



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 02 (January 10 – 16, 2022)

BULLETIN No. 90

I. Highlights

- The national COVID-19 response IMS operating at national Public Health Emergency Operations Center is conducting integrated supportive supervision in the regional counterparts.
- A total of 64,802 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-02 bringing the total number of samples tested to 4,255,823.
- A total of 13,198 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 117 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-02 bringing the total cases and death to 457,322 and 7,147 respectively.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 443 which is equivalent to the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (442).
- A total of 333,946 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 38,975 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-02.
- In WHO's most recent global rapid risk assessment the global public health risk was assessed as remaining very high.

II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 10,965,020 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 8,889 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 4,028,274 (37%) people are fully vaccinated.

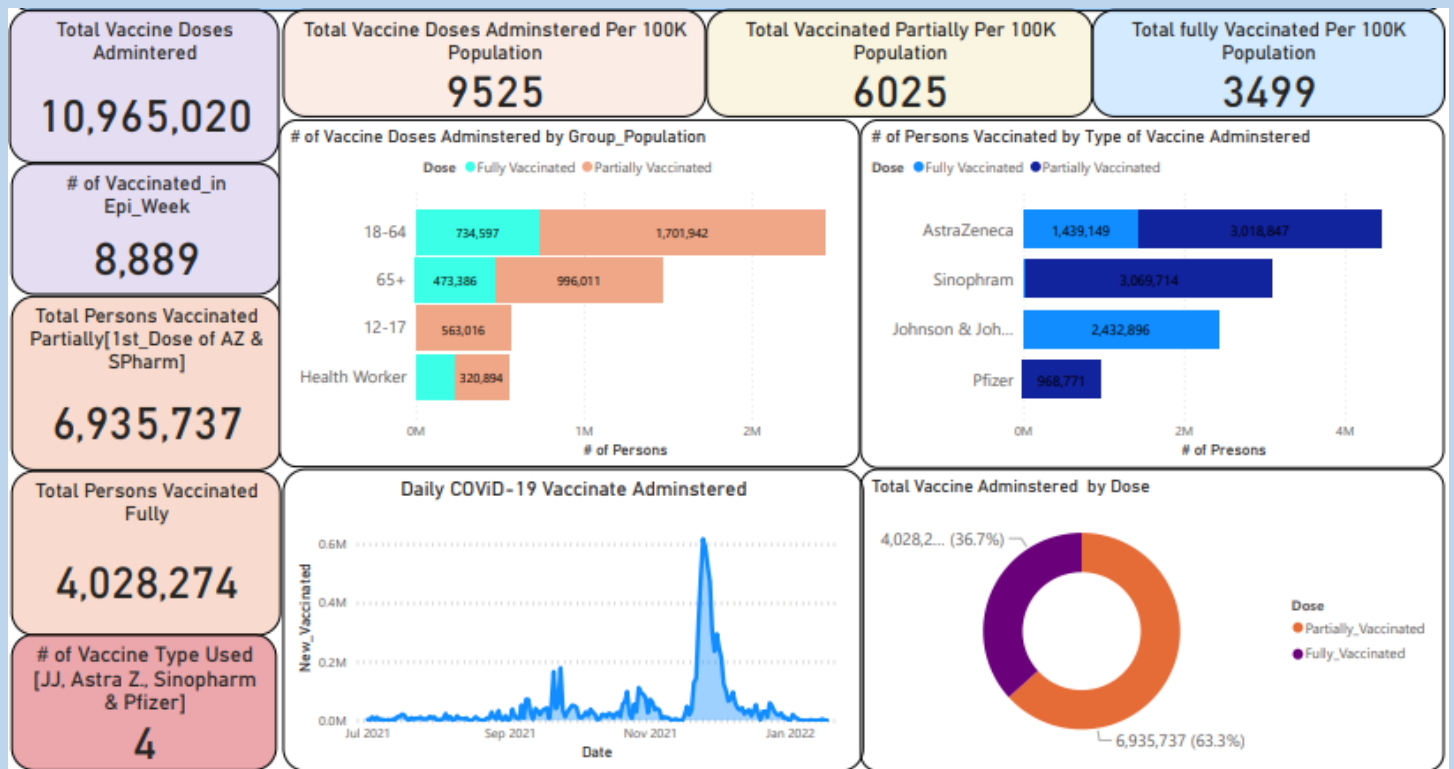


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of January 16, 2022

III. Epidemiological Situation

a. Global Situation

- In WHO's most recent global rapid risk assessment, conducted on 07 January 2022, the global public health risk was assessed as remaining very high.
- Globally, both the number of weekly COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths due to COVID-19 have increased.
- Over 18 million new cases and over 45,000 new deaths were reported during the week of January 10 – 16, 2022. The number of confirmed cases in this week increased by 40% as compared to the previous week while the number of deaths increased by 4% compared to the previous week.
- As of January 16, 2022, a total of 308,868,039 COVID-19 cases and 5,224,440 deaths (CFR=1.69%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 18,465,496 cases and 45,541 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-02.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (4,708,863 new cases), France (2,008,878 new cases), India (1,594,160 new cases), Italy (1,268,153 new cases) and The United Kingdom (813,326 new cases).
- In Africa, as of January 16, 2022, a total of 10,236,069 cases and 227,642 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.22%). Of these, 276,917 cases (2% decrease compared to the previous week) and 4,542 deaths (10% decrease compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-02.
- In Africa, the highest number of confirmed cases are reported from South Africa followed by Morocco.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa.

