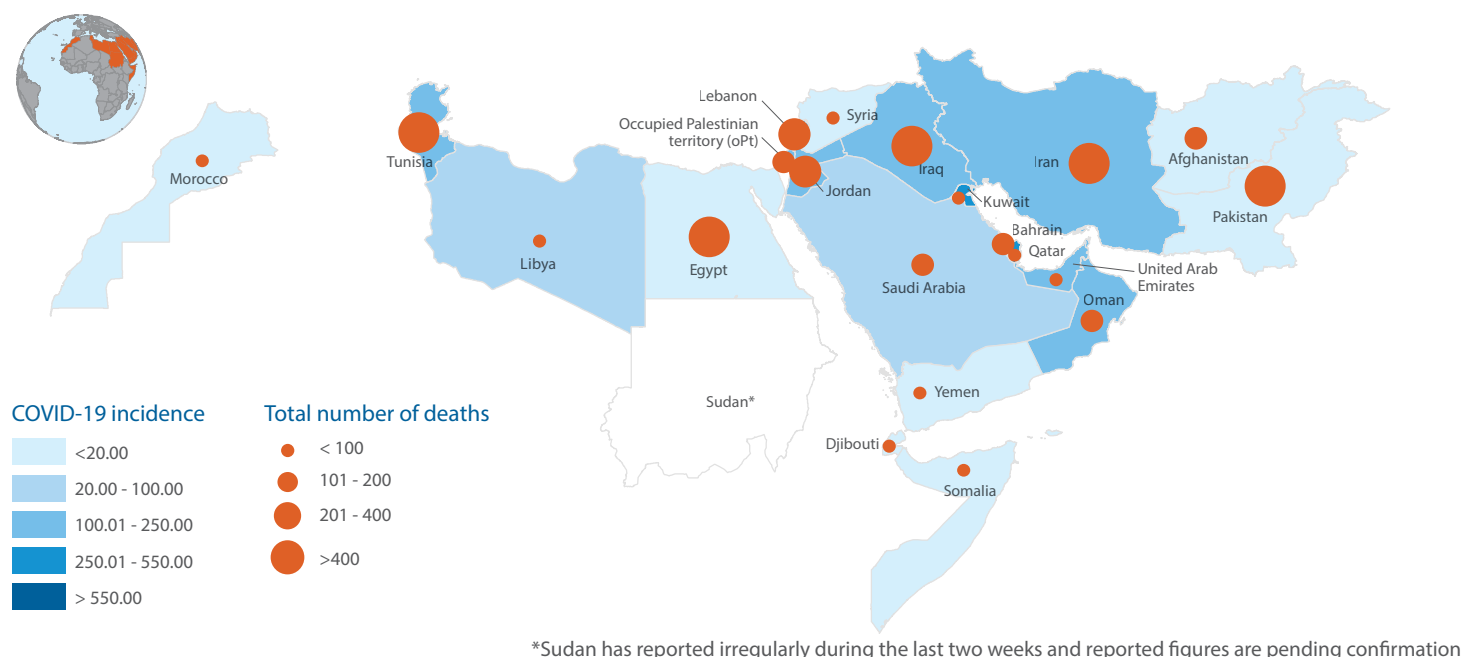


Egypt received  
1.77 million doses of  
COVID-19 vaccines in  
second shipment from  
COVAX Facility on  
14 May 2021.

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 22 May 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 9,869,235 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 198,108 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- **Epidemiological trend:**
  - The trend of new cases has continued to decrease: the number of reported cases was 28% lower than during the previous two weeks.
  - The trend of new deaths has started to decline: the number of reported deaths showed a 27% reduction in comparison with the previous two weeks.
  - Three countries reported a biweekly increase in cases and two countries reported a biweekly increase in deaths.
  - A biweekly decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by 17 countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 144,811,162 with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 10.5% (range from 1.1% to 30.8%). In comparison with the two previous weeks, regional numbers of tests have shown stabilization. However, a 17% increase in the number of tests was reported in week 20 compared to week 19.
- **SARS-CoV-2 variants:** To date, 17 countries in the Region have reported the detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants

# Map 1: COVID-19 bi-weekly attack rate per 100,000 population and number of new deaths per country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 9-22 May 2021



