



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 25 (June 21 – 27, 2021)

BULLETIN №: 61

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 28,911 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-25 bringing the total number of samples tested to 2,853,904.
- A total of 741 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 31 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-25 bringing the total cases and death to 275,935 and 4,314 respectively.
- A total of 205,047 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 3,737 of these are enrolled in the Epi-Week-25.
- In Africa, a third wave of the pandemic is ongoing.

II. Subject in Focus:

a) Third wave of COVID-19 pandemic in Africa

- In Africa, there are indications that a third wave of COVID-19 pandemic has started¹.
 - The continent is facing a fast-surging third wave of COVID-19 pandemic, with cases spreading more rapidly and projected to soon overtake the peak of the second wave the continent witnessed at the start of 2021.
 - The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the third wave already started on May 3, 2021 and COVID-19 cases have risen for five consecutive weeks since then.
 - Some of the factors contributing for the ongoing surge may include:
 - Weak observance of public health measures
 - Increased social interaction and movement
 - The highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus which has been detected in 14 African countries.
 - The third wave comes as Africa is experiencing a vaccine shortage. WHO says just slightly more than 1% of Africans have been fully vaccinated. While approximately 2.7 billion COVID-19 vaccine shots have been administered globally, WHO says just under 1.5% of those shots have been administered on the African continent.

¹ <https://www.afro.who.int/news/africa-faces-steepest-covid-19-surge-yet>

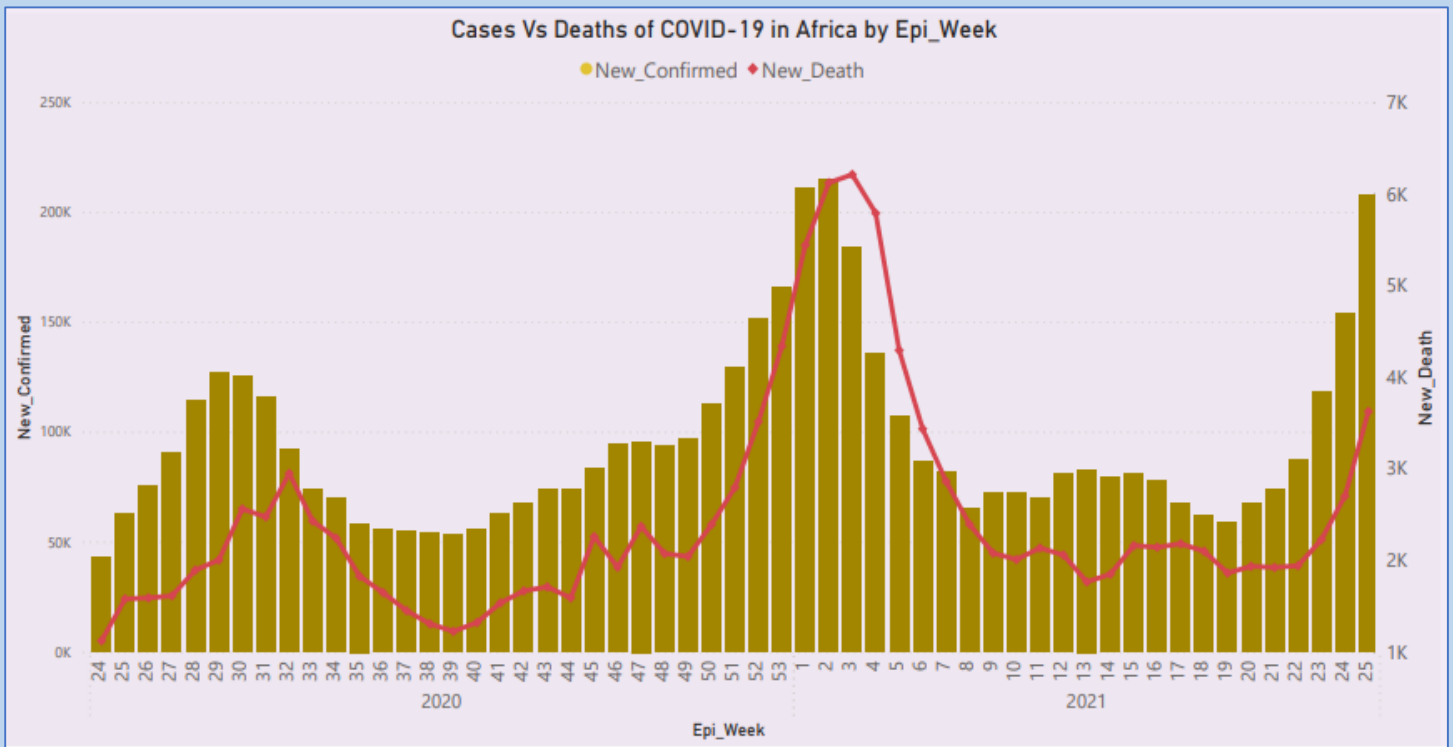


Fig. 1: Weekly trend of newly confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID-19, as of June 27, 2021

b) 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, teams are deployed to sub-national levels and weekly meeting with regional and national Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOC) staffs is being conducted. The weekly 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).
- A total of 5,910,513 house to house visits are planned to be conducted in 60 days. As of June 27, 2021, a total of 717,919 (12.15% of the total plan) house to house visits are reported from the regions and city administrations. Among these 221,984 house to house visits are conducted in the Epi-week-25.
- 587,874 laboratory tests have been planned to be performed in 60 days. As of June 27, 2021, a total of 201,189 samples (34% of the total plan) are tested nationally.

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- Globally, over 3.5 million new cases are reported in the last week (Figure 2) which is a 6% increase in the number of new cases compared to the previous week.
- More than 89 thousand new deaths (4% decrease compared to previous week) are reported globally in the Epi-week-25.
- As of June 27, 2021, a total of 177,270,512 COVID-19 cases and 3,592,957 deaths (CFR=2.03%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 3,592,957 cases and 89,985 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-25.
- 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 (725,401 new cases), India (440,757 new cases), the United States of America (254,656 new cases), Colombia (220,550 new cases) and Russian Federation (190,181 new cases).
- In Africa, as of June 27, 2021, a total of 5,426,271 cases and 140,112 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.58%). Of these 270,973 cases and 5,211 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-25.
- 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.

