



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 29 (July 19 – 25, 2021)

BULLETIN №: 65

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- There is growing alarming signs of the occurrence of third wave in Ethiopia.
- A total of 29,126 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-29 bringing the total number of samples tested to 2,984,666.
- A total of 847 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 12 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-29 bringing the total cases and death to 278,543 and 4,369 respectively.
- A total of 208,154 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 466 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-29.
- The number of COVID-19 cases and the number of positive samples among the tested samples have shown increment in this week.
- Healthcare workers thanks giving and recognition week (July 18 - 24, 2021) has been celebrated at different level national, regional and lower-level up to health facilities level.

II. Subjects in Focus:

a) SARS-COV-2 new variants

- The new variants of SARS-COV-2 (Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest) are being detected in new countries and territories. Below are the incidence of the four variants of concern detected in various countries as of July 25, 2021.
 - Globally, cases of the Alpha variant have been reported in 182 countries, territories or areas (two new countries in the past week), while 131 countries (two new countries) reported cases of the Beta variant; 81 countries (three new countries) reported cases of the Gamma variant; 132 countries (eight new countries) reported cases of the Delta variant.
- Among the SARS-COV-2 Variants of Concern Alpha and Beta variants were detected in Ethiopia by the genomic sequencing conducted so far in Ethiopia and at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). The report regarding the new variants is already disclosed on July 13, 2021. Activities regarding genomic sequencing for other new variants, like Delta variant, are under way in Ethiopia

b) Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 2,175,114 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca or Sinopharm) are administered so far. Among these 40,160 doses are administered in the Epi-week-29. The second dose of the vaccine jab is also being administered for those who took the first dose.

Total vaccinated 2,175,114 (40,160 in week-29)	1st dose 2,022,919	2nd dose 152,195
Sinopharm 13,431	1st dose 10,510	2nd dose 2,921
AstraZeneca 2,161,683	1st dose 2,012,409	2nd dose 149,274
65+ years old 912,135	1st dose 870,998	2nd dose 41,137
55-64 years old 832,055	1st dose 793,363	2nd dose 38,692
Health worker 390,257	1st dose 320,812	2nd dose 69,445
30-54 years old (Somali region only) 27,236		

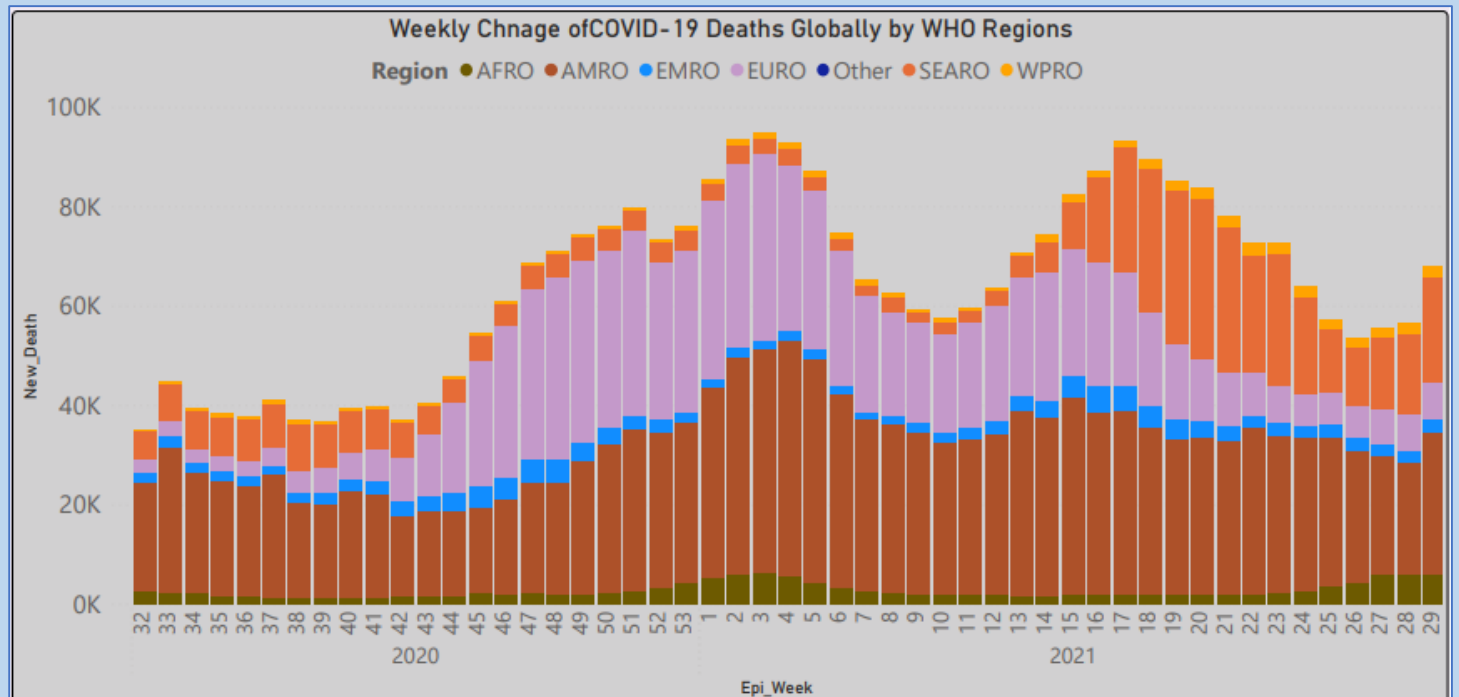
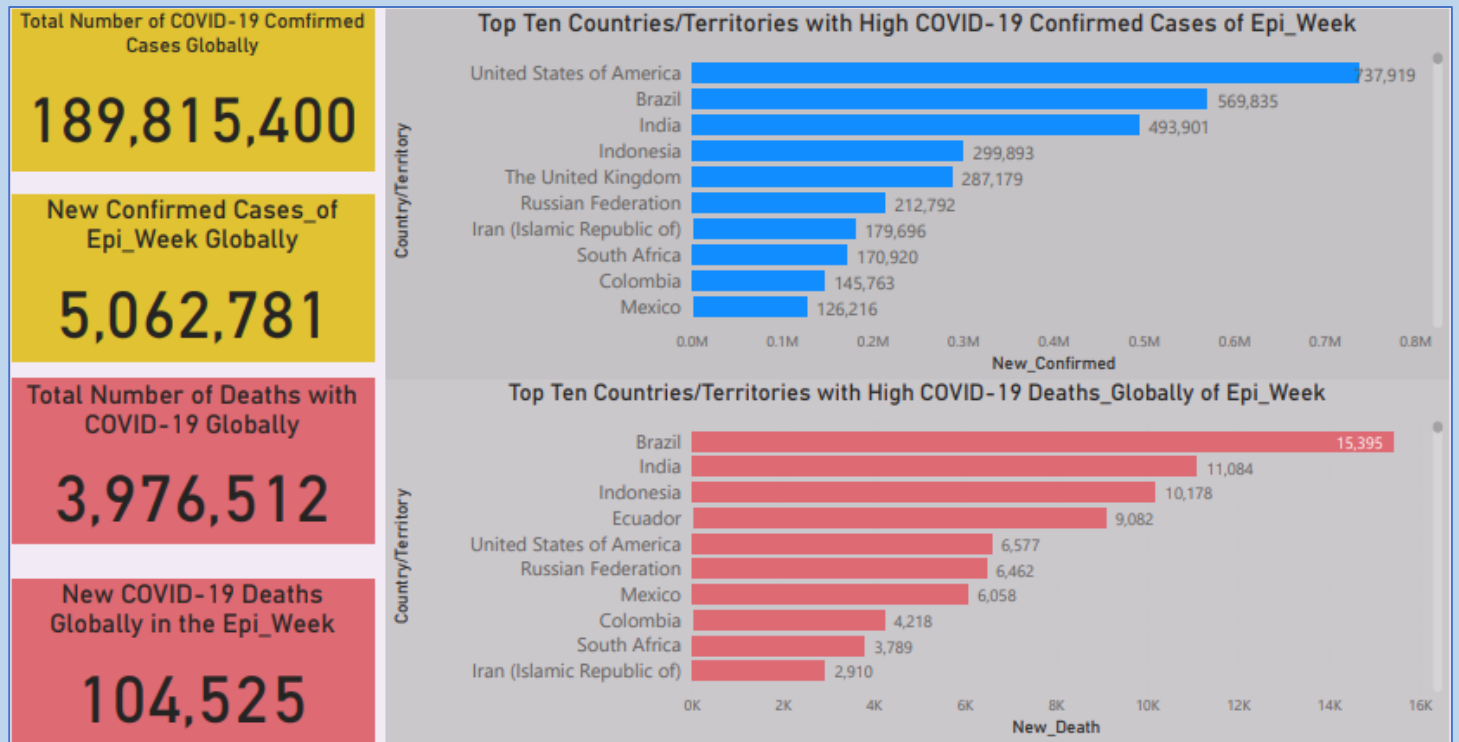
Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of July 25, 2021

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- Globally, around 5 million new cases are reported in the last week (Figure 3) which is an 8% increase as compared to the previous week.
- More than 104 thousand new deaths (21% increase compared to previous week) are reported globally in the Epi-week-29.
- As of July 25, 2021, a total of 189,815,400 COVID-19 cases and 3,976,512 deaths (CFR=2.09%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 5,062,781 cases and 104,525 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-29.
- 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 (737,919 new cases), Brazil (569,835 new cases), India (493,901 new cases), Indonesia (299,893 case) and the United Kingdom (287,179 new cases).
- In Africa, as of July 25, 2021, a total of 6,476,867 cases and 162,810 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.51%). Of these 364,542 cases and 8,149 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-29.

