



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 32 (August 09 – 15, 2021)

BULLETIN №: 68

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 45,486 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-32 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,114,870.
- A total of 5,183 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 52 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-32 bringing the total cases and death to 289,274 and 4,478 respectively.
- On August 15, 2021, there are 388 cases in severe condition which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (293).
- A total of 213,326 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 2,505 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-32.
- The number of COVID-19 cases, critical cases, deaths and the number of positive samples among the tested samples have shown dramatic increment in this week.

II. Subjects in Focus:

a) Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 2,311,076 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca or Sinopharm) are administered so far. The second dose of the vaccine jab is administered for 247,457 individuals (11%) who took the first dose.

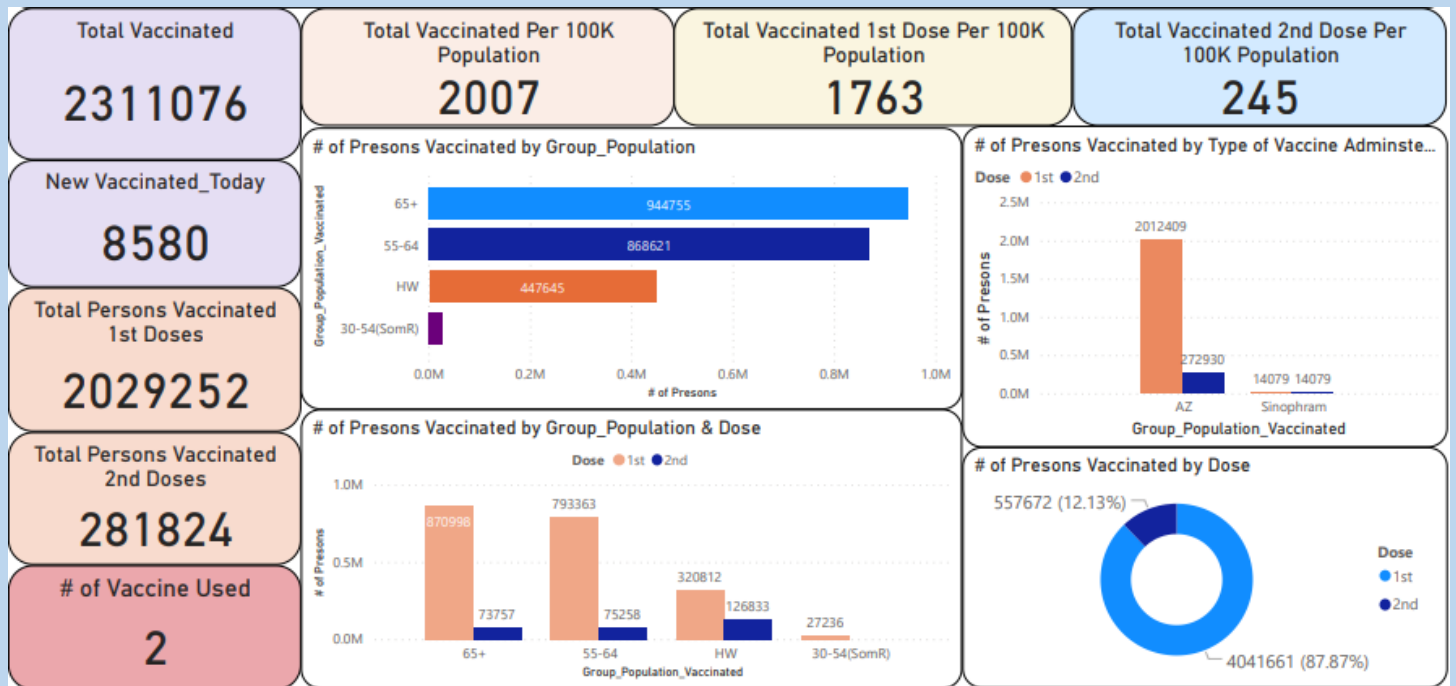


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of August 15, 2021

b) SARS-COV-2 new variants

- The new variants of SARS-COV-2 (Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest) are being detected in new countries and territories. Below are the incidence of the four variants of concern detected in various countries as of August 15, 2021.
 - Globally, cases of the Alpha variant have been reported in 190 (five new) countries, territories or areas, while 138 countries (one new country) reported cases of the Beta variant; 82 countries (one new country) reported cases of the Gamma variant; 148 countries (three new countries) reported cases of the Delta variant.
- Among the SARS-COV-2 Variants of Concern Alpha and Beta variants were detected in Ethiopia by the genomic sequencing conducted so far in Ethiopia and at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). The report regarding the new variants is already disclosed on July 13, 2021. Activities regarding genomic sequencing for other new variants, like Delta variant, are under way in Ethiopia.

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- Globally, over 5 million new cases are reported in the last week (Figure 2) which is a slight decrease as compared to the previous week.
- More than 98 thousand new deaths (a 6% increase compared to previous week) are reported globally in the Epi-week-32.
- As of August 15, 2021, a total of 199,795,857 COVID-19 cases and 4,133,044 deaths (CFR=2.07%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 5,534,057 cases and 98,319 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-32.
- Generally, the United States of America (USA) reported the highest number of cases followed by India.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (1,101,665 new cases), India (632,204 new cases), Brazil (496,318 new cases), the Islamic Republic of Iran (247,107 new cases) and the United Kingdom (179,689 new cases).
- In Africa, as of August 15, 2021, a total of 7,092,298 cases and 177,465 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.50%). Of these 282,464 cases (26% decrease compared to previous week) and 7,695 deaths (13% increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-32.
- In Africa, South Africa reported the highest number of cases followed by Morocco.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa. See the summary dashboard below.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

