



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

WHO Epi-Week- 01 (January 04 – 10, 2021)

Issue No: 37

Issue Date: January 19, 2021

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 32,135 laboratory samples were tested in the WHO-Epi-Week-01 of 2021.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the WHO-Epi-Week-01 is 8.38%, which is higher than the preceding week (7.45%).
- A total of 2,694 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 46 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-01 bringing the total cases and death to 128,316 and 1,994 respectively.
- A total of 76,745 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 943 of these were enrolled in the WHO-Epi-Week-01.
- Out of a total of 313,693 contacts of COVID-19 confirmed cases, 1,379 contacts were identified during the WHO Epi-week-01.
- Discussions were held with officials and members of the House of Peoples' Representatives on the enhancement of the public health and social measures to prevent and control COVID-19.
- A consultative meeting was conducted with regional leaders and officials on the national movement to prevent and control COVID-19.

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 national and the regional Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) has 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 regular EOC meetings and partners' coordination forums. The MOH and EPHI are providing information to the 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 31, 2019 and January 10, 2021, COVID-19 pandemic affected 235 countries/territories causing 88,353,459 cases and 1,918,430 deaths (CFR=2.17%) globally.
- Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 4,938,802 cases and 85,485 deaths were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-01 of the year 2021.
- The United States of America (USA) reported the highest number of cases (21,761,186) with CFR of 1.69% followed by India (10,450,284) cases) with a CFR of 1.44%.
- In Africa, 57 countries/territories have reported COVID-19 cases.
- As of January 10, 2021, a total of 3,032,607 cases and 72,210 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.38%). Of these 210,891 cases and 5,440 deaths were reported during the WHO-Epi-Week-01.
- In Africa, South Africa reported the highest number of cases (1,214,176) with CFR of 2.70% followed by Morocco (451,637 cases) with a CFR of 1.70%.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa. See the summary dashboard below.

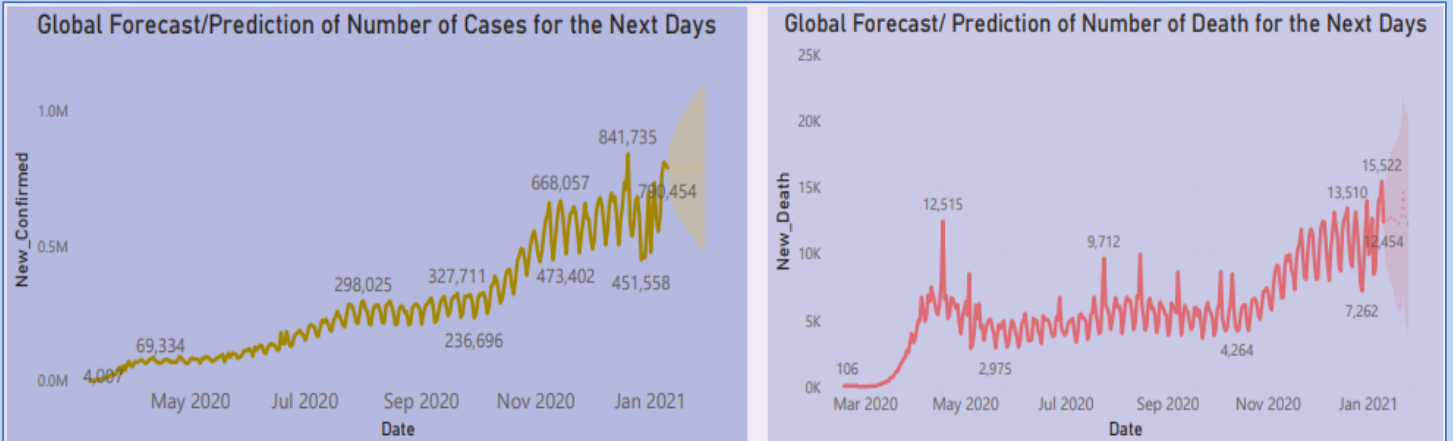
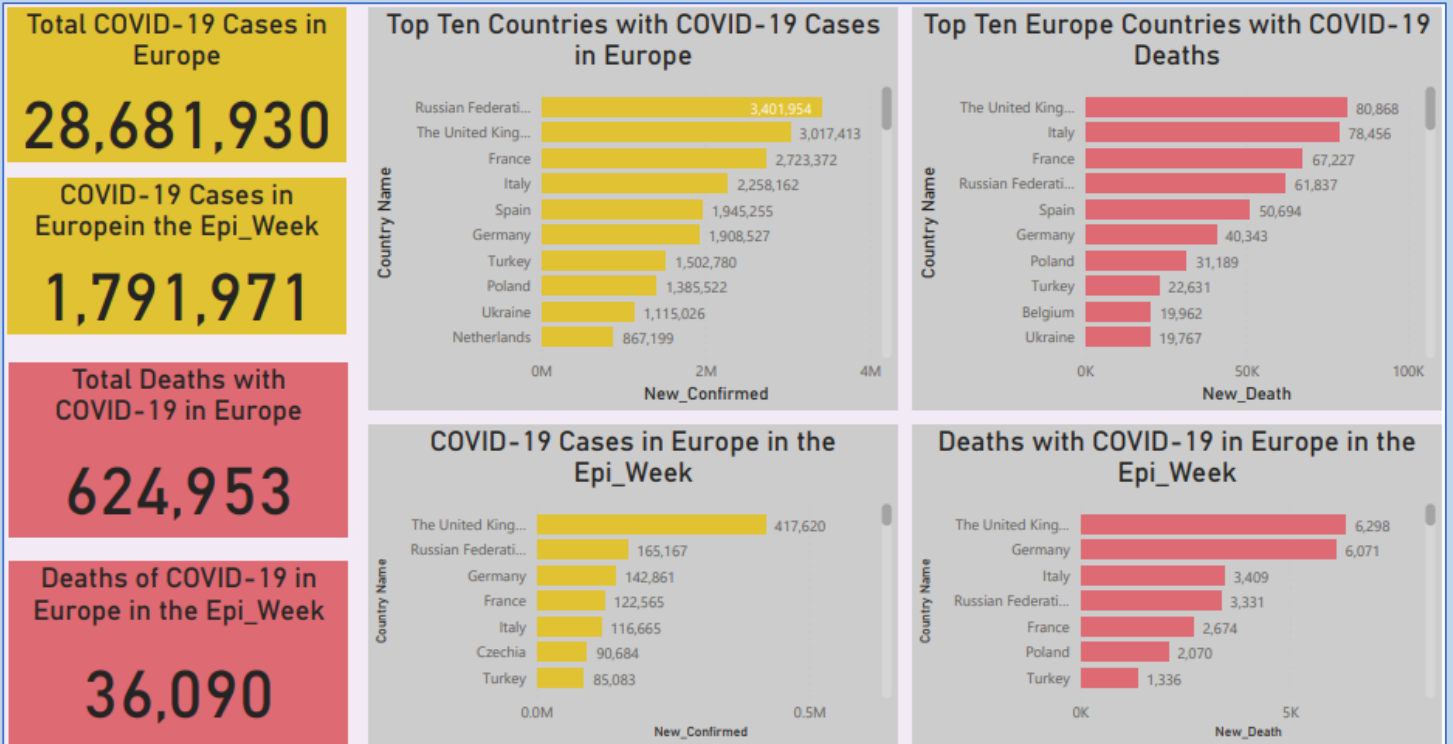
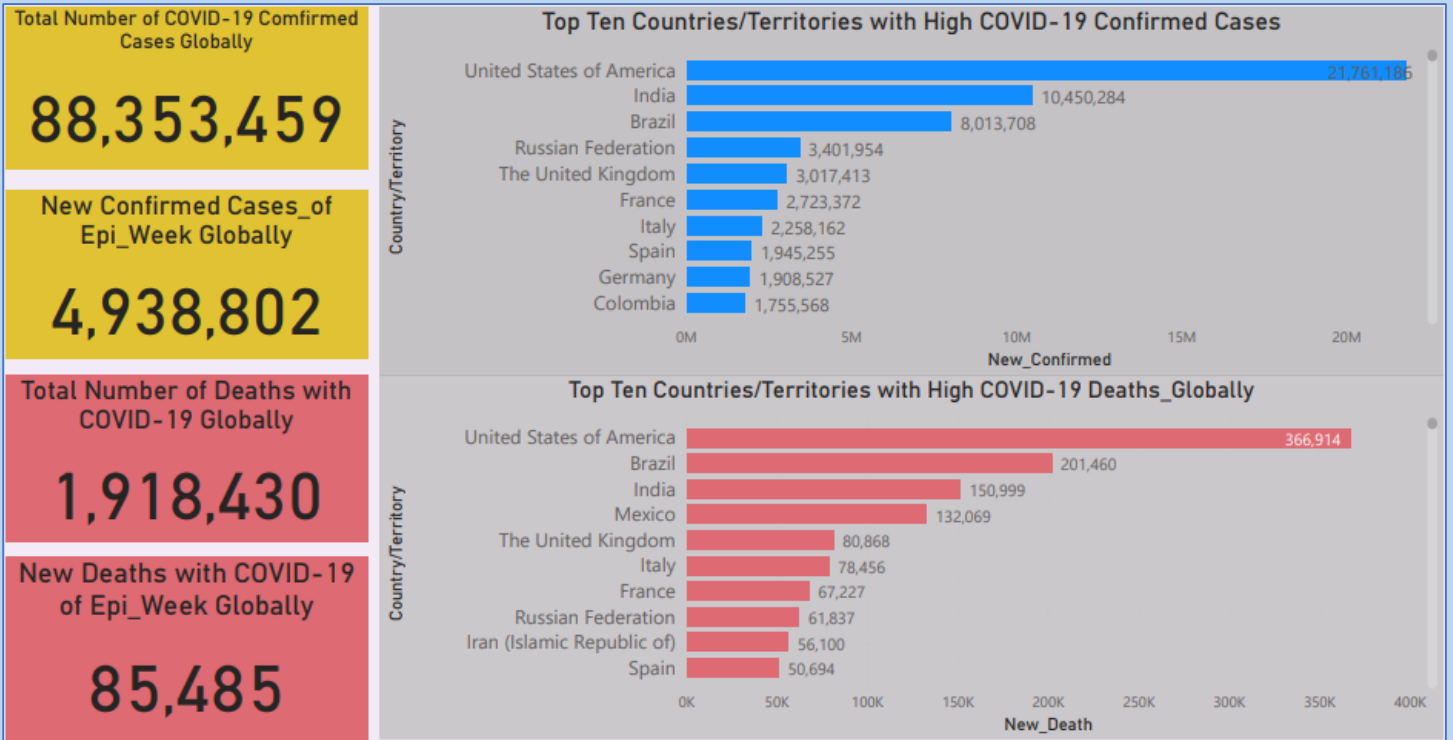


