



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 22 (May 31 – June 06, 2021)

BULLETIN No: 58

Issue Date: June 11, 2021

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 1,569 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 54 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-22 bringing the total cases and death to 272,914 and 4,209 respectively.
- A total of 31,492 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-22 bringing the total number of samples tested to 2,720,495.
- A total of 194,615 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 5,000 of these are enrolled in the Epi-Week-22.
- The number of COVID-19 confirmed cases, deaths due to COVID-19 and laboratory test positivity rate in Ethiopia have shown decrement in the last consecutive weeks.
- A discussion forum held with media officials regarding the current COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia.



Fig. 1: Discussion forum with Media Officials regarding current COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia, June 02, 2021, Bishoftu, Ethiopia

II. Subject in Focus:

COVID-19 plan revitalization ('Dagim Tikuret LeCOVID-19')

- The COVID-19 response revitalization movement which mainly focuses on enhancing overall COVID-19 response via increasing community awareness through risk communication and community engagement, detection capacity and improving quality care and capacity is already launched at national and subnational level.
- In line with the revitalization plan regional support teams have been deployed to regional Public Health Emergency Operation Centers and biweekly meeting with regional and national Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOC) COVID-19 response IMS is being conducted. The biweekly meeting agenda focuses on the overall COVID-19 response plan status, detection capacity, challenges (ongoing & predicted) and support area required (identifying resources on hand and gaps).
- Three weeks have passed since the "Dagim Tikuret LeCOVID-19" movement is launched nationally.
- All regional states have launched and initiated the movement.
- As of June 5, 2021, total of 29,571 household's visits have been performed by health extension workers in five regional states as part of revitalization.
 - 22,608 households visited in Addis Ababa City Administration.
 - 473 rural households in Amhara region.
 - 4,916 households (233 Urban and 4,683 Rural) visited in SNNP region
 - 387 Urban households visited in Benishangul Gumuz region.
 - 1,187 Urban households visited in Harari region

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- Globally, over 3.7 million new cases are reported in the last week (Figure 2). This decrease is for the fifth consecutive week. There is 10% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week.
- More than 101 thousand new deaths (6% decrease compared to previous week) are reported globally in the Epi-week-22.
- As of June 06, 2021, a total of 169,571,372 COVID-19 cases and 3,548,344 deaths (CFR=2.09%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 3,704,091 cases and 101,415 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-22.
- 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 India (964,814 new cases), Brazil (583,754 new cases), the United States of America (240,544 new cases), Argentina (217,028 new cases) and Colombia (183,036 new cases).
- In Africa, as of June 06, 2021, a total of 4,946,053 cases and 131,548 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.66%). Of these 131,548 cases and 2,755 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-22.
- 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.

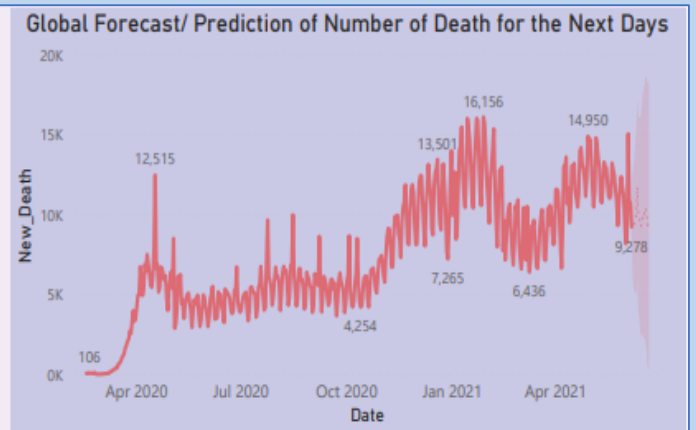
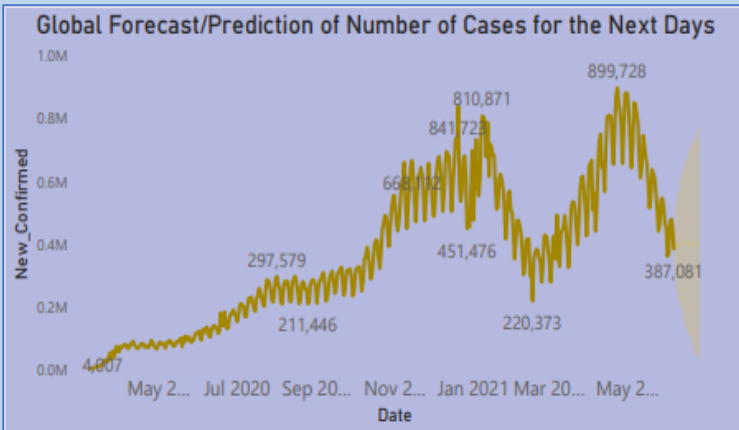
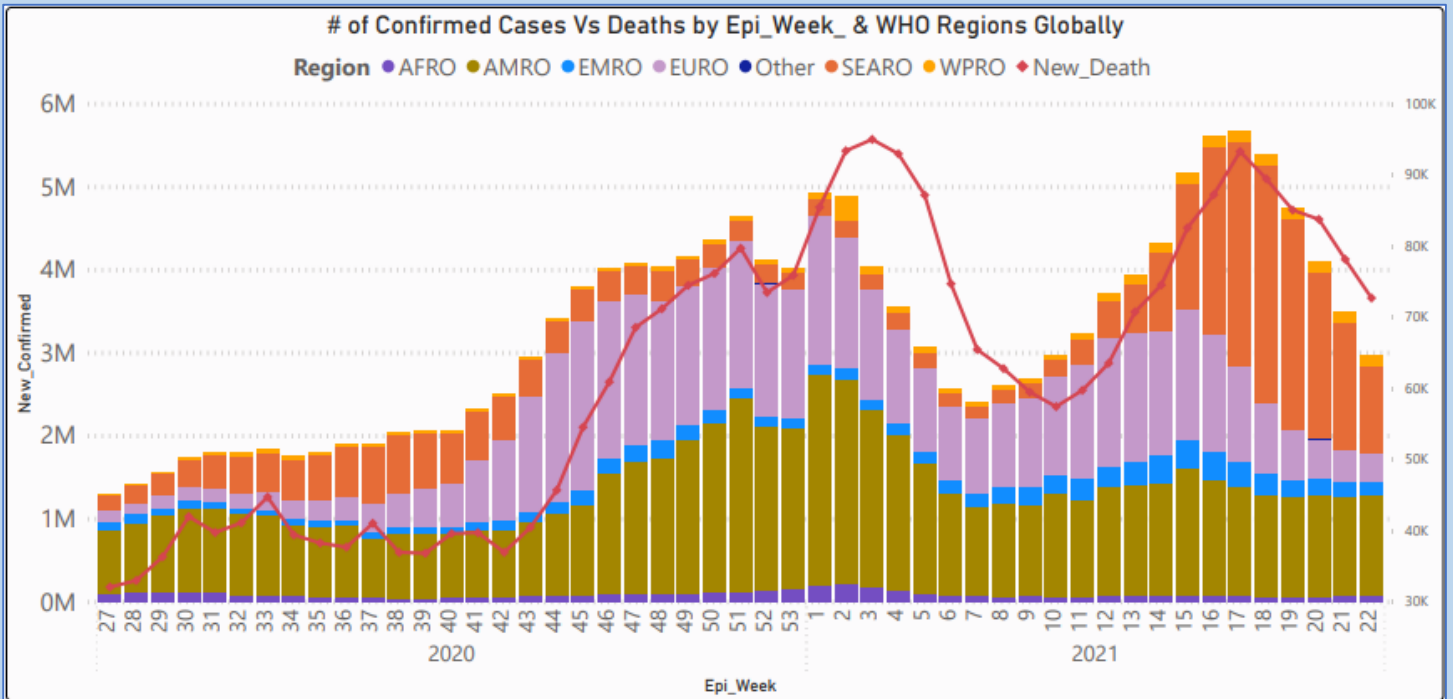
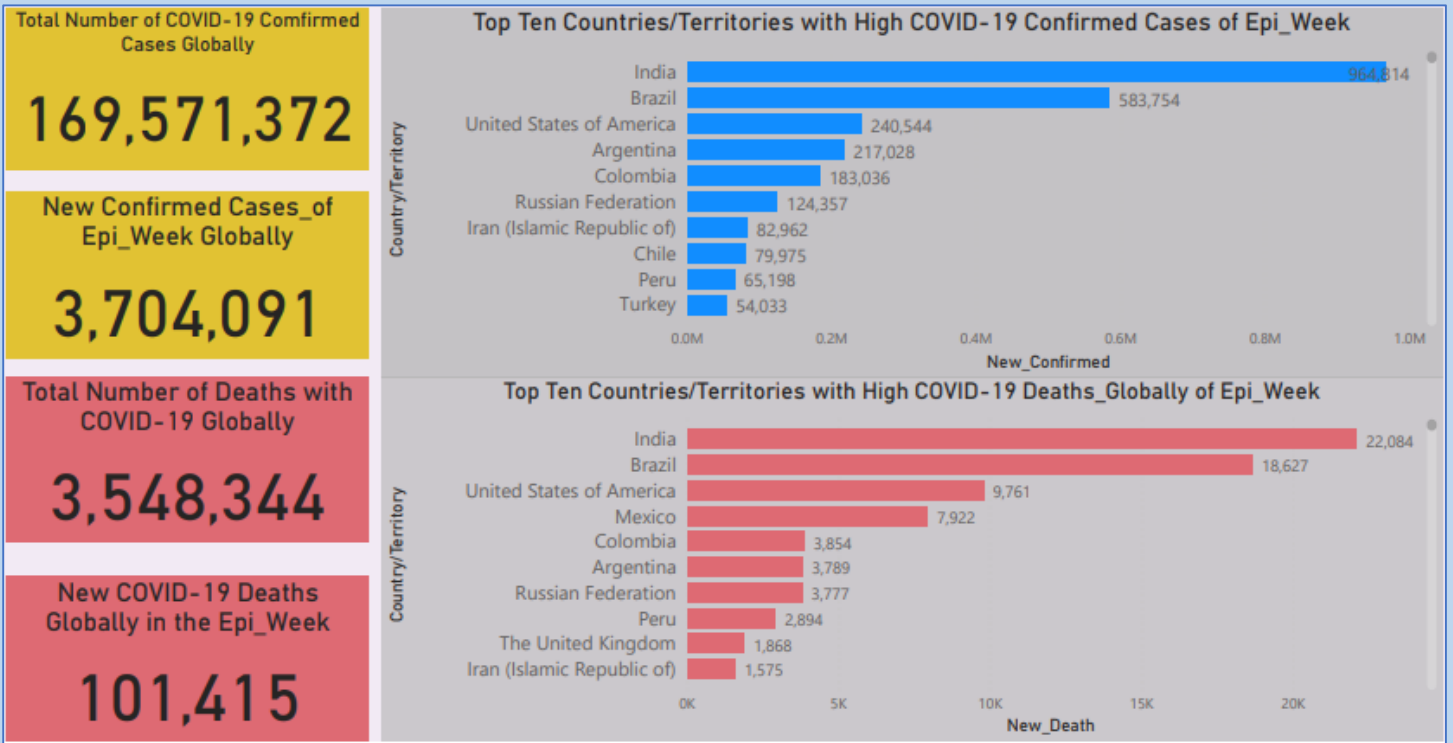


