



## NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 43 (October 25 – 31, 2021)

BULLETIN No: 79

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 46,422 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-43 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,696,597.
- A total of 2,832 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 101 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-43 bringing the total cases and death to 365,167 and 6,459 respectively.
- On October 31, 2021, there are 432 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (523).
- A total of 281,071 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 2,559 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-43.
- The number of confirmed case and deaths due to COVID-19 has shown decrement in this week.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Health Sector Annual Review Meeting has been held in Jigjiga from October 30 to 31, 2021 under the theme “Responsive Health System in the New Beginnings!”



Figure 1: 23<sup>rd</sup> health sector Annual Review Meeting, Oct. 30-31, 2021, Jigjiga, Ethiopia

## II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 4,774,947 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm or Johnson and Johnson) are administered so far. Out of these, 481,092 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 2,467,181 (52%) people are fully vaccinated.

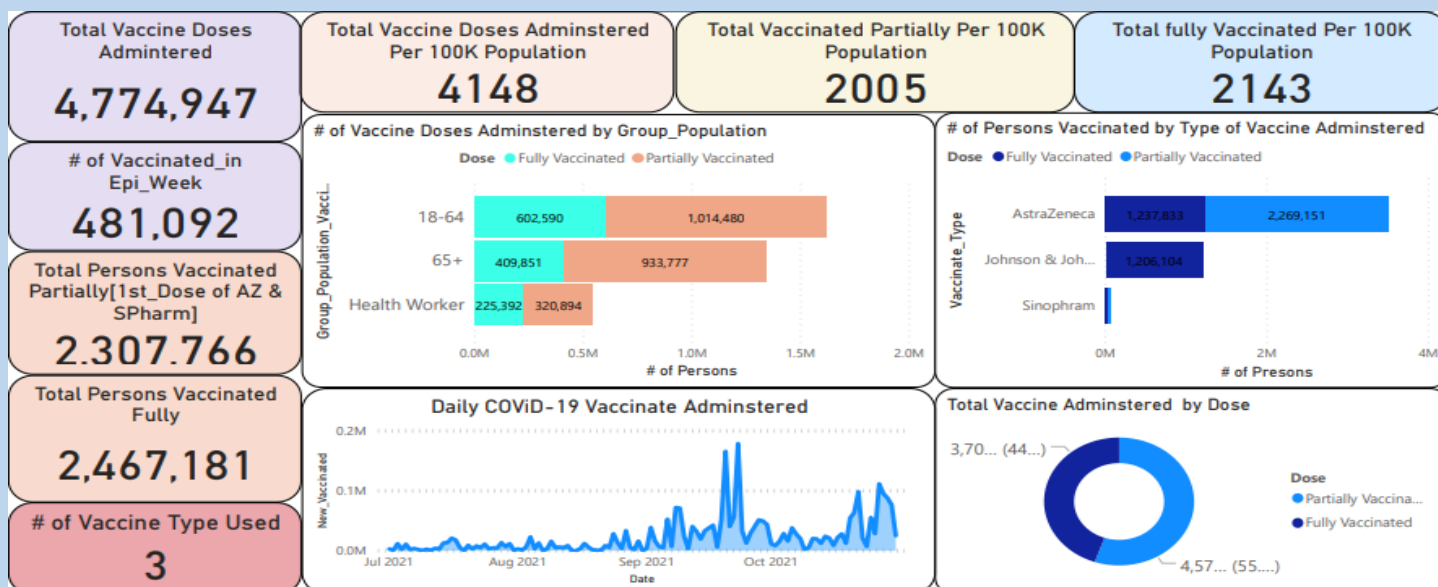


Figure 2: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of October 31, 2021

## III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

### a. Global Situation

- Globally, both the numbers of weekly COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths has increased.
- Over 5.7 million new cases and over 89,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 25 – 31 October 2021. Cases in this week increased by 23% as compared to the previous week, while the number of deaths decreased by 24% compared to that of the past week.
- As of October 31, 2021, a total of 236,875,393 COVID-19 cases and 4,715,147 deaths (CFR=1.99%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 5,797,208 cases and 89,115 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-43.
- 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 (834,105 new cases), India (468,092 new cases), the United Kingdom (433,610 new cases), Russian Federation (386,690 new cases) and France (256,399 new cases).
- In Africa, as of October 31, 2021, a total of 8,393,789 cases and 213,033 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.54%). Of these, 106,219 cases (5% increase compared to the previous week) and 2,993 deaths (an equivalent increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-43.
- 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.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

**236,875,393**

New Confirmed Cases\_of Epi\_Week Globally

**5,797,208**

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

**4,715,147**

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi\_Week

**89,115**

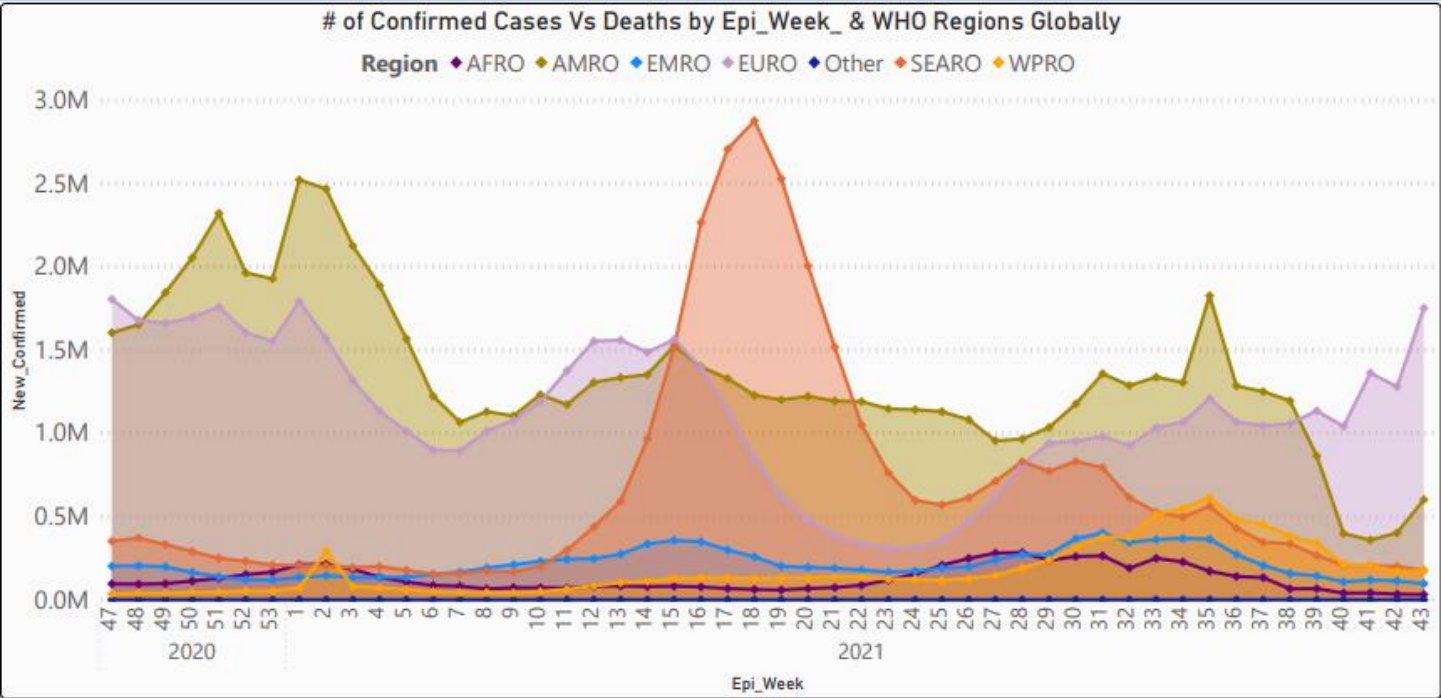
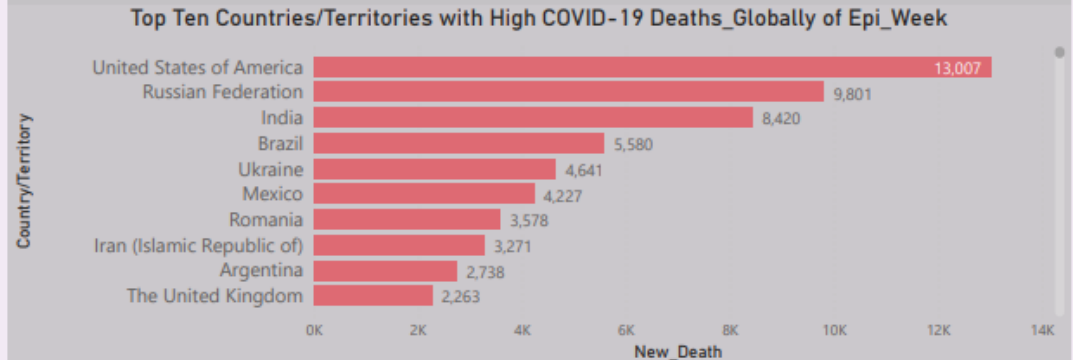
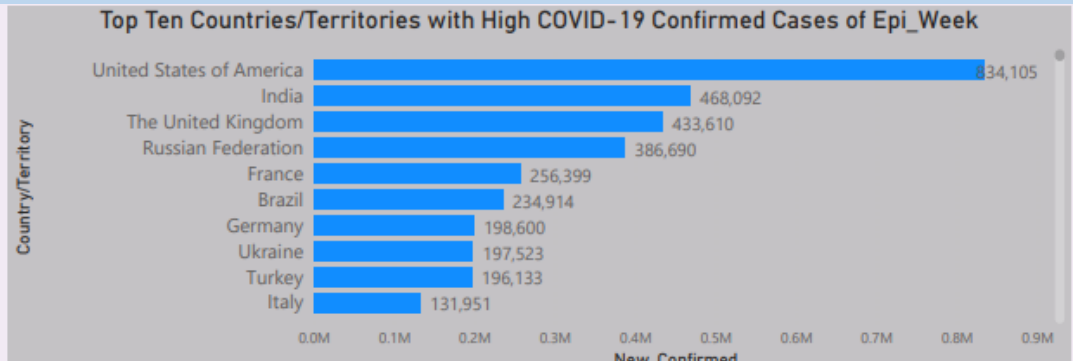


