



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

WHO Epi-Week-42 (October 12-18, 2020)

BULLETIN No: 25

Issue Date: October 19, 2020

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 4,842 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 65 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-42 bringing the total cases and death to 89,137 and 1,352 respectively.
- There were total of 4,333 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the WHO Epi-Week-42, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 42,649.
- A total of 23,482 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been at Home Based Isolation and Care.
- A total of 46,715 laboratory samples were tested in the WHO-Epi-Week-42, which is an 4.79% decrease compared to the WHO-Epi-Week-41.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the WHO-Epi-Week-42 is 10.36%, which is a bit lower than the preceding week (11.16%).
- A total of 10,872 contacts were identified during the WHO Epi-week-42.

II. BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) in collaboration with partners have intensified response efforts to prevent the spread and severity of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Ethiopia. The national and the regional Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) has been activated and laboratory diagnosis capacity has been expanded to other national institutions, subnational and private laboratories.

The national and regional PHEOC are playing a pivotal role in coordinating resources from different responding agencies and coordinating COVID-19 related information through regular EOC meetings and partners' coordination forums. The MOH and EPHI are providing information to the public and stakeholders on a regular and uninterrupted manner using different means of communication modalities.

The WHO and other partners are currently supporting in scaling-up preparedness and response efforts and implementation of related recommendations suggested by the IHR Emergency Committee.

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

Global Situation

- Between December 31, 2019 and October 18, 2020, COVID-19 pandemic affected 235 countries/territories causing 39,596,858 cases and 1,108,838 deaths (CFR=2.80%) globally.
- Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 2,487,007 cases and 37,019 deaths were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-42.
- The United States of America (USA) reported the highest number of cases (7,966,729) with CFR of 2.74% followed by India (7,494,551 cases) with a CFR of 1.52%.
- In Africa, 57 countries/territories have reported COVID-19 cases.
- As of October 18, 2020, a total of 1,646,794 cases and 39,621 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.41%). Of these 68,962 cases and 1,679 deaths were reported during the WHO-Epi-Week-42.
- In Africa, South Africa reported the highest number of cases (702,131) with CFR of 2.62% followed by Morocco (170,911 cases) with a CFR of 1.70%.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa. See the summary dashboard below.

Total Number of COVID-19 Affected Countries/Territories

235

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

39,596,858

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

1,108,838

New Confirmed Cases_of Epi_Week Globally

2,436,054

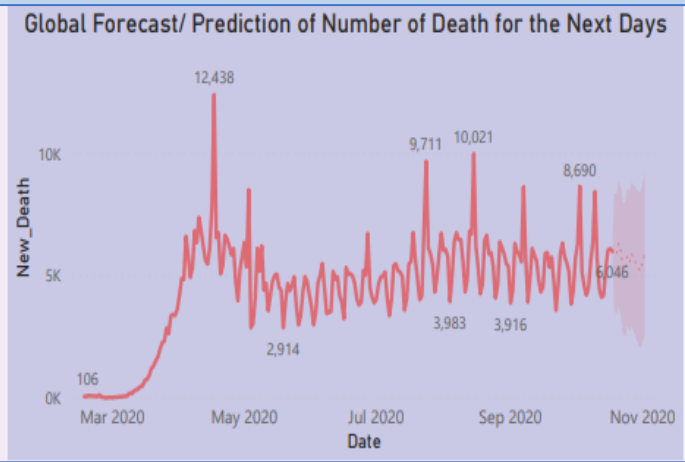
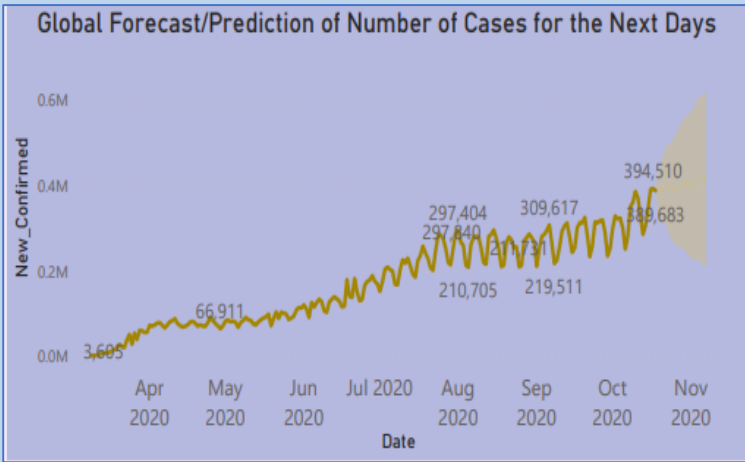
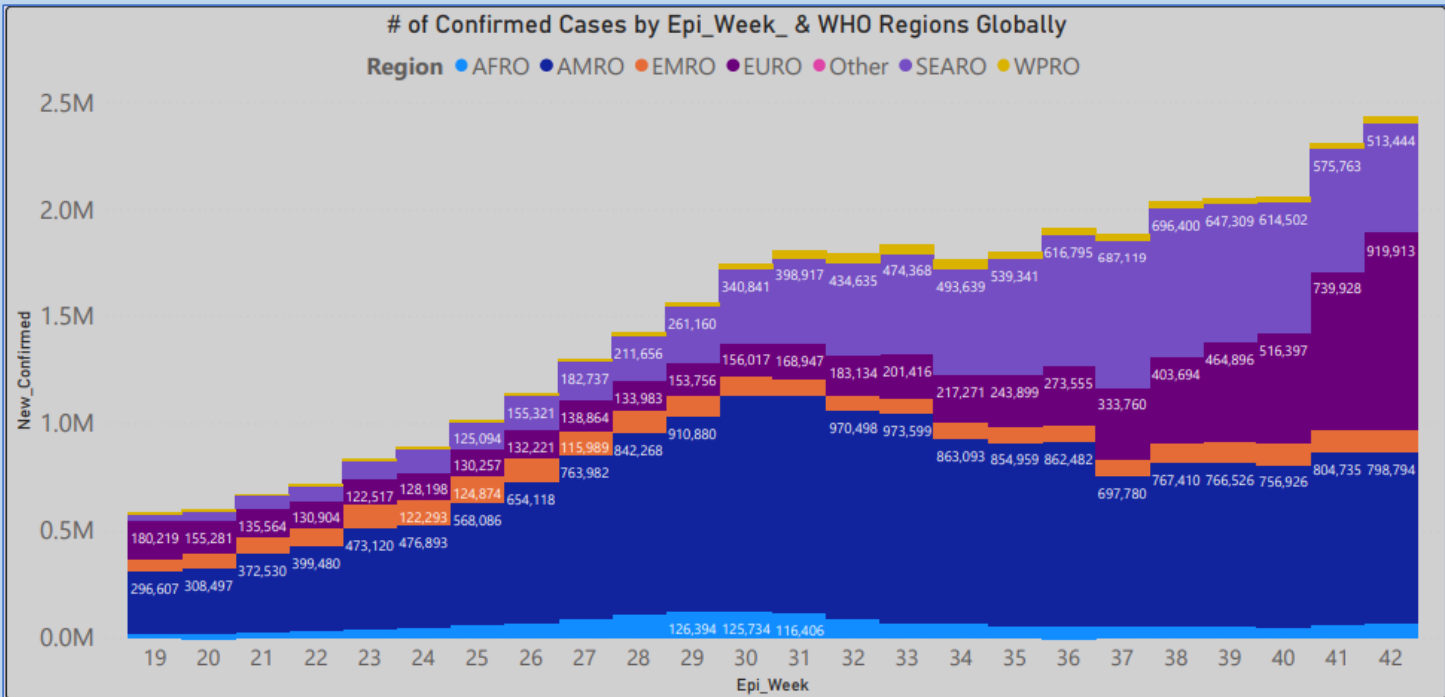
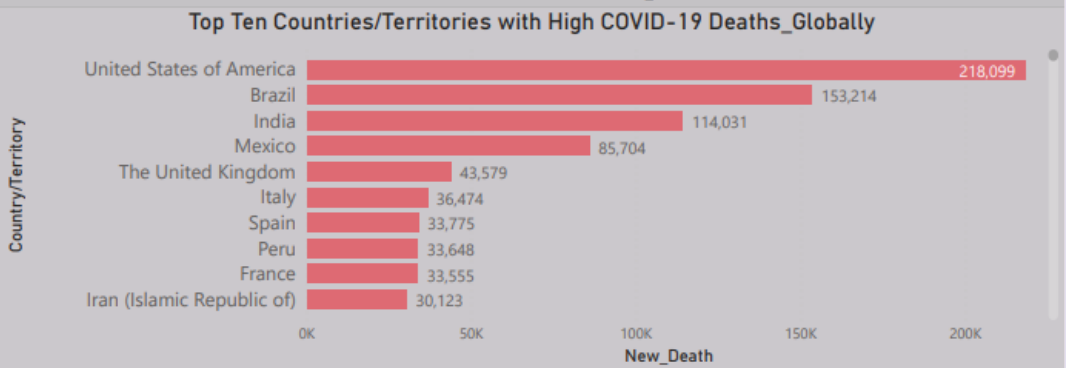
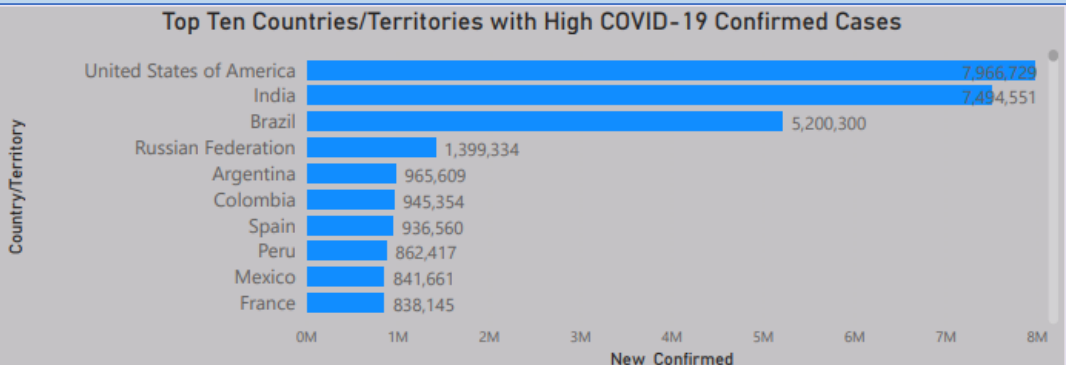