Fig. 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of June 06, 2021 (Source: WHO)

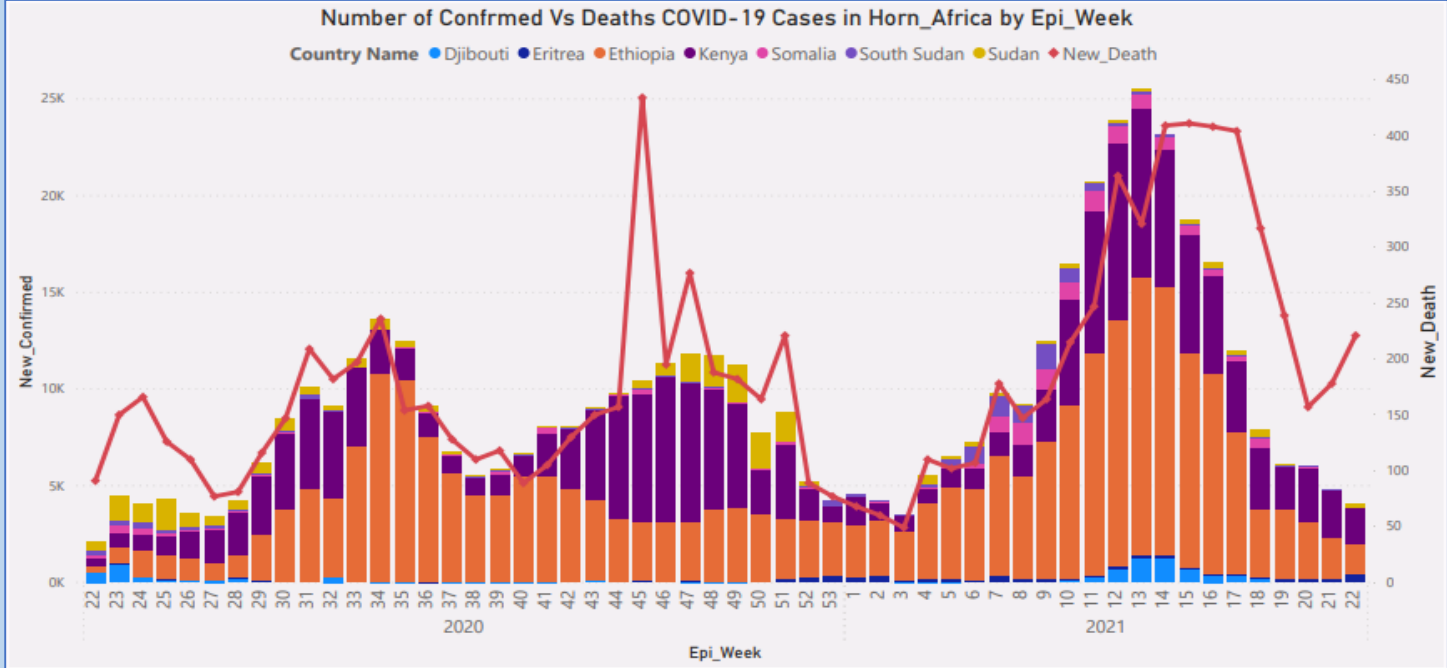
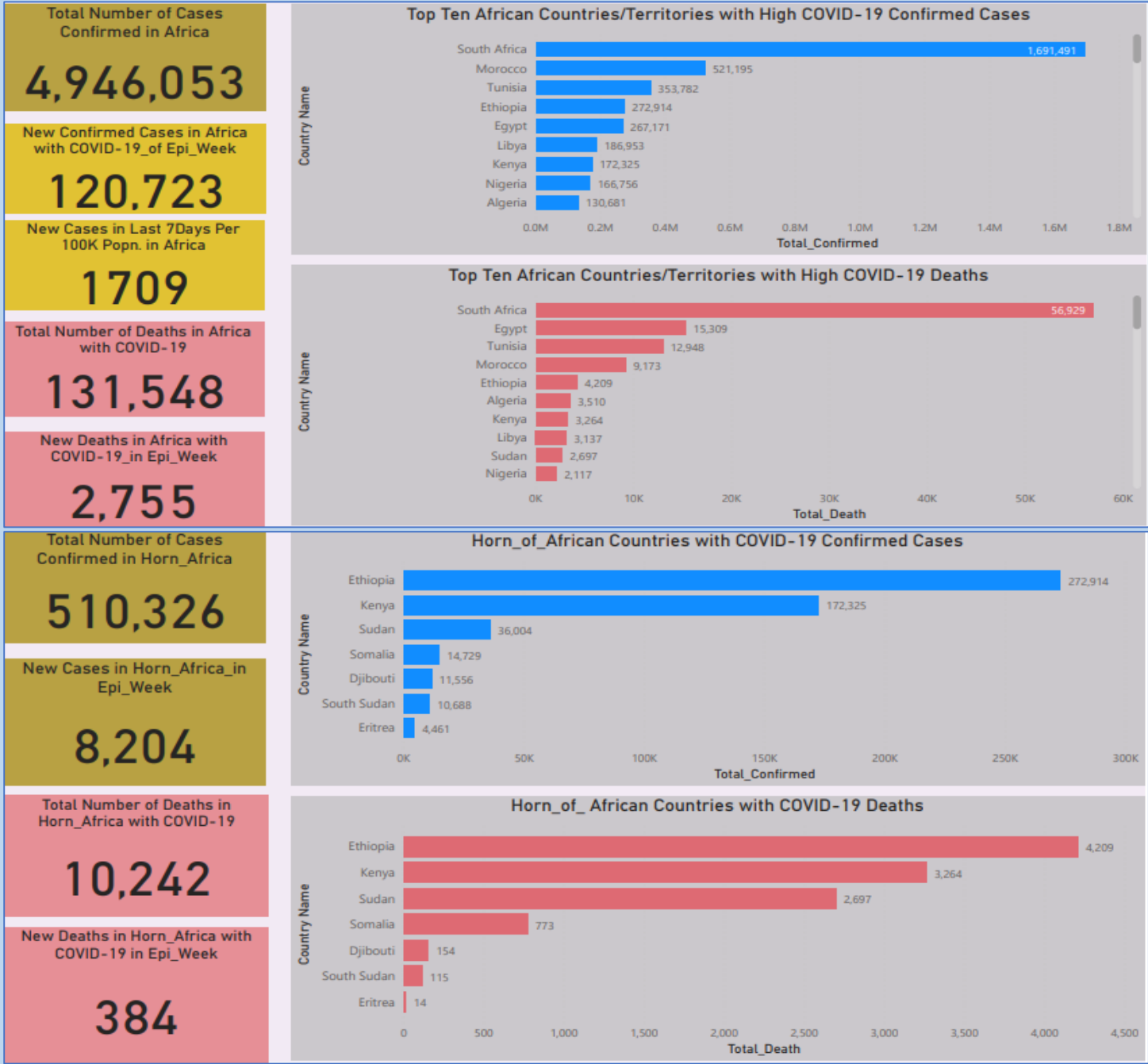


