



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 23 (June 07 – June 13, 2021)

BULLETIN №: 59

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 35,003 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-23 bringing the total number of samples tested to 2,786,990.
- A total of 1,273 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 33 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-23 bringing the total cases and death to 274,187 and 4,242 respectively.
- A total of 197,678 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 3,063 of these are enrolled in the Epi-Week-23.
- The state of Bavaria and the World Health Organization donated different equipment and vehicles to support the COVID-19 response in Ethiopia.
- A two-day national COVID-19 research summit that evaluated researches and innovations on COVID-19 over the past one year held in Addis Ababa.



Fig. 1: National COVID-19 Research Summit, June 11-12, 2021, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

II. Subject in Focus:

COVID-19 plan revitalization ('Dagim Tikuret Le COVID-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 ongoing at national and subnational level.
- In line with the revitalization plan, regional support teams are deployed to support regional Public Health Emergency Operation Centers and biweekly meeting with regional and national Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOC) staffs 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).
- Four weeks have passed since the "Dagim Tikuret LeCOVID-19" movement is launched nationally.
- All regional states have launched and initiated the movement.
- A total of 5,910,513 house to house visits are planned to be conducted in 60 days. As of June 13, 2021, a total of 270,360 (4.6% of the total plan) house to house visits are reported from the regions and city administrations.

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- Globally, over 3.4 million new cases are reported in the last week (Figure 2) which is an 8% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. This decrease is for the sixth consecutive week.
- More than 103 thousand new deaths (2% decrease compared to previous week) are reported globally in the Epi-week-23.
- As of June 13, 2021, a total of 172,198,493 COVID-19 cases and 3,621,149 deaths (CFR=2.10%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 3,467,334 cases and 103,129 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-23.
- 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 (695,135 new cases), Brazil (635,315 new cases), the United States of America (257,773 new cases), Colombia (186,608 new cases) and Argentina (184,028 new cases).
- In Africa, as of June 13, 2021, a total of 5,064,218 cases and 133,779 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.64%). Of these 161,155 cases and 3,229 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-23.
- 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.

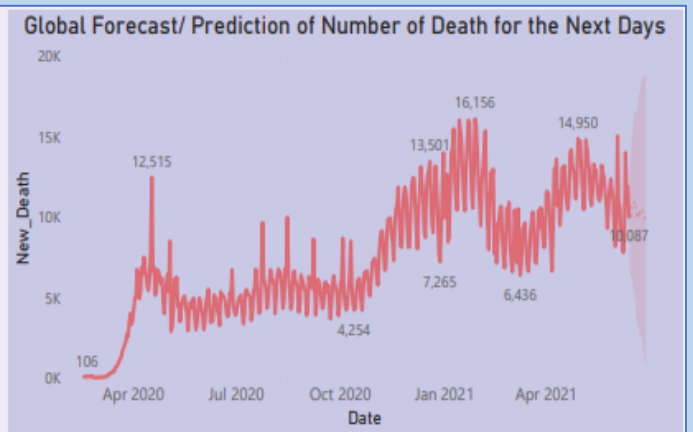
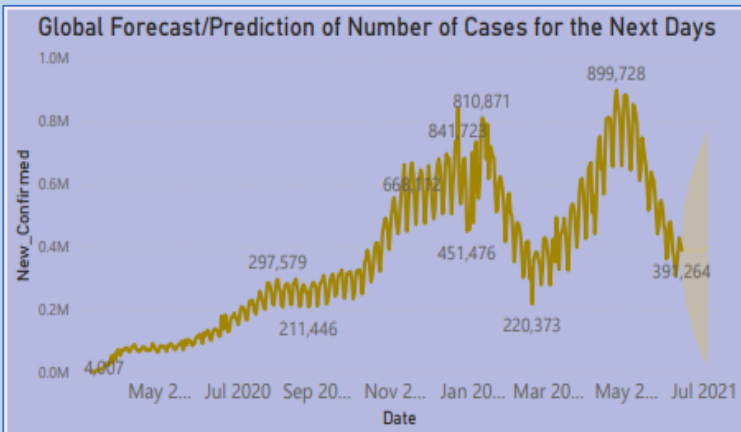
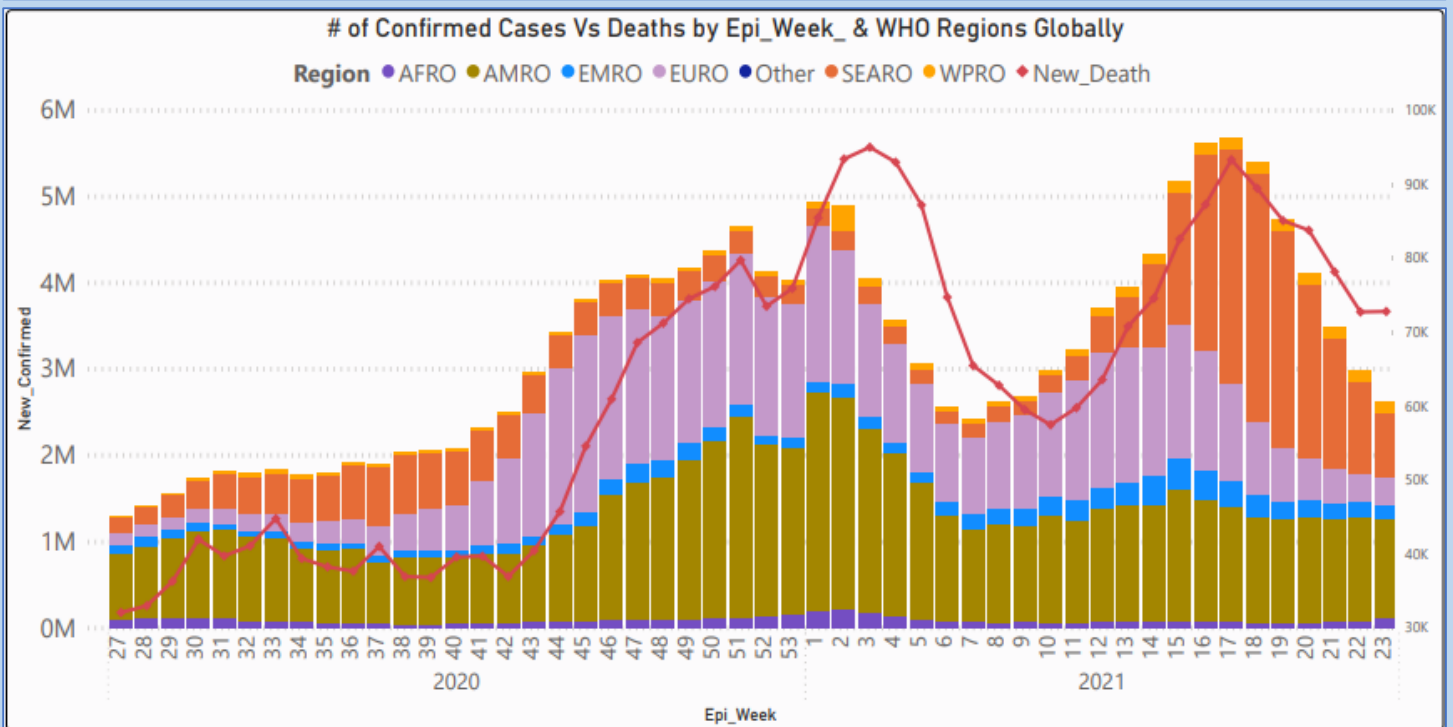
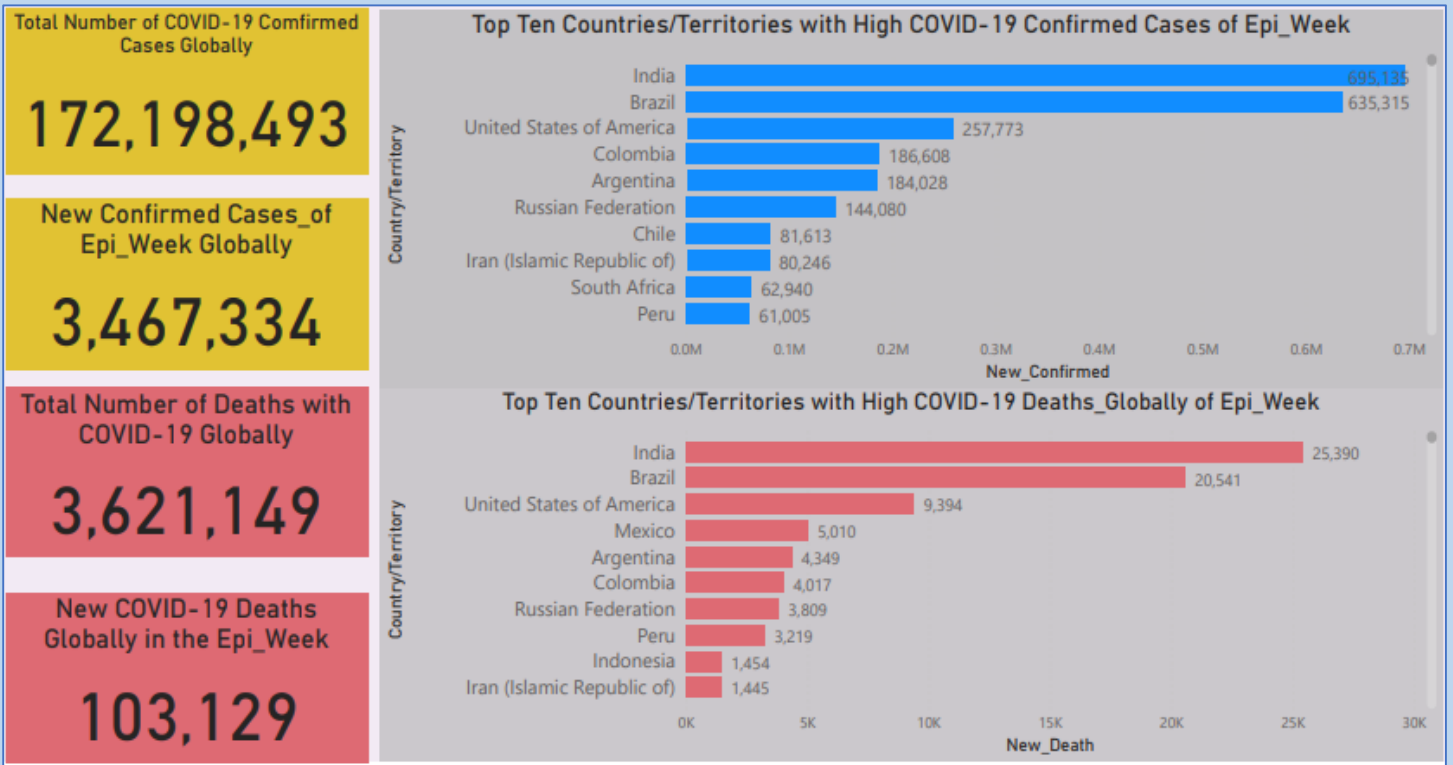


