

SITUATION IN NUMBERS (as of midnight GMT+2, 29 January 2022)



17

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



13

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths



18 852 057

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



17 433 937

Total reported recovered cases



321 212

Total reported deaths



321 738 308

Total tests performed



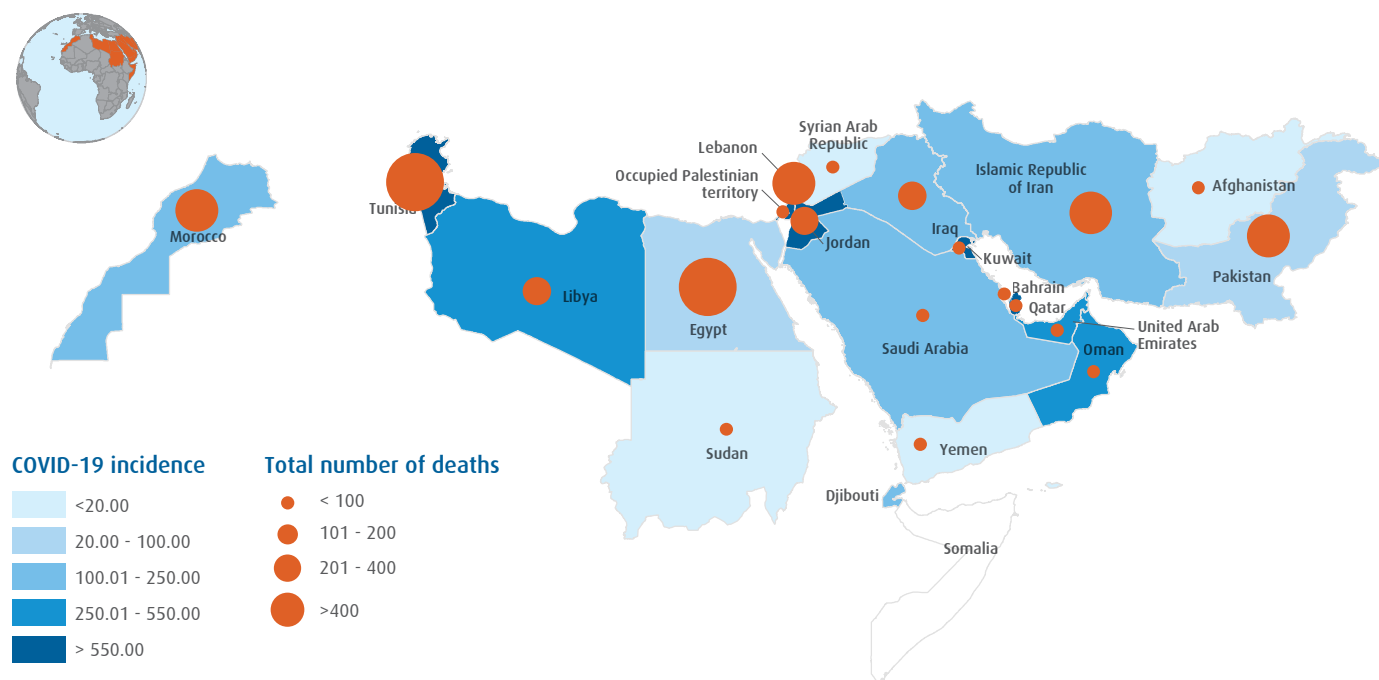
Boosting vaccination supply, nearly four million doses of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the Syrian Arab Republic on 26 January 2022, donated by Italy through the COVAX facility.

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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 29 January 2022, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 18 852 057 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 321 212 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 increased by 94%.
 - The number of reported deaths decreased by 35%.
 - The number of conducted tests increased by 24%.
 - 17 and 13 countries reported an increase in cases and deaths respectively.
 - No country has reported a simultaneous decrease in cases and deaths.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 321 738 308 with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 9% (range from 0.7% to 30.9%).
- **Variants of concern (VOCs):**
 - 21 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Alpha VOC.
 - 18 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Beta VOC.
 - 6 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Gamma VOC.
 - 18 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Delta VOC.
 - 15 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Omicron VOC.