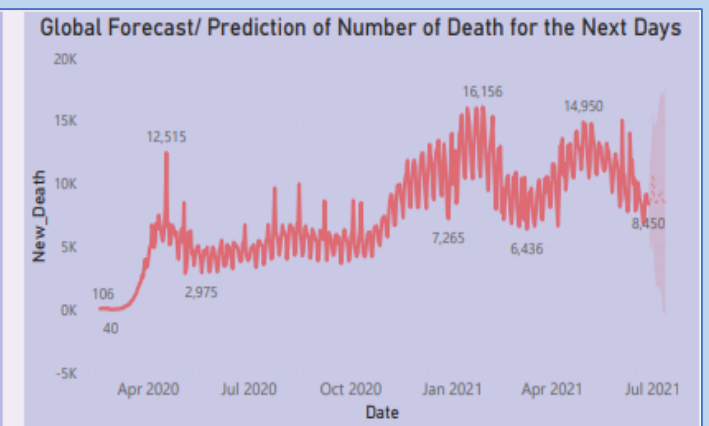
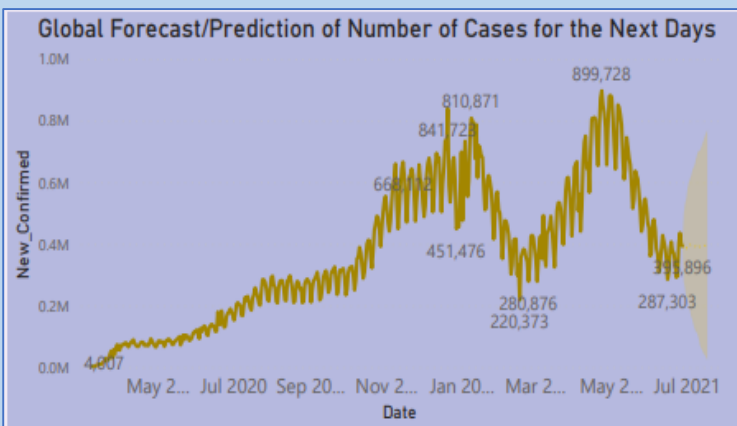
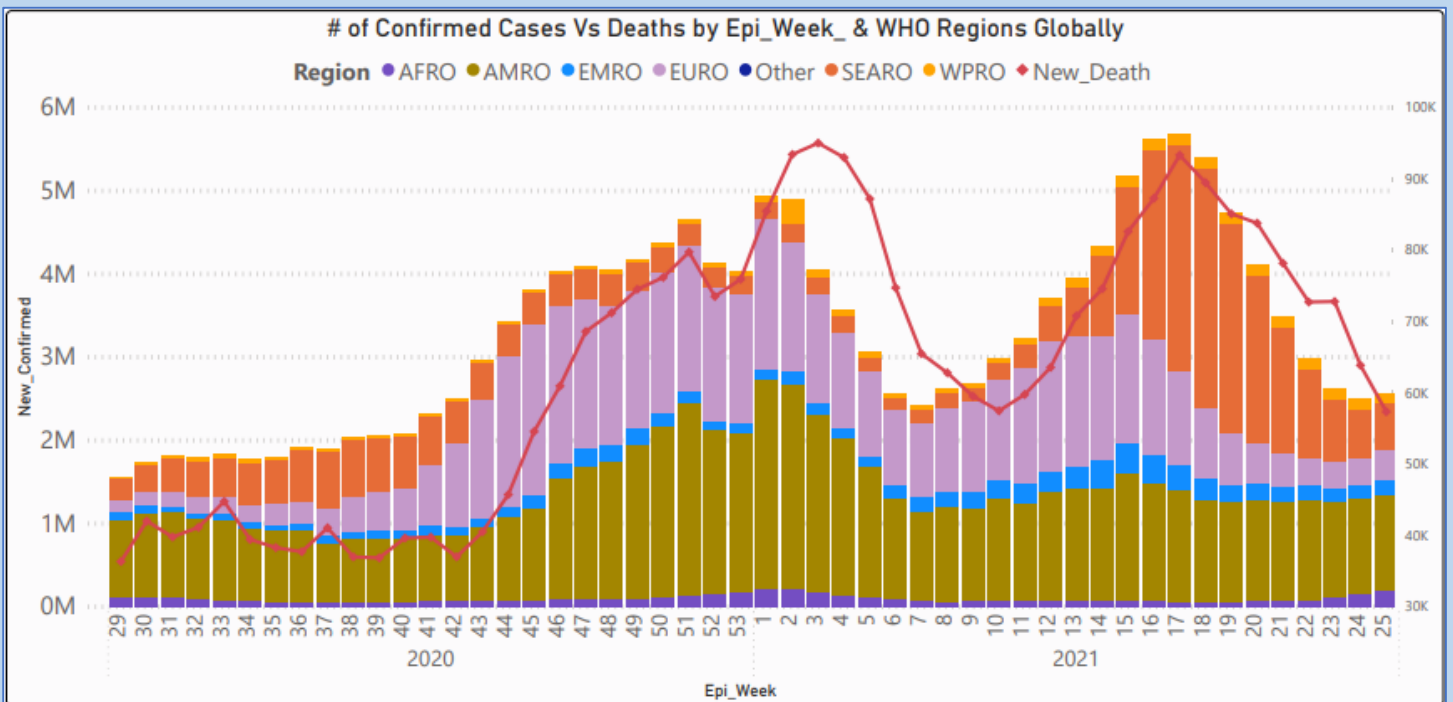
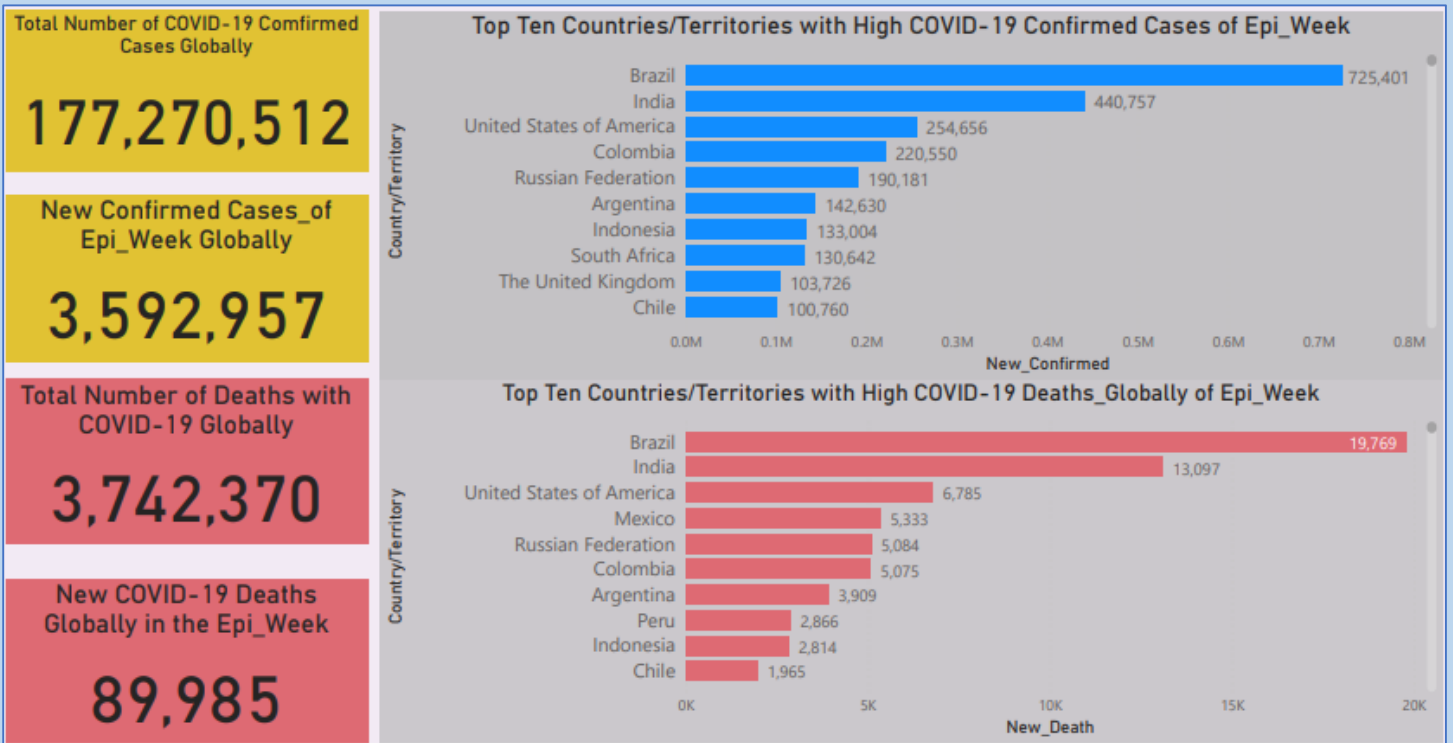


Fig. 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of June 27, 2021 (Source: WHO)