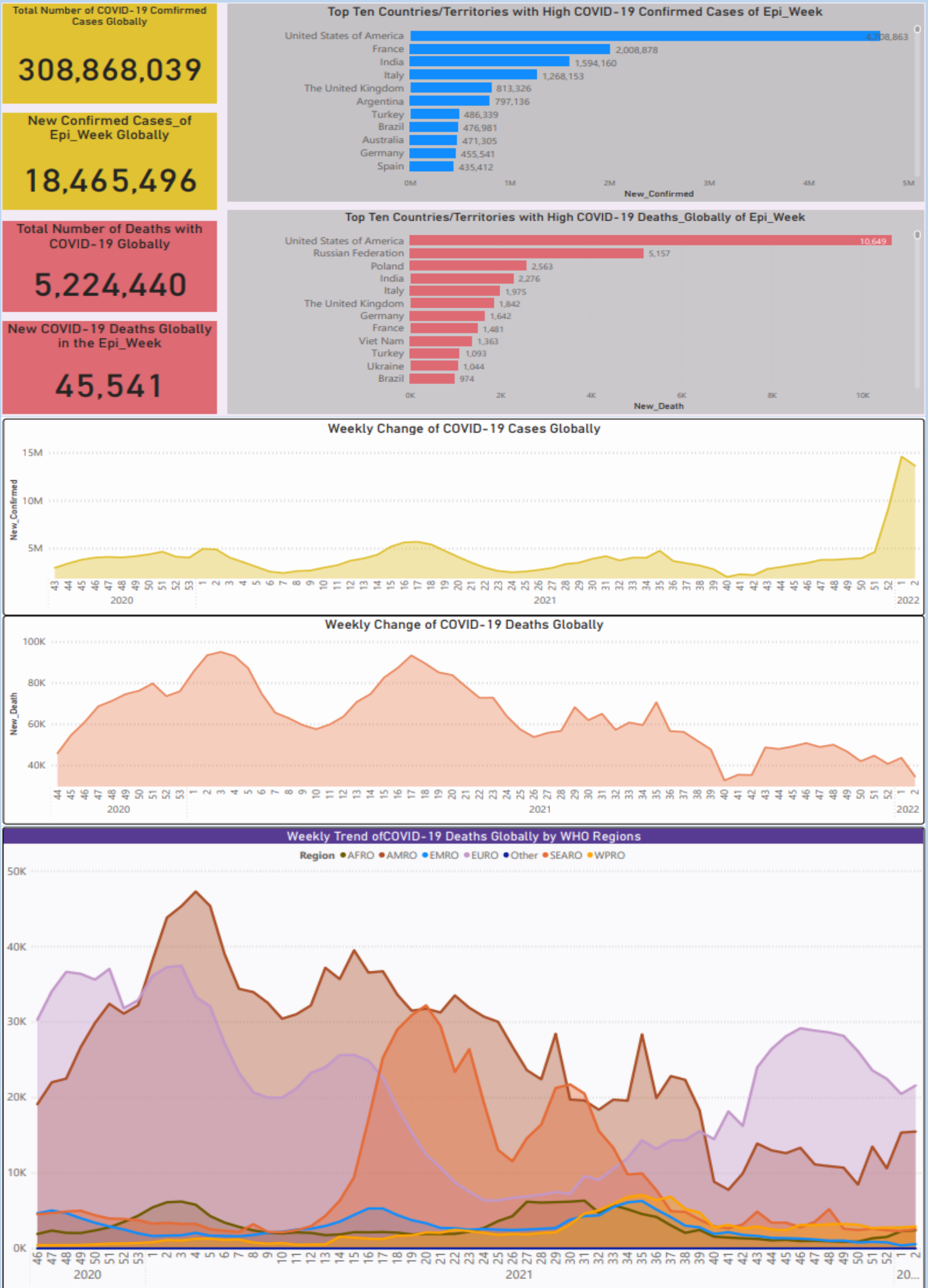
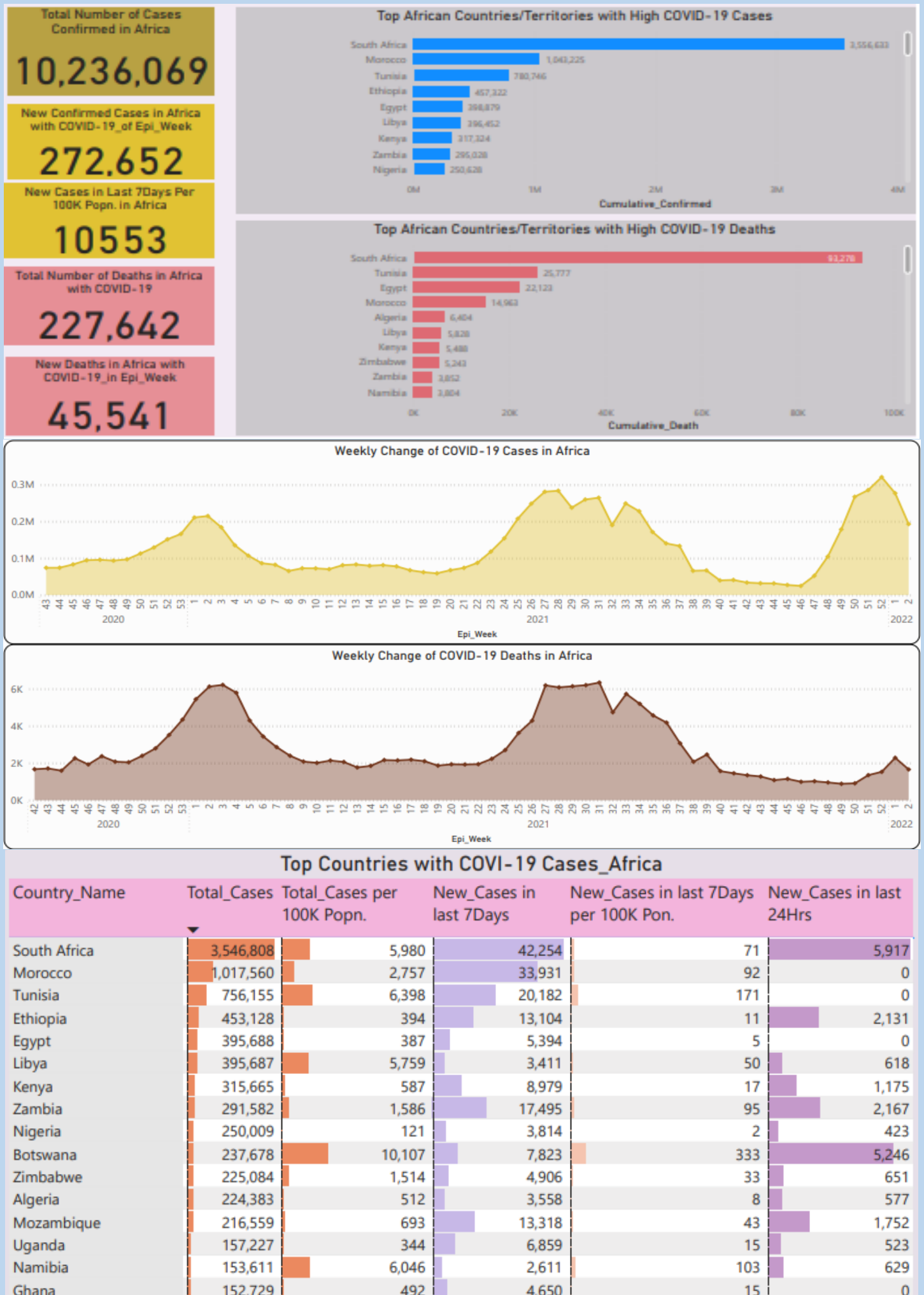