Figure 3: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of October 31, 2021 (Source: WHO)

Total Number of Cases Confirmed in Africa

**8,393,789**

New Confirmed Cases in Africa with COVID-19 of Epi\_Week

**106,219**

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

**536**

Total Number of Deaths in Africa with COVID-19

**213,033**

New Deaths in Africa with COVID-19 in Epi\_Week

**2,993**

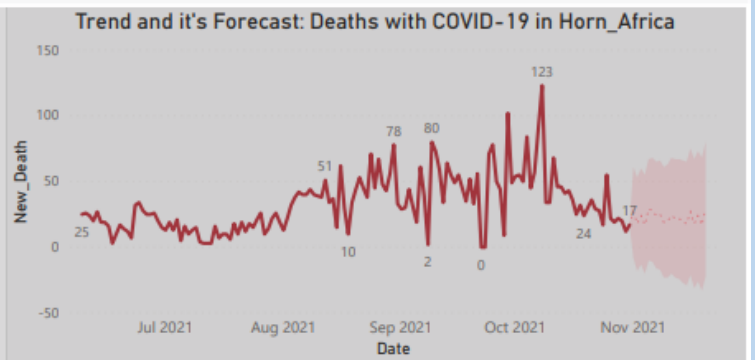
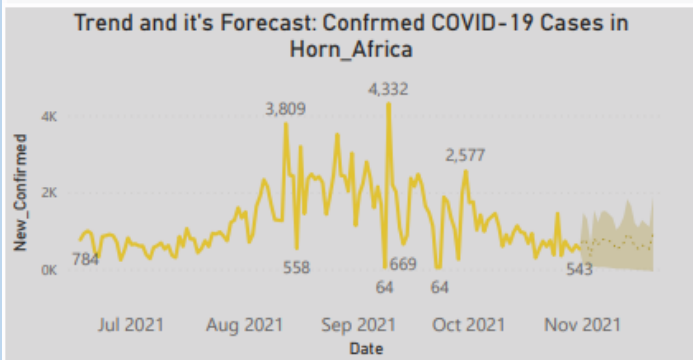
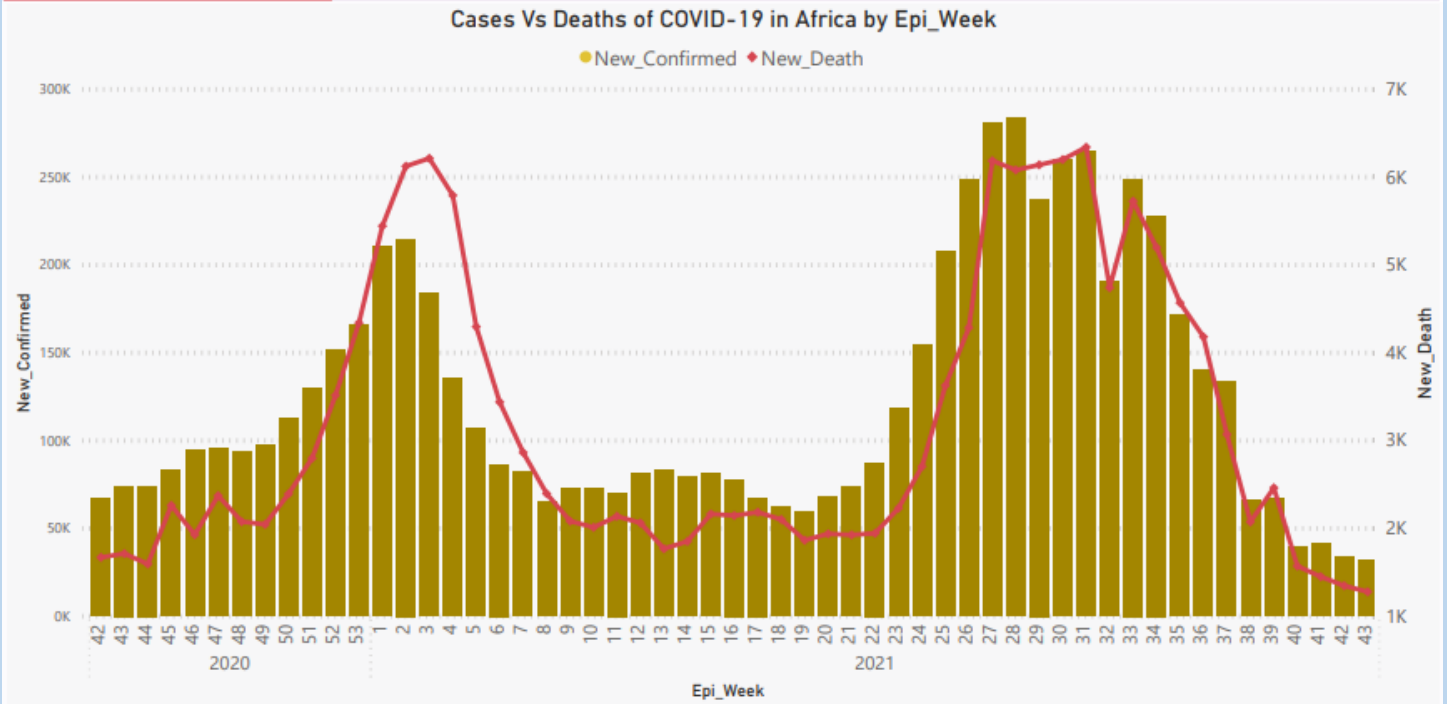
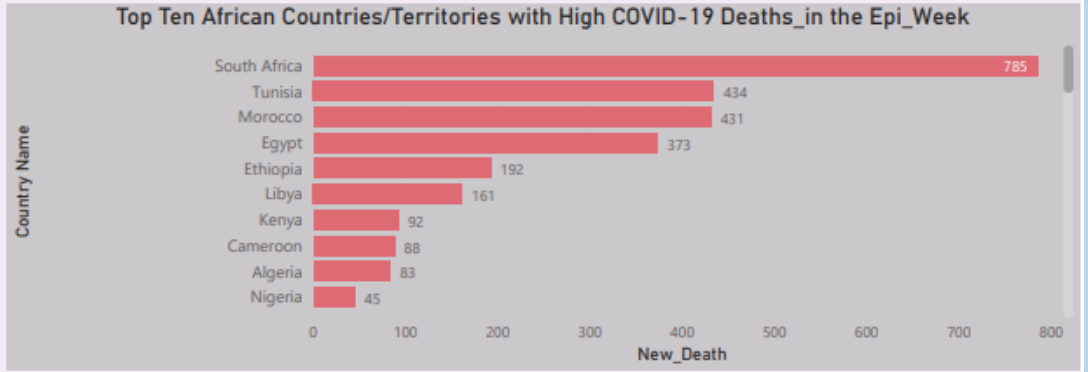
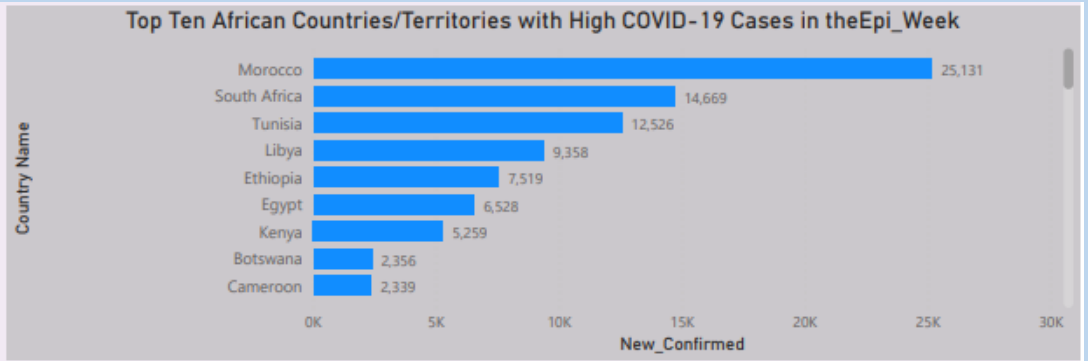