Fig. 1: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of January 10, 2021 (Source: WHO)

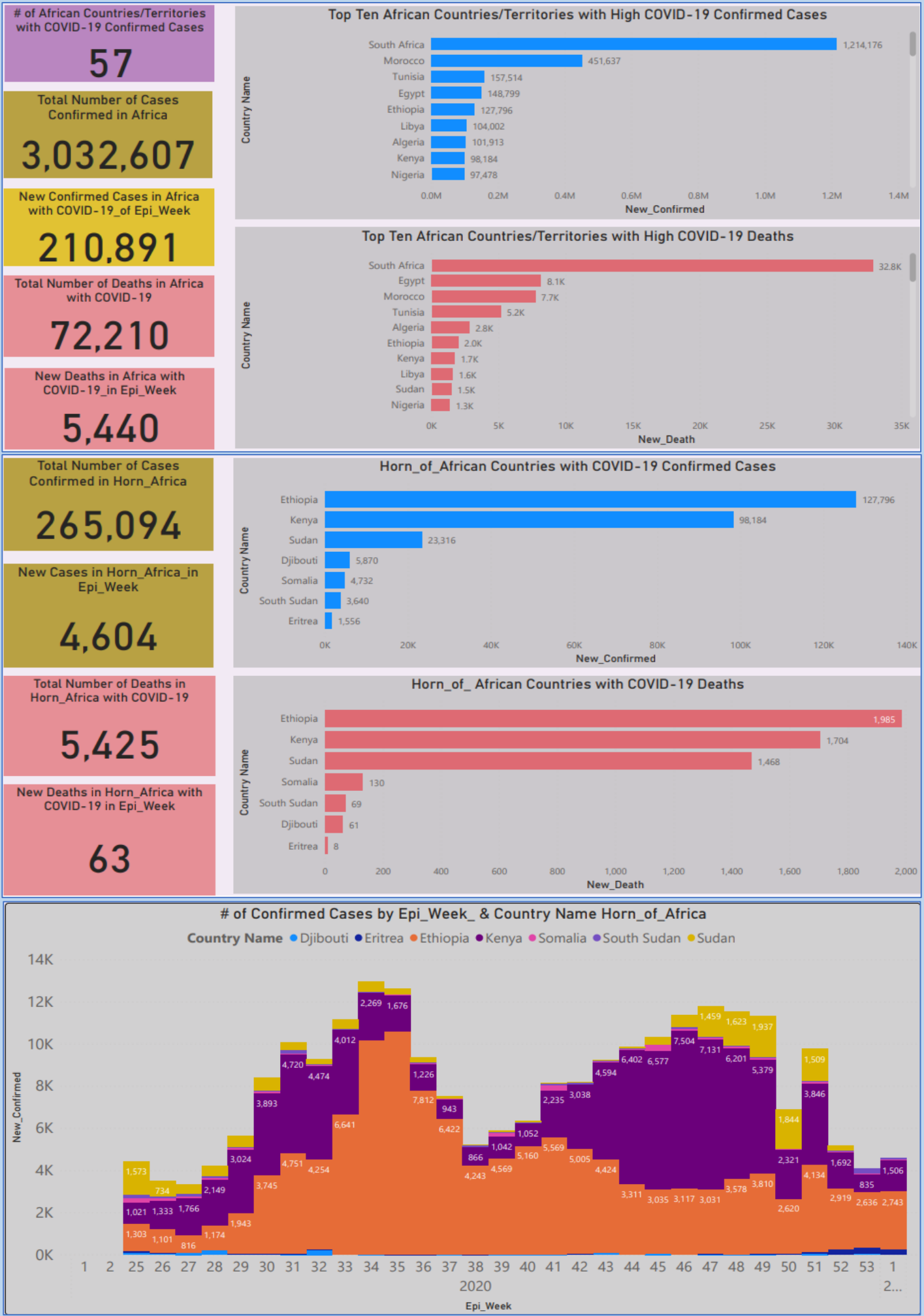


Fig. 2: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of January 10, 2021 (Source: WHO)