Map 1: COVID-19 biweekly attack rate per 100,000 population and number of new deaths per country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 16-29 January 2022



IN FOCUS:OMICRON VARIANT OF CONCERN

- Since WHO designated it as a Variant of Concern (VOC) on 26 November 2021, several lineages of Omicron have been identified. By the end of January 2022, the rapidly circulating Omicron accounted for 96.4% of sequences submitted to GISAID from around the world.
- WHO is closely working with researchers worldwide to gain a better understanding of the Omicron VOC's specificities and how it may impact diagnosis, treatment, and vaccines.
- WHO encourages countries to increase sequencing efforts to better understand circulating COVID-19 variants and to submit complete genome sequences and associated metadata to a publicly available database, such as GISAID.
- WHO urges for the continued implementation of effective public health and social measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and for an evidence- and risk-based approach when applying travel measures in accordance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005). Read more: <http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/omicron-voc-questions-and-answers.html>.

Map 2: Countries reporting SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOCs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

16-29 January 2022

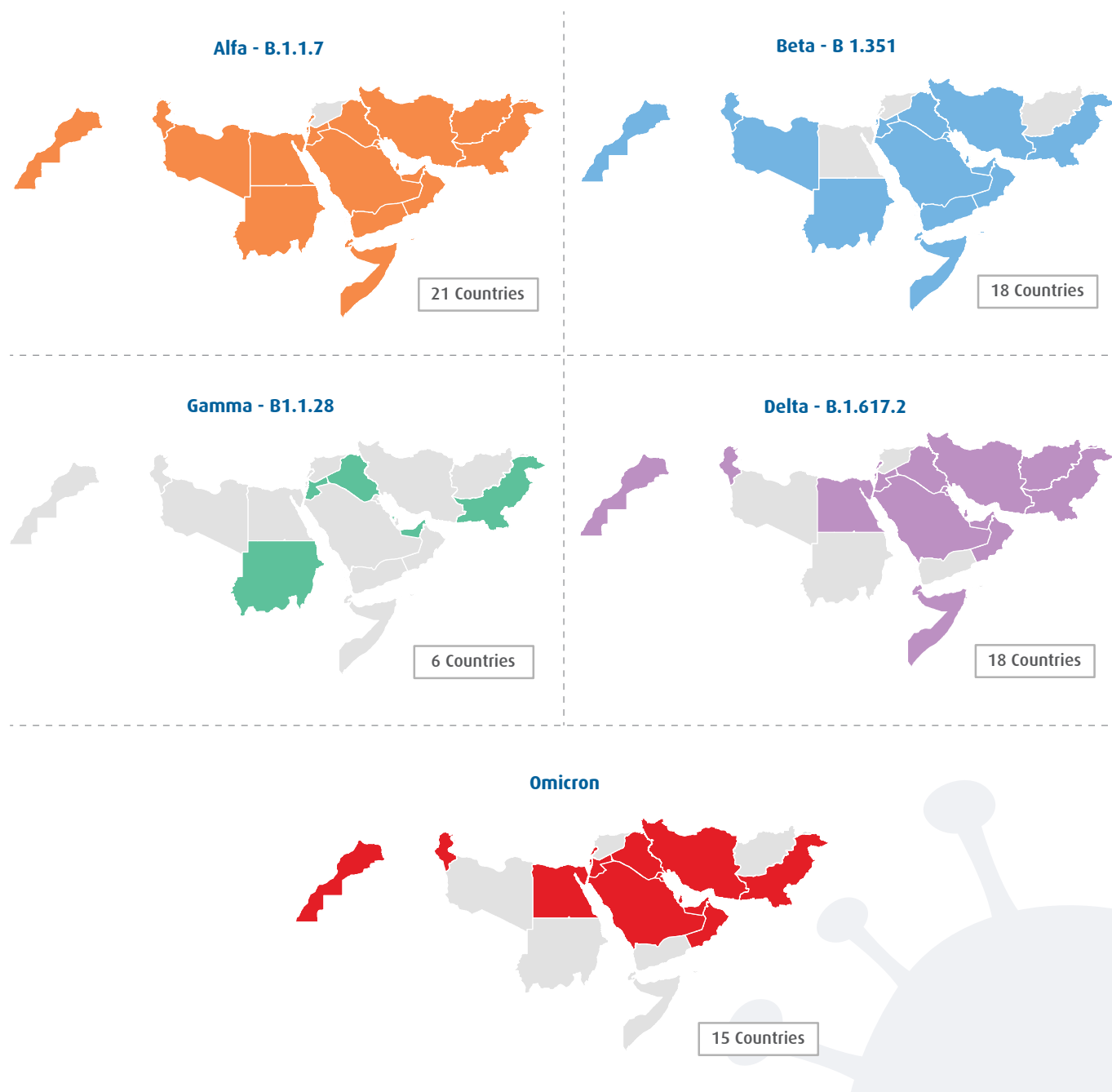


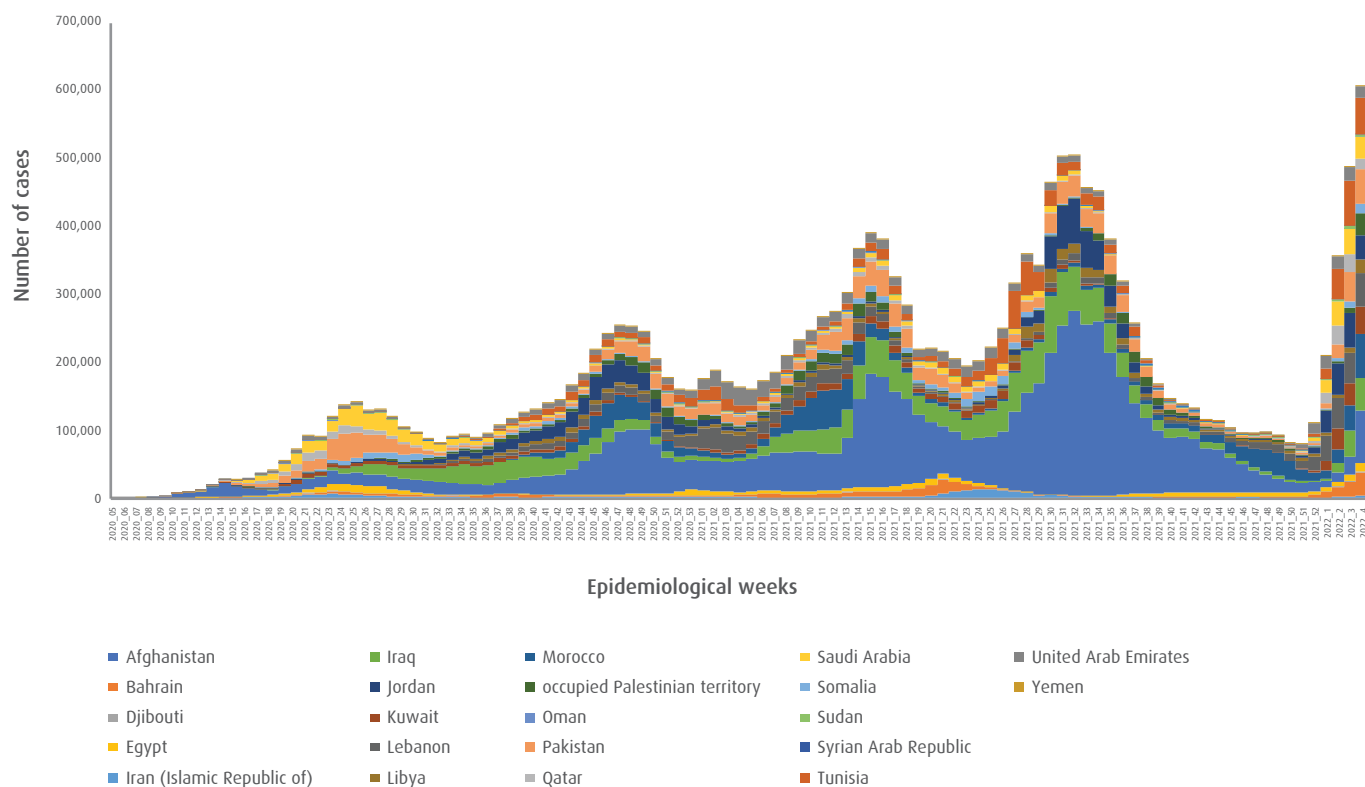
Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
16-29 January 2022

