



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 24 (June 14 – 20, 2021)

BULLETIN №: 60

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 38,003 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-24 bringing the total number of samples tested to 2,824,993.
- A total of 1,007 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 41 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-24 bringing the total cases and death to 275,194 and 4,283 respectively.
- A total of 201,310 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 3,632 of these are enrolled in the Epi-Week-24.
- Ethiopian Red Cross Society received 100,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccines from Chinese counterpart.



Fig. 1: A batch of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, donated by the Chinese Red Cross Society to its Ethiopian counterpart, June 19, 2021.

II. Subject in Focus:

COVID-19 plan revitalization ('Dagim Tikuret LeCOVID-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 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).
- Five 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 20, 2021, a total of 495,935 (8.4% of the total plan) house to house visits are reported from the regions and city administrations. Among these 225,575 house to house visits are conducted in the Epi-week-24.

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- Globally, over 3.3 million new cases are reported in the last week (Figure 2) which is a 3% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the previous week. This decrease is for the seventh consecutive week.
- More than 93 thousand new deaths (10% decrease compared to previous week) are reported globally in the Epi-week-24.
- As of June 20, 2021, a total of 174,696,862 COVID-19 cases and 3,387,066 deaths (CFR=1.94%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 3,387,066 cases and 93,856 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-24.
- 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 Brazil (688,383 new cases), India (516,270 new cases), the United States of America (215,302 new cases), Colombia (204,130 new cases) and Russian Federation (169,430 new cases).
- In Africa, as of June 20, 2021, a total of 5,218,614 cases and 136,484 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.62%). Of these 203,307 cases and 3,955 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-24.
- 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.

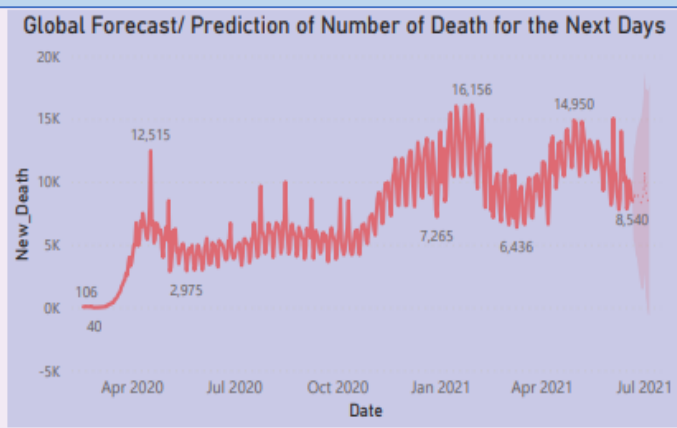
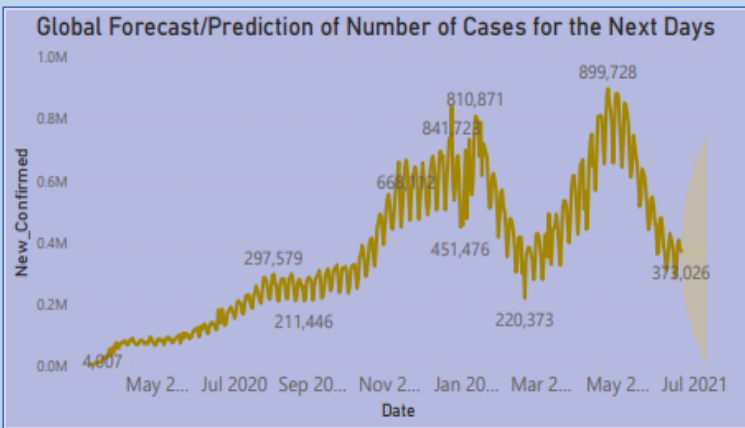
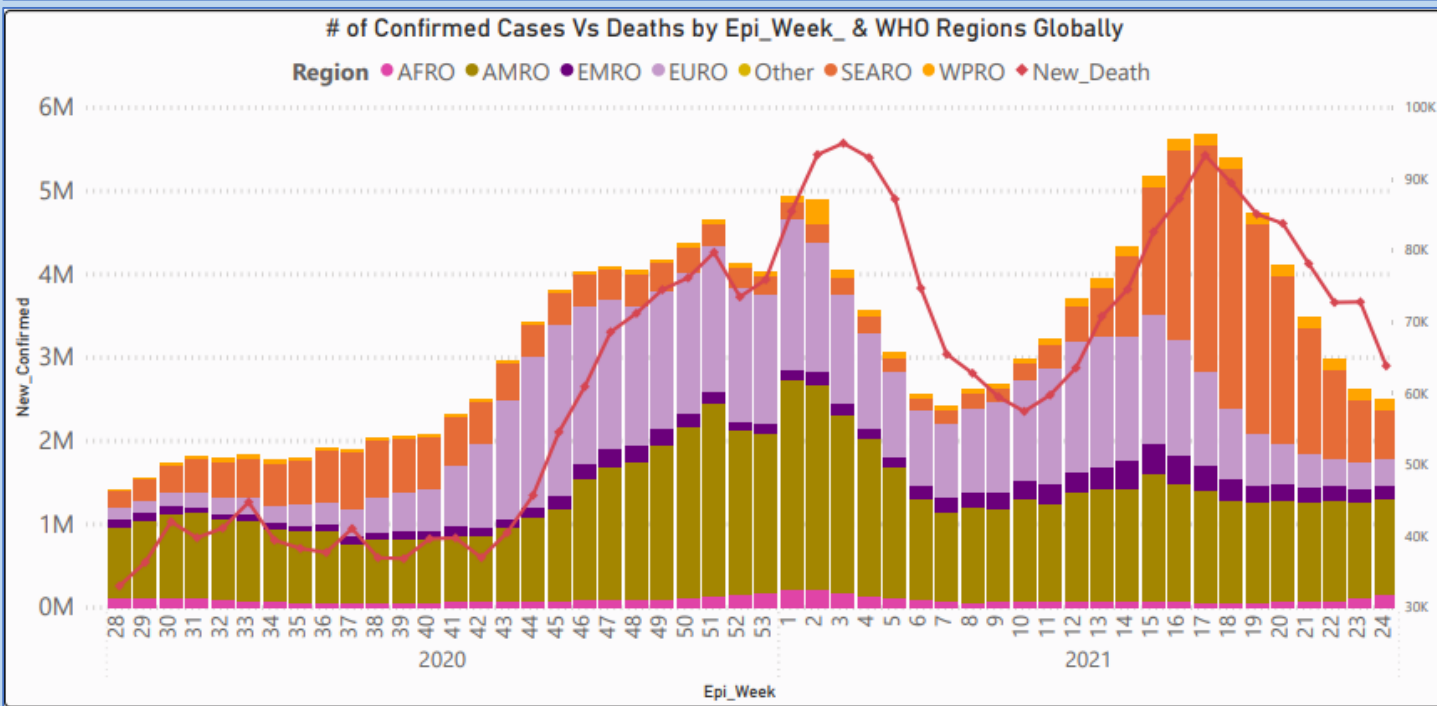
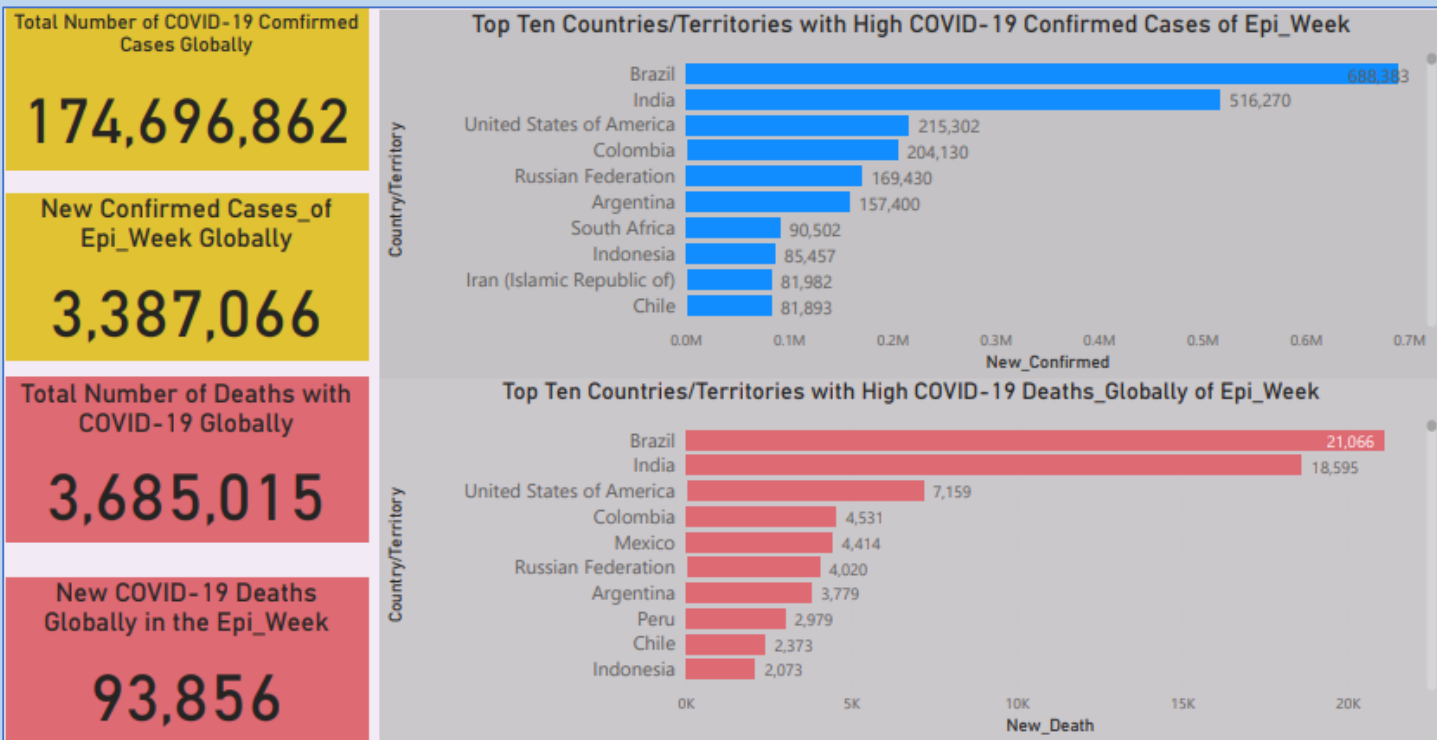