199,795,857

New Confirmed Cases_of Epi_Week Globally

5,534,057

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

4,133,044

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi_Week

98,319

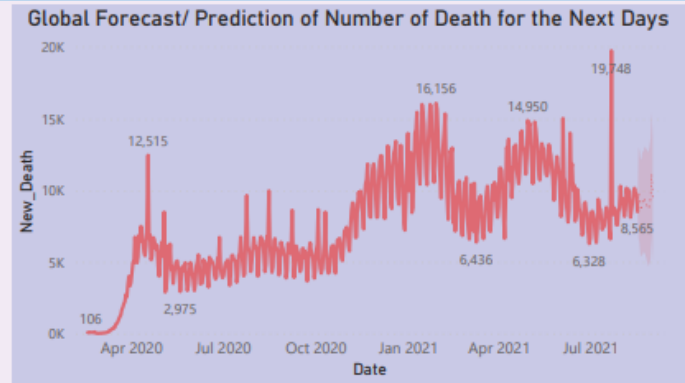
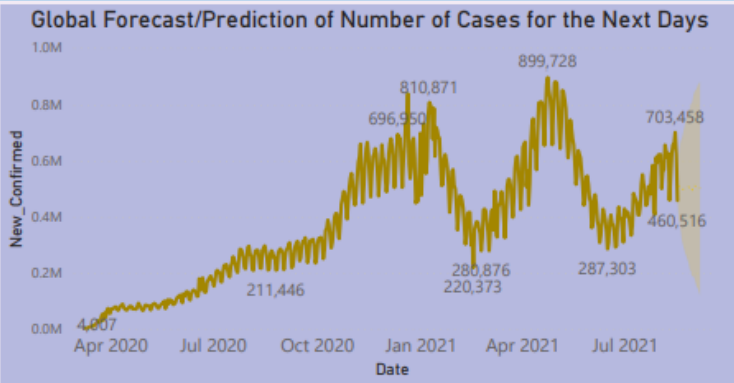
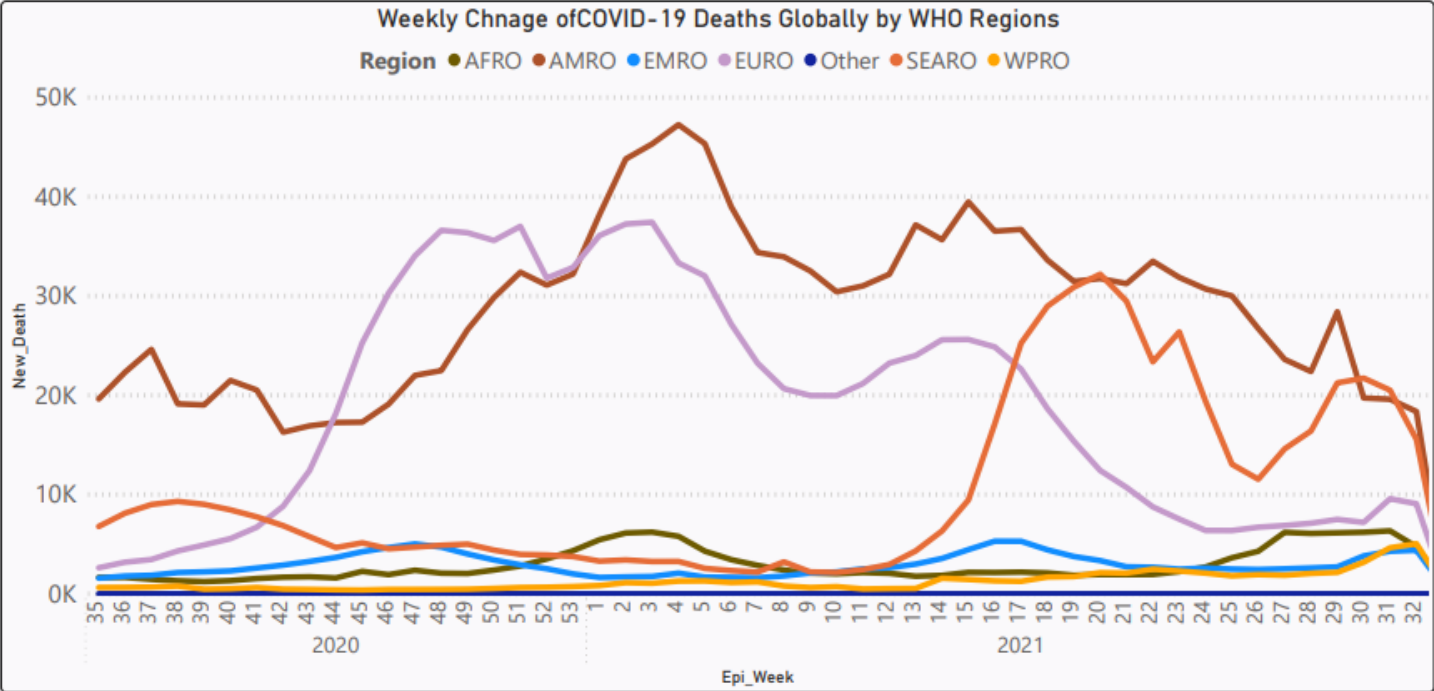
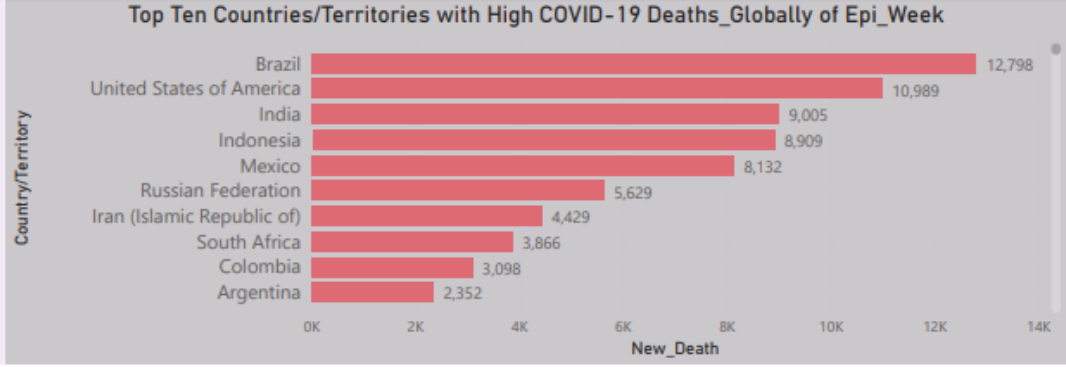
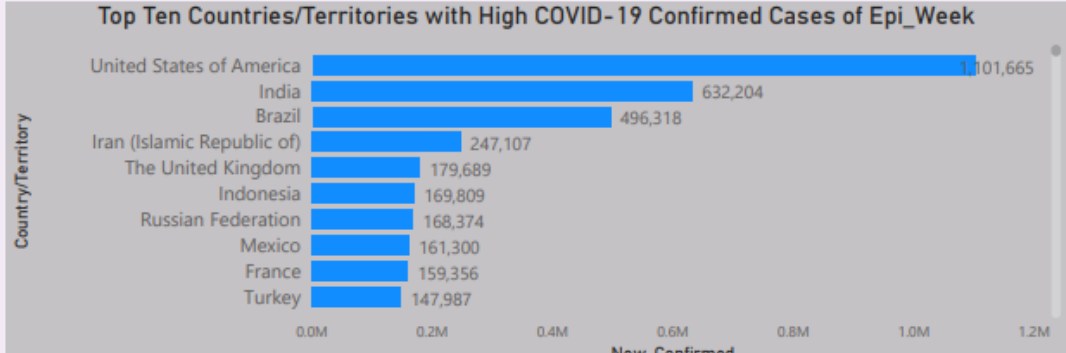


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of August 15, 2021 (Source: WHO)