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total Recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	3 403	162 140	30	7 409	4.6%	146 529	853 003
Bahrain	56 608	362 022	6	1 404	0.4%	320 946	8 720 442
Djibouti	599	15 440	0	189	1.2%	15 147	273 223
Egypt	22 599	421 478	443	22 566	5.4%	354 300	5 893 855
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	103 442	6 322 183	336	132 380	2.1%	6 098 675	44 607 091
Iraq	87 100	2 197 783	119	24 361	1.1%	2 099 336	17 374 475
Jordan	99 776	1 197 250	200	13 174	1.1%	1 106 177	14 592 197
Kuwait	73 234	534 062	19	2 494	0.5%	481 137	6 853 435
Lebanon	93 193	907 824	209	9 576	1.1%	714 064	9 330 078
Libya	27 918	425 237	166	6 007	1.4%	391 758	2 224 290
Morocco	85 915	1 129 140	365	15 328	1.4%	1 064 199	10 602 598
Occupied Palestinian territory	40 373	516 059	71	5 087	1.0%	473 076	3 027 122
Oman	23 005	334 703	15	4 134	1.2%	308 825	1 986 264
Pakistan	93 844	1 417 991	236	29 248	2.1%	1 288 738	24 957 306
Qatar	40 860	336 081	21	645	0.2%	309 188	3 300 850
Saudi Arabia	69 431	679 384	28	8 933	1.3%	630 816	37 596 846
Somalia		25 388		1 335	5.3%	13 182	403 959
Sudan	5 302	57 632	51	3 441	6.0%	30 897	475 025
Syrian Arab Republic	610	51 284	40	2 984	5.8%	38 008	79 630
Tunisia	119 227	907 239	468	26 271	2.9%	766 677	4 026 806
United Arab Emirates	38 558	840 739	51	2 239	0.3%	775 172	124 230 221
Yemen	680	10 998	19	2 007	18.2%	7 090	329 592
Total	1 085 677	18 852 057	2 893	321 212	1.7%	17 433 937	321 738 308