National COVID-19 situation:

- Two-thousand-six-hundred-ninety-four (2,694) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases (2% decrease compared to that of Epi-Week-53 of 2020) and 46 COVID-19 related deaths (18% increase compared to that of Epi-Week-53 of 2020) were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-01 of 2021.
- As of January 10, 2021, total of 128,316 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,994 deaths were recorded in the country.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the WHO-Epi-Week-01 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New Death	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	22843	2244	199	39	9.6
Oromia	3095	313	21	5	10.6
SNNPR	2124	26	0	0	1.0
Sidama	1332	52	9	1	3.4
Afar	1062	7	0	0	0.4
Amhara	584	33	13	1	6.6
Somali	379	1	0	0	0.3
Benshangul	261	3	0	0	1.4
Dire Dawa	258	5	0	0	1.4
Harari	97	10	7	0	9.7
Gambella	64	0	0	0	0.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	32099	2694	249	46	3.7

**** Positivity & Recovery Rates are Weighted Averages of Regional Distributions of Rates

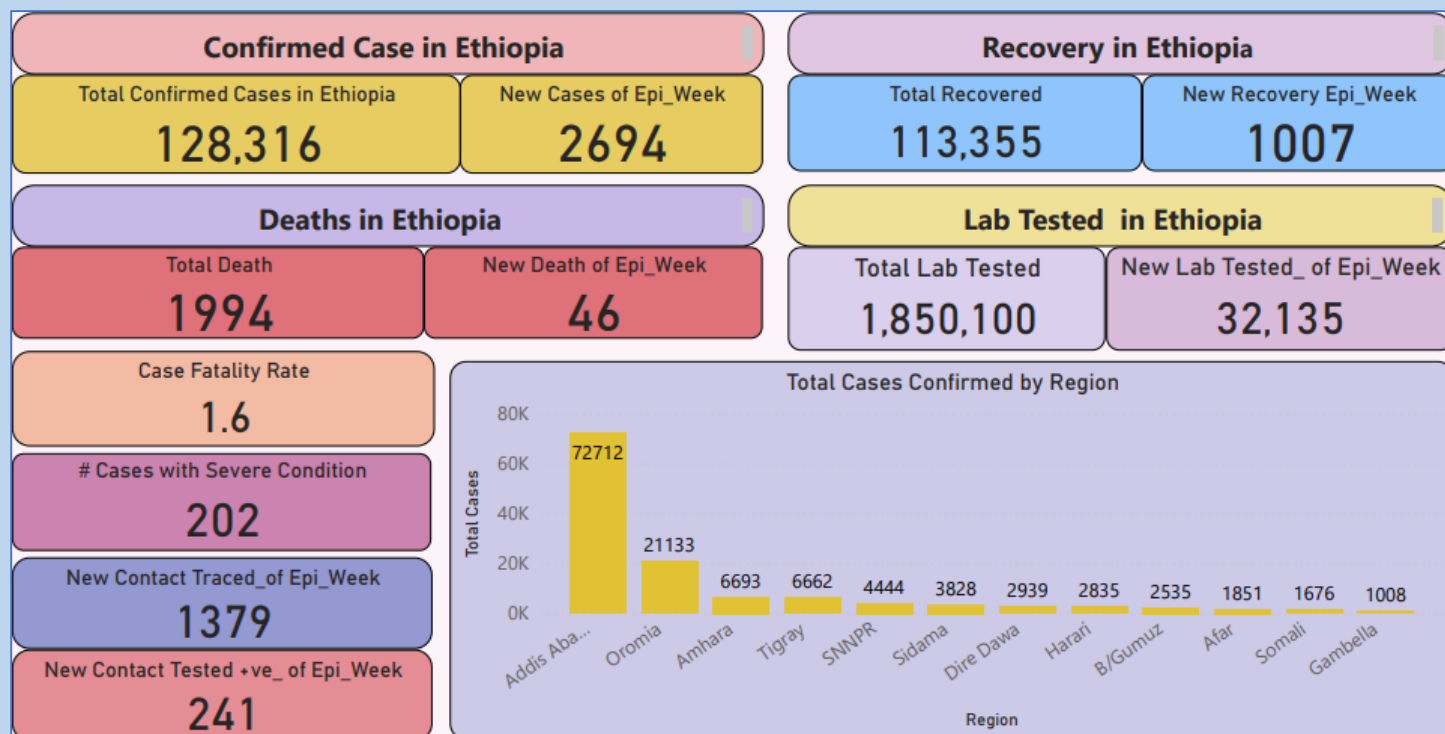


