



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

WHO Epi-Week-31 (July 27-August 02, 2020)

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2020

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths in the WHO-Epi-Week-31 has increased by 26% and 64% respectively compared to the reports in the Epi-Week-30.
- A total of 4,738 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 87 COVID-19 related deaths was reported during the WHO Epi-Week-31.
- As of August 02, 2020, a total of 18,706 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 310 deaths have been reported in Ethiopia.
- There were total of 1,385 new recovered COVID-19 cases during the WHO Epi-Week-31, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 7,601.
- A total of 95,373 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified as of August 02, 2020. Of these, 12,453 (13.06%) contacts were identified during the WHO Epi-week-31.
- Ethiopian Public Health Institute is being disseminating information via YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw>.
- Survey on serologic evidence of SARS-COV-2 infection in Ethiopia is completed.
- COVID-19 Community Based Activities and Testing (COMBAT) Campaign officially launched.



II. BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) in collaboration with partners have intensified response efforts to prevent the spread and severity of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Ethiopia. The central and the regional Public Health Emergency Operation Centers (PHEOC) have been activated and laboratory diagnosis capacity has been expanded to other national institutions, subnational and private laboratories.

The national and regional PHEOC are playing a pivotal role in coordinating resources from different responding agencies and coordinating COVID-19 related information through a regular EOC meetings and partners' coordination forums. The MOH and EPHI are providing information to the general public and stakeholders on a regular and uninterrupted manner using different means of communication modalities.

The WHO and other partners are currently supporting in scaling-up preparedness and response efforts and implementation of related recommendations suggested by the IHR Emergency Committee.

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

Global Situation

- Between December 2019 and August 02, 2020, COVID-19 pandemic affected 216 countries/territories causing 17,660,523 cases and 680,894 deaths (CFR=4.05%) globally.
- Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 1,874,882 (10.72% increment compared to Epi-week-30) cases and 40,878 (0.81% decrement compared to Epi-week-30) deaths were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-31.
- The United States of America (USA) reported the highest number of cases (4,523,888) and deaths (152,630) with CFR of 3.37% followed by Brazil (2,662,485 cases and 92,475 deaths with a CFR of 3.47%). Among the confirmed cases, the highest proportion of death occurred in the United Kingdom with CFR of 15.20%.
- In Africa, 56 countries/territories have reported COVID-19 cases.
- As of August 02, 2020, a total of 947,433 cases and 20,014 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.11%).
- During the WHO-Epi-Week-31, a total of 116,406 cases and 2,467 deaths were reported across the continent.
- More than half of the total COVID-19 confirmed cases, 503,290 (53%) and more than one third of the deaths, 8,153 (41%) in Africa were reported from South Africa. See the summary dashboard below.