Total Number of Cases Confirmed in Africa

7,092,298

New Confirmed Cases in Africa with COVID-19 of Epi_Week

282,464

New Cases in Last 7Days Per 100K Popn. in Africa

3178

Total Number of Deaths in Africa with COVID-19

177,465

New Deaths in Africa with COVID-19 in Epi_Week

7,695

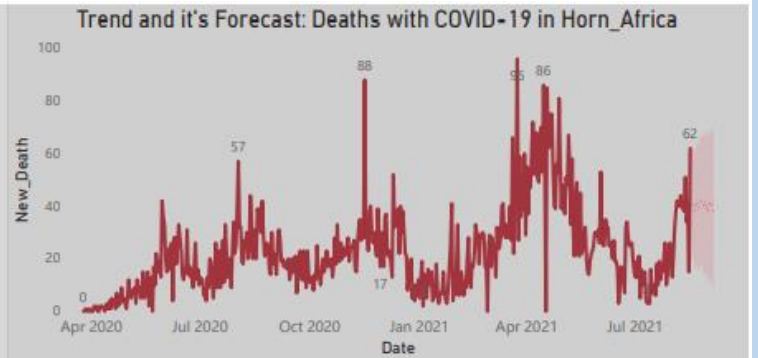
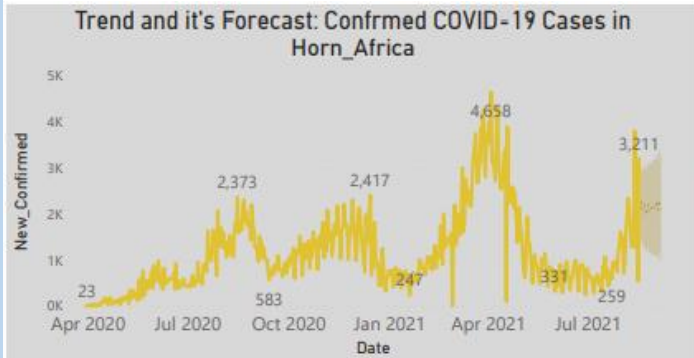
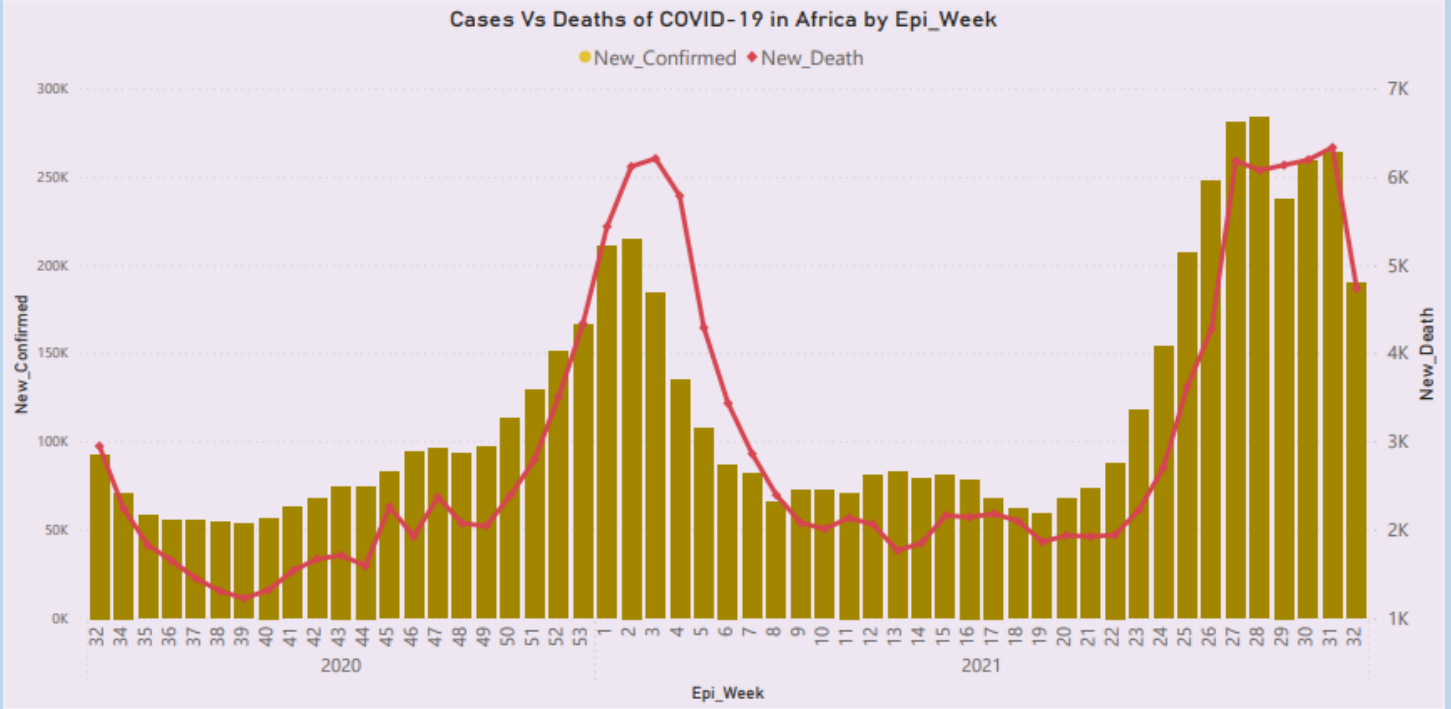
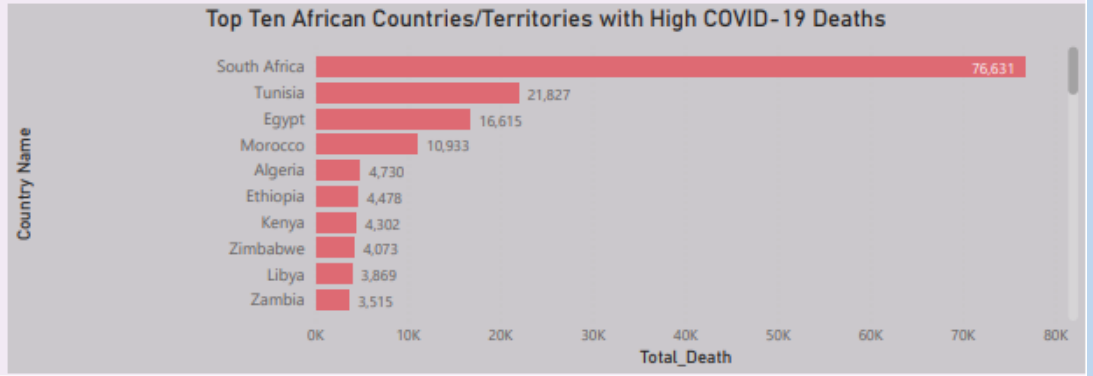
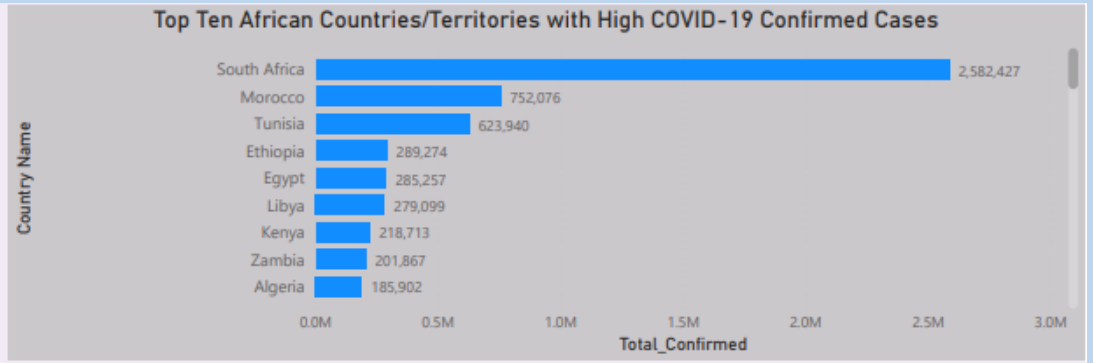


Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of August 15, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of August 15, 2021, a total of 289,274 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,478 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.55%. This puts Ethiopia in the fourth position by the number of confirmed cases and in the sixth position by the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Africa.
- Five-thousand-one-hundred-eighty-three (5,183) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 52 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-32.
- In this week, there is nearly 47% increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and there is a 44% (16 in number) increase in the number of deaths due to COVID-19.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

NB: Data from Tigray regional state is as of June 28, 2021.

Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the Epi-Week-32 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate	# of Recovery
Addis Ababa	36657	4741	429	43	12.7	591
Oromia	4325	282	23	4	6.4	91
SNNPR	1060	38	12	1	3.4	25
Gambella	834	5	0	0	0.5	0
Afar	786	21	0	0	1.7	1
Amhara	552	42	20	2	7.0	20
Harari	367	9	2	0	2.3	1
Sidama	268	30	15	0	11.0	15
Dire Dawa	255	9	2	0	3.8	3
Somali	226	6	7	2	3.0	0
Benishangul G	156	0	0	0	0.0	7
Tigray	0	0	0	0		0
Total	45486	5183	510	52	**** 5.2	754
**** Positivity Rate is the Averages of Regional Distributions						

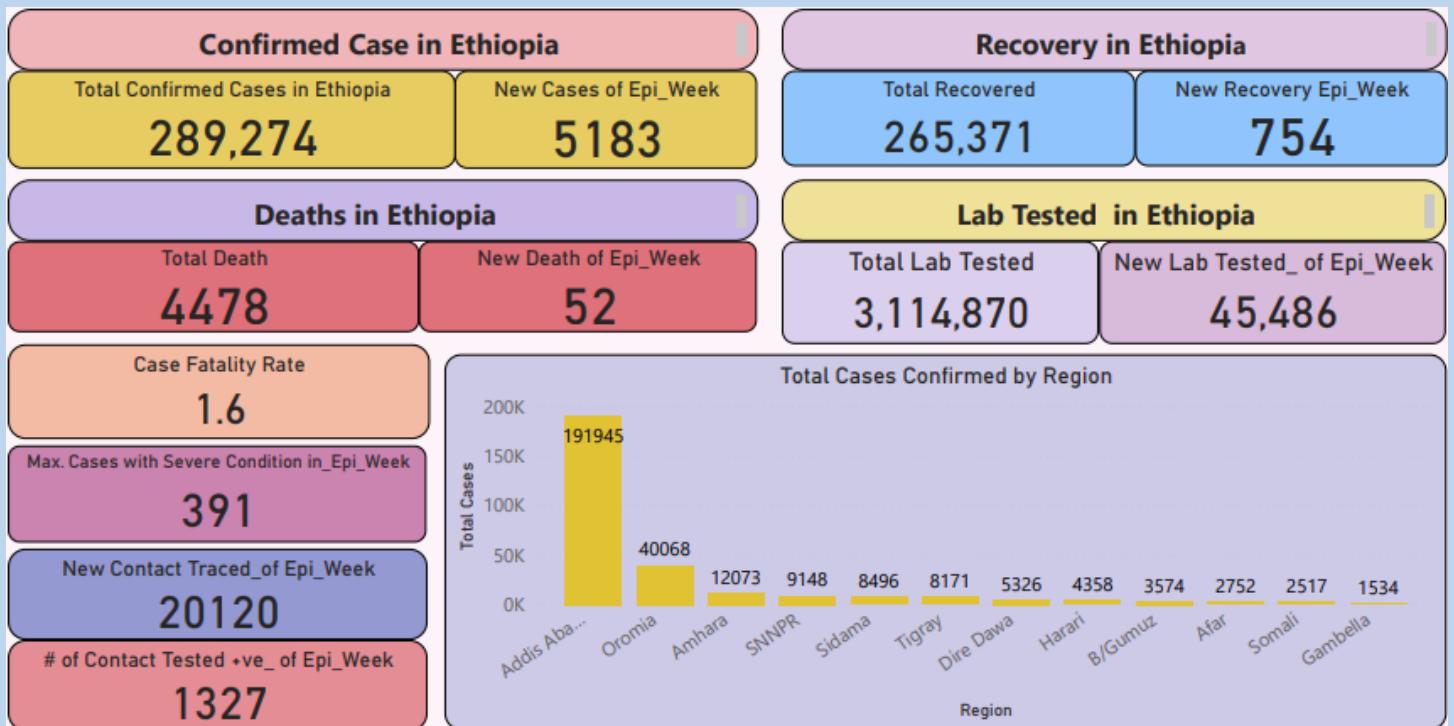


Figure 4: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of August 15, 2021, Ethiopia