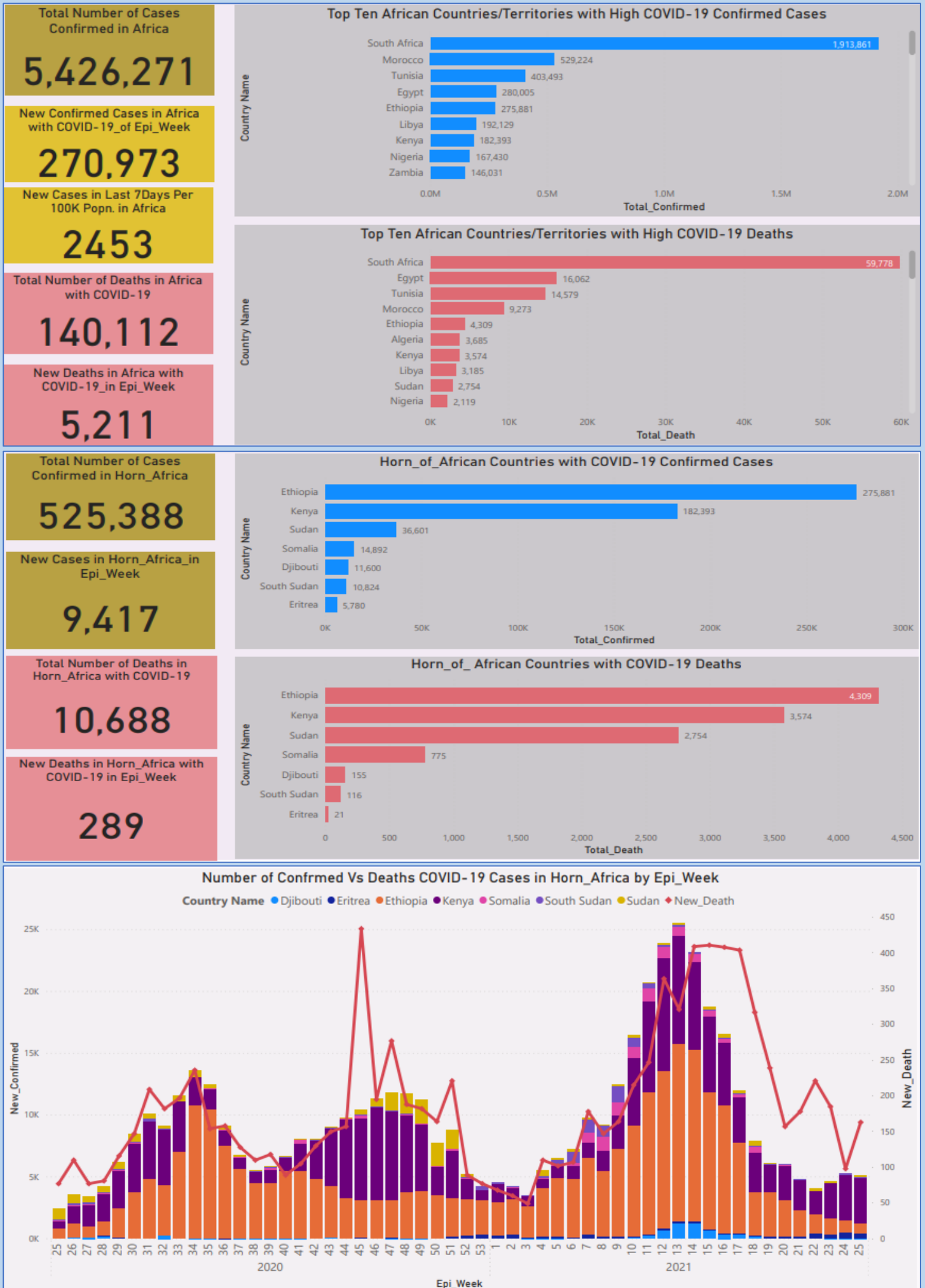


Fig. 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of June 27, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of June 27, 2021, a total of 275,935 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,314 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.
- Seven-hundred-forty-one (741) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 31 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-25.
- In this week, there is a 26% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (for the twelfth consecutive week) and there is a 24% decrease in the number of deaths due to COVID-19.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the Epi-Week-25 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate	# of Recovery
Addis Ababa	21631	393	66	19	1.9	3155
Oromia	1690	88	11	3	8.9	125
Harari	1203	16	3	2	1.3	3
Amhara	1185	88	12	2	8.0	16
SNNPR	791	18	9	3	2.2	75
Somali	708	2	1	0	0.3	75
Afar	576	0	0	0	0.0	0
Tigray	477	108	10	2	14.4	636
Gambella	314	20	0	0	6.0	2
Dire Dawa	199	3	1	0	2.3	3
Sidama	115	5	4	0	3.0	2
Benshangul	22	0	0	0	0.0	2
Total	28911	741	117	31	**** 4.3	4094

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

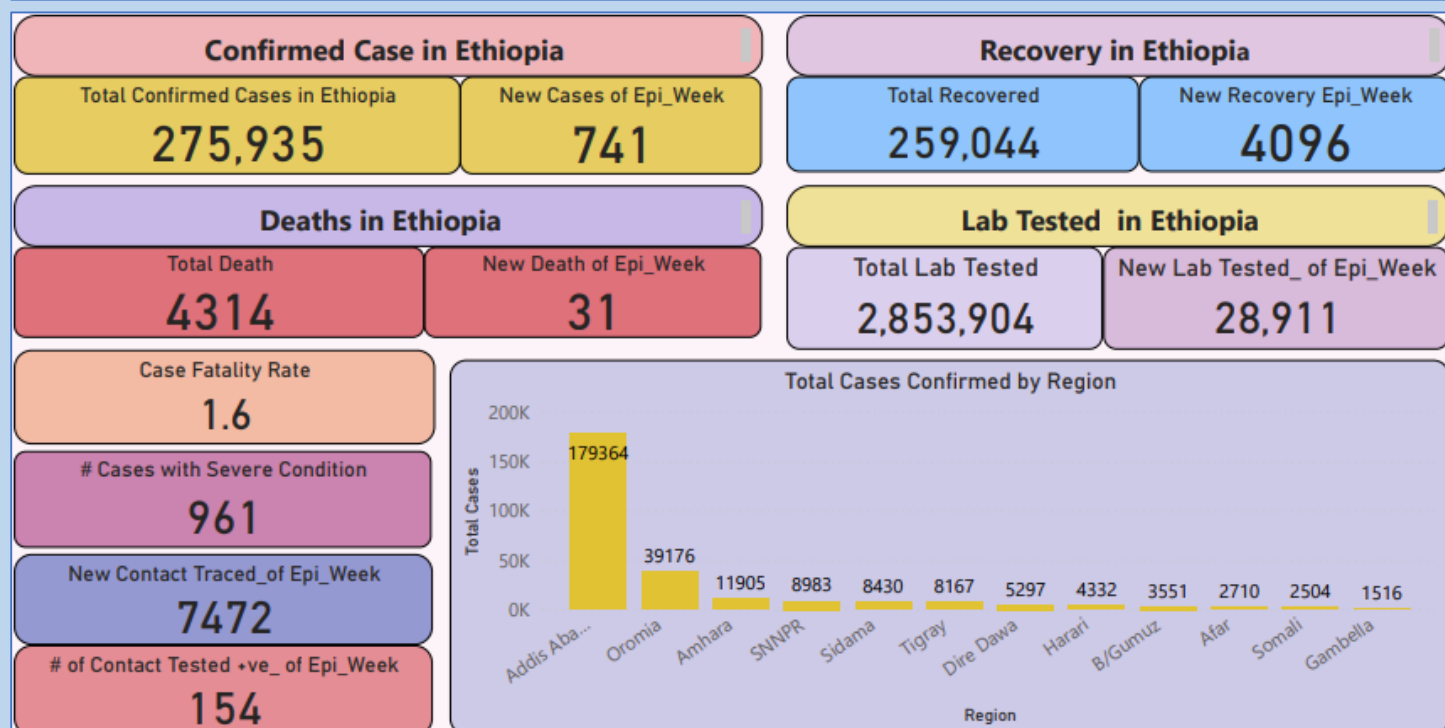


Fig. 4: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of June 27, 2021, Ethiopia

