



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 03 (January 17 – 23, 2022)

BULLETIN No. 91

I. Highlights

- A total of 42,043 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-03 bringing the total number of samples tested to 4,297,866.
- A total of 4,785 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 97 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-03 bringing the total cases and death to 462,107 and 7,244 respectively.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 421 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (443).
- A total of 339,356 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 5,410 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-03.
- Ethiopia received additional 2.2 million doses of Chinese-donated COVID-19 vaccines for the fifth round.



Figure 1: Ethiopian Minister of Health, HE. Dr. Lia Tadesse (Right) speaks during a handover ceremony of China-donated COVID-19 vaccines in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Jan. 20, 2022.

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.

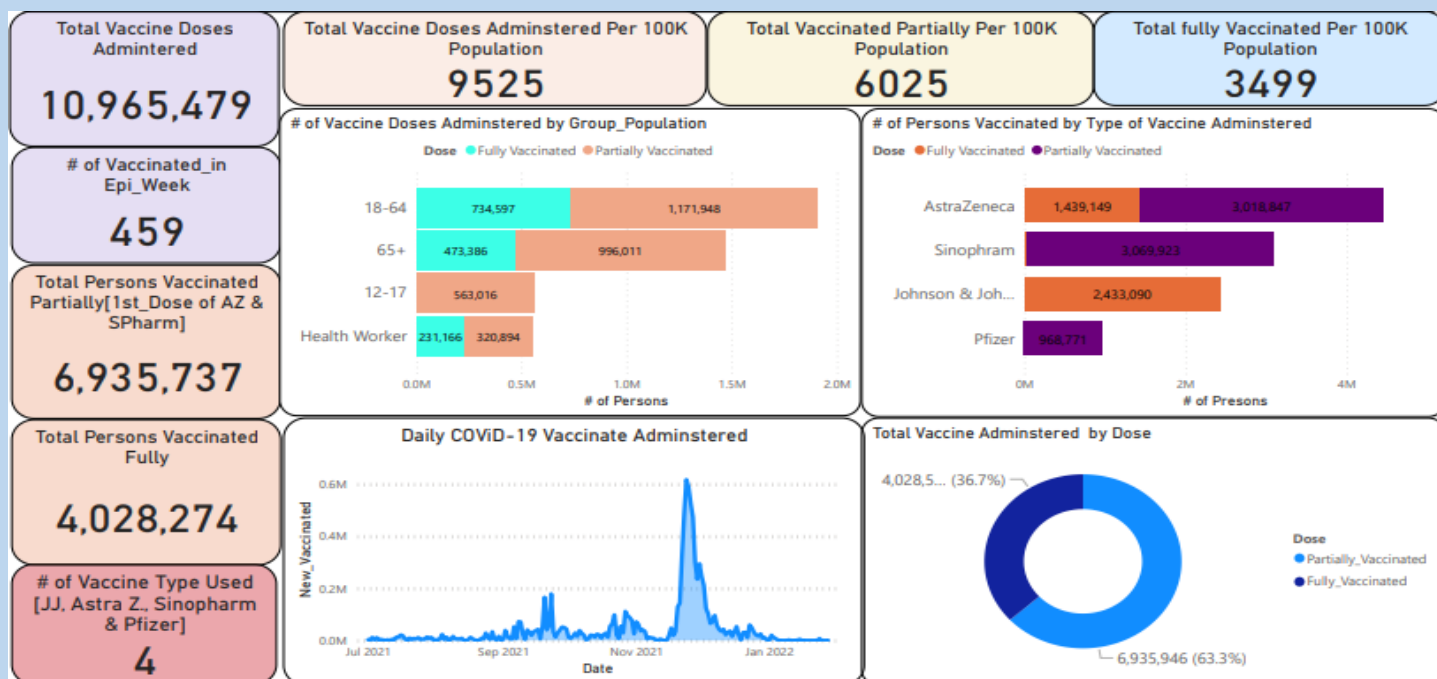


Figure 2: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of January 23, 2022

III. Epidemiological Situation

a. Global Situation

- Globally, the number of new COVID-19 cases increased in the past week (17-23 January 2022) by 5%, while the number of new deaths remained similar to that reported during the previous week.
- Across the six WHO regions, over 21 million new cases were reported this week, representing the highest number of weekly cases recorded since the beginning of the pandemic.
- As of January 23, 2022, a total of 330,280,686 COVID-19 cases and 5,275,663 deaths (CFR=1.60%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 21,412,647 cases and 51,223 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-03.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (4,743,977 new cases), France (2,443,866 new cases), India (2,115,100 new cases), Italy (1,231,741 new cases) and Argentina (826,775 new cases).
- In Africa, as of January 23, 2022, a total of 10,482,737 cases and 229,937 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.22%). Of these, 246,668 cases (11% decrease compared to the previous week) and 4,542 deaths (10% decrease compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-03.
- 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.