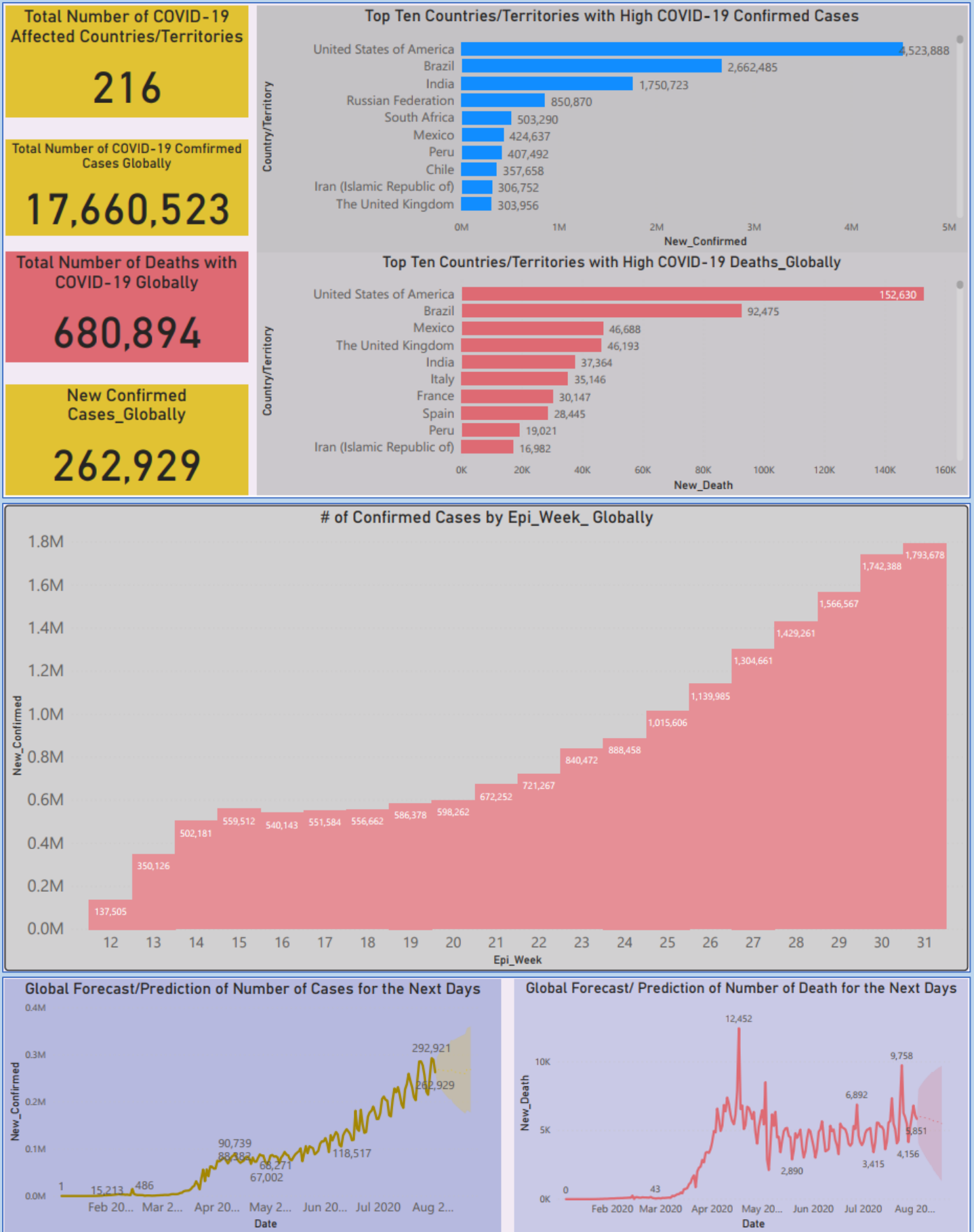


Fig. 1: Global Situation Update as of August 02, 2020 (Source: WHO)