Fig. 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of June 13, 2021 (Source: WHO)

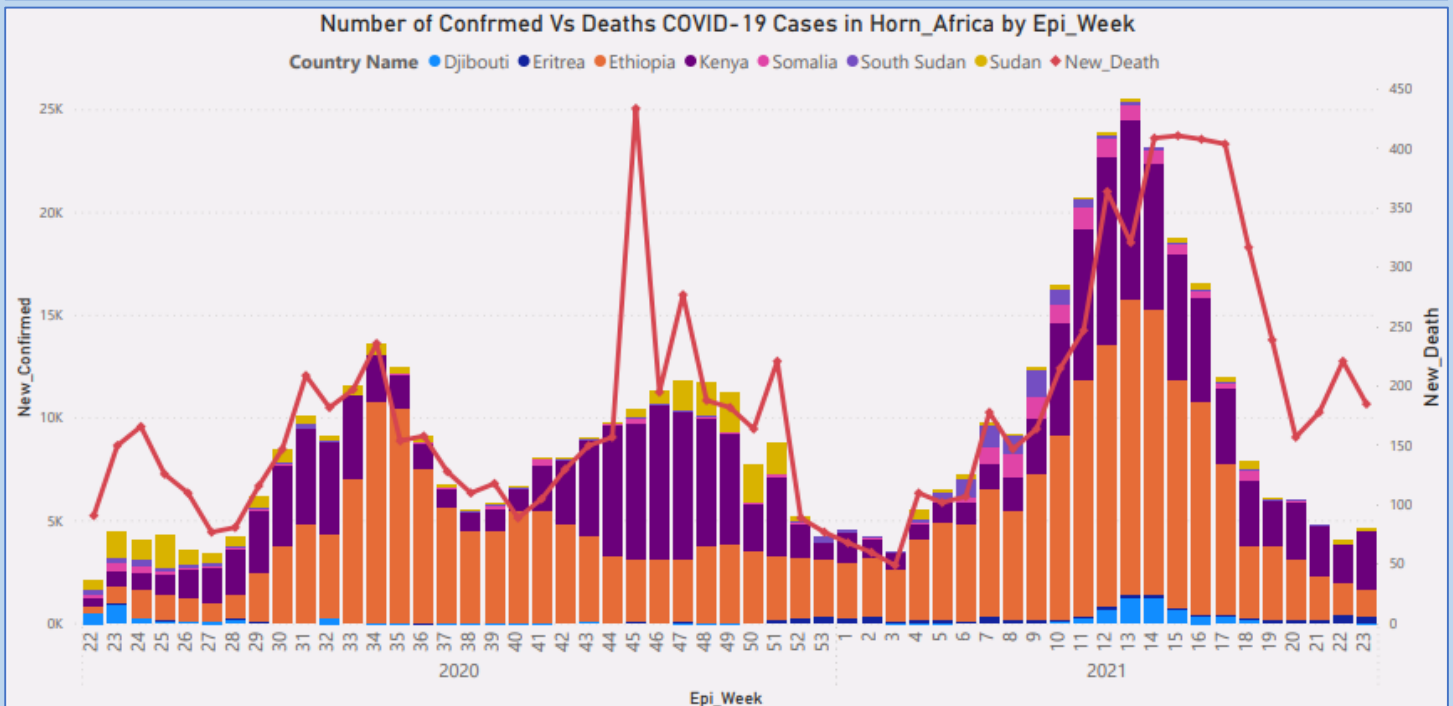
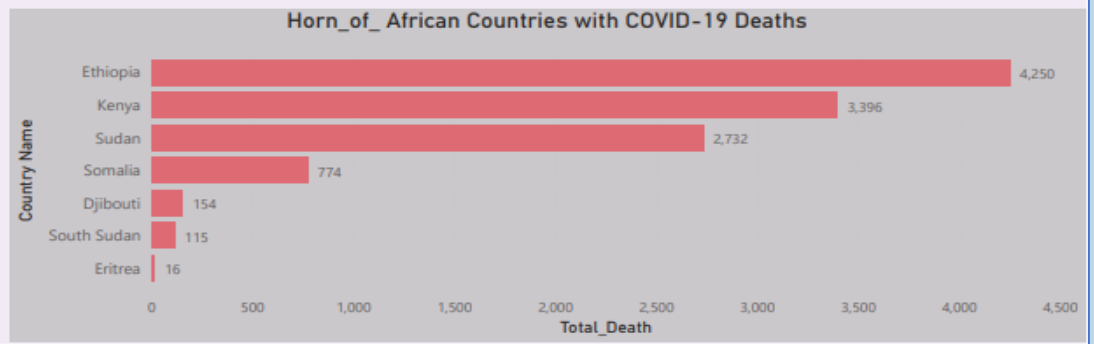
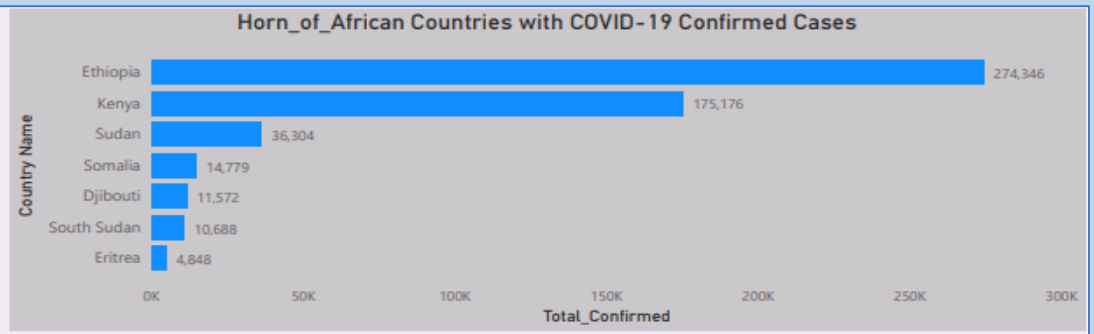
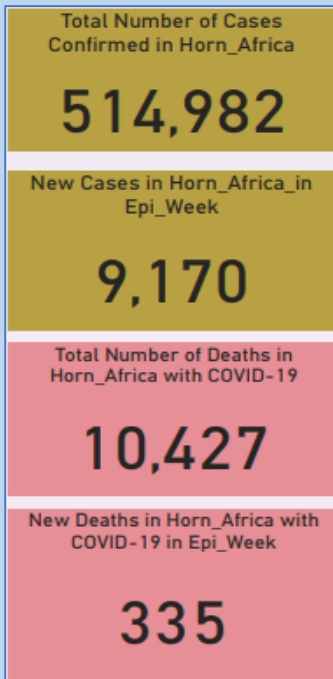
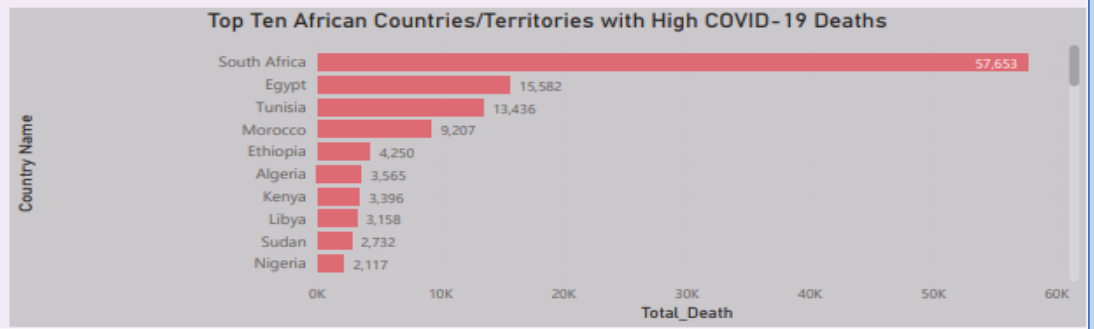
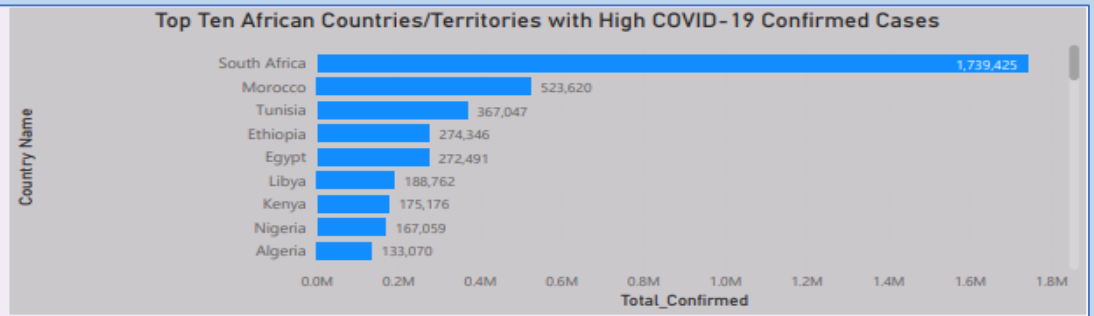
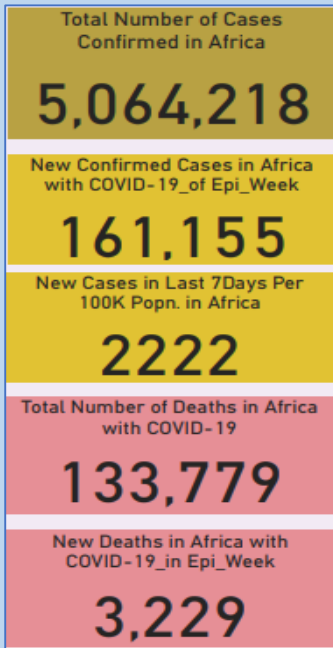