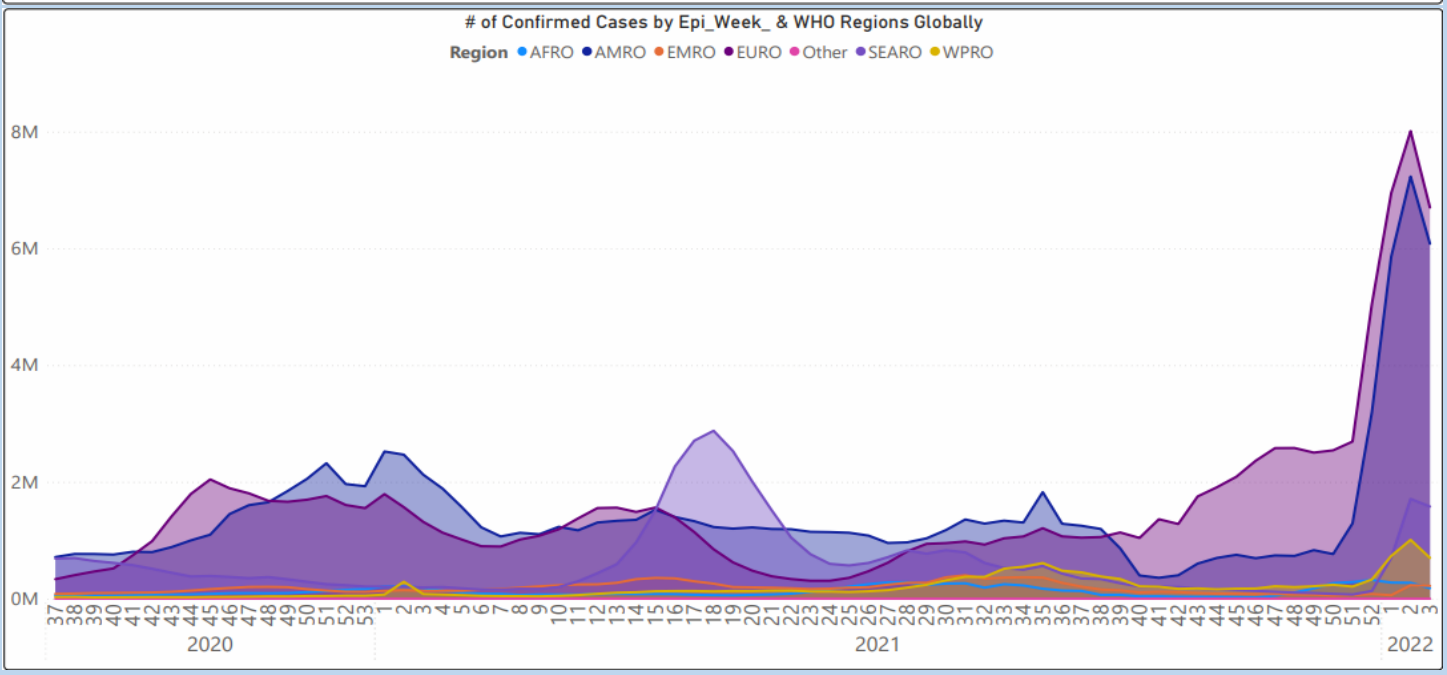
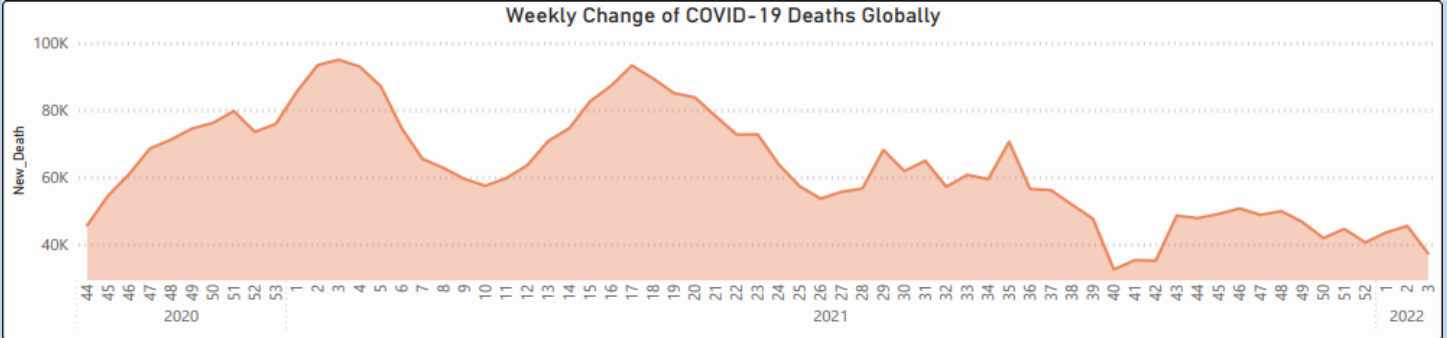
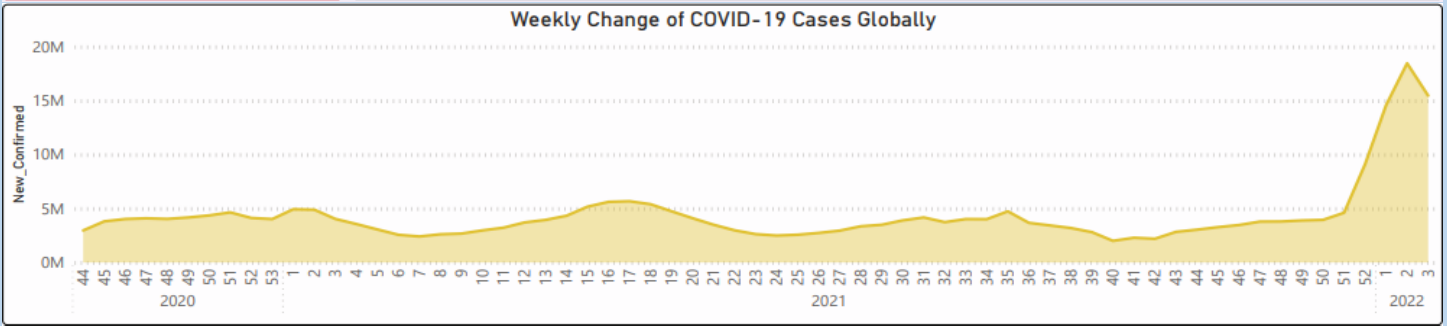
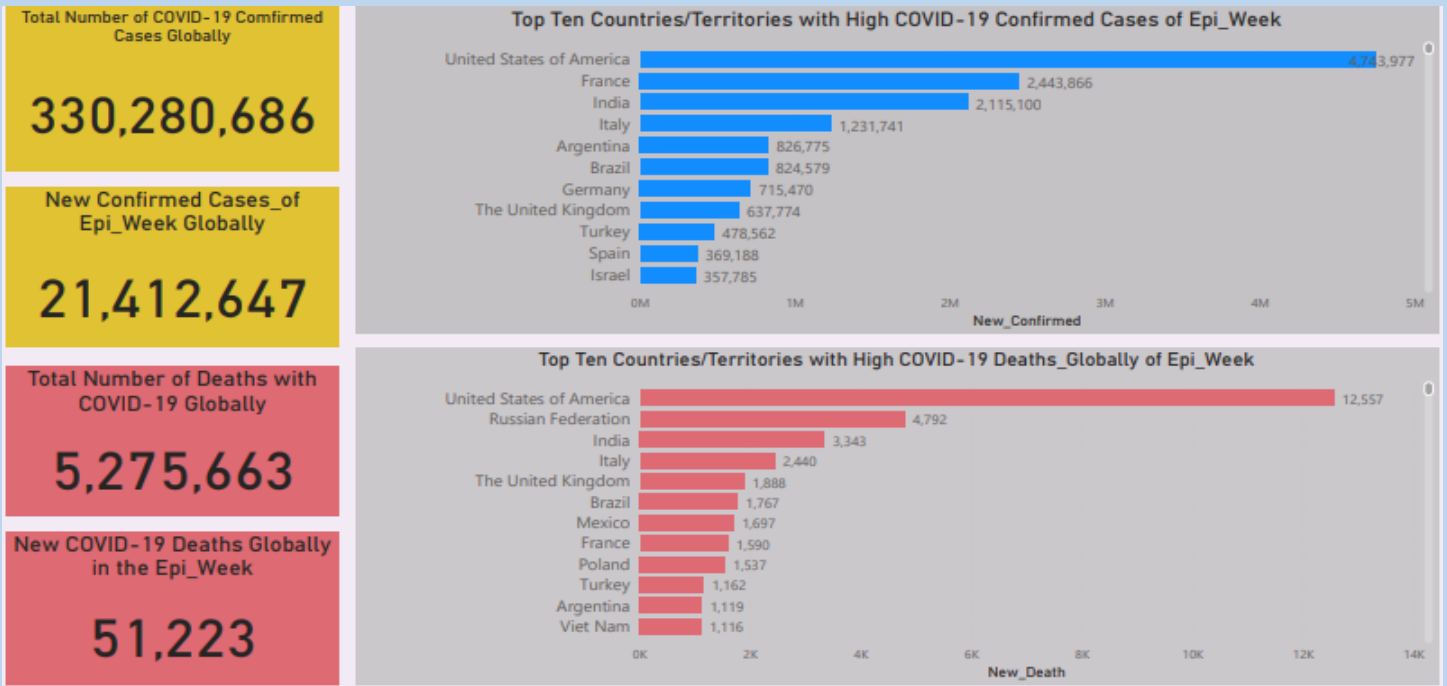