Fig. 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of June 06, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of June 06, 2021, a total of 272,914 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,209 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.54%. This puts Ethiopia in the fourth position by the number of confirmed cases and in the fifth position by the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Africa.
- One-thousand-five-hundred-sixty-nine (1,569) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 54 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-22.
- In this week, there is a 27% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (for the ninth consecutive weeks) and there is a 32% decrease in the number of deaths due to COVID-19.
- The number of COVID-19 confirmed cases, deaths due to COVID-19 and laboratory test positivity rate in Ethiopia have shown decrement in the last consecutive weeks while the overall case fatality rate has shown increment. For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the Epi-Week-22 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate	# of Recovery
Addis Ababa	23701	775	132	33	3.3	7371
Oromia	1875	267	36	8	15.7	890
Amhara	1297	196	110	4	16.0	146
SNNPR	1070	96	12	1	8.3	79
Afar	881	14	0	0	1.4	23
Harari	719	16	1	2	1.9	19
Tigray	604	160	13	3	25.0	14
Gambella	442	9	0	1	2.0	0
Dire Dawa	310	22	6	2	7.2	21
Sidama	301	12	3	0	3.9	13
Benshangul	182	1	3	0	12.5	99
Somali	110	1	0	0	0.6	28
Total	31492	1569	316	54	8.3	8703

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

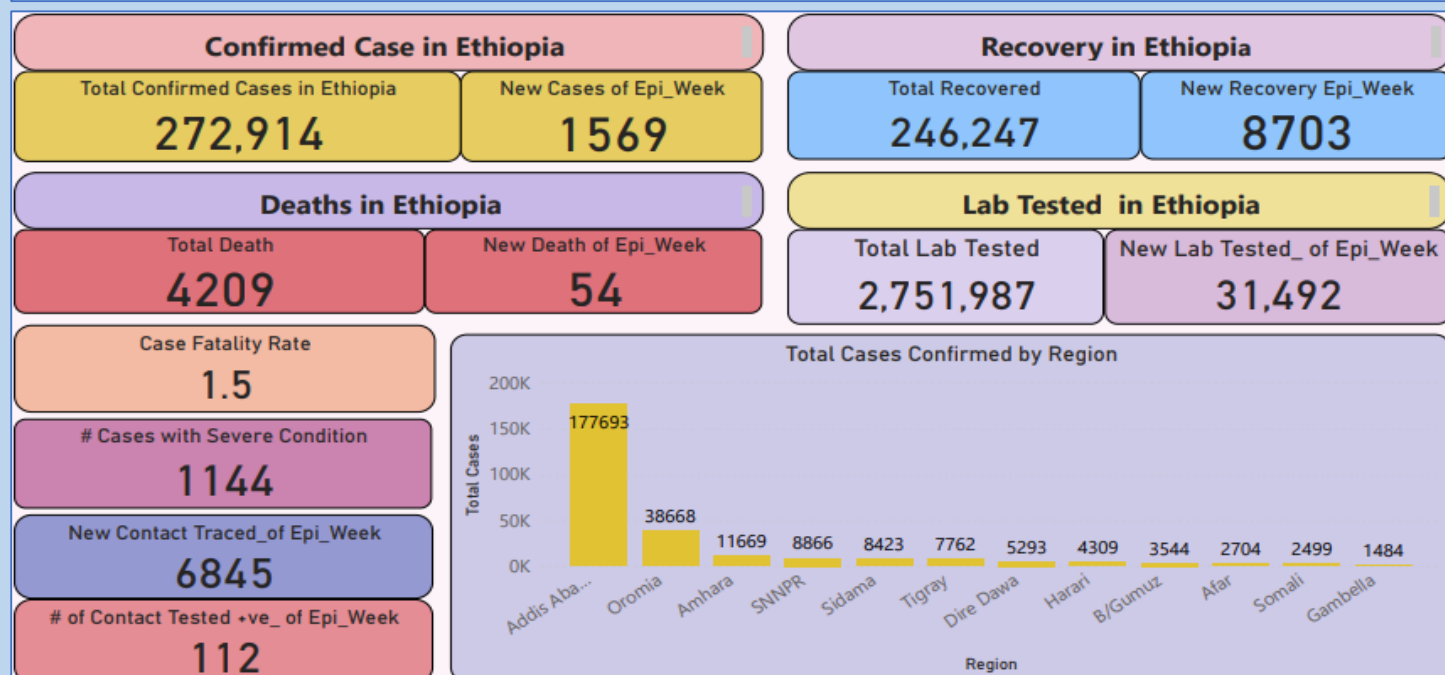


Fig. 4: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of June 06, 2021, Ethiopia

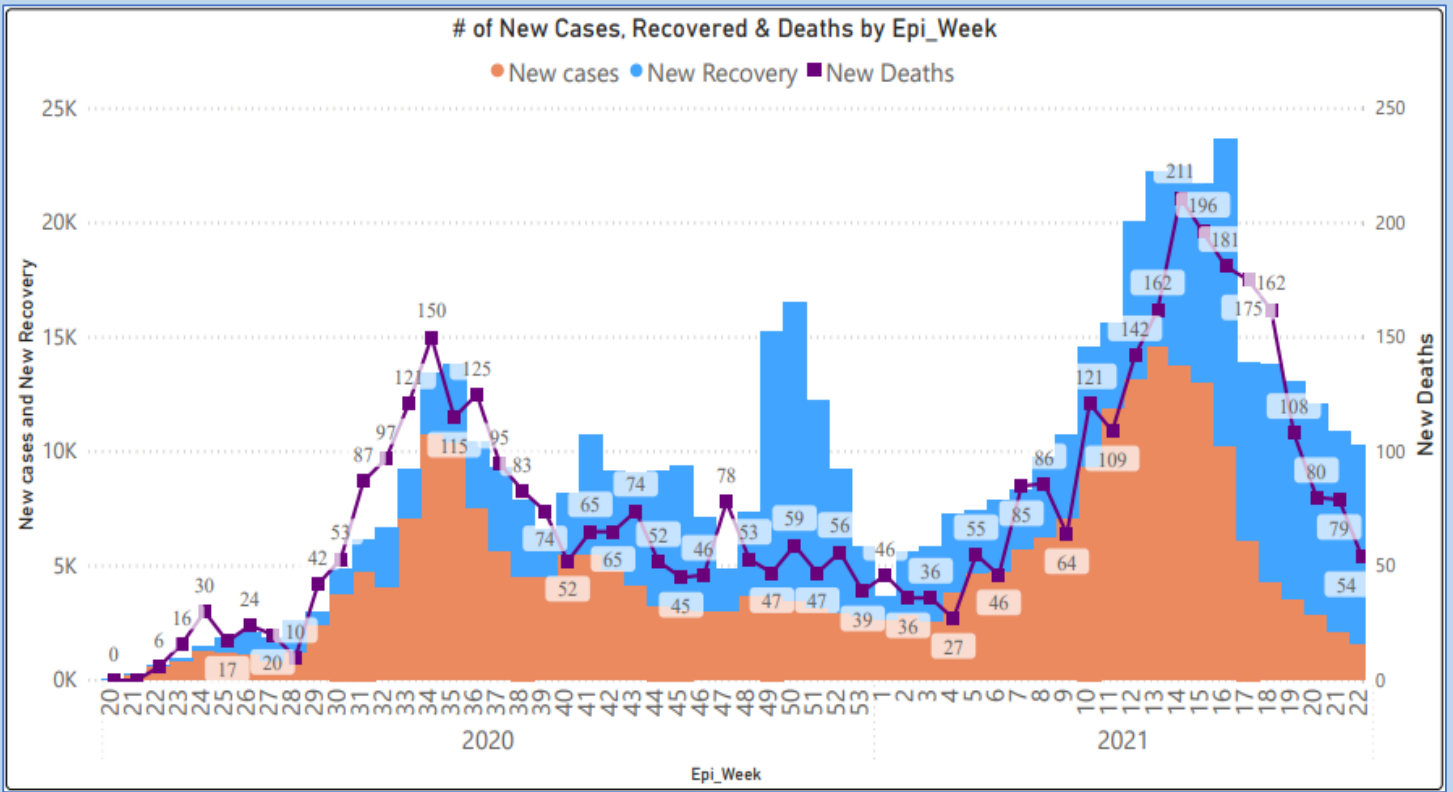


Fig. 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of June 06, 2021, Ethiopia