Fig. 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of June 20, 2021 (Source: WHO)

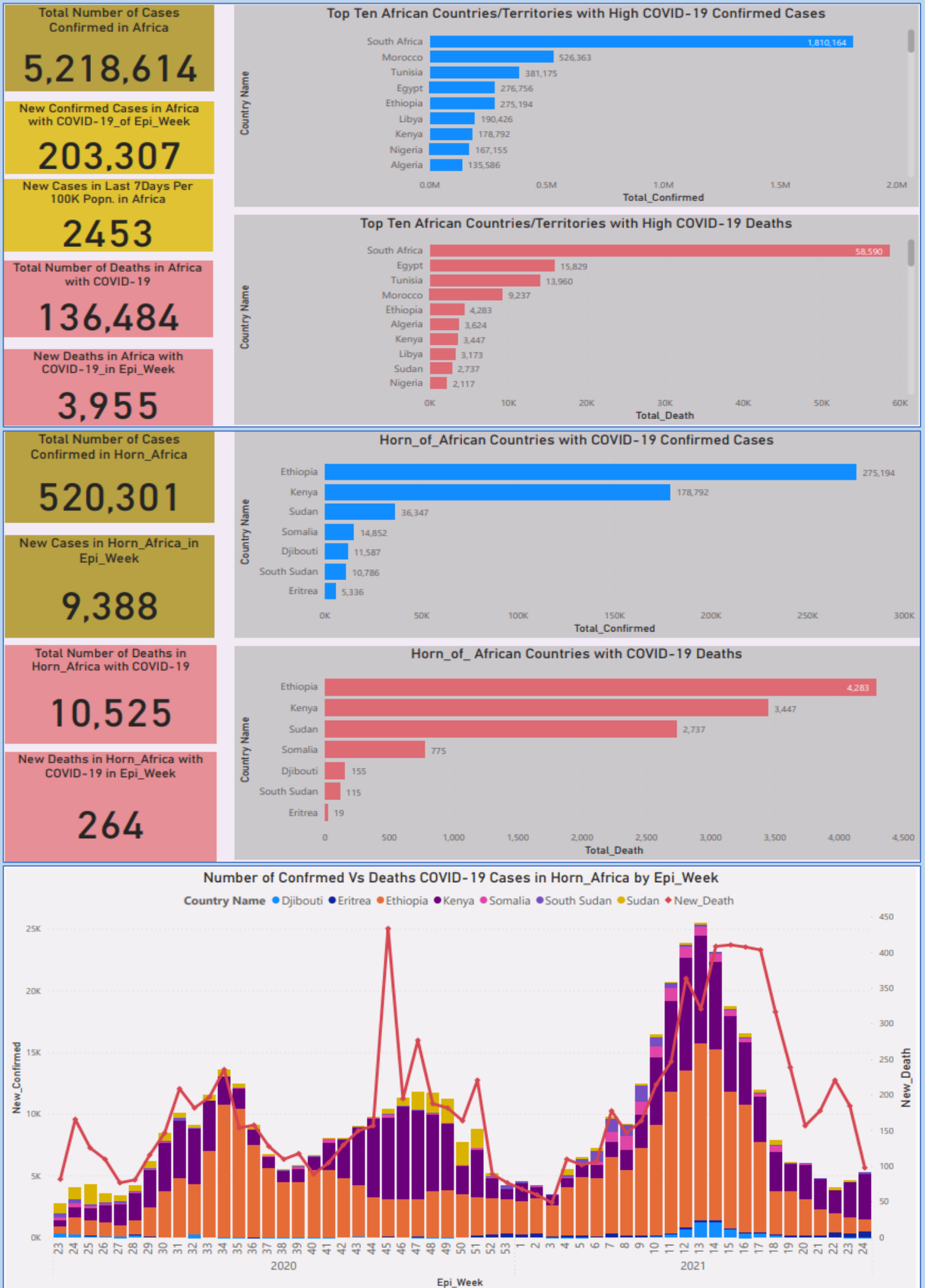


Fig. 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of June 20, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of June 20, 2021, a total of 275,194 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,283 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.56%. 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.
- One-thousand-seven (1,007) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 41 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-24.
- In this week, there is a 21% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (for the eleventh consecutive week) and there is a 24% increase in the number of deaths due to COVID-19 (after decrement for ten consecutive weeks).
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the Epi-Week-24 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate	# of Recovery
Addis Ababa	28159	516	49	21	2.0	3190
Oromia	2705	221	26	4	9.9	411
SNNPR	1539	43	6	0	2.3	69
Harari	1298	3	0	1	0.1	14
Afar	1144	3	0	0	0.3	36
Amhara	1100	39	30	11	4.2	65
Tigray	631	163	24	3	20.1	358
Somali	626	2	2	0	0.2	105
Gambella	327	3	0	0	1.5	0
Benshangul	213	6	6	0	7.0	19
Sidama	120	1	0	1	0.6	2
Dire Dawa	82	0	0	0	0.0	7
Gambella	59	7	0	0	12.0	0
Total	38003	1007	143	41	**** 4.7	4276