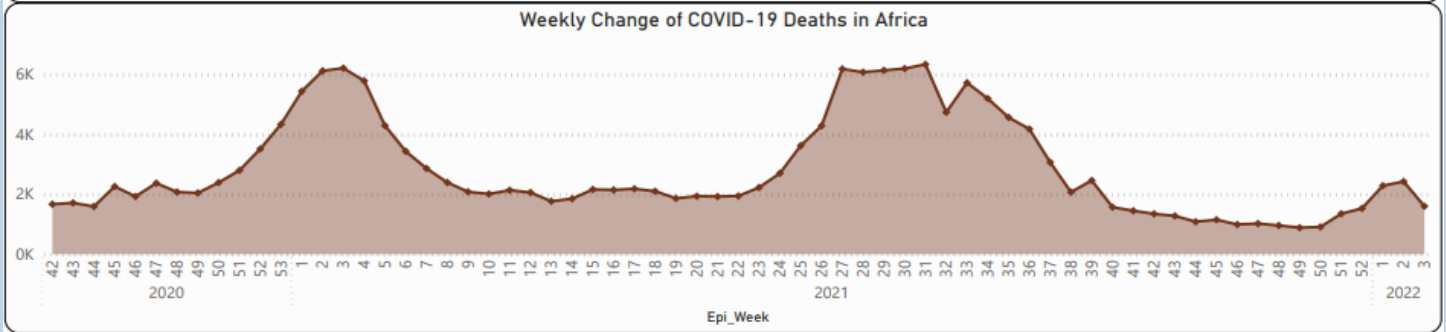
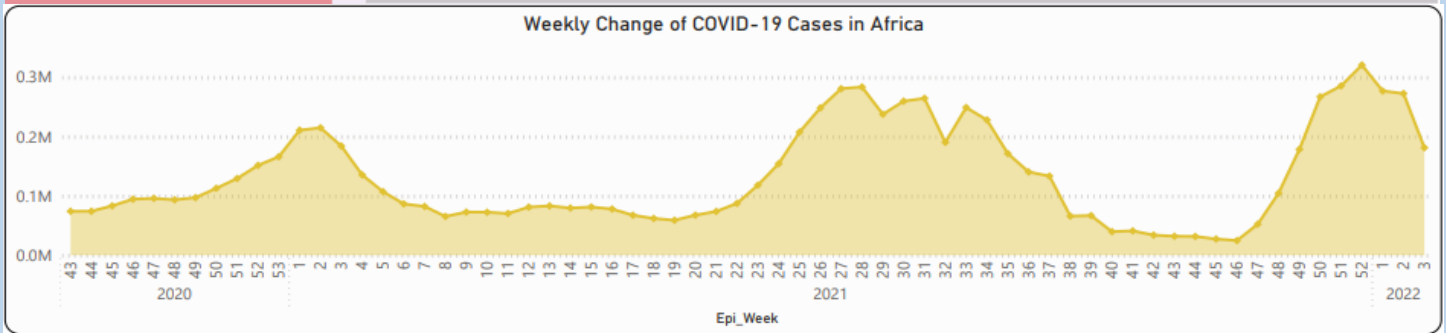
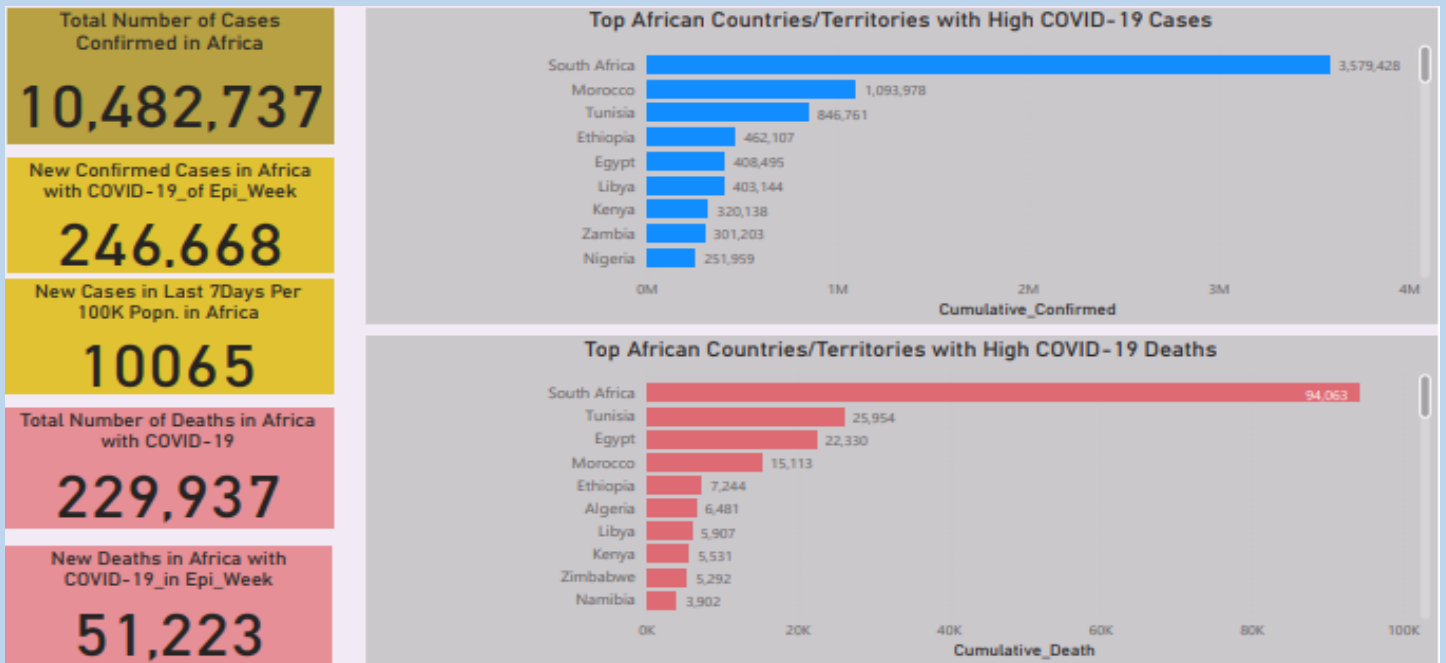


