



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

WEE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week – 09 (27 – 05 March 2023)

BULLETIN №: 149

I. Highlights

- A total of 6,244 laboratory samples were tested in the week-09, bringing the total number of samples tested to 5,493,535.
- A total of 83 new cases were reported in the Epi-week 09, which is by 18.6% decreased from previous week. Of which one case with severe condition reported in the week.
- As of 05 March 2023, a total of 500,050 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been detected.
- However, the true number of incident cases is likely to be underestimated due to a decline in testing nationally.
- About 487,307 (97.4%) confirmed cases have been recovered, and cumulative of 7,572 death was reported as of 05 March 2023.
- Since, 31st August 2022, no death due to COVID -19 was reported in Ethiopia.
- As of 05 March 2023, a total of 44,285,561 people vaccinated at least one dose of vaccine, whereas about 37,796,736 people received full doses, bringing overall one dose and full dose coverage of 66.3% and 56.6% from target population respectively.
- COVID-19 service integrated supportive supervision is ongoing in all regions and selected facilities to evaluate and support on the integrated COVID-19 response activities into the existing health system.

II. Epidemiological Situation

a. Global Situation

- Globally, nearly 4.5 million new cases and 32 000 deaths were reported in the last 28 days (6 February to 5 March 2023), a decrease of 58% and 65%, respectively, compared to the previous 28 days (Table 1).
- As of 5 March 2023, over 759 million confirmed cases and over 6.8 million deaths have been reported globally.
- Globally, from 6 February to 6 March 2023 (28 days), 59 294 SARS-CoV-2 sequences were shared through GISAID. Among these, 59 083 sequences (99.6%) were the Omicron VOC.

Table 1: Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 05 March 2023. (Source: WHO Weekly update)

WHO Region	New cases in last 28 days (%)	Change in new cases in last 28 days *	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in last 28 days (%)	Change in new deaths in last 28 days *	Cumulative deaths (%)
Europe	1 541 665 (34%)	12%	273 596 329 (36%)	9066 (28%)	-39%	2 196 232 (32%)
Americas	1 466 599 (33%)	-31%	190 675 785 (25%)	15 142 (47%)	-32%	2 934 318 (43%)
Western Pacific	1 426 997 (32%)	-80%	201 463 348 (27%)	7274 (23%)	-86%	406 288 (6%)
Eastern Mediterranean	17 012 (<1%)	-9%	23 263 099 (3%)	246 (1%)	18%	349 590 (5%)
South-East Asia	11 901 (<1%)	-15%	60 769 937 (8%)	168 (1%)	-51%	803 878 (12%)
Africa	11 479 (<1%)	-61%	9 500 642 (1%)	30 (<1%)	-73%	175 305 (3%)
Global	4 475 653 (100%)	-58%	759 269 904 (100%)	31 926 (100%)	-65%	6 865 624 (100%)