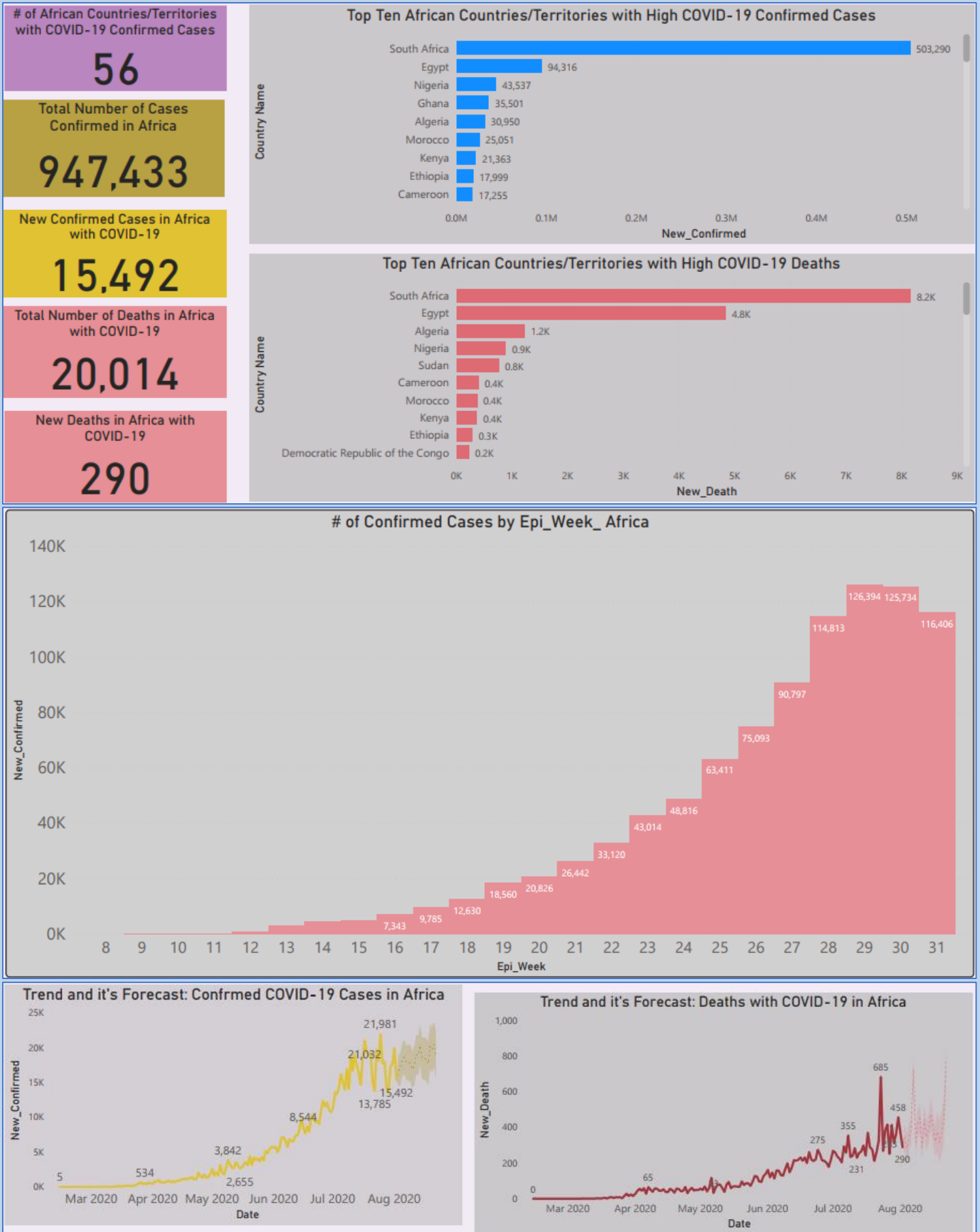


Fig. 2: Africa Situation Update as of August 02, 2020 (Source: WHO)

National COVID-19 situation

- Four-thousand-seven-hundred-thirty-eight (4,738) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases (26% increment compared to that of Epi-Week-30) and 87 COVID-19 related deaths (64% increment compared to that of Epi-Week-30) were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-31.
- As of August 02, a total of 18,706 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 310 deaths are recorded in the country. For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