Figure 3: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of January 23, 2022 (Source: WHO)



Top Countries with COVI-19 Cases_Africa

Country_Name	Total_Cases	Total_Cases per 100K Popn.	New_Cases in last 7Days	New_Cases in last 7Days per 100K Pon.	New_Cases in last 24Hrs
South Africa	3,572,860	6,024	26,052	44	3,960
Morocco	1,068,941	2,896	43,043	117	0
Tunisia	817,051	6,913	54,334	460	0
Ethiopia	460,602	401	7,474	7	643
Egypt	403,990	395	7,291	7	0
Libya	401,444	5,842	5,757	84	1,331
Kenya	319,379	594	3,714	7	368
Zambia	299,971	1,632	8,389	46	799
Nigeria	251,694	122	1,685	1	123
Botswana	243,946	10,373	6,268	267	4,059
Algeria	230,470	526	6,087	14	1,552
Zimbabwe	227,695	1,532	2,611	18	808
Mozambique	221,432	708	4,873	16	524
Uganda	159,807	349	2,580	6	286
Ghana	154,891	498	2,162	7	701
Namibia	154,756	6,091	1,145	45	0

Figure 4: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of January 23, 2022 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of January 23, 2022, a total of 462,107 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 7,244 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.55%.
- Four-thousand-seven-hundred-eighty-five (4,785) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 97 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-03.
- In this week, there is 64% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 17% decrease 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-03 of 2022

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	19883	1628	129	40	8.4
Oromia	8591	1472	334	29	15.1
SNNPR	7244	930	21	10	12.3
Dire Dawa	1489	97	8	2	6.4
Harari	867	109	7	2	12.1
Somali	818	51	0	0	5.7
Afar	774	26	0	0	3.3
Sidama	735	78	6	3	11.0
Amhara	535	134	40	10	25.3
South West	495	166	0	0	32.0
Benishangul G	384	84	0	1	22.0
Gambella	228	10	0	0	2.8
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
Total	42043	4785	545	97	12.7

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

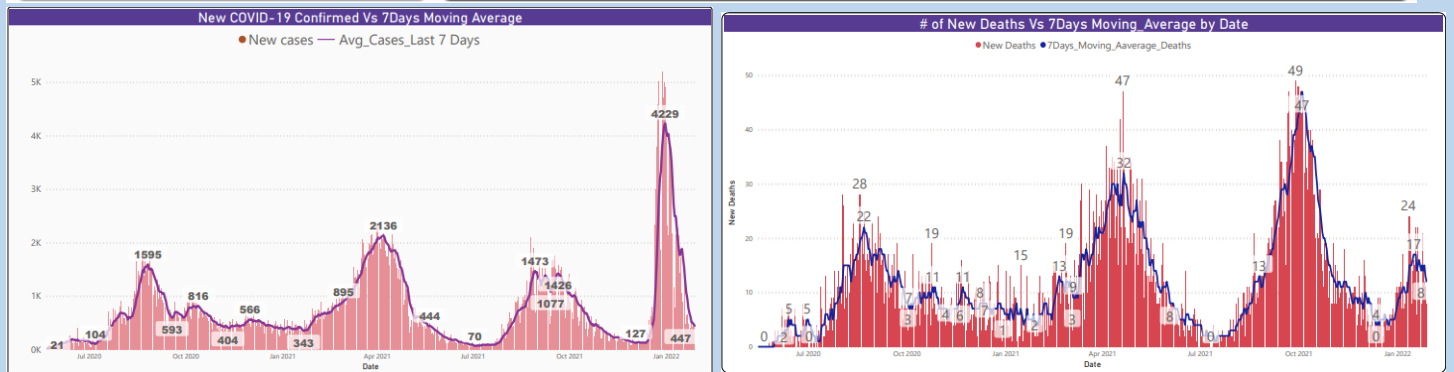
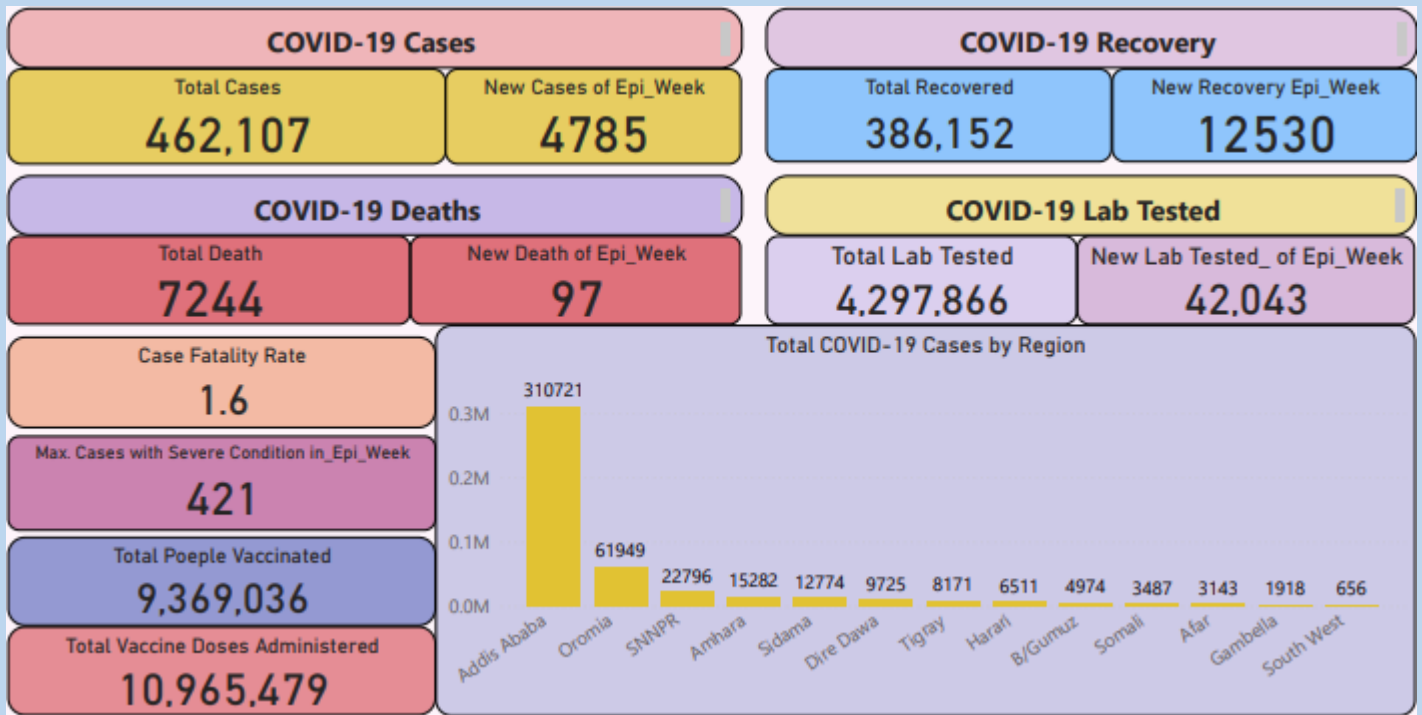


Figure 5: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 23, 2022, Ethiopia

