



## NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 42 (October 18 – 24, 2021)

BULLETIN No. 78

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 45,768 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-42 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,650,175.
- A total of 3,088 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 141 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-42 bringing the total cases and death to 362,335 and 6,358 respectively.
- On October 24, 2021, there are 523 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (599).
- A total of 278,512 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 3,219 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-42.
- The number of confirmed cases, laboratory test and deaths due to COVID-19 has shown decrement in this week.
- China donated 800,000 Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ethiopia.



Figure 1: A handover ceremony for Chinese-donated COVID-19 vaccines is held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Oct. 24, 2021.

## II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 4,293,855 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm or Johnson and Johnson) are administered so far. Out of these, 286,212 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 2,136,118 (50%) people are fully vaccinated.

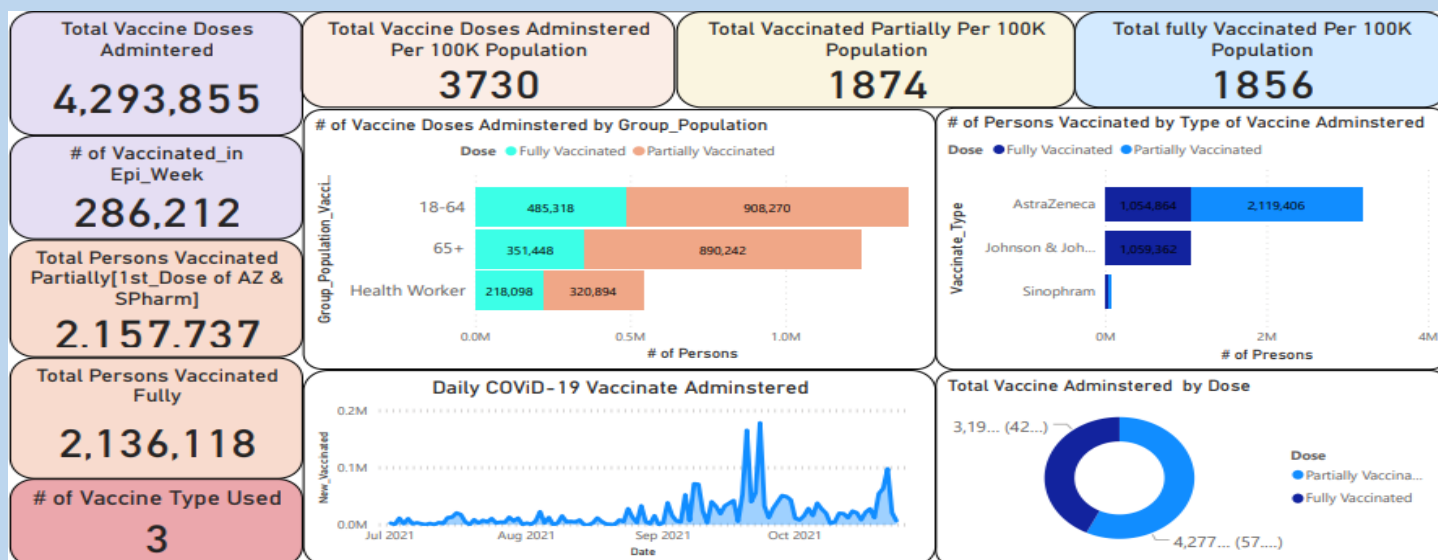


Figure 2: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of October 24, 2021

## III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

### a. Global Situation

- Globally, the numbers of weekly COVID-19 cases has increased and while the number of deaths has shown decline.
- Over 4.7 million new cases and over 72,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 18 – 24 October 2021. Cases in this week increased by 2% as compared to the previous week, while the number of deaths decreased by 4% compared to that of the past week.
- As of October 24, 2021, a total of 234,038 COVID-19 cases and 4,666,538 deaths (CFR=2.00%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 4,702,279 cases and 72,148 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-42.
- 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 the United States of America (670,931 new cases), India (548,494 new cases), the United Kingdom (351,336 new cases), Russian Federation (276,234 new cases) and Brazil (186,174 new cases).
- In Africa, as of October 24, 2021, a total of 8,361,716 cases and 211,754 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.53%). Of these, 101,410 cases (2% decrease compared to the previous week) and 3,019 deaths (an equivalent increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-42.
- 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.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