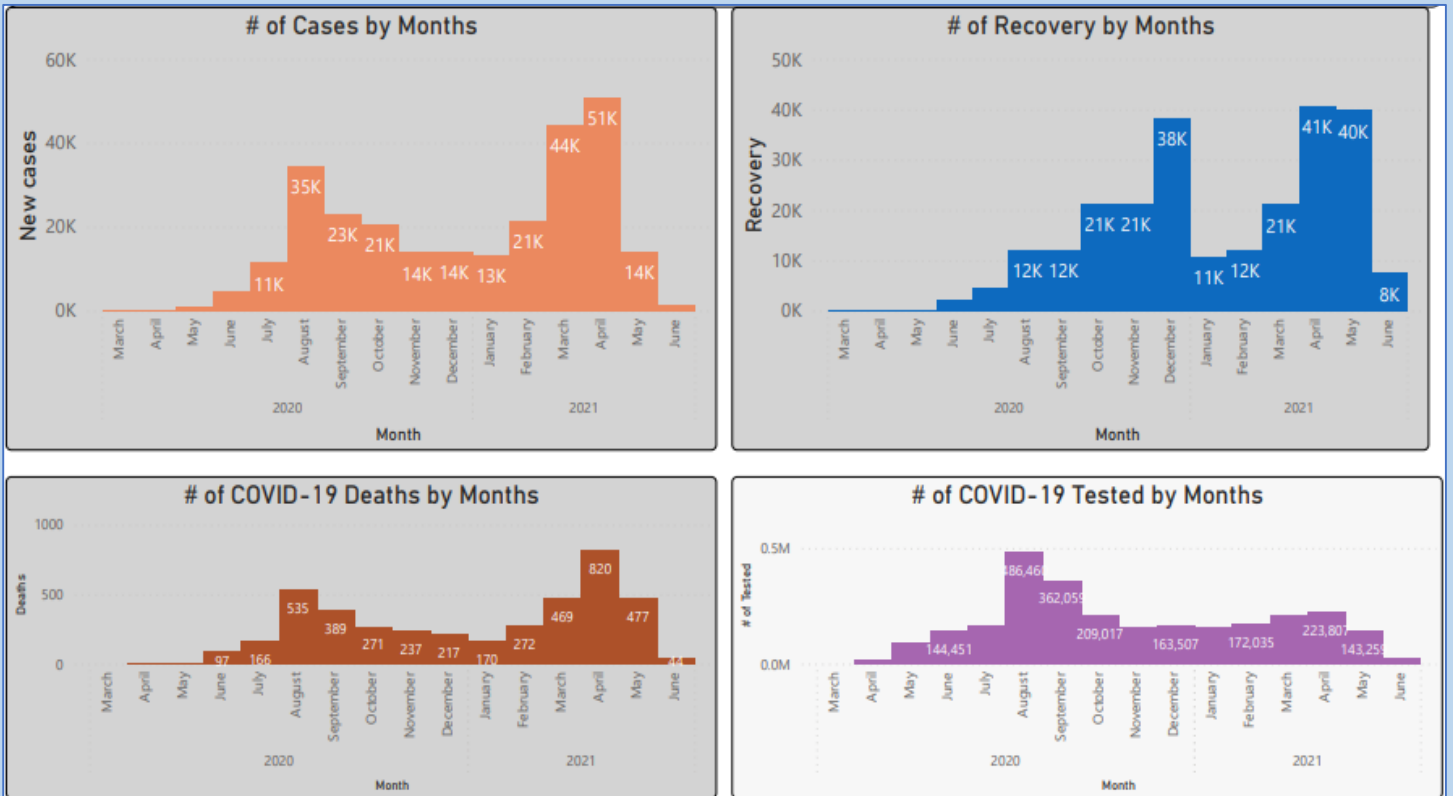


Fig. 6: Summary of monthly trend of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of June 06, 2021.

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.

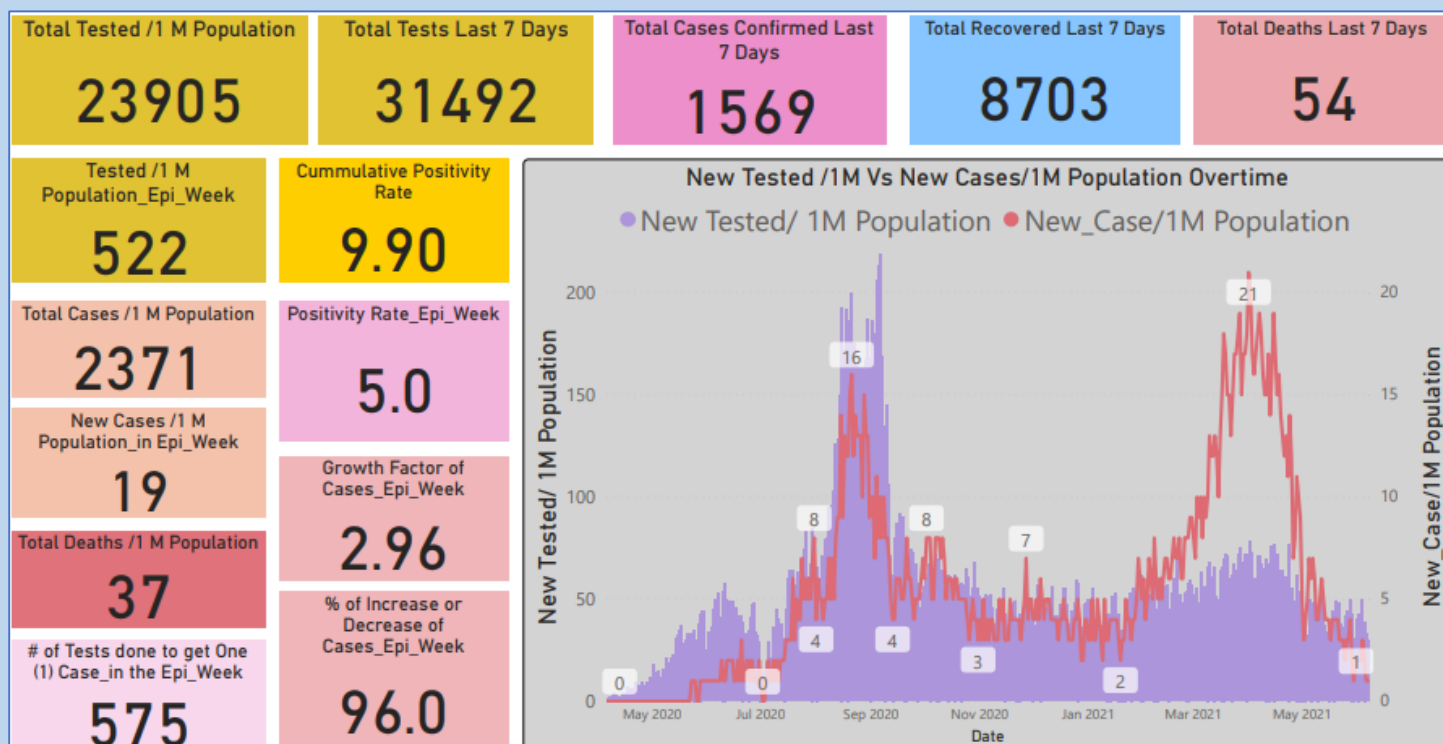


Fig. 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of June 06, 2021.

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 not be abandoned.
- As of June 06, 2021:
 - A total of 370,184 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 6,844 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-22.
 - Of total contacts, 324,933 (87.77%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 3,798 contacts are still on follow-up.
- Overall, 41,895 (11.31%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 15.35% 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 contacts.