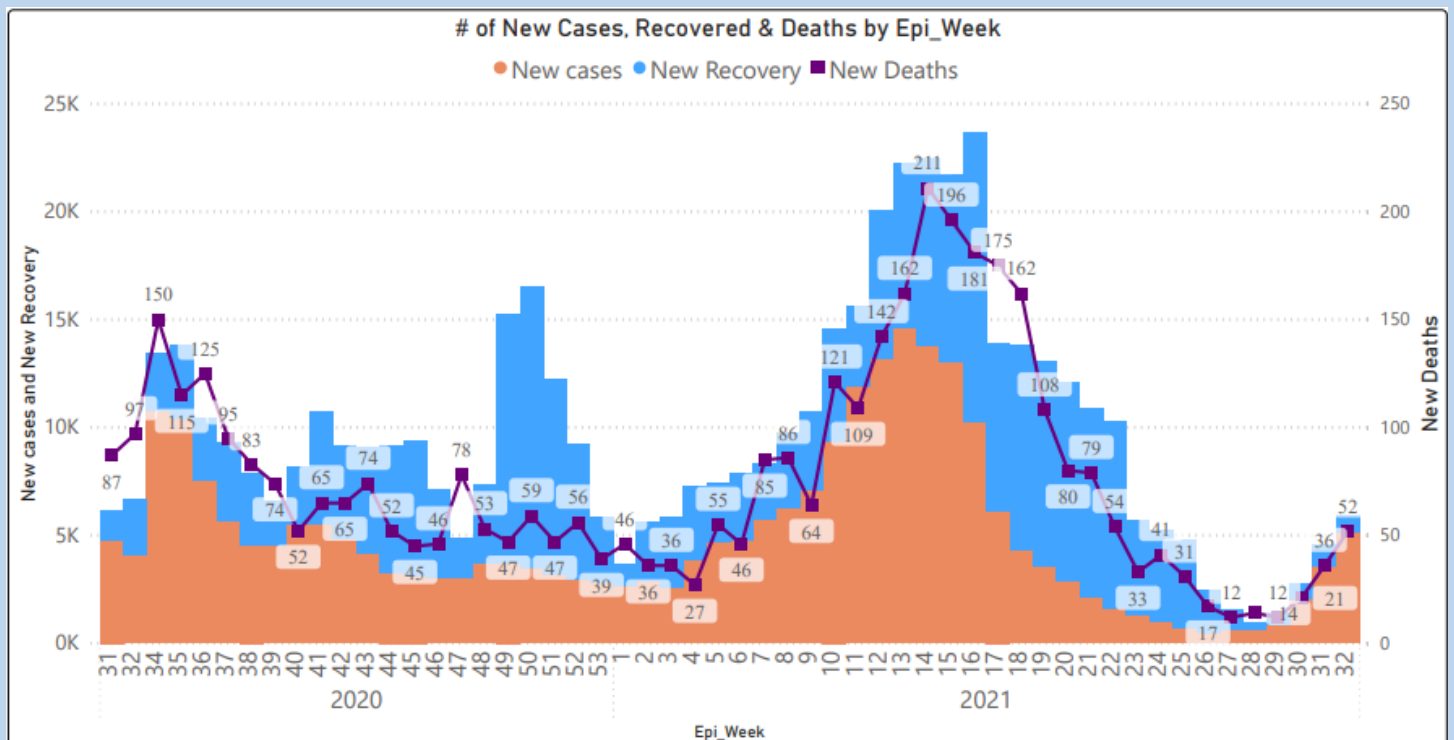


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of August 15, 2021, Ethiopia

c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), follow-up of international travelers, 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, contacts of confirmed cases, SARI/pneumonia cases and community members, surveillance and assessment in school and congregated setting communities.

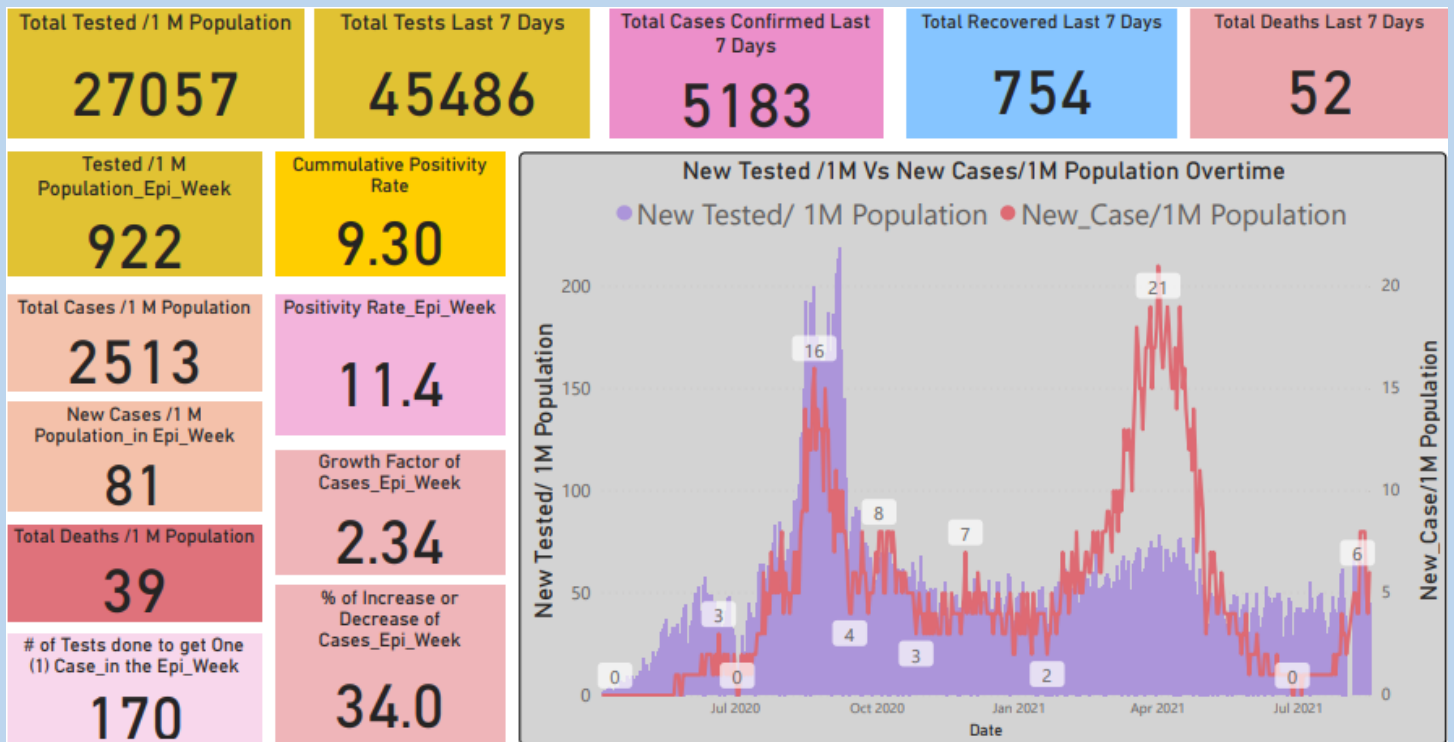


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of August 15, 2021.

i. Contact tracing and follow-up:

- Contact tracing is a key strategy for interrupting chains of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and reducing COVID-19-associated mortality.
- As of August 15, 2021:
 - A total of 380,179 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 1,161 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-32.
 - Of total contacts, 335,431 (88.41%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 2,834 contacts are still on follow-up.
 - All the contacts traced are from Addis Ababa city administration, SNNPR and Harari; no contact tracing activity is being conducted in other regions.
- Overall, 42,691 (11.22%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 14.76% of the total cases.