Fig. 1: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of October 18, 2020 (Source: WHO)

of African Countries/Territories with COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

57

Total Number of Cases Confirmed in Africa

1,646,794

New Confirmed Cases in Africa with COVID-19_of Epi_Week

68,947

Total Number of Deaths in Africa with COVID-19

39,621

New Deaths in Africa with COVID-19_in Epi_Week

1,679

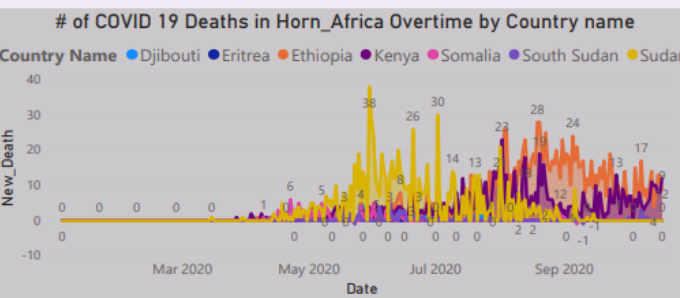
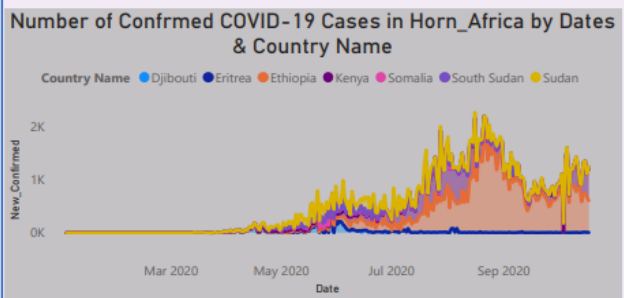
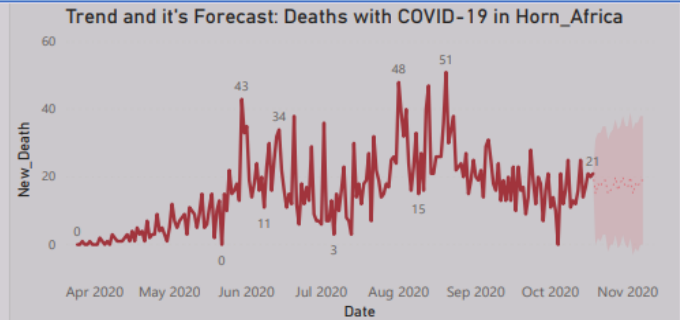
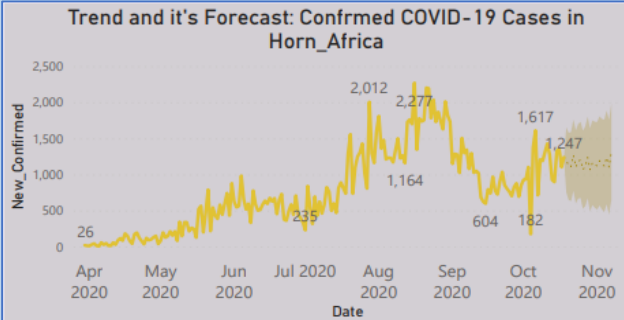
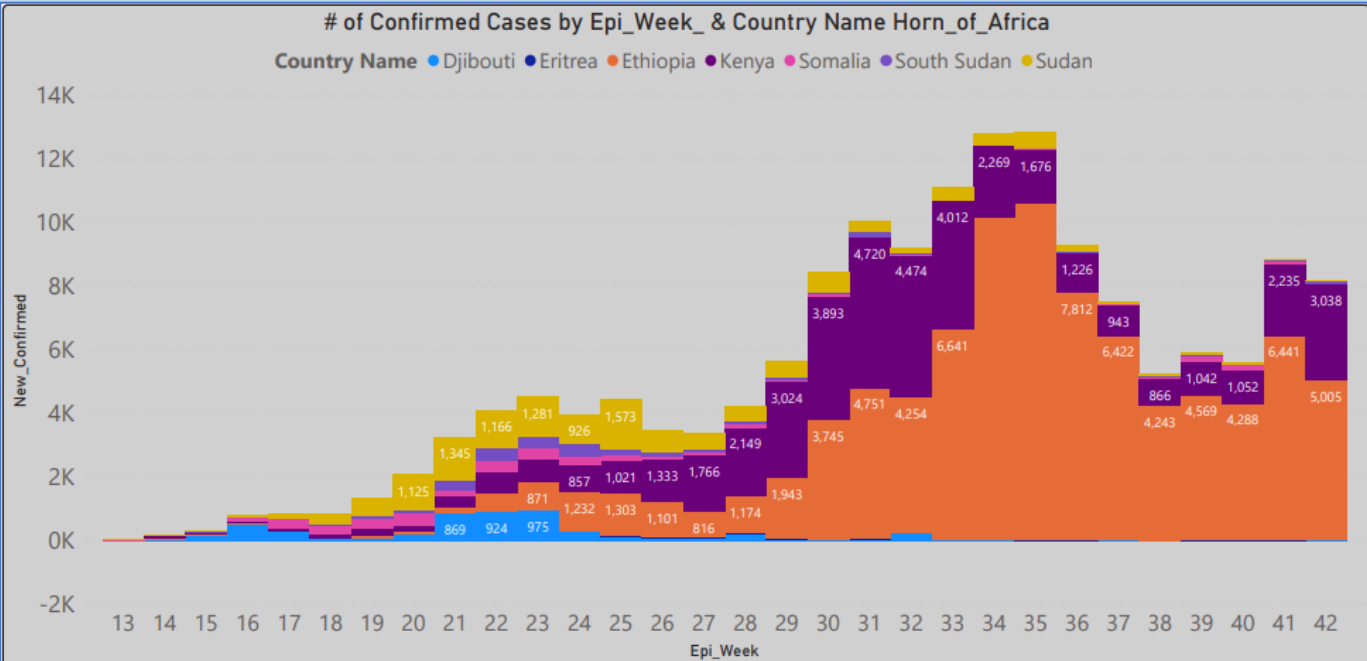
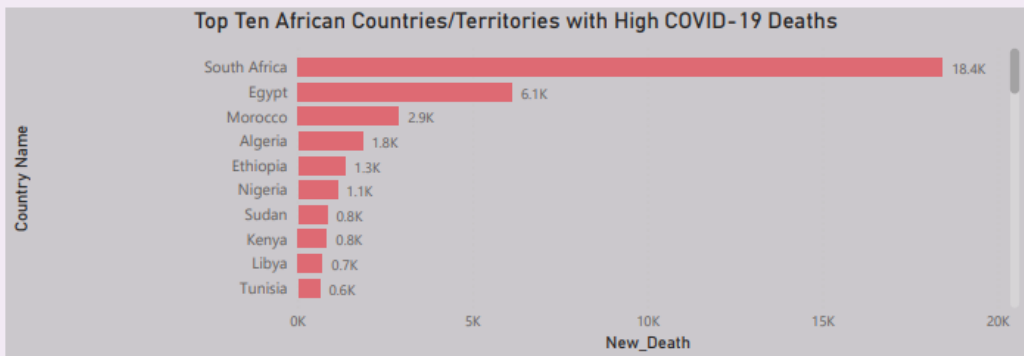
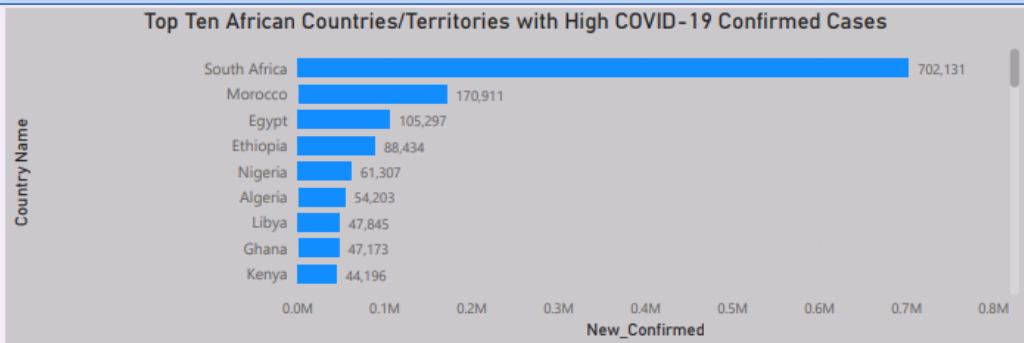