Fig. 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of June 13, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of June 13, 2021, a total of 274,187 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,242 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.55%. 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-two-hundred-seventy-three (1,273) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 33 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-23.
- In this week, there is a 19% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (for the tenth consecutive week) and there is a 39% 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. The current decrement in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases may shows the end of the second wave of the outbreak in Ethiopia.
- The third wave of the pandemic is witnessed and currently happening in various countries in the world like the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Philippines.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the Epi-Week-23 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate	# of Recovery
Addis Ababa	26569	762	88	17	2.7	3162
SNNPR	1765	56	2	0	3.3	112
Amhara	1517	109	19	6	8.3	72
Oromia	1408	199	27	7	14.4	937
Harari	1190	4	1	2	0.3	31
Afar	847	3	0	0	0.4	18
Tigray	467	134	22	1	37.1	15
Somali	426	1	0	0	0.0	24
Dire Dawa	262	1	0	0	0.8	5
Gambella	250	2	0	0	0.5	3
Sidama	165	1	3	0	0.3	8
Benshangul	137	1	0	0	2.8	30
Total	35003	1273	162	33	**** 6.8	4417

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

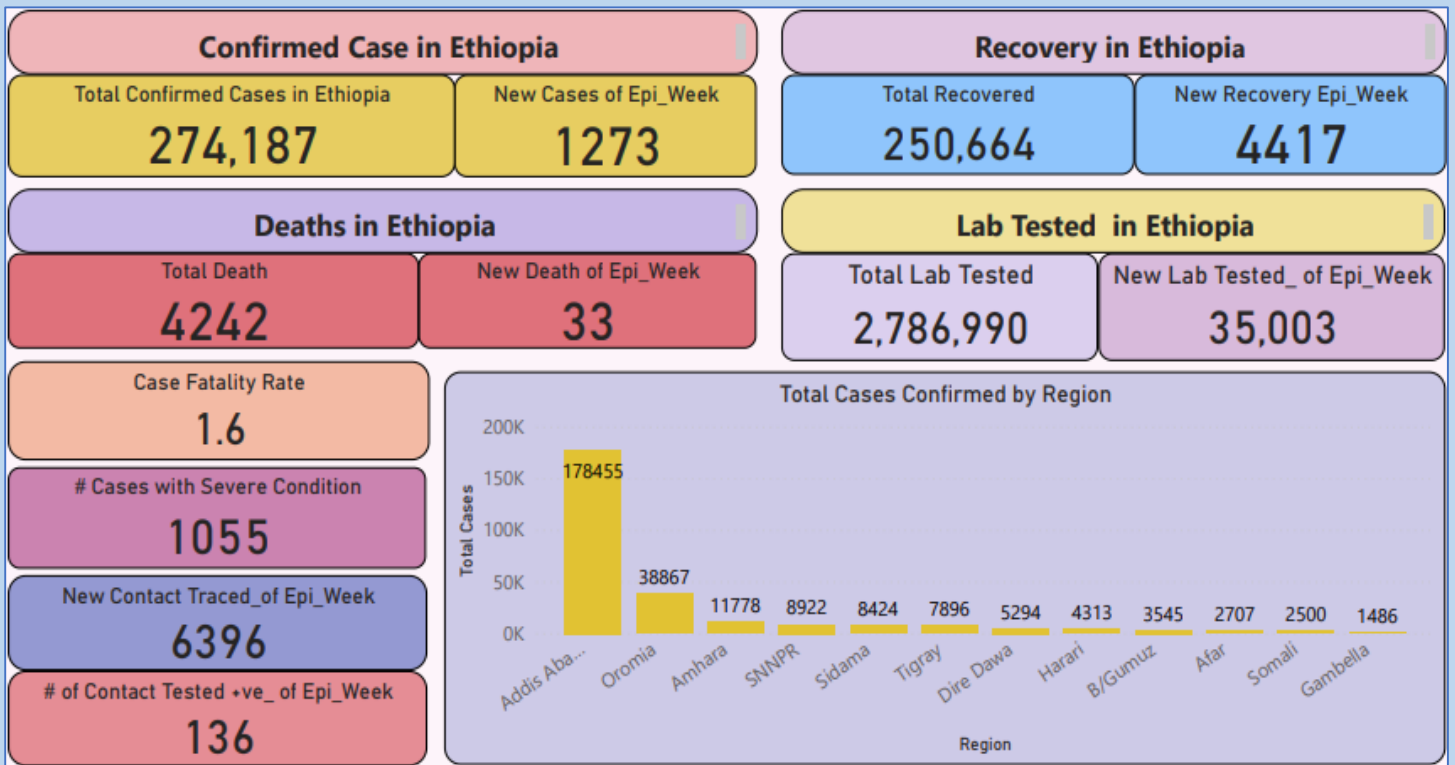


Fig. 4: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of June 13, 2021, Ethiopia