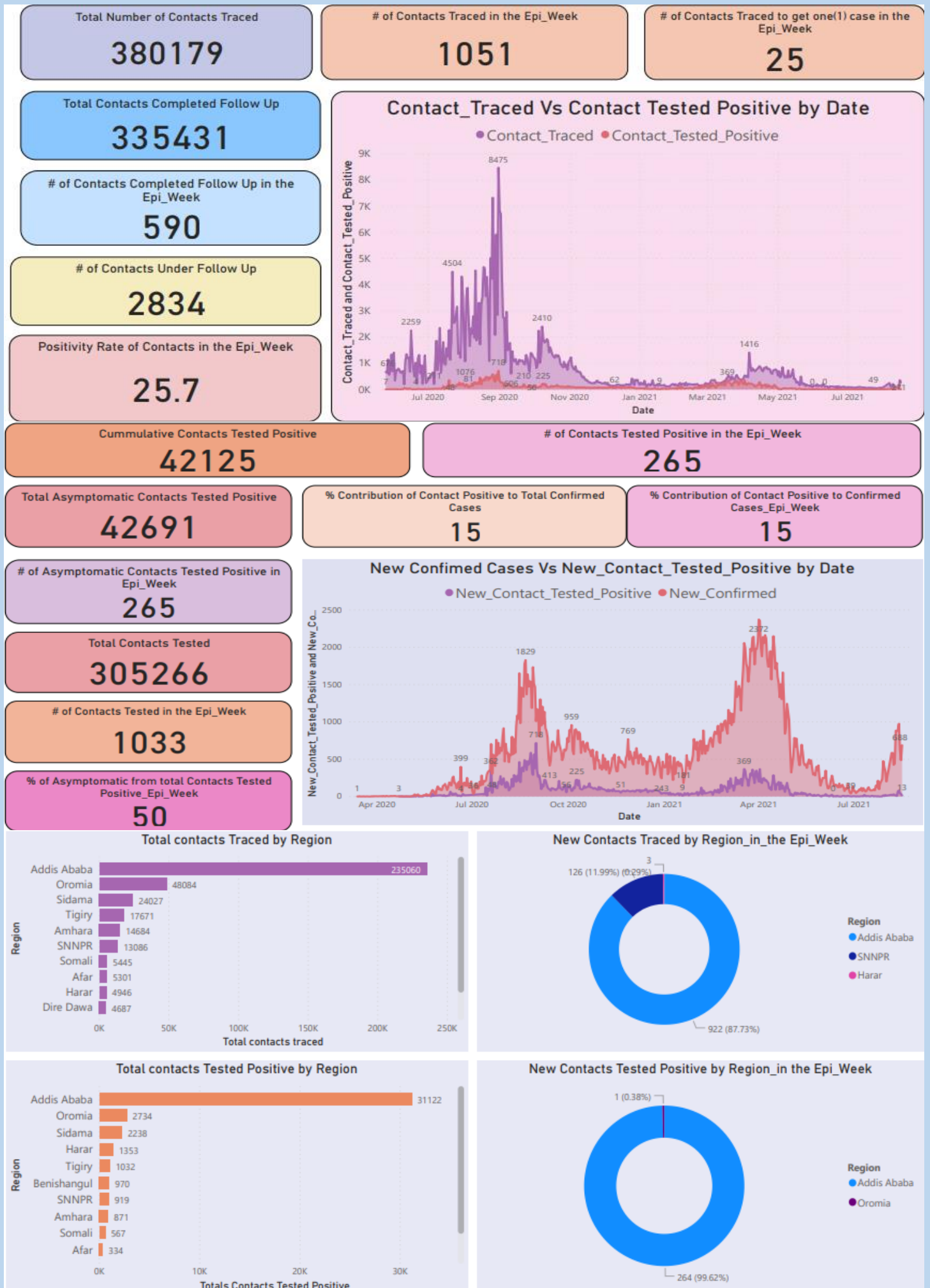


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of August 15, 2021, Ethiopia.

ii. Rumors collection and verification from all sources

- COVID-19 related rumors are received from different sources: Call centers, Health facilities, Contact follow up, Self-report, Travelers follow up, Point of Entry (PoE), Community surveillance and Special Settings.
- As of August 15, 2021:
 - 392,871 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 18,232 rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-32.
 - 279,089 (71.04%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 94,637 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

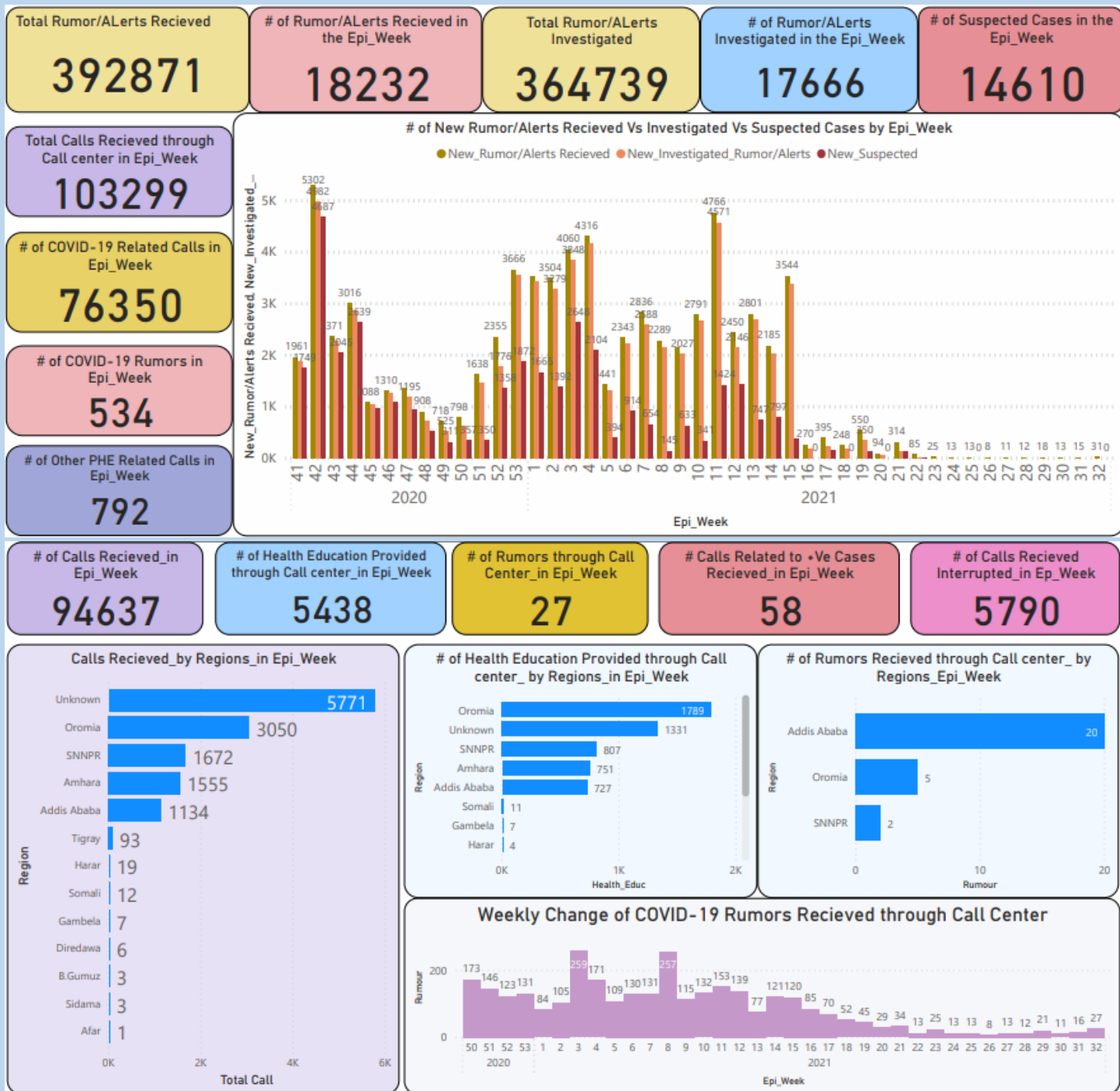


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of August 15, 2021, Ethiopia.

iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,544,215 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 786,307 (32%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 27,240 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-32.
- As of August 15, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 51 (none in Epi-week-31) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 91 SARS-COV-2 positive cases have been detected by RT-PCR after arrival laboratory test.
- Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT) for COVID-19 is also started at Bole International Airport for returnees. The Ag-RDT was started on July 07, 2021. So far, 516 tests are conducted among which 39 positive cases are detected as of August 15, 2021.
- A total of 55,719 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. No returnee was received in the Epi-week-32. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. All the returnees are discharged and there is no returnee currently in returnees' centers as of August 15, 2021.