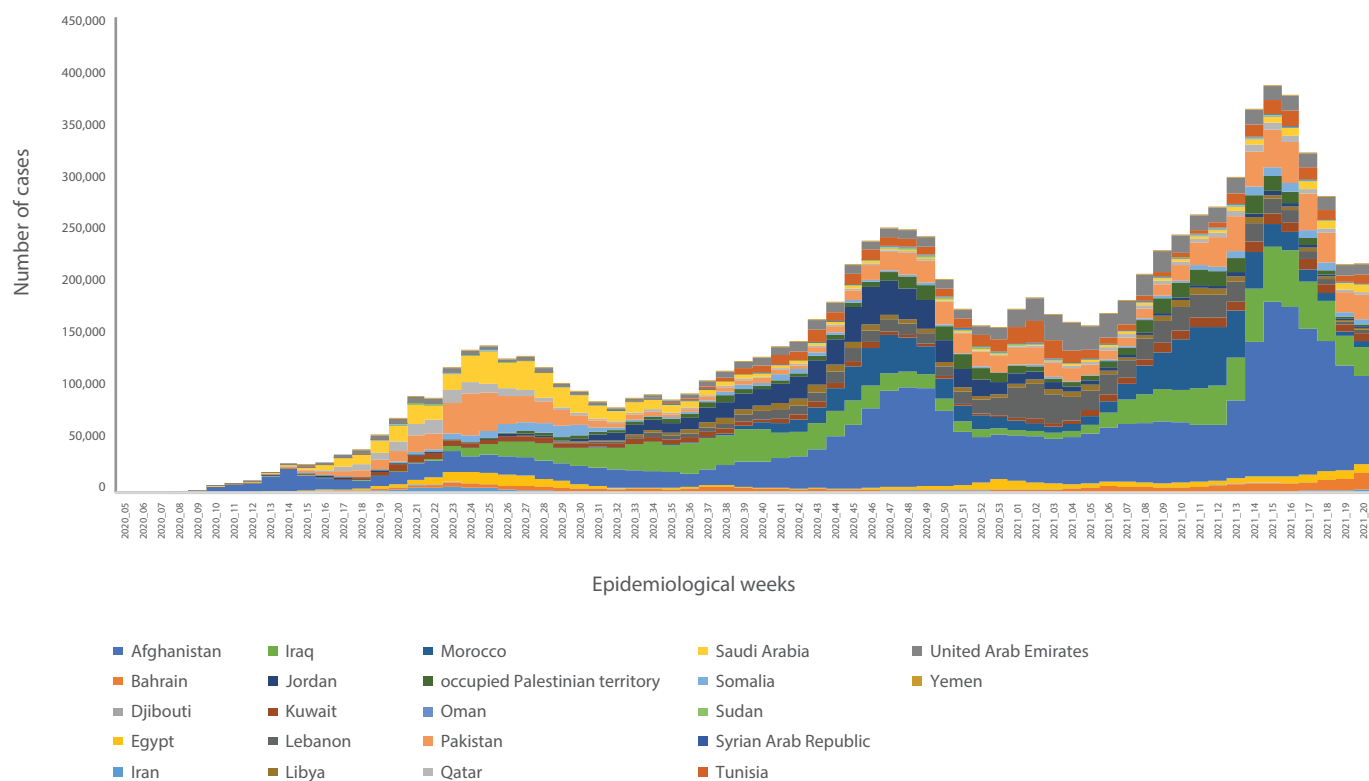
**Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region  
9-22 May 2021**

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	3,04,212	66,275	114	2,812	4.2%	56,035	446,456
Bahrain	26,965	214,870	131	809	0.4%	193,337	4,468,716
Djibouti	156	11,491	3	152	1.3%	11,325	156,054
Egypt	16,418	252,690	825	14,670	5.8%	186,223	2,818,649
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	183,217	2,823,887	3,857	78,381	2.8%	2,319,746	18,810,335
Iraq	55,591	1,164,149	417	16,158	1.4%	1,076,804	10,088,740
Jordan	10,473	729,706	281	9,357	1.3%	709,876	7,096,837
Kuwait	14,147	298,223	89	1,724	0.6%	283,952	2,517,247
Lebanon	5,949	538,218	210	7,670	1.4%	508,930	4,445,859
Libya	3,341	183,311	41	3,111	1.7%	169,945	1,021,415
Morocco	3,184	516,812	55	9,119	1.8%	505,050	5,922,536
Occupied Palestinian territory	3,764	334,042	108	3,727	1.1%	325,774	1,802,633
Oman	9,208	209,924	151	2,256	1.1%	192,973	1,613,116
Pakistan	42,526	900,552	1,336	20,251	2.2%	817,681	12,779,296
Qatar	4,557	215,160	41	543	0.3%	210,589	1,991,728
Saudi Arabia	14,405	439,847	178	7,237	1.6%	423,795	18,449,145
Somalia	208	14,623	20	767	5.2%	6,662	170,560
Sudan*	0	34,889	0	2,446	7.0%	27,949	371,994
Syrian Arab Republic	733	24,052	81	1,729	7.2%	21,534	77,277
Tunisia	14,532	335,345	807	12,236	3.6%	295,789	1,430,192
United Arab Emirates	20,071	554,516	38	1,648	0.3%	534,481	48,225,282
Yemen	187	6,653	34	1,305	19.6%	3,203	107,095
<b>Total</b>	<b>433,844</b>	<b>9,869,235</b>	<b>8,817</b>	<b>198,108</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>8,881,653</b>	<b>144,811,162</b>