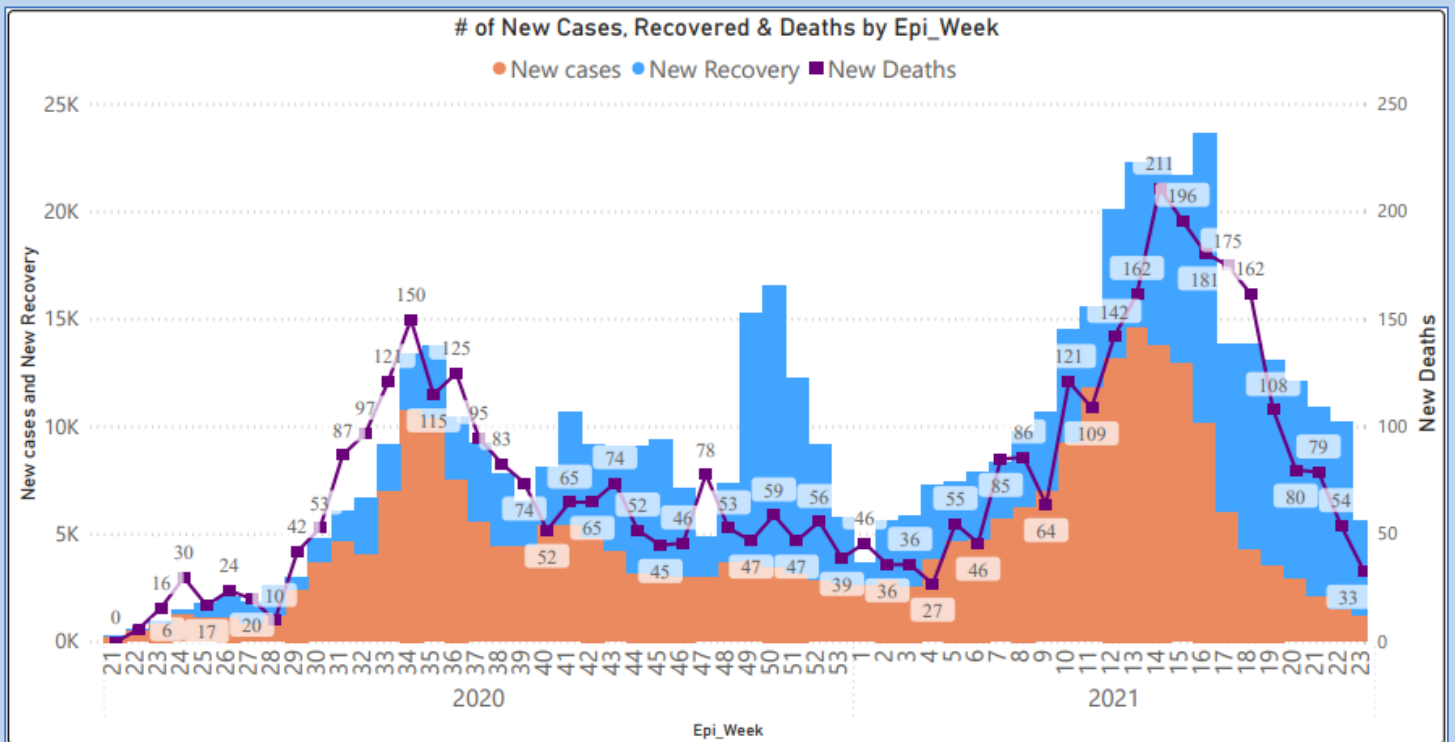


Fig. 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of June 13, 2021, Ethiopia

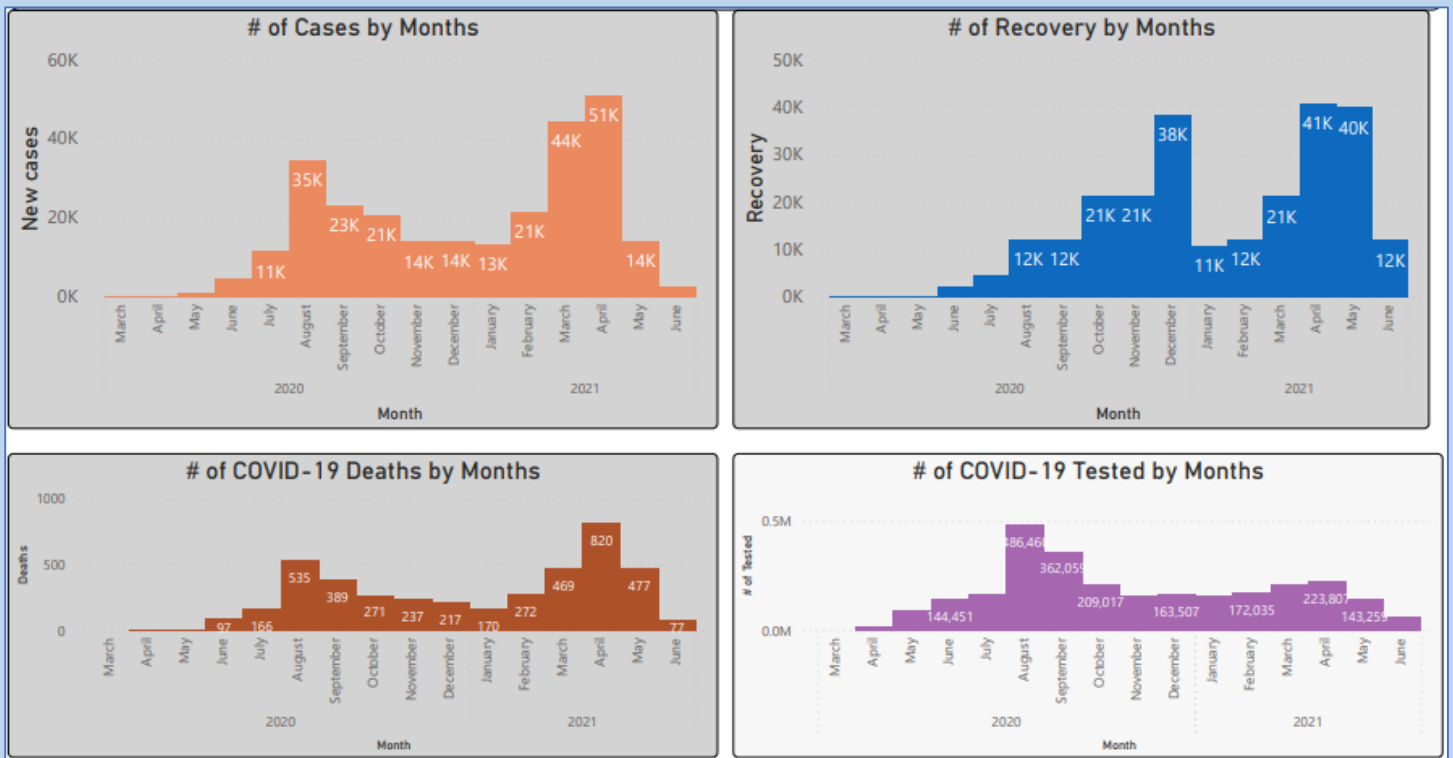


Fig. 6: Summary of monthly trend of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of June 13, 2021.

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.