- 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.



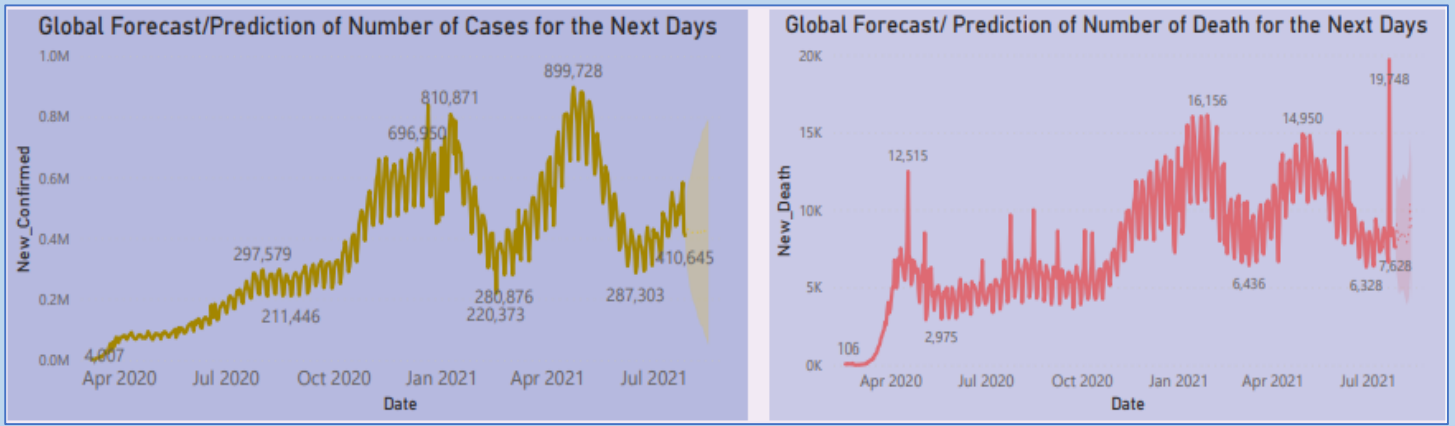


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of July 25, 2021 (Source: WHO)

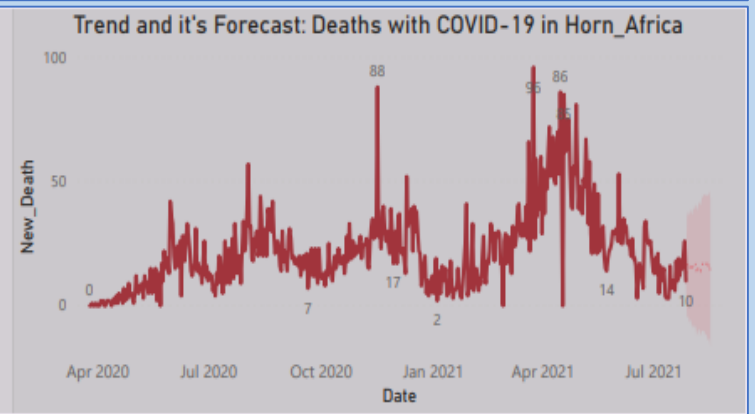
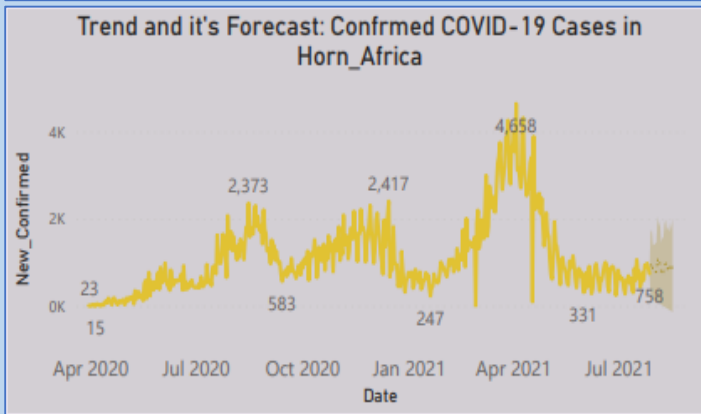
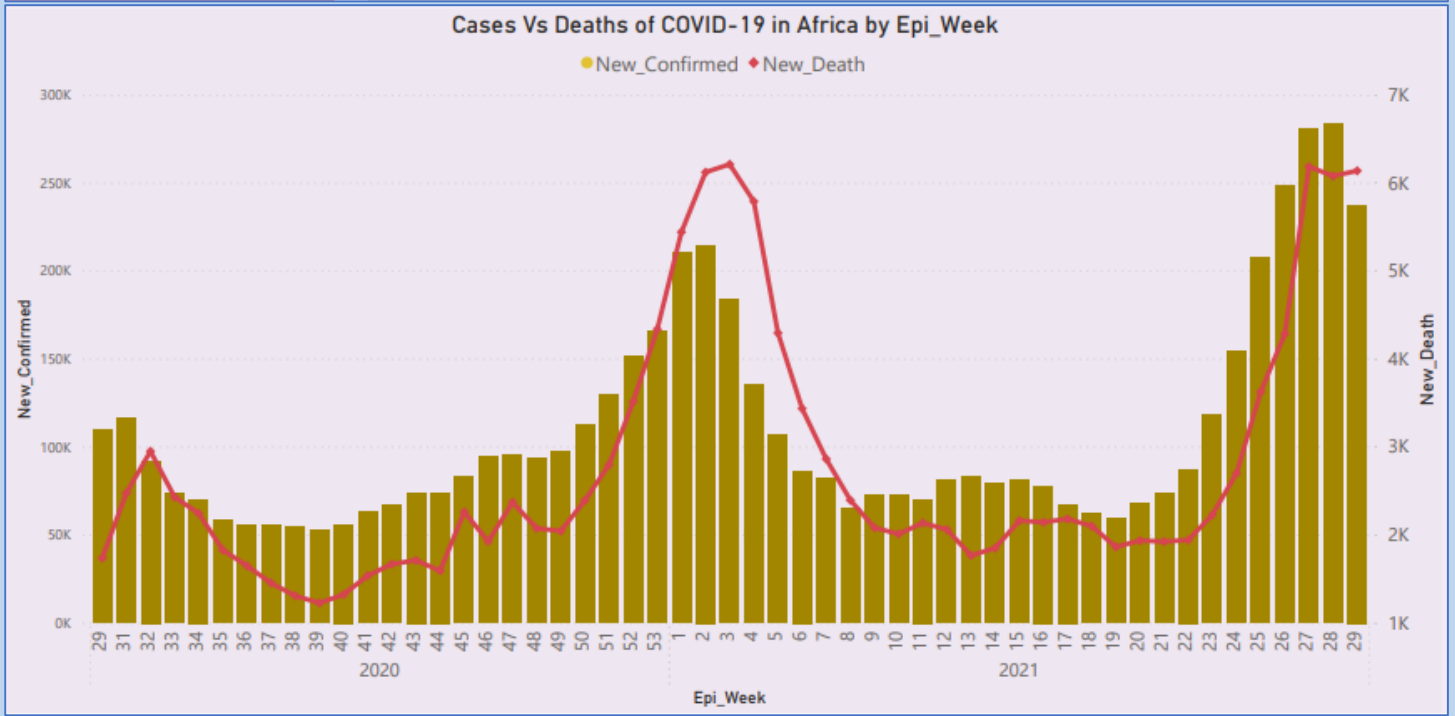
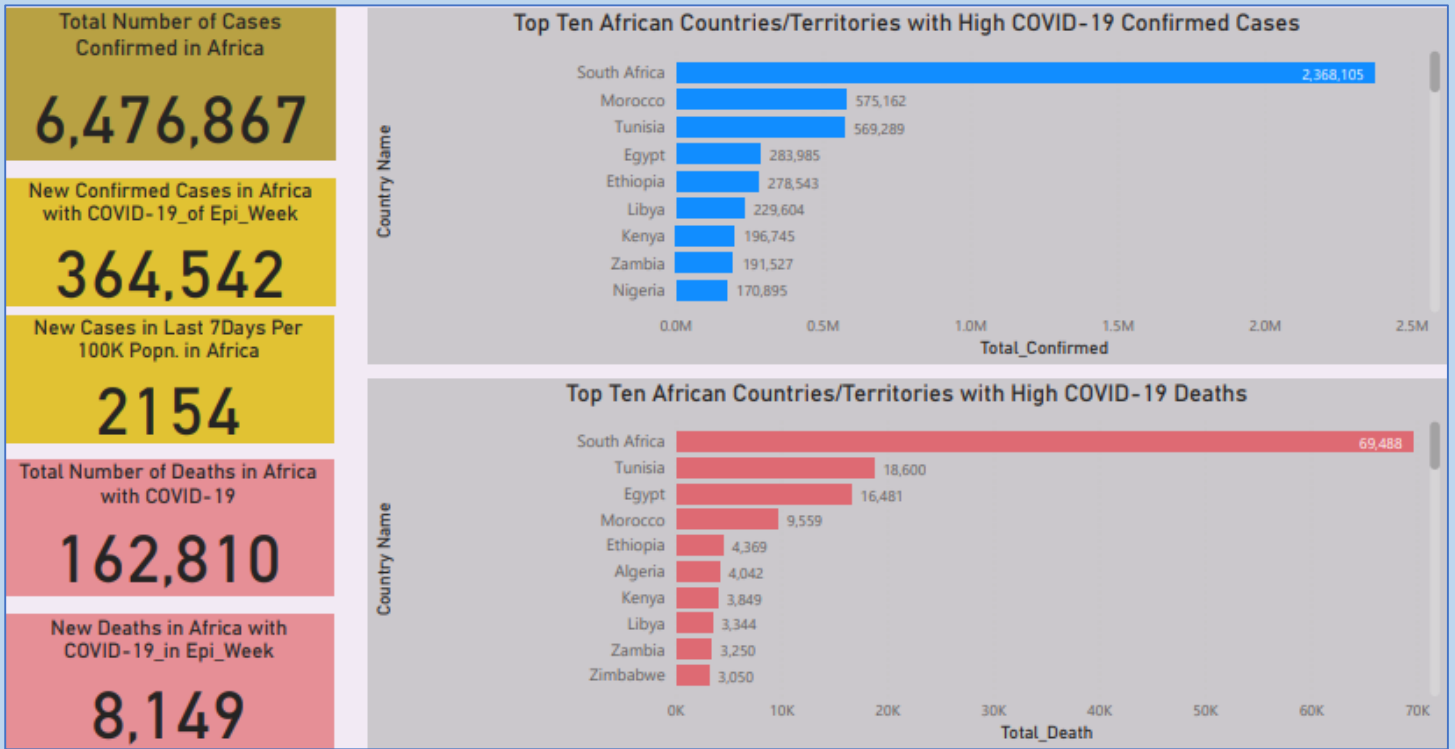


Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of July 25, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of July 25, 2021, a total of 278,543 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,369 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.57%. 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.
- Eight-hundred-forty-seven (847) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 12 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-29.
- In this week, there is a 36% increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and there is a 14% (2 in number) 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-29 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate	# of Recovery
Addis Ababa	21618	684	110	12	3.3	421
Oromia	2003	137	3	0	7.0	43
Harari	1803	3	0	0	0.1	5
Afar	930	0	0	0	0.0	0
Amhara	722	10	2	0	1.1	51
SNNPR	568	9	0	0	1.3	12
Somali	470	0	0	0	0.0	2
Gambella	413	1	0	0	0.0	0
Dire Dawa	356	0	0	0	0.0	0
Sidama	150	2	0	0	2.1	0
Benishangul G	93	1	0	0	2.5	14
Gambela	0	0	0	0		0
Tigray	0	0	0	0		0
Total	29126	847	115	12	**** 1.7	548

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

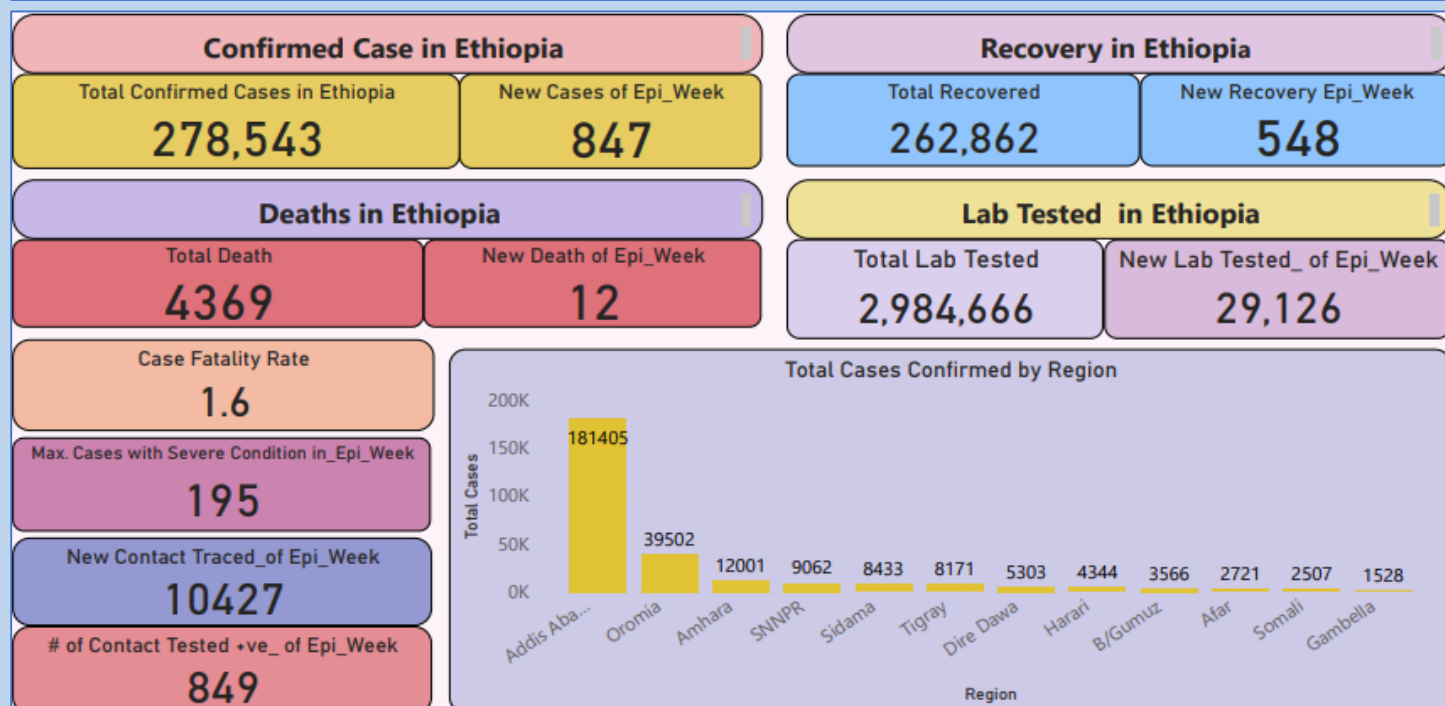


Figure 4: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of July 25, 2021, Ethiopia

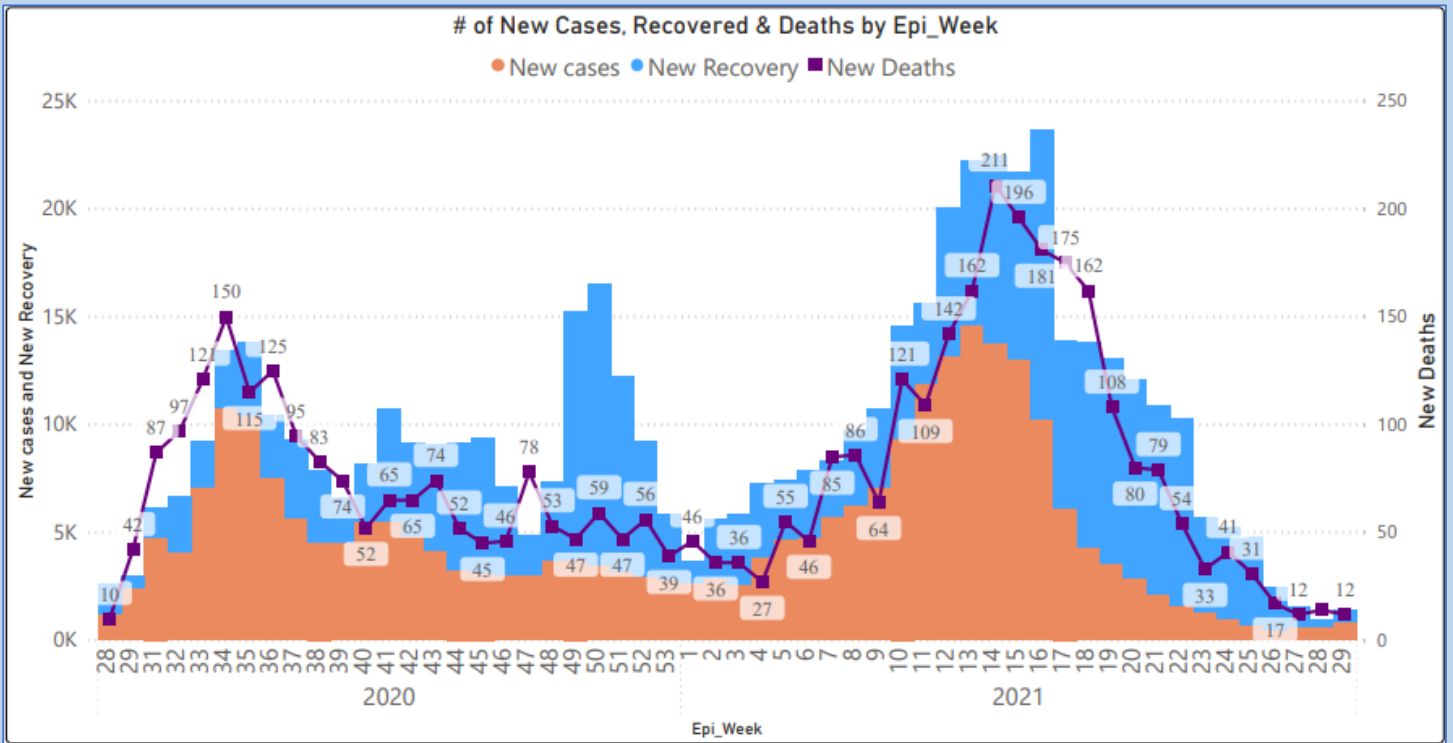


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of July 25, 2021, Ethiopia

c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), follow-up of international travelers, rumor collection, verification, investigation and information provision via toll free call center, active case detection by house to house search, contact listing, tracing and follow-up of persons who had contact with confirmed cases. There is also laboratory investigation of suspected cases, contacts of confirmed cases, SARI/pneumonia cases and community members, surveillance and assessment in school and congregated setting communities.