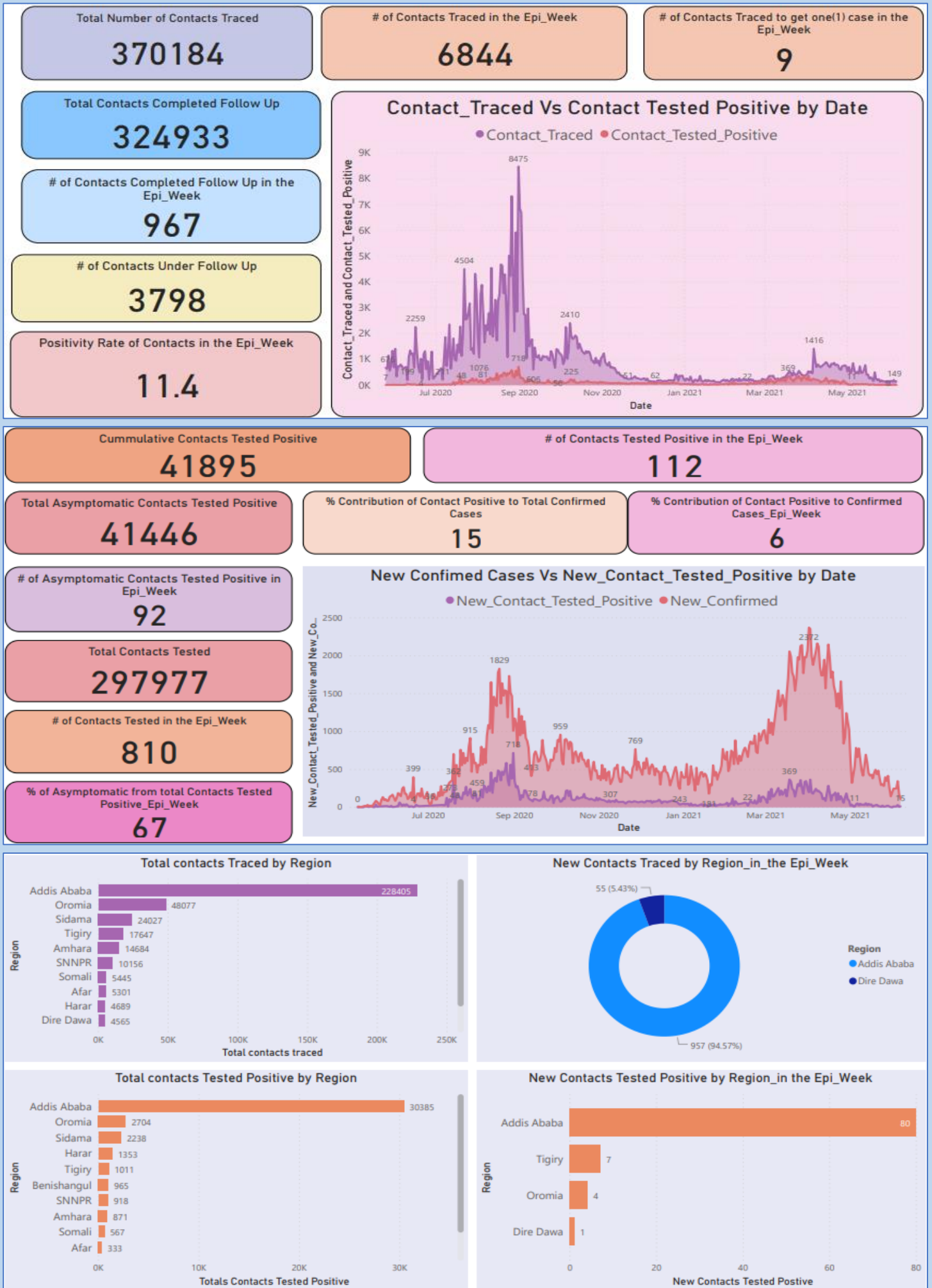


Fig. 8: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of June 06, 2021, Ethiopia.

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 June 06, 2021:
 - 392,347 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 85 rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-22.
 - 278,969 (71.10%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 20,894 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

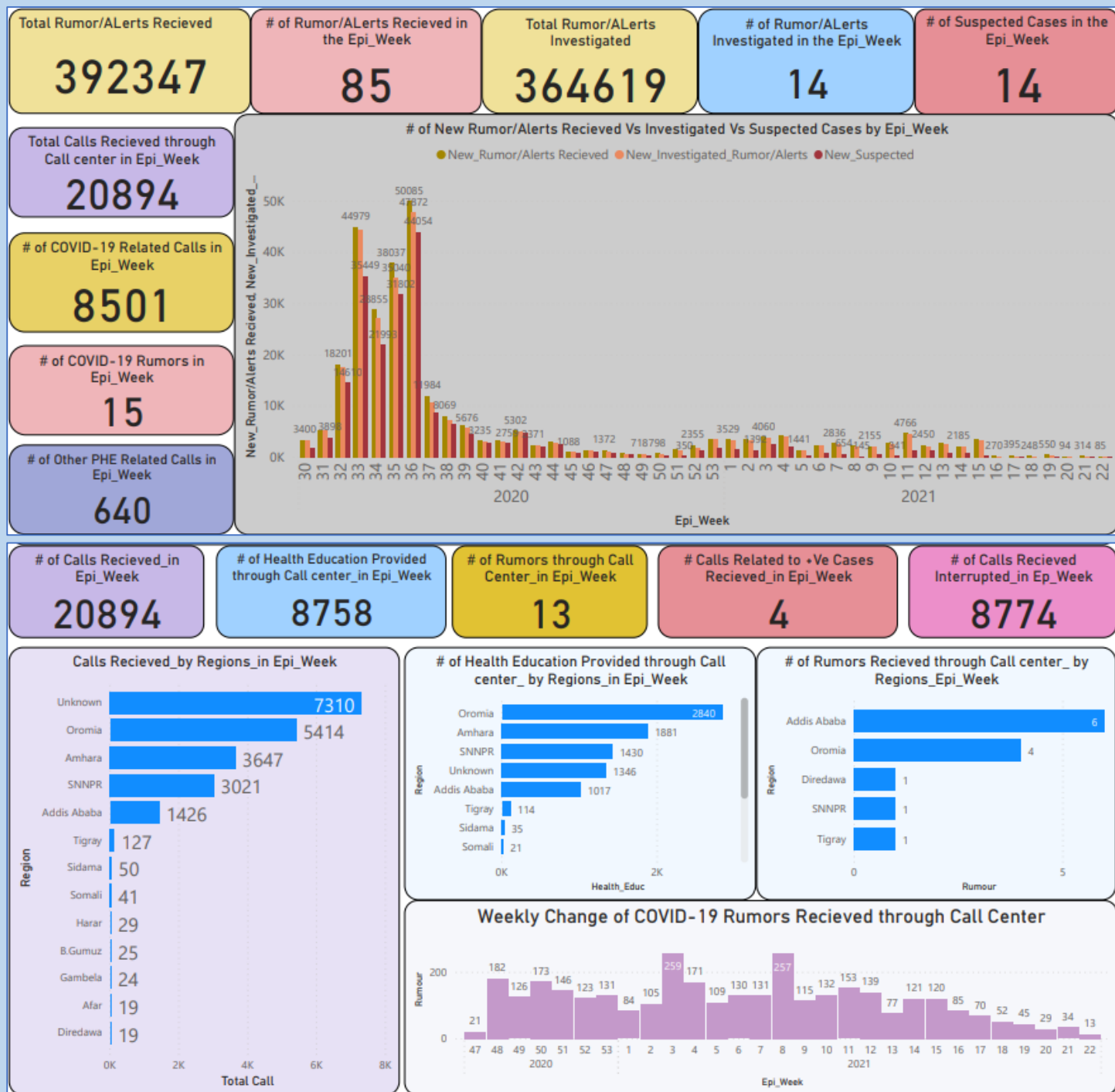


Fig. 9: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of June 06, 2021, Ethiopia.

iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,251,727 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 712,271 (31.6%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 33,039 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-22.
- As of June 06, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates, 330,700 passengers (7,495 in Epi-week-22) had PCR negative certificates while 47 (one in Epi-week-22) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 91 SARS-COV-2 positive cases have been detected after arrival laboratory test.