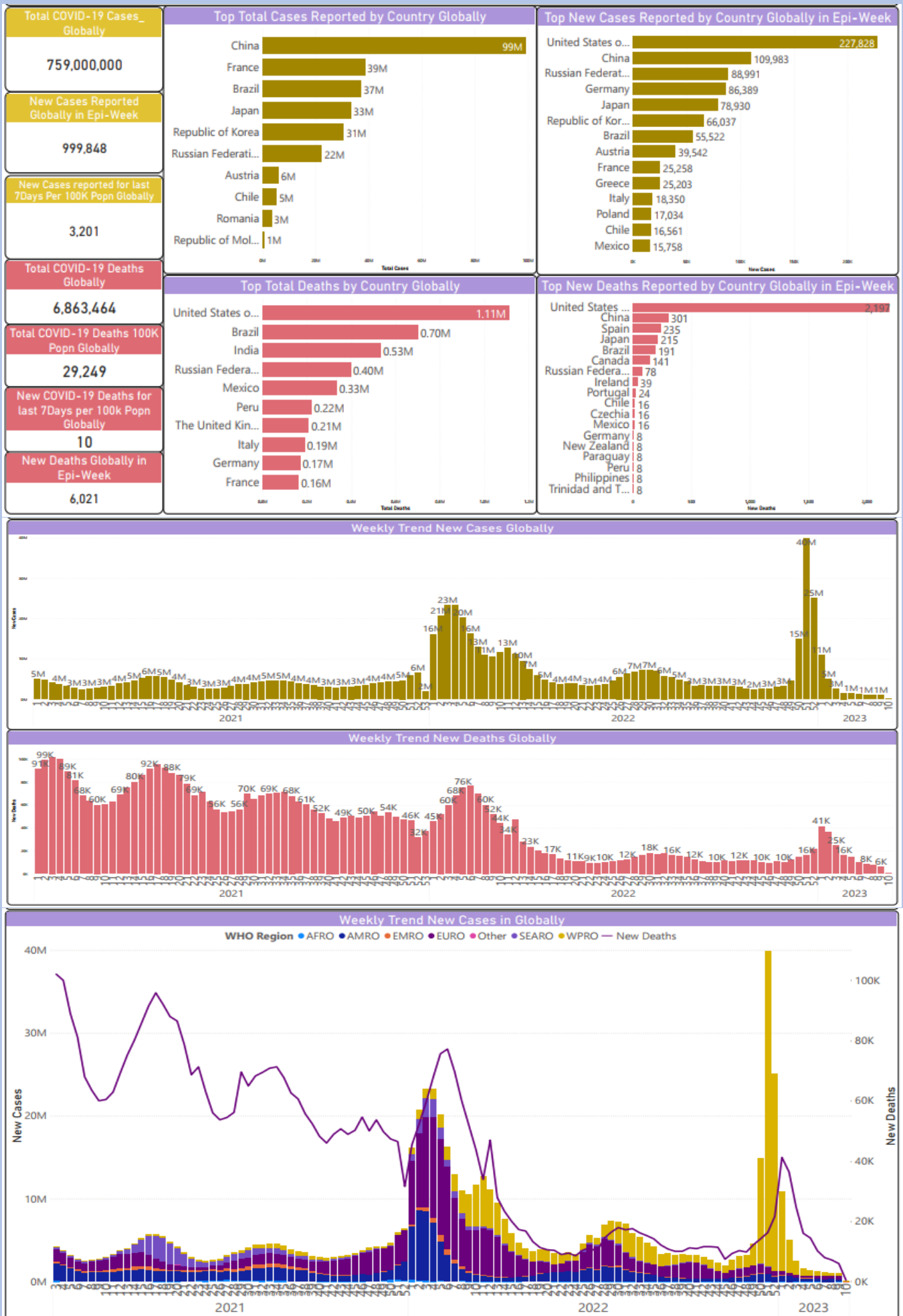


Figure 1: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of 05 March 2023. (Source: WHO).