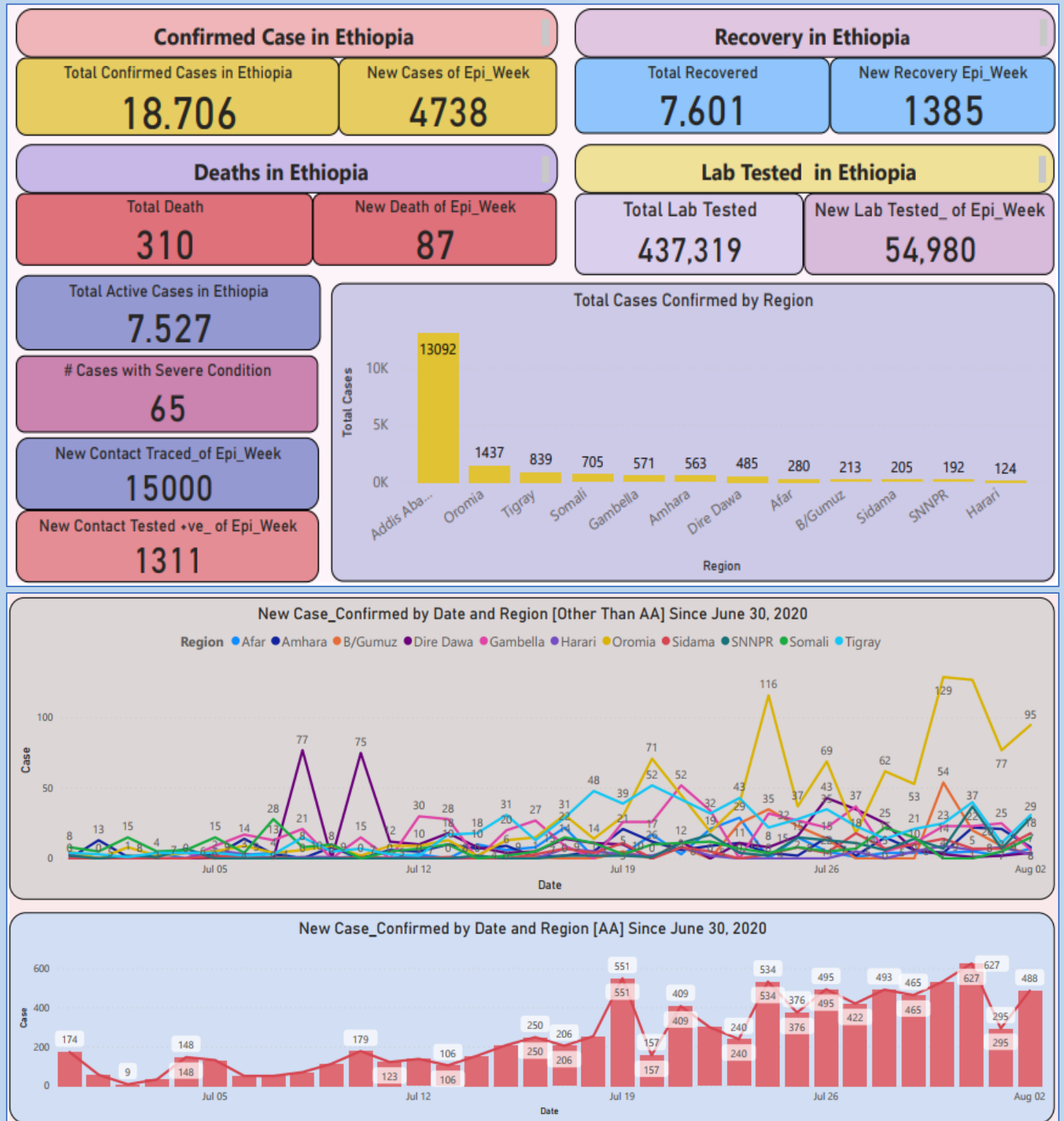


Fig. 3: Weekly Summary of the COVID-19 situation of in Ethiopia, August 02, 2020

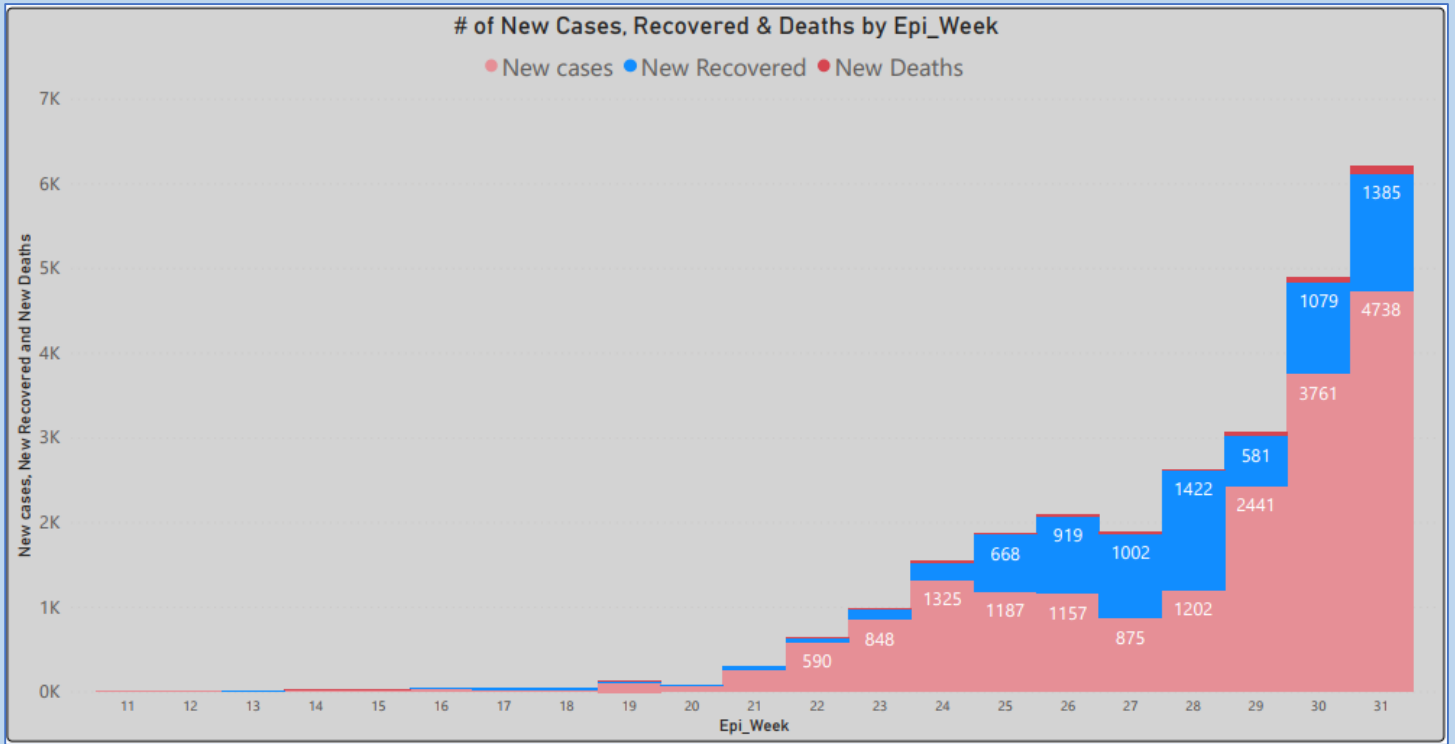


Fig. 4: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by WHO Epi-Week as of August 02, 2020, Ethiopia

An epidemic progression forecast done by an ARIMA model shows that the number of daily confirmed cases may increase.

