

## Current major event

### COVID-19 situation update: 2020

Almost one year has now passed since the first cases of COVID-19 were reported in The Eastern Mediterranean Region, during which approximately 5 million cases with 122 181 associated deaths (case fatality ratio, CFR, of 2.5%) have been reported from the 22 countries of the Region.

#### Editorial note

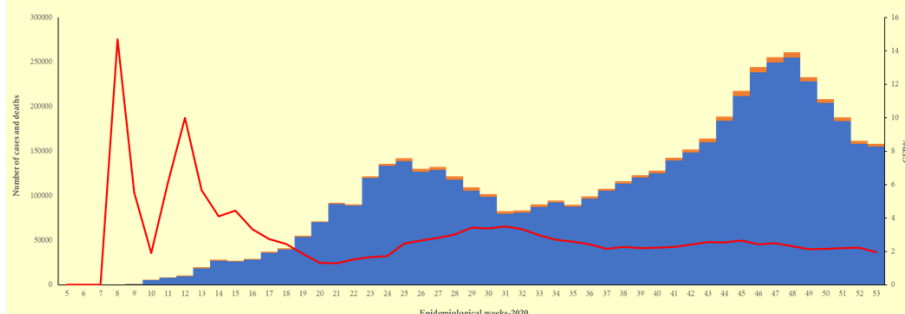
The first cases of COVID-19 in the Region were reported on 29 January 2020 following confirmation of four cases by the Ministry of Health and Prevention in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Those first few cases were travel-related before COVID-19 started to spread and clusters of cases were reported from several countries and territories in the Region. Currently, all 22 countries of the Region are experiencing community transmission with varying levels of occurrence ranging from low to very high incidence.

Two waves of the pandemic were observed in 2020 across the Region (*see graph*). The first wave started in epi-week 16 with a gradual increase till it reached its peak in epi-week 25 with 138 844 reported cases. A steady decline followed with the implementation of strict public health and social measures by governments. The second wave later started around week 36 peaking in week 47 when the highest recorded number of cases reached 251 530.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, Islamic Republic of Iran has reported the highest number of total cases in the Region (1 237 474 cases; 24.8% of the Region's total), followed by Iraq (597 033; 12%) and Pakistan (486 634; 9.8%). Islamic Republic of Iran also reported the highest number of total associated deaths (55 438; CFR 4.5%) followed by Iraq (12 829; CFR 2.1%) and Pakistan (10 311; CFR 2.1%). The highest CFRs were reported by Yemen (29%) followed by Sudan (6.3%), while the lowest CFRs were reported by Qatar (0.2%) followed by United Arab Emirates (0.3%) and Bahrain (0.4%).

In terms of testing, a total of 70 629 404 laboratory PCR tests were conducted since the start of the outbreak across the Region. The highest number of PCR tests were reported from United Arab Emirates (21.2/ million), followed by Saudi Arabia (11.1/ million) and Islamic Republic of Iran (7.7/ million). The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are performing the highest rates of testing per capita (2142/1000 and 1400/1000, respectively). The average

### Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and CFR, Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2020



### COVID-19 summary in EMR countries during 2020

Countries	Cases	Attack rate/ million	Tests performed	Positivity
Afghanistan	52 909	1359.1	204 300	25.9%
Bahrain	93 184	54 763.4	2 382 934	3.9%
Djibouti	5841	5911.9	100 748	5.8%
Egypt	140 878	1376.6	1 228 416	11.5%
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1 237 474	14 733.1	7 723 377	16.0%
Iraq	597 033	14 843.3	4 618 587	12.9%
Jordan	296 668	29 076.2	3 211 366	9.2%
Kuwait	151 074	35 375.6	1 262 238	12.0%
Lebanon	186 408	27 310.7	2 032 803	9.2%
Libya	101 414	14 759.1	572 549	17.7%
Morocco	442 141	11 978.7	4 486 984	9.9%
occupied Palestinian territory	157 879	30 948.1	898 693	17.6%
Oman	128 867	25 235.3	638 060	20.2%
Pakistan	486 634	2203.0	6 819 699	7.1%
Qatar	144 240	50 065.0	1 248 366	11.6%
Saudi Arabia	362 979	10 426.3	11 073 936	3.3%
Somalia	4714	296.6	20 156	23.4%
Sudan	23 316	531.7	215 191	10.8%
Syrian Arab Republic	11 616	663.7	53 031	21.9%
Tunisia	143 544	12 145.6	630 443	22.8%
United Arab Emirates	211 641	21 398.6	21 188 092	1.0%
Yemen	2105	70.6	19 435	10.8%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>4 982 546</b>	<b>6817.7</b>	<b>70 629 404</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

positivity rate for the Region was 7.1% (*see table*).

WHO has continued to provide support to the countries through the development and dissemination of various technical guidance documents for strengthening of capacities for surveillance, laboratory, clinical management, infection prevention and control, (IPC) and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) in order to improve detection and response capacities. WHO also helped procure personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing kits, conduct online trainings, and accelerate research and development through the solidarity trials and unity studies to help test and develop therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines. Regional Office staff conducted support missions to over 12 countries in the Region.

### Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

### COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

#### Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2021

Afghanistan	[53 538 (2288), 4.3%]
Bahrain	[95 317 (355), 0.4%]
Djibouti	[5866 (61), 1%]
Egypt	[148 799 (8142), 5.5%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[1 280 438 (56 100), 4.4%]
Iraq	[602 331 (12 881), 2.1%]
Jordan	[305 959 (4009), 1.3%]
Kuwait	[153 900 (942), 0.6%]
Lebanon	[215 553 (1880), 0.9%]
Libya	[104 745 (1581), 1.5%]
Morocco	[451 637 (7709), 1.7%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[165 250 (11 735), 1%]
Oman	[130 070 (1505), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[502 416 (10 644), 2.1%]
Qatar	[145 672 (246), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[363 692 (6286), 1.7%]
Somalia	[4726 (130), 2.8%]
Sudan	[27 494 (1657), 6%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[12 274 (768), 6.3%]
Tunisia	[159 276 (5215), 3.3%]
United Arab Emirates	[227 702 (702), 0.3%]
Yemen	[2108 (611), 29%]