Fig. 2: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of October 18, 2020 (Source: WHO)

National COVID-19 situation

- Four-thousand-eight-hundred-forty-two (4,842) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases (12% decrease compared to that of Epi-Week-41) and 65 COVID-19 related deaths (equivalent to that of Epi-Week-41) were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-42.
- As of October 18, a total of 89,137 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,352 deaths were recorded in the country.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the WHO-Epi-Week-42

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_Admission	New Death	Positivity Rate[Weighted avg.]	Recovery Rate
Addis Ababa	21925	1844	334	31	8.6	33.6
SNNPR	5958	344	263	5	5.9	70.9
Oromia	5277	1155	143	12	23.1	24.1
Amhara	5082	604	86	5	12.0	68.9
Tigray	3621	186	117	3	5.4	75.1
Sidama	1203	148	95	6	12.3	79.6
Somali	943	20	2	0	2.0	34.3
Benishangul G	725	143	6	1	14.1	45.9
Dire Dawa	662	230	19	0	16.4	36.4
Afar	588	92	47	0	3.0	42.9
Harari	568	97	20	2	17.1	35.9
Gambella	163	53	0	0	0.0	45.7
Total	46715	4916	1132	65	10.0	49.4

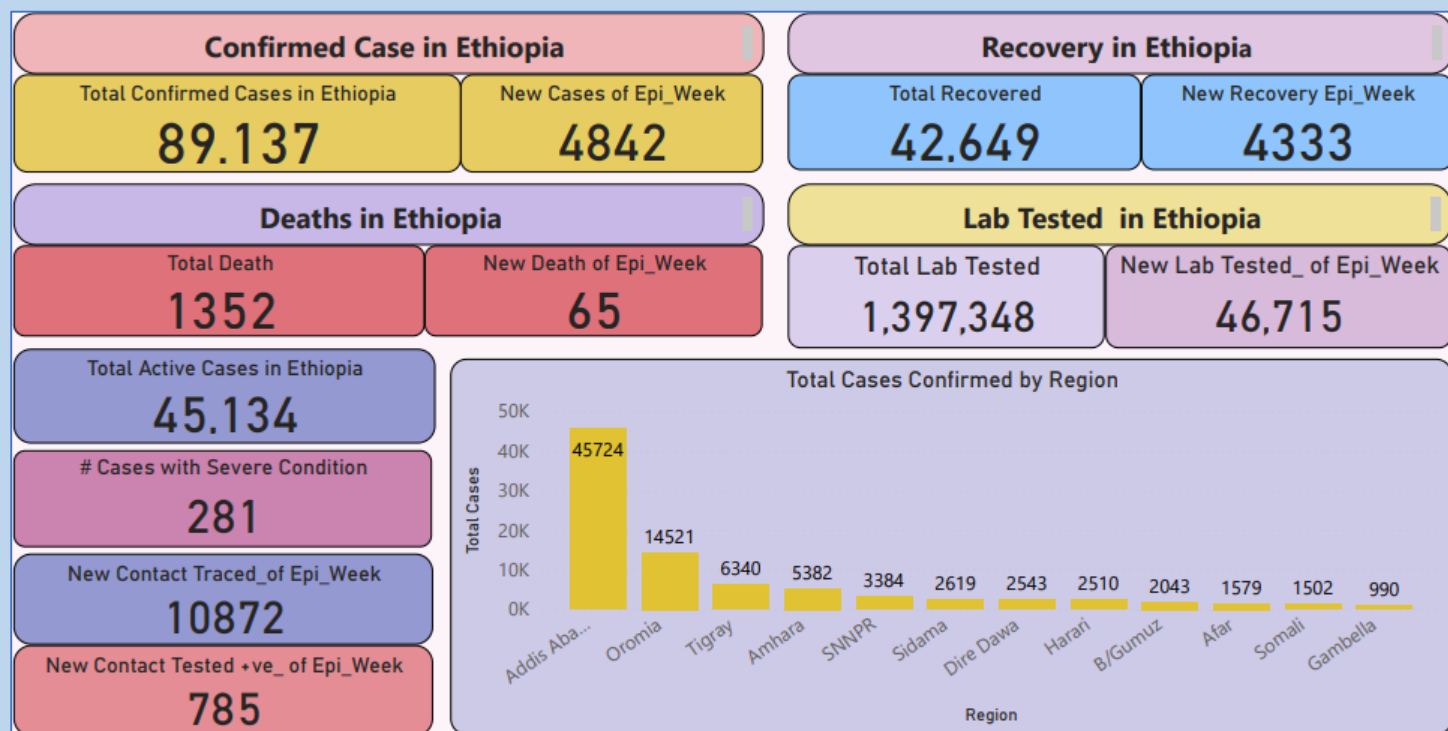


Fig. 3: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of October 18, 2020, Ethiopia

