

COVID-19 MONTHLY UPDATE | MARCH 2021

Highlights

- In March 2021, a total of 1 151 256 COVID-19 cases were reported from 22 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. There was a 37% increase in overall reported cases as compared to the previous month when it was 726 485. The highest number of cases was reported from Islamic Republic of Iran followed by Jordan and Iraq.
- During March 2021, a total of 14 192 related deaths were reported from the Region with Islamic Republic of Iran reporting the highest number of deaths followed by Jordan and Pakistan. There was a 27% increase in overall reported cases as compared to the previous month when it was 10 289.
- Sixteen of the 22 countries in the Region reported an increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths during the month of March as compared to February.
- Since the start of the pandemic, a total of 7 572 341 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 159 139 related deaths were reported from the 22 countries (case-fatality rate 2.1%). There was a 37% increase in overall reported cases as compared to the previous month when it was 726 485.
- Fifteen countries have reported one or more new variants of concern (VOC) in the Region (B.1.1.7 in 15 countries, B.1.351 in 4 countries and B.1.1.28 alias P.1 in 1 country).
- In March 2021, WHO listed two versions of the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. The vaccines are produced by AstraZeneca-SKBio (Republic of Korea) and the Serum Institute of India. Vaccination has started in 20 countries of the Region including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and United Arab Emirates. The total number of doses administered is 22 676 852.

COVID-19 cases and deaths by EMR Countries, 29 January 2020 to 31 March 2021

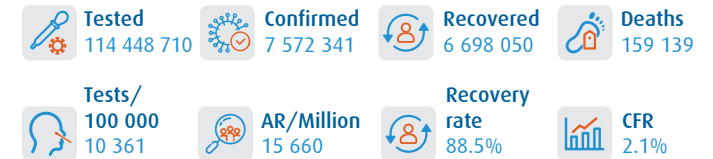
Countries	March		Cumulative figures			Trend*
	New cases	New deaths	Cases	Deaths	CFR%	
Afghanistan	813	49	56 572	2495	4.4	↑
Bahrain	22 050	72	144 445	521	0.4	↑
Djibouti	1936	7	8002	70	1	↑
Egypt	19 707	1307	202 131	11 995	5.9	↑
Islamic Republic of Iran	254 395	2592	1 885 564	62 665	3.3	↑
Iraq	155 435	917	850 924	14 323	1.7	↑
Jordan	220 487	2157	611 577	6858	1.1	↑
Kuwait	41 251	230	232 103	1313	1	↑
Lebanon	93 367	1542	468 400	6234	1.3	↑
Libya	25 853	470	159 980	2680	2	↑
Morocco	12 443	195	496 097	8818	1.8	↑
Occupied Palestinian territory	62 529	622	270 878	2881	1.1	↑
Oman	17 722	108	159 218	1678	1.1	↑
Pakistan	91 566	1634	672 931	14 530	2.2	↑
Qatar	16 300	33	179 964	291	0.2	↑
Saudi Arabia	12 624	175	390 007	6669	1.7	↑
Somalia	4141	290	11 398	529	5	↑
Sudan	1685	203	32 128	2095	6.5	↑
Syrian Arab Republic	3321	238	18 909	1265	6.7	↑
Tunisia	21 639	821	255 308	8843	3.5	↓
United Arab Emirates	69 920	276	461 444	1497	0.3	↓
Yemen	2072	254	4361	889	20.4	↑
Total	1 151 256	14 192	7 572 341	159 139	2.1	↑

*trend refers to % changes in the cases compared to previous month

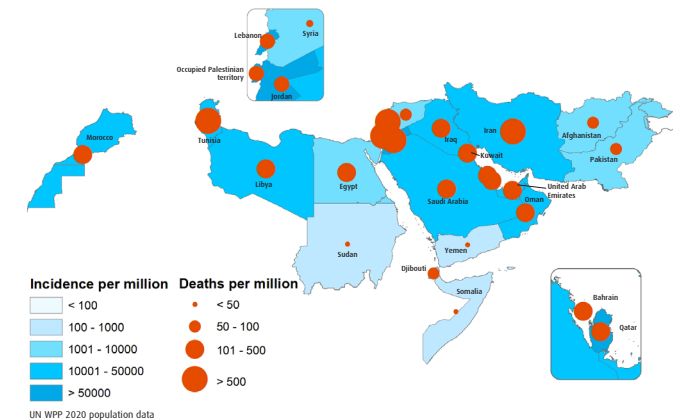
Key figures, March 2021



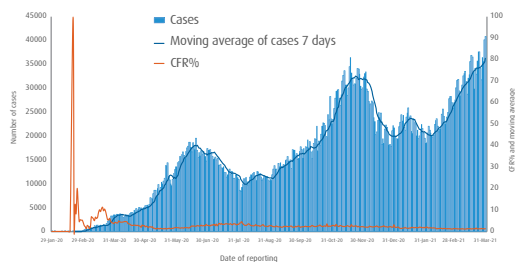
Cumulative key figures, 29 January 2020 to 31 March 2021



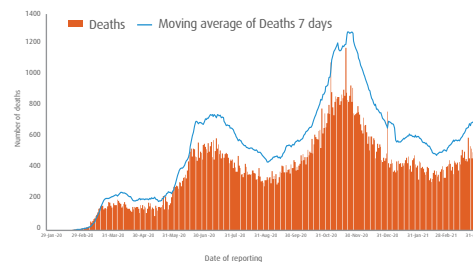
COVID-19 cases and deaths per million in the EMR countries, 29 January 2020 to 31 March 2021



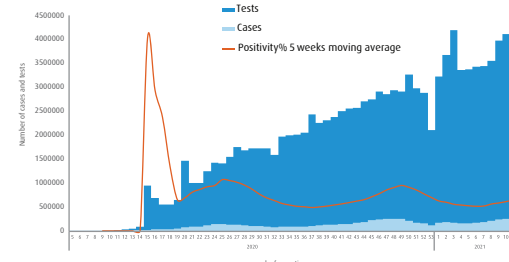
Distribution of weekly COVID-19 tested in EMR, 29 January 2020 to 31 March 2021



Distribution of daily deaths in EMR, 29 January 2020 to 31 March 2021



Distribution of weekly COVID-19 tested in EMR, 29 January 2020 to 31 March 2021



Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and gender in EMR, 29 January 2020 to 31 March 2021