Figure 4: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of October 31, 2021 (Source: WHO)

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of October 31, 2021, a total of 365,167 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,459 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.77%. This puts Ethiopia in the fifth position by the number of confirmed cases and by the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Africa.
- Two-thousand-eight-hundred-thirty-two (2,832) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 101 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-43.
- There is decrease in the number of cases for the last six consecutive weeks and decrease in the number of deaths for the last four consecutive weeks. In this week, there is 8% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 28% decrease 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-43 of 2021**

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	29935	1423	188	45	4.7
Oromia	4404	332	136	30	7.6
SNNPR	4310	264	16	1	7.6
Dire Dawa	2011	288	28	6	14.6
Sidama	1763	111	16	5	6.6
Harari	1257	161	8	2	15.6
Somali	846	56	3	4	7.4
Amhara	796	140	57	7	17.0
Afar	634	17	0	0	2.4
Benishangul G	370	31	13	1	8.0
Gambella	96	9	0	0	7.3
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>46422</b>	<b>2832</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>9.0</b>

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

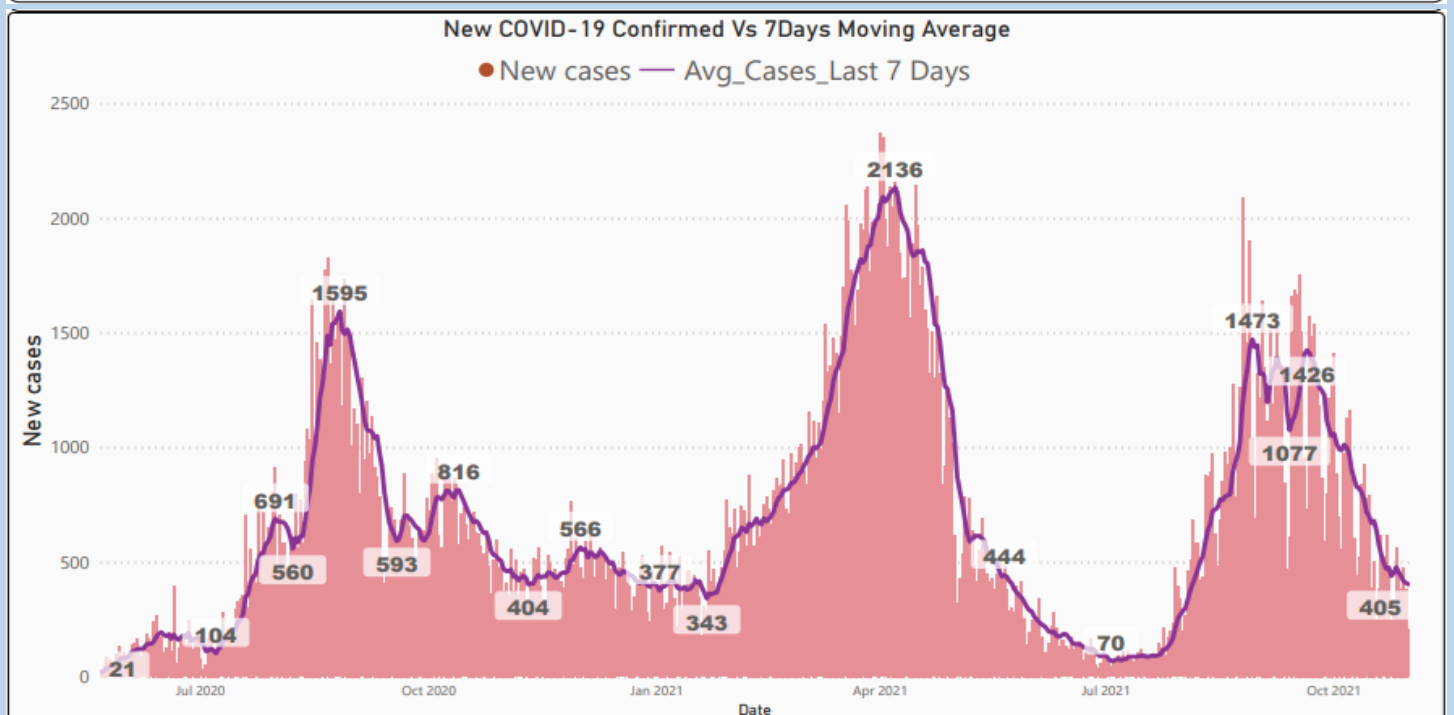
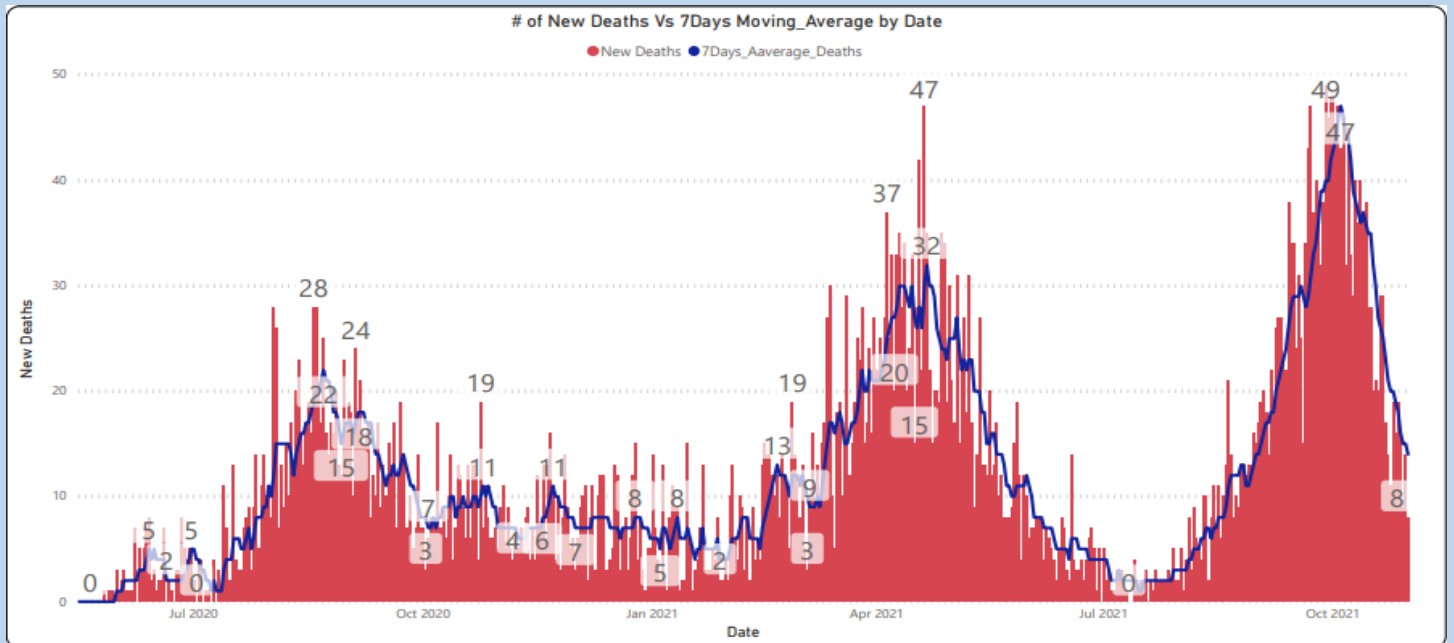
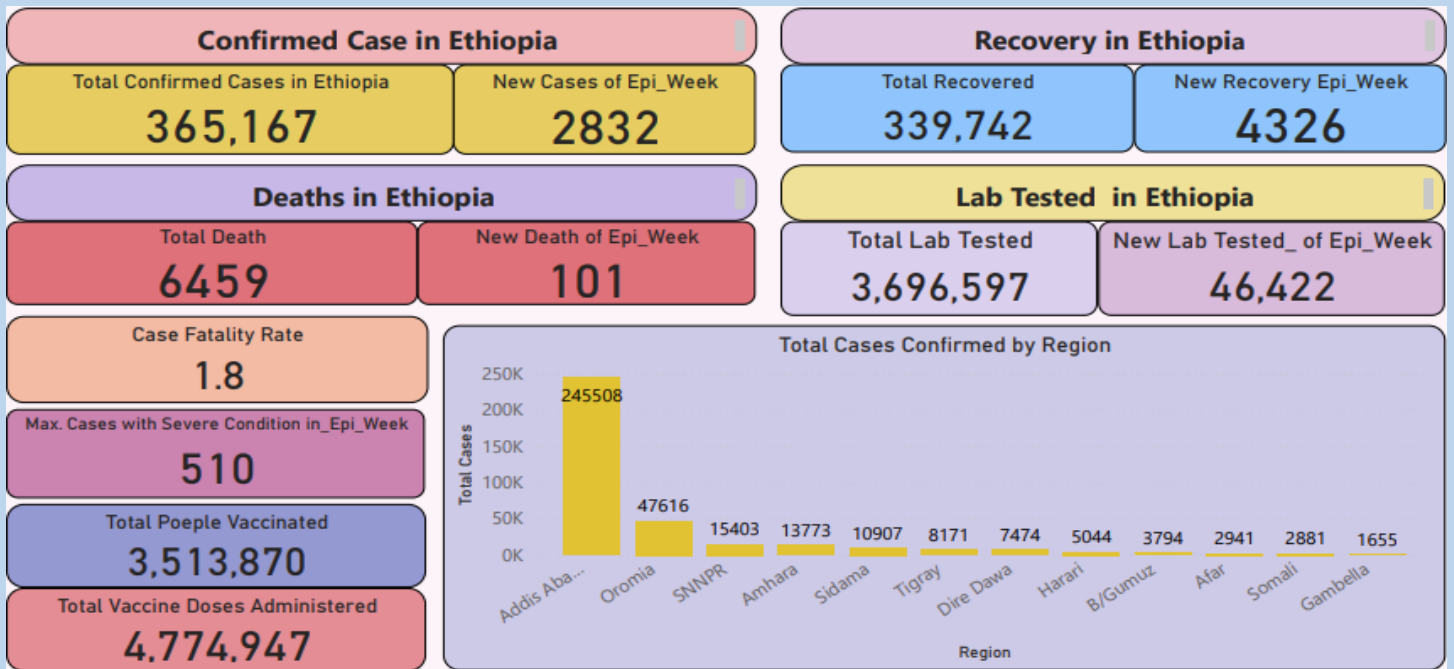


Figure 5: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of October 31, 2021, Ethiopia

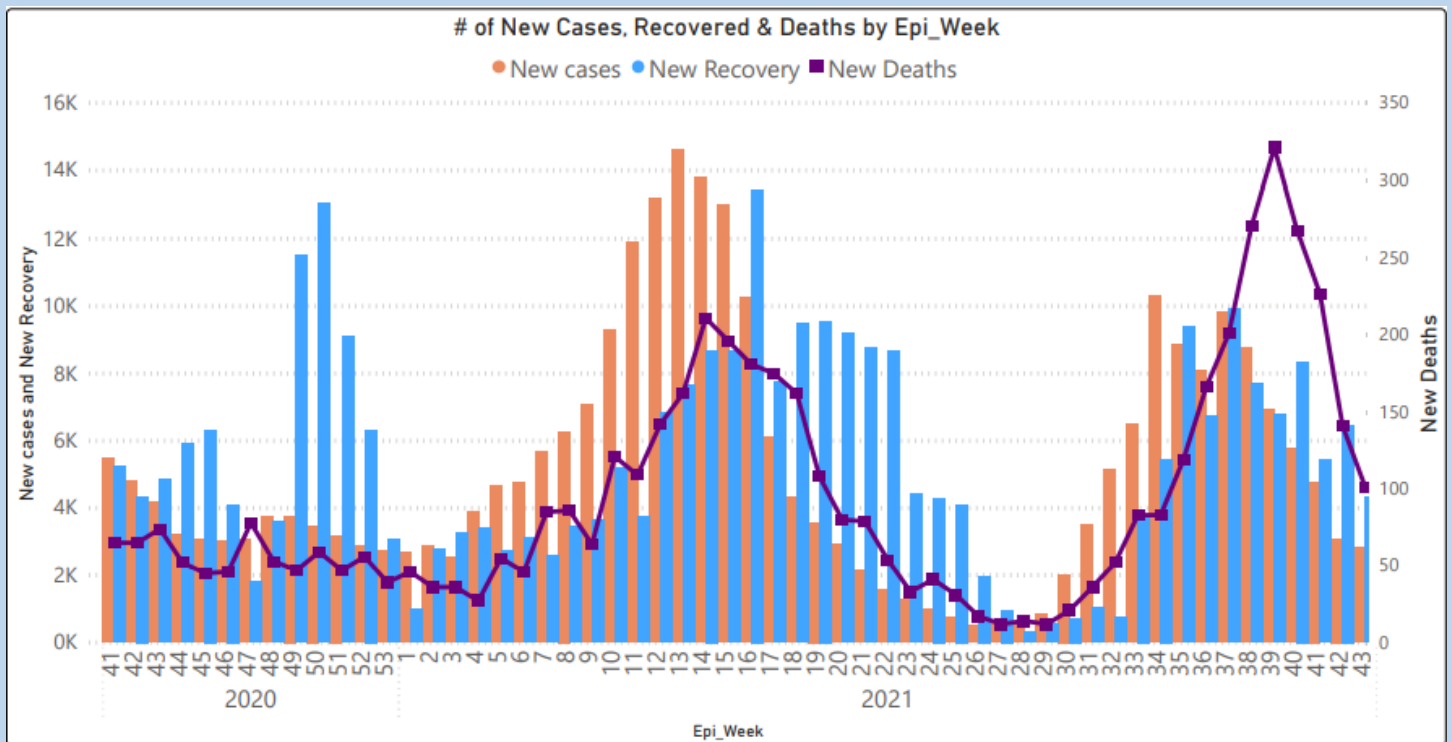


Figure 6: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of October 31, 2021, Ethiopia