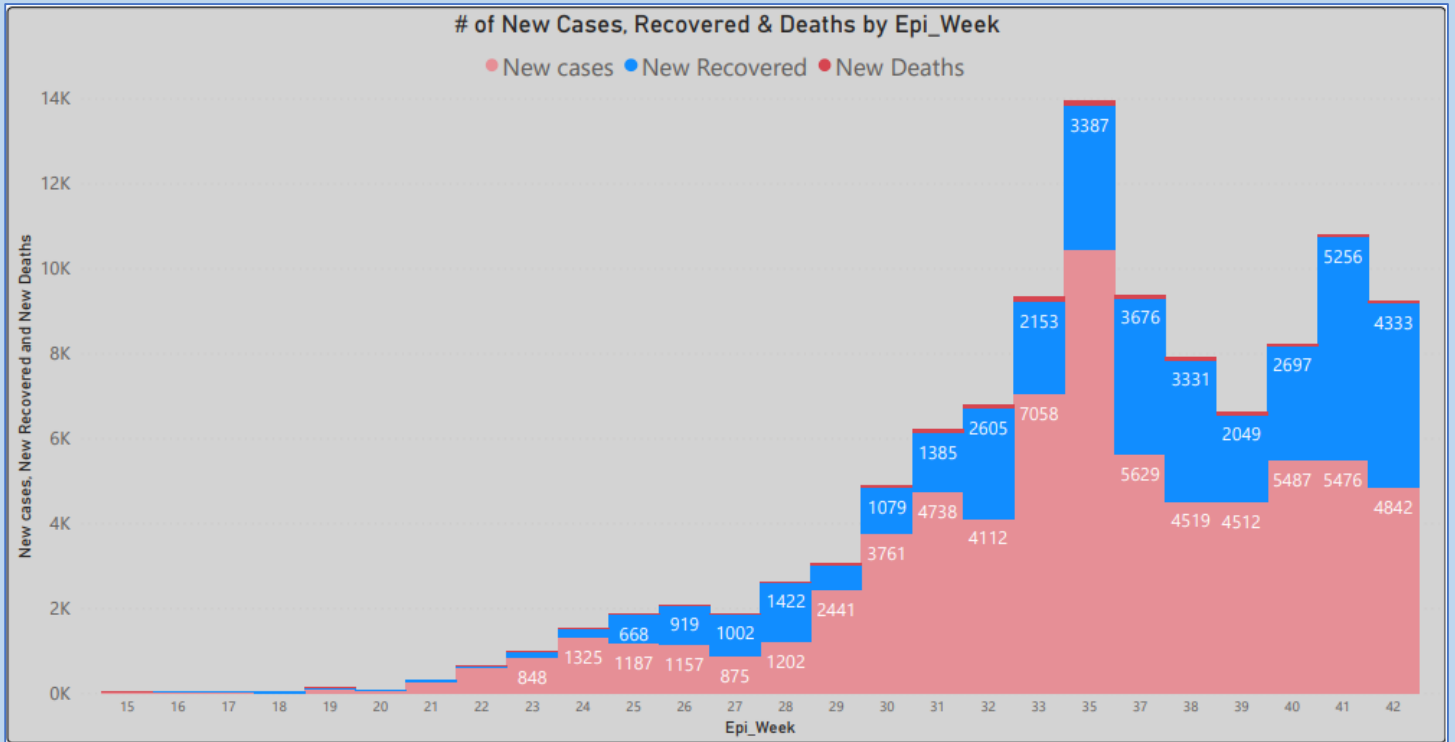


Fig. 4: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by WHO Epi-Week as of October 18, 2020, Ethiopia

Epi-Surveillance and Laboratory Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), follow-up of international travelers, mandatory quarantine of passengers coming to Ethiopia, rumor collection, verification, investigation and information provision via toll free call center, active case detection by house to house search, contact listing, tracing and follow-up of persons who had contact with confirmed cases. There is also laboratory investigation of suspected cases, quarantined individuals, contacts of confirmed cases, SARI/pneumonia cases and community members.

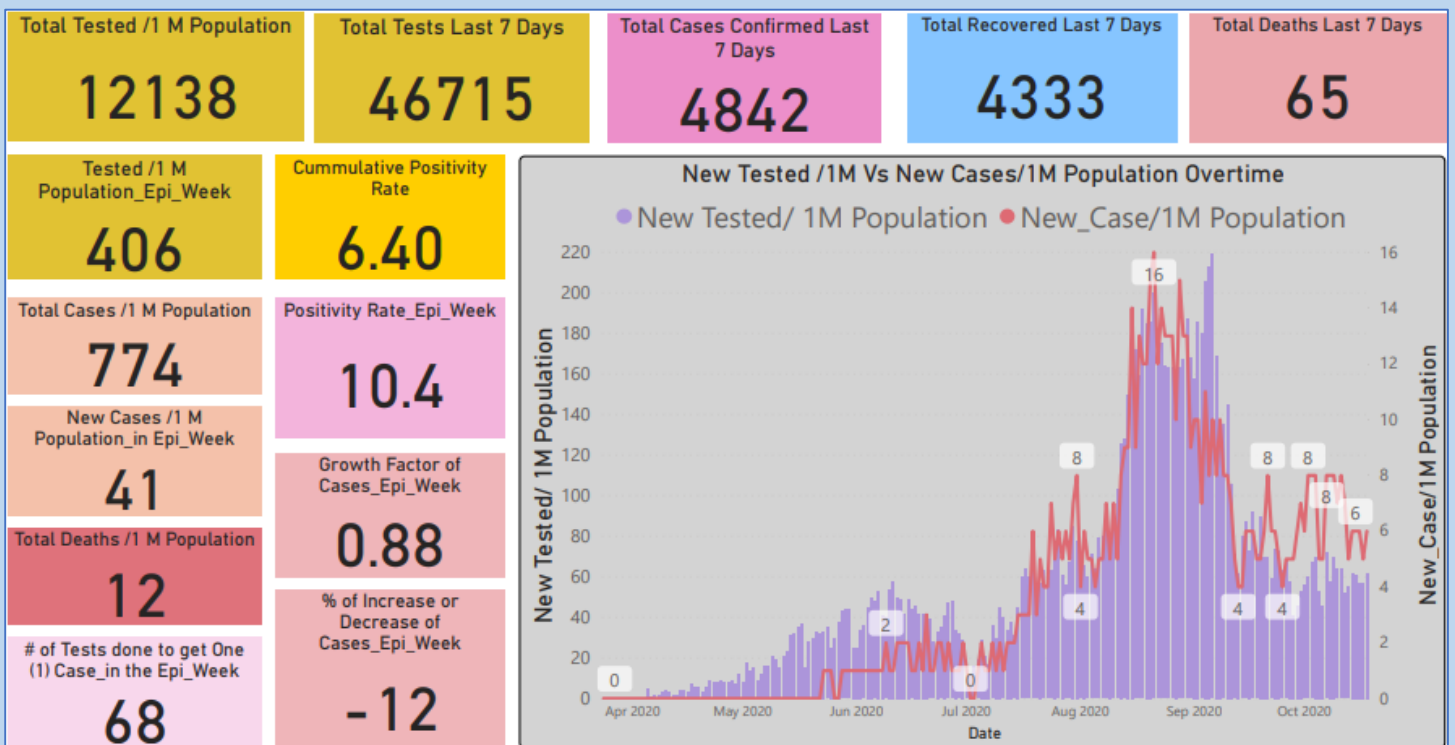


Fig. 5: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of October 18, 2020.

Contact tracing and follow-up:

- As of October 18, 2020:
 - A total of 279,142 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 10,872 contacts were identified in the WHO-Epi-Week-42.
 - Of total contacts, 247,472 (88.65%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 10,373 contacts are still on follow-up.
 - 419 (0.15%) contacts have developed COVID-19 suggestive symptoms. Of these symptomatic contacts, 384 (90.64%) have tested positive.
- Overall, 20,530 (7.35%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have tested positive.
- Contacts contributed for the 23.03% of the total cases.