Fig. 3: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 10, 2021, Ethiopia

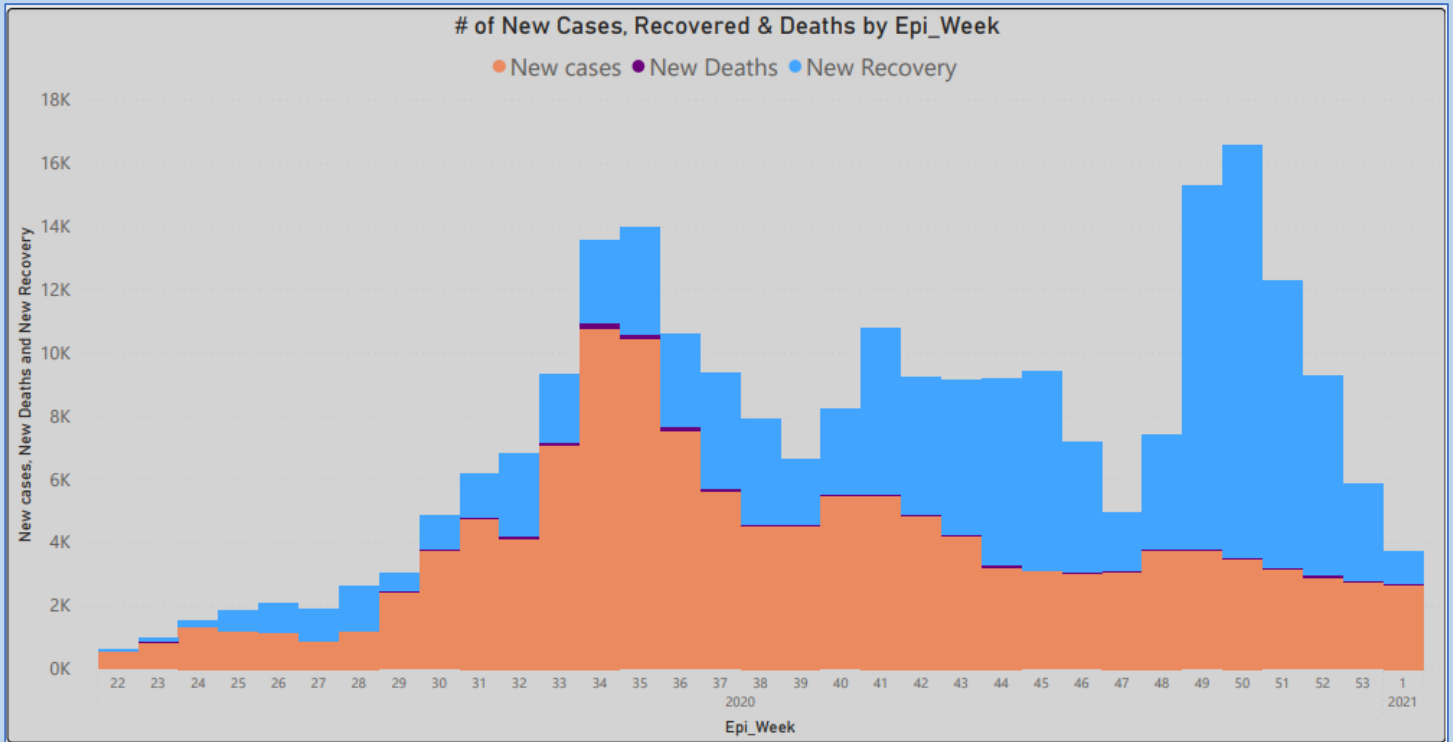


Fig. 4: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by WHO Epi-Week as of January 10, 2021, Ethiopia

Epi-Surveillance and Laboratory 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.

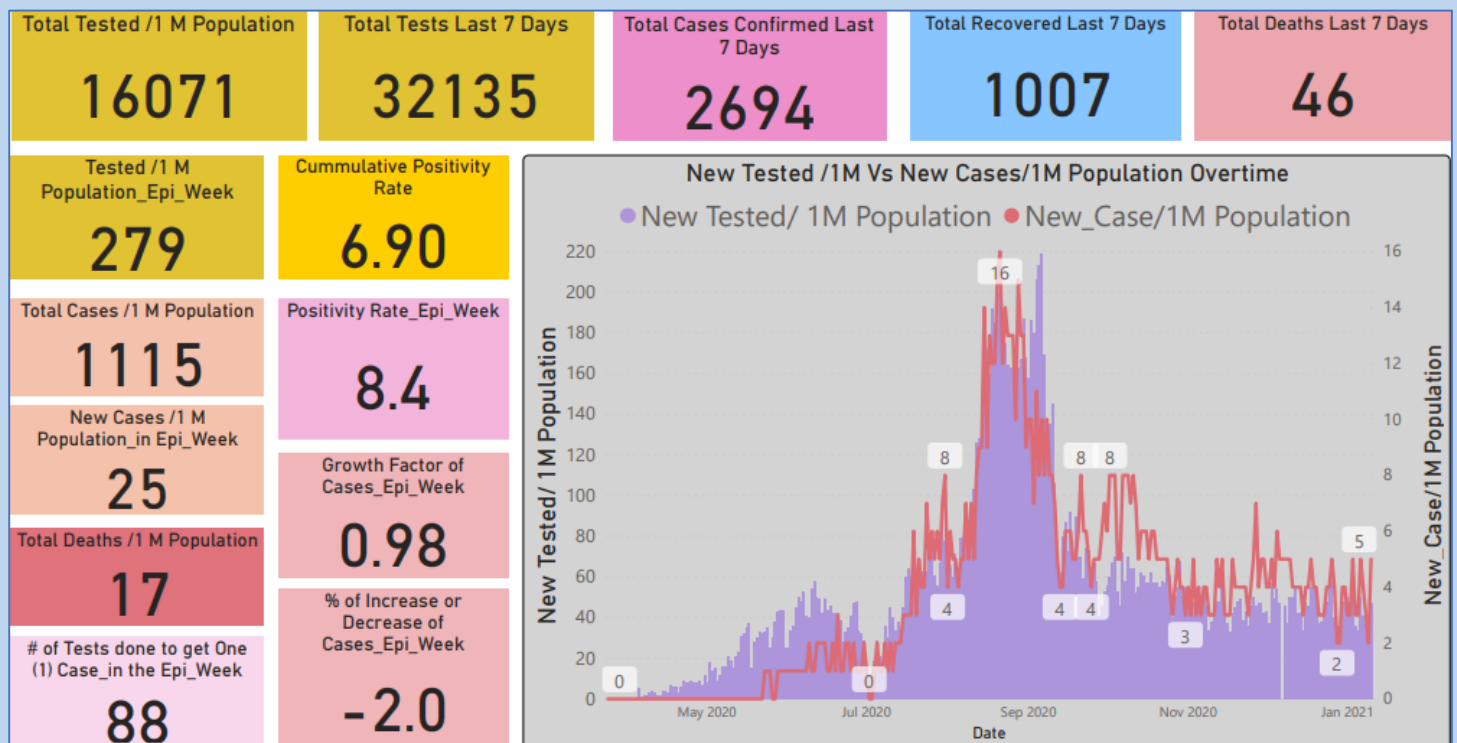


Fig. 5: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of January 10, 2021.

Contact tracing and follow-up:

- As of January 10, 2021:
 - A total of 313,693 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 3,374 contacts were identified in the WHO-Epi-Week-01 of 2021.
 - Of total contacts, 286,185 (91.23%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 1,273 contacts are still on follow-up.
 - 716 (0.23%) contacts have developed COVID-19 suggestive symptoms. Of these symptomatic contacts, 571 (79.75%) have tested positive.
- Overall, 26,632 (8.48%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 20.76% of the total cases.