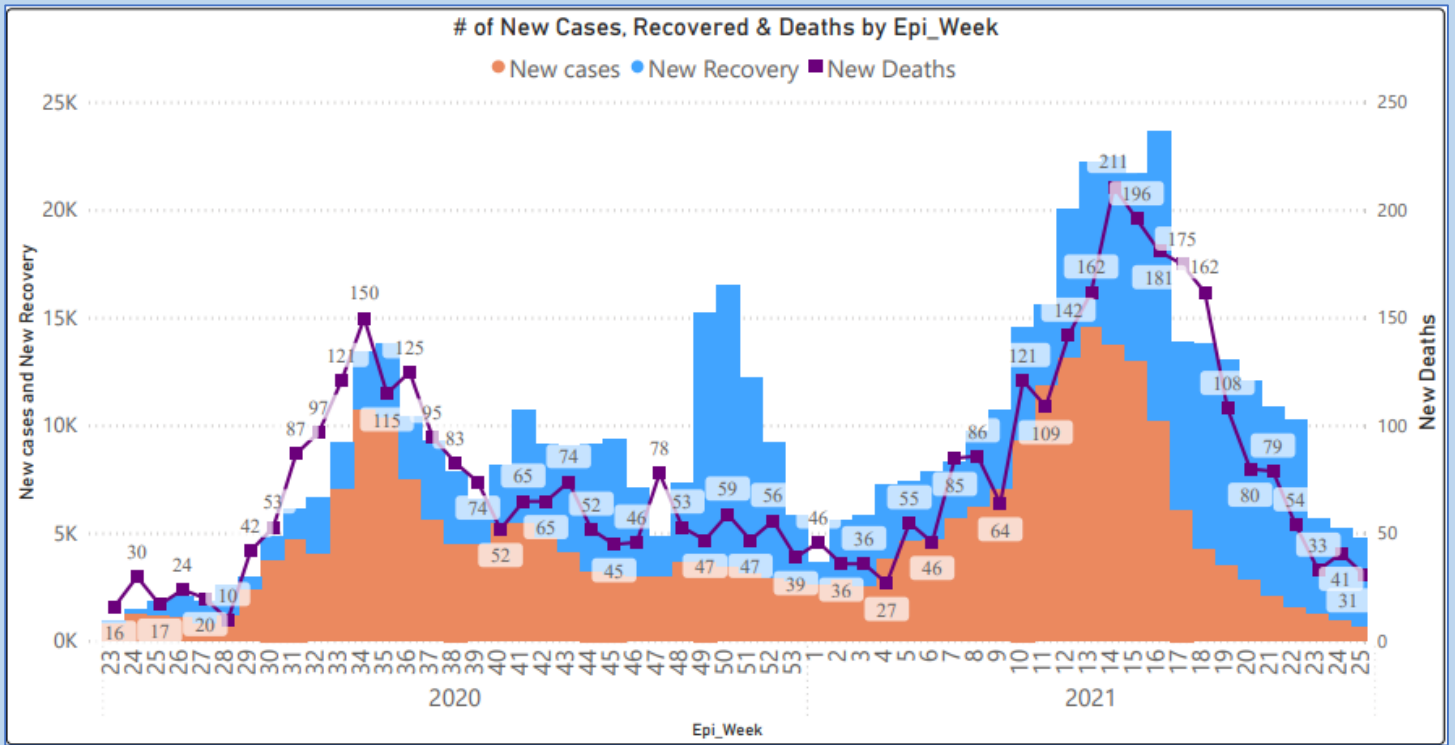


Fig. 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of June 27, 2021, Ethiopia

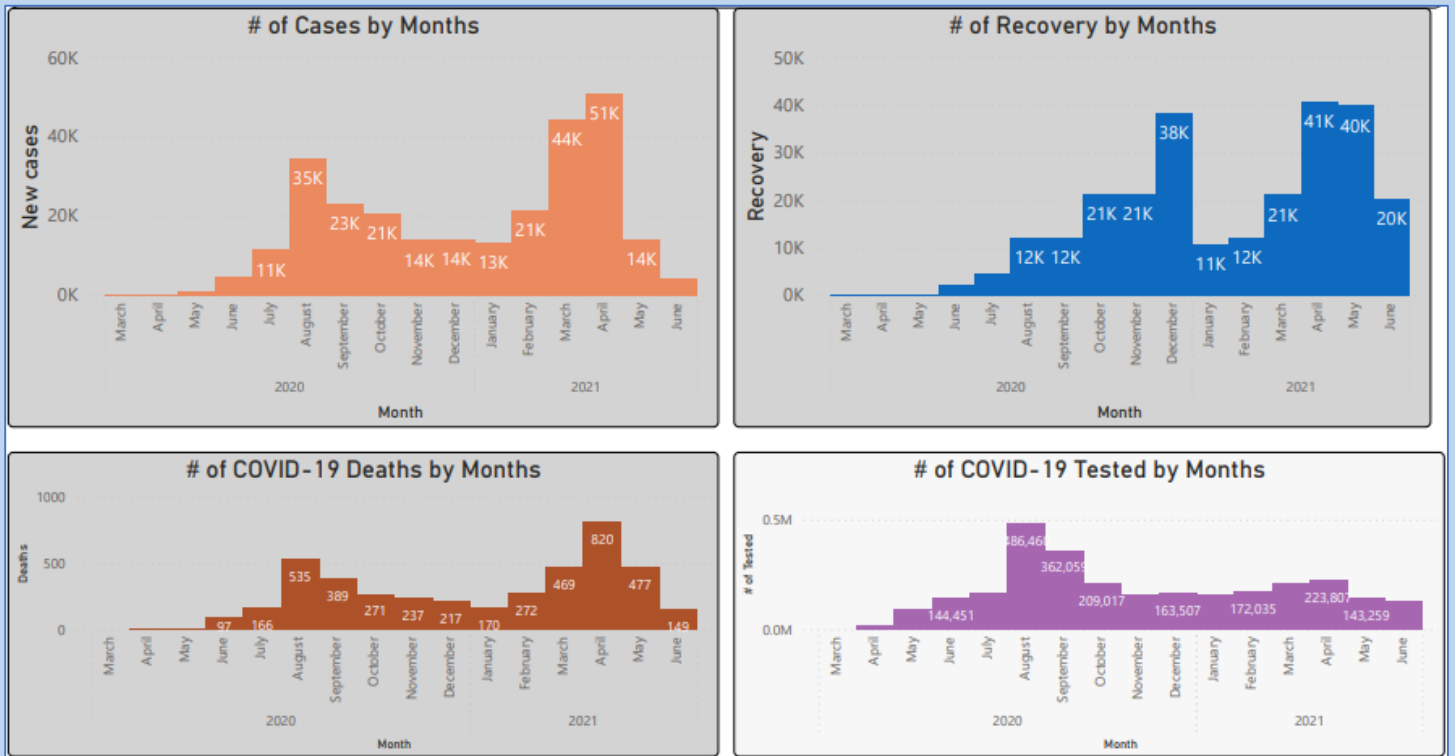


Fig. 6: Summary of monthly trend of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of June 27, 2021.

c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

There is ongoing 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.

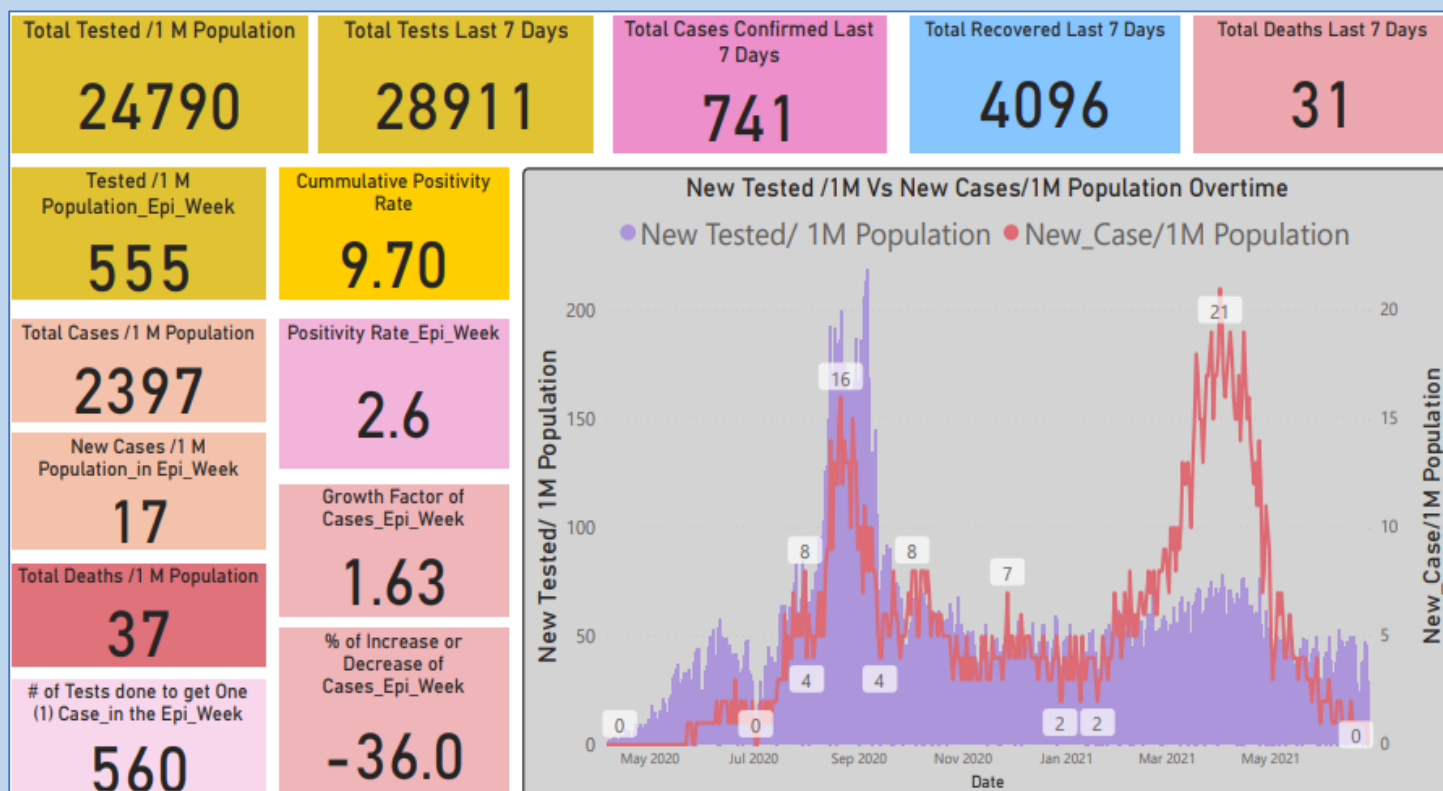


Fig. 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of June 27, 2021.