### 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.

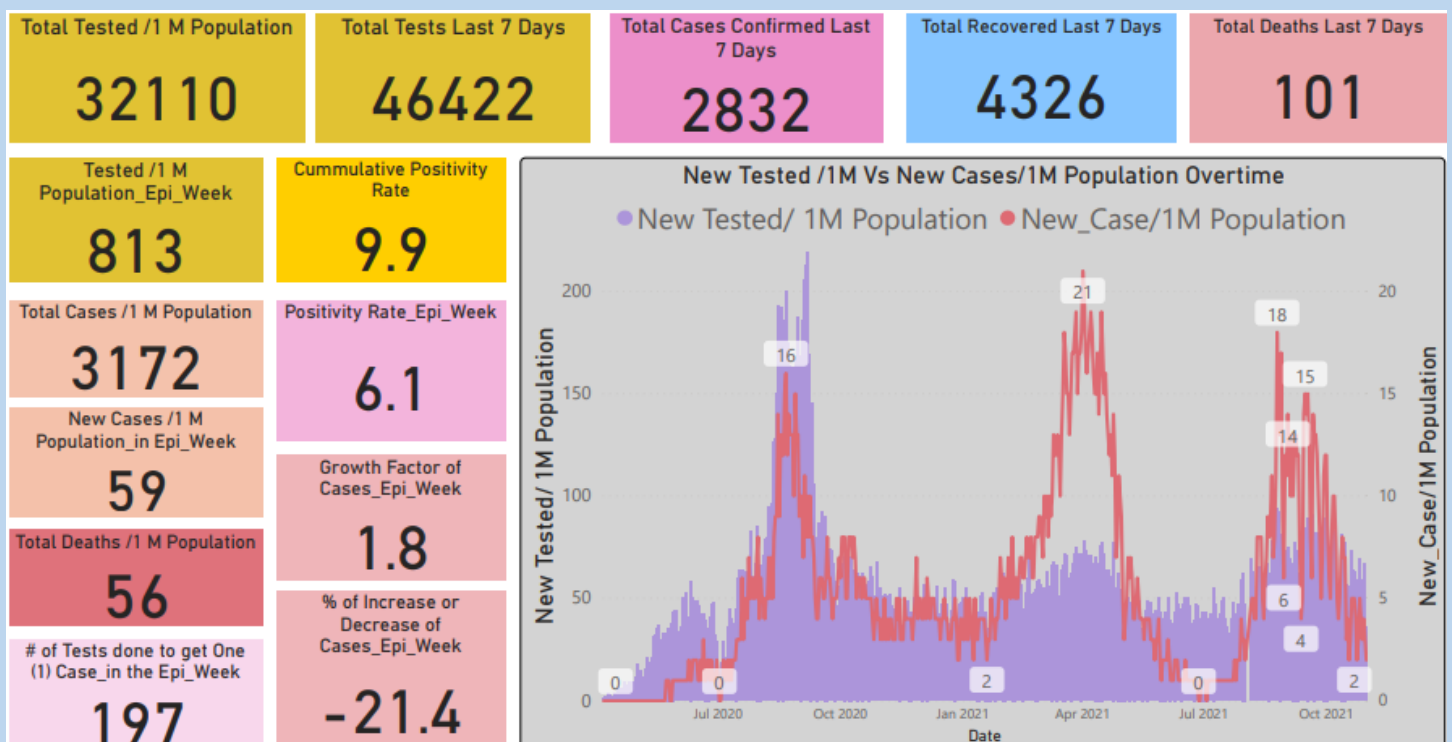


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of October 31, 2021.

#### **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 and thus should be enhanced.
- As of October 31, 2021:
  - A total of 430,887 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 552 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-43.
  - Of total contacts, 357,871 (83.05%) have completed follow-up, while 2,215 contacts are still on follow-up.
  - All the contacts traced are from Addis Ababa city administration and SNNP and Harari regional states; no contact tracing activity is reported from other regions.
- Overall, 45,062 (10.45%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 12.34% of the total cases. However, when there is transmission of the disease at community level, it is known that an individual acquires the disease from unknown/unidentified contacts.



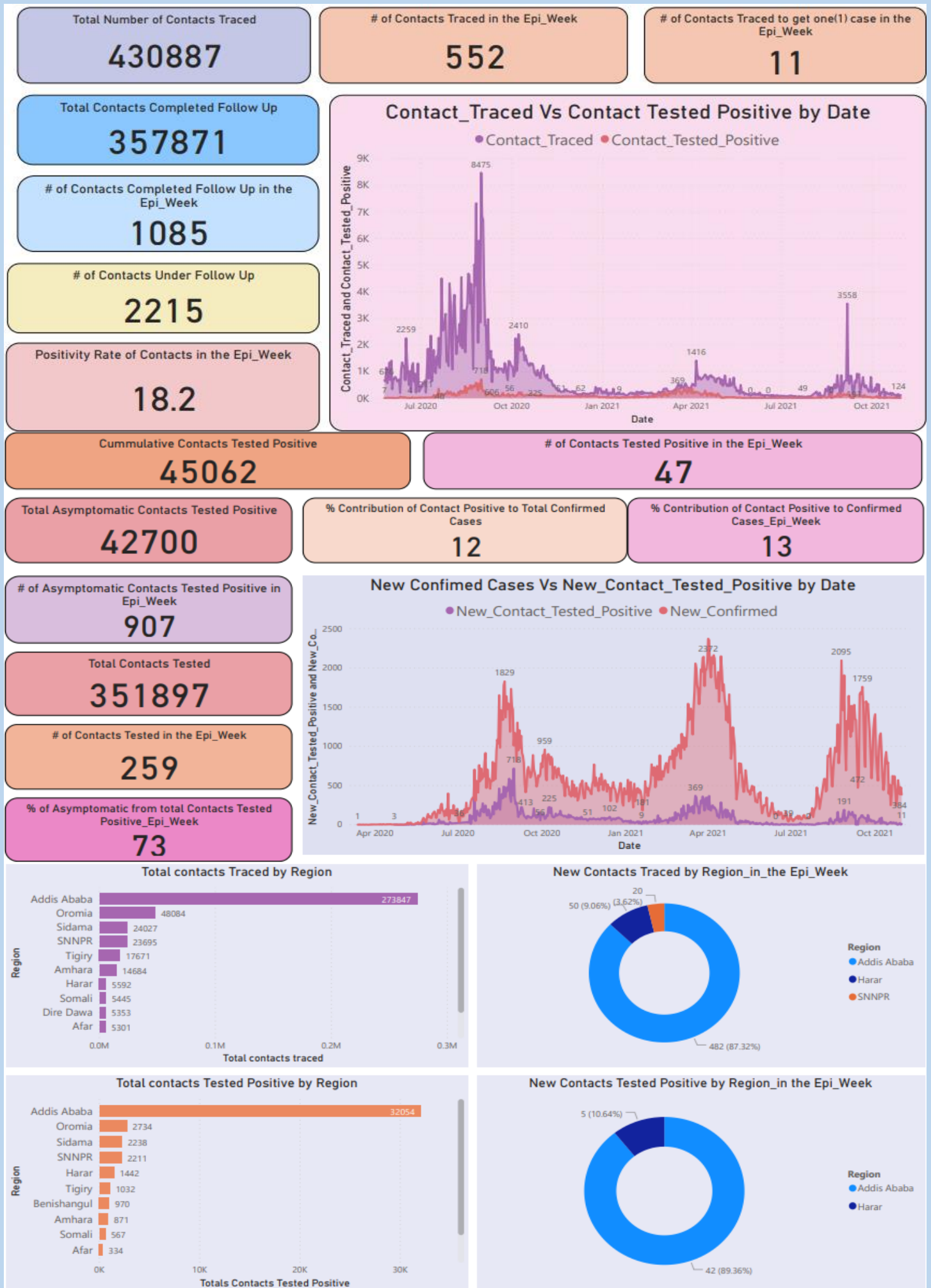


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of October 31, 2021, Ethiopia.