**234,038,410**

New Confirmed Cases\_of Epi\_Week Globally

**4,702,279**

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

**4,666,538**

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi\_Week

**72,148**

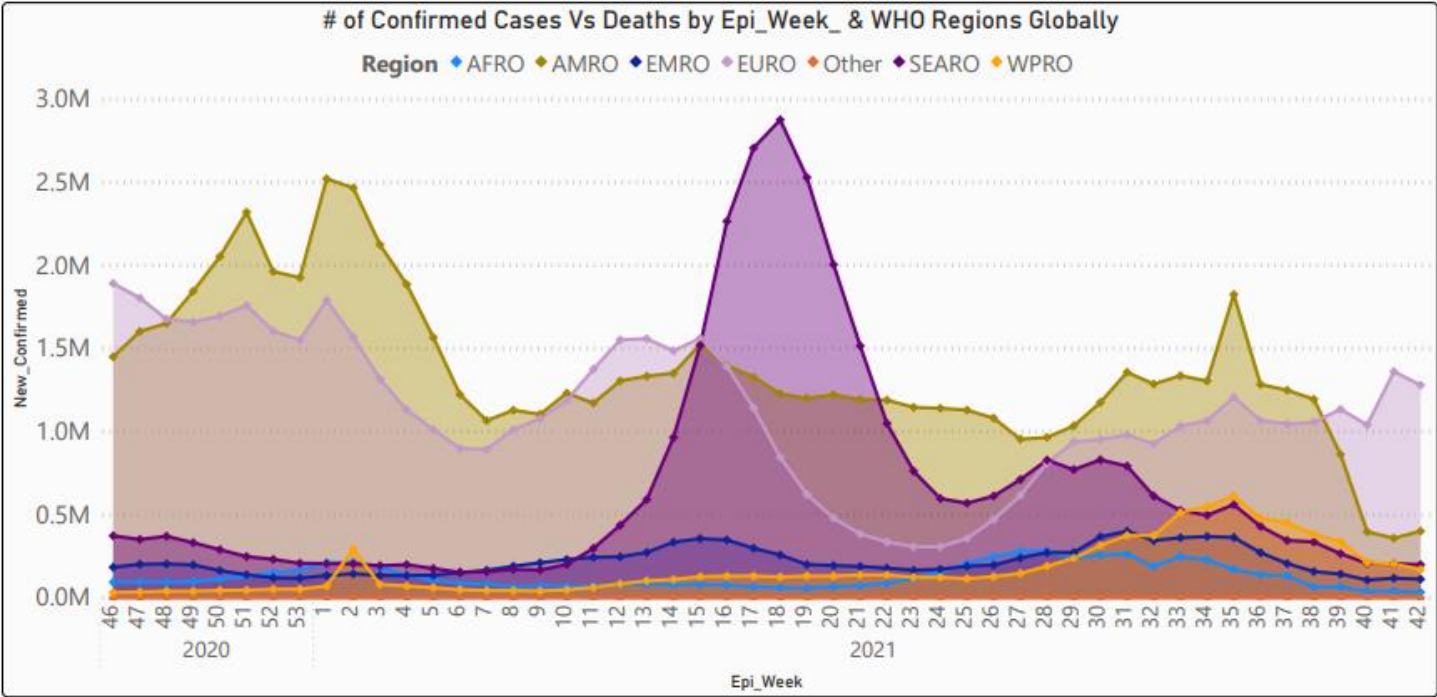
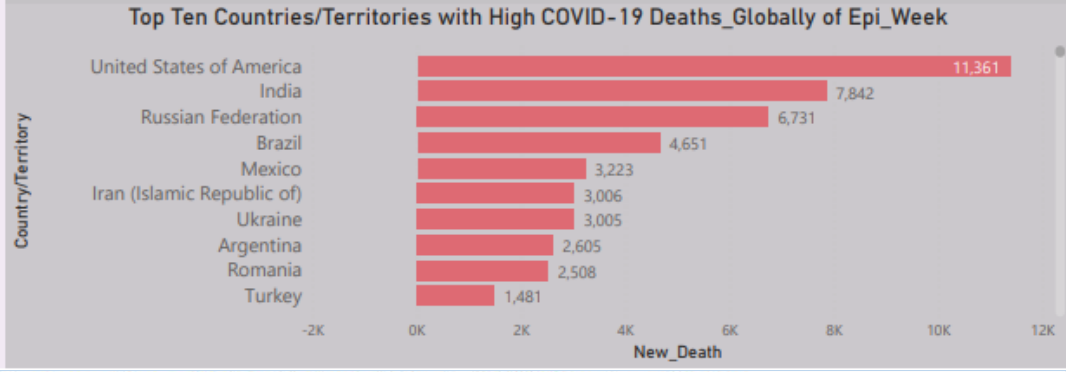
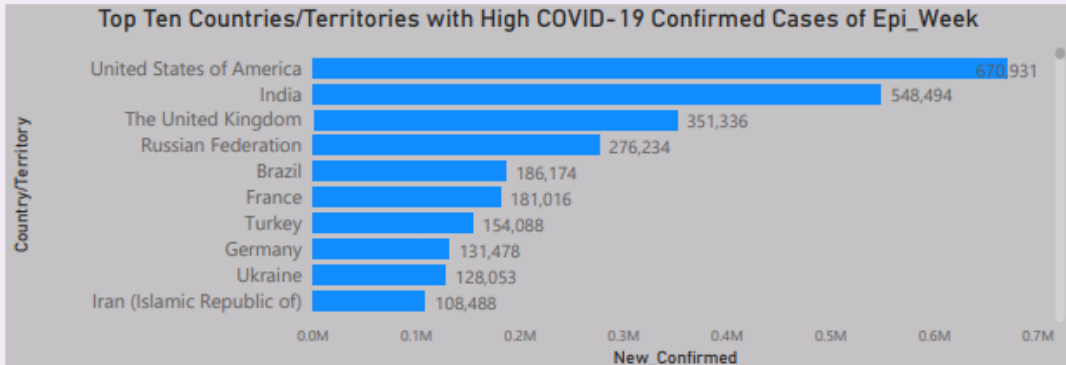


Figure 3: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of October 24, 2021 (Source: WHO)