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of January 16, 2022 (Source: WHO)



b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of January 16, 2022, a total of 457,322 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 7,147 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.56%.
- Thirteen-thousand-one-hundred-ninety-eight (13,198) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 117 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-02.
- In this week, there is 24% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 63% increase in the number of deaths due to COVID-19 compared to the previous week.
- 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-02 of 2022

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	31598	5305	314	57	17.0
Oromia	14619	4054	275	31	27.3
SNNPR	7746	1440	46	11	18.1
Dire Dawa	2503	305	17	2	12.3
Harari	1688	332	14	2	20.0
Benishangul G	1505	469	2	0	30.5
Sidama	1152	282	13	1	21.0
South West	1146	490	0	0	41.8
Afar	875	35	0	0	4.0
Somali	798	110	0	0	12.2
Amhara	763	285	66	13	36.1
Gambella	409	91	0	0	17.5
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
Total	64802	13198	747	117	20.9

**** Positivity Rate is the Averages of Regional Distributions

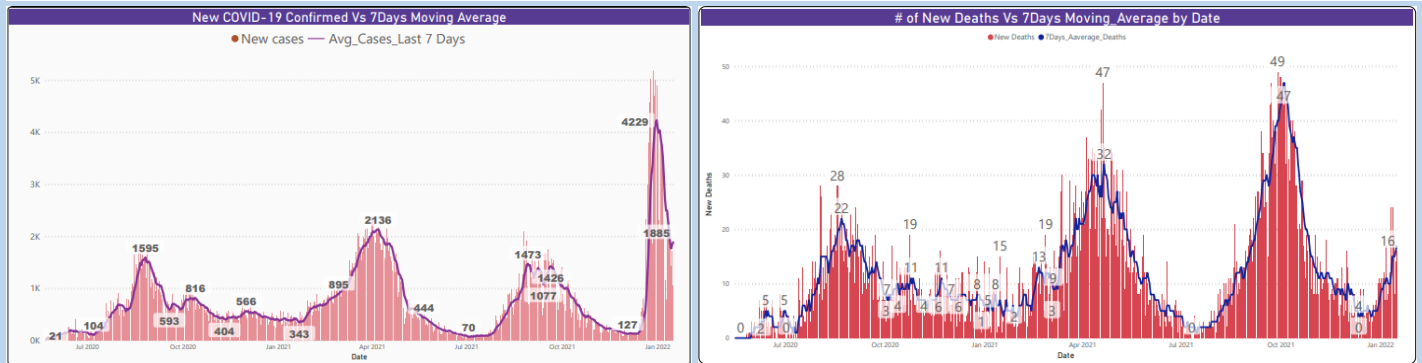
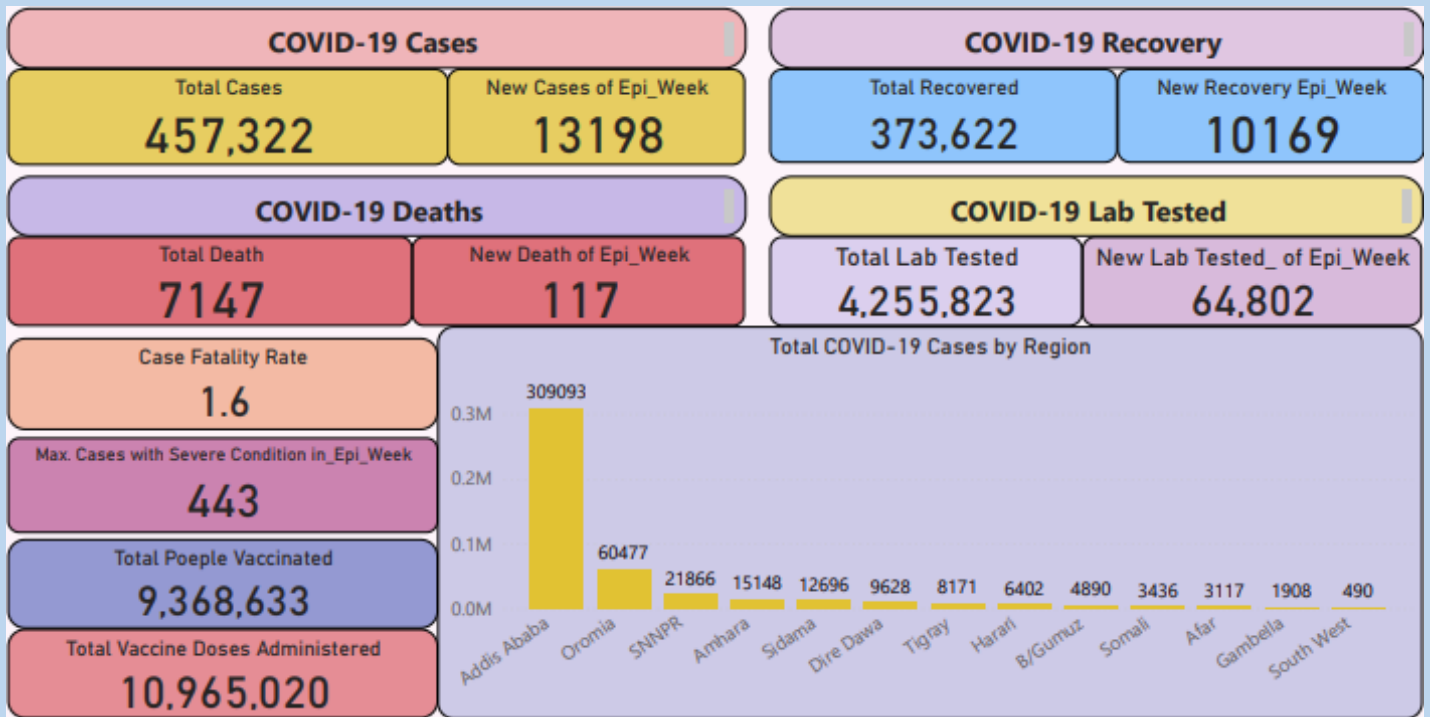