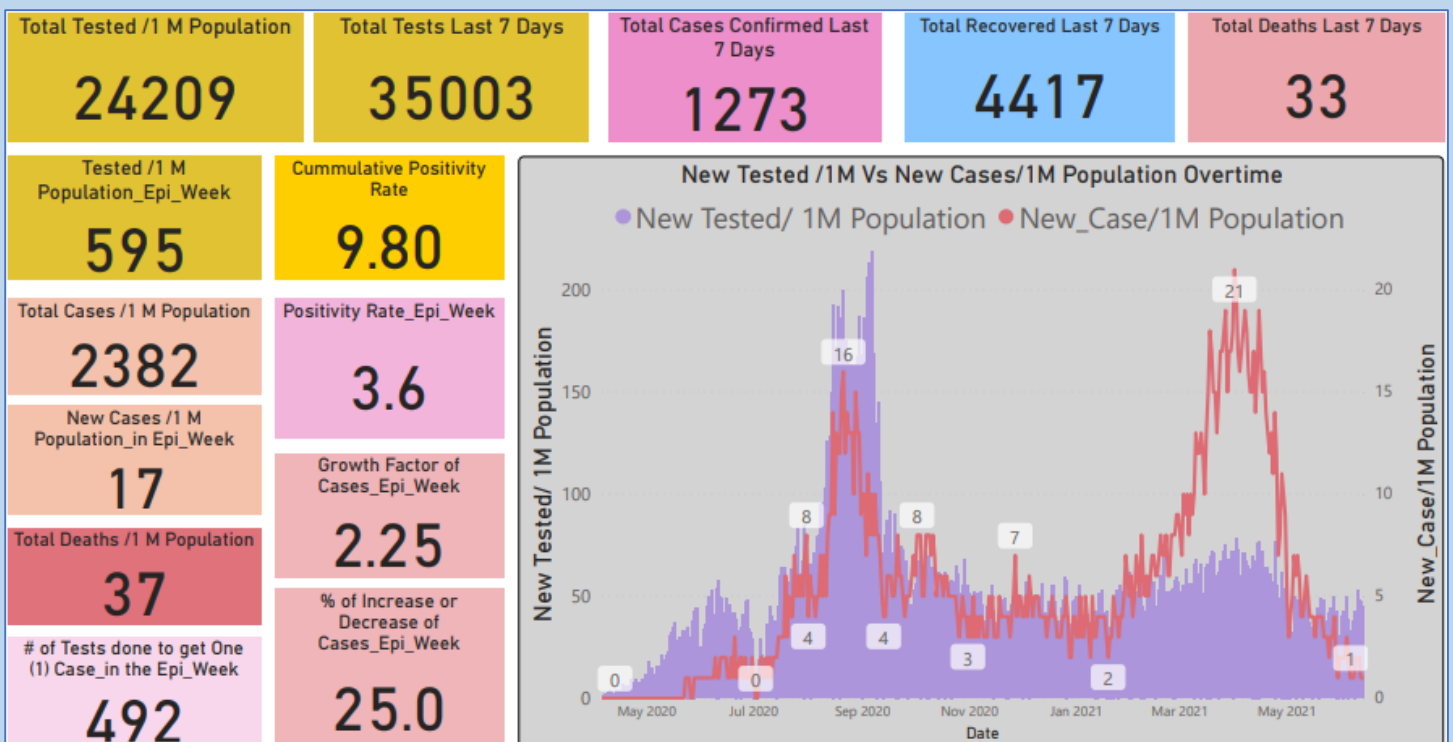


Fig. 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of June 13, 2021.

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.
- As of June 13, 2021:
 - A total of 371,196 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 6,396 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-23.
 - Of total contacts, 325,916 (87.80%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 3,781 contacts are still on follow-up.
- Overall, 41,951 (11.30%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 15.30% 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.

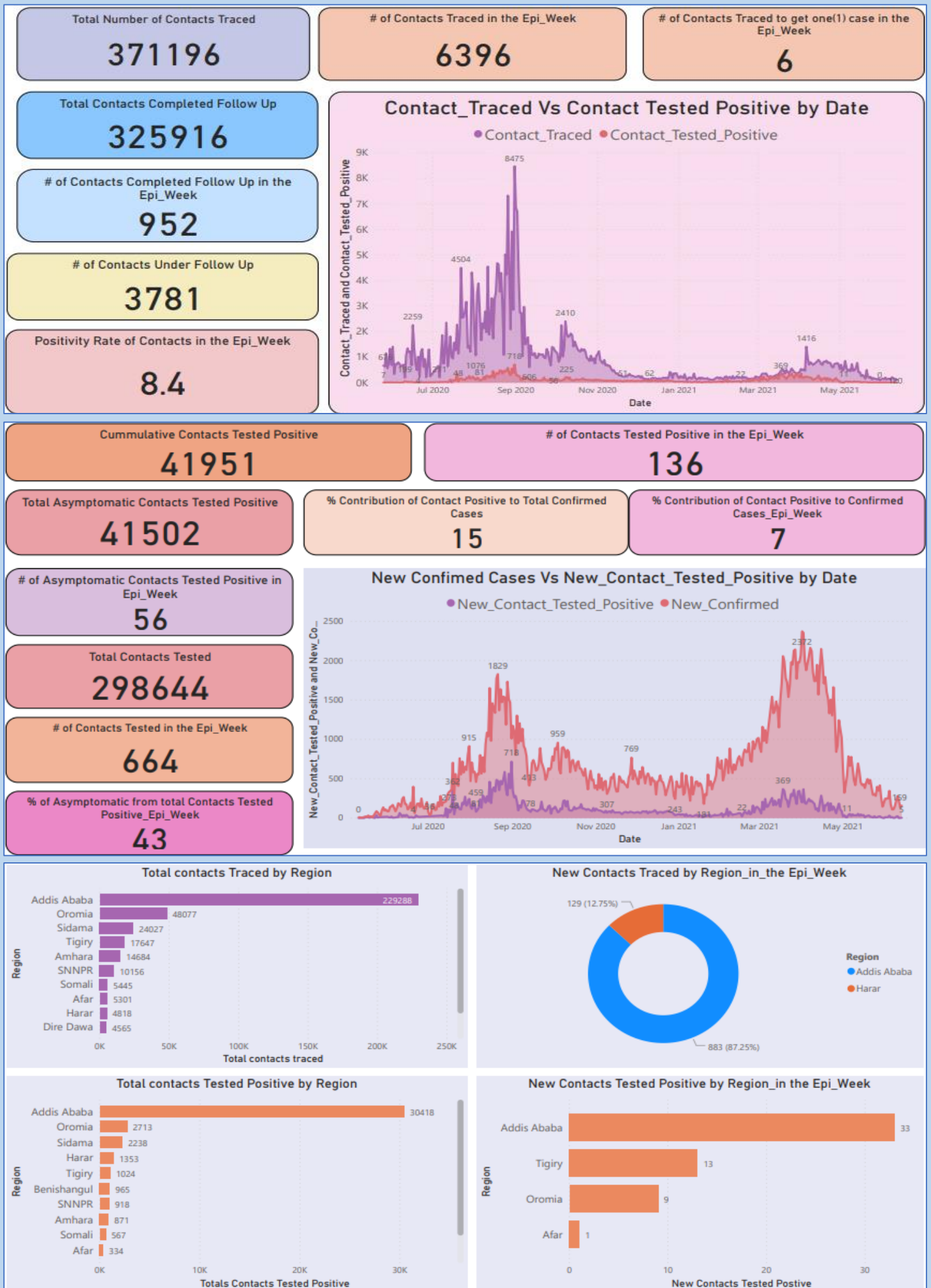


Fig. 8: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of June 13, 2021, Ethiopia.

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 13, 2021:
 - 392,583 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 25 rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-23.
 - 279,034 (71.09%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 19,873 COVID-19 related rumors are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

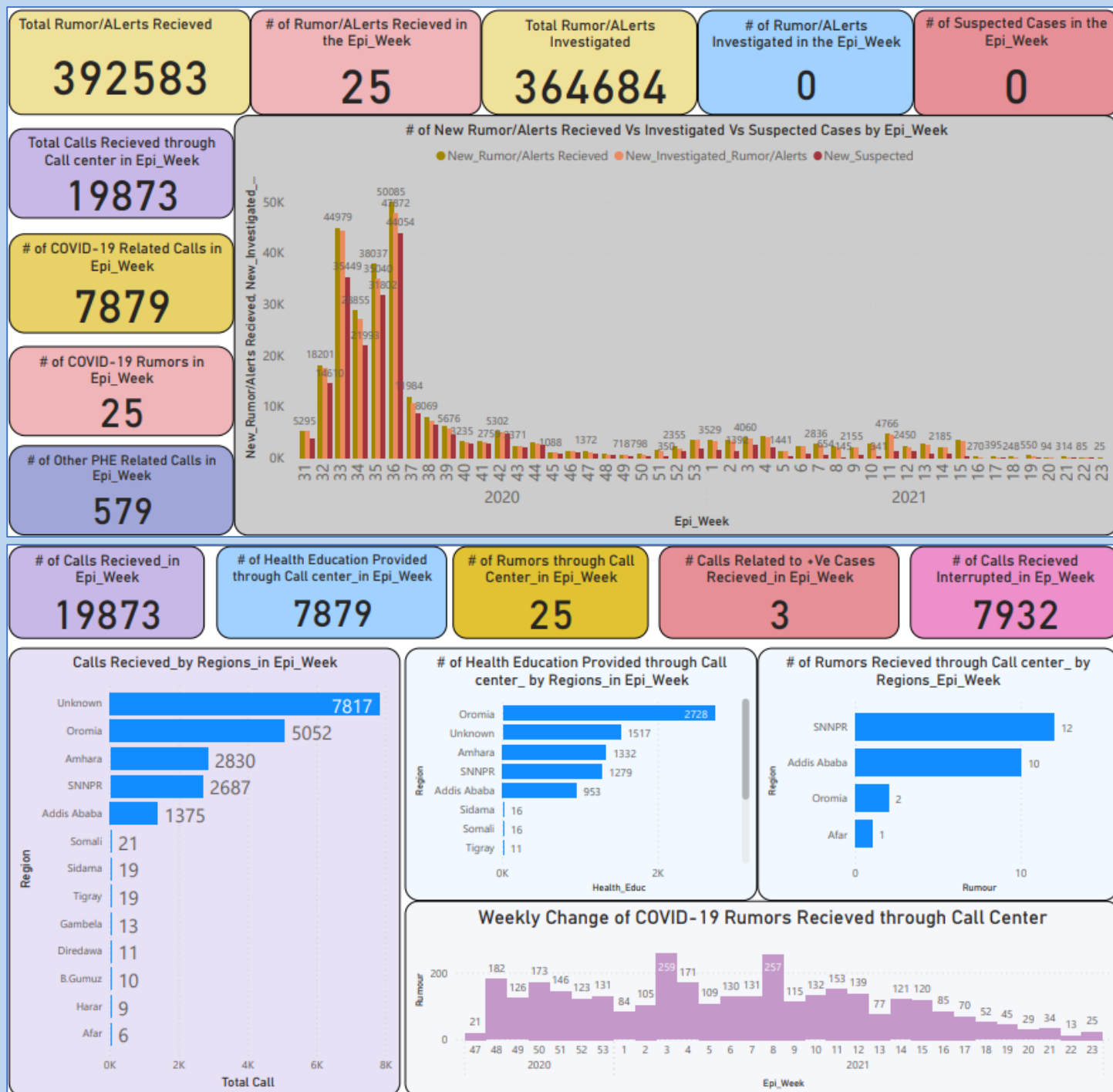


Fig. 9: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of June 13, 2021, Ethiopia.

iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,282,095 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 720,838 (31.6%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 30,368 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-23.
- As of June 13, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates, 330,700 passengers (16,062 in Epi-week-23) had PCR negative certificates while 48 (one in Epi-week-23) 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.