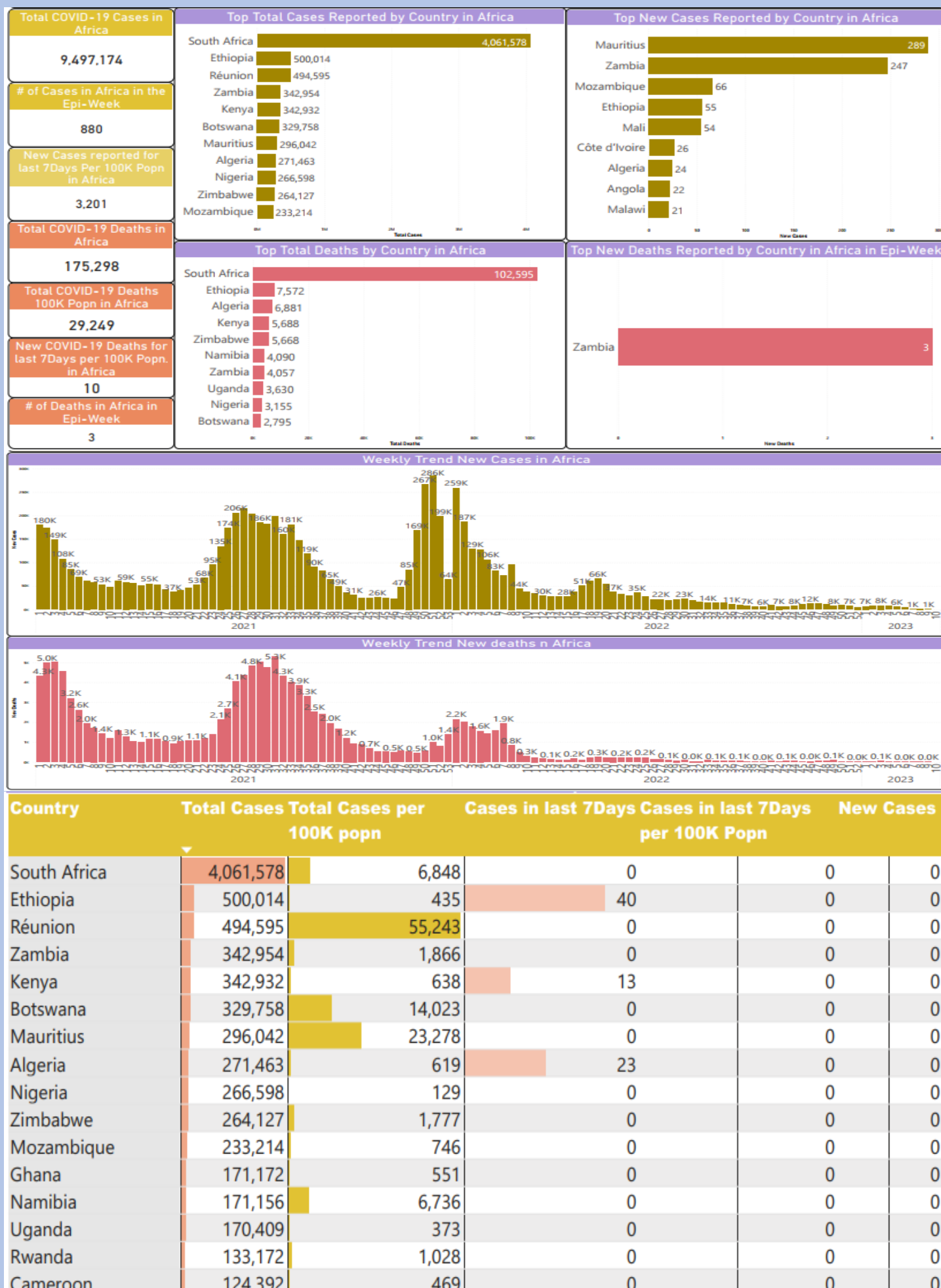


Figure 2: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of 05 March 2023 (Source: Africa CDC)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of 05 March 2023, a total of 500,050 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 7,572 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.5%.
- No new COVID-19 related death was reported during the Epi-Week-09.
- Eighty-three (83) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported during the Epi-Week-09.
- In this week, new COVID-19 confirmed cases is by 18.6% decreased when compared to the previous week.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

NB: Data from Tigray regional state is as of June 28, 2021.