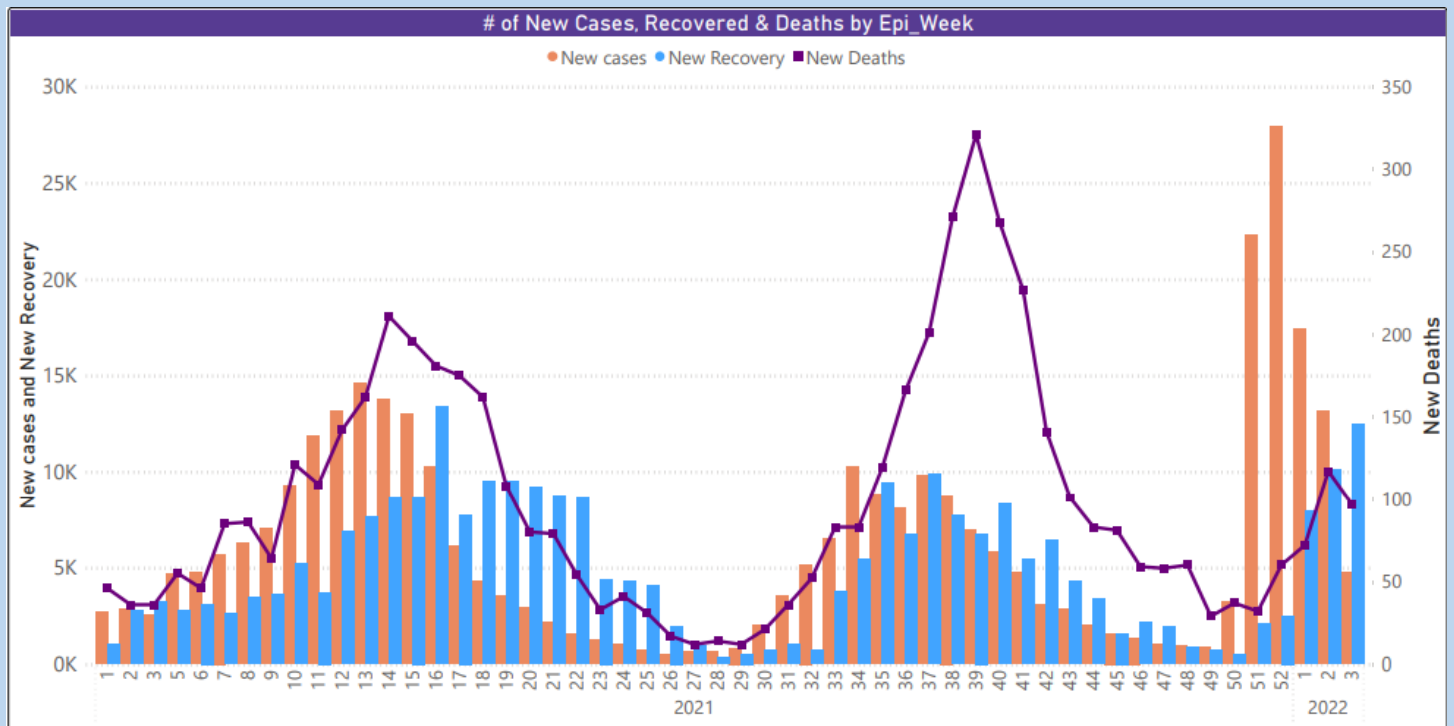


Figure 6: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of January 23, 2022, Ethiopia

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.

Total Tested /1 M Population 37333	Total Tests Last 7 Days 42043	Total Cases /1 M Population 4014	Cummulative Positivity Rate 10.8	Total Recovered Last 7 Days 12530	Total Deaths /1 M Population 63
Tested /1 M Population_Epi_Week 365	# of Tests done to get One (1) Case_in the Epi_Week 13	Total Cases Confirmed Last 7 Days 4785	Positivity Rate_Epi_Week 11.4	% of Increase or Decrease of Cases_Epi_Week -63.7	Total Deaths Last 7 Days 97

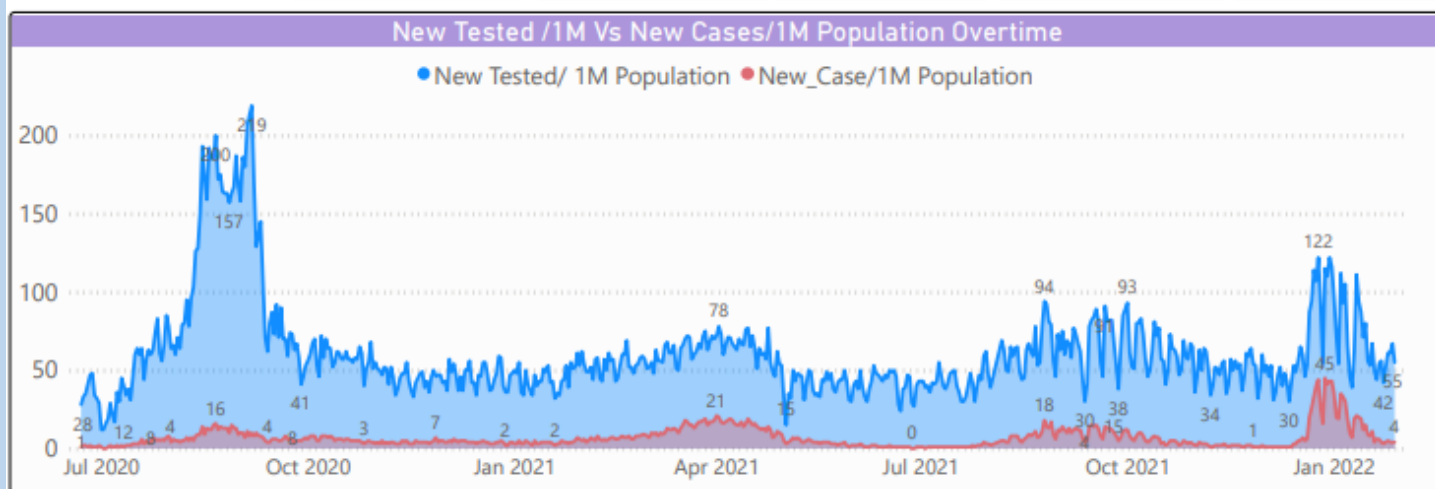


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 23, 2022.