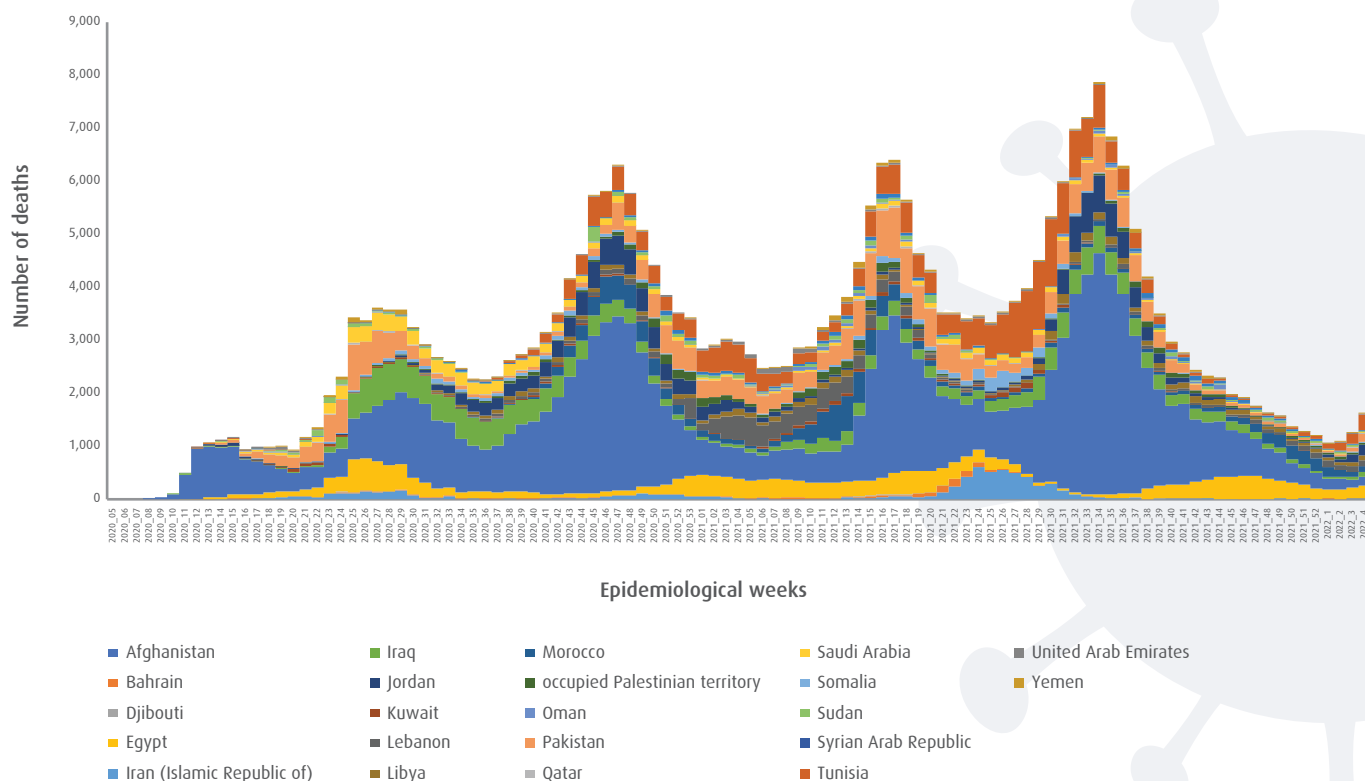
Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 29 January 2022



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

26 January 2020 – 29 January 2022



REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Health Operations and Technical Expertise

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Conducted a training on IPC standard precautions and measures for COVID-19, targeting 1 200 healthcare workers in the Gaza Strip, occupied Palestinian territory.
- Trained 60 healthcare workers at Al-Jumhuriyah Hospital in Yemen on hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, the management of blood spills, the use of proper personal protective equipment (PPE), and screening and triage.

Case Management and Clinical Operations

- Conducted a regional demonstration session on the “Live Oxygen Platform” on 27 January 2022, which allows the real-time identification of national oxygen production capacities and needs, so countries can monitor and respond to gaps in a timely manner. The ownership of this platform is given to each country (co-ownership of WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health).
- Negotiated prices with drug manufacturers and worked on ensuring supply availability for low-middle income countries, alongside Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator partners. The procurement of tocilizumab (IL-6 receptor blockers to treat severe and critical patients) is ongoing through this platform.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Oriented and supported the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) countries on the new COVID-19 vaccine allocation mechanism for 2022, including vaccine demand forecasting and updating the COVAX Collaboration Portal (CCP).
- Supported six priority countries with low COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the development of their National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) and in submitting the funding proposals for “COVID-19 Delivery Support” (CDS).
- Supported countries in focusing their vaccination strategies towards high-priority groups according to the interim recommendations of WHO’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE).

Vaccination coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 27 January 2022

Over 586 million vaccine doses have been administered in the Region.



- Fully vaccinated population: 34%
- Partially vaccinated population: 8%

Regional COVID-19 website:

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

For more information, contact emrgonCoV@who.int