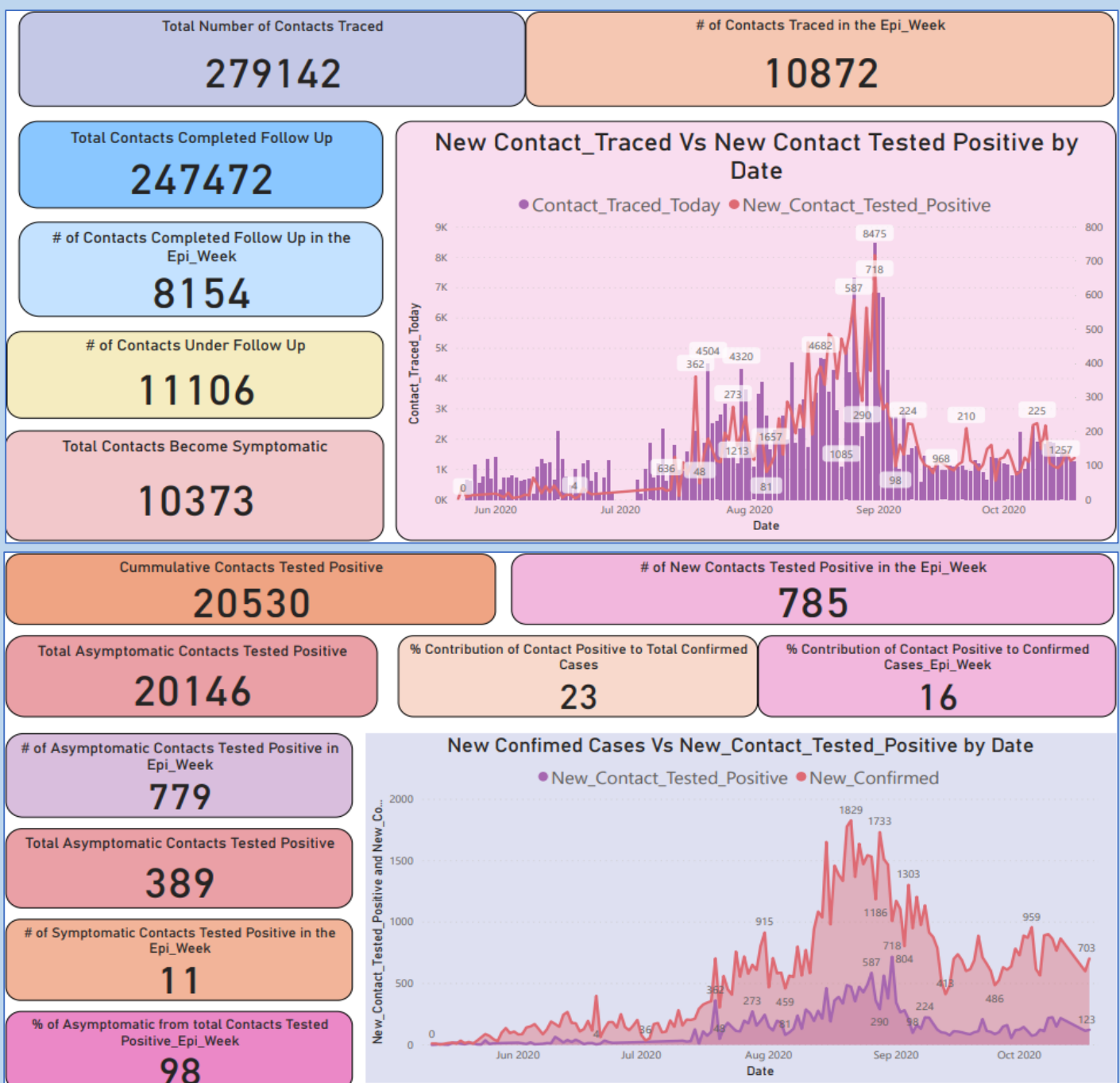


Fig. 6: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of October 18, 2020, Ethiopia.

Rumors collection and verification from all sources

- As of October 18, 2020:
 - 297,814 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 4,982 rumors were reported in the WHO-Epi-Week-42.
 - 230,673 (77.45%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.

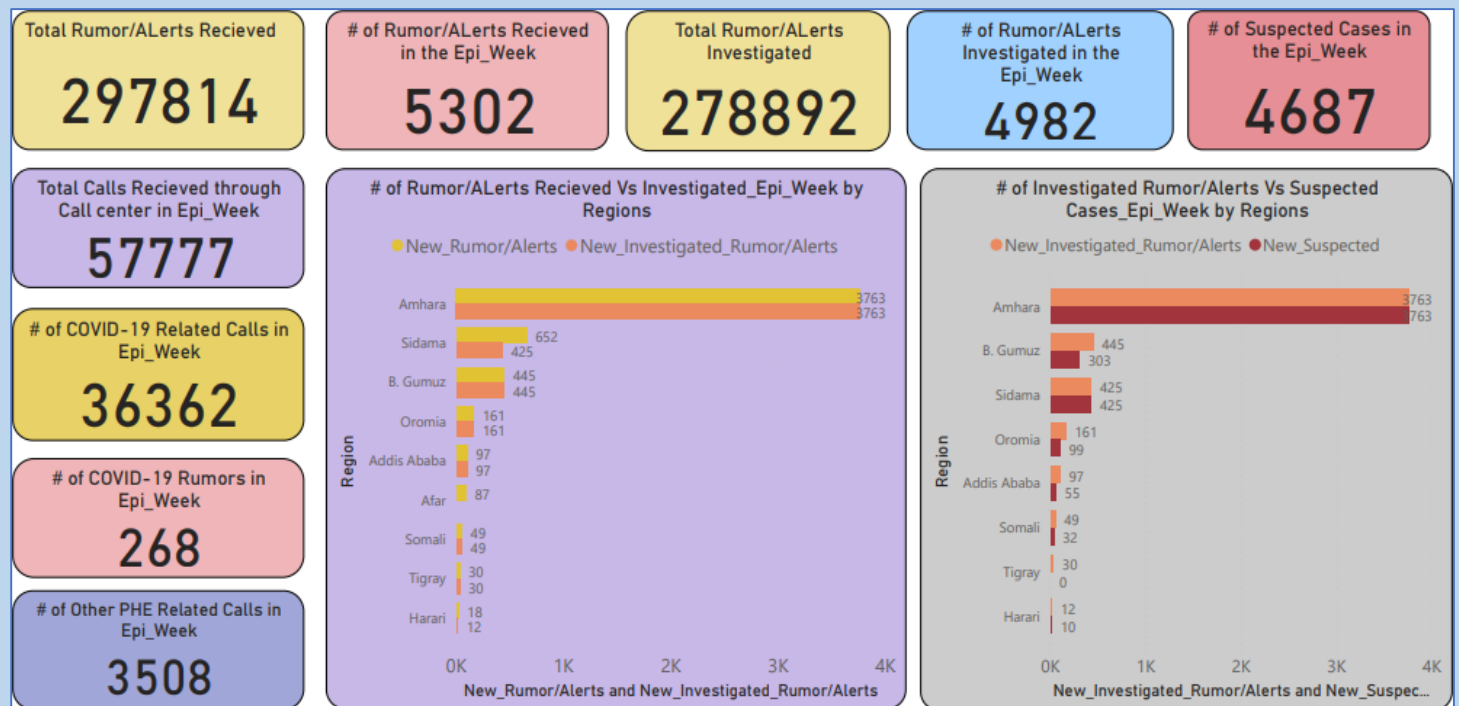


Fig. 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of October 18, 2020, Ethiopia.

Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 1,216,035 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 463,124 (38.08%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 44,718 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-42.
- Nationally, 69,383 passengers have been quarantined since March 23, 2020 (when mandatory quarantine started). Of these 35,075 (50.55%) passengers have been quarantined in Addis Ababa.
- On October 18, 2020, there were 672 passengers in the quarantine centers across the country.

Laboratory related activities

- As of October 18, 2020, a total of 1,397,348 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 46,715 laboratory tests were processed during the WHO Epi-Week-42, which is a 4.79% decrease compared to that of Epi-Week-41.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the WHO-Epi-Week-42 is 10.36%, which is a bit lower than the preceding week, which was 11.16%.
- The overall positivity rate for the laboratory test since the occurrence of the disease in the country is 6.38%.