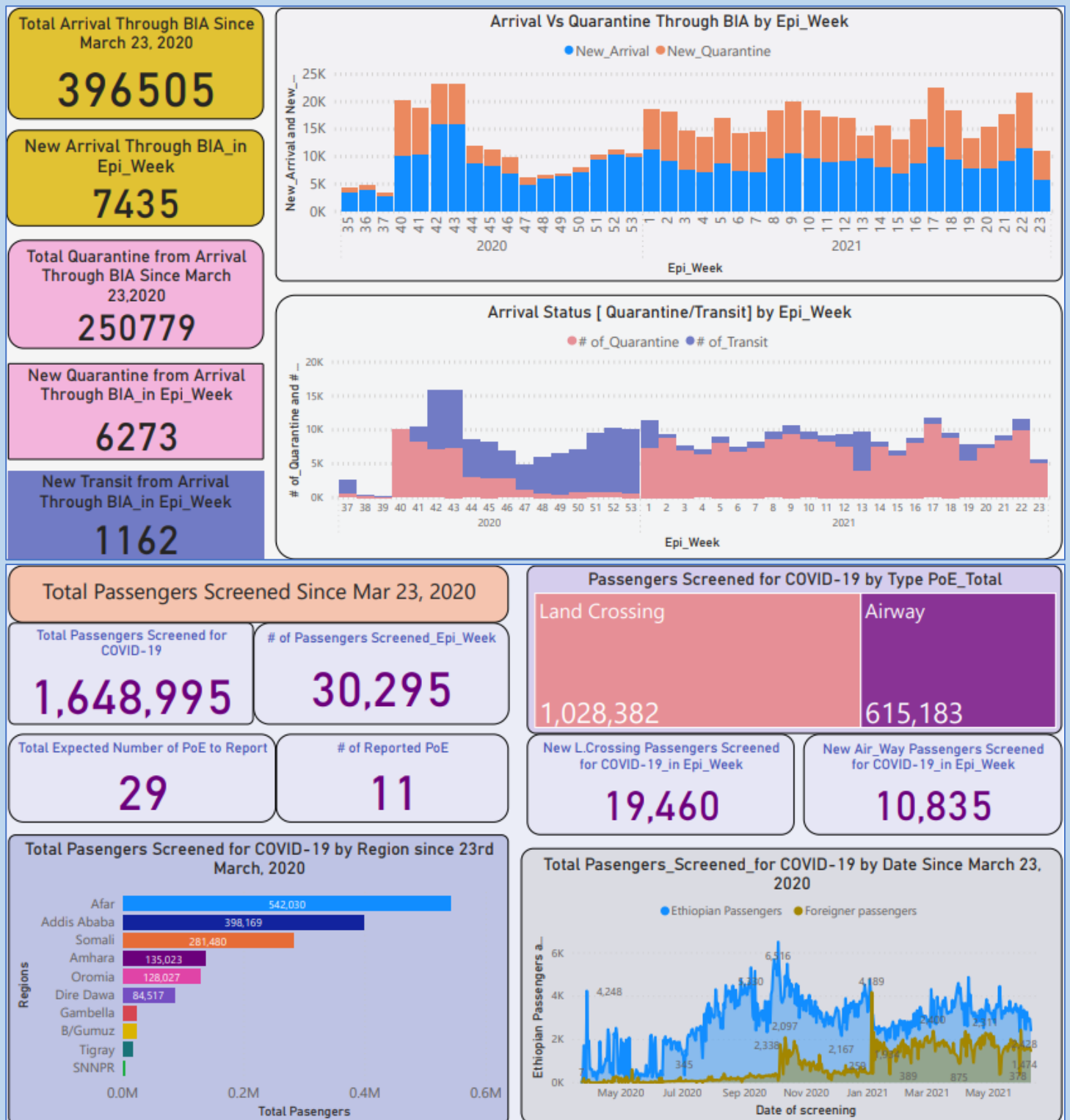


Fig. 10: Summary of Passengers screening for COVID-19 as of June 13, 2021, Ethiopia.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 13 June, 2021, a total of 2,786,990 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 35,003 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-23 which is an 11% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-23 is 3.64%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (4.98%).
- Tigray, Oromia and Amhara 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. Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 15,611 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 1,913 is performed in the Epi-week-23 (figure 11 below).