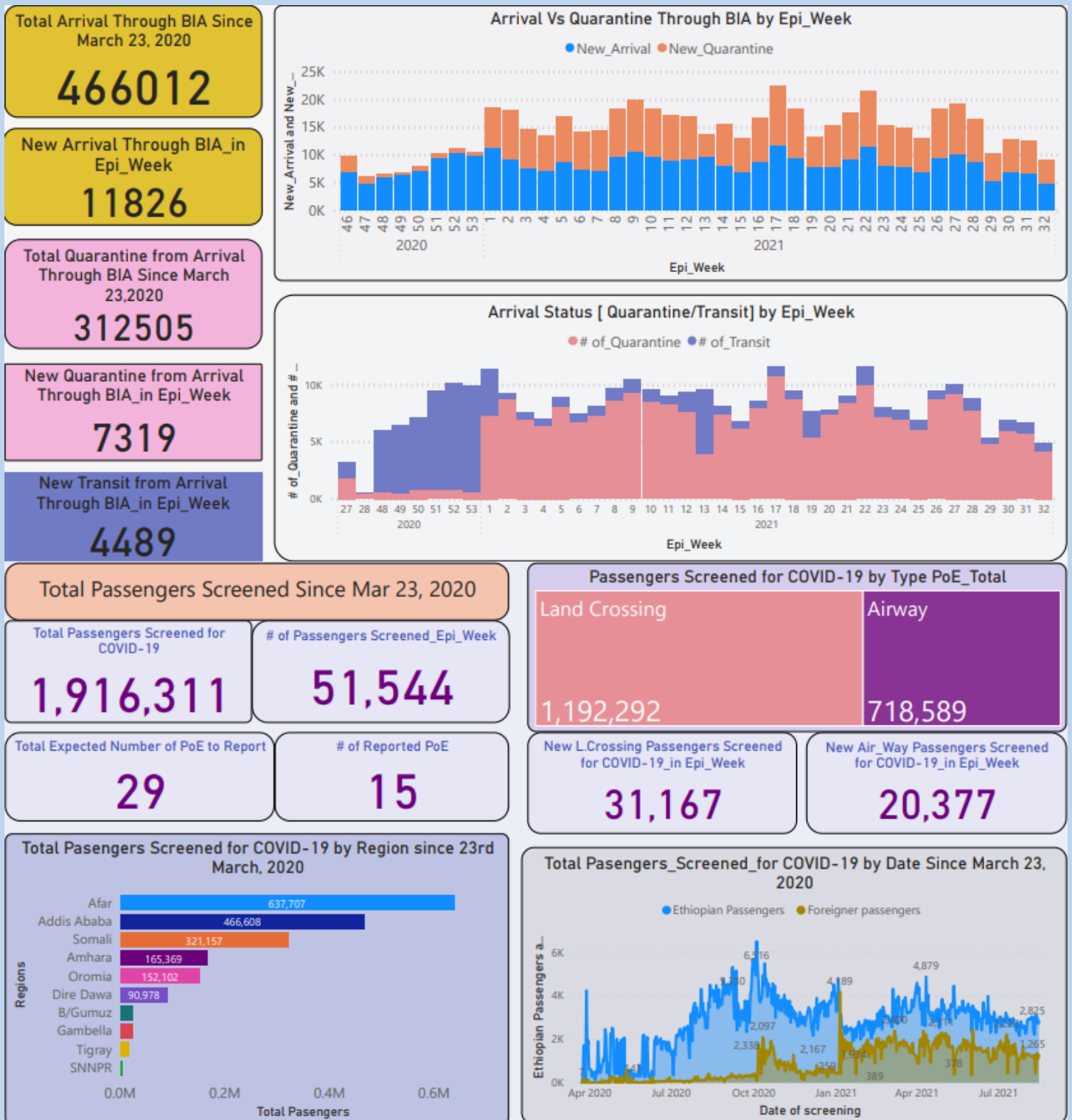


Figure 9: Summary of Passengers screening for COVID-19 as of August 15, 2021, Ethiopia.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 15 August 2021, a total of 3,114,870 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 45,486 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-32 which is an equivalent increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week. The high number of Rapid Diagnostic Tests done by Ag-RDT may have a great contribution for this increment in the number of laboratory tests.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-32 is 11.39%, which is higher than that of the preceding week (7.70%).

- Addis Ababa city administration, Sidama, Amhara and Oromia regional states have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 11 below).
- COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT) is also being performed nationally. Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 153,475 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 10,837 is performed in the Epi-week-32 (figure 10 below).

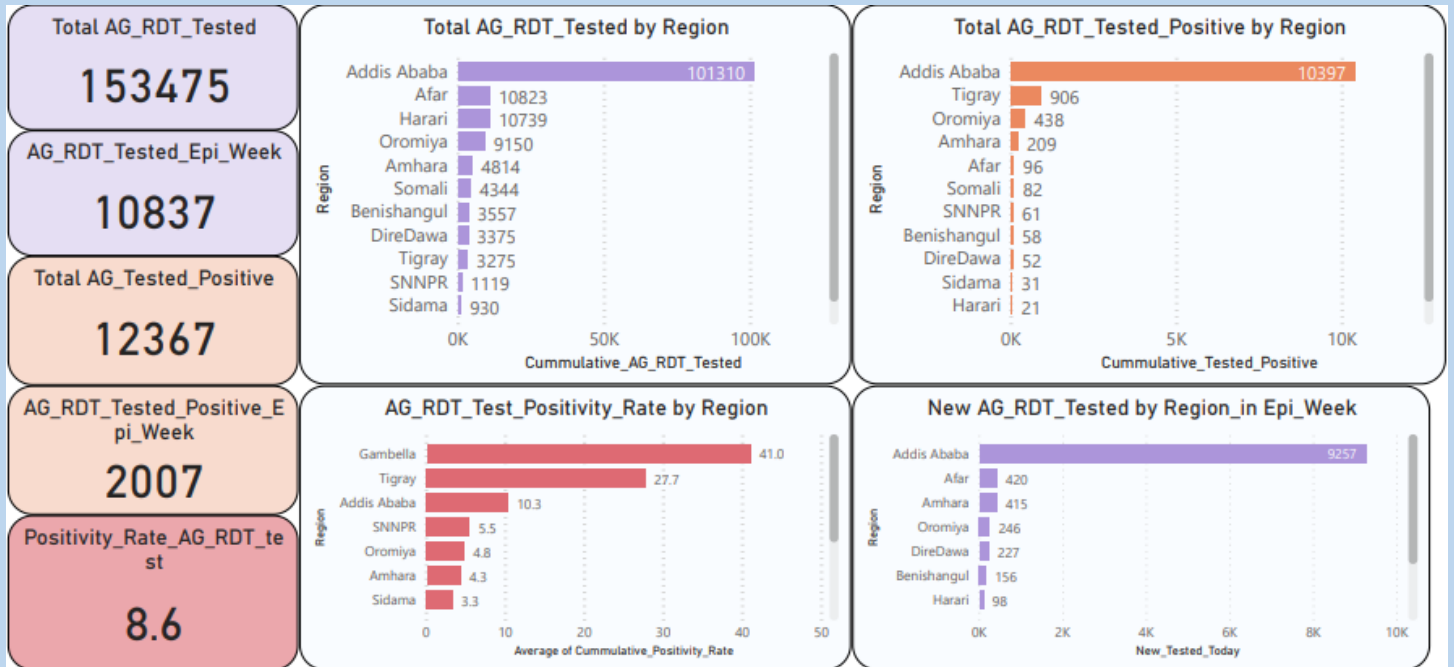
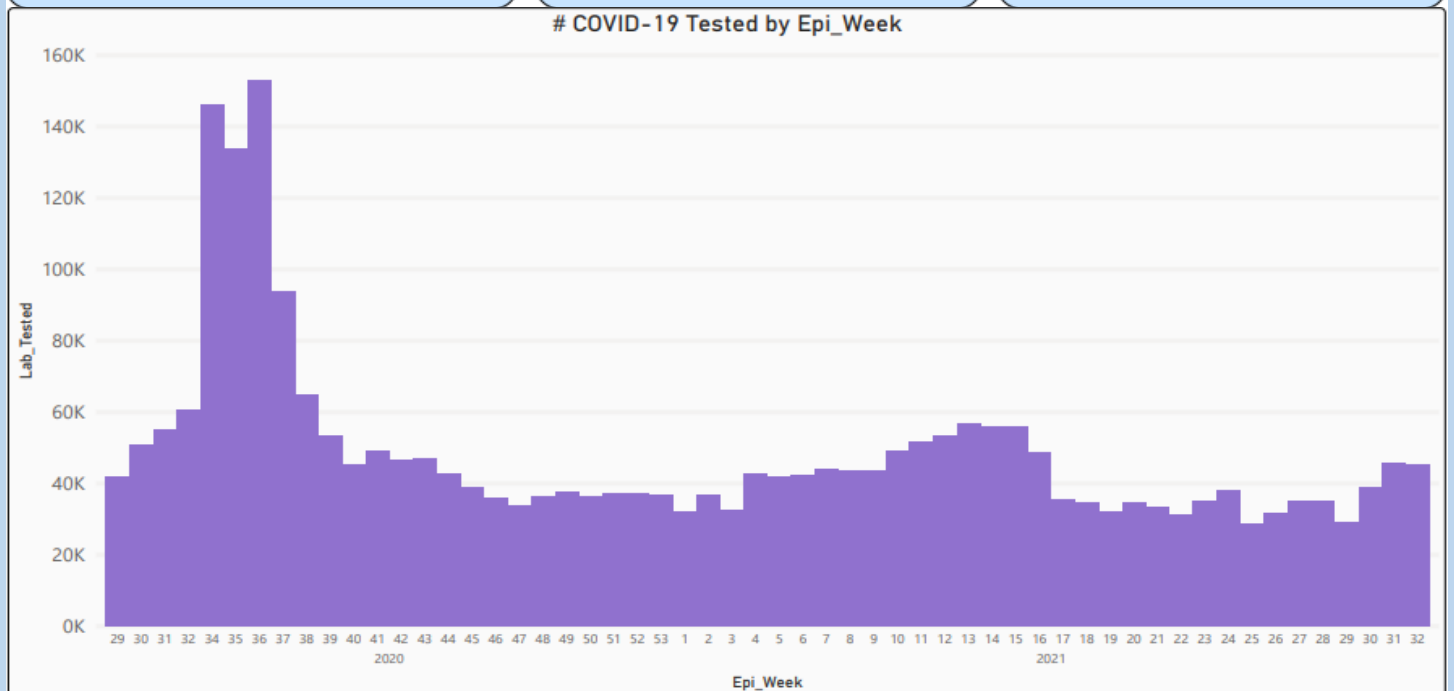
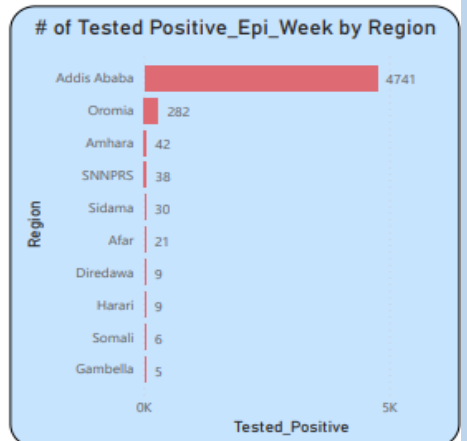
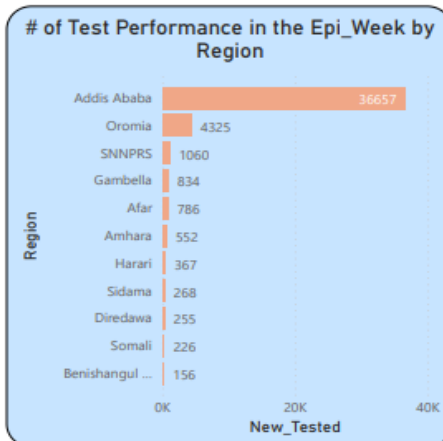
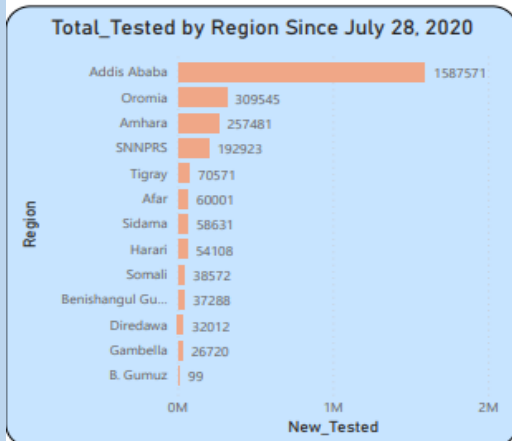
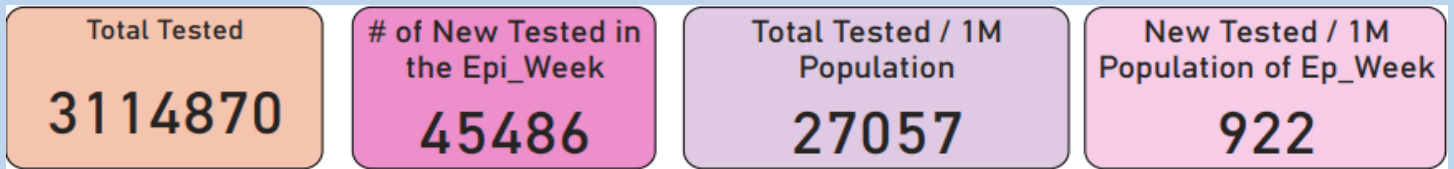