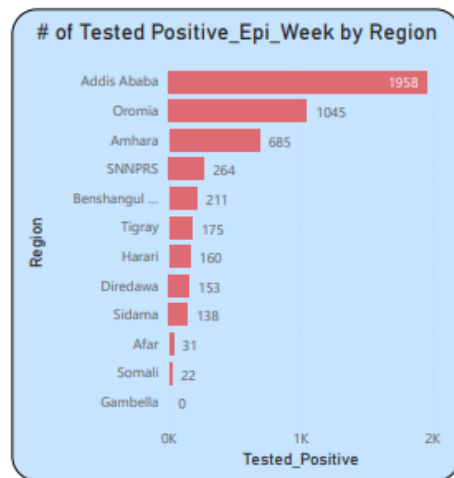
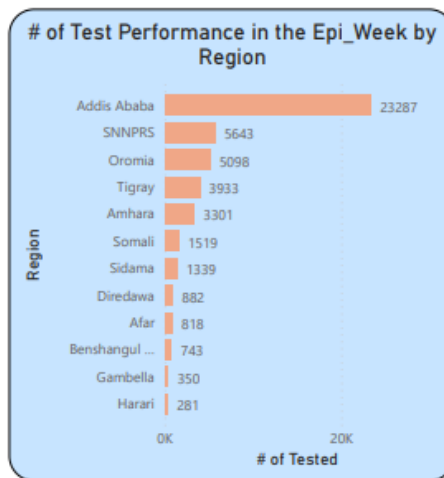
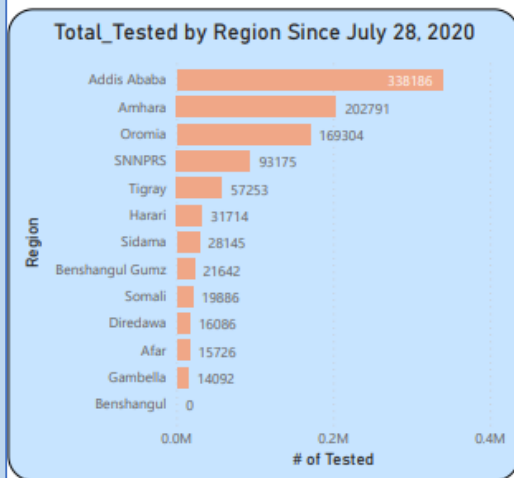
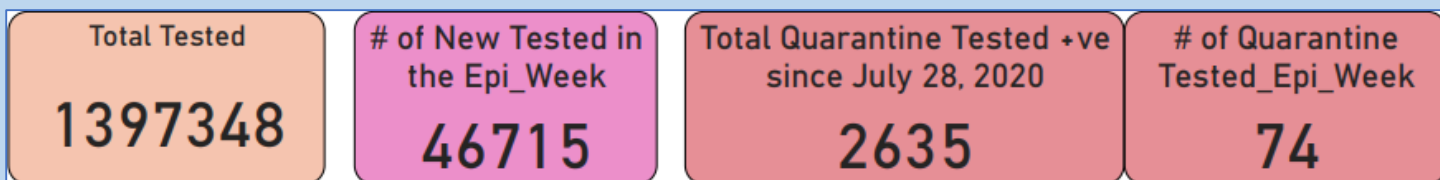
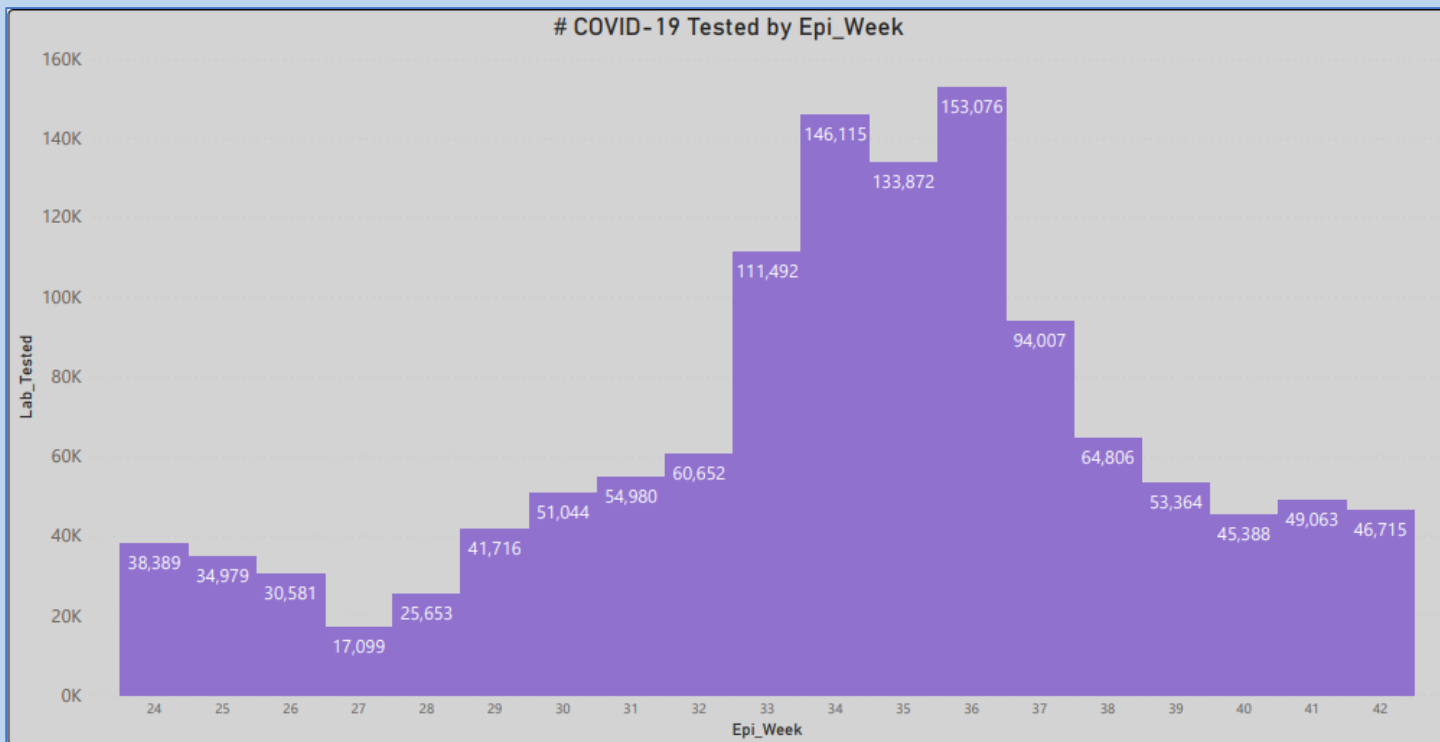


Fig. 8: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of October 18, 2020, Ethiopia.

IV. Coordination and Leadership

- The national PHEOC is collaboratively working with stakeholders: government agencies, partner organizations, UN agencies, embassies, hospitals, Industrial parks and others.
- Morning briefing of IMS is being conducted every day by core IMS staffs and key partners' representatives.
- Biweekly virtual (zoom) meeting is being conducted with technical working group members, which comprises members from subnational level focal, key partners and stakeholders.
- Weekly leadership and strategic virtual meeting, chaired by the H.E MOH Minster, is being conducted to oversee and guide the response efforts.

- Global Handwashing Day is celebrated in Ethiopia with the theme “I wash my hands properly to save lives,” on October 15, 2020.
 - The global hand washing day aligns with the recently launched global initiative led by WHO and UNICEF - Hand Hygiene for All.
 - The campaign calls for of the whole community to scale up hand hygiene practices through increased political leadership, a stronger enabling environment, and robust supply and demand for hand hygiene facilities and supplies.
 - “Hand washing is a simple, cost effective and yet a very impactful intervention to significantly improve the health, education, social and economic status of the country. It is a very effective way to reduce communicable disease burden, under 5 mortality, health facility infection and antibiotics resistance,” says HE Dr Lia Tadese, Minister of Health.
 - Every year on October 15th, millions of people celebrate Global Handwashing Day across the world through celebrations, events, and advocacy campaigns.
 - The Global hand washing day is celebrated for the 13th time globally and 12th time in Ethiopia.