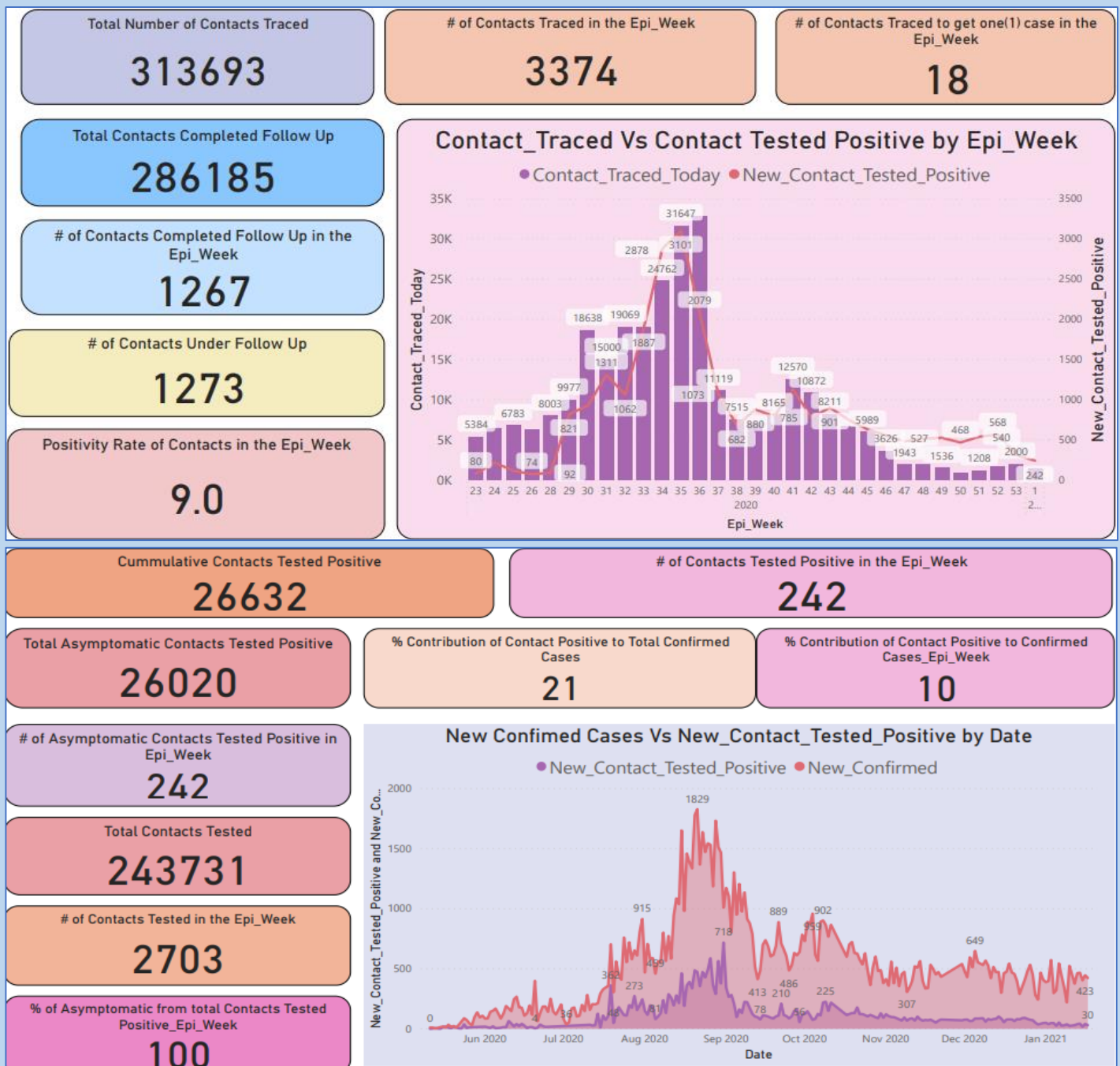


Fig. 6: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of January 10, 2021, Ethiopia.

Rumors collection and verification from all sources

- As of January 10, 2021:
 - 331,258 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 3,529 rumors were reported in the WHO-Epi-Week-01 of 2021.
 - 252,872 (76.33%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.

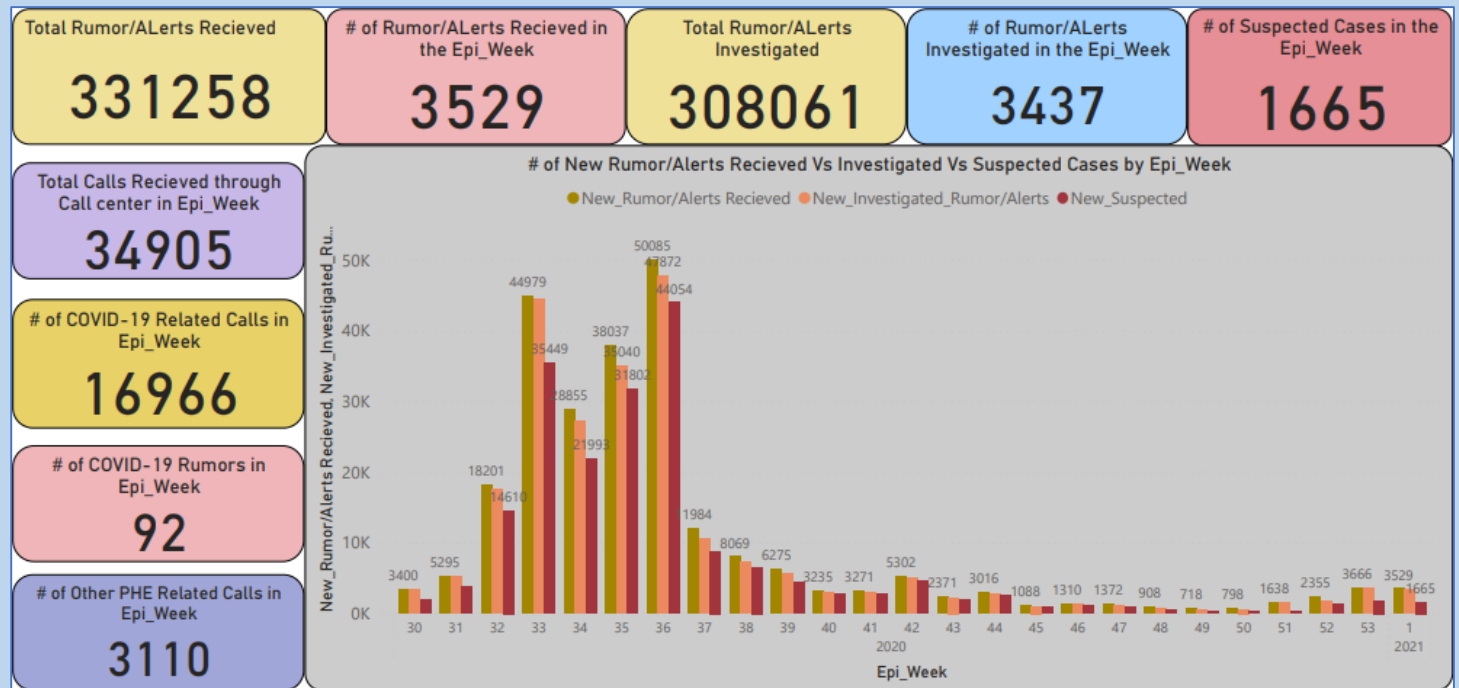


Fig. 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of January 10, 2021, Ethiopia.

Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 1,552,147 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 567,181 (36.54%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 32,886 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-01 of 2021.
- Based on Directive 30/2020 there is no Institutional Quarantine at the national level because all international passengers who pass through the point of entries should bring negative valid RT-RCR test result.
- The total number of population quarantined since March 23 to October 3, 2020 was 69,383.

Laboratory related activities

- As of 10 January 2021, a total of 1,850,100 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 32,135 laboratory tests were processed during the WHO Epi-Week-01 of 2021.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the WHO-Epi-Week-01 is 8.38%, which is higher than the preceding week (7.45%).
- The overall positivity rate for the laboratory test since the occurrence of the disease in the country is 6.94%.