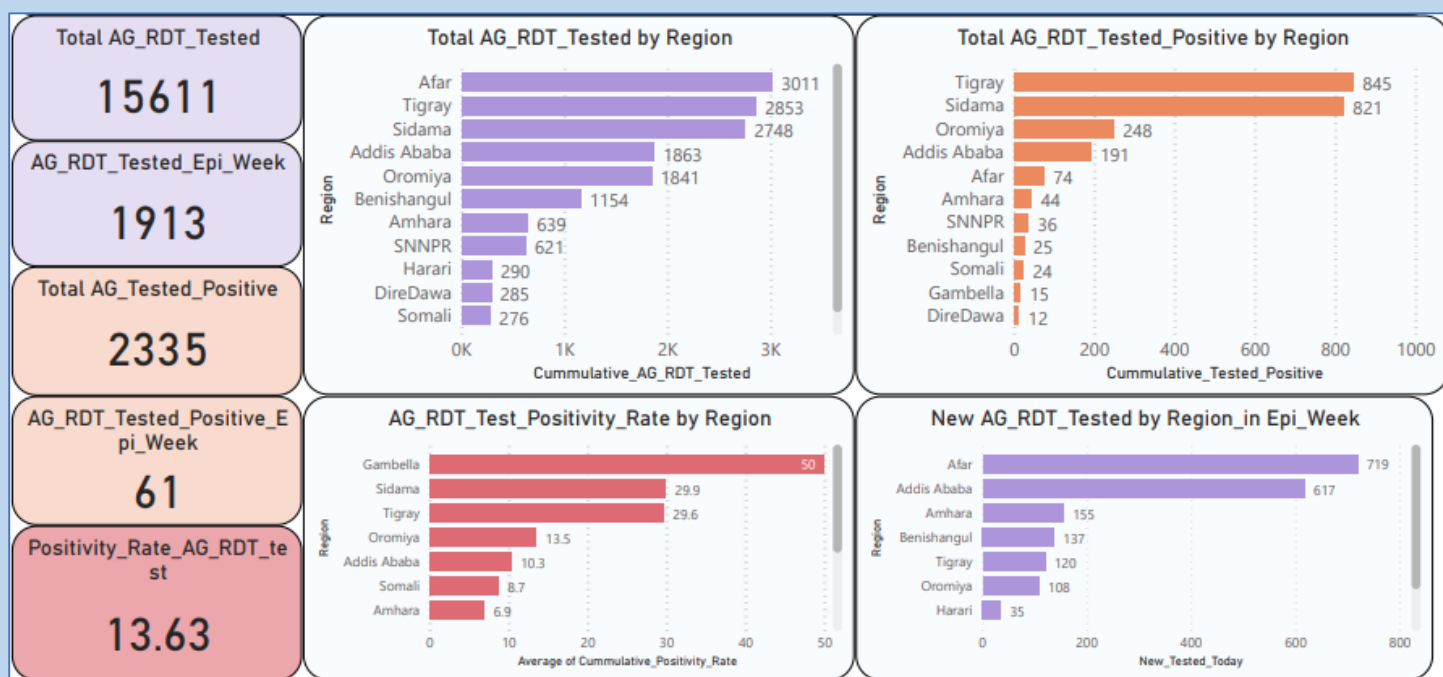
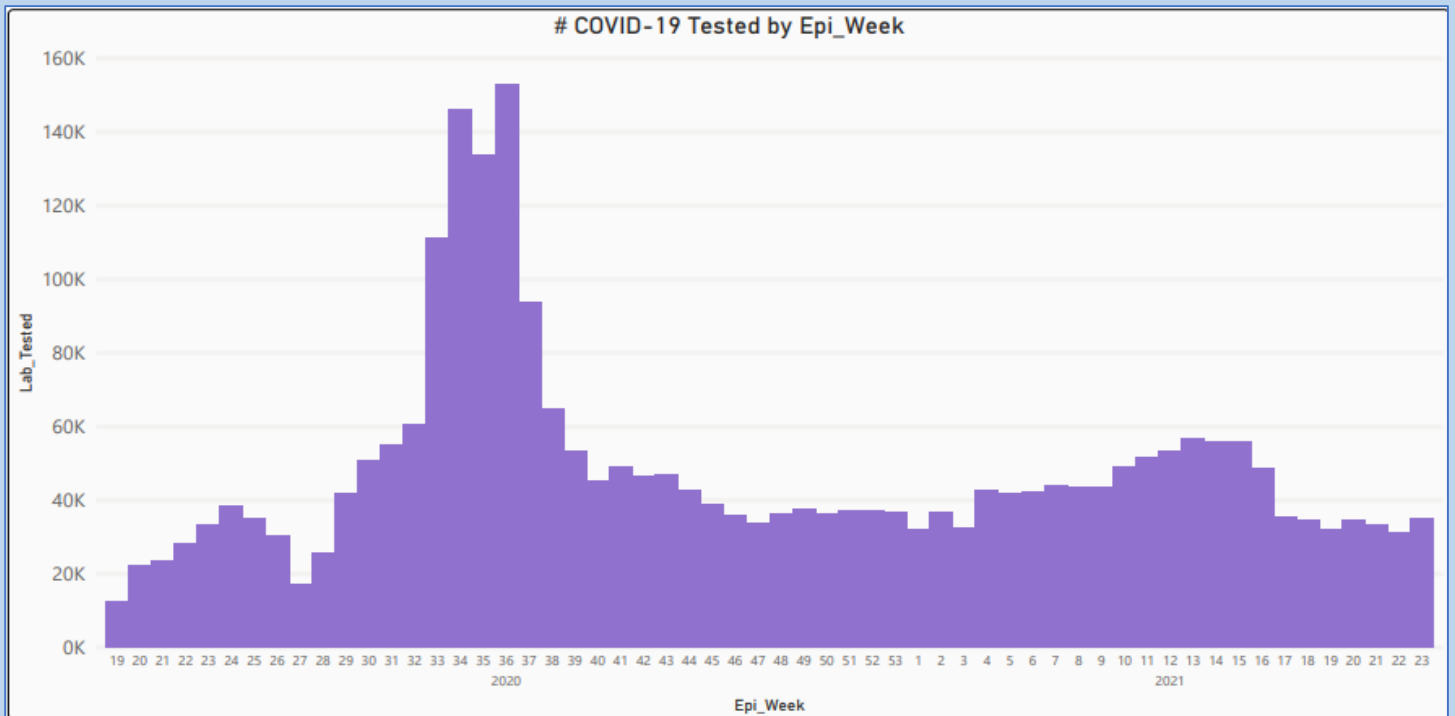
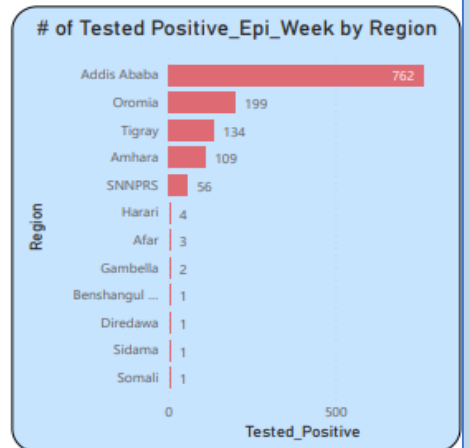
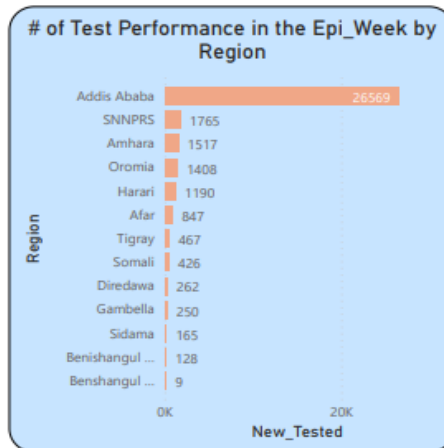
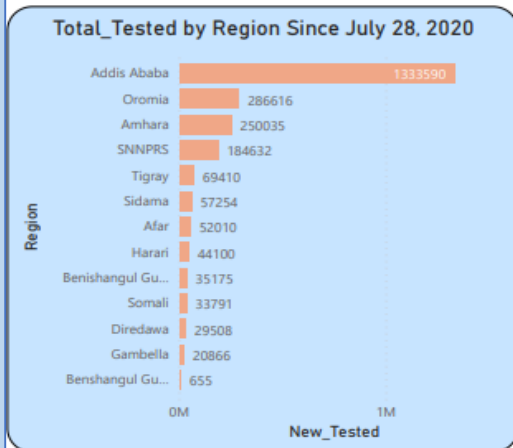
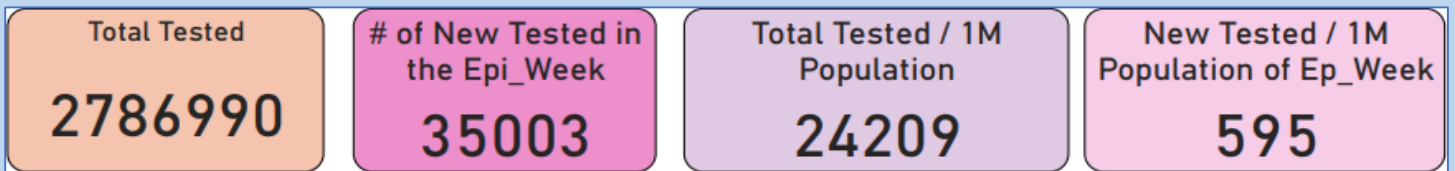


Fig. 11: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of June 13, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	26569	762	17	2.8
SNNPRS	1765	56	0	3.3
Amhara	1517	109	6	8.2
Oromia	1408	199	7	14.6
Harari	1190	4	2	0.3
Afar	847	3	0	0.4
Tigray	467	134	1	37.2
Somali	426	1	0	0.1
Diredawa	262	1	0	0.8
Gambella	250	2	0	0.6
Sidama	165	1	0	0.3
Benishangul Gumuz	137	1	0	2.8
Total	35003	1273	33	6.9

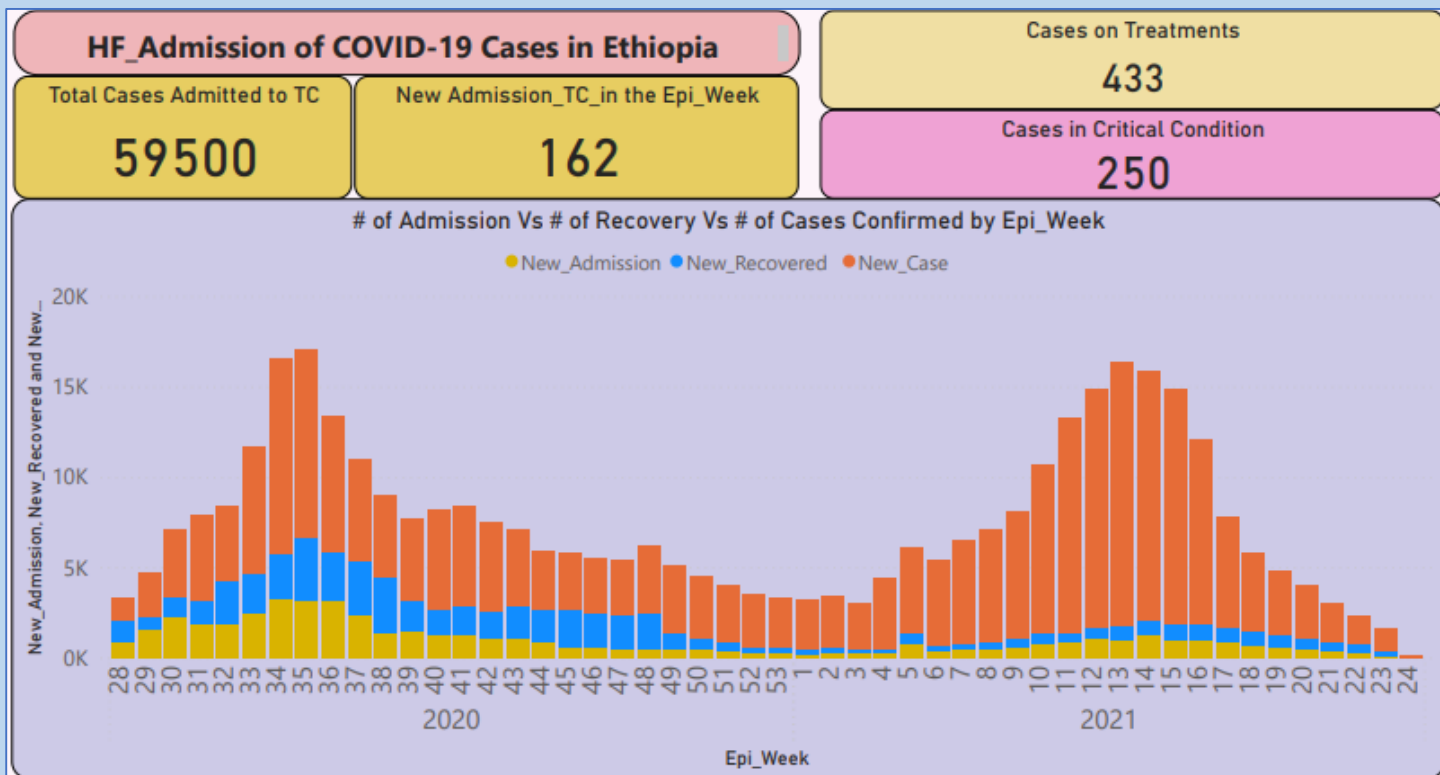
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