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

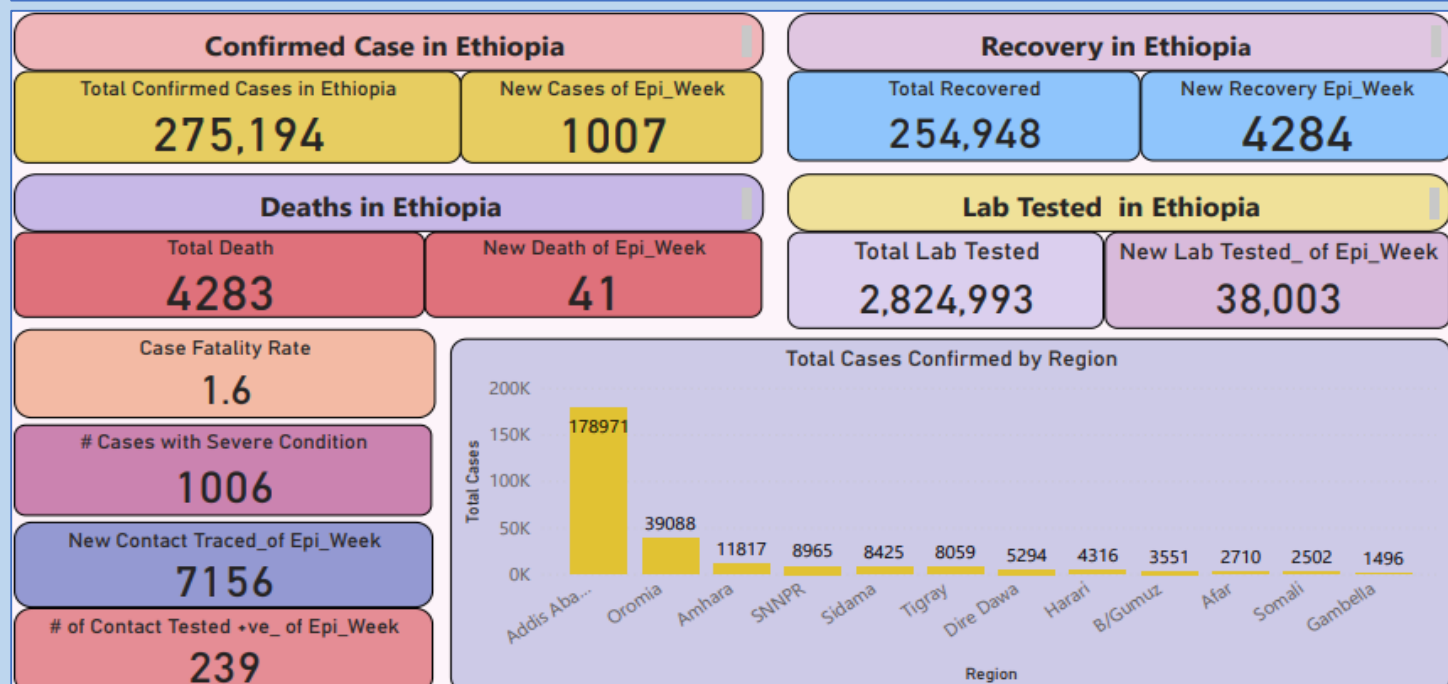


Fig. 4: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of June 20, 2021, Ethiopia

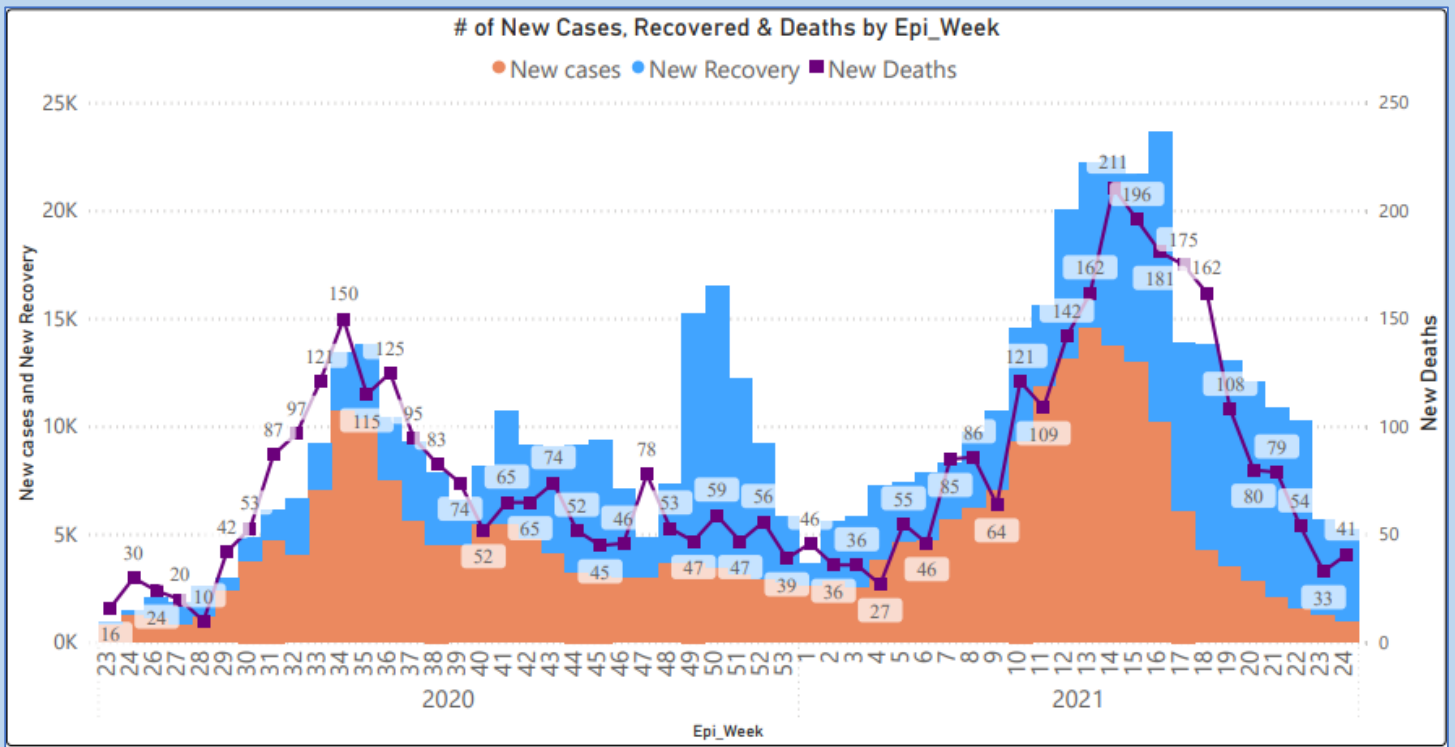


Fig. 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of June 20, 2021, Ethiopia

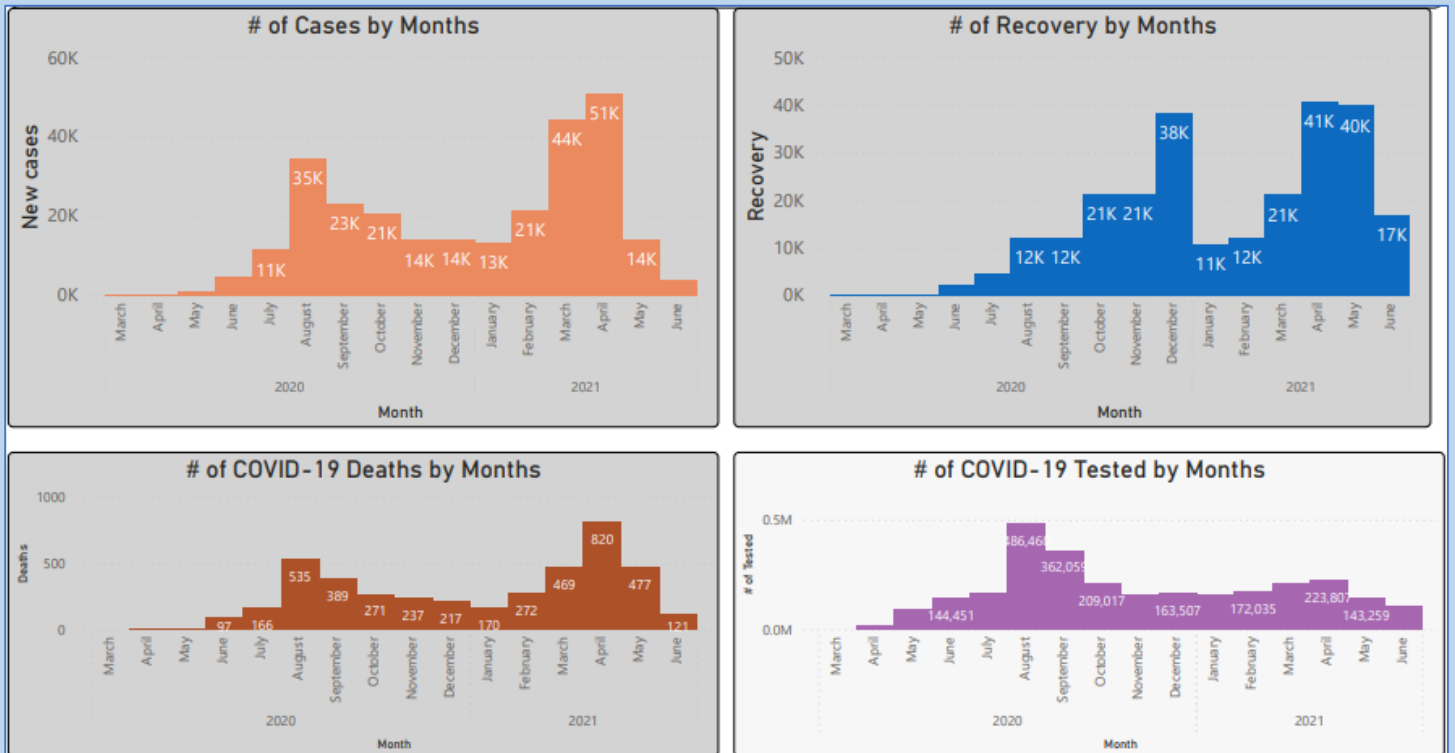


Fig. 6: Summary of monthly trend of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of June 20, 2021.