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 27, 2021:
 - A total of 372,863 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 7,472 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-25.
 - Of total contacts, 327,625 (87.86%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 3,429 contacts are still on follow-up.
- Overall, 42,123 (11.29%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 15.27% of the total cases.

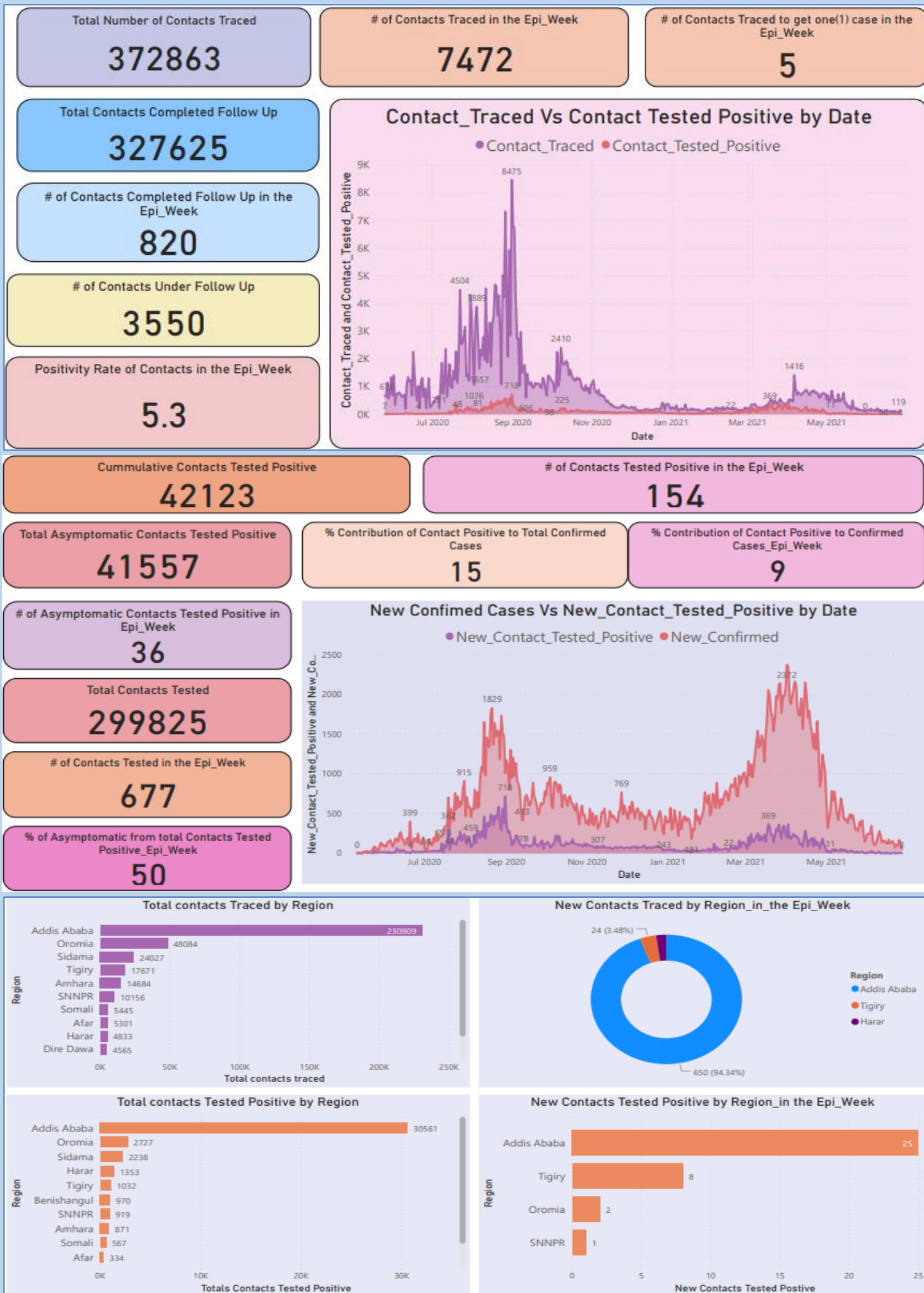


Fig. 8: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of June 27, 2021, Ethiopia.

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 27, 2021:
 - 392,764 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 13 rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-25.
 - 279,089 (71.06%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 17,220 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

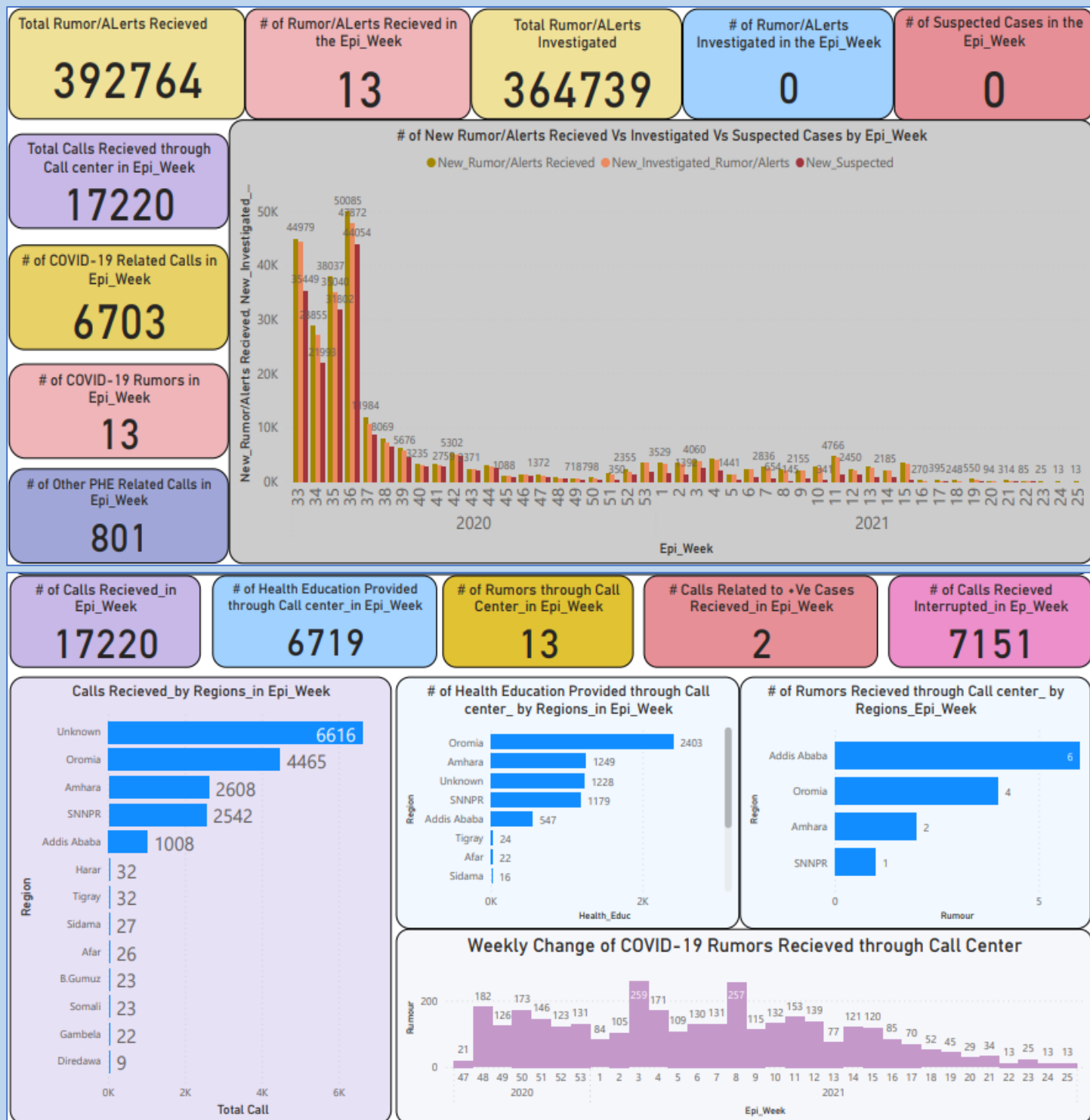


Fig. 9: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of June 27, 2021, Ethiopia.

iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,343,265 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 735,924 (31.41%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 28,272 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-25.
- As of June 27, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 50 (two in Epi-week-25) 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.