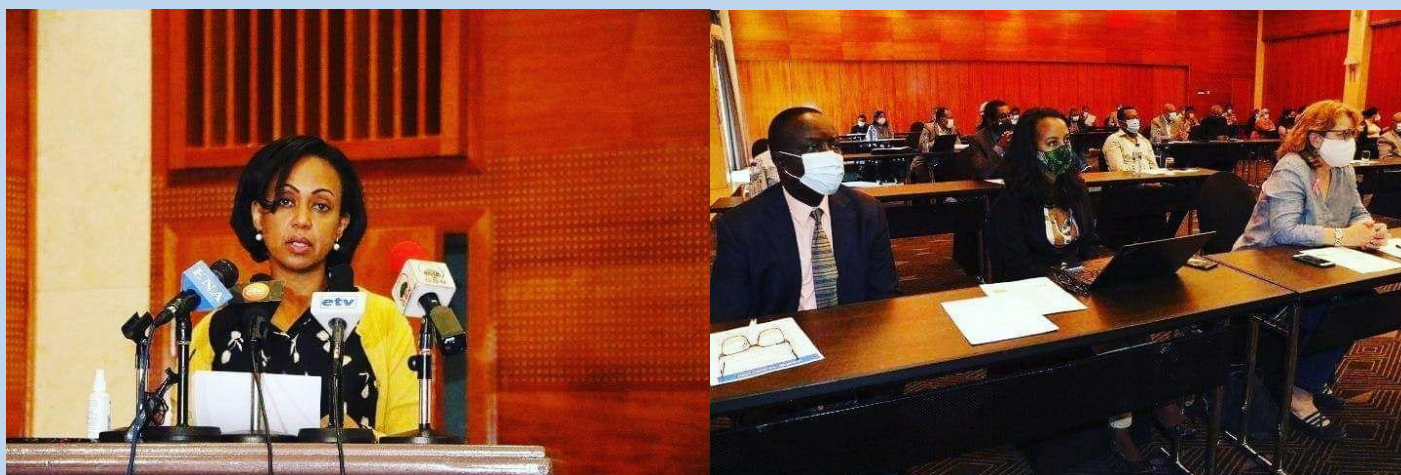


Fig. 4: Global Handwashing Day celebration, October 15, 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and IPC

- As of October 18, 2020:
 - A total of 22,591 suspected COVID-19 cases are admitted to isolation centers. Of these, 391 suspected cases are admitted in the Epi-Week-42.
 - 19,831 (627 in the Epi-week-42) initially suspected cases are discharged after laboratory test became negative.
- Among the currently existing COVID-19 cases, there are 281 patients in severe clinical condition.

Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 23,482 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 18,100 (71.73%), have recovered and 5 died.
- Of these, 1770 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 2,527 cases have recovered on the WHO-Epi-Week-42.
- As of October 18, 2020, there are 5,343 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 182 of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 219 (53 of them in Epi-Week-42) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

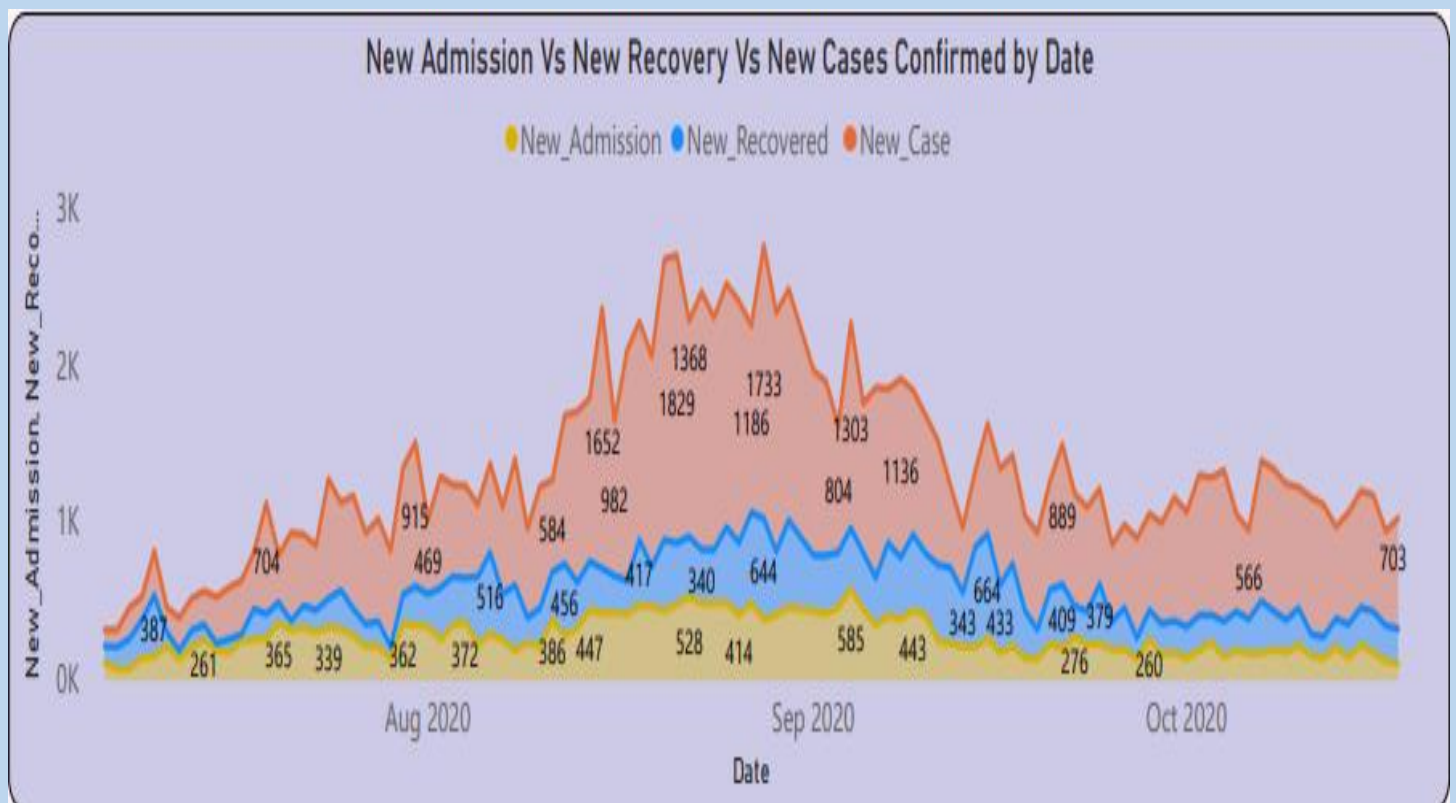


Fig. 10: Trends of New confirmed cases, admission and recoveries as of October 11, 2020.

VI. WASH and IPC:

- Communication with and follow up of each regions by assigned staff from the national Emergency Operations Center regarding WASH and IPC activities.
- Regular phone follow-up and support and compilation of regional reports.
- Communication with regions on Monitoring of IPC practice in Non-COVID health care facilities, regular phone follow-up and support, compiling reports.
- Facilitation of disinfection whenever there is positive confirmed case and sending disinfectant based on need.

VII. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Daily press statement is being given on COVID-19 situation on daily basis through Mass Media.
- Field visit conducted to Hawassa Industrial Park for inspection of COVID-19 prevention and Control measures.



Fig. 9: RCCE team visiting Hawassa Industrial Park, October 18, 2020

- Individuals recovered from COVID-19 are interviewed for testimonials.