## 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 October 31, 2021:
  - 393,021 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
  - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 13,479 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

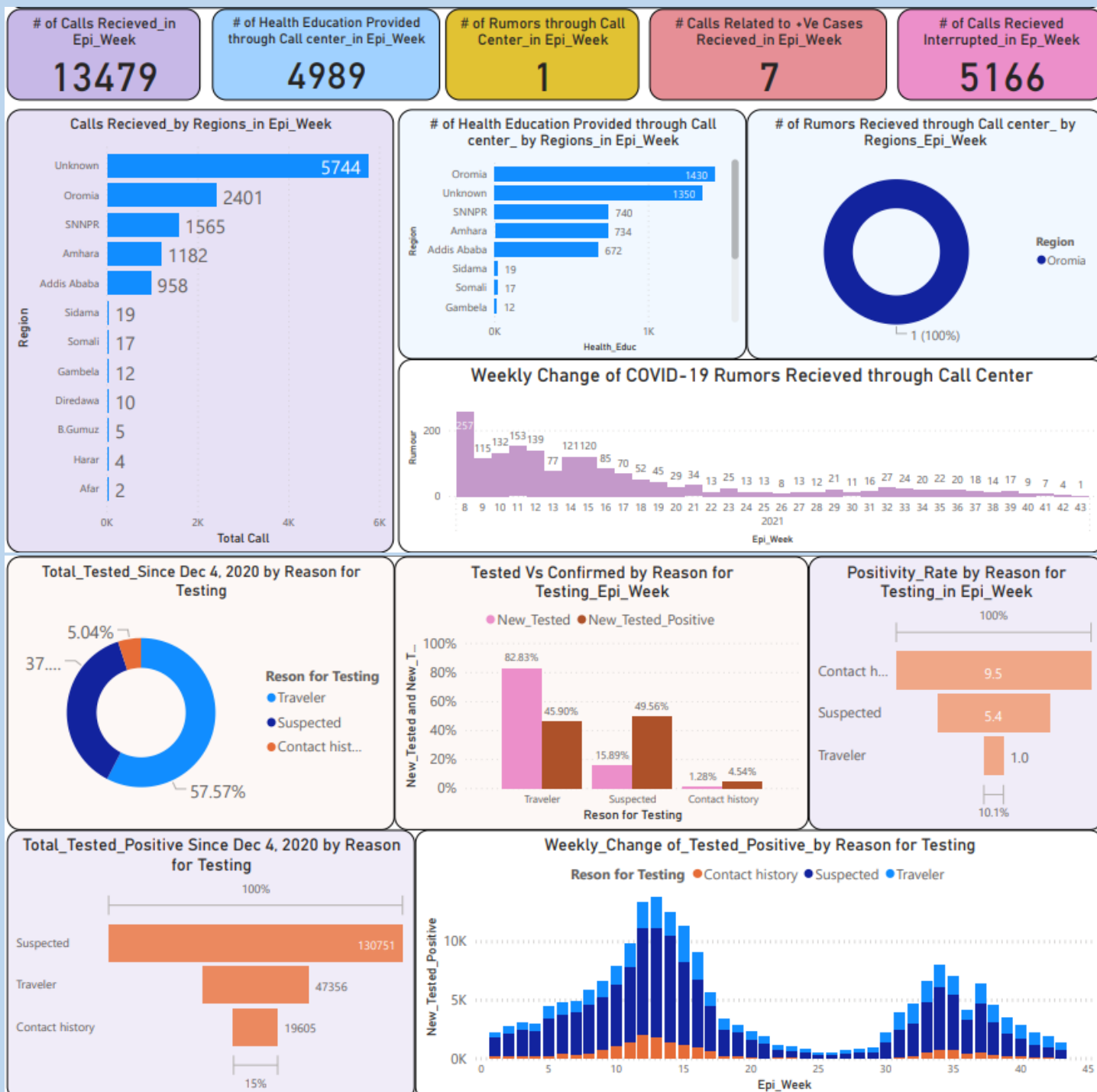


Figure 9: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as October 31, 2021, Ethiopia.

### iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,842,343 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 835,172 (30%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 35,414 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-43.
- As of October 31, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 60 (none in Epi-week-43) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 95 (none in week-43) 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 being done at Bole International Airport for returnees. So far, 9,280 tests (none in week-43) are conducted among which 97 positive cases (none in week-43) are detected as of October 31, 2021.
- A total of 69,808 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 477 returnees were received in the Epi-week-43. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 68,173 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,635 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of October 31, 2021.

## IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 31 October 2021, a total of 3,696,597 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 46,422 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-43 which is a 1.4% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-43 is 6.19%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (6.75%).
- Amhara, Harari regional states and Dire Dawa City Administration have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 11 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 443,764 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 10,341 is performed in the Epi-week-43 (figure 10 below).