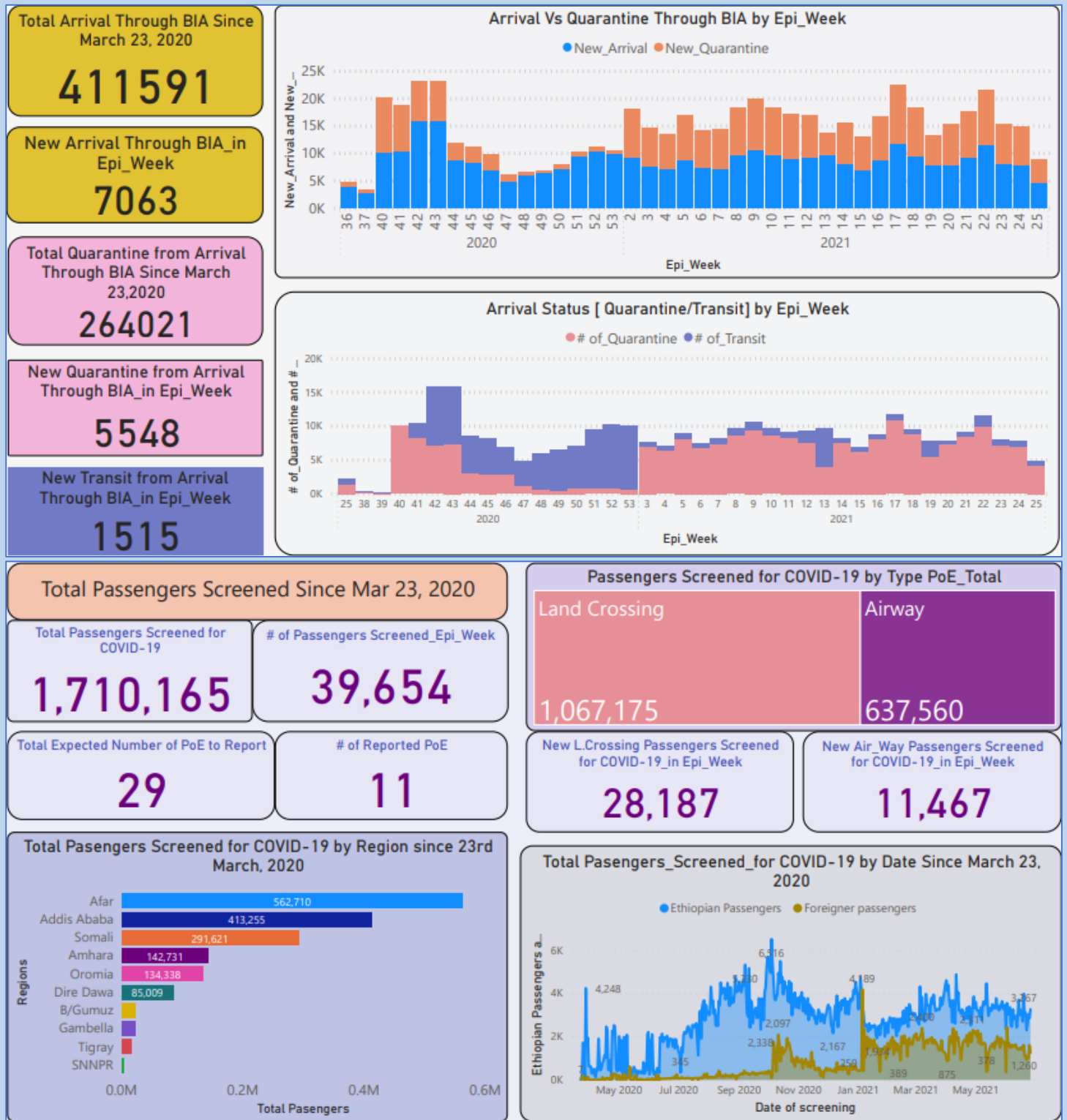


Fig. 10: Summary of Passengers screening for COVID-19 as of June 27, 2021, Ethiopia.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 27 June 2021, a total of 2,853,904 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 28,911 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-25 which is a 24% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-25 is 2.56%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (2.65%).
- Tigray, Oromia, Amhara 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.
- 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 24,415 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 3,432 is performed in the Epi-week-25 (figure 11 below).