\*Sudan has reported irregularly during the last two weeks and reported figures are pending confirmation

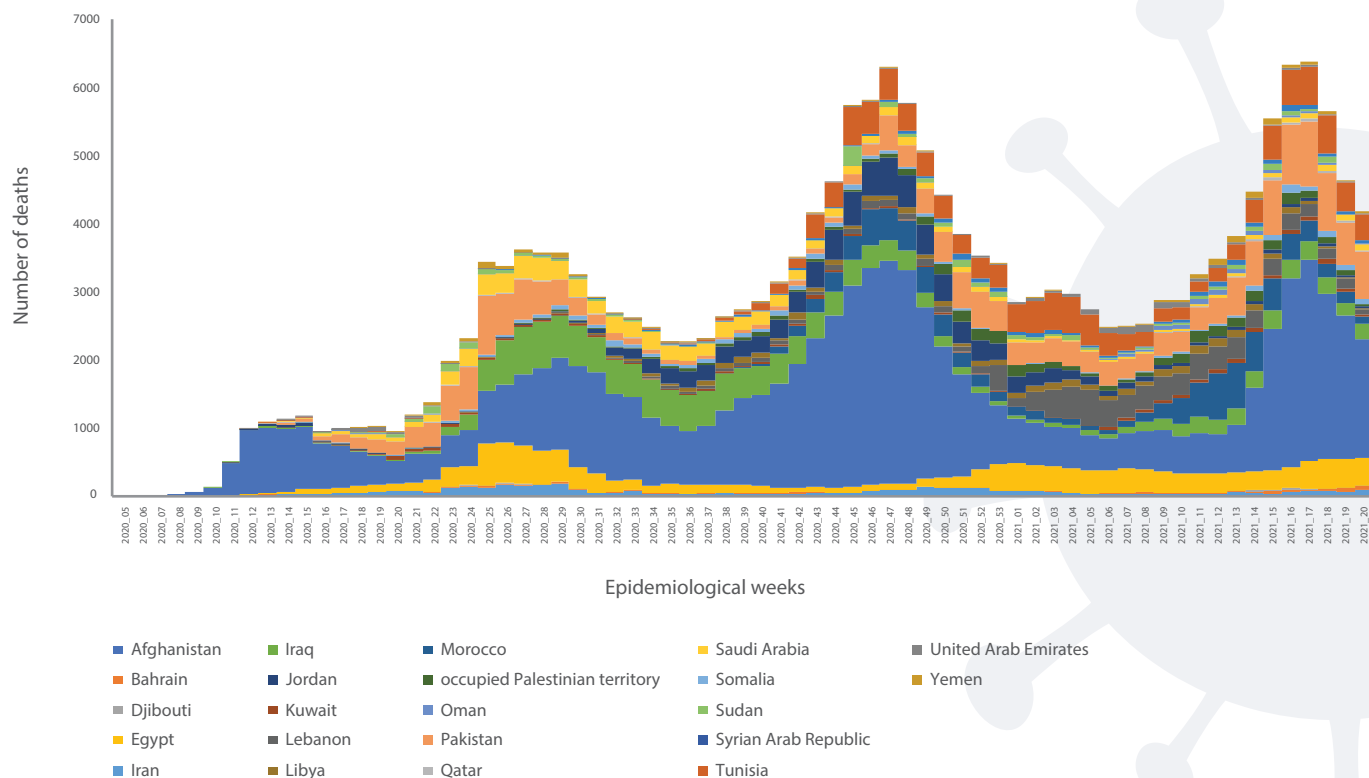
# Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 22 May 2021



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

26 January 2020 – 22 May 2021



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

- To date, 57 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered across the Region. Huge disparities between countries exist, with some countries vaccinating over 80% of their population, while others have vaccinated less than one percent.
- The Region needs at least 300 million doses to vaccinate priority groups that make up 20% of the total population.
- Several countries have now received additional shipments of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility. In parallel, some countries have bilateral agreements to purchase or manufacture the vaccine.

