

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 03 July 2021)



Syria has completed the first phase of its COVID-19 vaccination campaign. On 21 April 2021, the country received 256 800 doses of the AstraZeneca (Covishield) COVID-19 vaccine, its first batch of vaccines supplied through the COVAX facility.

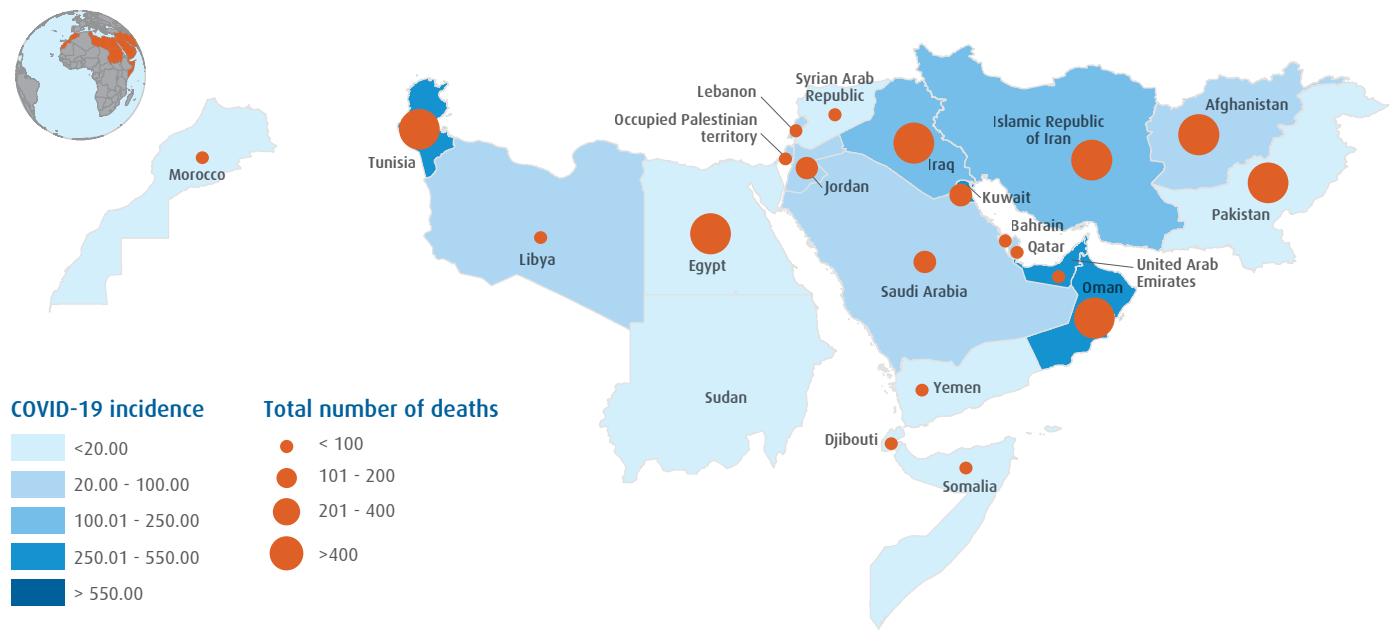
Credit: WHO Syria

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 3 July 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has reported 11,140,366 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 219,033 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- **Epidemiological trend:** In the Region, during the reporting period and compared to the two previous weeks:
  - The number of reported cases has increased by 19%.
  - Deaths have shown stabilization, despite a 6% increase reported during week 26 compared to week 25.
  - Testing rates have increased by 7%.
  - An increase in cases and deaths was reported by 9 and 7 countries respectively.
  - A decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by 7 countries.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 172,486,043, with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 9.8% (range from 1.1% to 30.8%).
- **SARS-CoV-2 variants:**
  - During the reporting period, the **Alpha variant of concern (VOC)** was reported in Djibouti and Somalia, bringing the total number of countries reporting this variant in the Region to nineteen: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.
  - The **Beta VOC** was reported in thirteen countries in the Region: in Djibouti and Oman during the reporting period, and in Bahrain, Djibouti, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Libya, Oman, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates previously.
  - To date, three countries have officially reported the detection of the **Gamma VOC**: Jordan, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates.
  - Six additional countries have reported the detection of the **Delta VOC** during the reporting period, bringing the total number of countries having reported this variant to thirteen: Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.