Figure 10: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of August 15, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	36657	4741	43	12.6
Oromia	4325	282	4	6.5
SNNPRS	1060	38	1	3.5
Gambella	834	5	0	0.6
Afar	786	21	0	1.8
Amhara	552	42	2	7.0
Harari	367	9	0	2.3
Sidama	268	30	0	10.9
Diredawa	255	9	0	3.9
Somali	226	6	2	2.9
Benishangul Gumuz	156	0	0	0.0
B. Gumuz	0	0	0	
Tigray	0	0	0	
Total	45486	5183	52	5.2

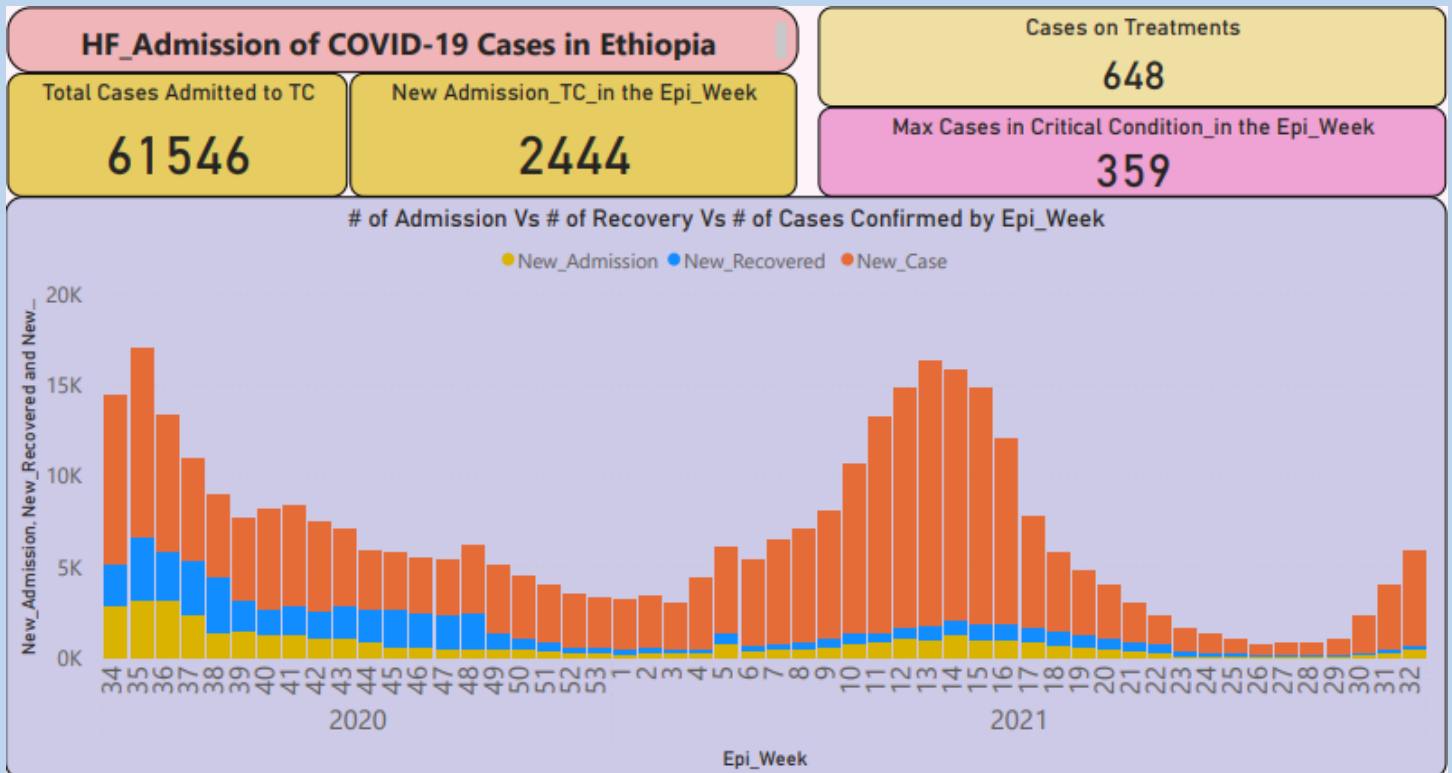
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distrn of Rates

Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of March August 15, 2021, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 754 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-32, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 265,371 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 92%.
- The number of cases in severe condition has begun increasing for the last three consecutive weeks. On August 15, 2021, there are 388 cases in severe condition which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (293).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 12: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of August 15, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of August 15, 2021