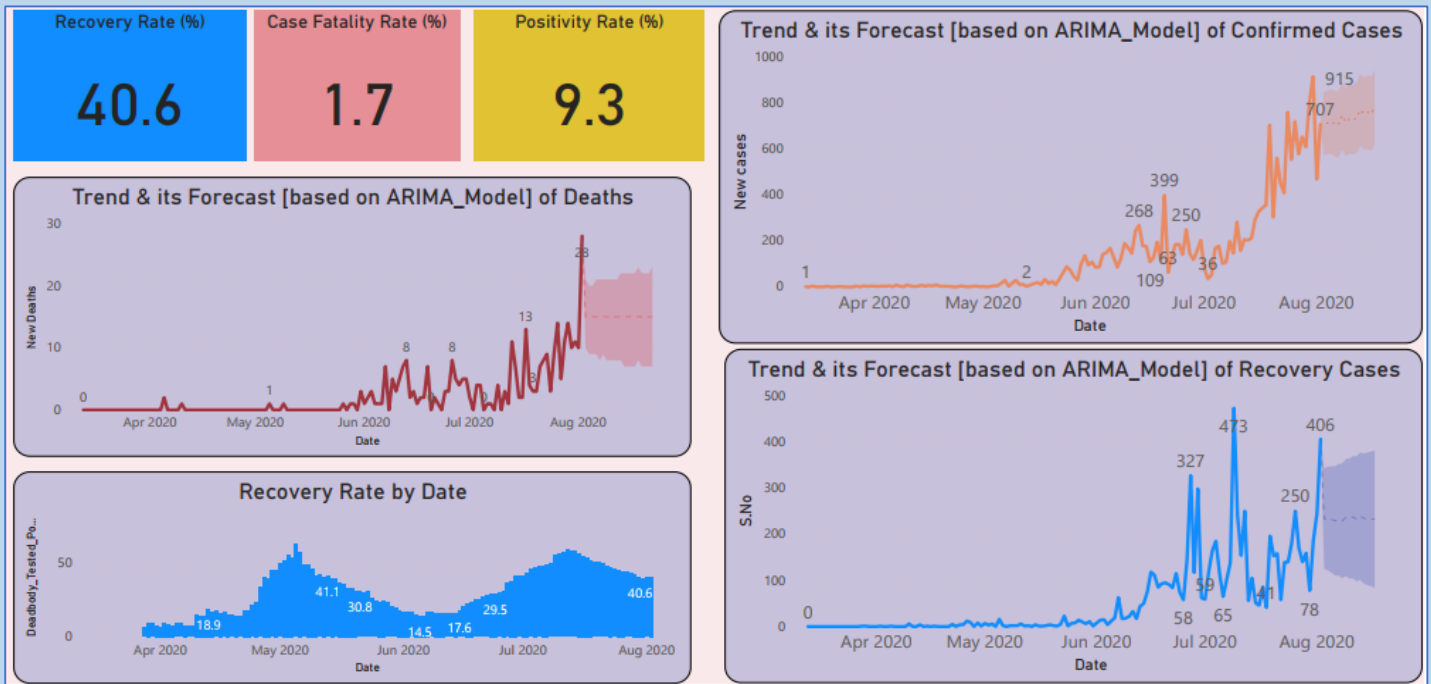


Fig. 5: Summary of forecast on COVID-19 epidemiologic progression in Ethiopia

Epi Surveillance and Laboratory Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), follow-up of international travelers, mandatory quarantine of passengers coming to Ethiopia, rumor collection, verification and 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 and laboratory investigation of suspected cases, quarantined individuals, contacts of confirmed cases, random SARI/pneumonia cases and community members.