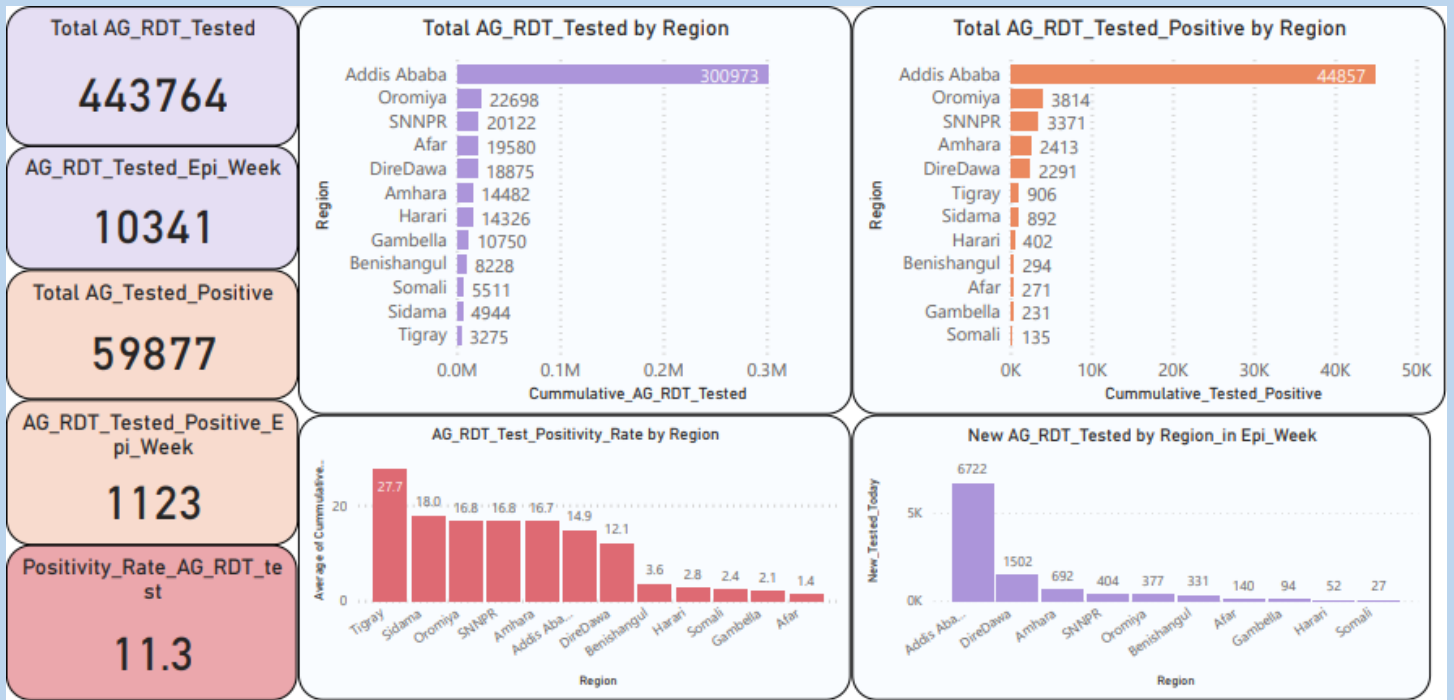


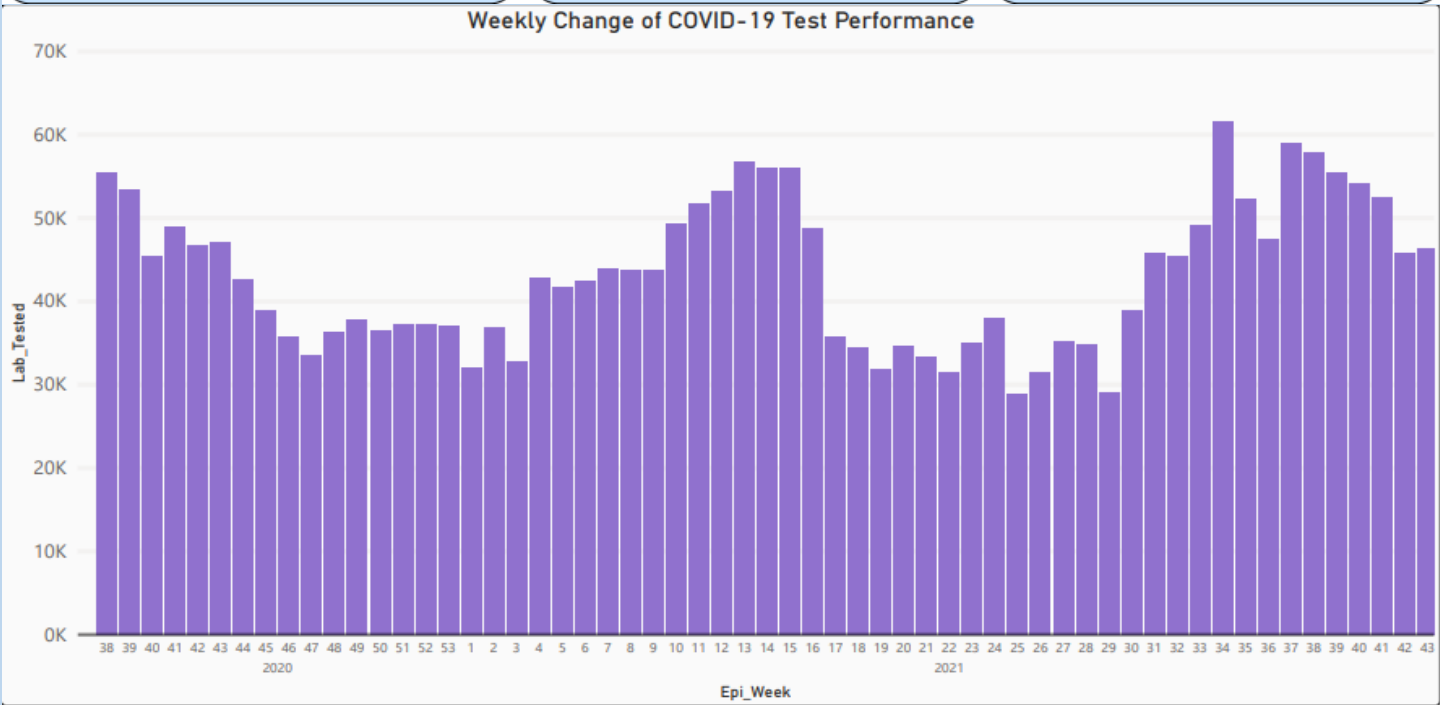
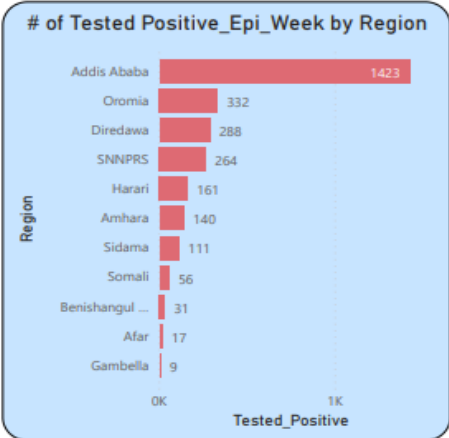
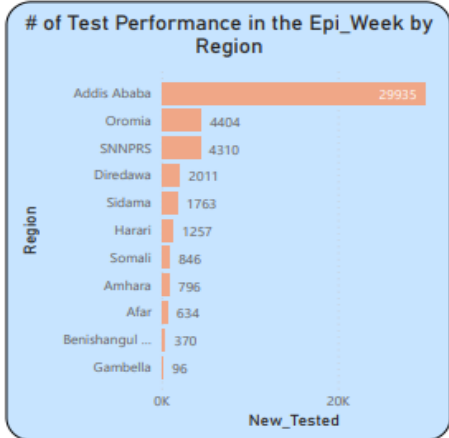
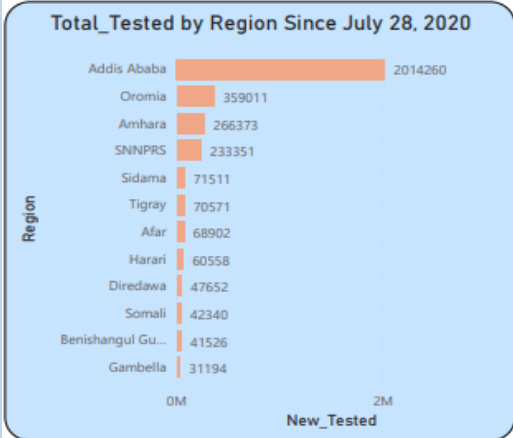
Figure 10: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of October 31, 2021

**Total Tested**  
**3696597**

**# of New Tested in the Epi\_Week**  
**46422**

**Total Tested / 1M Population**  
**32110**

**New Tested / 1M Population of Ep\_Week**  
**813**



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	29935	1423	40	4.7
Oromia	4404	332	30	7.5
SNNPRS	4310	264	1	7.5
Diredawa	2011	288	5	14.9
Sidama	1763	111	5	6.5
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Benishangul Gumuz	370	31	1	8.0
Gambella	96	9	0	7.1
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<b>Total</b>	<b>46422</b>	<b>2832</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>9.1</b>