Total Number of Cases Confirmed in Africa

**8,361,716**

New Confirmed Cases in Africa with COVID-19 of Epi\_Week

**101,410**

New Cases in Last 7Days Per 100K Popn. in Africa

**695**

Total Number of Deaths in Africa with COVID-19

**211,754**

New Deaths in Africa with COVID-19 in Epi\_Week

**3,019**

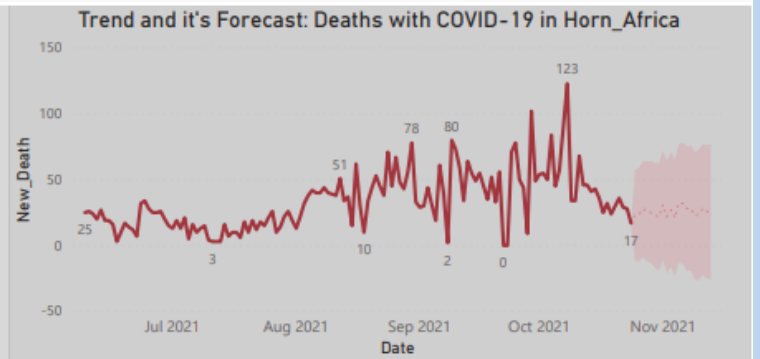
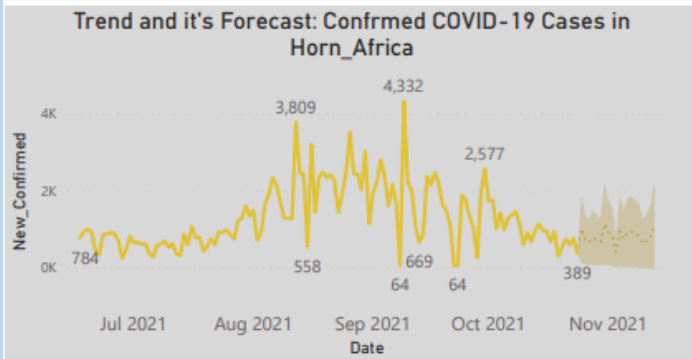
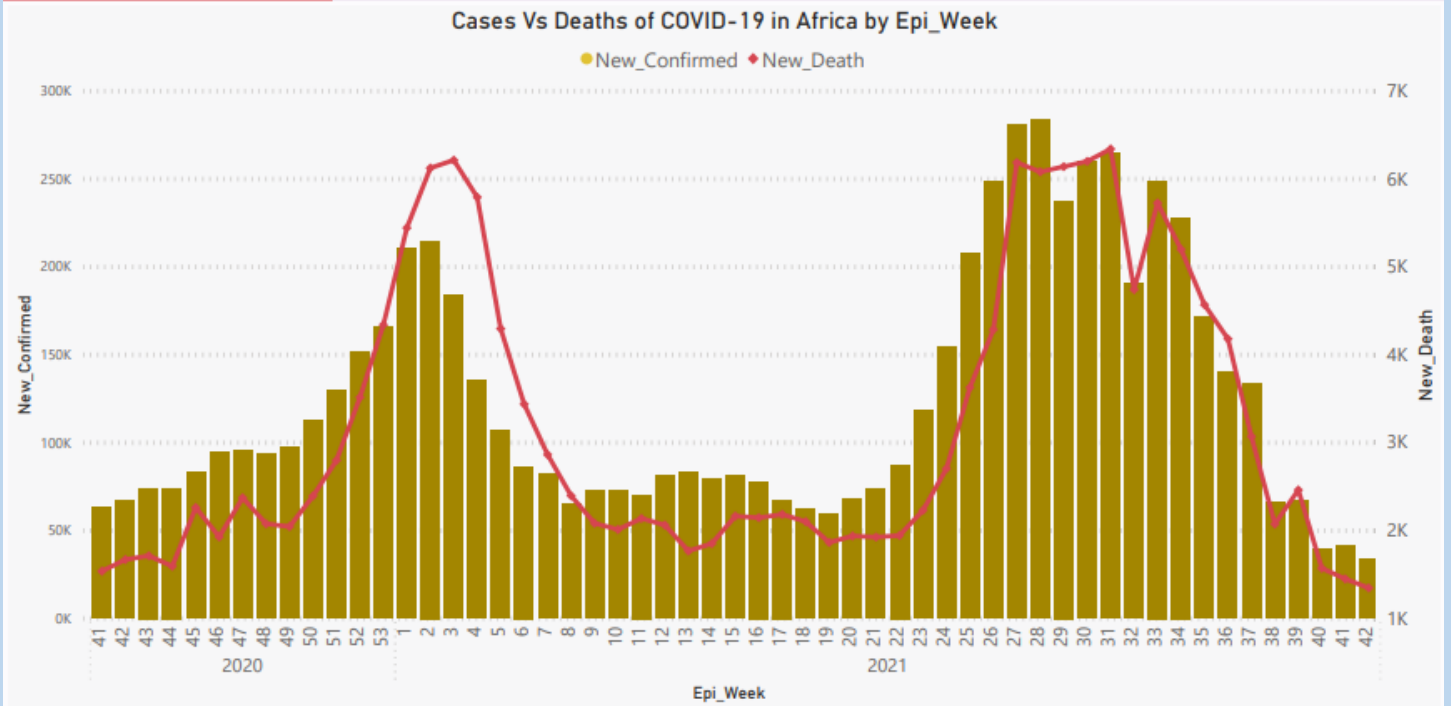
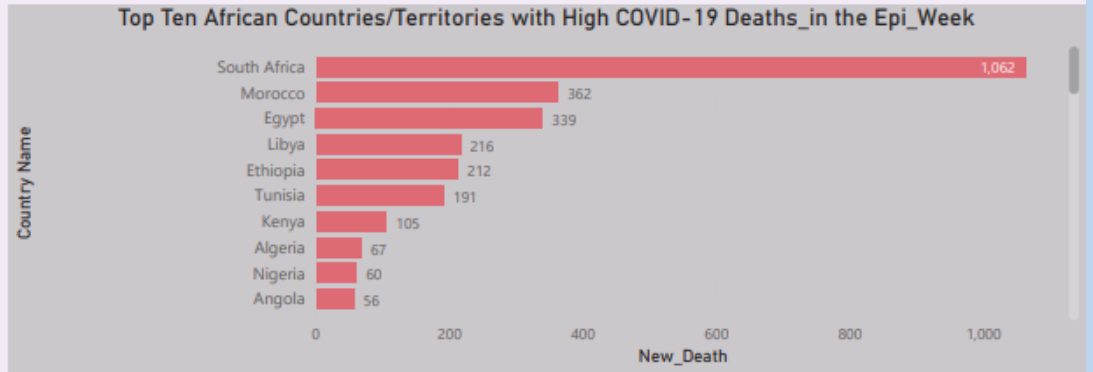
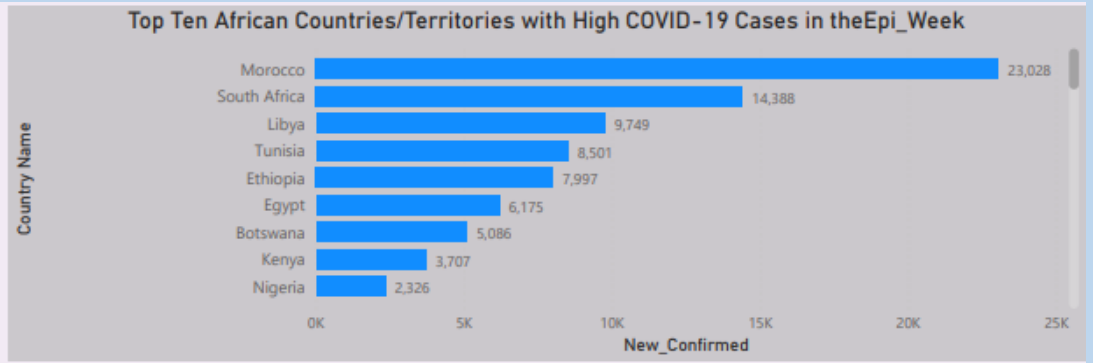