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.

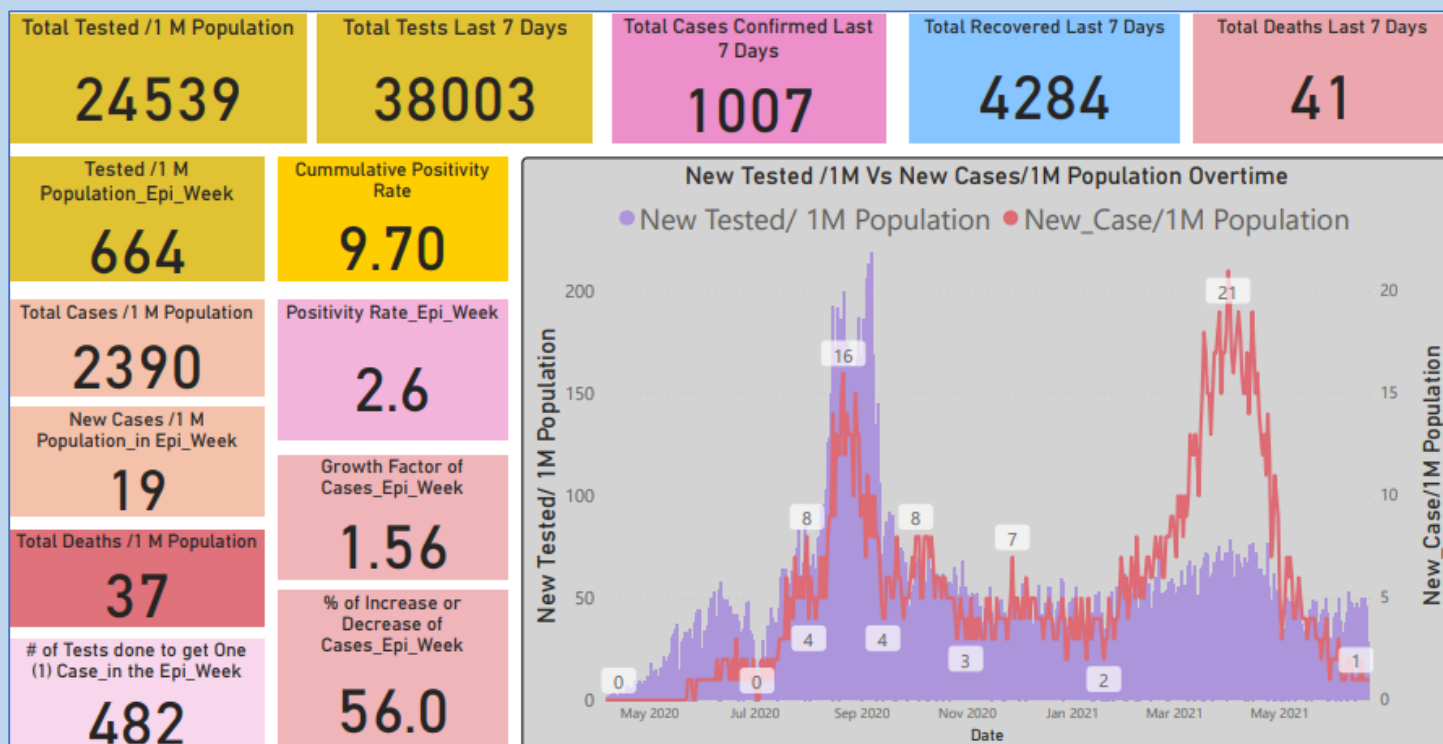


Fig. 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of June 20, 2021.

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 20, 2021:
 - A total of 372,174 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 7,156 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-24.
 - Of total contacts, 326,805 (87.80%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 3,845 contacts are still on follow-up.
- Overall, 41,972 (11.26%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 15.25% 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.