SWEPR: Southwest Ethiopia Peoples' Regional State

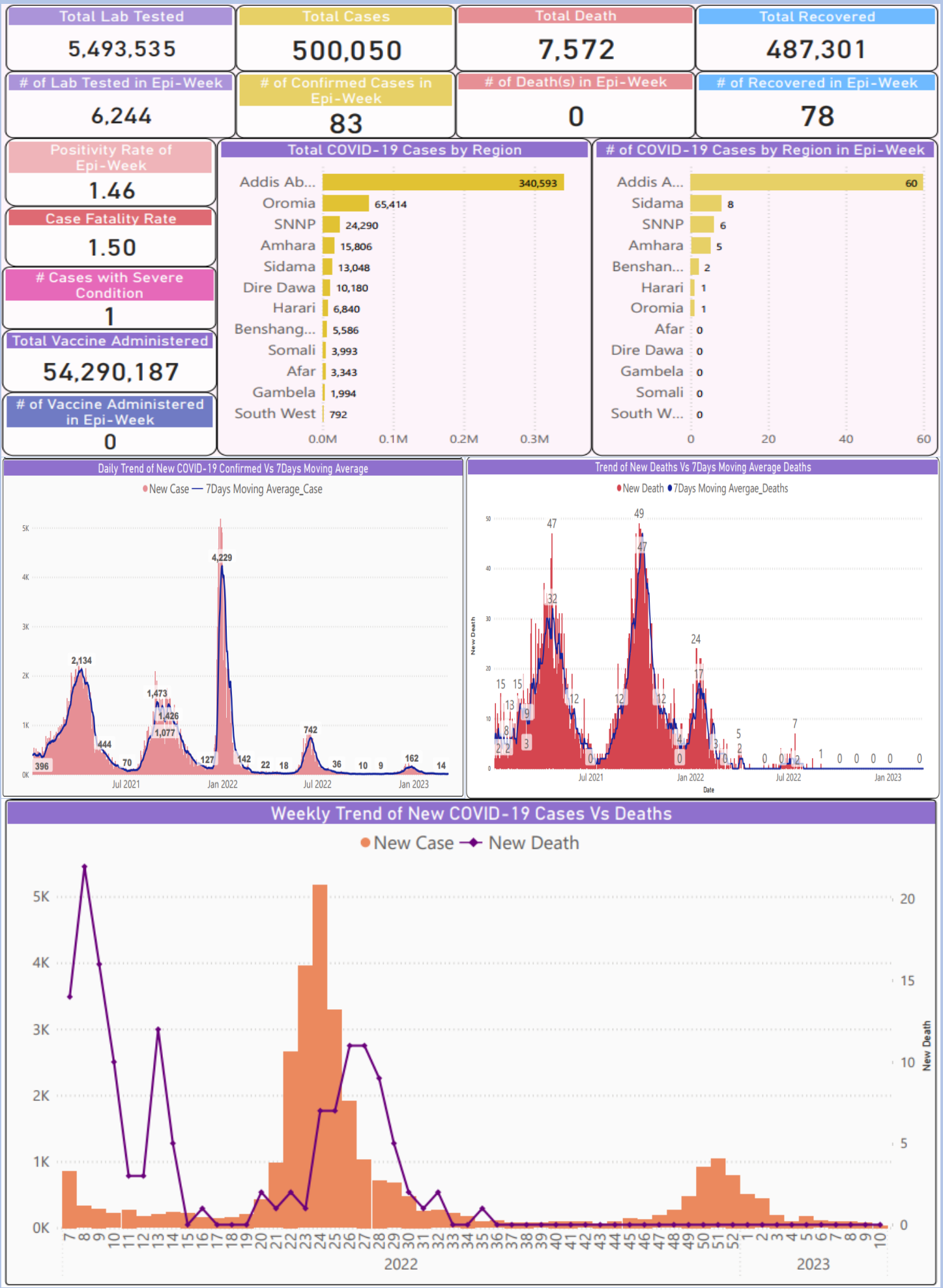


Figure 3: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of 05 March 2023, Ethiopia.

c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

- There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (PoE), investigation and information provision via toll free contact 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.
- From COVID-19 contact center, a of total 1,884 new call were received of which 363 were a COVID-19 related health education and one COVID-19 rumor cases. (Fig. 4)