Figure 4: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of October 24, 2021 (Source: WHO)

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of October 24, 2021, a total of 362,335 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,358 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.75%. 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.
- Three-thousand-eighty-eight (3,088) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 141 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-42.
- There is decrease in the number of cases for the last five consecutive weeks and decrease in the number of deaths for the last three consecutive weeks. In this week, there is 35% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 38% decrease in the number of deaths due to COVID-19.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

*NB: Data from Tigray regional state is as of June 28, 2021.*

**Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the Epi-Week-42 of 2021**

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	30837	1613	175	73	5.1
Oromia	3370	341	127	24	10.1
SNNPR	2867	263	33	13	9.6
Dire Dawa	1940	270	16	8	15.1
Sidama	1746	151	13	4	8.4
Harari	1502	102	13	2	10.0
Benishangul G	1086	74	39	1	9.0
Amhara	859	147	57	12	16.9
Afar	815	11	0	0	1.3
Somali	575	107	22	4	17.7
Gambella	171	9	0	0	7.2
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>45768</b>	<b>3088</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>10.1</b>

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

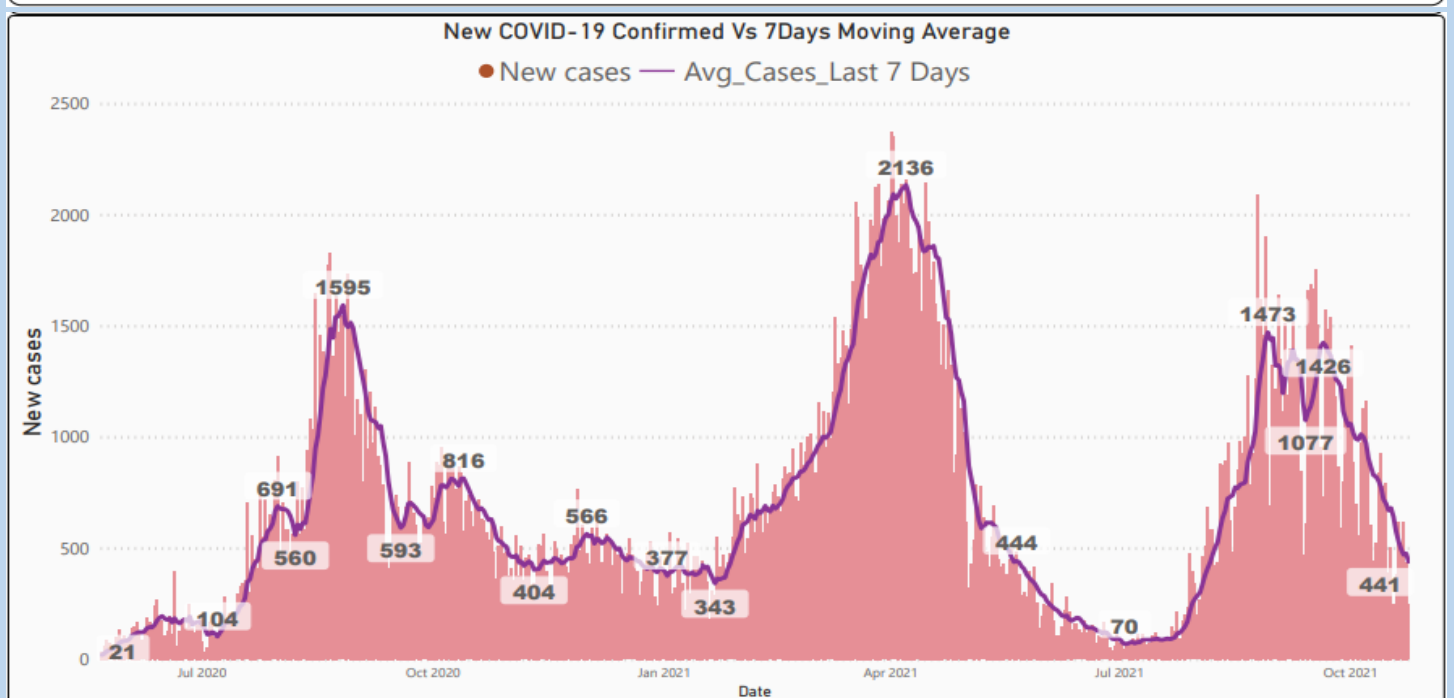
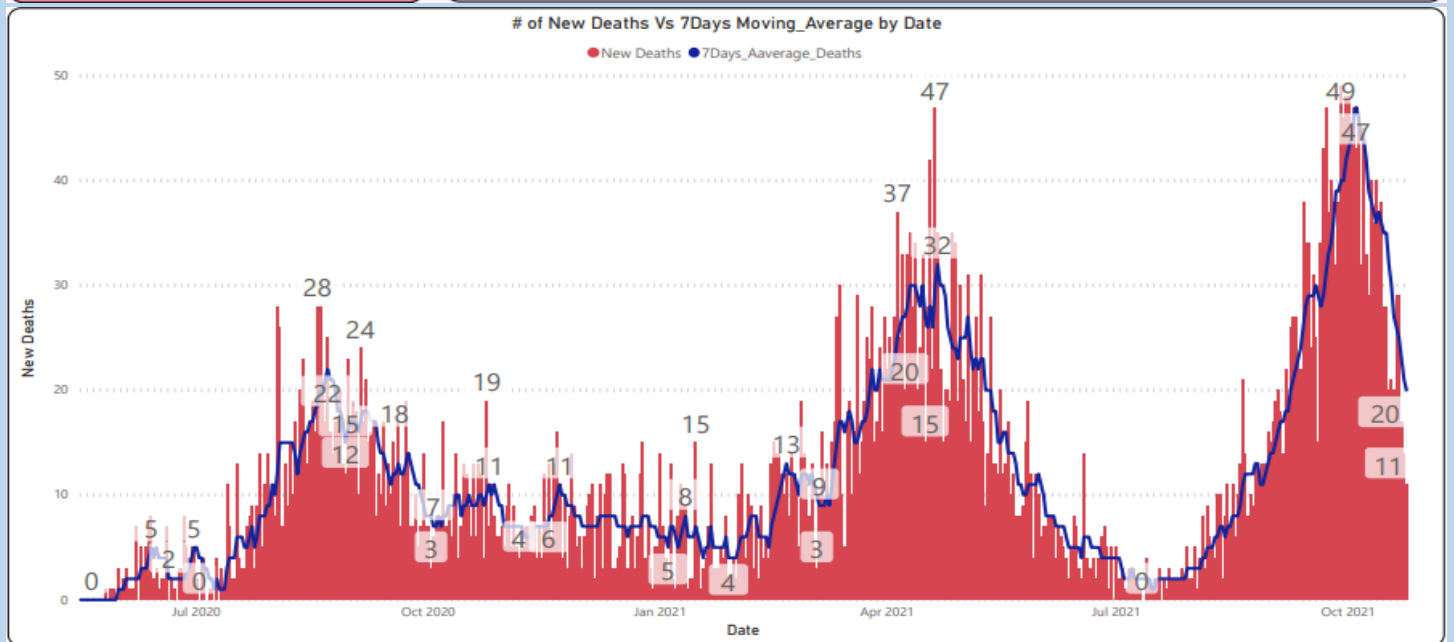
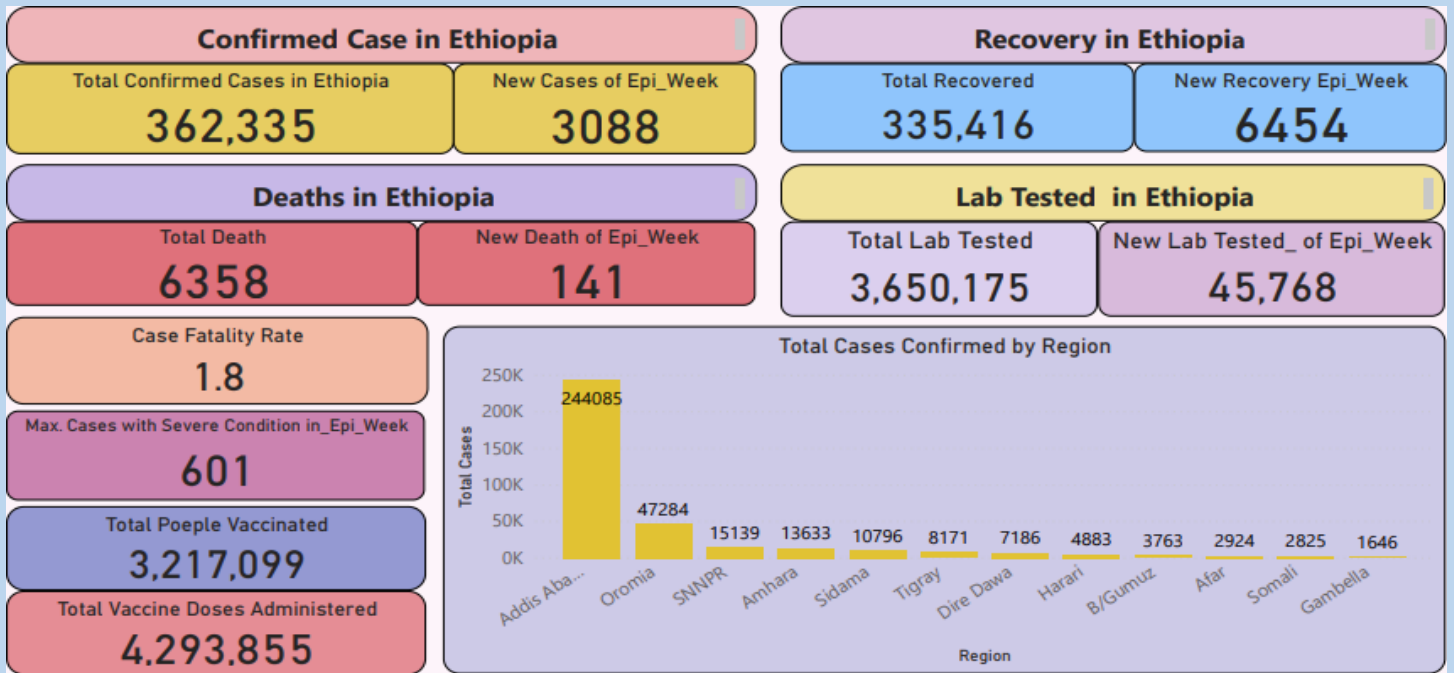