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 23, 2022:
 - 393,066 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
 - 279,089 (71%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 40,127 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

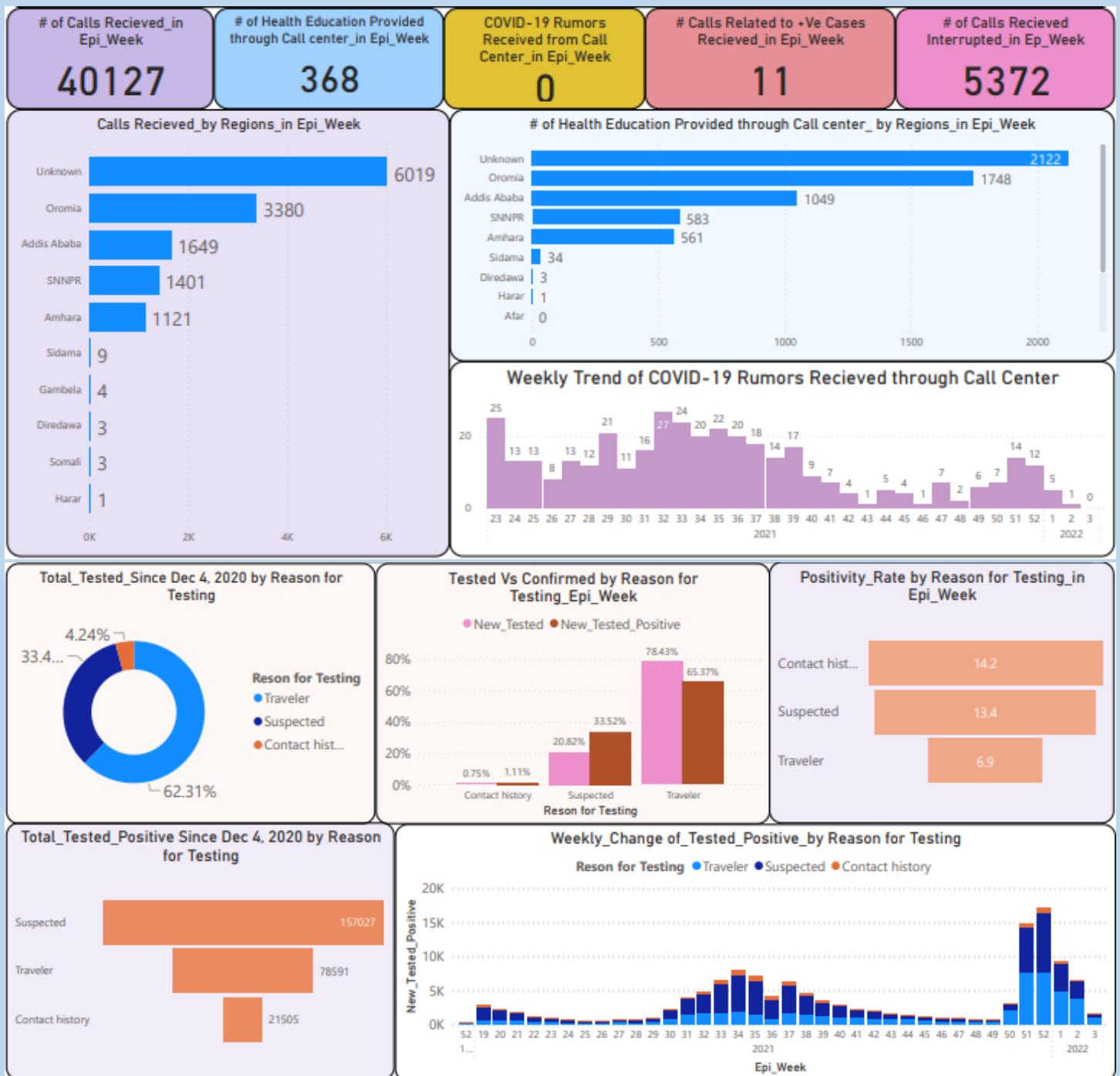


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as January 23, 2022, Ethiopia.

ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 3,063,549 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, 31,473 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-03.
- A total of 73,852 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 30 returnees were received in the Epi-week-03. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 72,576 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,276 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of January 23, 2022.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 23 January 2022, a total of 4,297,866 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 42,043 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-03 which is a 35% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-03 is 11.38%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (20.37%).
- South West Ethiopia, Amhara, SNNP and Oromia regional states have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 10 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 697,870 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 5,942 is performed in the Epi-week-03 (figure 9 below).