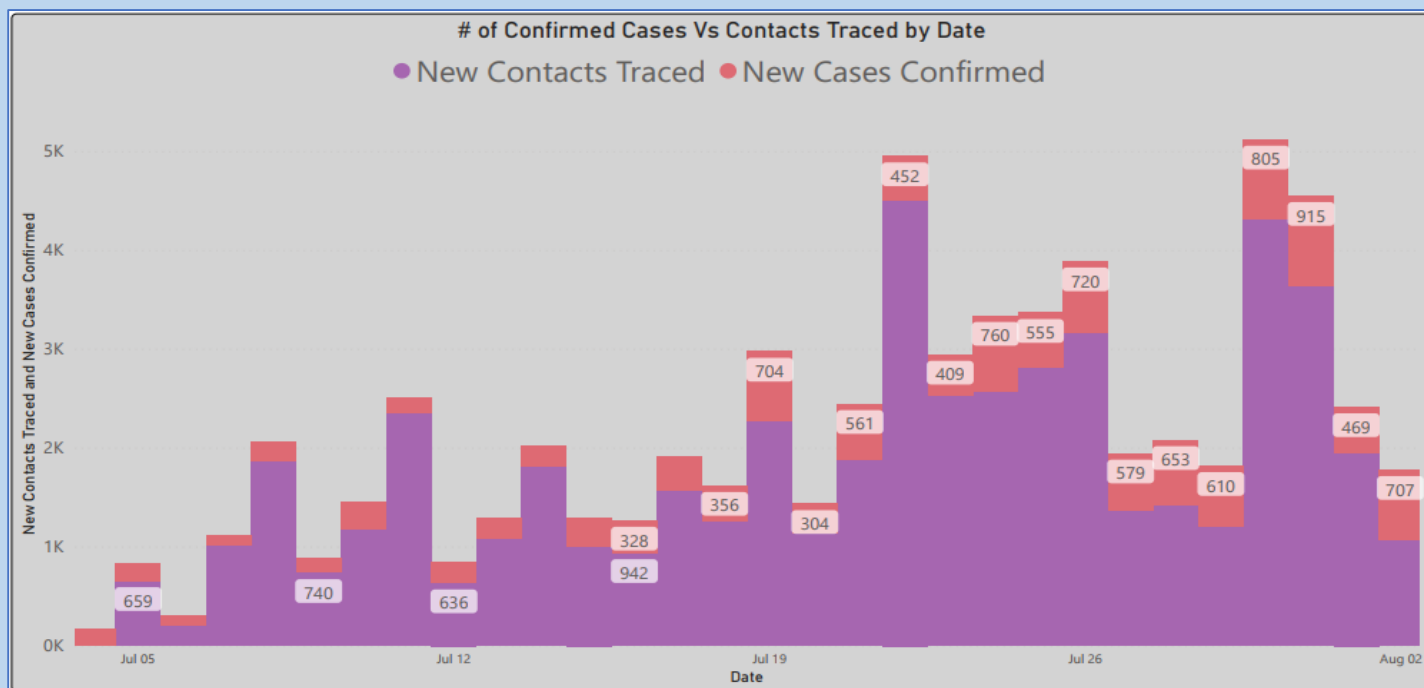


Fig. 6: Contact tracing summary dashboard as of August 02, 2020

Laboratory related activities

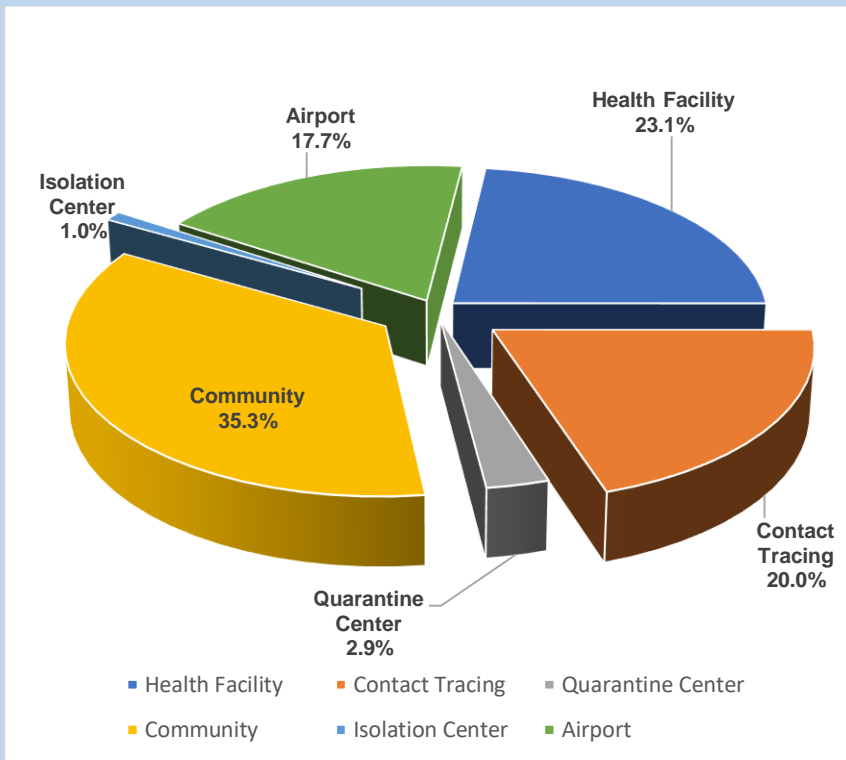
- As of August 02, 2020, a total of 437,319 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories in the country.
- 54,980 laboratory tests were processed during the WHO Epi-Week-31, 7.65% increment compared to that of Epi-Week-30.