## IN FOCUS: NEW SARS-CoV-2 VARIANTS

- New SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern are circulating in many countries in the Region.
  - To date, 17 countries have officially reported the detection of the B.1.1.7 VOC, first identified in the United Kingdom: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates.
  - 10 countries have officially reported the B.1.351 VOC, first identified in South Africa: Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Libya, occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and United Arab Emirates.
  - 3 countries have officially reported the detection of the B.1.1.28 VOC, first identified in Brazil: Jordan, Pakistan, and United Arab Emirates.
  - 4 countries have reported the detection of the B.1.617 (first identified in India): Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, and Morocco.

## REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Partnership and Coordination

- Discussed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees and migrants, including access to vaccination, during the biweekly regional partners' meeting on 20 May.
- Speaking at the monthly civil society vaccine equity call organized by the Global Health Strategies Organization, with the COVID-19 Vaccine Pillar representing WHO.

### Operations Support and Logistics

- Dispatched over US\$ 1 million in health commodities (including biomedical supplies) across five WHO Regions (EMRO, SEARO, AFRO, EURO, PAHO) through the Dubai logistics hub during the reporting period.
- Completed several air rotations to India at no-cost to WHO, in partnership with Emirates Sky Cargo, providing multipurpose tents to expand the area available for health care workers to safely treat and care for COVID-19 patients.
- Accelerated the dispatch of COVID-19 supplies to WHO AFRO while simultaneously responding to Ebola in Rwanda, Guinea-Conakry, and Sierra Leone.

## Health Operations and Technical Expertise

### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Reviewed and updated the national IPC COVID-19 guidance documents for Iraq.
- Developed a questionnaire to collect regular data on country IPC achievements in response to COVID-19.

### Clinical Management

- Conducting a training of trainers on intensive care units (ICUs)/critical care between 16 May and 4 June 2021 in Iraq to support the management of critically ill COVID-19 patients in ICUs. Six groups of twenty senior ICU doctors and nurses (120 participants total) are being trained.

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## Health Information Management and Surveillance

- Conducted a second round of modelling analysis for Tunisia, and a seventh round for Jordan.
- Set up the COVID-19 monitoring and evaluation data collection tool for user testing.
- Developed a database to monitor Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) for the COVID-19 vaccine pillar.
- Initiated the documentation of Oman's COVID-19 contact tracing experience.

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## International Health Regulations and Social Measures

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Conducting a mission on RCCE to Syria from 23 May to 3 June 2021 to support the assessment and planning related to increasing COVID-19 vaccine demand and addressing vaccine hesitancy.

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## Research and Knowledge Management

- Integrated the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11) in the District Health Information Software (DHIS2) for electronic death certificates as part of the COVID-19 response in Syria.
- Built country capacity to use the DHIS2 to monitor routine immunization, COVID-19 vaccinations, and vaccine safety.
- Reviewed the progress of the first rounds of the sero-epidemiology surveys in Lebanon and Tunisia.
- Monitored the "Medication Safety Study" assessing the medications listed in national protocols for COVID-19 treatment.

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## Essential Health Services and Systems

- Developed a technical paper on the role of primary health care in ensuring quality, safer care during COVID-19.
- Supported the safe use of biomedical equipment and medical oxygen in Iraq.
- Developed the regional report on the rapid assessment of disability-inclusivity in the COVID-19 response.

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## COVID-19 Vaccine

- Monitored the consumption of vaccine doses supplied through the COVAX facility and vaccine expiry in countries.
- Developed a communication strategy for COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.
- Communicated information on the COVAX Facility, such as the supply situation for July to September 2021 and the confirmation letters on COVID-19 vaccine cost-sharing for additional doses for Advance Market Commitment (AMC) countries.

## COUNTRY SITUATION HIGHLIGHTS - FROM THE FIELD

### COVID-19 posing unprecedented threat on war-torn Yemen



The COVID-19 pandemic has further devastated the crippled health system in Yemen. Yemenis have been struggling through long-running armed conflict; threatened by looming famine, disease outbreaks, forced displacement and a shattered economy. As of 30 April 2021, Yemen reported 6,294 COVID-19 cases and 1,222 deaths. However, health partners remain concerned that the official epi-curve underestimates the extent of COVID-19 across the country.

WHO and partners have been leading the response to avoid a public health catastrophe. Efforts aim to prevent further spread of the disease and to mitigate morbidity and mortality by expanding pandemic preparedness, early detection, as well as through mounting appropriate control and public health containment measures.

Continue reading:

<http://www.emro.who.int/yemen/news/covid-19-posing-unprecedented-threat-on-war-torn-yemen.html?format=html>

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

For more information, contact [emrgonCoV@who.int](mailto:emrgonCoV@who.int)