Figure 5: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of October 24, 2021, Ethiopia

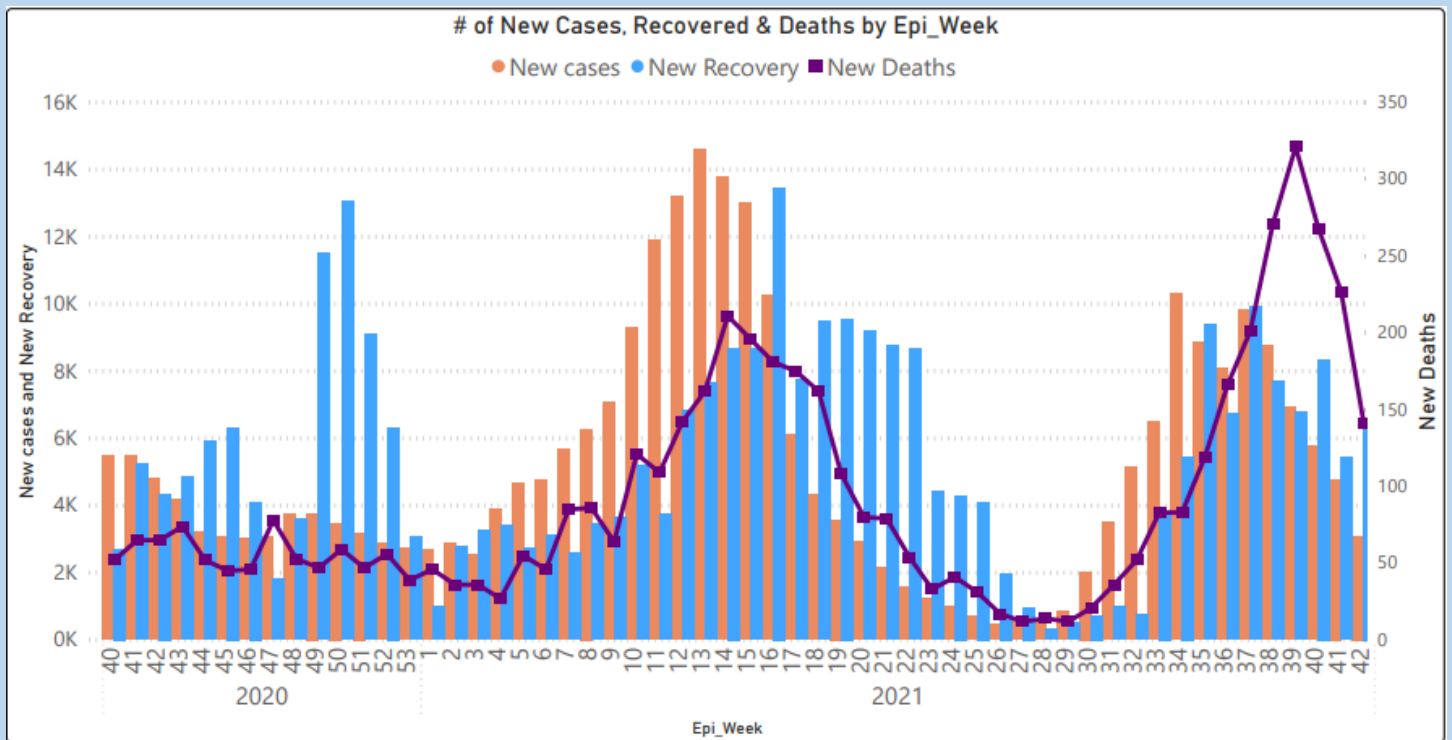


Figure 6: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of October 24, 2021, Ethiopia