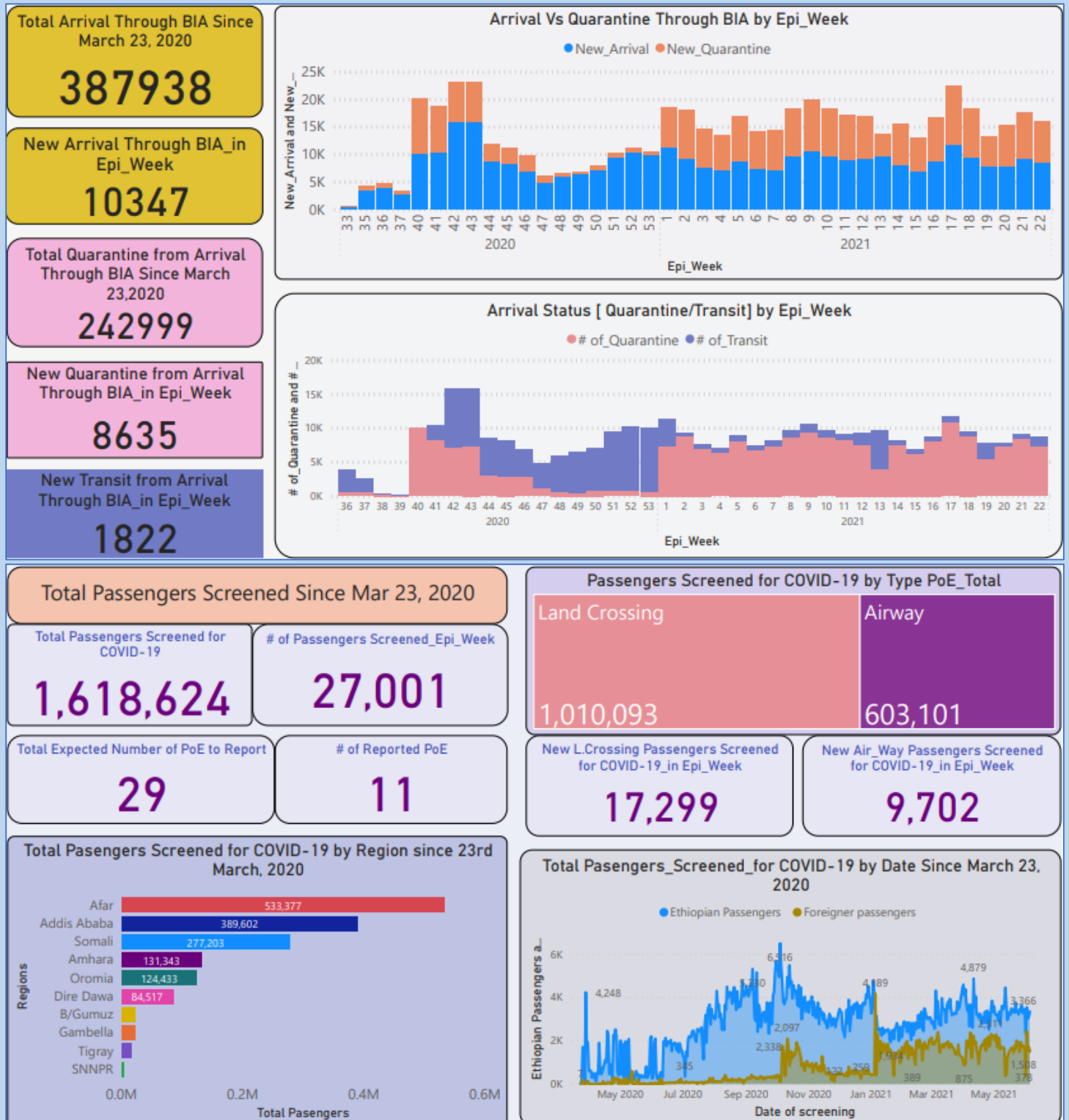


Fig. 10: Summary of Passengers screening for COVID-19 as of June 06, 2021, Ethiopia.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 06 June, 2021, a total of 2,751,987 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 31,492 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-22 which is a 6% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-22 is 4.98%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (6.45%).
- Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz and SNNP regional states have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average while the positivity rate in Addis Ababa has showed a decrease (figure 12 below). This shows that the COVID-19 epidemic has got high spread to regions.
- COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT) is also being performed nationally. A total of 9,710 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 1,256 is performed in the Epi-week-22 (figure 11 below).