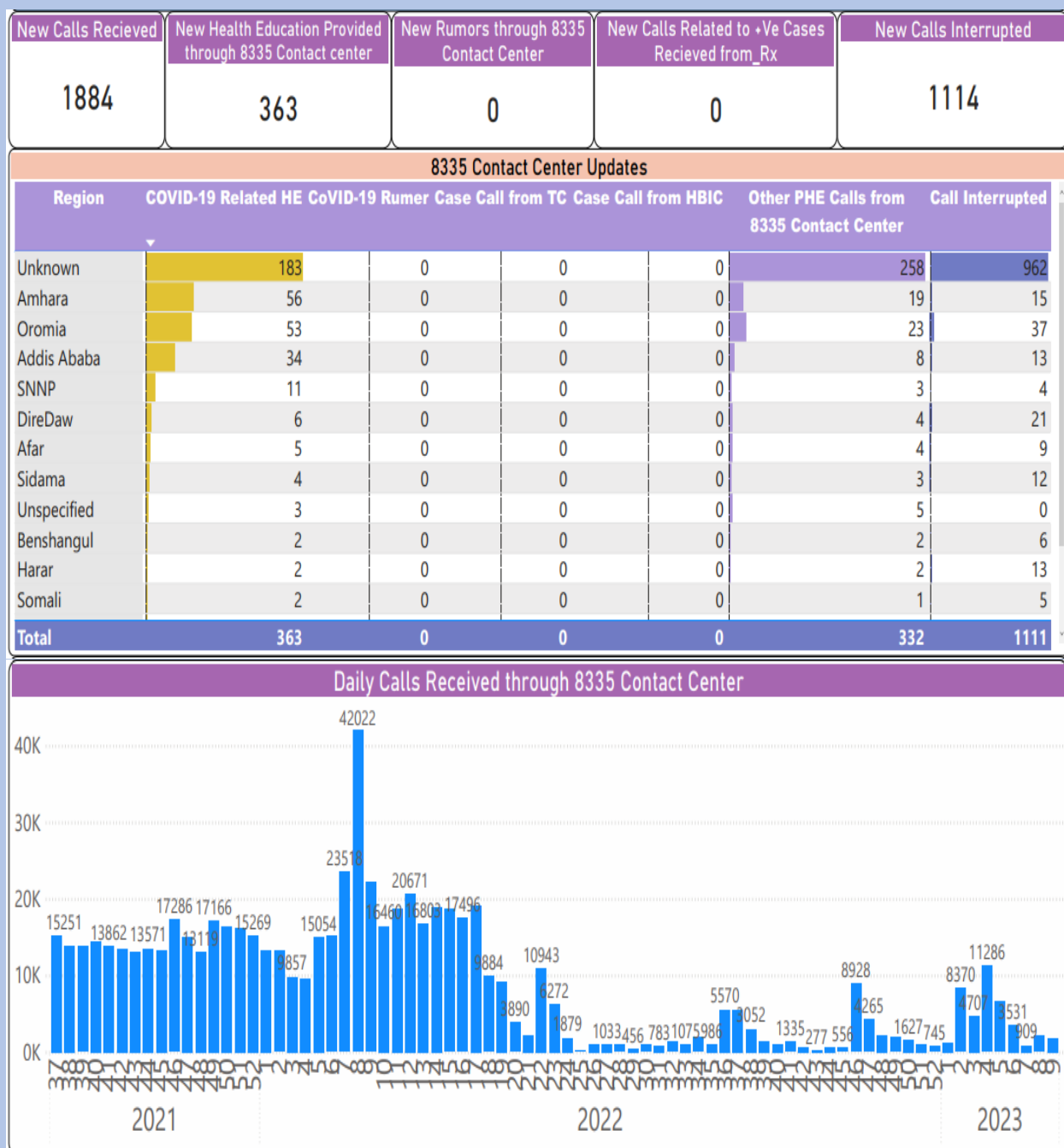