Figure 4: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 16, 2022, Ethiopia

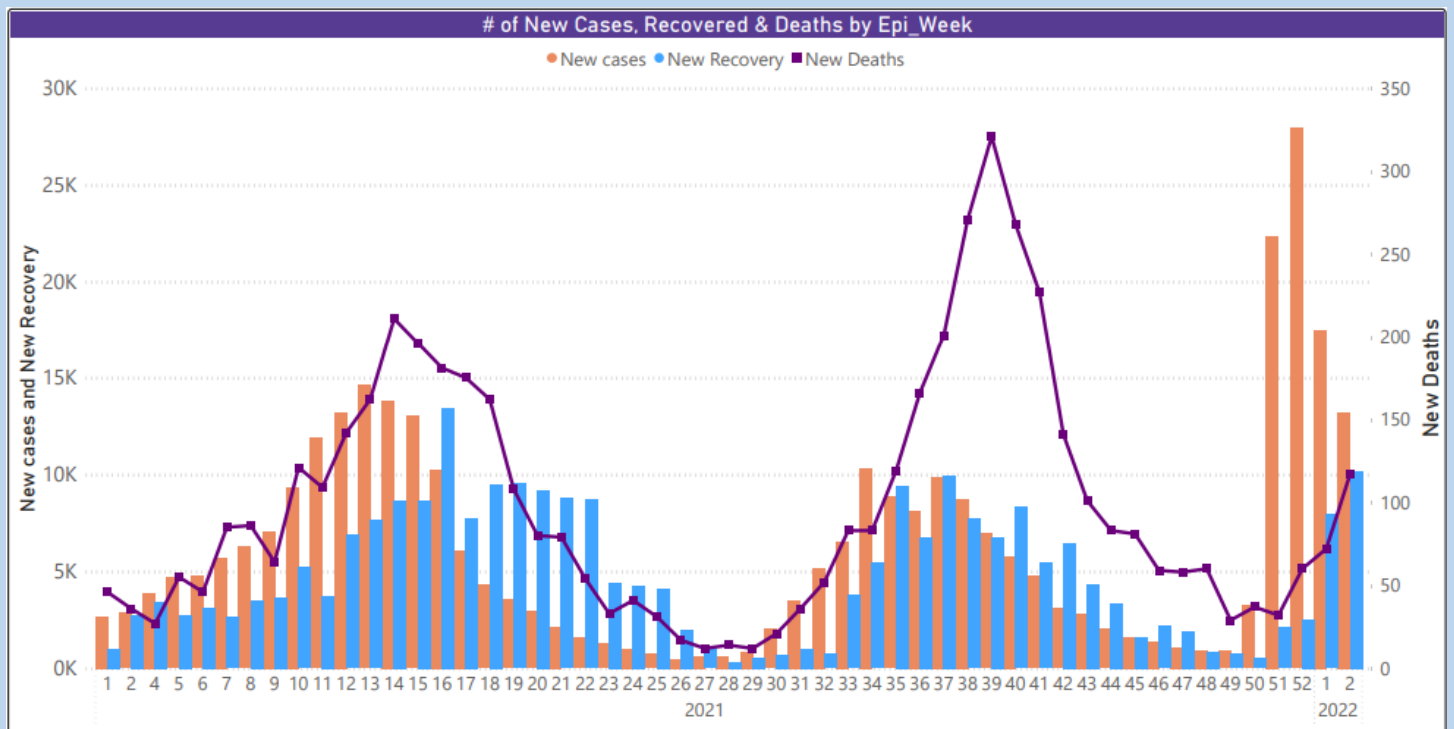


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of January 16, 2022, Ethiopia

c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), rumor collection, verification, investigation and information provision via toll free call center 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.