Laboratory testing capacity and expansion

Table 1: Details of laboratory testing capacity and expansion in Ethiopia

Status	Number of Laboratories	Number of Machine	Testing Capacity	Remark
Functional/Reporting Laboratories	48	61	11,648	At least one laboratory in all regions (4 at EPHI)
Ready to conduct test	1	1	20	
Under Verification Process	1	1	100	
Waiting for Verification	2	3	300	
Candidates	12	13	5032	
Total	64	78	16,800	

Specimen Collection by Site



- More than half of the specimens collected were from the community (35.3%) and health facility (23.1%)
- Specimen collection from contact tracing activity accounts for 20% of the overall specimen collection.

Testing Performance

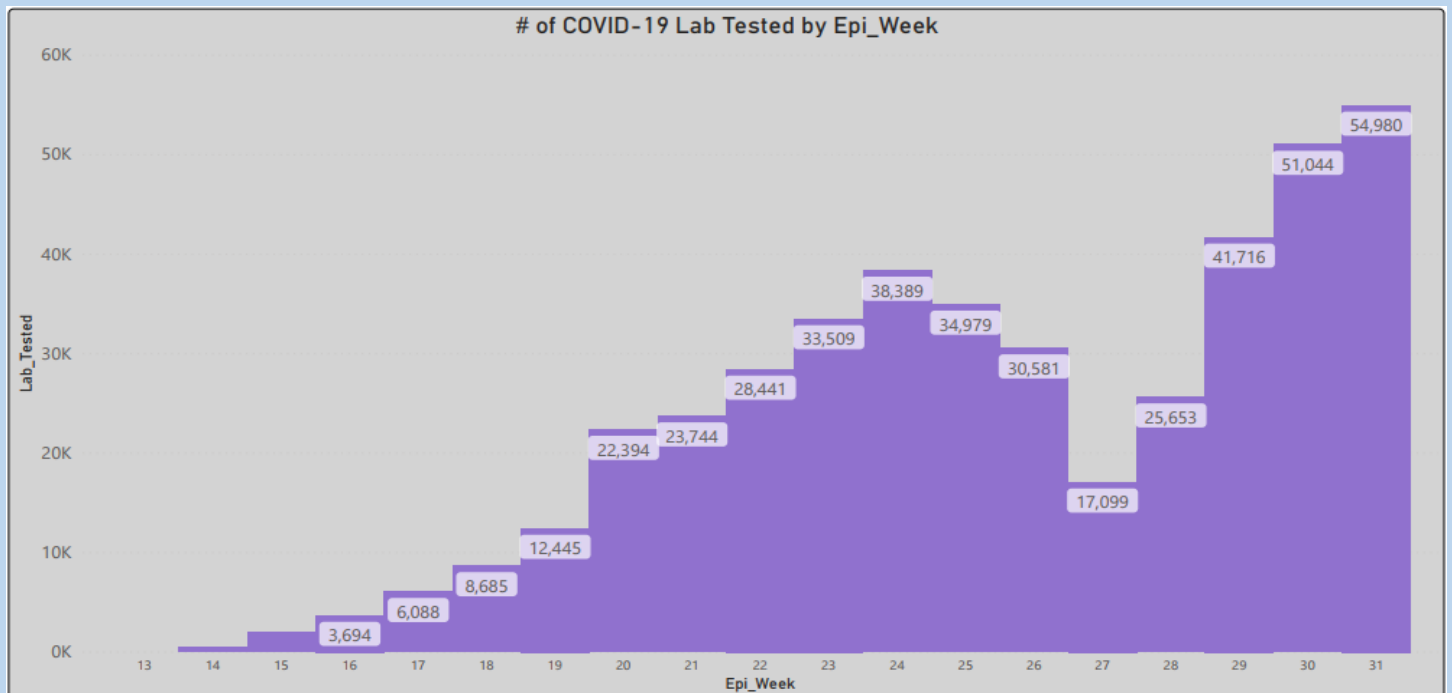


Fig. 7: Trend of COVID-19 laboratory testing by WHO Epi-Week as of August 02, 2020, Ethiopia

IV. Coordination and Leadership

- Since its activation, 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 daily by core IMS staffs and key partners' representatives
- Weekly virtual (zoom) meeting is being conducted with technical working group members, which comprises members from subnational level focal, key partners and stakeholders.
- Weekly leadership and strategic virtual (zoom) meeting, chaired by the H.E MOH Minister, is being conducted.
- Supports (financial, logistic and technical) are being received from partners, private institutions, individuals and donors.
- COVID-19 Sero-Survey study is completed. The survey was designed to measure the extent of SARS-CoV-2 serum antibody in selected high-risk group and general population. Abbott SARS-CoV-2 IgG assay was used for detection of anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies which use the Abbott Architect platform. The study was conducted across both city administrations and all the regional states in country. A total of 18,050 serum samples (6,050 samples from 3,040 households in Addis Ababa and 12,000 samples from 5,720 households in all regions) was collected during the study. The study result will be disclosed in the near future.
- The Minister to Ministry of Health Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Lia Tadesse and Minister of State for Africa, United Kingdom H.E. Minister James Duddridge visited the Public Health Emergency Operation Center under Ethiopian Public Health Institute. During the visit they discussed on the ongoing partnership of the United Kingdom Government, the FDRE Ministry of Health and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and the work being done with regards to COVID-19 and other Public Health issues.