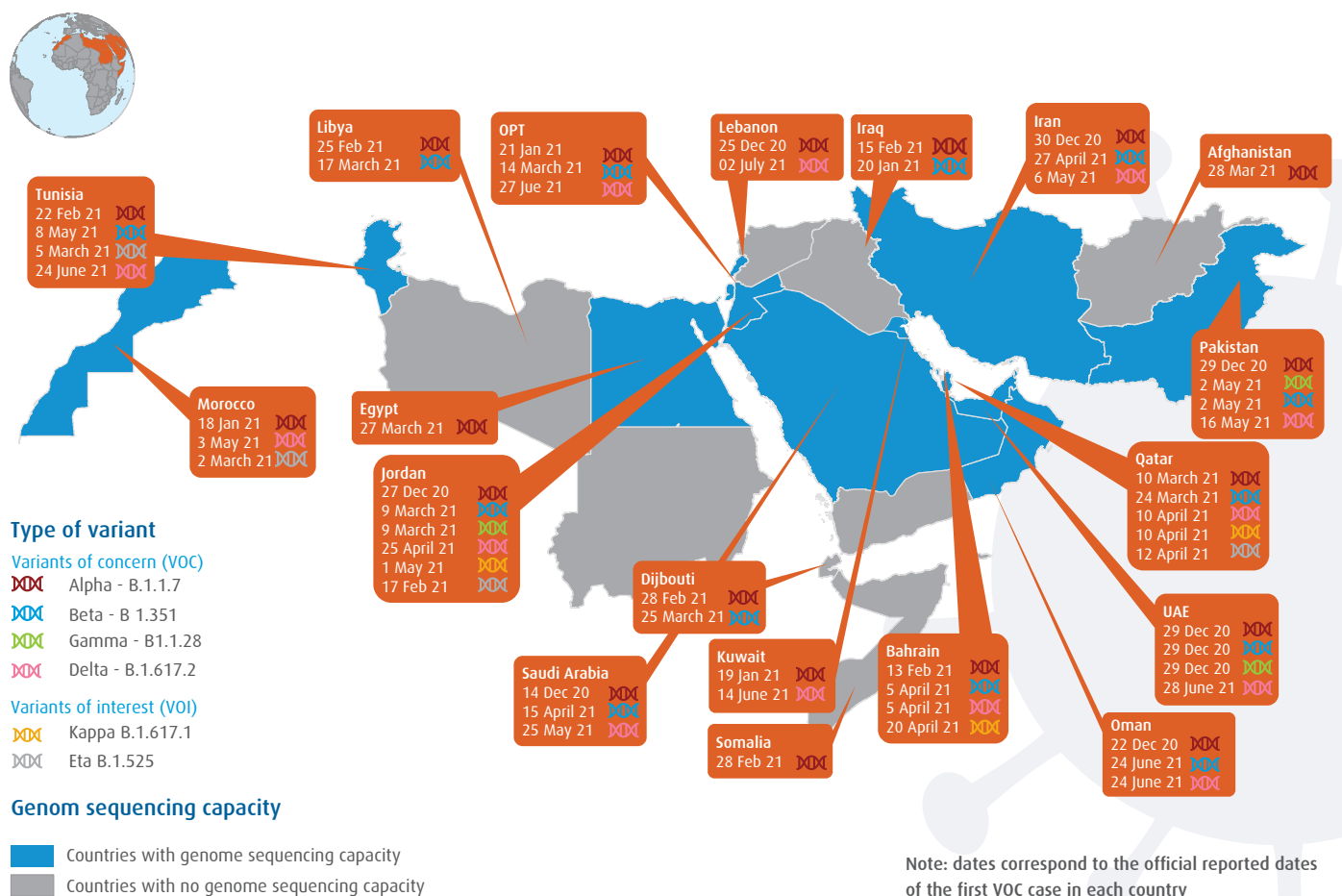
# Map 1: COVID-19 bi-weekly attack rate per 100,000 population and number of new deaths per country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