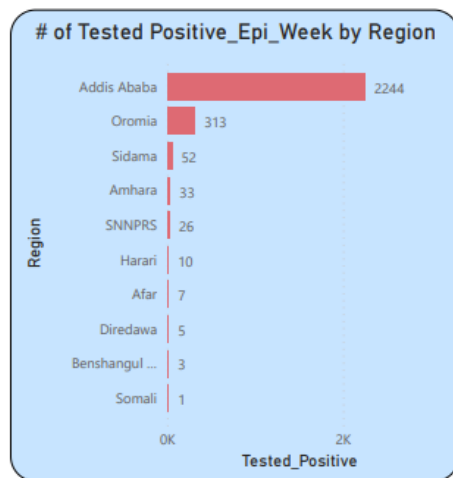
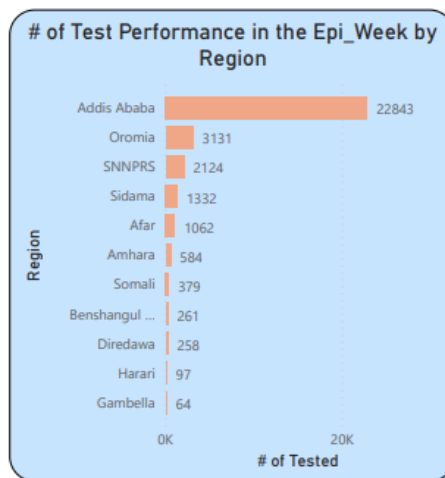
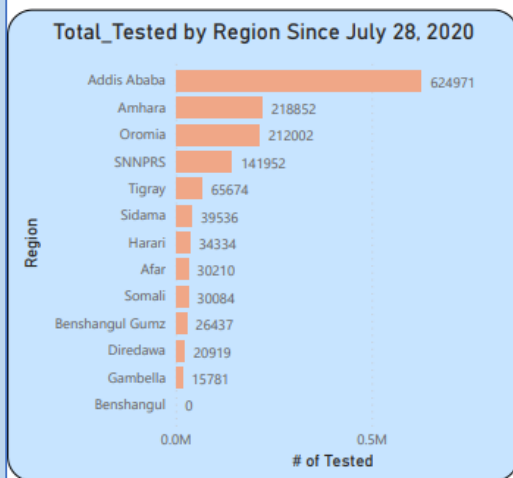
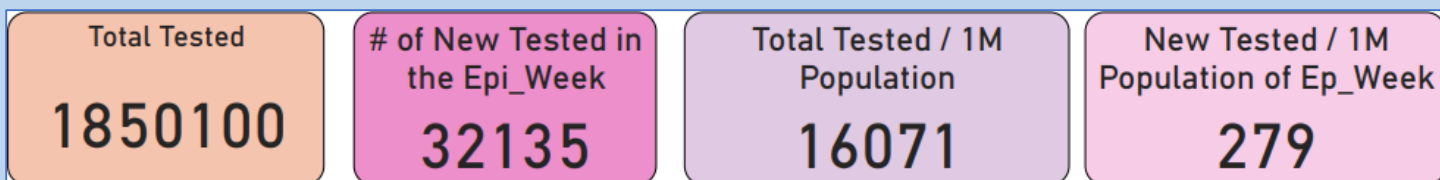
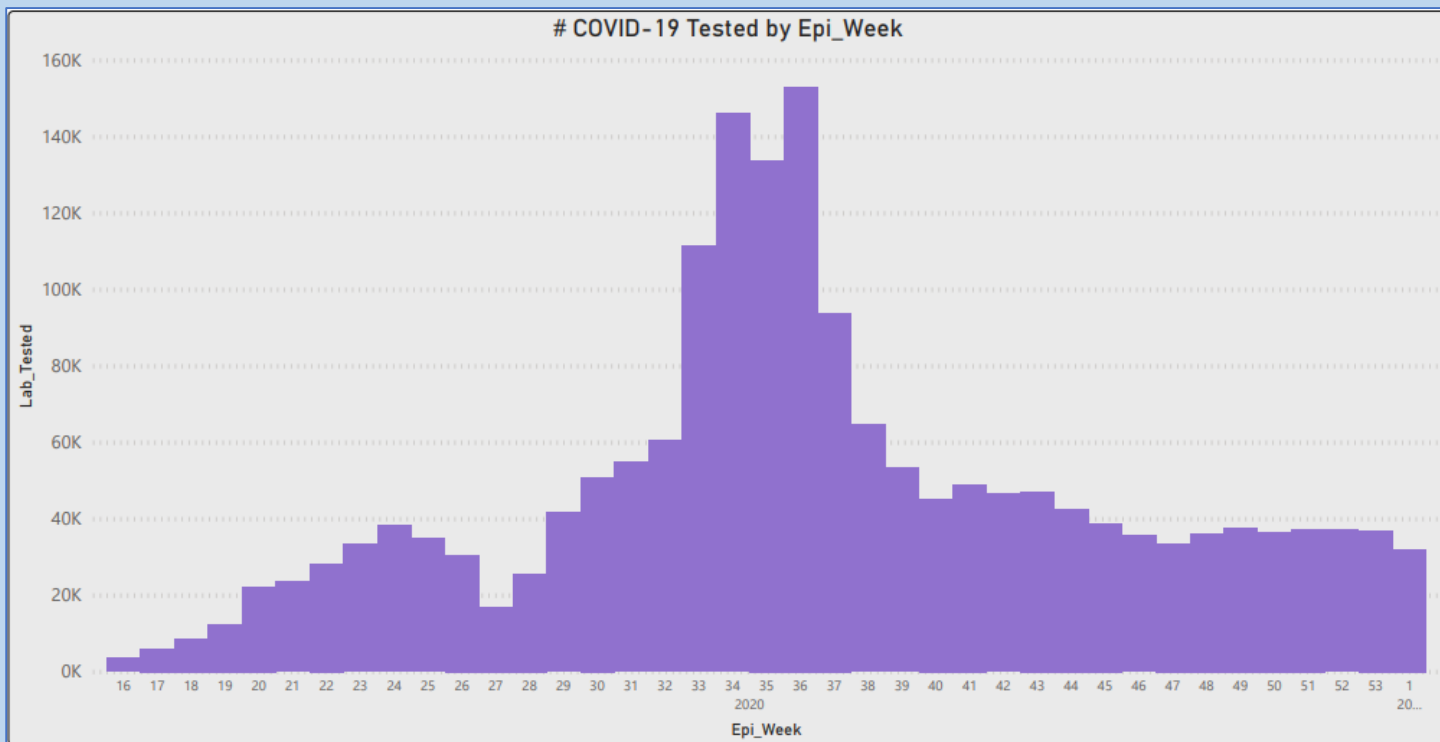


Fig. 8: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of January 10, 2021, Ethiopia.

IV. 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.
- Biweekly 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 meeting, chaired by the H.E MOH Minster, is being conducted to oversee and guide the response efforts.

- Discussions were held with officials and members of the House of Peoples' Representatives on the national movement to enhance the public health and social measures (PHSM) to prevent and control COVID-19. While enhancing the PHSM, various strategies will be put in place to enable the community to implement COVID-19 Precautionary Measures avoiding the public negligence. State Minister of Health, Mrs. Seharella Abdullah, said members of the House of Peoples' Representatives have a key role to play in the movement's success. The Deputy Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, Mrs. Shitaye Minale, on her part said the members of the House of Peoples' Representatives will play their part in the success of the movement and urged the entire society and concerned stakeholders to pay more attention to curb the COVID-19 pandemic.



Fig. 9: Discussion with officials and members of the House of Peoples' Representatives on the national movement to prevent and control COVID-19, Jan. 9, 2020.

- A consultative meeting was conducted with the regional leaders and officials on the national movement to prevent and control COVID-19. H.E Mr. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), urged officials at all levels to work together to save our society from the pandemic.