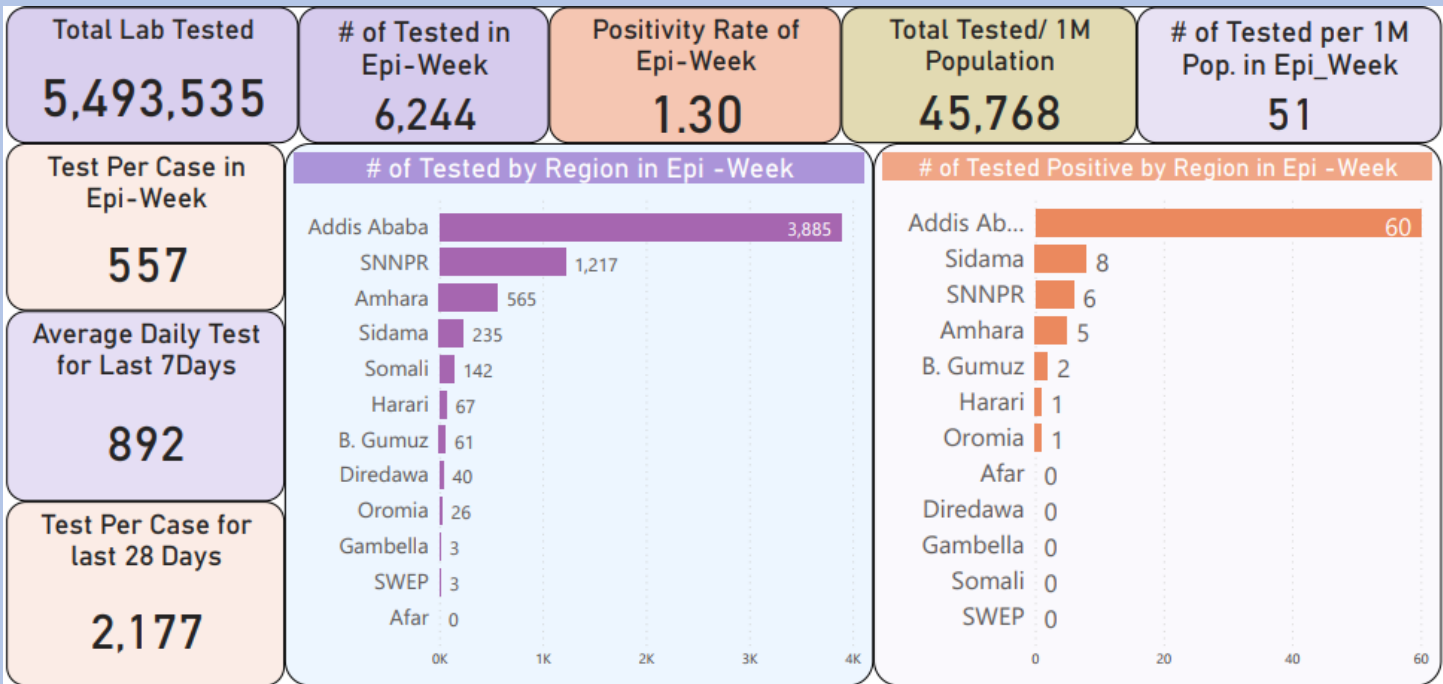