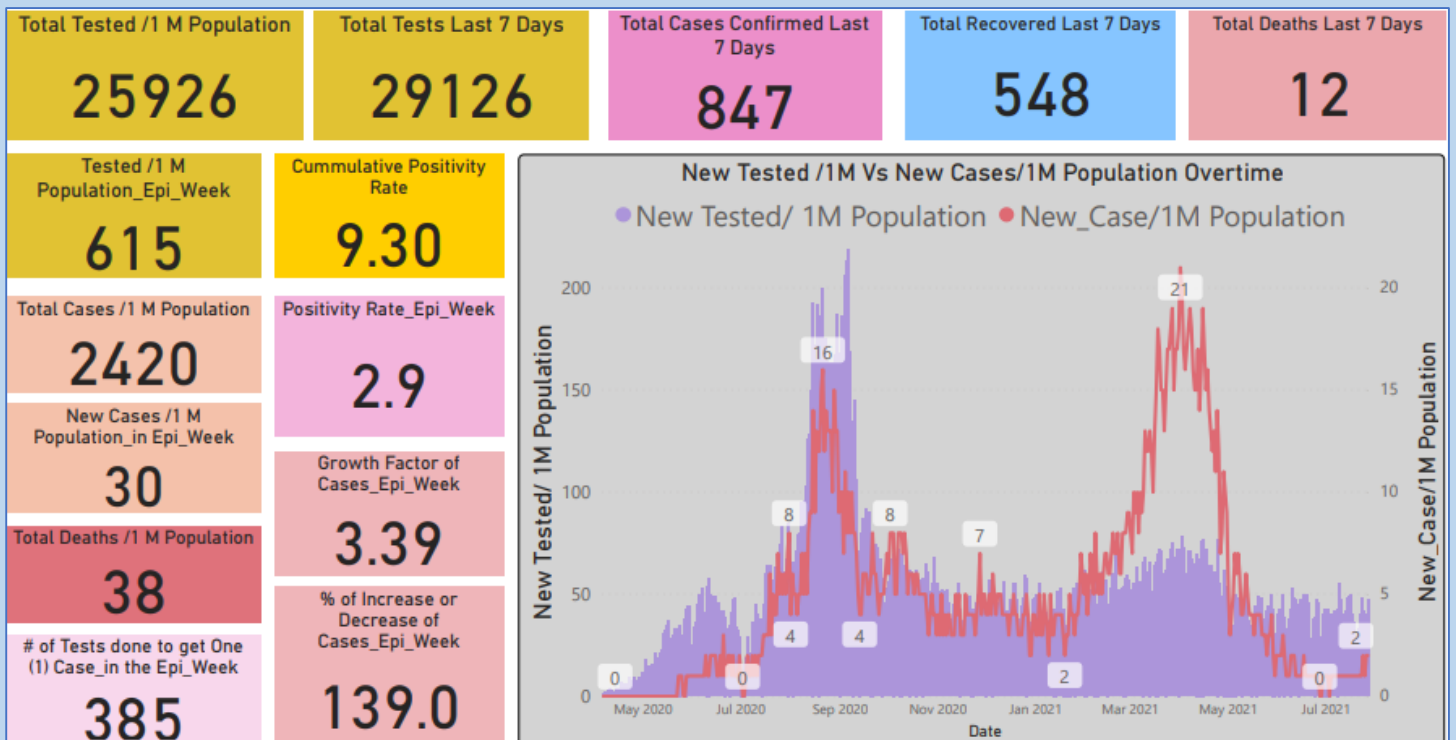


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of July 25, 2021.

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 it should be enhanced to halt the transmission.
- As of July 25, 2021:
 - A total of 375,071 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 10,427 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-29.
 - Of total contacts, 330,237 (88.04%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 3,041 contacts are still on follow-up.
 - All the contacts traced are from Addis Ababa city administration and no contact tracing activity is being conducted in other regions.
- Overall, 42,233 (11.21%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 15.16% of the total cases.

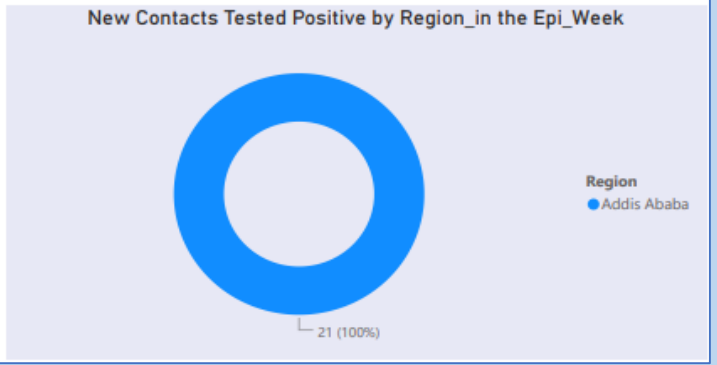
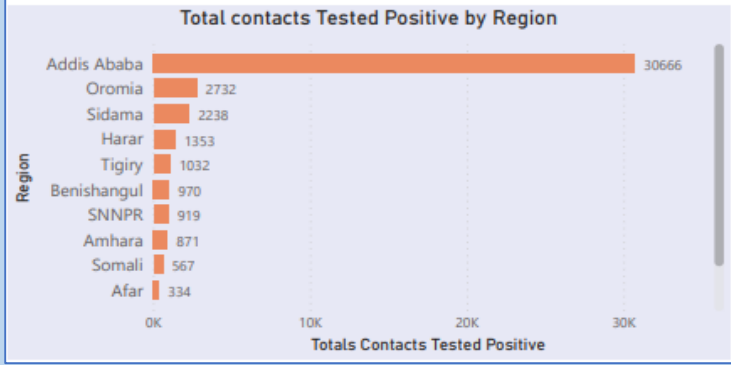
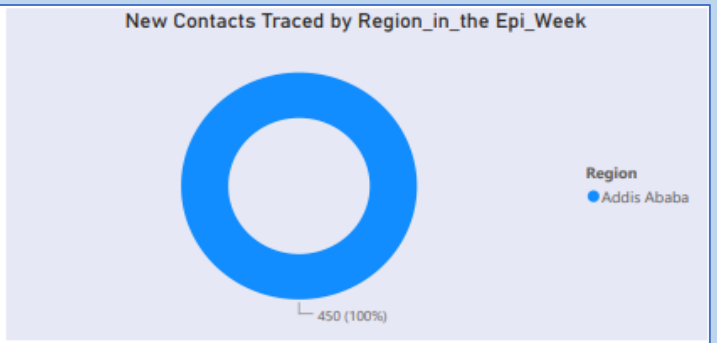
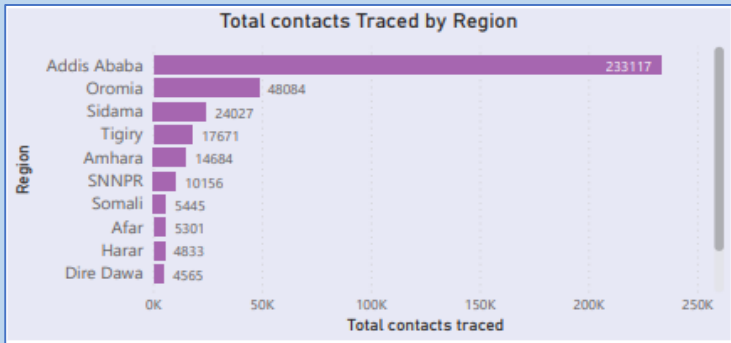
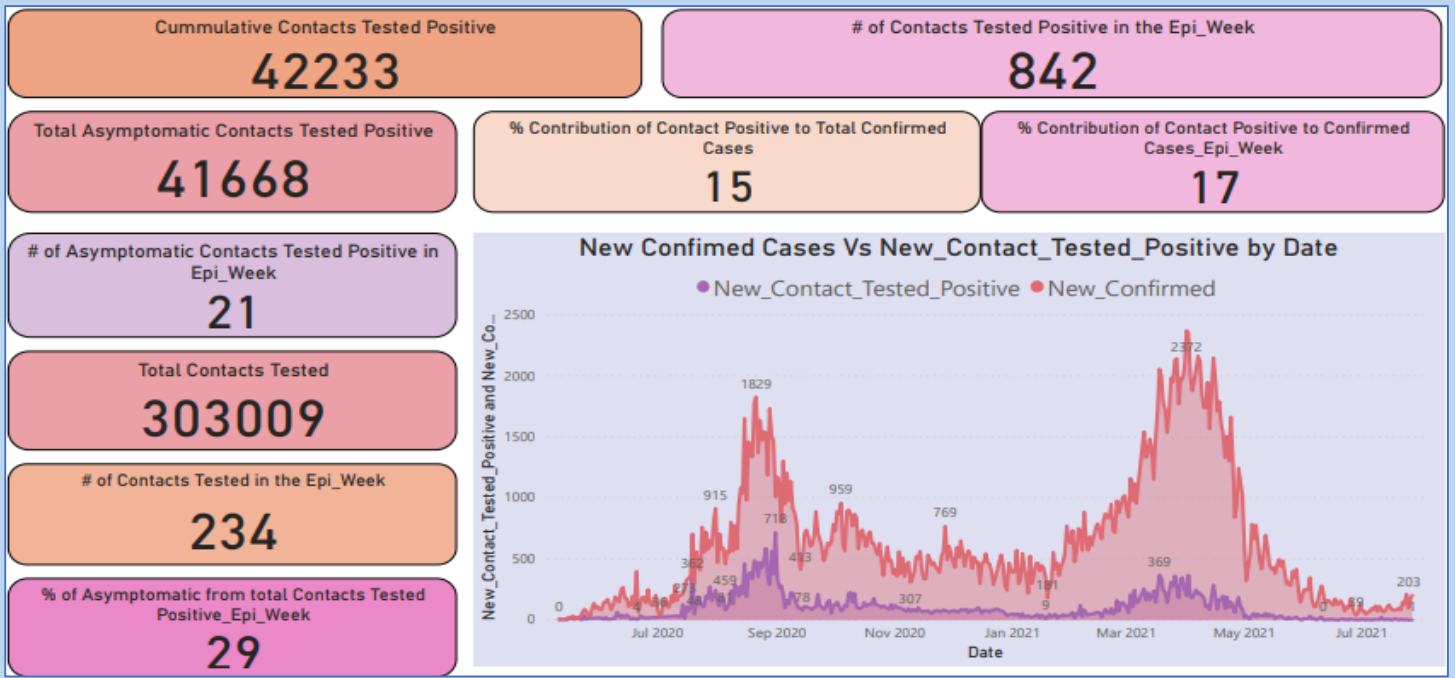
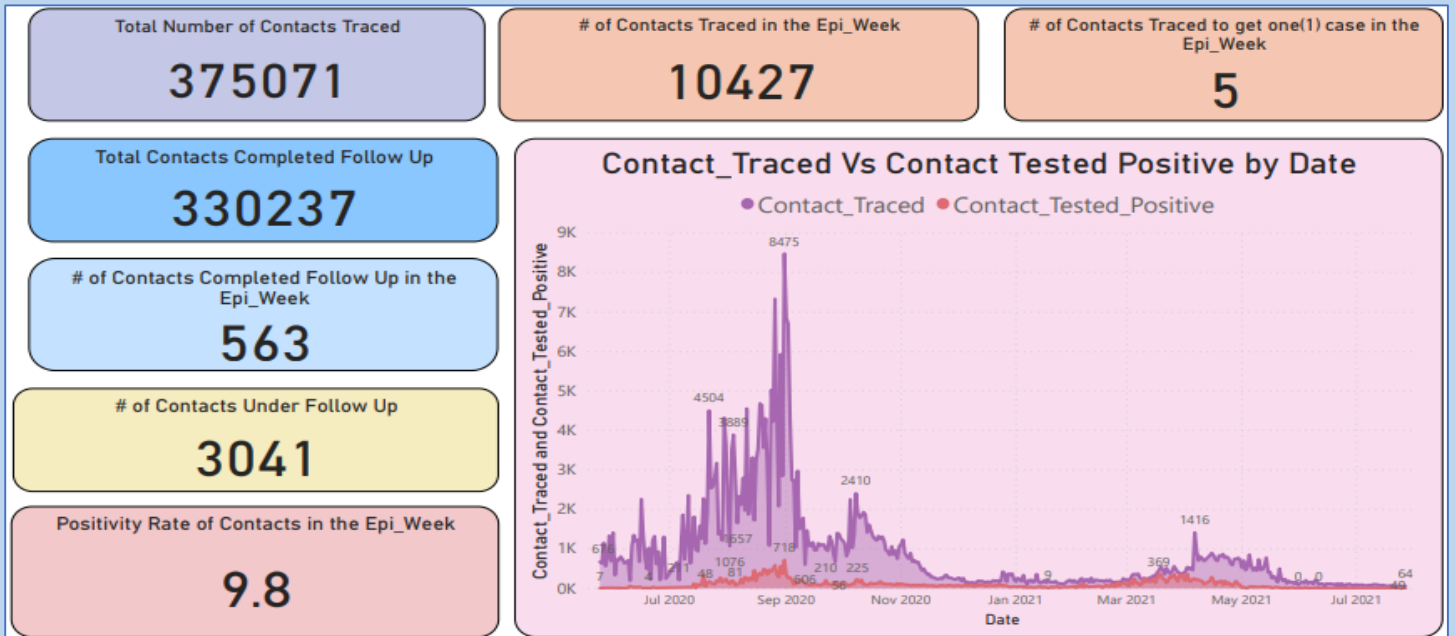