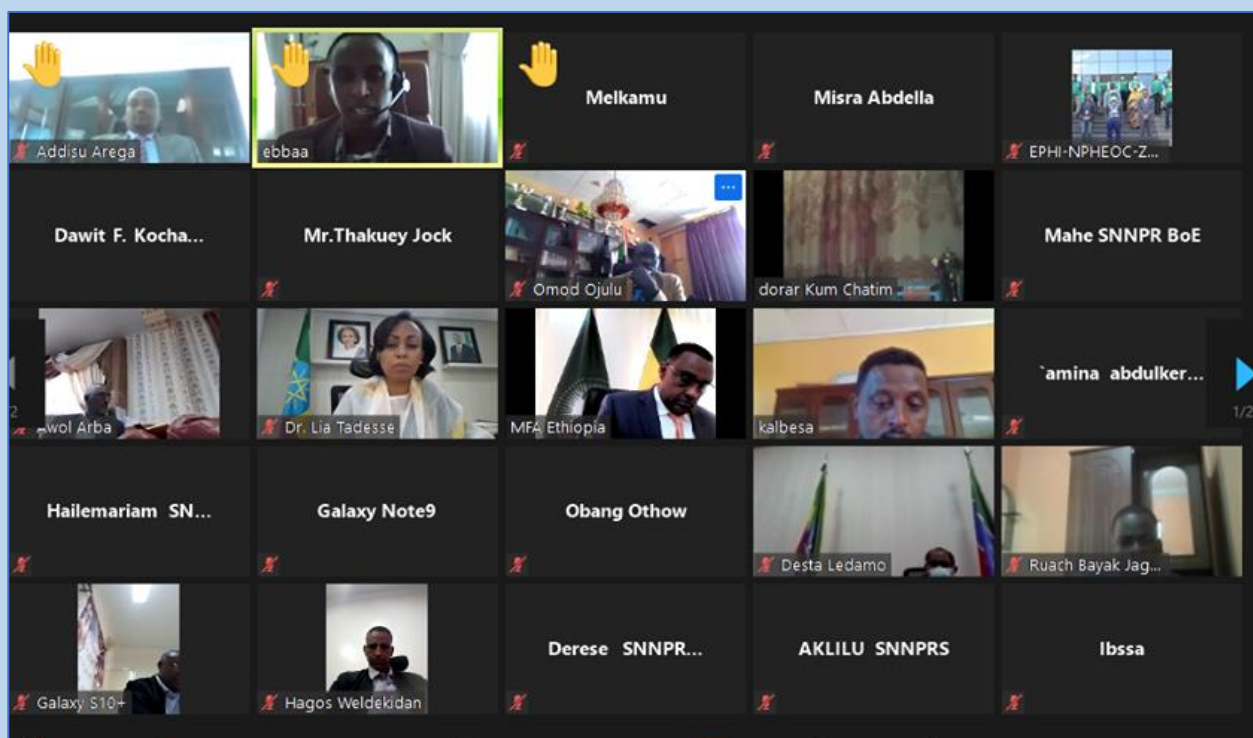


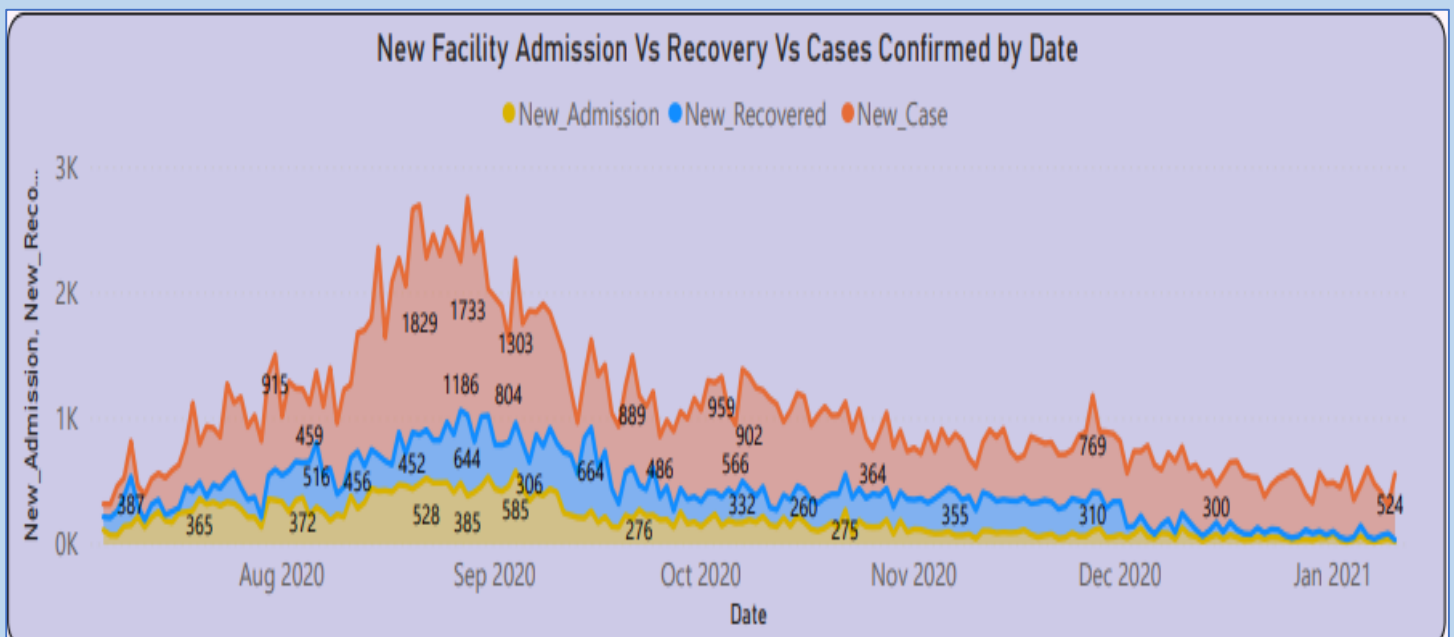
Fig. 10: Virtual consultative meeting with regional leaders and officials on the national movement to prevent and control COVID-19, Jan. 6, 2020.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

- There were total of 1,007 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the WHO Epi-Week-01, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 113,355.
- As of January 10, 2021:
 - Nationally, there are a total 22,088 beds in the COVID-19 treatment centers; out of which 1,054 are Intensive Care Unit beds.
 - A total of 25,143 suspected COVID-19 cases are admitted to isolation centers. Of these, 71 suspected cases are admitted in the Epi-Week-01.
 - 22,363 (38 in the Epi-Week-01) initially suspected cases are discharged after laboratory test became negative.
- Among the currently existing COVID-19 cases, there are 202 patients in severe clinical condition.

Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 76,745 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 70,361 (91.68%), have recovered and nine (0.012%) died.
- Of these, 943 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 762 cases have recovered in the WHO-Epi-Week-01.
- As of January 10, 2021, there are 6,616 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 615 (53 of them in the Epi-Week-01) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 332 (6 of them in Epi-Week-01) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.