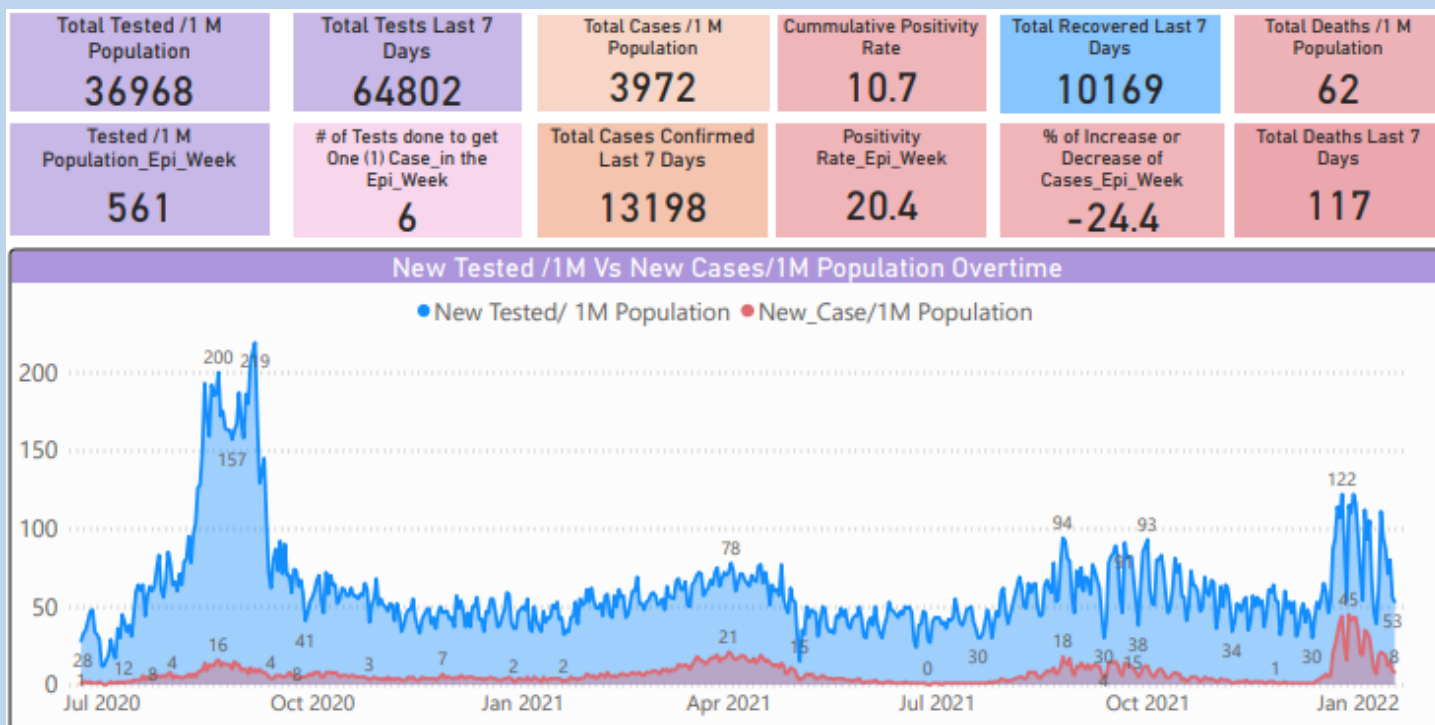


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 16, 2022.

i. 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, Point of Entry (PoE), Community surveillance and Special Settings.
- As of January 16, 2022:
 - 393,066 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
 - 279,089 (71%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 22,816 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

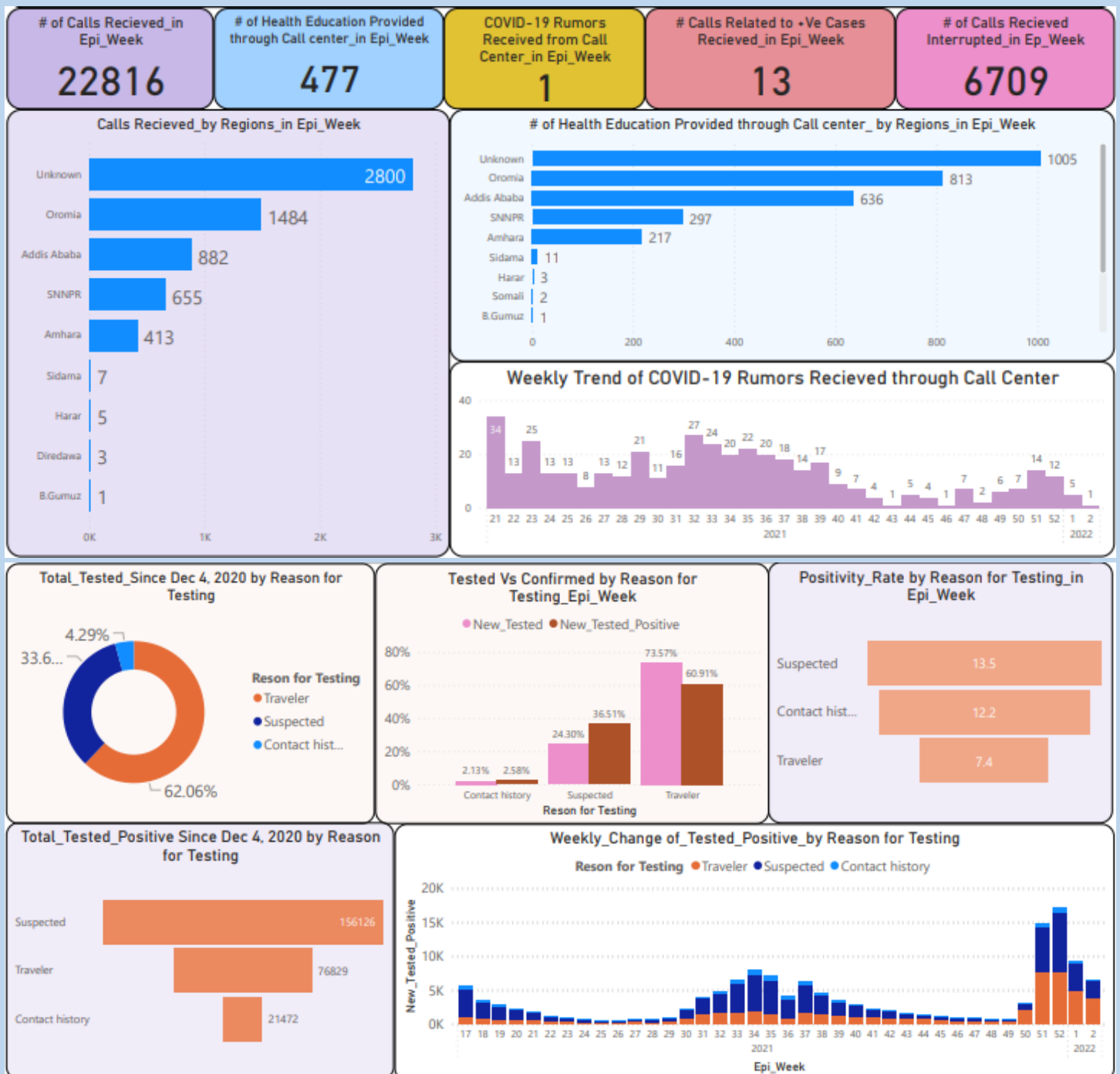


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as January 16, 2022, Ethiopia.

ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 3,032,076 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 881,146 (29%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 20,248 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-02.
- A total of 73,899 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 47 returnees were received in the Epi-week-02. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 72,703 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,259 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of January 16, 2022.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 16 January 2022, a total of 4,255,823 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 64,802 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-02 which is a 9% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-02 is 20.37%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (29.40%).
- South West, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz and Oromia states have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 9 below). There is no report from Tigray regional state since June 29, 2021.
- Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 684,330 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 15,100 is performed in the Epi-week-02 (figure 8 below).

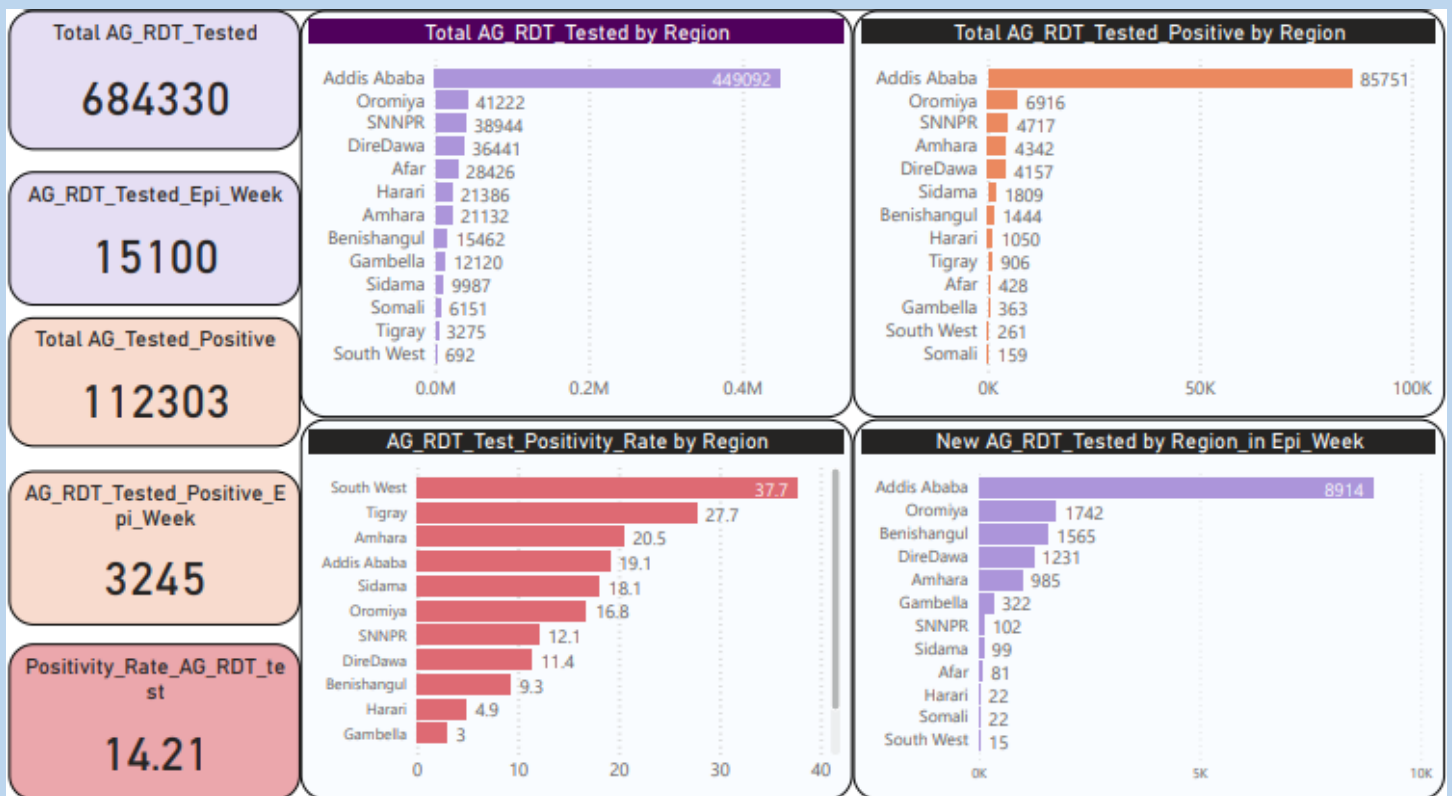
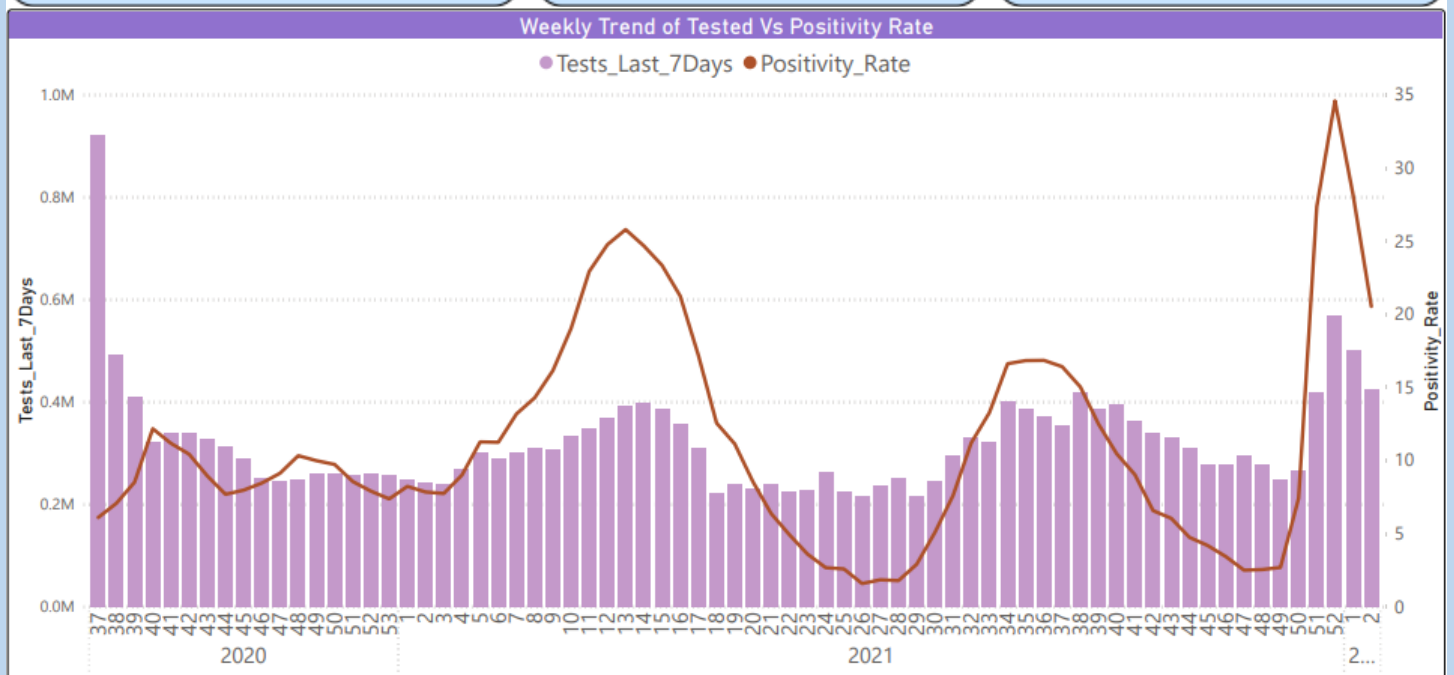
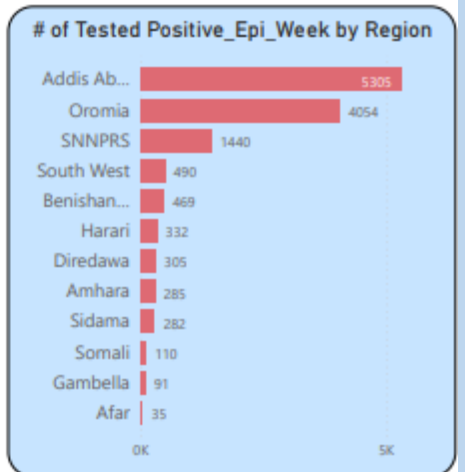
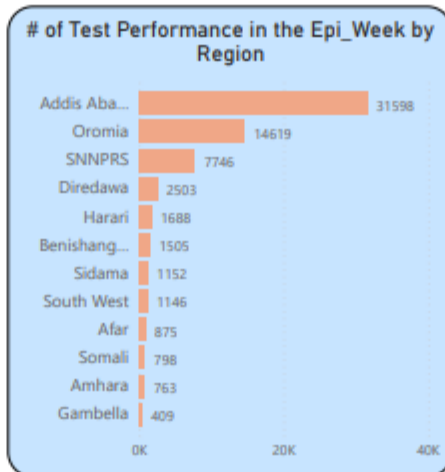
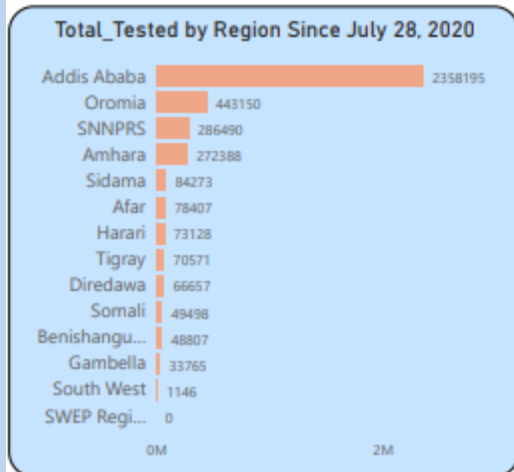
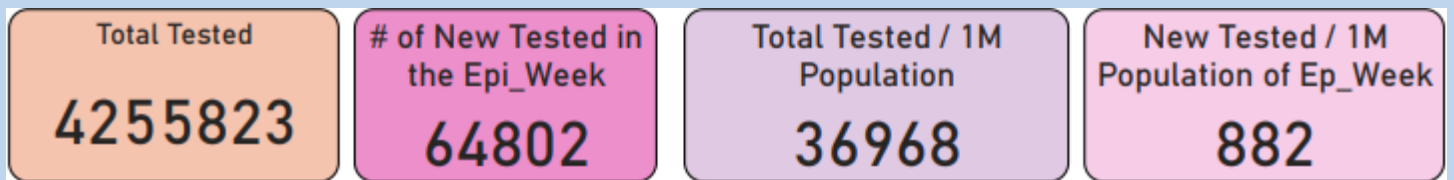