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of July 25, 2021, Ethiopia.

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 July 25, 2021:
 - 392,812 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 18 rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-29.
 - 279,089 (71.05%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 13,295 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

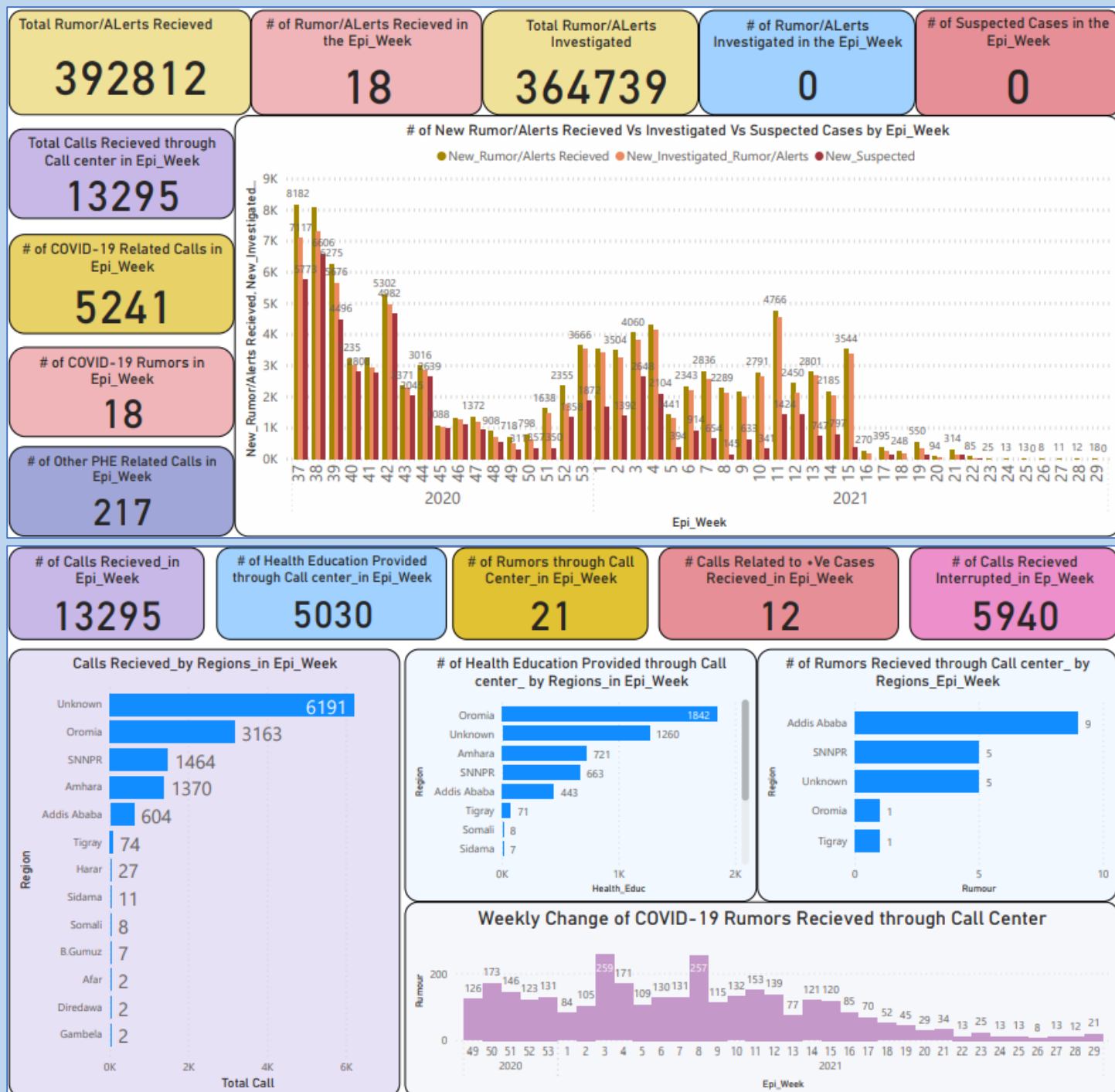
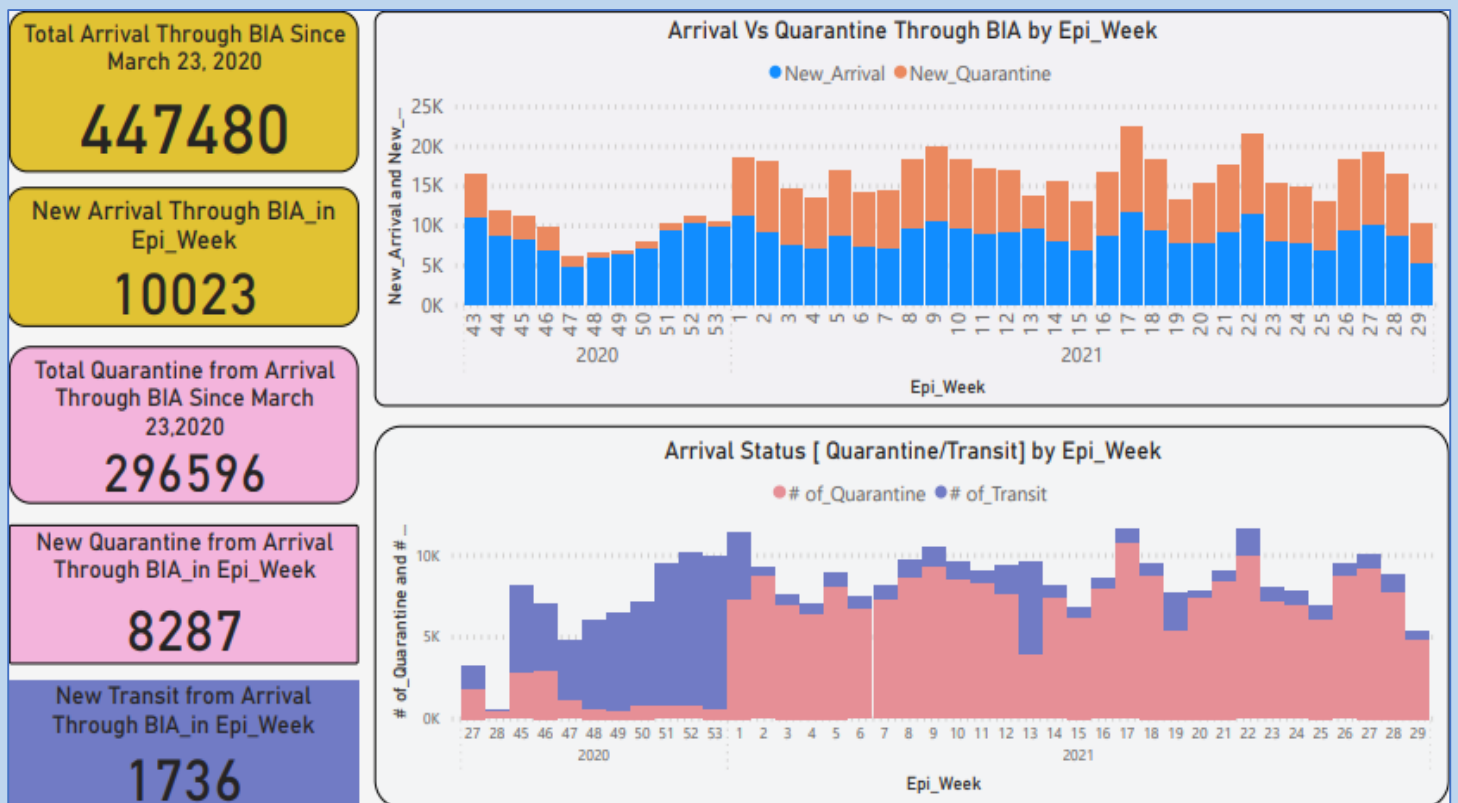