Figure 4: Trend of daily calls received through the contact center (8335)

III. Laboratory related activities

- As of 05 March 2023, a total of 5,493,535 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- A total of 6,244 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-09 which is decreased by 16.1% when compared with the previous week.
- Of the total tests in week 09, Addis Ababa contributed about 59% of the total tests.
- The laboratory test weight positivity rate for the Epi-Week-09 is 1.3%, which is similar with preceding week (1.4%). However, the highest positivity rate 3.13% was reported from Oromia Region.



Region	New Tested	New Cases	Positivity rate	New Death	Test contribution	Case contribution
Addis Ababa	4,309	79	1.83		59%	79%
SNNPR	1,421	4	0.28		18%	3%
Amhara	793	15	1.89		13%	16%
Somali	231	0	0.00		4%	0%
Diredawa	190	1	0.53		4%	3%
Gambella	138	0	0.00		6%	0%
Harari	97	1	1.03		1%	1%
Sidama	95	0	0.00		3%	0%
Afar	85	0	0.00		2%	0%
Oromia	64	2	3.13		1%	4%
B. Gumuz	12	0	0.00		2%	0%
SWEP	11	0	0.00		1%	0%

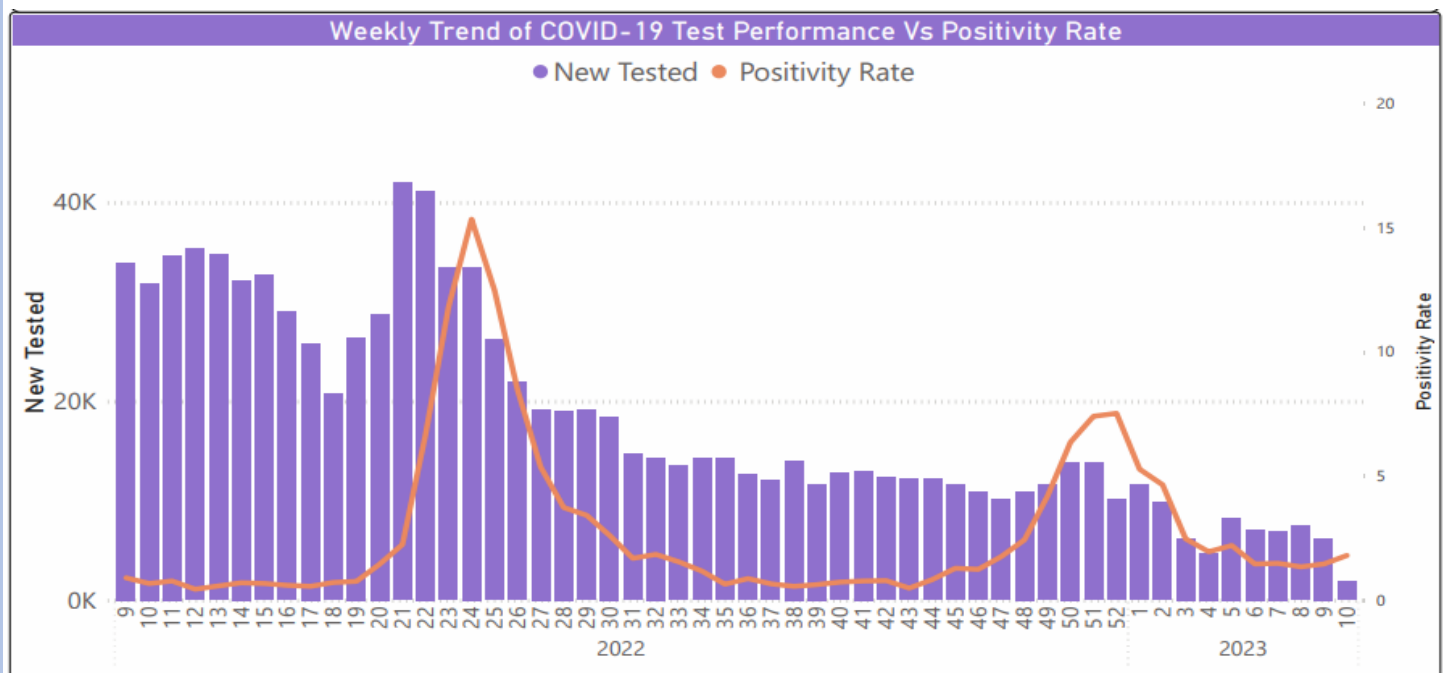


Figure 5: Update on laboratory tests performed as of 05 March 2023.

IV. Case Management and Facility Readiness

- As of 05 March 2023, a total of 77,643 (16%) cases were admitted to health facilities. one active case admitted to health facilities in Epi-week 09.
- About 78 newly recovery cases were reported during the Epi-Week-09, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 487,301 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 97.4%.