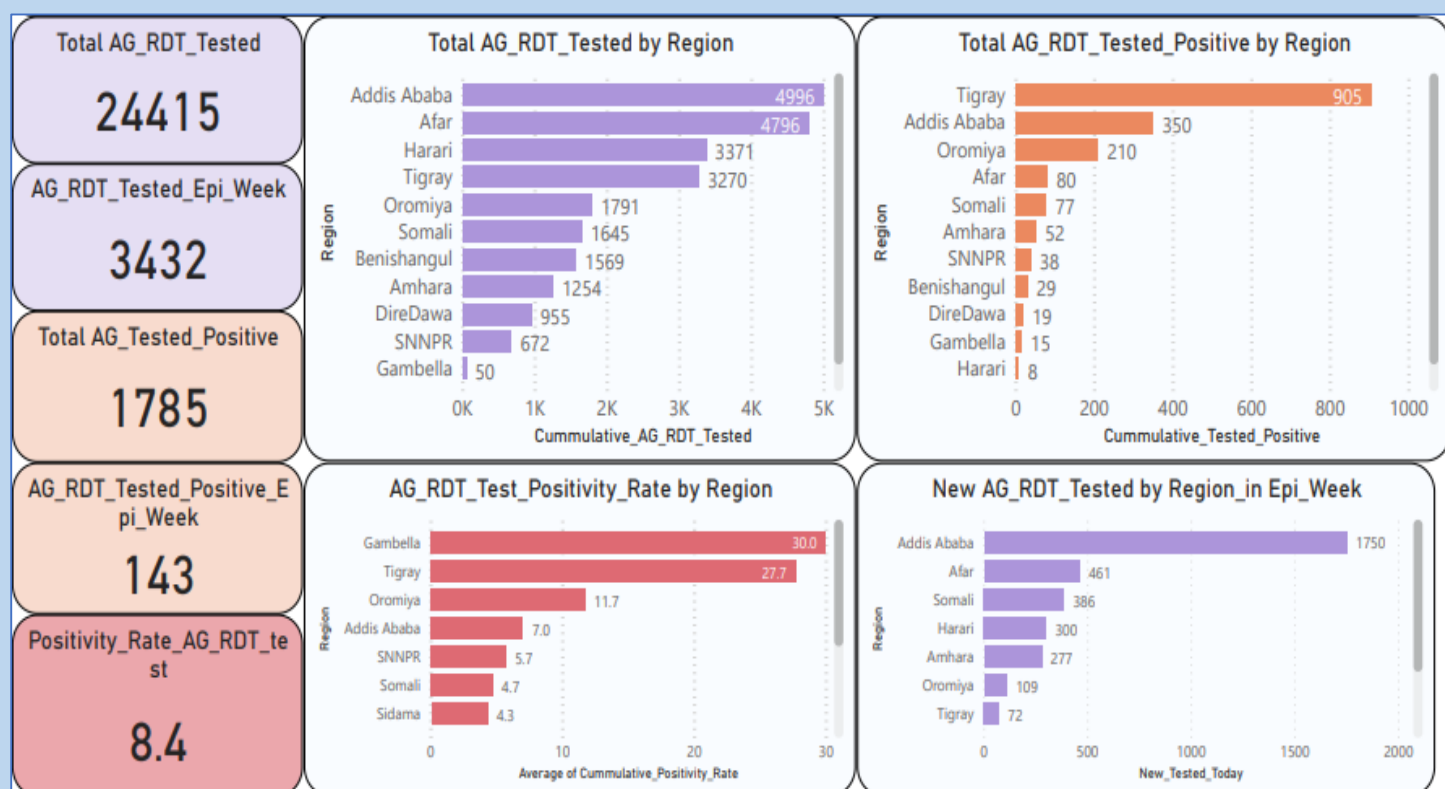
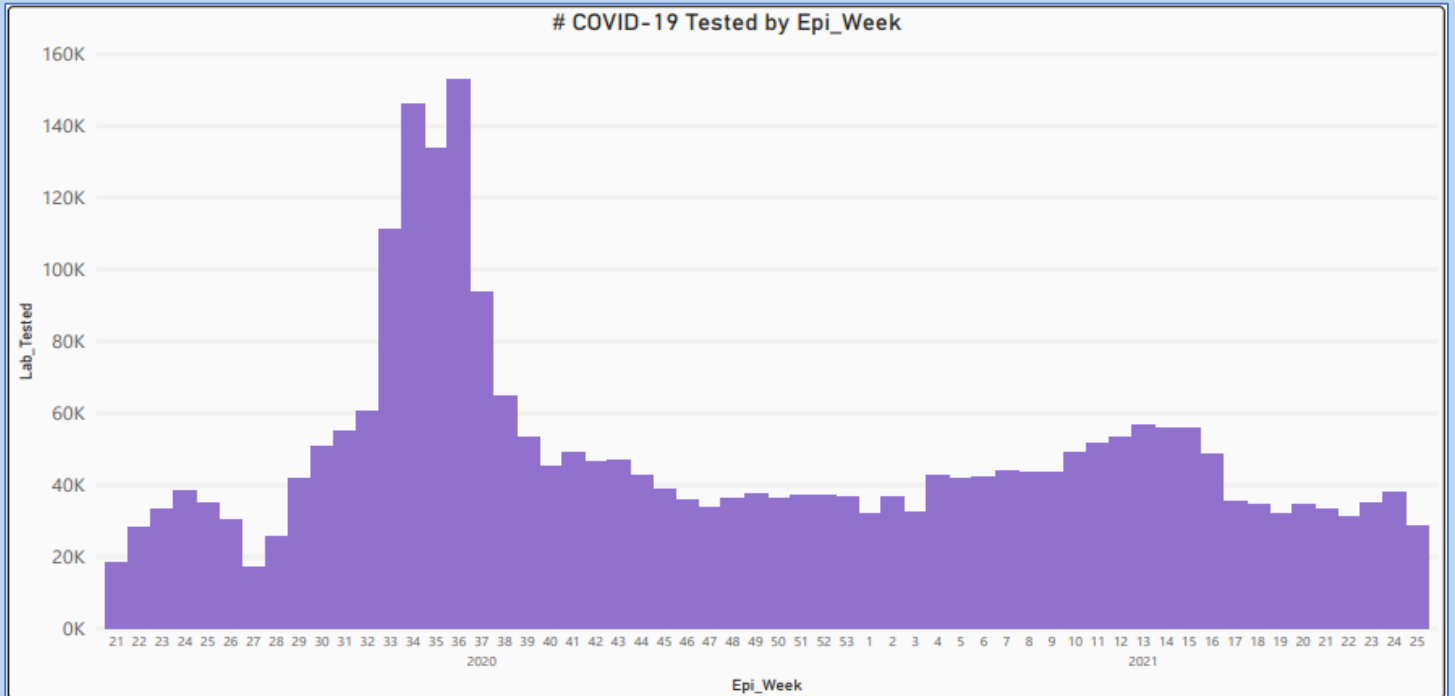
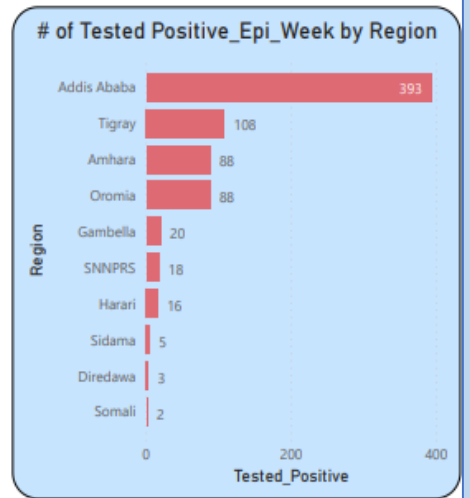
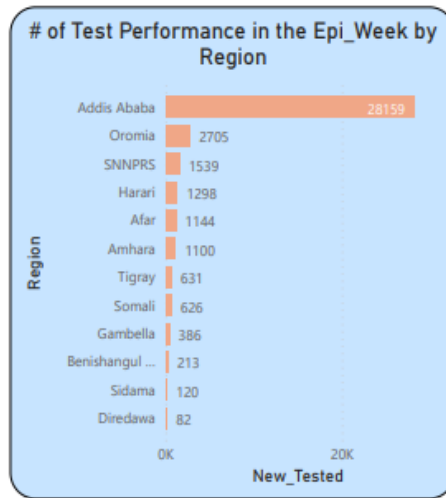
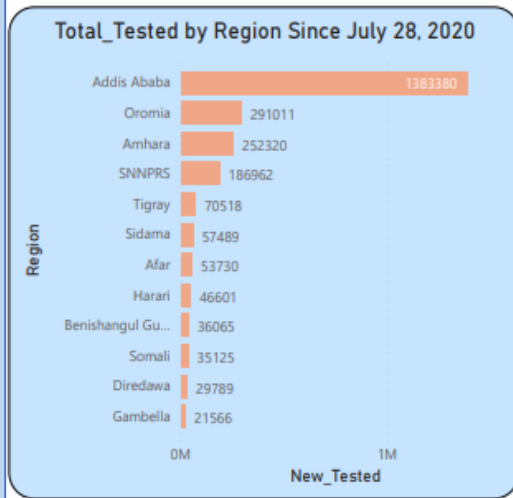
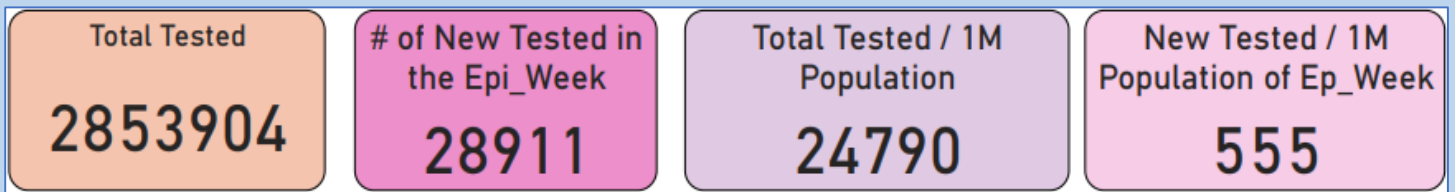


Fig. 11: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of June 27, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	21631	393	19	1.7
Oromia	1690	88	3	8.8
Harari	1203	16	2	1.2
Amhara	1185	88	2	8.2
SNNPRS	791	18	3	2.1
Somali	708	2	0	0.3
Afar	576	0	0	0.0
Tigray	477	108	2	14.3
Gambella	314	20	0	6.4
Diredawa	199	3	0	2.3
Sidama	115	5	0	2.9
Benishangul Gumuz	22	0	0	0.0
Total	28911	741	31	4.2

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

Fig. 12: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of March June 27, 2021, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 4,096 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-25, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 259,044 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 94%.
- The highest number of daily cases in severe condition reported in this week is 201.