- Community Based Activities and Testing (COMBAT) Campaign is officially launched by H.E Dr. Abiy Ahmed during the National Ministerial Committee meeting to better control COVID19 pandemic. The campaign for the coming month “Nehase” is a national mobilization to enable everyone take preventive measures responsibly and actively and perform wider nationwide testing to better understand the epidemic and determine measures to be taken.



Pic: COVID-19 National Ministerial Committee Meeting, August 01, 2020

V. Case Management and IPC

- Currently there are a total of 10,793 active COVID-19 cases in the country.
- There are 153 patients in severe condition and the rest are in stable condition.

VI. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Daily press statement is being provided on COVID-19 situation on daily basis through Mass Media.
- Audiovisual key messages preparation of quarantined and isolation centers
- Preparation of key messages on mental health
- Distribution of communication materials for Bole Lemi Industrial Park
- Key Message preparation for people arriving at the airport
- Development and designing key message on work place mask utilization
- Key message preparation on getting tested for ComBAT.
- Developed and shared social media message for Id al Adaha.
- Different poster, brochures, audio and video messages focusing on COVID-19 risk perception and practice developed.



VII. Logistic and Supplies

- There are ongoing distribution of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to quarantine, isolation and treatment centers.
- Number of governmental and Non-Governmental organizations, individuals and partners have donated different medical supplies and infrastructures for COVID-19 response.
- Custom clearance for donations' shipment is ongoing.

VIII. Protection related activities

- Conducted follow-up of special need population at quarantine centers, detention centers, IDPs sites and identify gaps and fill based on their request
- Follow up of Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) test result and facilitate relocation site
- 72 PacketsX10pcs Sanitation pads are provided to females in Lideta Quarantine center
- COVID-19-19 risk communication Braille messages on preparation
- Facilitate laboratory test for Gergesenon and Kibir Learegawiyan elders in the quarantine for reunification
- Facilitated relocation of 3 discordant children to waiting shelters.

IX. Training and Orientation Activities

- A total of 7,011 Health Extension Workers (HEWs) and supervisors have been enrolled to the Mobile based COVID-19 training and 5,476 completed the training from Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, SNNPR and Benishangul Gumuz Regions so far.
- In the WHO Epi-Week-31:
 - Two days basic COVID-19 training provided for 71 health care workers from Addis Ababa Police and INSA health facilities (65 from Addis Ababa Police health facilities and 6 from INSA).
 - Training on COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement provided for 39 Mass Media professionals.



- Orientation on COVID-19 prevention and control provided, in collaboration with JHU, for 52 hotel and restaurant managers, airport quarantine coordination team and 21 media professionals working in Tigray region.



X. Challenges and Way Forward

Challenges

- Increasing number of community deaths and late confirmation of COVID-19 by dead body surveillance and testing.
- Failure to adhere to physical distancing and other preventions advised among the public.
- Happening of super spreading events that could contribute to the increment of number and distribution of COVID-19 cases.
- There is critical shortage of beds for COVID-19 patients
- Refugee site and quarantine area problems specially in Gambella region

Way Forward

- Enhance response efforts by implementing Community-based Actions and Testing (COMBAT) strategy
- Rapid assessment of community death increment.
- Conduct intensive testing of high-risk areas for COVID-19.
- Enhance technical support, coordination and timely and accurate information sharing at all levels.
- Strengthened collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- Intensify risk communication and community engagement activities.
- 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.
- Identify and establish additional case treatment centers and quarantine sites, especially in regions.
- Strengthen and sustain essential health services other than COVID-19.

XI. Public Health Policy Recommendation

Advice for the Public:

- It is important to be informed of the situation and take appropriate measures to protect yourself and your family.
 - Stay at home
 - Wash hands frequently

- Don't touch your mouth, nose or eye by unwashed hands
- Keep physical distancing; avoid mass gathering and shaking hands.
- Adhering to all these precaution measures is also highly recommended during planting trees in this summer season.
- 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
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	https://www.ephi.gov.et/	8335/952
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/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
Amhara Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/	6981
Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/	6016
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau	6184
Harari Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/	6864
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/	6955
Somali Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...	6599
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs	6929
Tigray Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrbh/	6244
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/	6407
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/	6406

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.WHO.A 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://www.eph.gov.et/index.php/public-health-emergency/novel-corona-virus-update>)

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.eph.gov.et

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