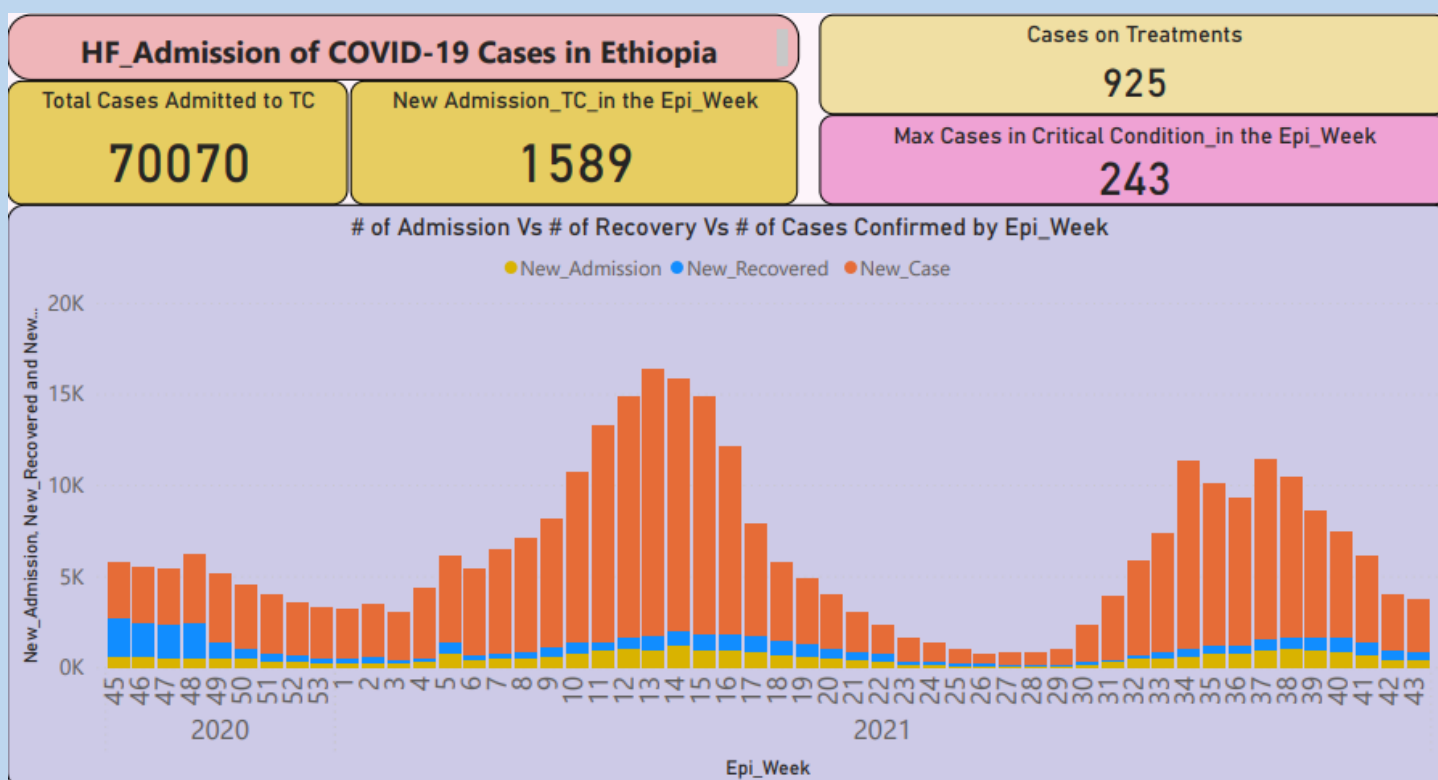
\*\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

**Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of October 31, 2021, Ethiopia.**

## V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 4,326 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-43, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 339,742 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 93%.
- On October 31, 2021, there are 432 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (523).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 12: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of October 31, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of October 31, 2021

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	245508	114	35754	19	3593	30338	305	195
Oromia	47616	14	9084	8	887	7826	376	124
SNNPR	15403	10	5108	1	235	4869	41	3
Amhara	13773	7	5138	0	379	4703	53	41
Sidama	10907	22	3683	0	214	3369	36	17
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Dire Dawa	7474	16	1385	2	110	1245	30	11
Harari	5044	21	1357	0	167	1176	10	10
Benishangul G	3794	3	996	3	26	945	27	1
Afar	2941	0	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2881	0	767	0	90	627	47	30
Gambella	1655	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

## b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 281,071 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 277,769 (98.83%) have recovered and 43 (0.015%) died.
- Of these, 2,559 cases have been enrolled to HBIC, 3,842 cases have recovered and two died in the Epi-Week-43.
- As of October 31, 2021, there are 4,649 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,510 (17 in the Epi-week-43) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,217 (three in the Epi-week-43) 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.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 13: COVID-19 situation update as of October 31, 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.
- 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.
- 23rd Health Sector Annual Review Meeting has been held in Jigjiga from October 30 to 31, 2021 under the theme "Responsive Health System in the New Beginnings!"

Addressing the gathering, the Minister of Health, HE. Dr. Lia Tadesse, said the conference is being held at a time where the country is facing many challenges and has embarked on a long journey towards peace and prosperity; hence the meeting will be conveyed under the theme “Responsive Health System in the New Beginnings!”. At the opening of the conference, a representative of the partner organizations have delivered a message. In addition, in the opening program of the conference, ten health professionals and one special award winner were presented with awards based on the criteria set by the Ministry of Health such as lifetime service award, professional exceptional services, and different field responsibilities. At the same time, an exhibition on the success of the Health Sector Transformation Plan was presented. The exhibition was officially opened by Somali Regional State Vice President HE. Ato Ibrahim Osman and Minister of Health HE. Dr. Lia Tadesse. Regional Health Bureaus and partners, including the Ministry of Health, participated in the exhibition. The 2013 plan performance report and the plans for 2014 was discussed along with a subsequent COVID-19 special session. The conference was attended by more than 420 participants including the Ministry of Health, the Prime Minister's Office, the House of Peoples' Representatives, regional health bureaus, agencies, professional associations, civic associations, the private sector and partner organizations.



Figure 14: 23<sup>rd</sup> health sector Annual Review Meeting, Oct. 30-31, 2021, Jigjiga, Ethiopia.

## 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 law enforcement to enhance public health and social measures by all responsible bodies.
- Continuing the COVID-19 vaccination.
- 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 to priority groups 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 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	<a href="https://www.ephi.gov.et/">https://www.ephi.gov.et/</a>	8335/952	<a href="mailto:ephieoc@gmail.com">ephieoc@gmail.com</a>
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	<a href="https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/">https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/">https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	<a href="https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia">https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	<a href="https://t.me/EthPHI">https://t.me/EthPHI</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute YouTube Channel	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvtzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvtzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw</a>		
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Website	<a href="http://www.moh.gov.et">www.moh.gov.et</a>	952	
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/">https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/</a>		
Afar Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/">https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/</a>	6220	<a href="mailto:afarpheoc@gmail.com">afarpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Amhara Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/">https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/</a>	6981	<a href="mailto:aphieoc@gmail.com">aphieoc@gmail.com</a>
Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/">https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/</a>	6016	<a href="mailto:bgpheoc@gmail.com">bgpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau">https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau</a>	6184	<a href="mailto:gambellapheoc@gmail.com">gambellapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Harari Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/">https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/</a>	6864	<a href="mailto:hrrhpheoc@gmail.com">hrrhpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/">https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/</a>	6955	<a href="mailto:oromiapheoc@gmail.com">oromiapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Somali Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/srhbdot.com/">https://www.facebook.com/srhbdot.com/...</a>	6599	<a href="mailto:somalipheoc@gmail.com">somalipheoc@gmail.com</a>
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs">https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs</a>	6929	<a href="mailto:snnppheoc@gmail.com">snnppheoc@gmail.com</a>
Tigray Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhub/">https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhub/</a>	6244	<a href="mailto:tigraypheoc@gmail.com">tigraypheoc@gmail.com</a>
Sidama PHEM			<a href="mailto:sidamapheoc@gmail.com">sidamapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/">https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/</a>	6407	<a href="mailto:ddpheoc@gmail.com">ddpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/">https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/</a>	6406	<a href="mailto:aapheoc@gmail.com">aapheoc@gmail.com</a>

### COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:

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



**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://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](http://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**

**National COVID-19 Response Incident Management system, Emergency Operation Center**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION and NOTIFICATION**

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**Call: 8335/952 (TOLL FREE LINE) or 011 276 5340**

**Email: [ephieoc@gmail.com](mailto:ephieoc@gmail.com) or [phemdatacenter@gmail.com](mailto:phemdatacenter@gmail.com)**