20 June - 03 July 2021



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

03 July 2021



## Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

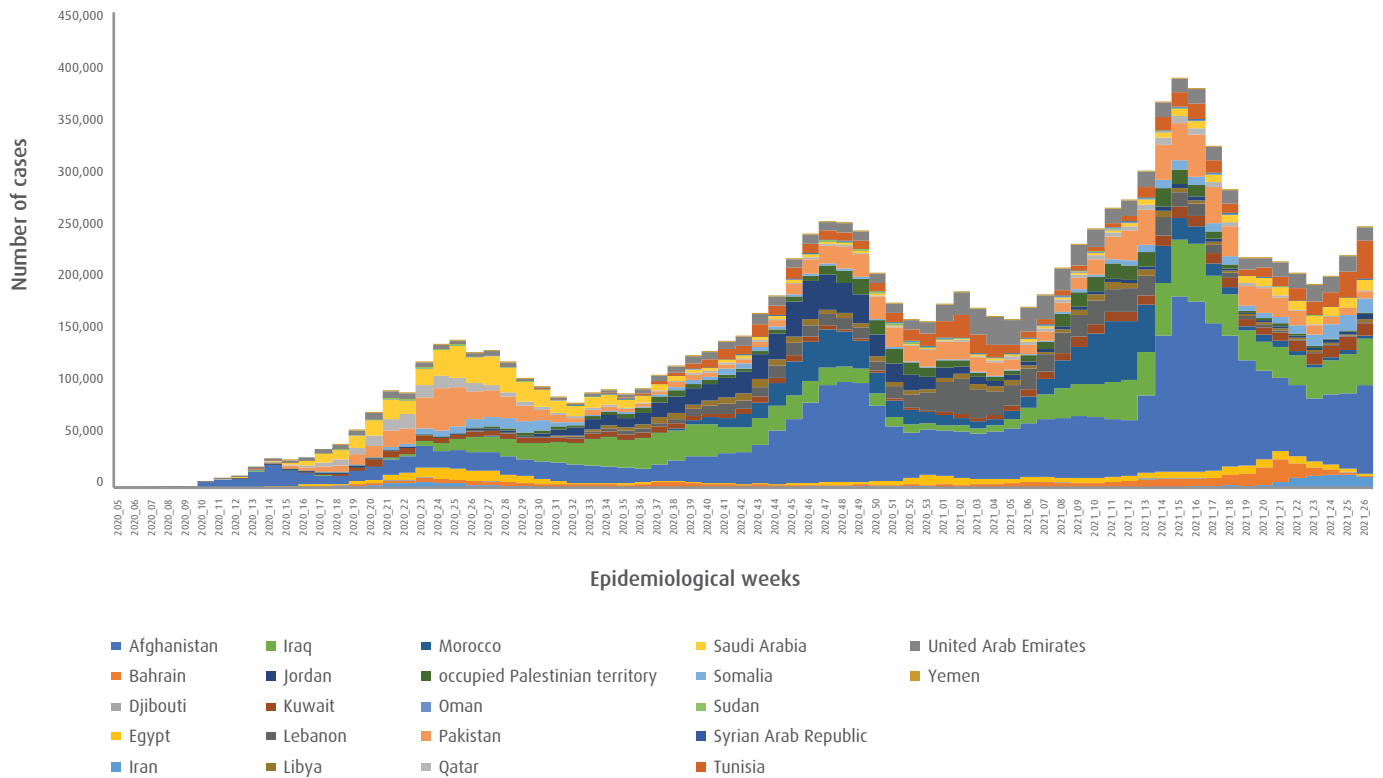
20 June - 03 July 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	22,035	125,937	1,068	5,283	4.2%	74,480	630,736
Bahrain	3,859	266,286	61	1,358	0.5%	262,552	5,077,225
Djibouti	17	11,604	0	155	1.3%	11,445	175,052
Egypt	5,147	281,903	413	16,242	5.8%	213,628	3,053,776
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	154,063	3,241,037	1,773	84,627	2.6%	2,914,830	23,888,861
Iraq	81,906	1,365,211	421	17,281	1.3%	1,260,297	11,850,977
Jordan	6,639	752,617	113	9,769	1.3%	736,431	7,926,513
Kuwait	24,647	362,018	143	2,005	0.6%	341,477	3,021,382
Lebanon	1,992	545,363	40	7,859	1.4%	533,150	5,057,064
Libya	4,294	195,042	37	3,211	1.6%	179,095	1,149,874
Morocco	7,582	533,945	78	9,315	1.7%	519,139	6,361,081
Occupied Palestinian territory	1,887	343,333	20	3,838	1.1%	337,123	1,908,348
Oman	27,488	273,894	555	3,238	1.2%	236,988	1,986,264
Pakistan	14,045	962,313	434	22,408	2.3%	907,284	14,733,030
Qatar	1,760	222,453	10	592	0.3%	220,260	2,182,633
Saudi Arabia	18,500	491,612	200	7,863	1.6%	471,550	22,201,458
Somalia	94	14,946	0	775	5.2%	7,246	195,445
Sudan	369	36,799	20	2,760	7.5%	30,608	448,997
Syrian Arab Republic	543	25,619	44	1,885	7.4%	21,845	79,630
Tunisia	60,681	443,631	1,339	15,377	3.5%	362,236	1,787,563
United Arab Emirates	27,698	637,877	79	1,831	0.3%	616,197	58,602,017
Yemen	49	6,926	8	1,361	19.7%	4,087	168,117
<b>Total</b>	<b>465,295</b>	<b>11,140,366</b>	<b>6,856</b>	<b>219,033</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>10,261,948</b>	<b>172,486,043</b>