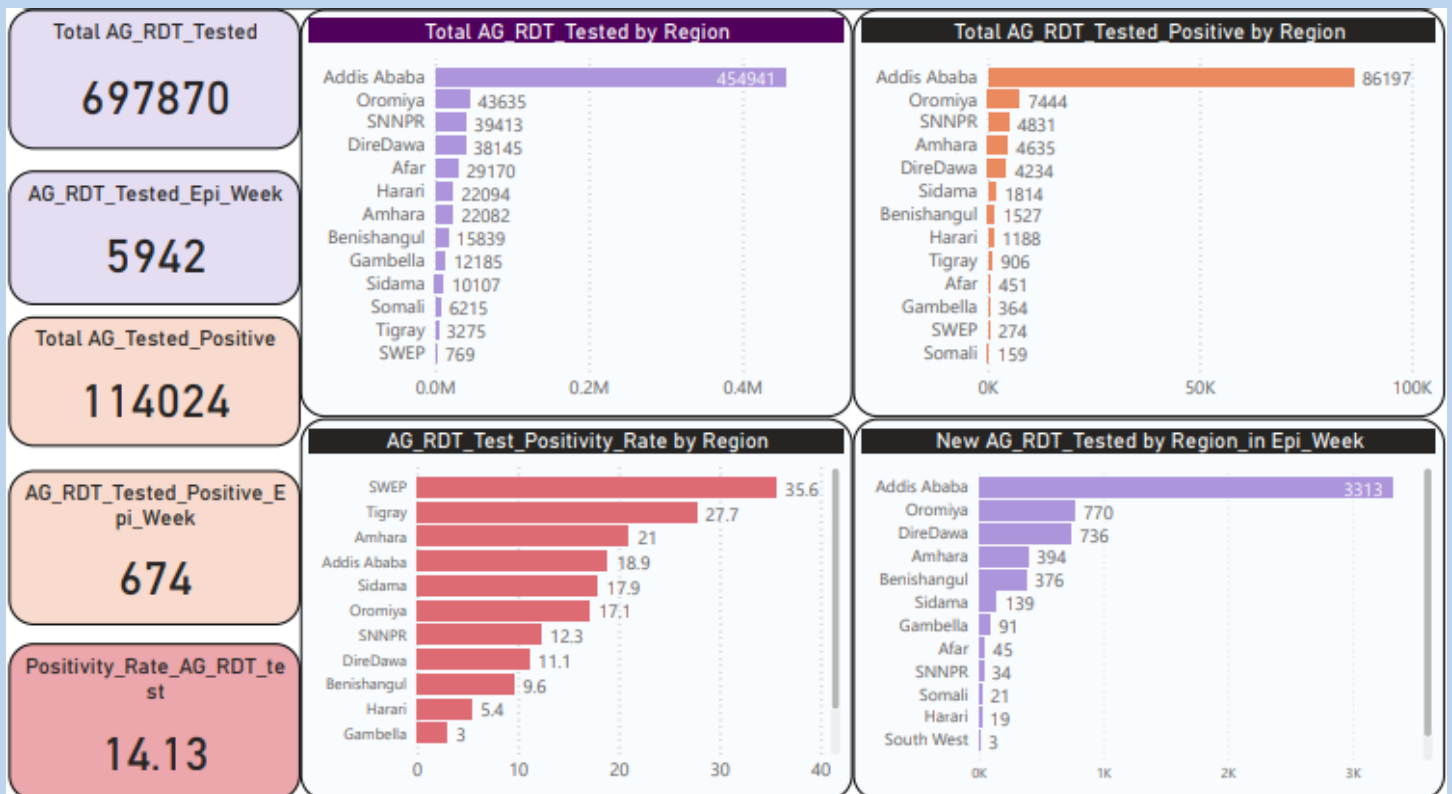
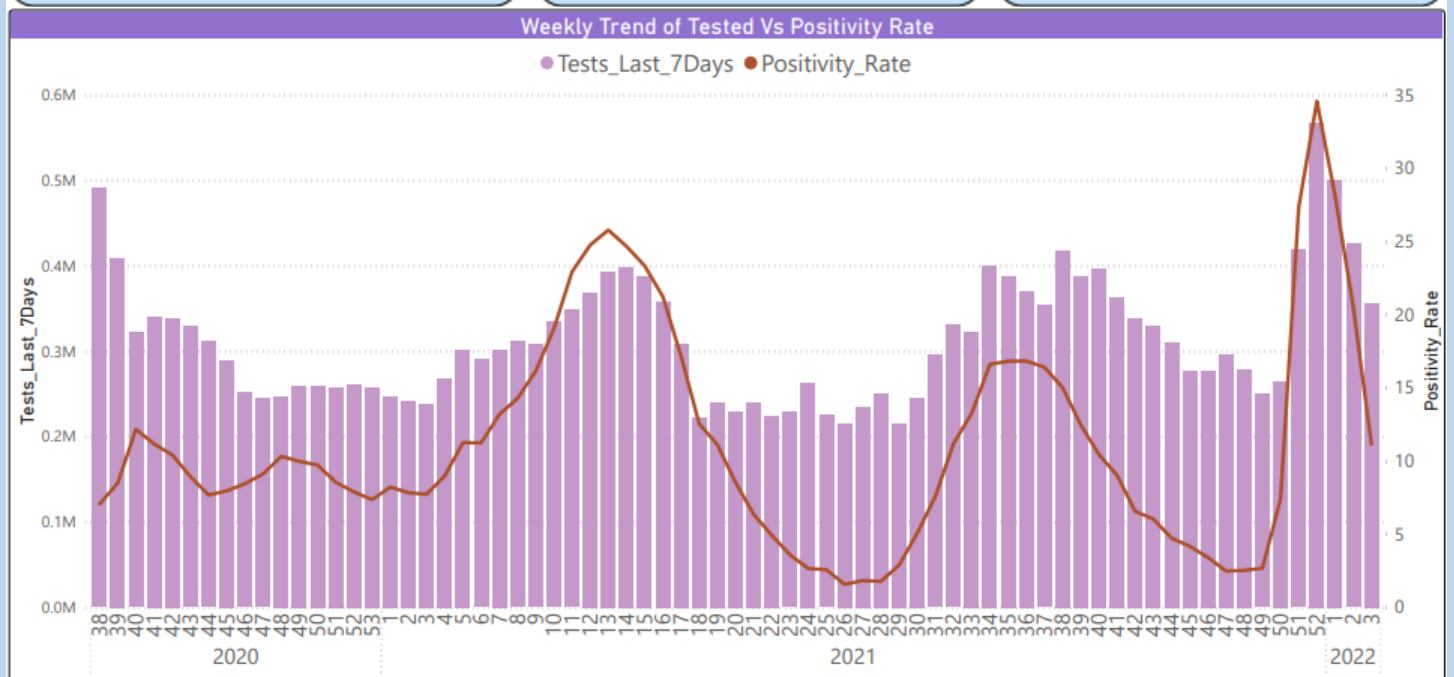
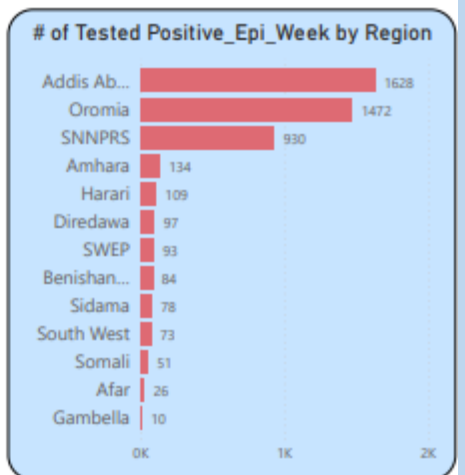
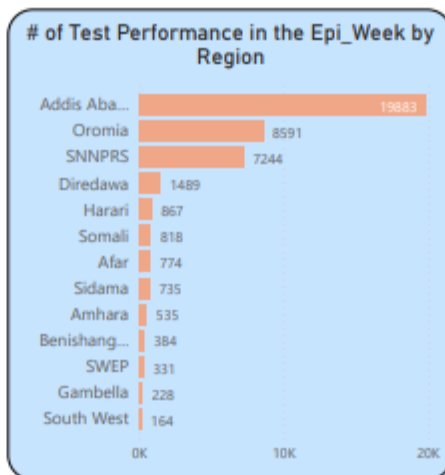
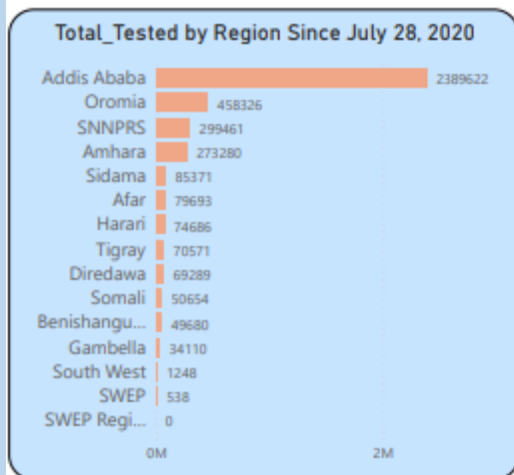
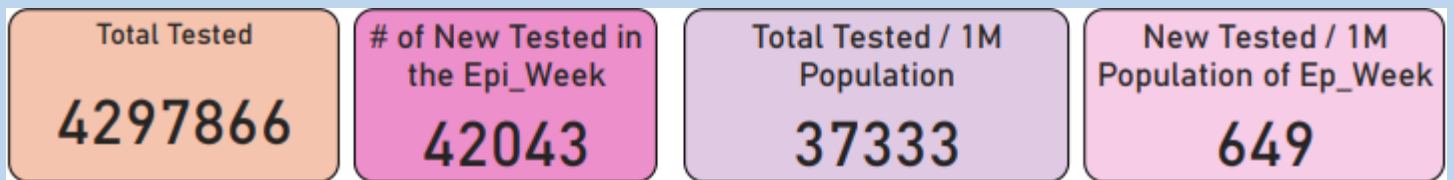


Figure 9: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of January 23, 2022