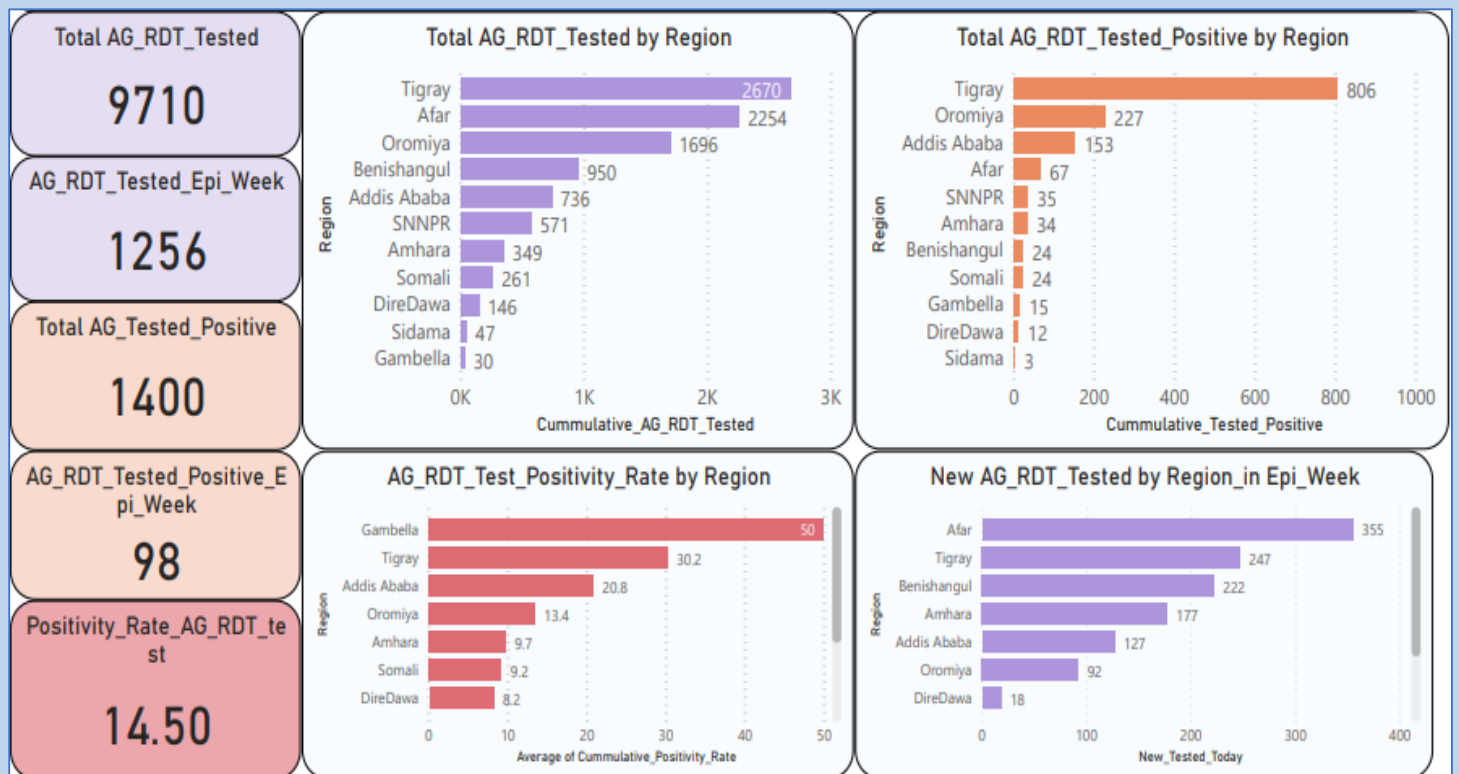
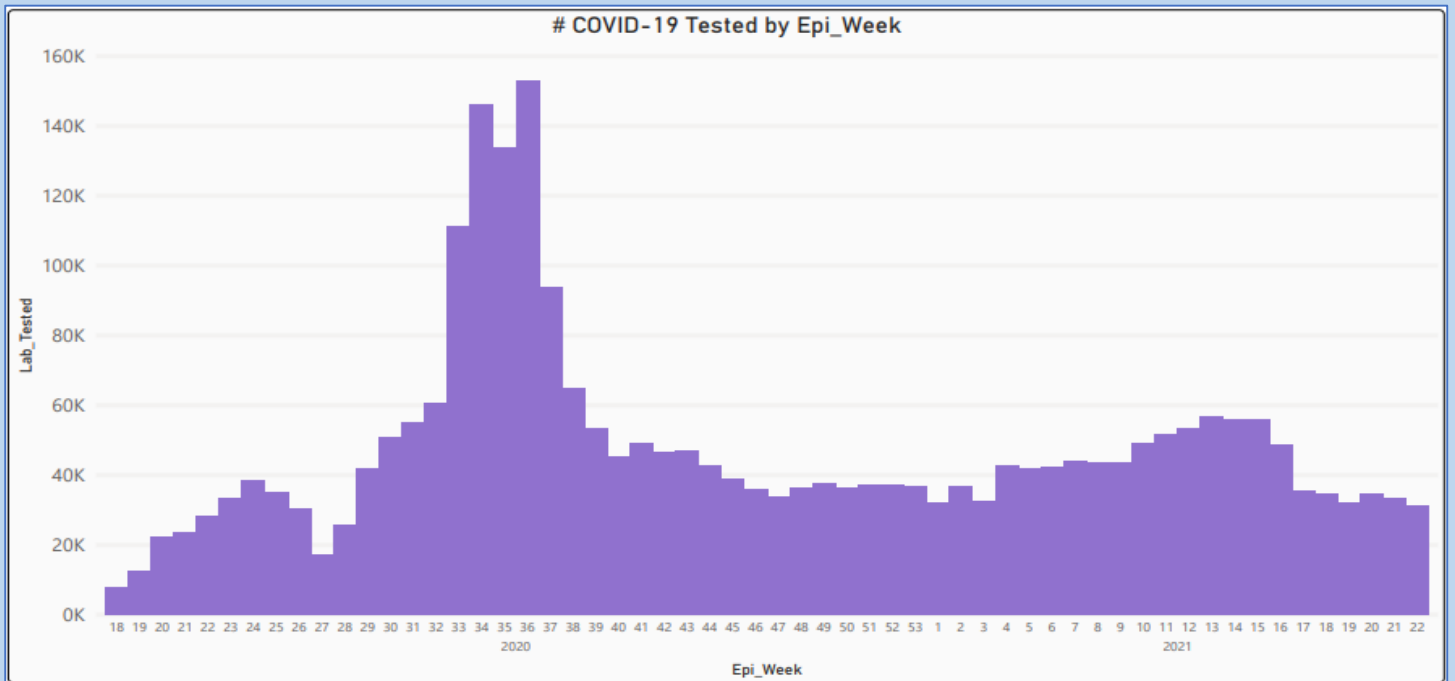
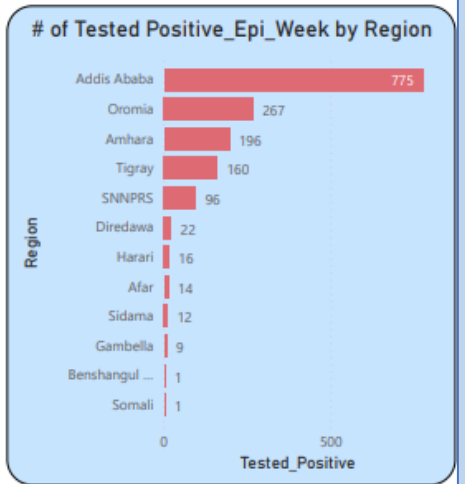
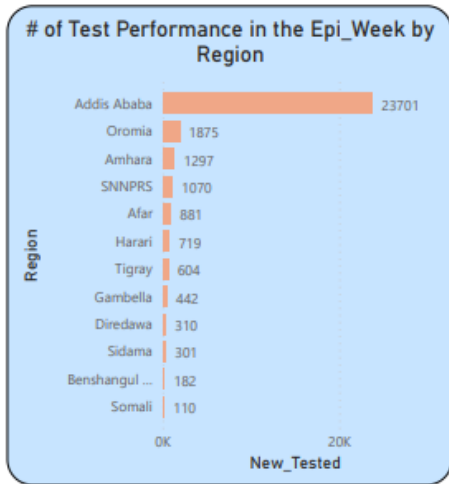
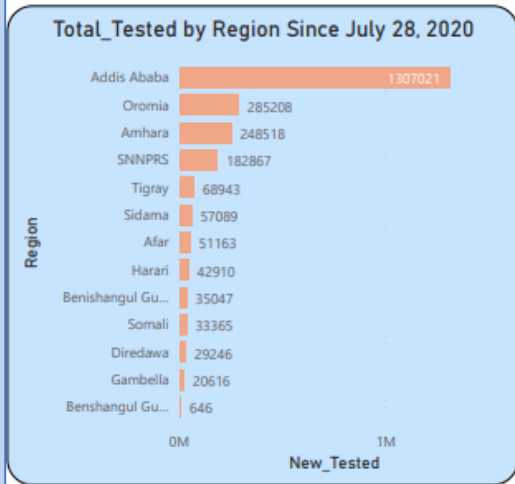
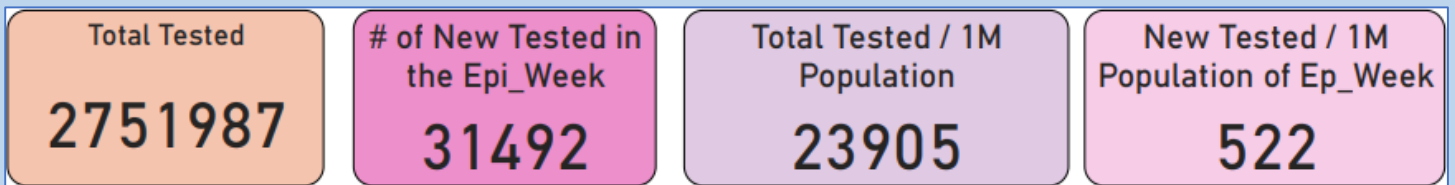


Fig. 11: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of June 06, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	23701	775	33	3.19
Oromia	1875	267	8	15.76
Amhara	1297	196	4	16.17
SNNPRS	1070	96	0	8.17
Afar	881	14	0	1.51
Harari	719	16	2	1.99
Tigray	604	160	3	25.12
Gambella	442	9	1	1.58
Diredawa	310	22	2	7.12
Sidama	301	12	0	3.80
Benishangul Gumz	182	1	1	10.00
Somali	110	1	0	0.60
Total	31492	1569	54	8.10

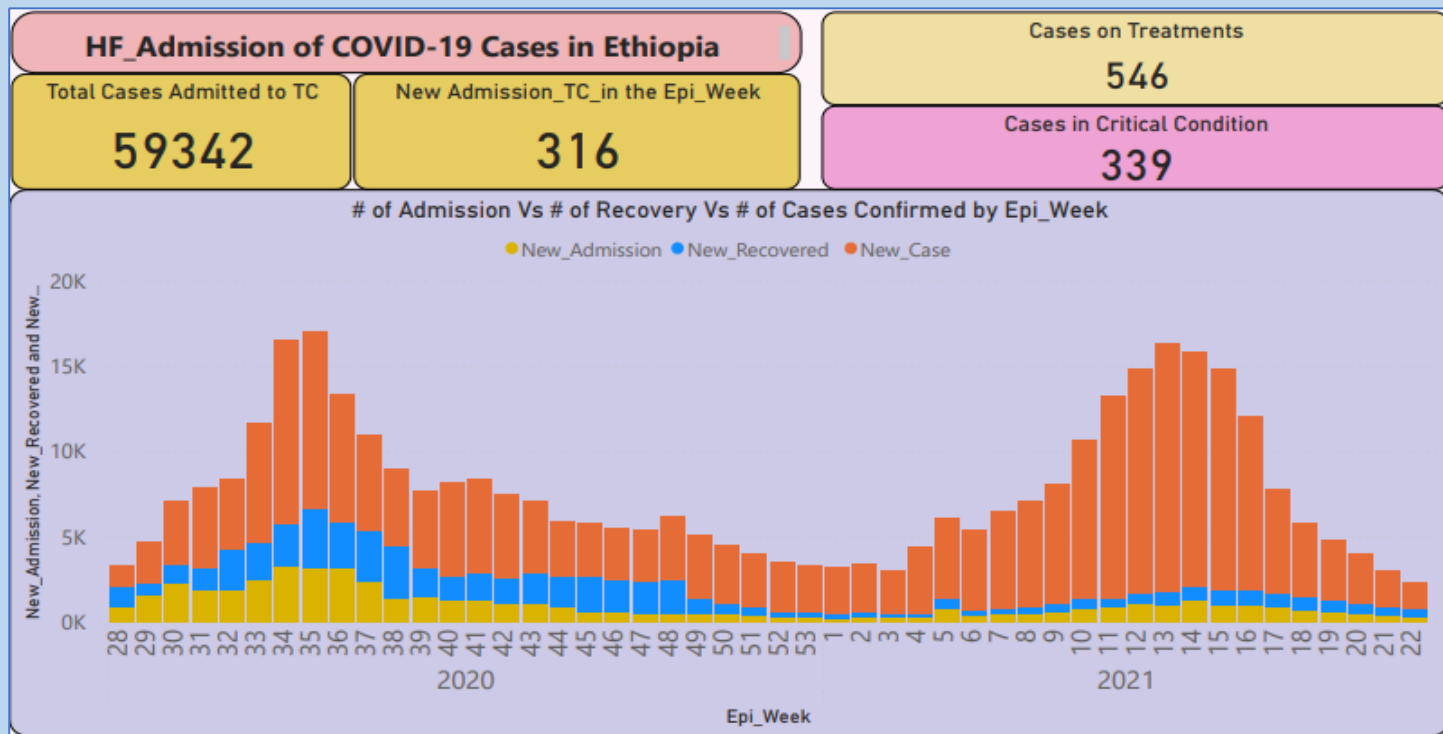
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distrn of Rates

Fig. 12: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of June 06, 2021, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 8,703 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-22, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 246,247 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC).
- The highest number of daily cases in severe condition reported in this week is 399.