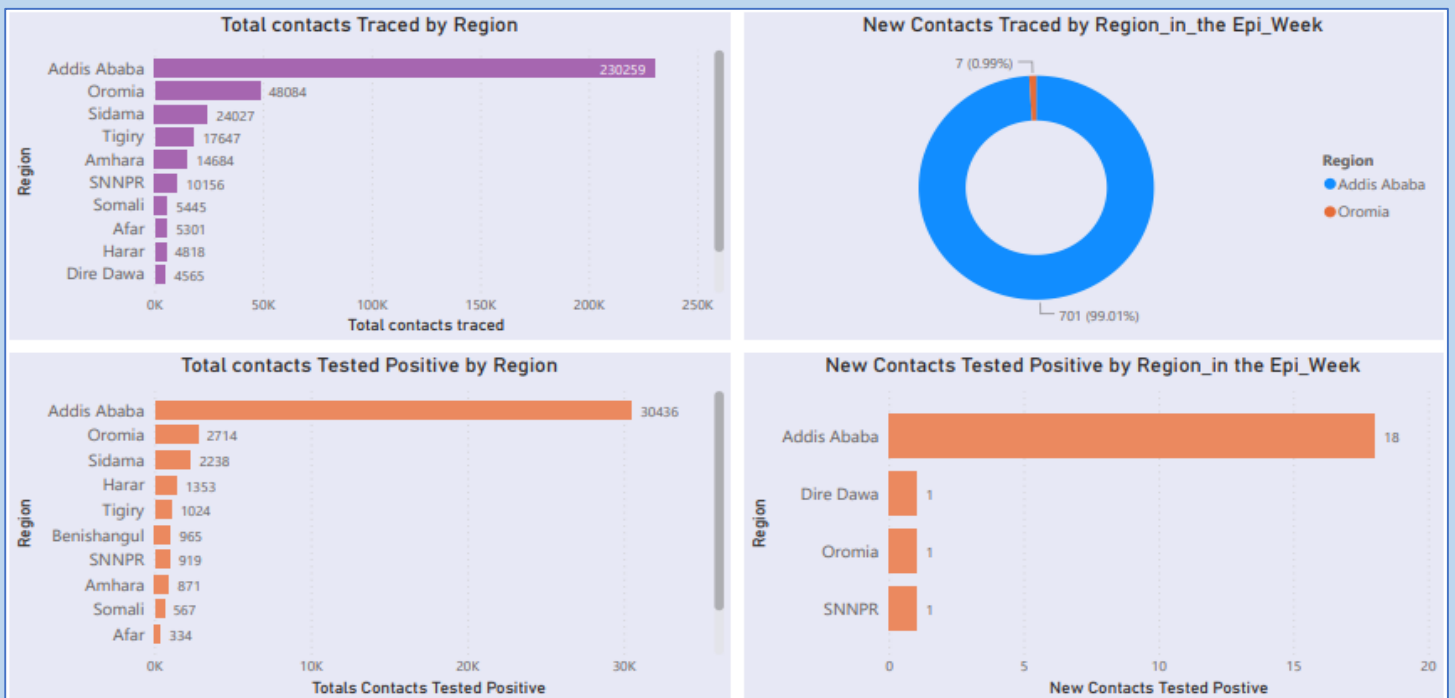
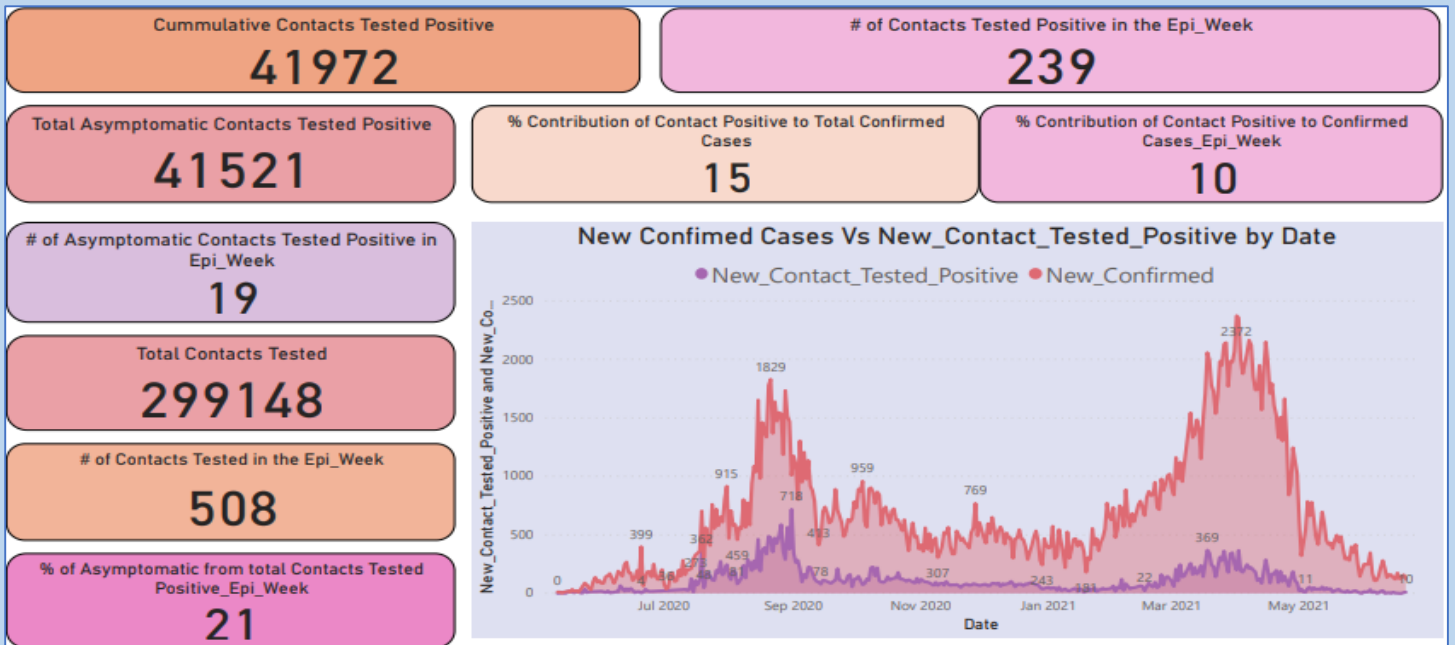
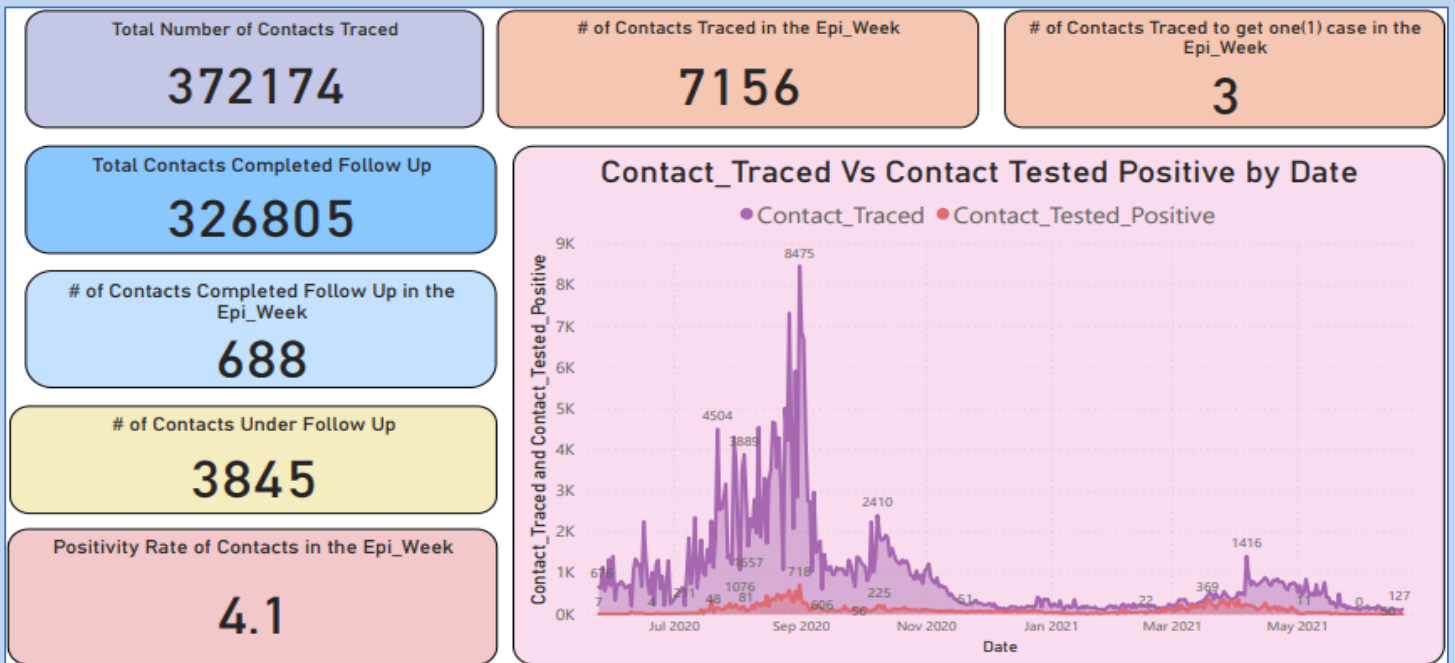


Fig. 8: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of June 20, 2021, Ethiopia.

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, Returnees follow up, Point of Entry (PoE), Community surveillance and Special Settings.
- As of June 20, 2021:
 - 392,751 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 13 rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-24.
 - 279,089 (71.06%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 20,327 COVID-19 related rumors are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

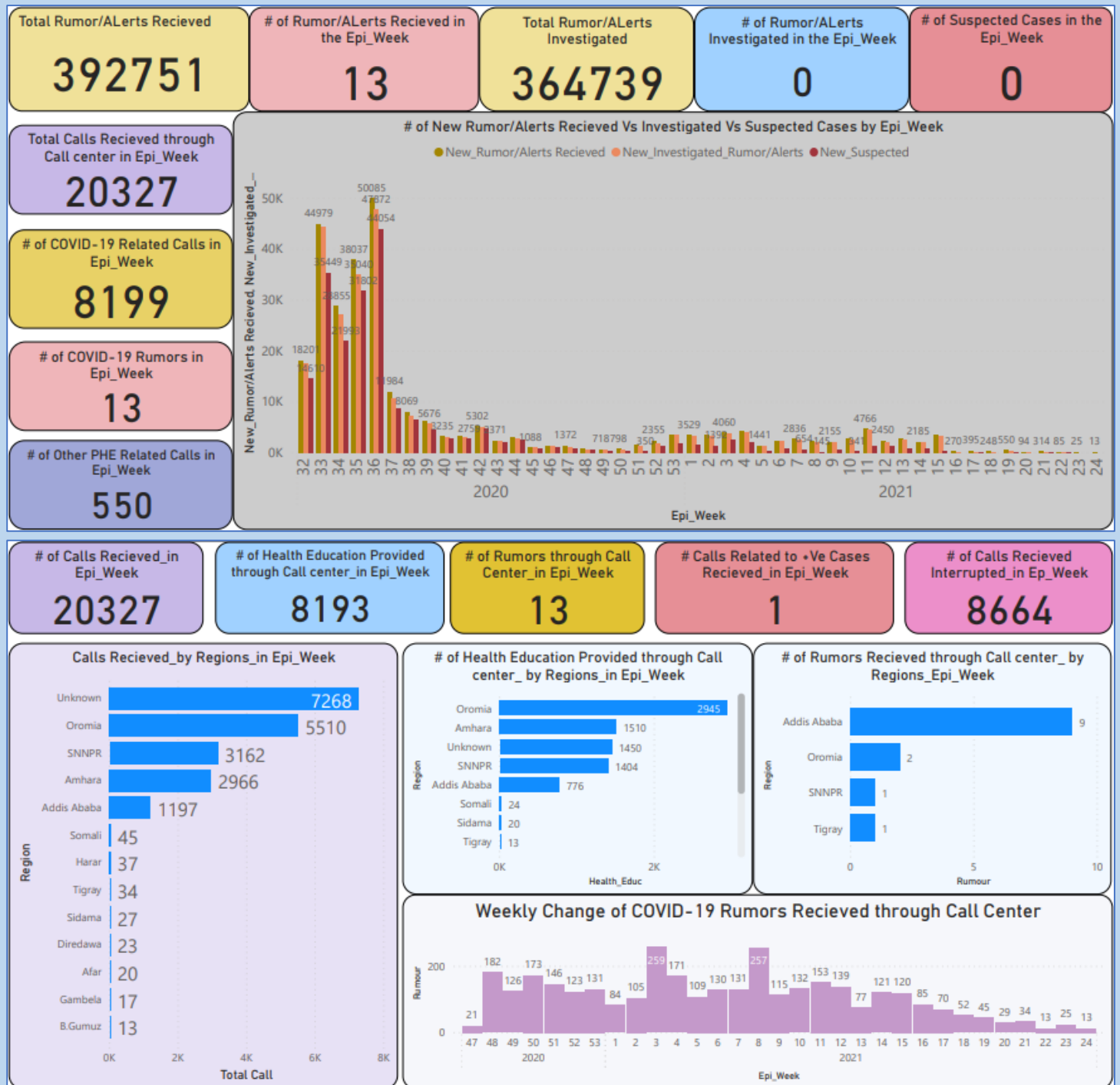


Fig. 9: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of June 20, 2021, Ethiopia.

iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,314,993 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 729,484 (31.51%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 32,898 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-24.
- As of June 20, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates, 330,700 passengers (25,894 in Epi-week-24) had PCR negative certificates while 48 (none in Epi-week-24) 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.

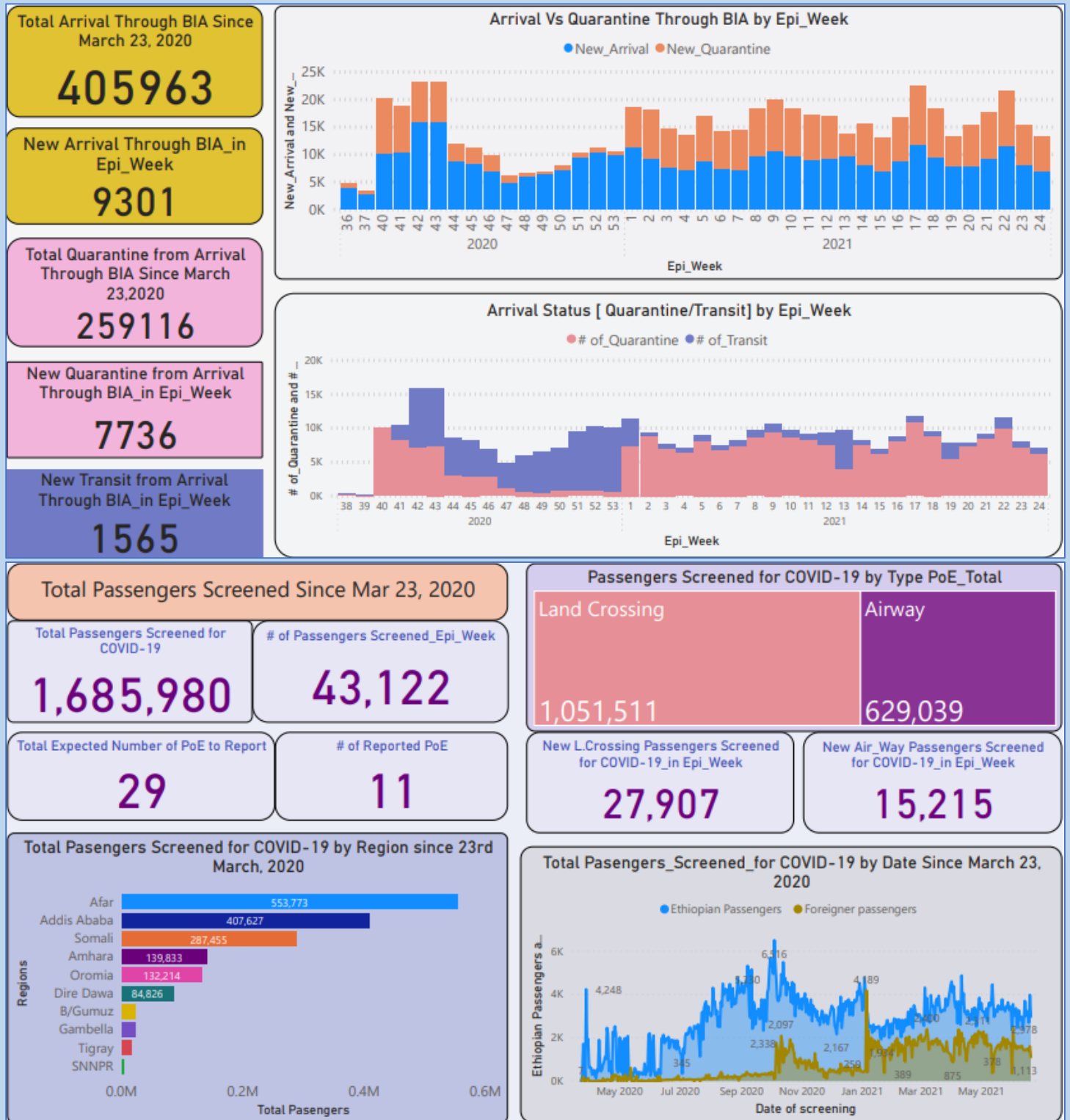


Fig. 10: Summary of Passengers screening for COVID-19 as of June 20, 2021, Ethiopia.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 20 June 2021, a total of 2,824,993 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 38,003 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-24 which is a 9% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-24 is 2.65%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (3.64%).
- Tigray, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella 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. The high positivity rate recorded in Tigray regional state may be defined by the interrupted COVID-19 response activities during the political unrest in the last six months.
- 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 19,294 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 4,723 is performed in the Epi-week-24 (figure 11 below).