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	191302	402	30929	43	2387	26862	576	354
Oromia	40044	77	7336	8	512	6789	37	21
Amhara	12065	0	4592	2	258	4312	10	6
SNNPR	9146	0	4415	0	151	4292	8	4
Sidama	8487	7	3446	2	161	3216	8	2
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5222	0	0
Dire Dawa	5326	0	1188	0	68	1115	3	0
Harari	4357	0	1280	0	152	1122	2	1
Benishangul G	3574	0	898	0	19	873	2	0
Afar	2752	0	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2517	0	664	2	58	601	2	0
Gambella	1533	0	682	0	8	649	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 213,326 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 209,616 (98.26%) have recovered and 36 (0.017%) died.
- Of these, 2,505 cases have been enrolled to HBIC, 523 cases have recovered and one case died in the Epi-Week-32.
- As of August 15, 2021, there are 4,456 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 1,720 (51 in the Epi-week-32) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 944 (23 in the Epi-week-32) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

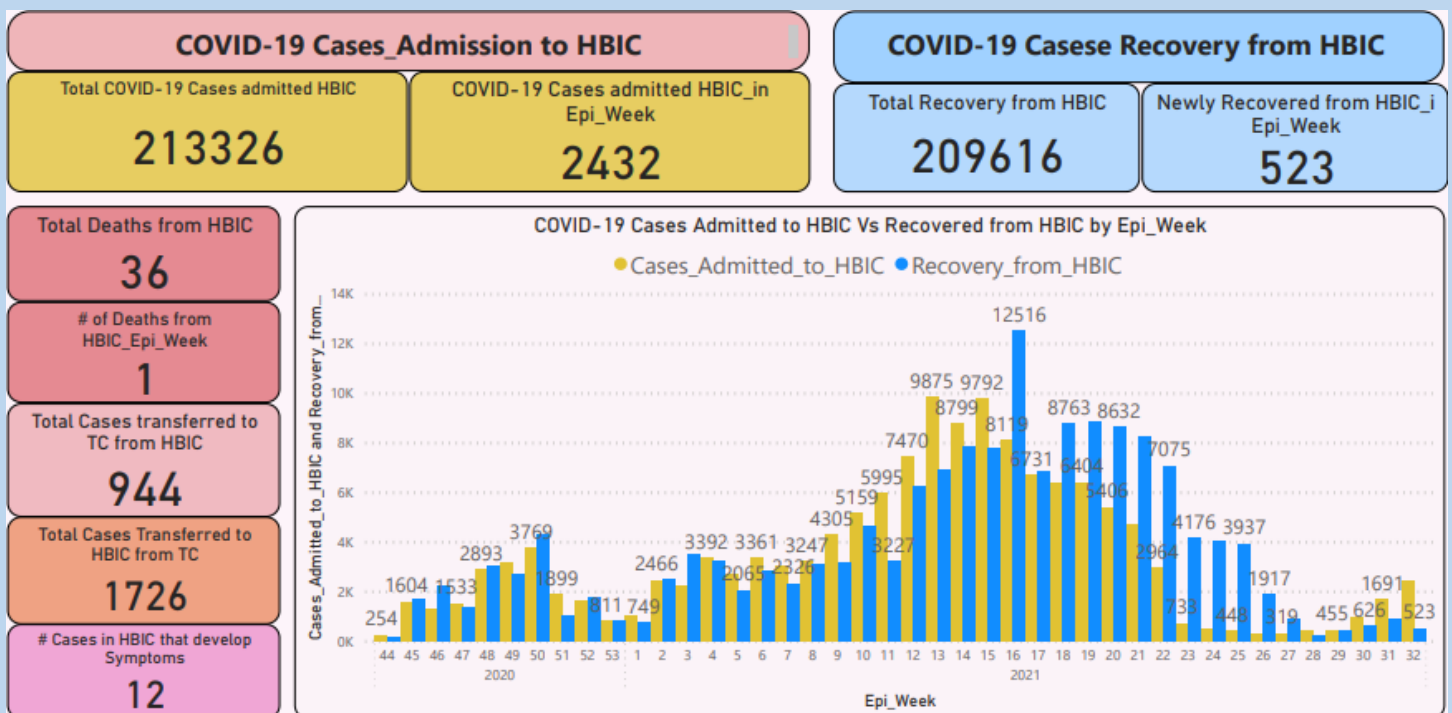


Figure 13: Summary of COVID-19 Home Based Isolation and Care in Ethiopia, as of August 15, 2021.

VI. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Media (mass media and social media) monitoring on COVID-19 related information is ongoing.
- Panel discussions and interviews in national radio and televisions has been conducted regarding current COVID-19 situation and news variants of SARS-COV-2.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.

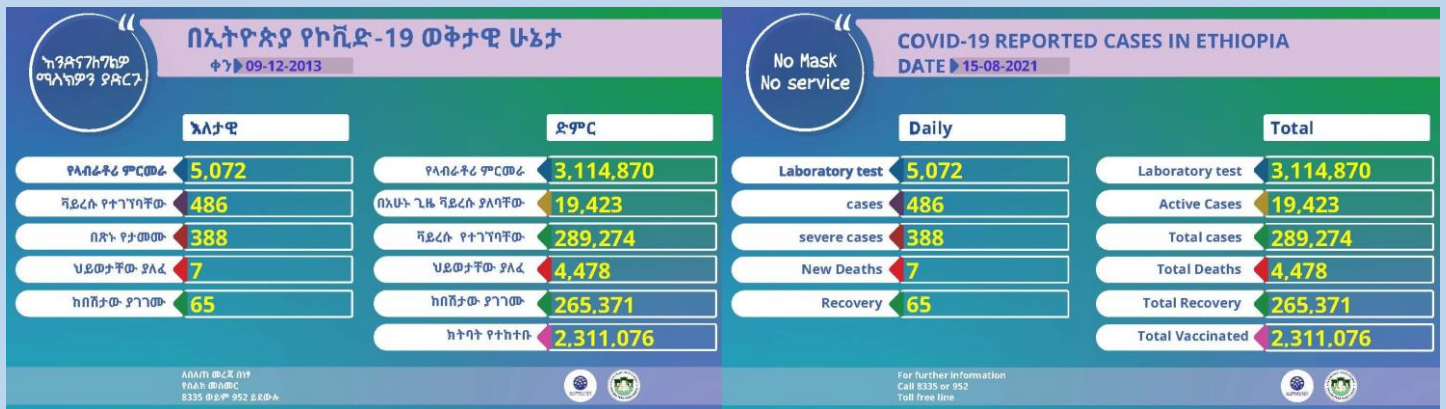


Figure 14: COVID-19 situation update as of August 15, 2021 shared on social media.

VII. 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.
- Weekly joint meeting is ongoing, every Tuesday, among the national and regional Emergency Operations Centers COVID-19 response IMS (incident management system) to evaluate weekly COVID-19 situations, progress of response strategies, challenges faced and way forwards.

VIII. Challenges and Way Forward

a. Challenges

- Dramatic increment of the cases and deaths
- Surge of severe cases which may results in shortage of critical care capacity
- Poor adherence to the public health and social measures by public figures and leaders.
- Poor attention given to COVID-19 at all levels by all responsible bodies.
- Weak law enforcement efforts to enhance adherence to COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Lack of full information on circulating variant and circulation of Alpha and Beta variants.
- Low stock status of personal protective equipment and laboratory supplies.
- COVID-19 vaccine related misinformation and hesitancy.
- Very low performance of the revitalization plan
- Very low utilization of Antigen-Rapid Diagnostic Test kits by facilities despite its distribution to all regions and capacity building activities.

b. Way Forward

- Enhancing law enforcement to enhance public health and social measures by all responsible bodies.

- Continuing the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Genomic surveillance establishment, networking and strengthening.
- Intensifying risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Strengthening collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- Advocating and strengthening Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC).
- Conducting intensive testing of high-risk population group and contacts of confirmed cases for COVID-19.
- Enhancing technical support, coordination and timely and accurate information sharing at all levels.
- Enhancing 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.
- Strengthening and sustaining other essential health services besides COVID-19.
- Enhancing performance and follow up on Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits from regional COVID-19 testing sites.
- Conduct 'I have a stake' Initiatives at selected sector offices and launch the theme '*I have a stake to prevent further impacts and spread of new variants*' in each sectors based on organizational structure and culture.

IX. 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;
 - Get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- 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	Email address (PHEOCs email)
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	https://www.ephi.gov.et/	8335/952	ephieoc@gmail.com
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/UCvTzeY-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	afarpheoc@gmail.com
Amhara Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/	6981	aphieoc@gmail.com
Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/	6016	bgpheoc@gmail.com
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau	6184	gambellapheoc@gmail.com
Harari Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/	6864	hrrhpheoc@gmail.com
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/	6955	oromiapheoc@gmail.com
Somali Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...	6599	somalipheoc@gmail.com
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs	6929	snnppheoc@gmail.com
Tigray Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/	6244	tigraypheoc@gmail.com
Sidama PHEM			sidamapheoc@gmail.com
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/	6407	ddpheoc@gmail.com
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/	6406	aapheoc@gmail.com

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

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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://covid19.ephi.gov.et/covid-19/>)

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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