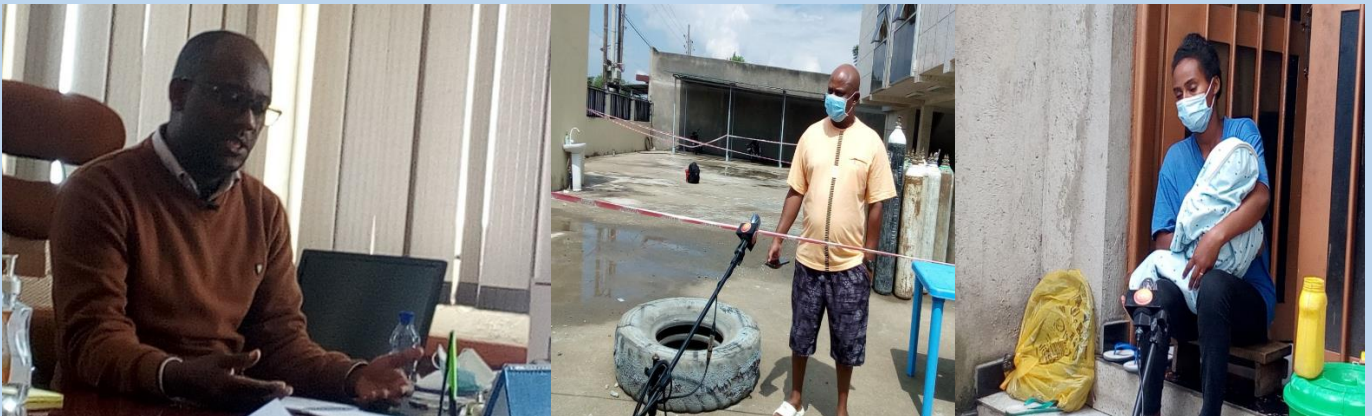


Fig. 10: COVID-19 recovered cases being interviewed, October 18, 2020, Hawassa, Ethiopia

- COVID-19 related key messages shared on social media.



VIII. Logistic and Supplies

- There is ongoing distribution of PPE, Viral Transport Media (VTM), swabs, pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies to quarantine, isolation and treatment centers.
- Laboratory reagents, consumable supplies distributed to 63 COVID-19 testing laboratories.

Training and Orientation Activities

- There is ongoing training and orientation for the public and health professionals on COVID-19.
- Orientation on COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement provided for Media houses in Adama town.

IX. Challenges and Way Forward

Challenges

- Happenings of super spreading events-Mass gatherings with poor physical distancing and facemask use which exacerbates the spread of COVID-19.
- Increasing number of COVID-19 cases in congregated settings.
- Increasing number of cases being detected in the community.
- Low stock status of personal protective equipment is still a problem.

Way Forward

- Advocate and strengthen Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC).
- Conduct intensive testing of high-risk population group and contacts of confirmed cases for COVID-19.
- Enhance technical support, coordination and timely and accurate information sharing at all levels.
- Strengthened collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- Intensify risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Enhance active surveillance for COVID-19 such as house-to-house case search and detection in the community.
- Intensification of a capacity building trainings and orientation including through virtual/online platforms.
- Strengthen and sustain essential health services other than COVID-19.

X. Public Health Policy Recommendation

Advice for the Public:

- For any individual confirmed to have COVID-19 and who is candidate for Home Based Isolation and Care:
 - Properly isolate from other family members.
 - Take full responsibility in prevention of transmission
 - Strictly adhere to the National Directive of Home-Based Isolation& Care.
 - Provide reliable information during regular follow up either by phone or home visit.
 - Report to nearest health facilities/follow up team in case of any emergency, appearance of new symptoms or worsening of existing symptoms.
- It is important to be informed of the situation and act appropriately to protect yourself and your family.
 - Wash hands frequently
 - Don't touch your mouth, nose or eye by unwashed hands
 - Keep physical distancing; avoid mass gathering and shaking hands.
- For most people, COVID-19 infection will cause mild illness however, it can make some people very ill and, in some people, it can be fatal.
- Older people, and those with pre-existing medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease or diabetes) are at risk for severe disease.
- If anybody had contact with a COVID-19 confirmed patient, he/she should call 8335 or 952 or report to regional toll-free lines or to the nearby health facilities.

National/Regional official websites, social media pages and toll-free hotline for COVID-19 information

MOH/EPHI/Region	Facebook page	Toll-free hotline
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	https://www.ephi.gov.et/	8335/952
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	https://twitter.com/EPHIethiopia	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	https://t.me/EthPHI	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvtzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw	
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Website	www.moh.gov.et	952
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/	
Afar Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/	6220
Amhara Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/	6981
Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/	6016

Gambela Regional Health Bureau	https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau	6184
Harari Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/	6864
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/	6955
Somali Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...	6599
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs	6929
Tigray Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/	6244
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/	6407
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/	6406

Health Evidence summary

Articles/Comment/ Correspondence/ Editorials	Summary
<p>Impact of COVID-19 mitigation measures on the incidence of preterm birth: a national quasi-experimental study https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(20)30223-1/fulltext</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,599,547 singleton neonates (56,720 births that occurred after implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures on March 9, 2020) were assessed to study the impact of the COVID-19 mitigation measures implemented in the Netherlands in a stepwise fashion on March 9, March 15, and March 23, 2020, on the incidence of preterm birth. Consistent reductions in the incidence of preterm birth were seen across various time windows surrounding March 9. Initial implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures was associated with a substantial reduction in the incidence of preterm births in the following months, in agreement with preliminary observations elsewhere.
<p>Lopinavir–ritonavir in patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19 (RECOVERY): a randomised, controlled, open-label, platform trial https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32013-4/fulltext</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1616 patients were randomly allocated to receive lopinavir–ritonavir and 3424 patients to receive usual care. Overall, 374 (23%) patients allocated to lopinavir–ritonavir and 767 (22%) patients allocated to usual care died within 28 days. lopinavir–ritonavir was not associated with reductions in 28-day mortality, duration of hospital stay, or risk of progressing to invasive mechanical ventilation or death. The study do not support the use of lopinavir–ritonavir for treatment of patients with COVID-19.
<p>Diagnosis of physical and mental health conditions in primary care during the COVID-19 pandemic: a retrospective cohort study. https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(20)30201-2/fulltext</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study was aimed to investigate the indirect effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on general practice health-care usage, and the subsequent diagnoses of common physical and mental health conditions in a deprived UK population. Diagnoses of common conditions decreased substantially between March and May 2020, suggesting a large number of patients have undiagnosed conditions. A rebound in future workload could be imminent as COVID-19 restrictions ease and patients with undiagnosed conditions or delayed diagnosis present to primary and secondary health-care services. Such services should prioritise the diagnosis and treatment of these patients to mitigate potential indirect harms to protect public health.
<p>Trustworthiness before Trust — Covid-19 Vaccine Trials and the Black Community https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2030033</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This paper addresses what the barriers are to greater participation of Black people in COVID-19 trials and how to overcome the barriers of trust.

COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:

Source	Link
WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) dashboard	https://covid19.who.int/
Africa CDC Dashboard, COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard	https://au.int/en/covid19
WHO COVID-19 daily situation reports	https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports
WHO Academy mobile learning app for health workers, COVID-19 information	Android- https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA Apple- https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873

8335 / 952



Call-Centers
FOR MORE INFO and
ALERT NOTIFICATION on
COVID-19



The above presented Quick Reader (QR) code takes you to a portal that you can access updates and all COVID-19 related information available (<https://www.ephi.gov.et/index.php/public-health-emergency/novel-corona-virus-update>)

DISCLAIMER

This weekly bulletin is produced based on figures pulled from official releases of the World Health Organization and activities and reports of all the sections under the Incident management System.

This Weekly Bulletin series of publications is published by the Ethiopian public health Institute (EPHI), public health emergency operation center (PHEOC). The aim of this bulletin is to inform decision makers within the institute and FMOH, UN agencies and NGOs about COVID-19 preparedness and response activities. All interested health and other professionals can get this bulletin at the Institute website; www.ephi.gov.et

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