### 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.

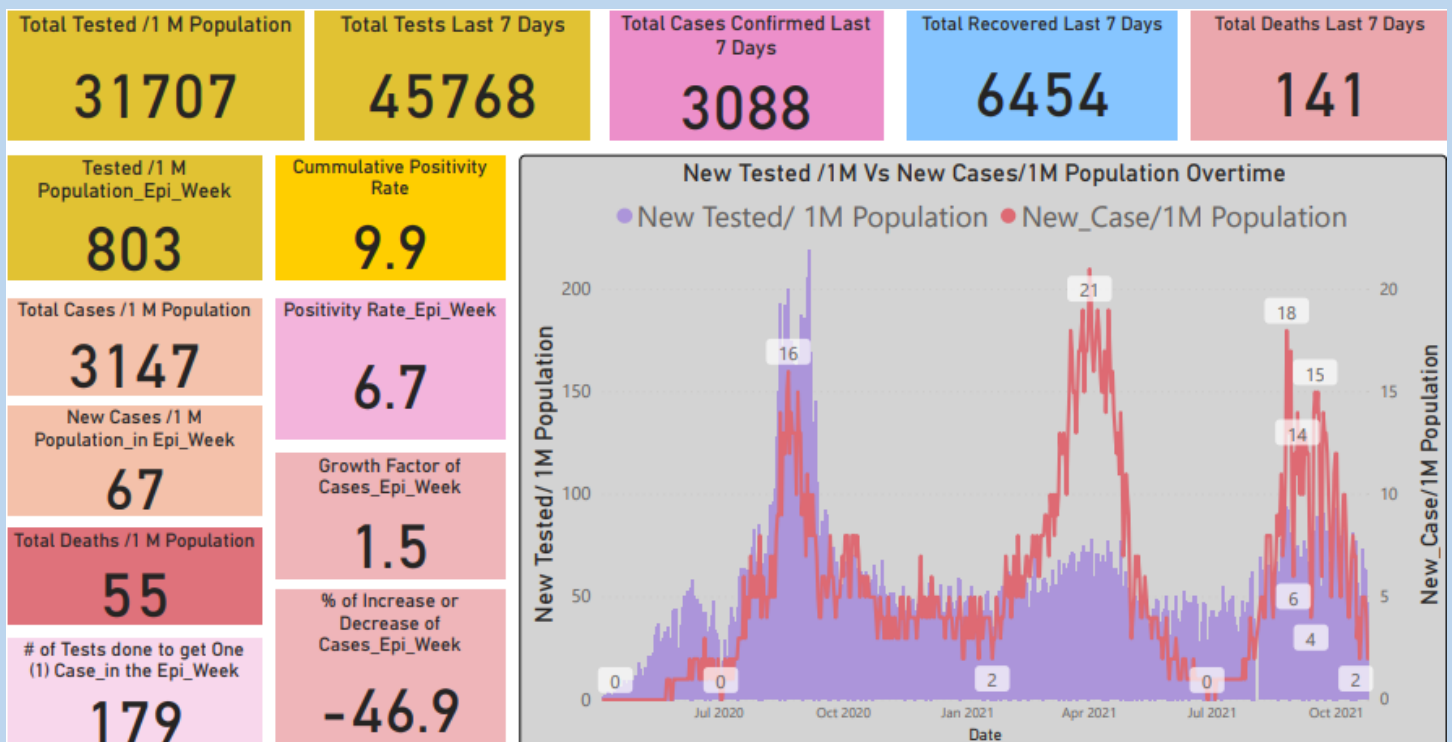


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of October 24, 2021.

#### **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 and thus should be enhanced.
- As of October 24, 2021:
  - A total of 429,636 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 982 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-42.
  - Of total contacts, 355,729 (82.79%) have completed follow-up, while 3,219 contacts are still on follow-up.
  - All the contacts traced are from Addis Ababa city administration and SNNP and Harari regional states; no contact tracing activity is reported from other regions.
- Overall, 45,231 (10.52%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 12.48% 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/unidentified contacts.



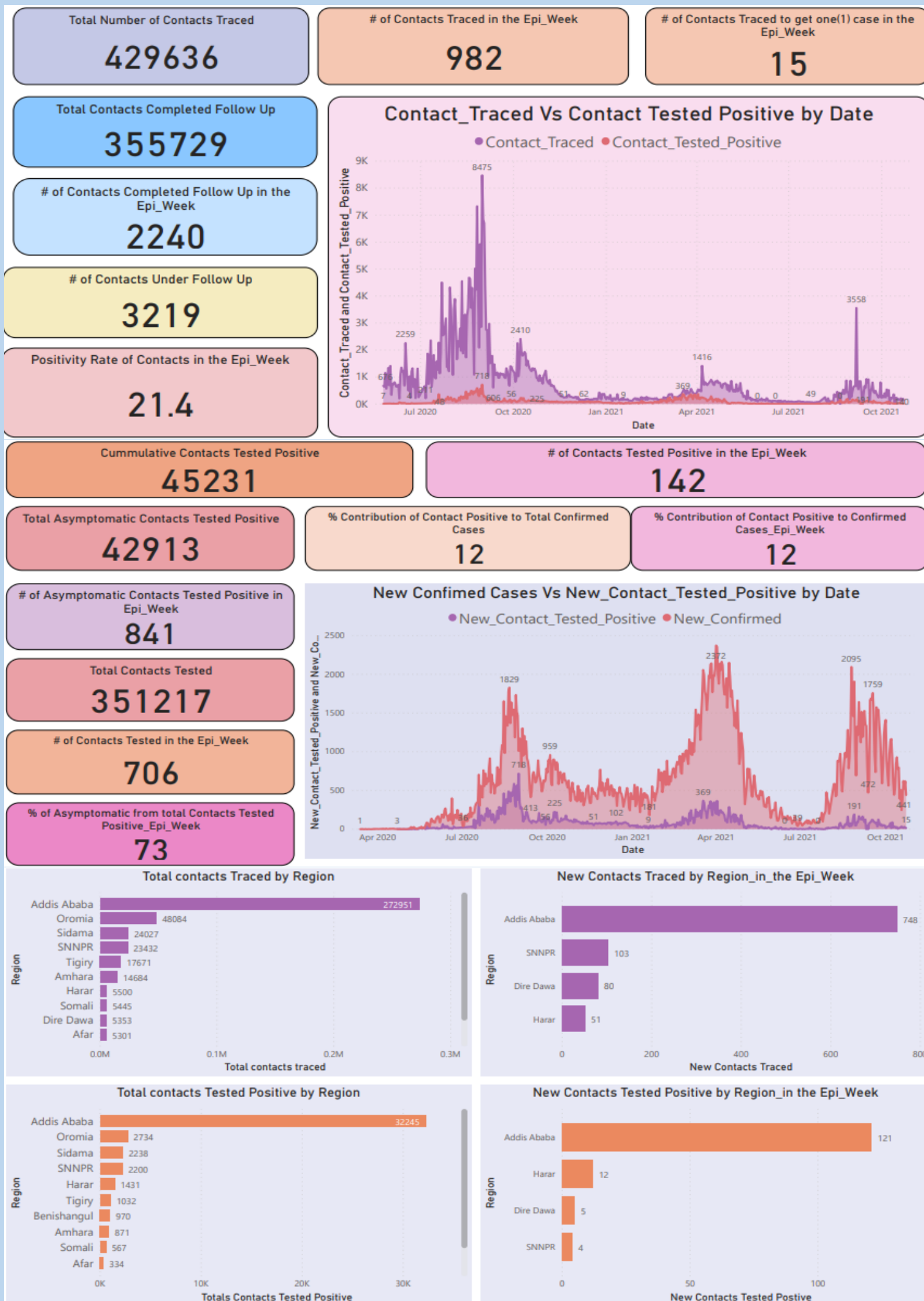


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of October 24, 2021, Ethiopia.