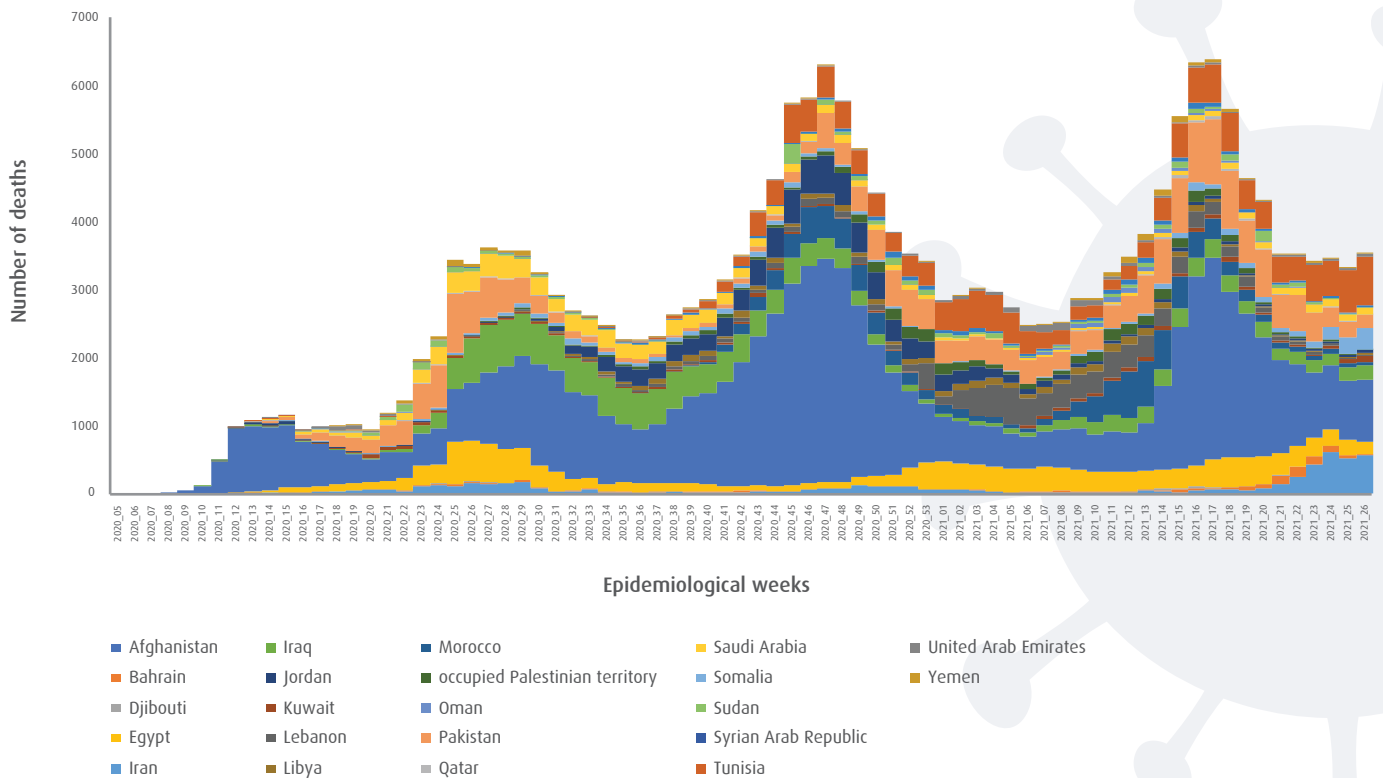
# Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 03 July 2021



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

26 January 2020 – 03 July 2021



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

- A total of 96 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the Region, corresponding to 12.84 doses per 100 population.
- COVAX facility has shipped around 16 million doses to countries in the Region. Additional shipments of Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca vaccines are arriving as more doses are being donated to the COVAX facility.
- Inequity continues to threaten vaccination rollout in the Region. Although over 50% of the Region's population is located in Gavi-eligible countries, only 4 doses per 100 population have been administered in these countries on average. High-income countries with only 8% of the Region's population have administered 66 doses per 100 population on average.

## REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Operations Support and Logistics

- Distributed Elisa test kits requiring specialized cold-chain packaging and transport to support Phase 3 of the Unity Studies. 38 countries participating in the Unity Studies have now received direct support from the WHO Dubai logistics hub in 2021.
- Moved 50 metric tons of supplies per week on average.

### Health Operations and Technical Expertise

#### Infection Prevention and Control

- Conducted a mission to Jordan from 27 June to 1 July 2021 to strengthen the implementation of IPC in response to COVID-19 and address other IPC-related issues

#### Clinical Management

- Conducted intensive care unit (ICU) training in Gaza, occupied Palestinian territory, for thirteen junior doctors. Facility and medical evacuation assessments were also conducted in the European Gaza Hospital ICU in order to make recommendations for the medevac process in Gaza.
- Launched the WHO COVID-19 oxygen study called "O2CoV2" - currently in the recruiting phase for participating facilities and countries.

### Health Information Management and Surveillance

- Conducted a mission to Libya to provide support on information management and surveillance, including for COVID-19.

### International Health Regulations and Social Measures

- Developed a COVID-19 mission recommendations tracker to monitor progress on recommendations made during country missions.
- Piloted the Points of Entry (PoE) training in four countries with PoE staff in the field, and improved the teaching product.
- Updated 2021 Eid al Adha guidance, including advice on social distancing, mask-wearing, safe social events, and the animal/human interface.
- Conducted the second Eastern Mediterranean/African Bi-Regional Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) focal point meeting to assess the current status of PHEOCs in both Regions and draft a 3-year strategic plan to achieve fully operational PHEOCs in 90% of Members States.

## Research and Knowledge Management

- Participated in a deep dive meeting with the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan and WHO's Afghanistan Country Office, discussing sero-epidemiological studies, the possibility of a vaccine effectiveness study, the use of routine clinical management data, and current research priorities.
- Held an internal technical meeting with Regional Office experts on health care worker case control studies.
- Completed the national treatment protocol and the physician survey analysis of the regional medication safety study.

## COVID-19 Vaccine

- Regularly monitoring COVID-19 vaccine supply, utilization, and coverage.
- Provided country support for regulatory approval, and operational resources identification, utilization, and mobilization.
- Coordinated with the Joint Allocation Team for the allocation of donated doses to countries in the Region.

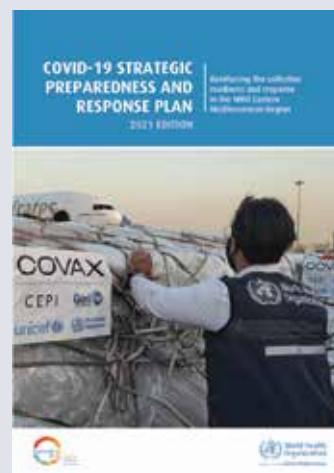
## COVID-19 PUBLICATIONS

### COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for 2021

Paving the way forward for the regional COVID-19 pandemic response, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean launched the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for 2021. Built on the achievements and lessons learned in 2020, the plan sets strategic priorities to reinforce the collective readiness and response to COVID-19 in 2021.

Download the EMR COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for 2021 here:

<https://applications.emro.who.int/docs/WHOEMCSR383E-eng.pdf?ua=1>.



### 2020 Progress Report of the Incident Management Support Team for COVID-19

The 2020 Progress Report of the Incident Management Support Team (IMST) was published by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, summarizing IMST activities and achievements over 2020 and identifying lessons learned to inform the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through its eight technical pillars and three cross-cutting functions, the IMST has been key in the coordination of the regional response in 2020.

Download the 2020 Progress Report of the Incident Management Support Team (IMST) here:

<https://applications.emro.who.int/docs/9789290226765-eng.pdf?ua=1>.



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)