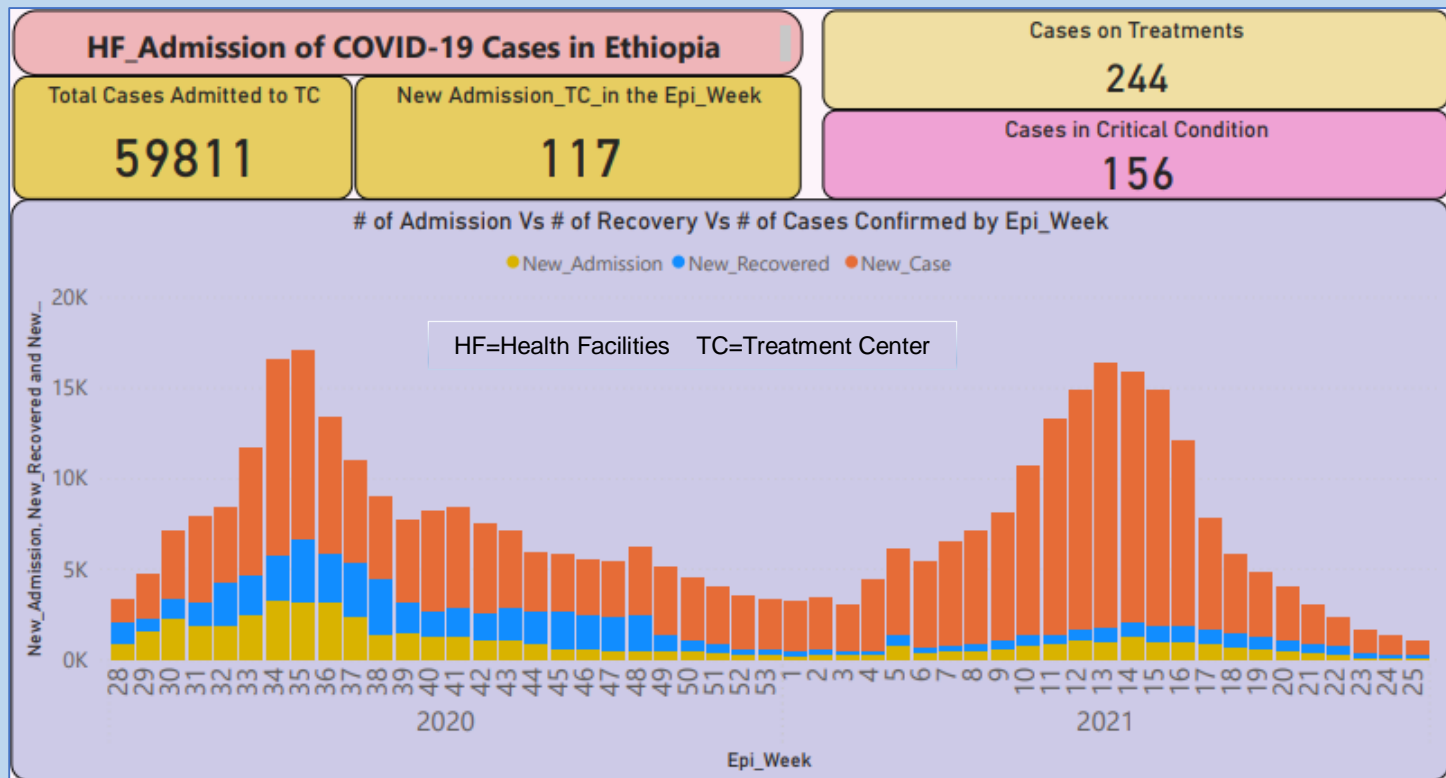


Fig. 13: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of June 27, 2021.

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 205,047 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 204,124 (99.55%) have recovered and 32 (0.016%) died.
- Of these, 448 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 3,937 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-25.
- As of June 27, 2021, there are 2,185 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,191 (one of them in the Epi-Week-25) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 897 (seven of them in the Epi-week-25) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

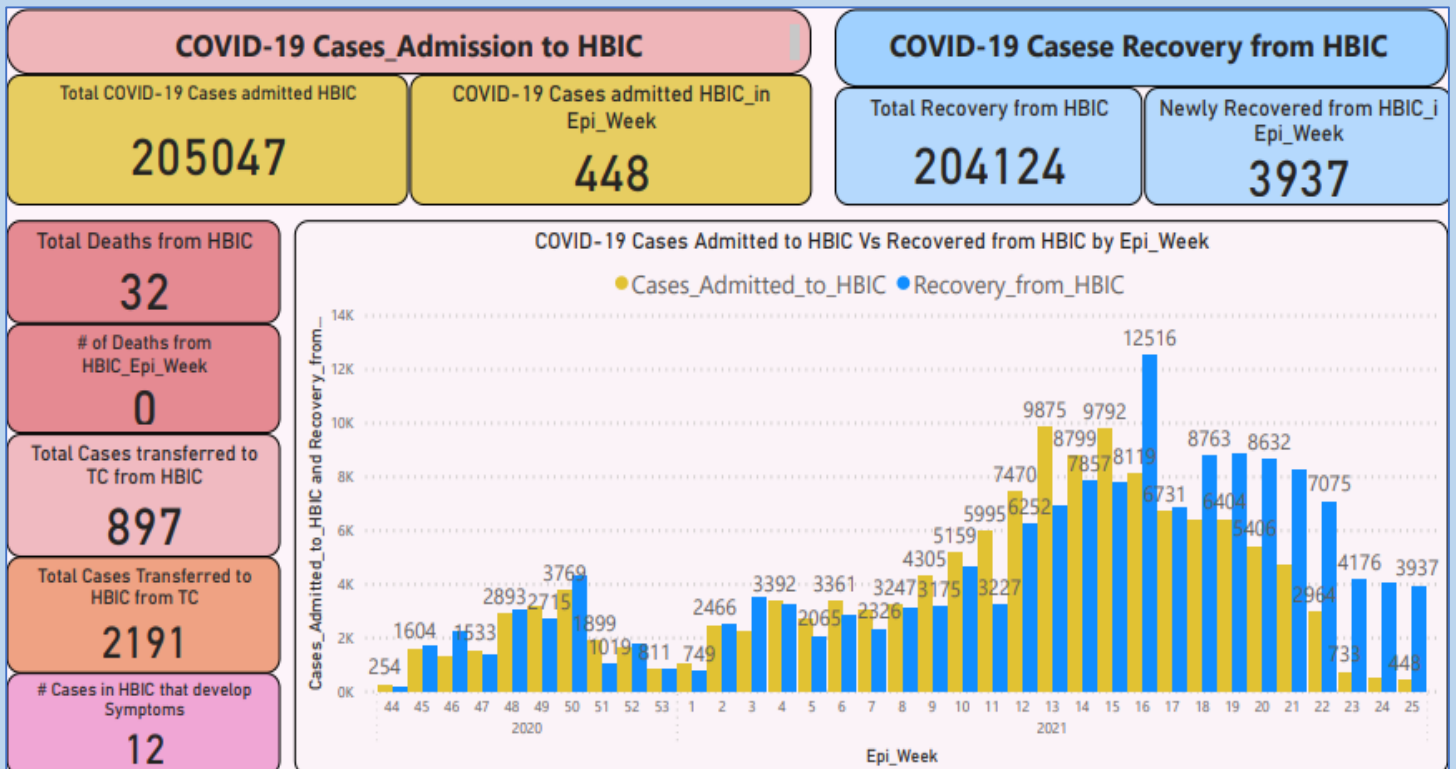


Fig. 14: Summary of COVID-19 Home Based Isolation and Care in Ethiopia, as of June 27, 2021.

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. 15: COVID-19 situation update as of June 27, 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 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 leadership virtual meeting under the leadership of H.E Minister of Health is ongoing
- 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.

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.
- Weak law enforcement efforts to enhance adherence to COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Lack of full information on circulating variant
- Low stock status of personal protective equipment and laboratory supplies.
- COVID-19 vaccine shortage due to global vaccine stock shortage
- 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.

X. COVID-19 related news

- Delta variant is 'most transmissible' identified so far. Covid-19 variant first detected in India is now spreading in at least 85 countries.: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/who-delta-variant-most-transmissible-identified-so-far-n1272413>

- Some fully vaccinated people may still get sick if exposed to variants, CDC warns. : <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/06/25/health/us-coronavirus-friday/index.html>
- Alarming' third wave hits Africa as vaccination slows.: <https://www.africanews.com/2021/06/24/alarmed-third-wave-hits-africa-as-vaccination-slows/>

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.ephi.gov.et/	8335/952	ephieoc@gmail.com
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	https://t.me/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	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

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://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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