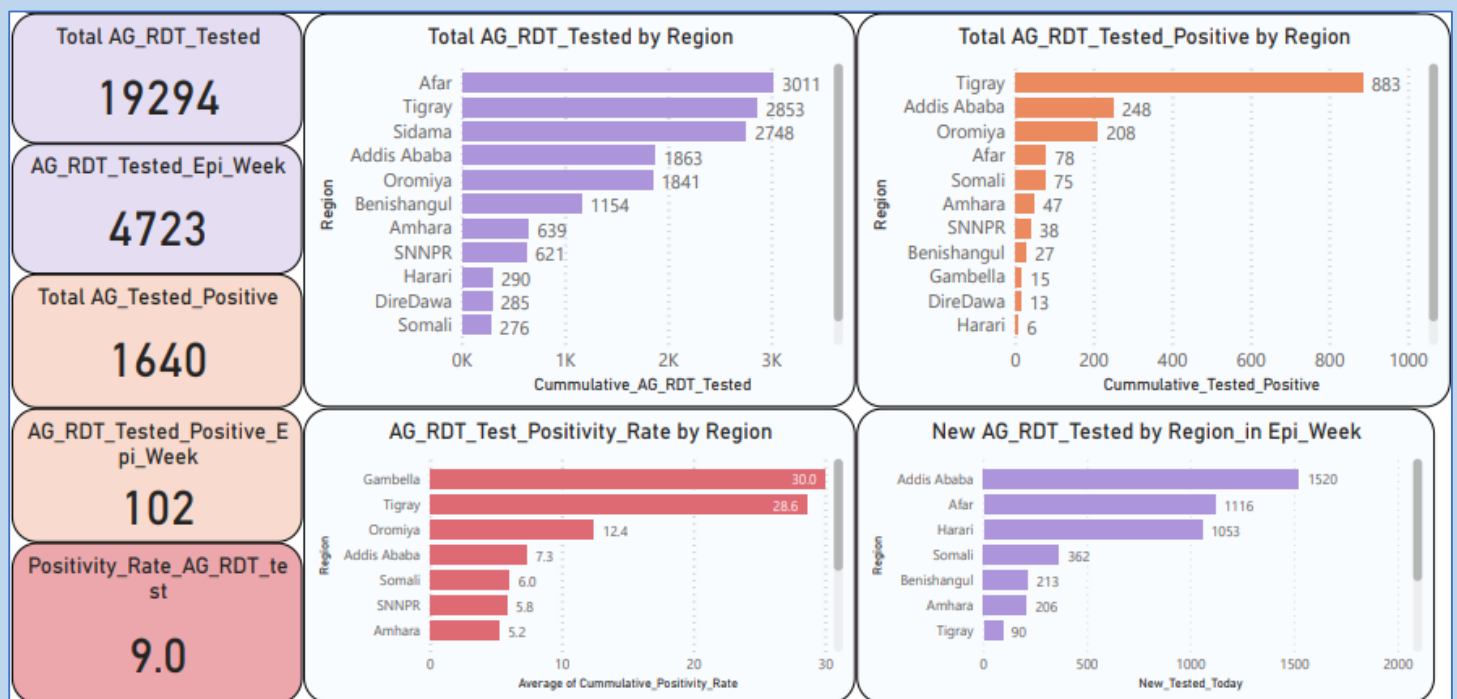
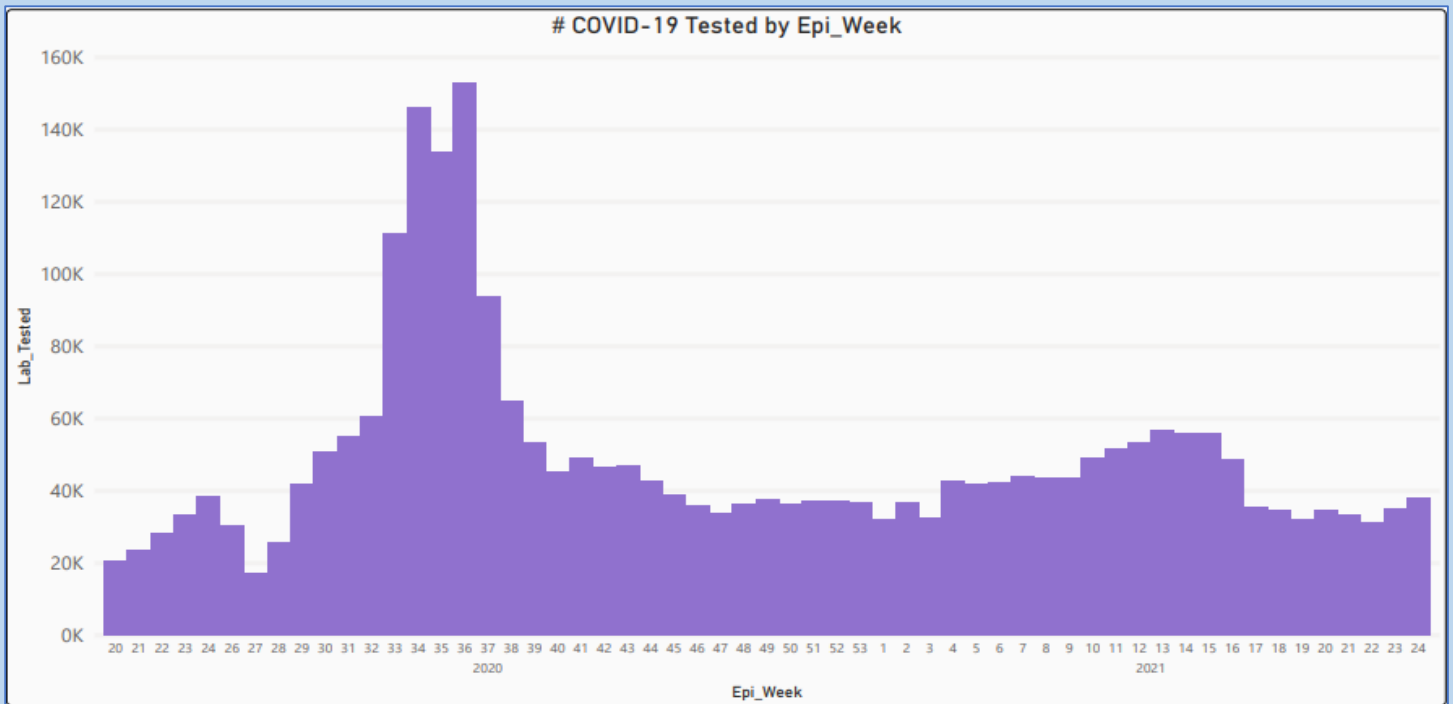
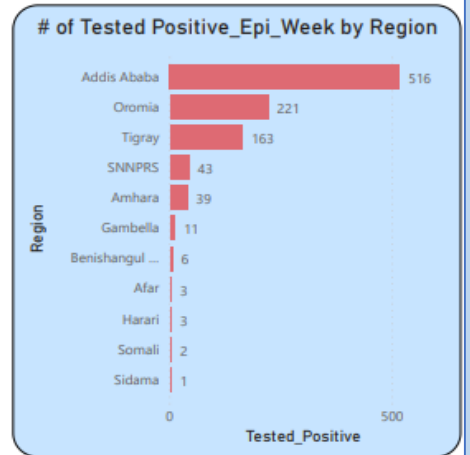
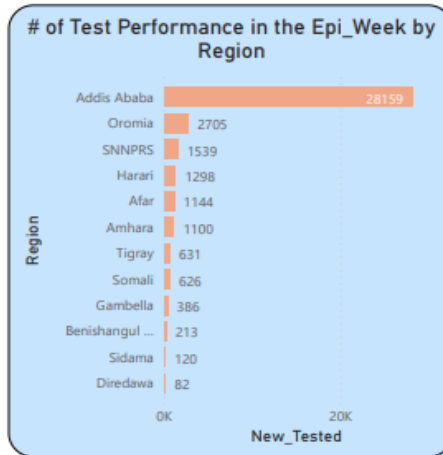
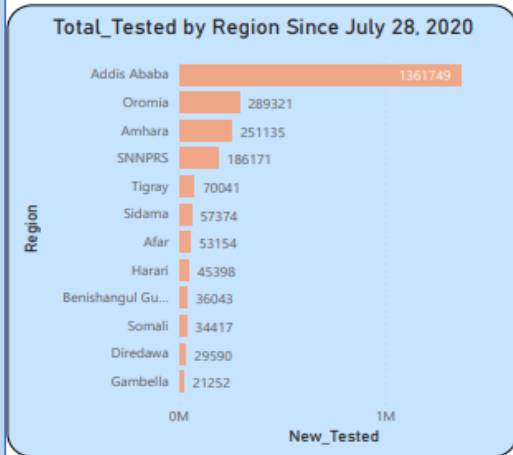
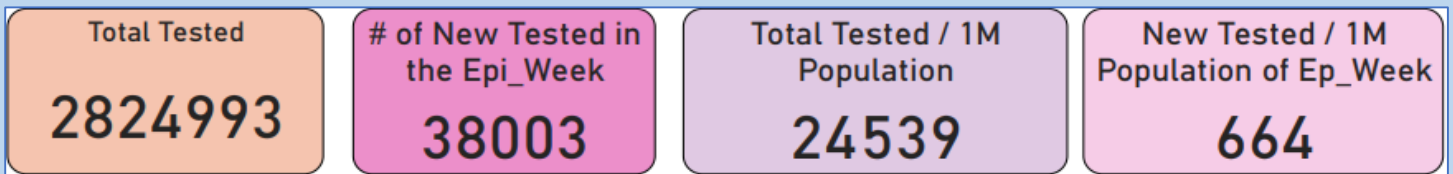


Fig. 11: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of June 20, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	28159	516	21	1.8
Oromia	2705	221	5	10.0
SNNPRS	1539	43	0	2.4
Harari	1298	3	1	0.2
Afar	1144	3	0	0.3
Amhara	1100	39	11	4.1
Tigray	631	163	2	20.1
Somali	626	2	0	0.2
Gambella	386	11	0	4.8
Benishangul Gumuz	213	6	0	7.0
Sidama	120	1	1	0.6
Diredawa	82	0	0	0.0
Total	38003	1008	41	4.7