Fig. 12: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of March June 13, 2021, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 4,417 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-23, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 250,664 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 91%.
- The highest number of daily cases in severe condition reported in this week is 319.



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

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

- More than a quarter of COVID-19 confirmed cases admitted to treatment centers (27%) are in the age group of 25 to 34 followed by the age group 15 to 24 (21%). However among those admitted to the treatment centers, the highest proportion of death occurred in the age group greater than 84 (45%) followed by the age group 75 to 84 (27%). 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	4435	3196	1012
55 - 64	5754	4666	876
75 - 84	2048	1350	572
45 - 54	6801	6123	523
35 - 44	9324	8755	410
85 +	756	389	341
25 - 34	16504	16041	270
15 - 24	12385	12129	131
0 - 4	856	785	38
5 - 14	1280	1226	37
Total	60143	54660	4210

Fig. 14: Summary of COVID-19 patients' update based on age group as of June 13, 2021, Ethiopia.

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 197,678 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 196,102 (99.20%) have recovered and 32 (0.016%) died.
- Of these, 3,063 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 4,192 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-23.
- As of June 13, 2021, there are 2,877 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,189 (four of them in the Epi-Week-23) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 855 (two of them in the Epi-week-23) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

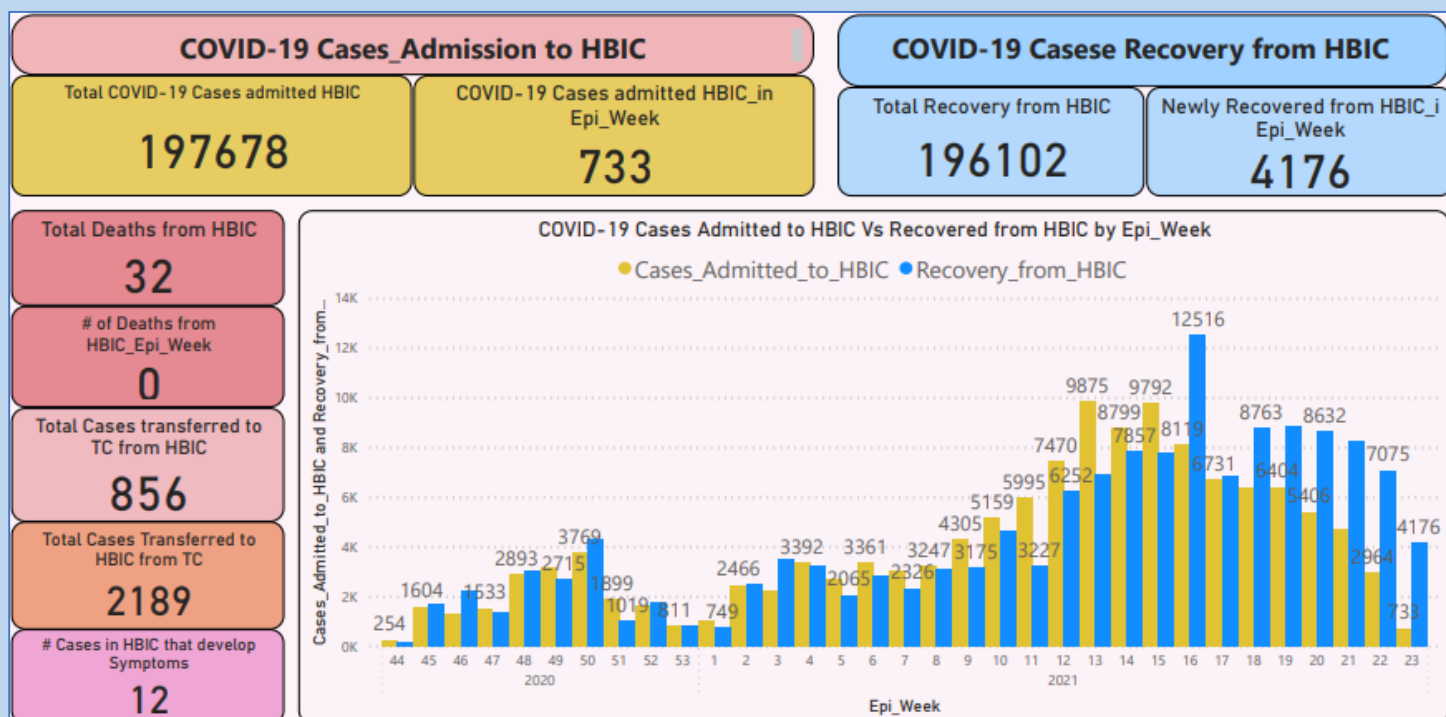


Fig. 15: Summary of COVID-19 Home Based Isolation and Care in Ethiopia, as of June 13, 2021.

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 13, 2021 shared on social media.

I. 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 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 two-day national COVID-19 research summit that evaluated researches and innovations on COVID-19 over the past one year held in Addis Ababa.
 - The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and other stakeholders held a two-day national COVID-19 research summit on COVID-19 in Addis Ababa at the Skylight Hotel.
 - Mr. Aschalew Abayneh, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and the Incident Manager of COVID-19 response, mentioned the impact the ongoing work on COVID-19 in the reducing the impact of the crisis of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.
 - Researchers from various universities presented their studies and there was also panel discussions on COVID-19 situation.
 - At the end of the summit, Health Minister, H.E Dr. Lia Tadesse indicated the ministry has allocated about 50 million Birr to support research and innovations related to COVID-19 and higher education institutions and research centers have so far conducted about 150 researches on COVID-19 in the past one year adding the commitment of the ministry to strengthening support for scientific researches and innovations regarding the pandemic.
 - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen indicated at the conclusion of the summit the impact of the wave of COVID-19 and acknowledged the higher education institutions, research and innovation centers contributions in controlling and preventing the pandemic, starting from the first day COVID-19 was found in Ethiopia.
- State Of Bavaria handed over half a million face masks to the Ministry of Health to support COVID-19 response in Ethiopia.
 - The State of Bavaria of Germany has reaffirmed continued support to Ethiopia in preventing and controlling Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Health Minister H.E Dr. Lia Tadesse met with Bavarian State Minister for European Affairs and International Relations Excellency Melanie Humel and Ethiopian Ambassador to Germany Excellency Stephen Auer on June 09, 2021. H.E Dr. Lia expressed gratitude to the government of Germany and the Bavarian State for their support in general and the specific projects between University of Munich with Jimma University and Polytechnic College.



Fig.17: Donation of Face Mask from the state of Bavaria to the MOH-Ethiopia, June 09, 2021

- The World Health Organization (WHO) donated two land cruiser Toyota vehicles and medical equipment to the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) to support the COVID-19 response in Ethiopia. Mr. Aschalew Abayneh, Deputy Director General of the EPHI and the Incident Manager of COVID-19 response received the donation on behalf of EPHI expressing his gratitude to WHO.



Fig. 18: Donation of vehicles and medical equipment from WHO to EPHI to support the COVID-19 response in Ethiopia, June 8, 2021

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

III. 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.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	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw		

YouTube Channel			
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	hrrhpheoc@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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