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Fig. 13: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of June 06, 2021.

- Most of the confirmed cases admitted to treatment centers are in the age group of 15 to 54 while most of the COVID-19 related deaths occurred in age greater 64. This indicates that as the patient becomes elder there comes high probability of death due to COVID-19 (see figure 14 below).

Age_Group	# of Confirmed cases admitted to TC	# of COVID-19 patients discharged from Facility	# of Facility Deaths
65 - 74	4416	3155	1004
55 - 64	5722	4629	866
75 - 84	2039	1337	569
45 - 54	6775	6072	518
35 - 44	9302	8735	407
85 +	749	383	340
25 - 34	16479	16007	269
15 - 24	12377	12116	130
0 - 4	845	779	37
5 - 14	1281	1221	37
Total	59985	54434	4177

Fig. 14: Summary of COVID-19 patients' update based on age group as of June 06, 2021, Ethiopia.

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 194,615 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 191,910 (98.61%) have recovered and 32 (0.016%) died.
- Of these, 4,709 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 8,325 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-22.
- As of June 06, 2021, there are 4,005 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,185 (two of them in the Epi-Week-22) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 853 four of them in the Epi-week-22) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

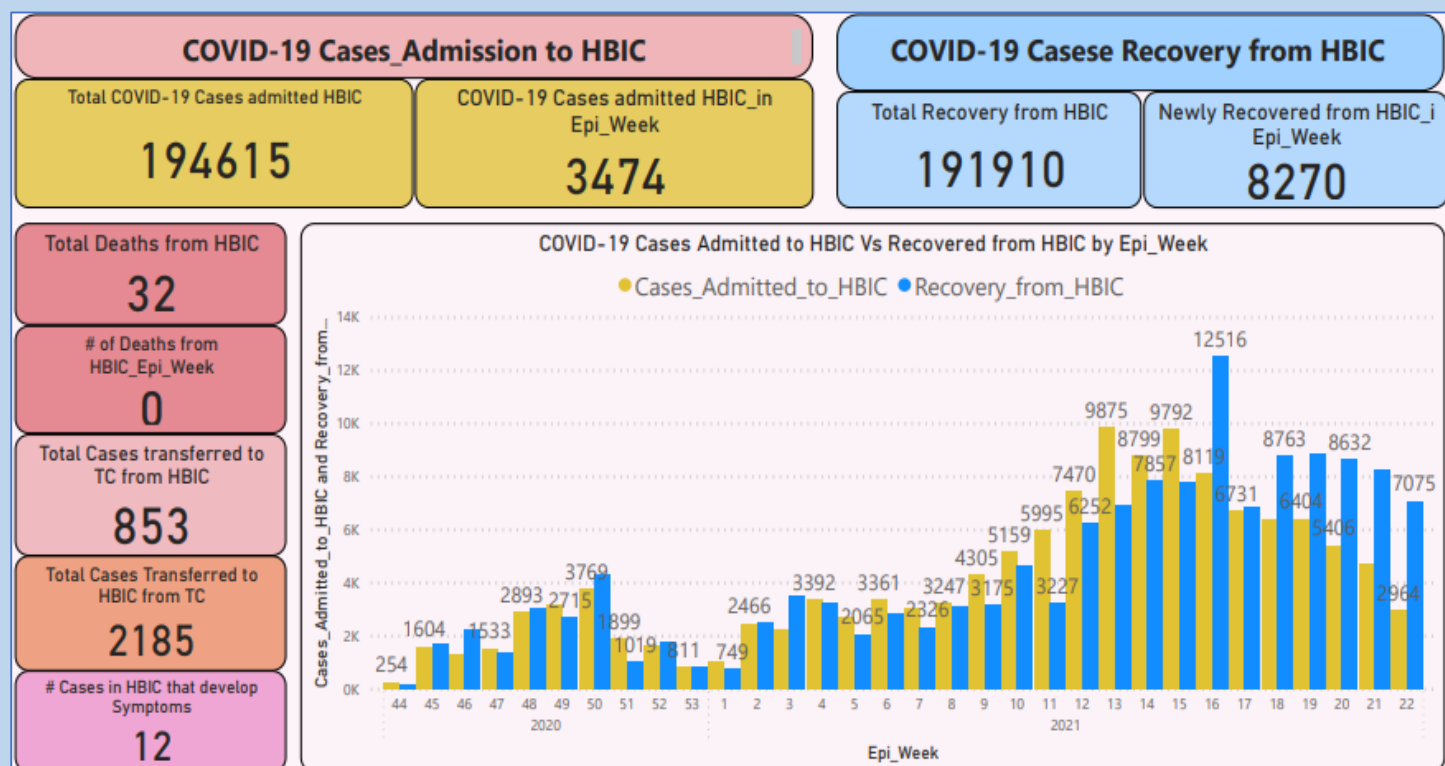


Fig. 15: Summary of COVID-19 Home Based Isolation and Care in Ethiopia, as of June 06, 2021.

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.



Fig. 16: COVID-19 related key messages and situation update as of June 06, 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 leadership and strategic virtual meeting, chaired by the H.E MOH Minister, is being conducted to oversee and guide the response efforts.
- Weekly joint meeting is ongoing (every Monday and Thursday) 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 weekly leadership virtual meeting under the leadership of H.E Minister of Health is ongoing
- The weekly virtual meeting of Joint Steering Committee encompassing MOH, Agencies and RHB top leadership under the leadership of H.E Minister of Health is ongoing.
- Bi monthly virtual revitalization plan follow up meeting under the leadership of H.E Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister is ongoing.
- A discussion forum held with media officials regarding the current COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Public Health Institute Public Health Emergency Operation Center held discussion with different media officials regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic situation and the way forward for COVID-19 prevention and control. The main aim of the discussion was to enhance public awareness in prevention and control of the pandemic by information dissemination via media. The Ethiopian Public Health Institute Deputy

Director General and COVID-19 response Incident Manager Mr. Aschalew Abayneh explained and emphasized the social, economic and political impact of the pandemic during his opening speech. During the discussion forum, various articles were presented for discussion, and agreed on the next steps to be taken to control the COVID-19 pandemic.

I. Challenges and Way Forward

a. Challenges

- Happenings of super spreading events-Mass gatherings with poor physical distancing and facemask use which exacerbates the spread of COVID-19.
- 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 in particular at subnational level.
- Weak law enforcement efforts to enhance adherence to COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Low stock status of personal protective equipment and laboratory supplies.
- COVID-19 vaccine related misinformation and hesitancy.
- Low utilization of Antigen RDT kits by facilities despite 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 strengthening and networking.
- COVID-19 preparedness and response plan at subnational level.
- Intensify risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- Advocate and strengthen Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC).
- Conduct intensive testing of high-risk population group and contacts of confirmed cases for COVID-19.
- Enhance technical support, coordination and timely and accurate information sharing at all levels.
- Enhance active surveillance for COVID-19 such as house-to-house case search and detection in the community.
- Intensification of a capacity building trainings and orientation including through virtual/online platforms.
- Strengthen and sustain other essential health services besides COVID-19.

- Follow up and performance report on Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits from regional COVID-19 testing sites.

II. Public Health Policy Recommendation

Advice for the Public:

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

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

MOH/EPHI/Region	Facebook page	Toll-free hotline	Email address (PHEOCs email)
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	https://www.eph.gov.et/	8335/952	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/ephpage/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	https://twitter.com/EPHIethiopia		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	https://t.me/EthPHI		

Ethiopian Public Health Institute YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw		
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Website	www.moh.gov.et	952	
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/		
Afar Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/	6220	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

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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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