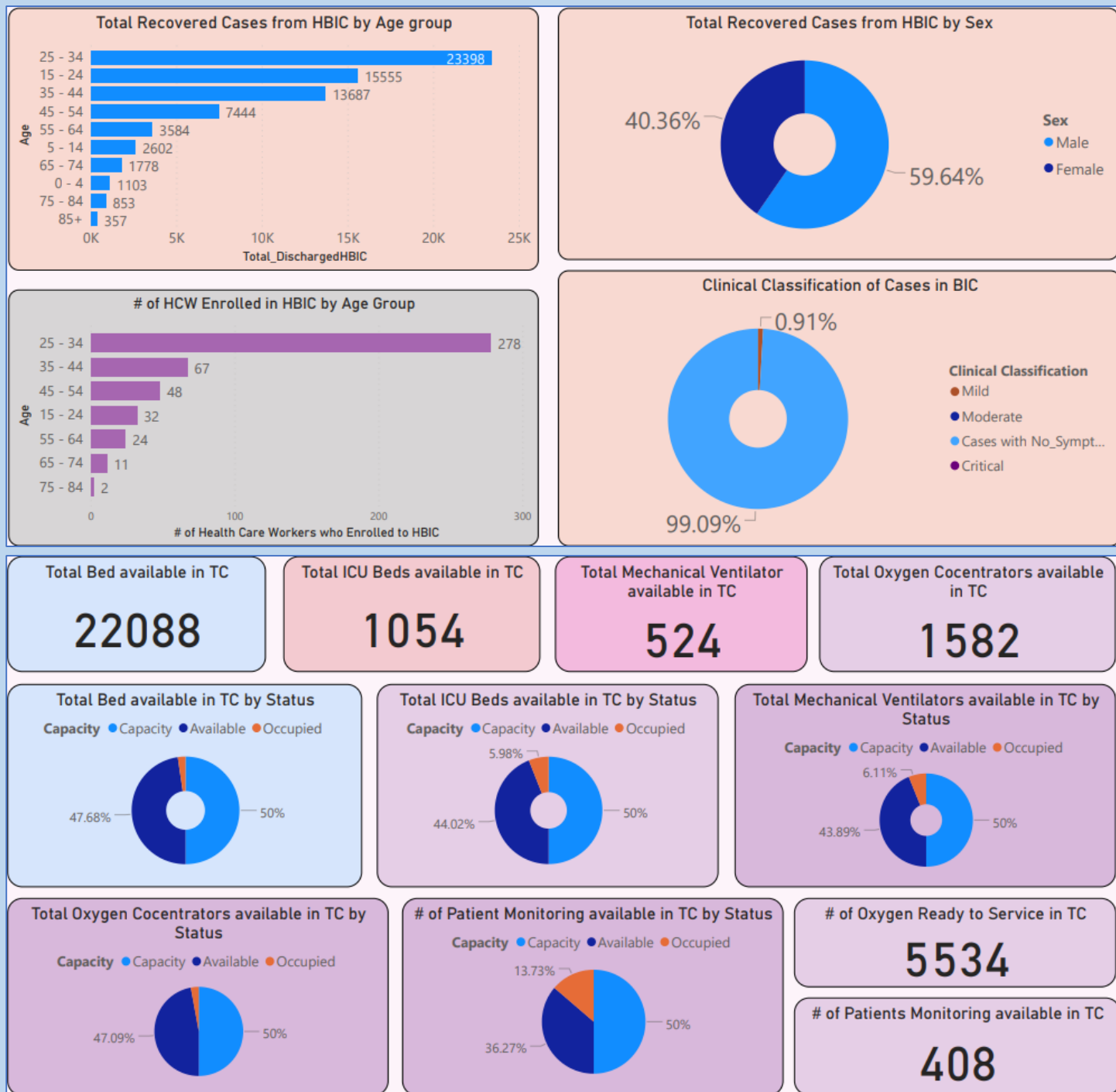


Fig. 11: Summary of COVID-19 case management and facility readiness in Ethiopia, as of January 10, 2021.

VI. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Daily press statement is being given on COVID-19 situation on daily basis through Mass Media.
- Mobile SMS Messages were prepared and sent to all mobile users every other day where people can get credible information about COVID-19.
- Communication approaches for urban and rural community context on 'No mask No Services' initiative was prepared and the advocacy message to be delivered by the Ministry of Health for the national launching of 'No Mask No Services' was developed and shared to Ministry of health.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



VII. Logistic and Supplies

- There is ongoing distribution of PPE, Viral Transport Media (VTM), swabs, pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies to isolation and treatment centers.
- Weekly stock status analysis report (Stock on hand, procurement, stock on pipeline, distribution update) was performed by incorporating the regional stock reports and laboratory commodity procurement was followed and monitored.

VIII. Challenges and Way Forward

Challenges

- Weak public adherence to the public health and social preventive measures.
- Shortage of case management facilities for the critical cases.
- Increasing number of COVID-19 cases in congregated settings.
- Increasing number of cases being detected in the community.
- Happenings of super spreading events-Mass gatherings with poor physical distancing and facemask use which exacerbates the spread of COVID-19.
- Low stock status of personal protective equipment is still a problem.

Way Forward

- Intensify risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Strengthened 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 essential health services other than COVID-19.

IX. COVID-19 Related News:

- A large-scale trial of a new treatment it is hoped will help stop Covid-19 patients from developing severe illness has begun in the UK: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55639096>
- Britain Re-enters Sweeping Lockdown as Virus Variant Rages: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/04/world/europe/uk-lockdown.html>
- It's time to consider delaying the second dose of coronavirus vaccine: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/01/03/its-time-consider-delaying-second-dose-coronavirus-vaccine/>
- U.S. to Require Negative Virus Tests From International Air Travelers: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/01/12/world/covid-19-coronavirus>
- Ireland records highest COVID-19 transmission rate in the world: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/covid-19-how-ireland-became-most-infectious-country-13949928>
- For many, COVID-19 has changed the world of work for good:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-futureofwork/for-many-covid-19-has-changed-the-world-of-work-for-good-idUSKBN29H0XX>

- Billions will not receive a COVID-19 vaccine in 2021:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/billions-will-not-receive-covid-19-vaccine-2021>

X. 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
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/tigrayrhb/	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

Health Evidence summary

Articles/Comment/ Correspondence/ Editorials	Summary
Reserving coronavirus disease 2019 vaccines for global access: cross sectional analysis https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this study was to analyze the premarket purchase commitments for coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19) vaccines from leading manufacturers to recipient countries. This study provides an overview of how high income countries have secured future supplies of covid-19 vaccines but that access for the rest of the world is uncertain. Governments and manufacturers might provide much needed assurances for equitable allocation of covid-19 vaccines through greater transparency and accountability over these arrangements.
Dermatologic manifestations and complications of COVID-19 https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32731141/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This brief report summarizes the dermatologic manifestations and complications associated with COVID-19 with an emphasis on Emergency Medicine clinicians. It is important to be aware of the dermatologic manifestations and complications of COVID-19. Knowledge of the components is important to help identify potential COVID-19 patients and properly treat complications.
A modeling study highlights the power of detecting and isolating asymptomatic or very mildly affected individuals for COVID-19 epidemic management https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-020-09843-7?utm_source=sn&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=RMarketing&utm_campaign=BSLB_1_CA01_BSLB_AWA_CA01_GL_LSGR_PubH_Coronavirus_LandingPage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A compartmental model for the disease where symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals move separately was presented. This model and its analysis inform that the detection and isolation of all infected individuals, without leaving aside the asymptomatic group is the key to surpass this pandemic.

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://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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