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of July 25, 2021, Ethiopia.

iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,461,093 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 768,023 (32%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 26,292 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-29.
- As of July 25, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 51 (none in Epi-week-29) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 91 SARS-COV-2 positive cases have been detected by RT-PCR after arrival laboratory test.
- Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT) for COVID-19 is also started at Bole International Airport for returnees. The Ag-RDT was started on July 07, 2021. So far, 516 tests are conducted among which 39 positive cases are detected as of July 25, 2021.
- A total of 55,719 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. No returnee was received in the Epi-week-29. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnees interim accomodation centers. Among all the returnees admitted to these center, 55,674 (99%) are discharged and there are 1,099 returnees currently in the centers as of July 25, 2021.



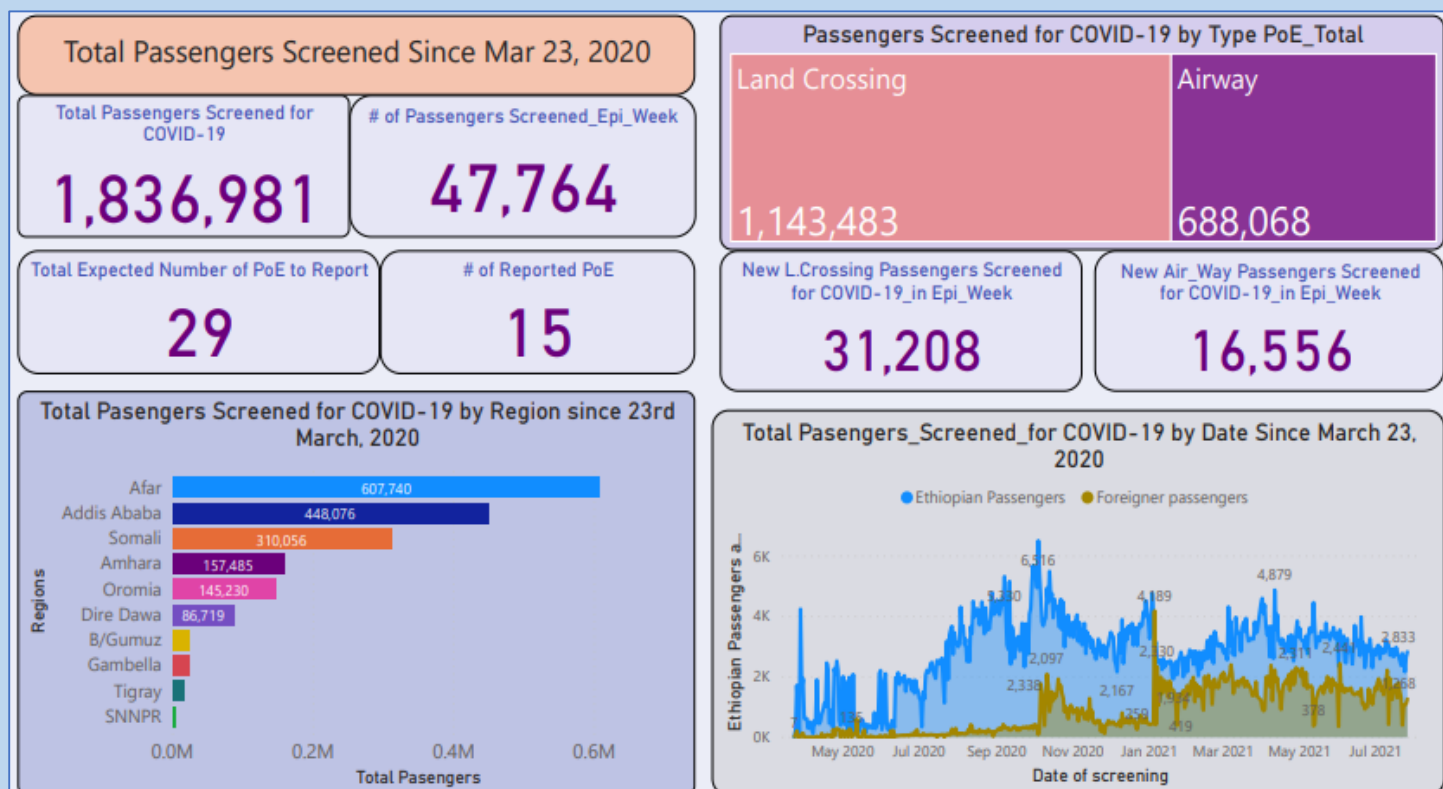


Figure 9: Summary of Passengers screening for COVID-19 as of July 25, 2021, Ethiopia.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 25 July 2021, a total of 2,984,666 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 29,126 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-29 which is a 17% (5,790 in number) decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-29 is 2.22%, which is higher than that of the preceding week (1.79%).
- Oromia, Addis Ababa, Benishangul Gumuz and Sidama regional states have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (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. Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 71,494 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 6,194 is performed in the Epi-week-29 (figure 11 below).