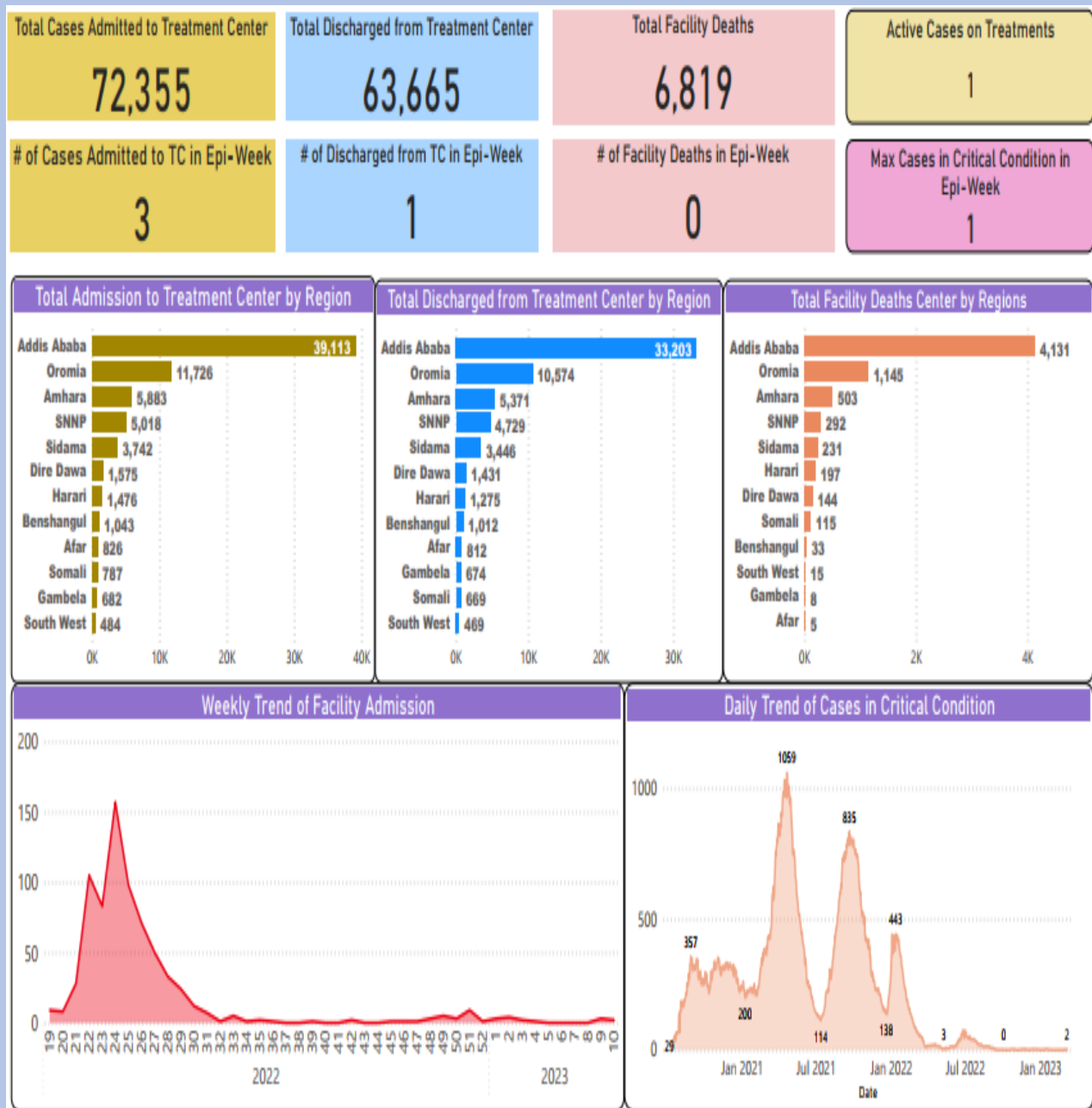


Figure 6: COVID-19 Situation Updates in treatment centers as of 05 March 2023.

V. 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.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 7: COVID-19 situation updates as of 05 March 2023 shared on social media.

VI. 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.
- Joint meeting is ongoing once in two weeks, 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 also ongoing.
- The COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan implemented for the next six months was revised in this week.
- COVID-19 service integrated supportive supervision is ongoing in all regions and selected facilities to evaluate and support on the integrated COVID-19 response activities into the existing health system.

VII. COVID-19 Vaccination

- As of 05 March 2023, a total of 54,276,280 COVID vaccine dose was administered and 44,292,584 people vaccinated at least one dose of vaccine, bringing overall coverage of 66.2% and 41.3% from target and total population respectively.
- As of 05 March 2023, 37,808,535 people received full vaccination series, bringing coverage of 56.6% and 35.3% from target and total population respectively.

VIII. 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 report to regional toll-free lines or to the nearby health facilities.

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

MOH/EPHI/Region	Facebook page	Toll-free hotline	Email address (PHEOCs email)
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	https://www.ephi.gov.et/	8335	ephieoc@gmail.com
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	https://twitter.com/EPHIethiopia		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	https://t.me/EPHI		
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	hrrbpheoc@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		7794	sidaamapheoc@gmail.com
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/	6407	ddpheoc@gmail.com
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/	6406	aapheoc@gmail.com

COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:

Source	Link
WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) dashboard	https://covid19.who.int/
Africa CDC Dashboard, COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard	https://au.int/en/covid19
WHO COVID-19 daily situation reports	https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports
WHO Academy mobile learning app for health workers, COVID-19 information	Android- https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA Apple- https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873



The above presented Quick Reader (QR) code takes you to a portal that you can access updates and all COVID-19 related information available (<https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/covid-19/>)

DISCLAIMER

This weekly bulletin is produced based on figures pulled from official releases of the World Health Organization and activities and reports of all the sections under the Incident management System.

This Weekly Bulletin series of publications is published by the Ethiopian public health Institute (EPHI), public health emergency operation center (PHEOC). The aim of this bulletin is to inform decision makers within the institute and FMOH, UN agencies and NGOs about COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

All interested health and other professionals can get this bulletin at the Institute website; www.ephi.gov.et

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