Region/City Admn	New_Testeds	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	19883	1628	31	8.3
Oromia	8591	1472	24	15.1
SNNPRS	7244	930	8	12.2
Diredawa	1489	97	2	6.4
Harari	867	109	2	12.0
Somali	818	51	9	5.1
Afar	774	26	0	3.2
Sidama	735	78	7	11.0
Amhara	535	134	10	25.2
Benishangul Gumuz	384	84	2	11.0
SWEP	331	93	0	27.4
Gambella	228	10	0	2.4
South West	164	73	0	43.7
Tigray	0	0	0	0.0
Total	42043	4785	95	12.0

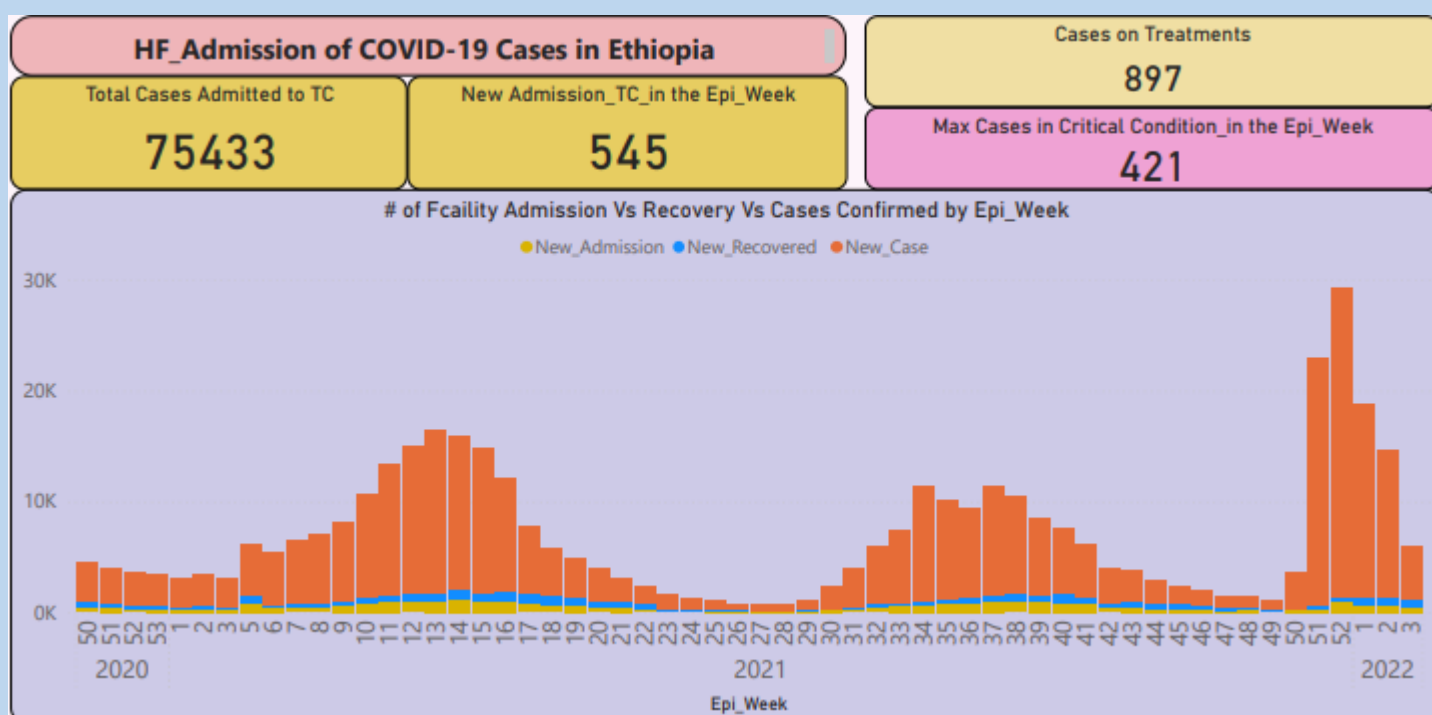
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distr of Rates

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of January 23, 2022, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 12,530 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-03, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 386,152 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 84%.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 421 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (443).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of January 23, 2022.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of January 23, 2022

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	310721	180	38265	3	3962	32210	395	201
Oromia	61949	111	10782	17	1069	9373	336	99
SNNPR	22796	36	4936	2	282	4604	50	11
Amhara	15282	12	5642	0	461	5117	61	33
Sidama	12774	11	3739	1	230	3438	6	5
Dire Dawa	9725	5	1520	0	140	1356	24	7
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Harari	6511	7	1461	0	190	1259	8	5
Benishangul G	4974	0	1036	0	33	1005	0	0
Somali	3487	0	770	0	96	654	17	3
Afar	3143	6	826	0	5	812	0	0
Gambella	1918	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 339,356 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 318,967 (93.99%) have recovered and 50 (0.015%) died.
- Of these, 5,410 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 11,914 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-03.
- As of January 23, 2022, there are 21,457 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,525 (none in the Epi-week-03) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,298 (none in the Epi-week-03) 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 12: COVID-19 situation update as of January 23, 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.

- Ethiopia received additional 2.2 million doses of Chinese-donated COVID-19 vaccines for the fifth round. The Chinese government on January 20, 2022 donated an additional 2.2 million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to Ethiopia, giving a boost to the country's vaccination efforts. The handover ceremony for the latest donated vaccines was attended by senior Ethiopian government officials and members of the Chinese diplomatic community in the Ethiopian capital. China has so far donated around 7 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ethiopia, which the Ethiopian Ministry of Health said is playing a crucial role in combating the virus. HE. Dr. Lia Tadesse, Ethiopian Minister of Health, said during the handover ceremony that the latest Chinese donated vaccines are saving lives as part of the Ethiopian government's efforts to vaccinate its people against COVID-19. The Ethiopian health minister stressed that the support that has been provided by China is not only limited to the COVID-19 vaccines. HE. Zhao Zhiyuan, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, on his part said that the Chinese government-donated vaccines are playing a crucial role in Ethiopia's efforts in combating COVID-19. The Chinese ambassador stressed that China will further strengthen its vaccine support to Ethiopia in 2022.

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. According to the program developed by the Ministry of Health, COVID-19 vaccines are still being given at public health institutions at all levels.
- 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.eph.gov.et/	8335	ephieoc@gmail.com
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	https://covid19.eph.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	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
South West Ethiopia Regional Health Bureau			swepheoc@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

PREPARED BY

Fantu Lombamo (MD, MPH in Field Epidemiology) – Planning Section, Situation Unit Leader
Negusse Yohannes (PhD in Statistics) – Planning Section, Situation Unit Member

REVIEWED BY

Zewdu Assefa (MPH) – PHE Early Warning and Information System Management P/D/A/Director
Shambel Habebe (MPH) – National PHEOC Manager
Ahimed Mohammed (MD, MPH) - Planning Section Chief
Mikiyas Teferi (MD) - Deputy Incident Manager, Case Management Section Chief
Aschalew Abayneh (RN, BSc, MPH) - DDG-EPHI, Incident Manager

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