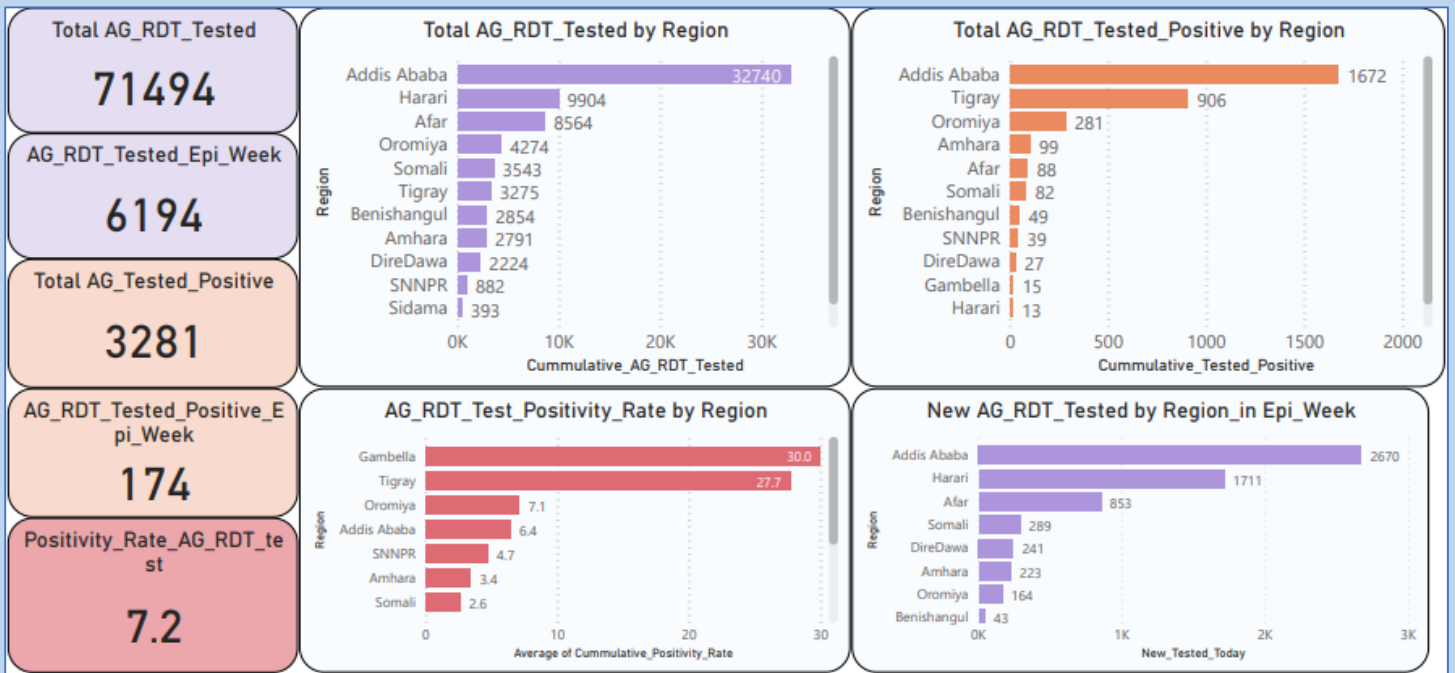
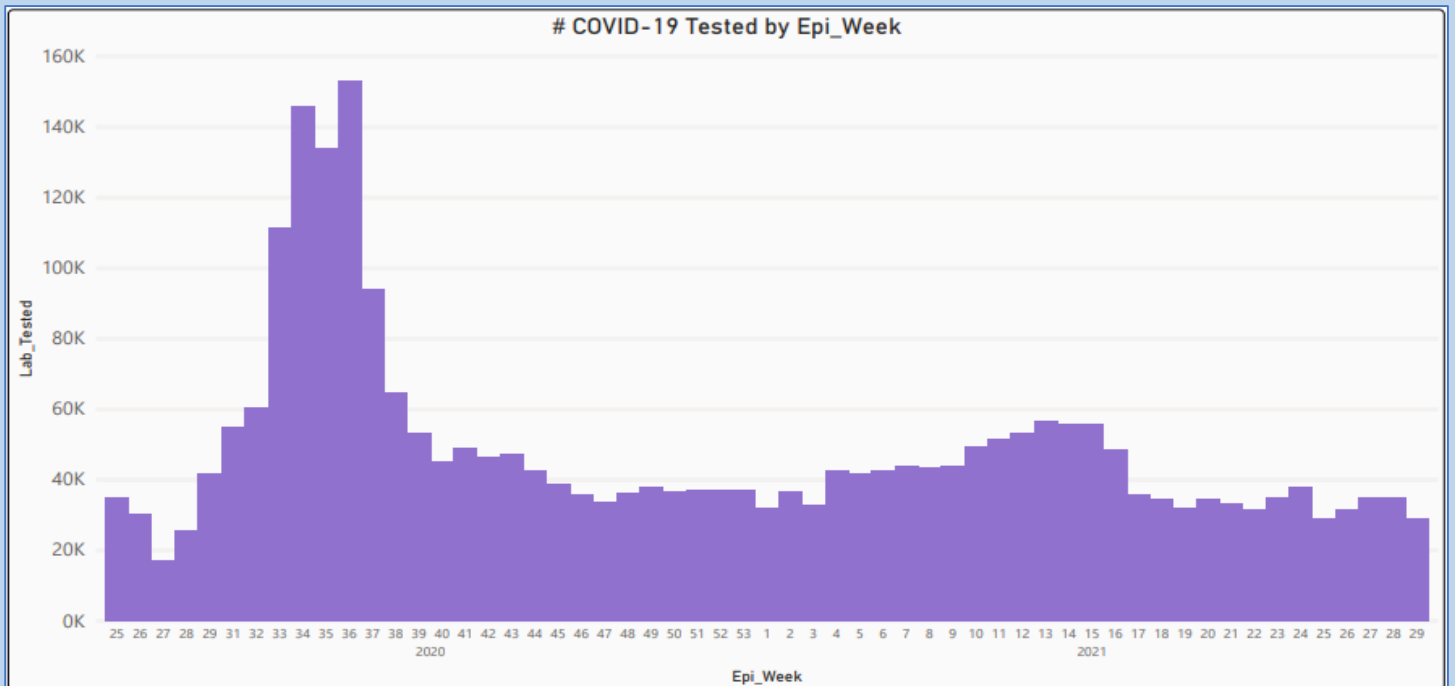
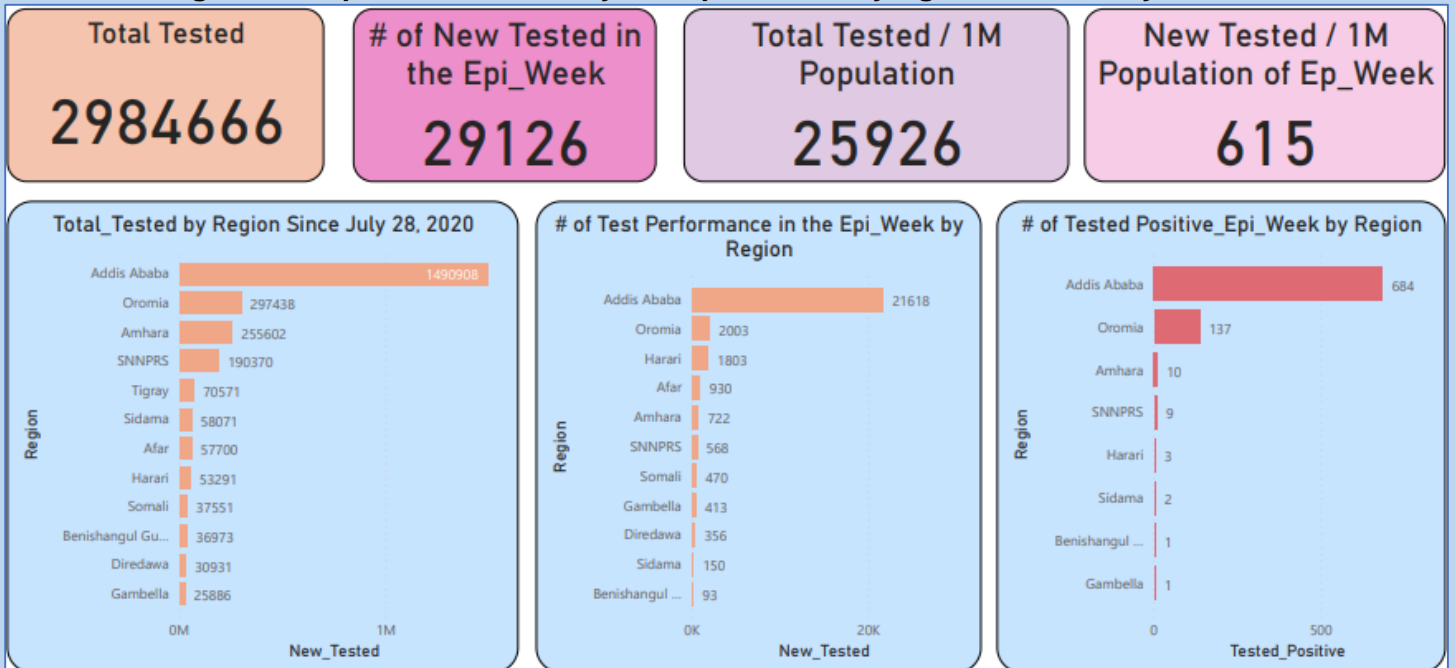


Figure 11 : Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of July 25, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	21618	684	12	3.1
Oromia	2003	137	0	7.2
Harari	1803	3	0	0.1
Afar	930	0	0	0.0
Amhara	722	10	0	1.1
SNNPRS	568	9	0	1.2
Somali	470	0	0	0.0
Gambella	413	1	0	0.2
Diredawa	356	0	0	0.0
Sidama	150	2	0	2.2
Benishangul Gumuz	93	1	0	2.5
Tigray	0	0	0	
Total	29126	847	12	1.7