Figure 8: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of January 16, 2022



Region/City Admn	New_Testeds	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	31598	5305	13	16.8
Oromia	14619	4054	31	27.3
SNNPRS	7746	1440	11	18.2
Diredawa	2503	305	3	12.3
Harari	1688	332	1	20.0
Benishangul Gumuz	1505	469	0	30.6
Sidama	1152	282	1	21.0
South West	1146	490	0	41.9
Afar	875	35	0	4.0
Somali	798	110	46	12.1
Amhara	763	285	11	36.1
Gambella	409	91	0	14.6
SWEP Regional State	0	0	0	
Tigray	0	0	0	0.0
Total	64802	13198	117	20.3

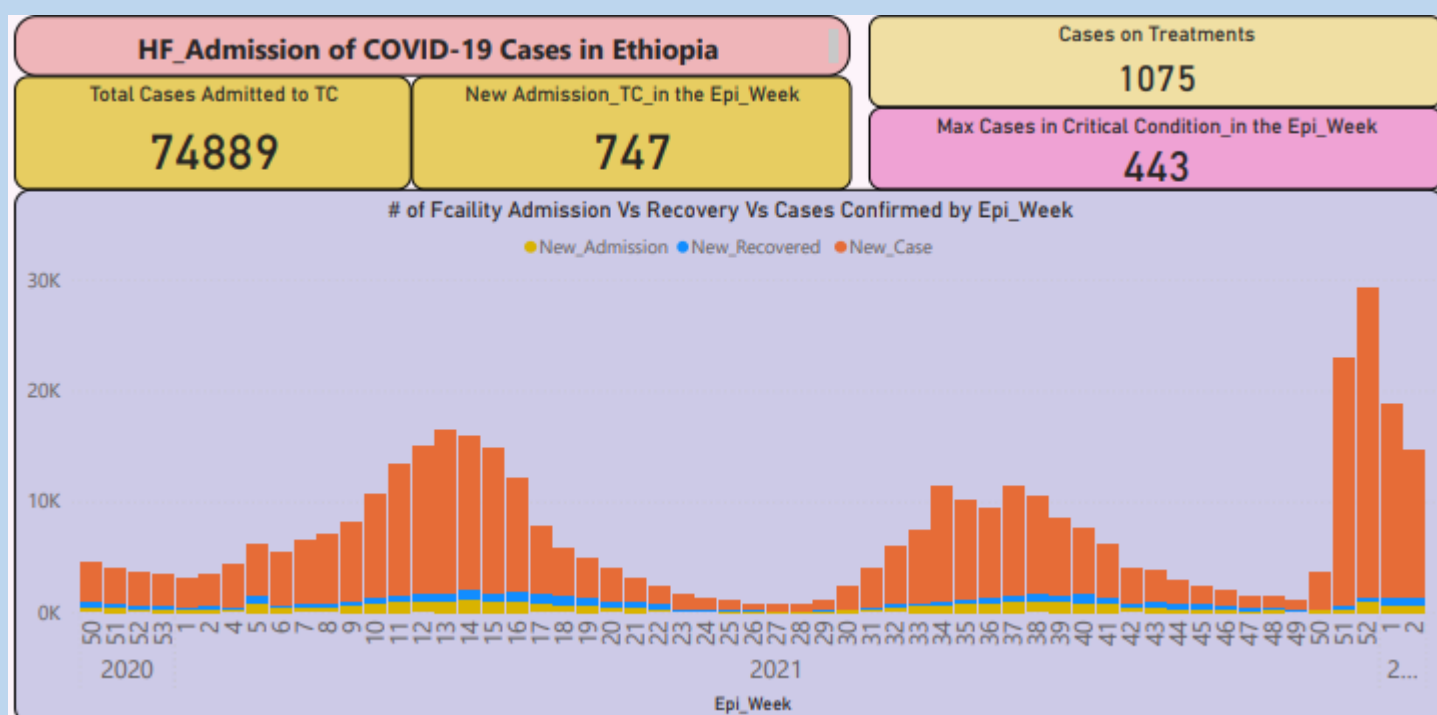
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distr of Rates

Figure 9: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of January 16, 2022, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 10,169 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-02, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 373,622 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 82%.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 443 which is equivalent to the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (442).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of January 16, 2022.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of January 16, 2022

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	309093	641	38138	11	3922	32025	501	250
Oromia	60477	284	10448	31	1040	9066	338	117
SNNPR	21866	57	4915	9	272	4538	105	13
Amhara	15148	9	5602	24	451	5083	65	30
Sidama	12696	4	3732	0	227	3433	8	8
Dire Dawa	9628	24	1512	0	138	1341	33	8
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Harari	6402	20	1454	0	188	1255	7	5
Benishangul G	4890	0	1036	1	32	1005	1	1
Somali	3436	0	770	0	96	654	17	3
Afar	3117	4	826	0	5	812	0	0
Gambella	1908	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 333,946 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 307,053 (91.95%) have recovered and 50 (0.015%) died.
- Of these, 8,570 cases have been enrolled to HBIC, 9,547 cases have recovered and one case died in the Epi-Week-02.
- As of January 16, 2022, there are 27,962 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,525 (100 in the Epi-week-02) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,298 (two in the Epi-week-02) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

VI. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Media (mass media and social media) monitoring on COVID-19 related information is ongoing.
- Risk communication and awareness creation activities are ongoing regarding the alarming increment of COVID-19 cases and rampant spread of flu like symptoms among the public in Ethiopia.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 11: COVID-19 situation update as of January 16, 2022 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.
- The virtual meeting of Joint Steering Committee encompassing MOH, Agencies and RHB top leadership under the leadership of H.E Minister of Health is ongoing once in two weeks.

- The national COVID-19 response IMS operating at national Public Health Emergency Operations Center is conducting integrated supportive supervision in the regional counterparts. The supportive supervision focuses on the overall COVID-19 response coordination; epidemiological surveillance and laboratory testing; case management and facility readiness and emergency planning activities. The current supportive supervision covers some regional states and there will also be another round of supportive supervision which will be conducted in the remaining regional states. The current round of integrated supportive supervision is being conducted in South West Ethiopia, Somali, Harari, Oromia, SNNP and Sidama regional states and Dire Dawa city administration. Each team deployed for the integrated supportive supervision is comprised of one expert from each pillar in the COVID-19 response Incident Management System.

VIII. Challenges and Way Forward

a. Challenges

- 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.
- COVID-19 vaccine related misinformation and hesitancy.
- Low utilization of Antigen-Rapid Diagnostic Test kits by facilities despite its distribution to all regions and capacity building activities.

b. Way Forward

- Enhancing COVID-19 vaccination
- Enhancing law enforcement to enhance public health and social measures by all responsible bodies.
- Intensifying risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Strengthening collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- 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.
- Intensification of a capacity building trainings and orientation including through virtual/online platforms.
- Enhancing performance and follow up on Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits from regional COVID-19 testing sites.

IX. Public Health Policy Recommendation

Advice for the Public:

- COVID-19 vaccines should be provided to the public only at public health facilities and free of charge.
- 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 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	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/ephipa/ge/		
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	hrhbpheoc@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



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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