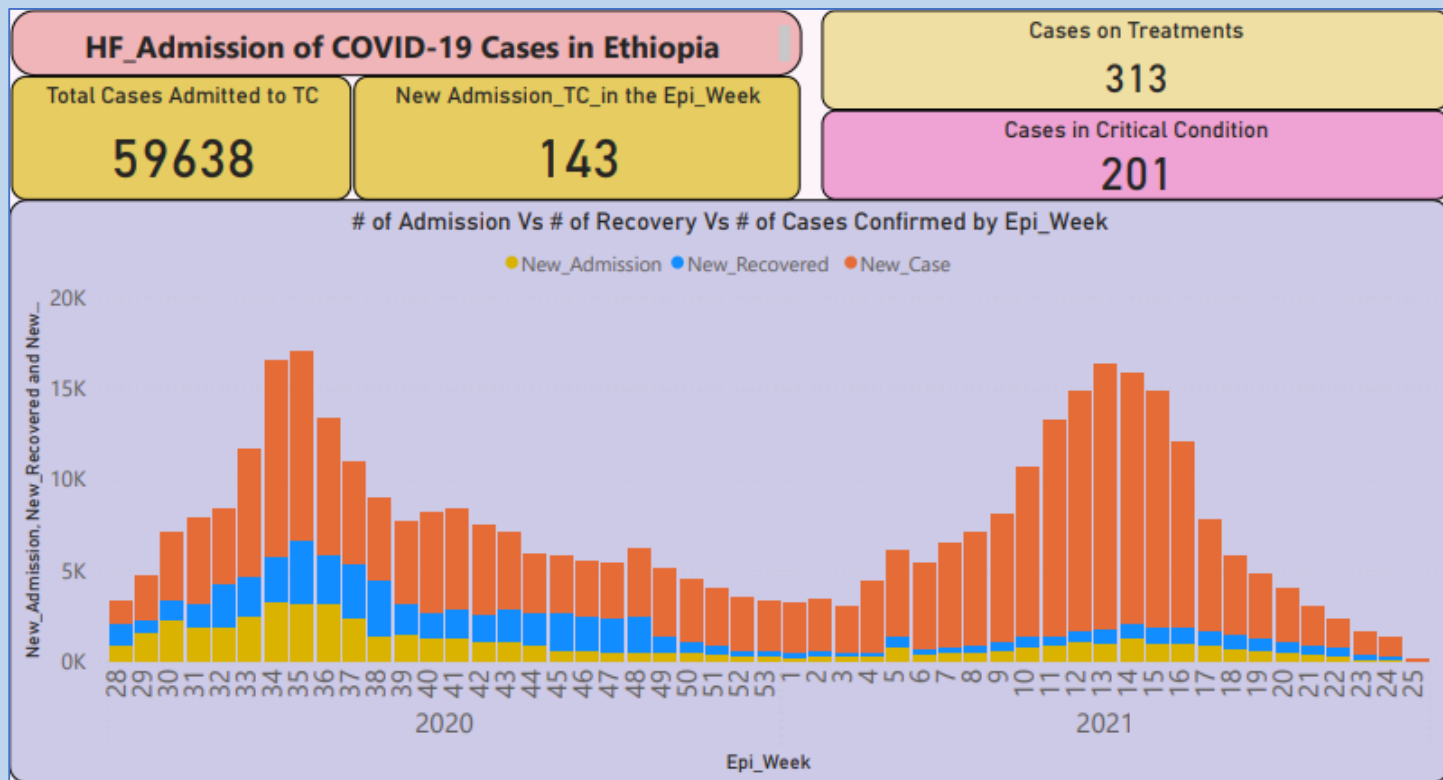
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

Fig. 12: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of March June 20, 2021, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 4,284 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-24, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 254,948 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 93%.
- The highest number of daily cases in severe condition reported in this week is 238.



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Fig. 13: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of June 20, 2021.

- More than a quarter of COVID-19 confirmed cases admitted to treatment centers (27%) were 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 (23%). 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	4453	3229	1018
55 - 64	5778	4689	886
75 - 84	2057	1365	575
45 - 54	6831	6160	535
35 - 44	9343	8787	415
85 +	760	395	343
25 - 34	16525	16077	271
15 - 24	12393	12145	132
0 - 4	858	789	39
5 - 14	1283	1226	37
Total	60281	54862	4251

Fig. 14: Summary of COVID-19 patients' update based on age group as of June 20, 2021, Ethiopia.

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 201,310 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 200,184 (99.44%) have recovered and 32 (0.016%) died.
- Of these, 3,632 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 4,082 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-24.
- As of June 20, 2021, there are 2,394 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,190 (one of them in the Epi-Week-24) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 890 (35 of them in the Epi-week-24) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

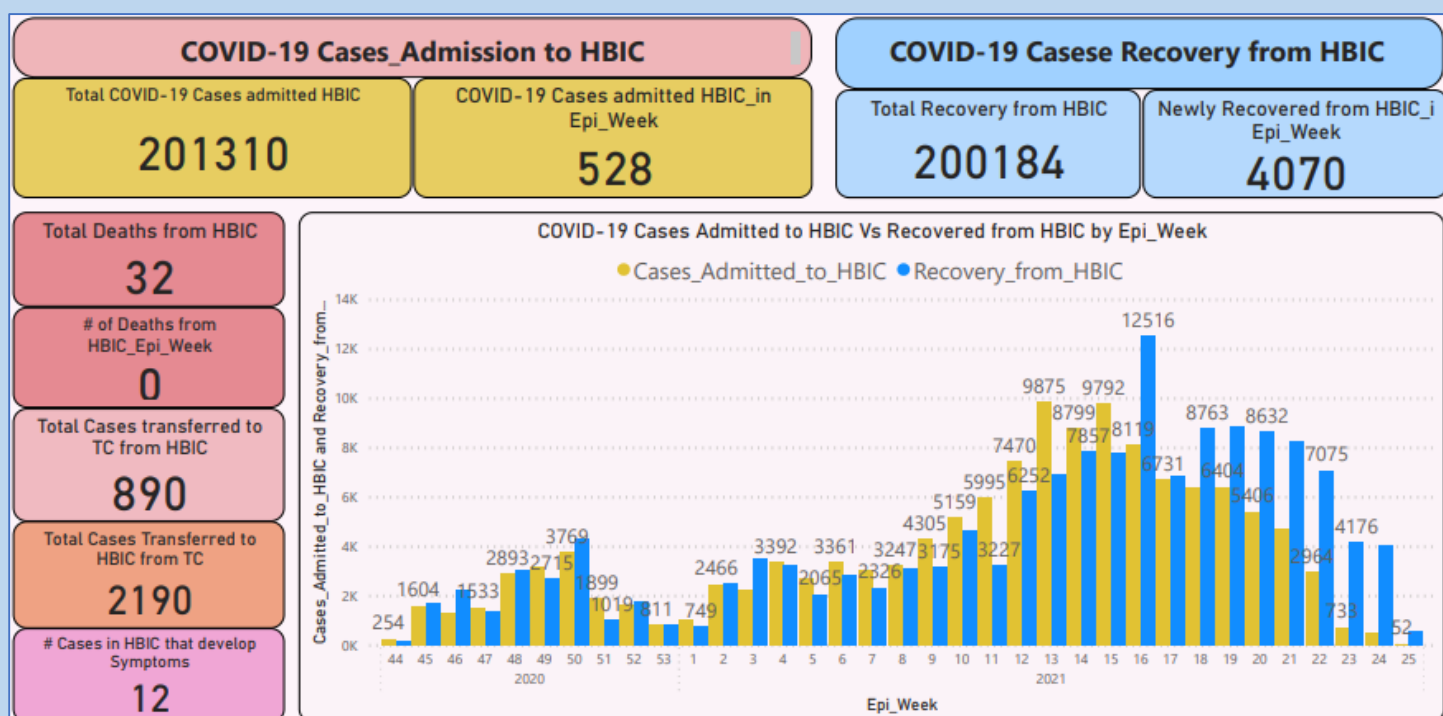


Fig. 15: Summary of COVID-19 Home Based Isolation and Care in Ethiopia, as of June 20, 2021.

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 20, 2021 shared on social media.

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.
- Ethiopian Red Cross Society received 100,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccines from Chinese counterpart.

- The doses arrived at the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport in the presence of senior Ethiopian government officials, representatives of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, members of the Chinese diplomatic community in Ethiopia.
- H.E Dr. Dereje Duguma, Ethiopian State Minister of Health, said during the handing over ceremony that a portion of the latest batch of vaccine doses will be used in Tigray regional state.
- H.E Abera Tola, President of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, also echoed the state minister's remarks as he commended the Chinese Red Cross Society for the much-needed support, as he vowed to further strengthen the partnership among the two humanitarian organizations.
- The East African country had received the first batch of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines that was donated by the Chinese government back in March.
- H.E Zhao Zhiyuan, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, stressed that as a comprehensive strategic cooperative partner of Ethiopia, China will continue to support Ethiopia's anti-pandemic efforts.



Fig.17: H.E Dr Dereje Duguma, Ethiopian State Minister of Health (left) and Excellency Zhao Zhiyuan, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia (right) delivering speech during the handing over ceremony of the Sinopharm vaccines

VIII. 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.

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.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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