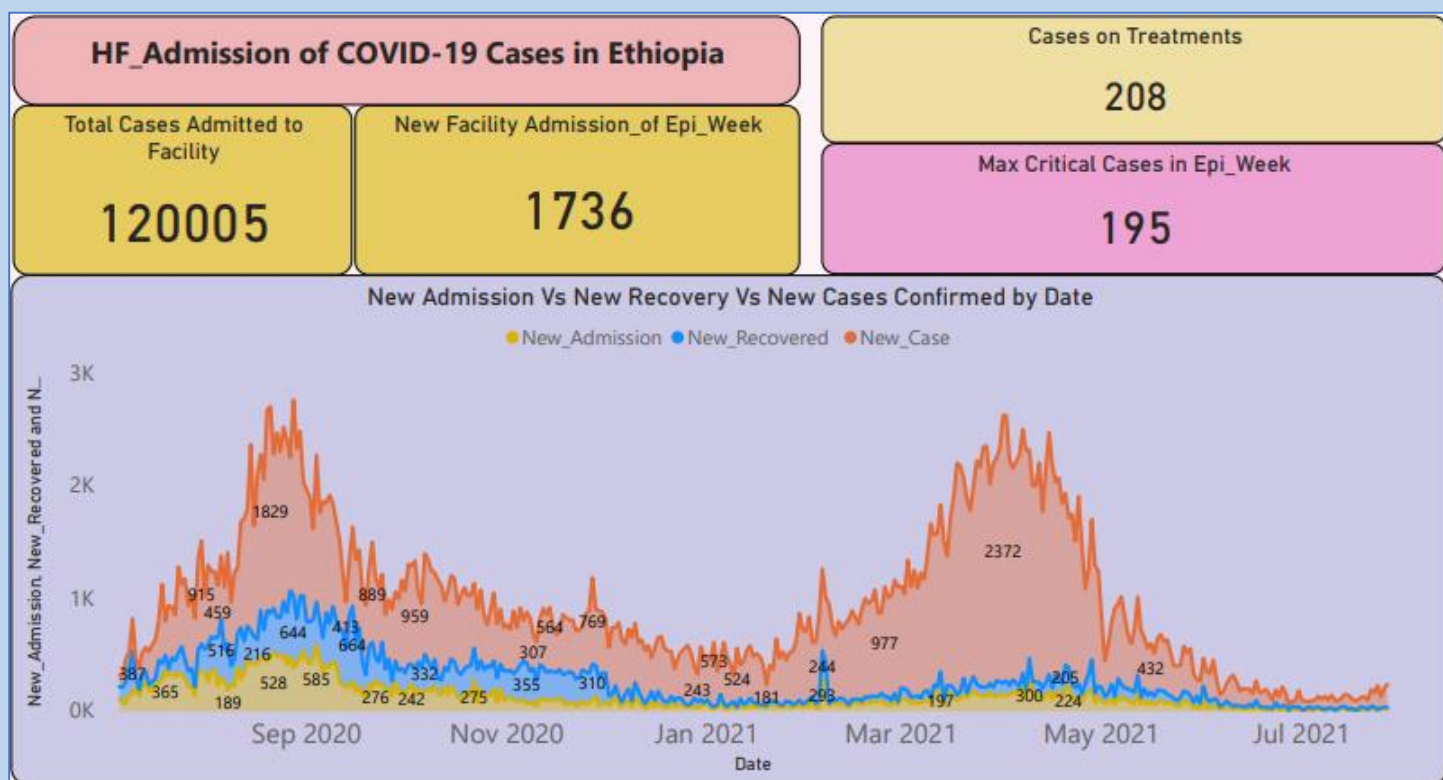
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distrn of Rates

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of March July 25, 2021, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 548 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-29, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 262,862 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 94%.
- The number of cases in severe condition has begun increasing after weeks of decrement. The highest number of daily cases in severe condition reported in this week is 195 which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe cases in the previous week (133).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of July 25, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of July 25, 2021

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	181560	78	30028	17	2267	26511	208	184
Oromia	39510	13	7287	1	507	6763	8	5
Amhara	12001	0	4558	1	255	4275	17	8
SNNPR	9066	6	4393	0	153	4278	4	1
Sidama	8433	0	3432	0	158	3210	1	1
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5206	16	14
Dire Dawa	5303	0	1182	0	67	1113	0	0
Harari	4344	0	1277	0	152	1121	0	0
Benishangul G	3572	0	890	0	19	867	0	0
Afar	2722	0	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2507	0	660	0	56	601	0	0
Gambella	1528	0	682	0	8	649	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 208,154 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 207,578 (99.72%) have recovered and 33 (0.016%) died.
- Of these, 466 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 442 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-29.
- As of July 25, 2021, there are 1,261 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,185 (none in the epi-week-29) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 905 (one in the Epi-week-29) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

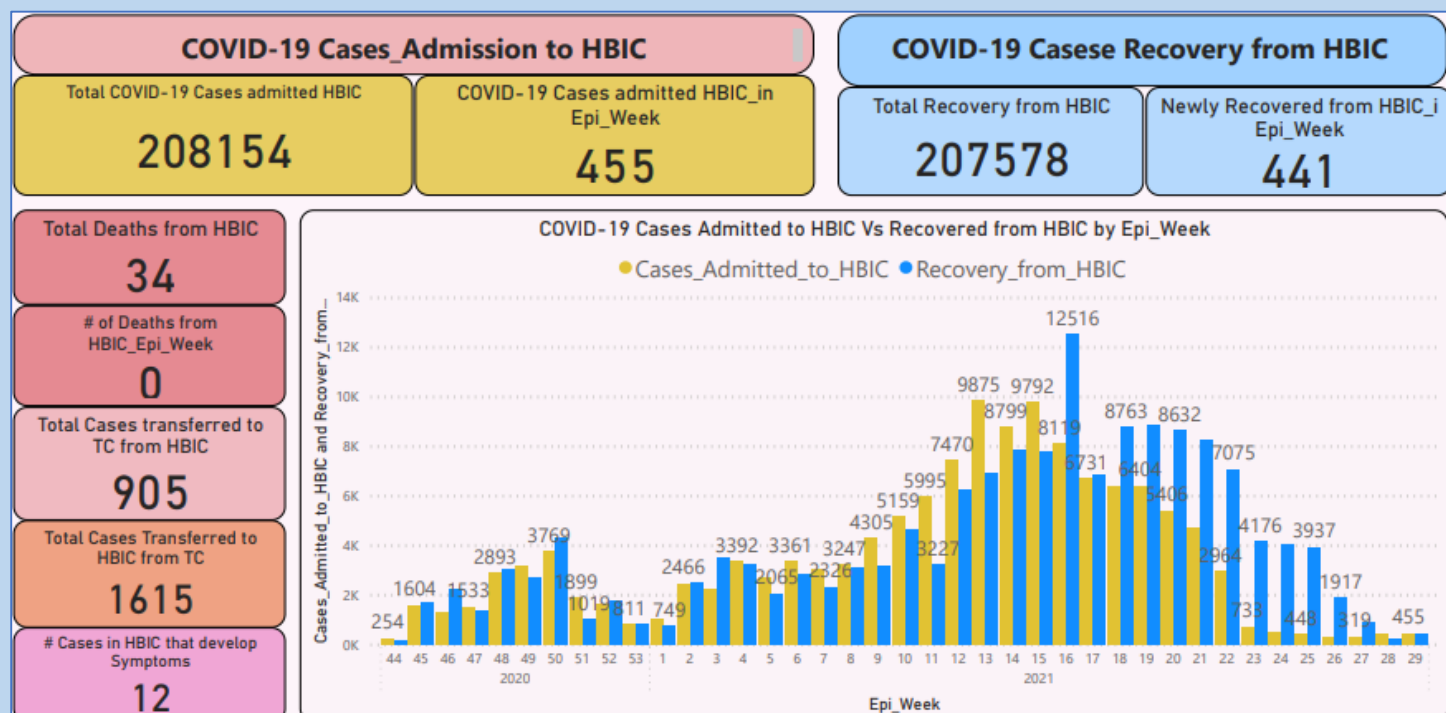


Figure 12: Summary of COVID-19 Home Based Isolation and Care in Ethiopia, as of July 25, 2021.

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 Minster, is being conducted to oversee and guide the response efforts.
- 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 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.
- The Ethiopian Public Health Institute staff celebrated the healthcare workers thanks giving and recognition week, July 18 – 24, 2021. The institute celebrated the thanks giving and recognition week with different various activities in the week. There were physical exercise, tree plantation, commemoration of the institute's staffs who lost their life due to COVID-19 and certificate and award ceremony sessions in the week.



Figure 14: Activities performed during healthcare workers thank giving and recognition week (July 18-24, 2021) in EPHI

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.
- Lack of full information on circulating variant and circulation of Alpha and Beta variants.
- Low stock status of laboratory supplies.
- Low testing performance
- COVID-19 vaccine related misinformation and hesitancy.
- Very low performance of the revitalization plan
- Very low utilization of Antigen-Rapid Diagnostic Test kits by facilities despite its distribution to all regions and capacity building activities.

b. Way Forward

- Enhancing law enforcement to enhance public health and social measures by all responsible bodies.
- Continuing the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Genomic surveillance establishment, networking and strengthening.
- Intensifying risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Strengthening collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- Advocating and strengthening Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC).
- Conducting intensive testing of high-risk population group and contacts of confirmed cases for COVID-19.
- Enhancing technical support, coordination and timely and accurate information sharing at all levels.
- Enhancing active surveillance for COVID-19 such as house-to-house case search and detection in the community.
- Intensification of a capacity building trainings and orientation including through virtual/online platforms.
- Strengthening and sustaining other essential health services besides COVID-19.
- Enhancing performance and follow up on Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits from regional COVID-19 testing sites.
- Conduct '*I have a stake*' Initiatives at selected sector offices and launch the theme '*I have a stake to prevent further impacts and spread of new variants*' in each sectors based on organizational structure and culture.

IX. Public Health Policy Recommendation

Advice for the Public:

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

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

MOH/EPHI/Region	Facebook page	Toll-free hotline	Email address (PHEOCs email)
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	https://www.ephi.gov.et/	8335/952	ephieoc@gmail.com
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/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

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

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