## 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 October 24, 2021:
  - 393,014 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, eleven rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-42.
  - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 13,289 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

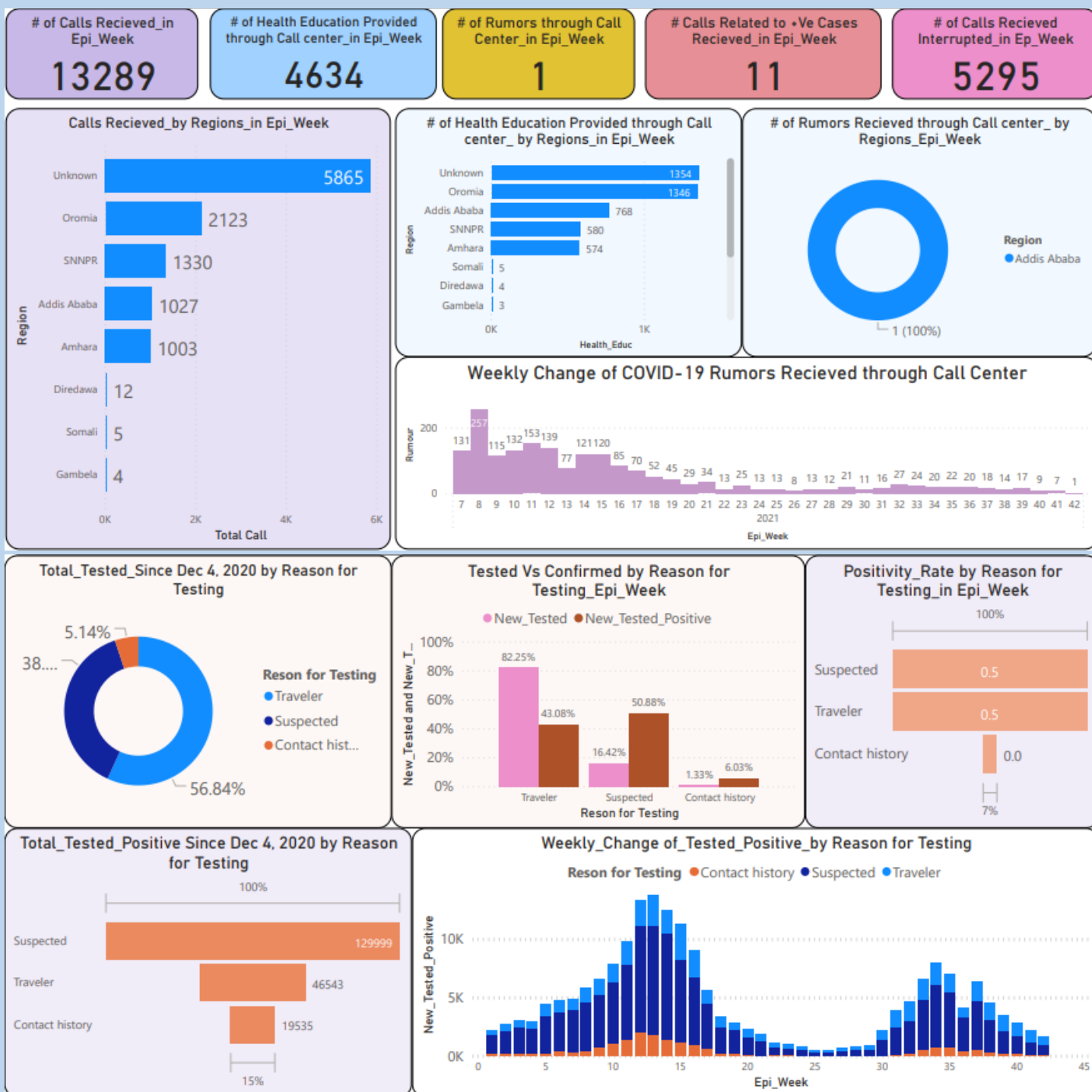


Figure 9: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as October 24, 2021, Ethiopia.

### iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,806,929 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 834,350 (30%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 22,159 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-42.
- As of October 24, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 60 (none in Epi-week-42) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 95 (none in week-42) SARS-COV-2 positive cases have been detected by RT-PCR after arrival laboratory test.
- Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT) for COVID-19 is also being done at Bole International Airport for returnees. So far, 9,280 tests (none in week-42) are conducted among which 97 positive cases (none in week-42) are detected as of October 24, 2021.
- A total of 69,331 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 1,291 returnees were received in the Epi-week-42. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 67,709 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,622 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of October 24, 2021.

## IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 24 October 2021, a total of 3,650,175 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 45,768 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-42 which is a 13% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-42 is 6.75%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (9.10%).
- Somali and Amhara regional states and Dire Dawa city administration have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 11 below). There is no report from Tigray regional state since June 29, 2021.
- Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 425,452 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 11,891 is performed in the Epi-week-42 (figure 10 below).

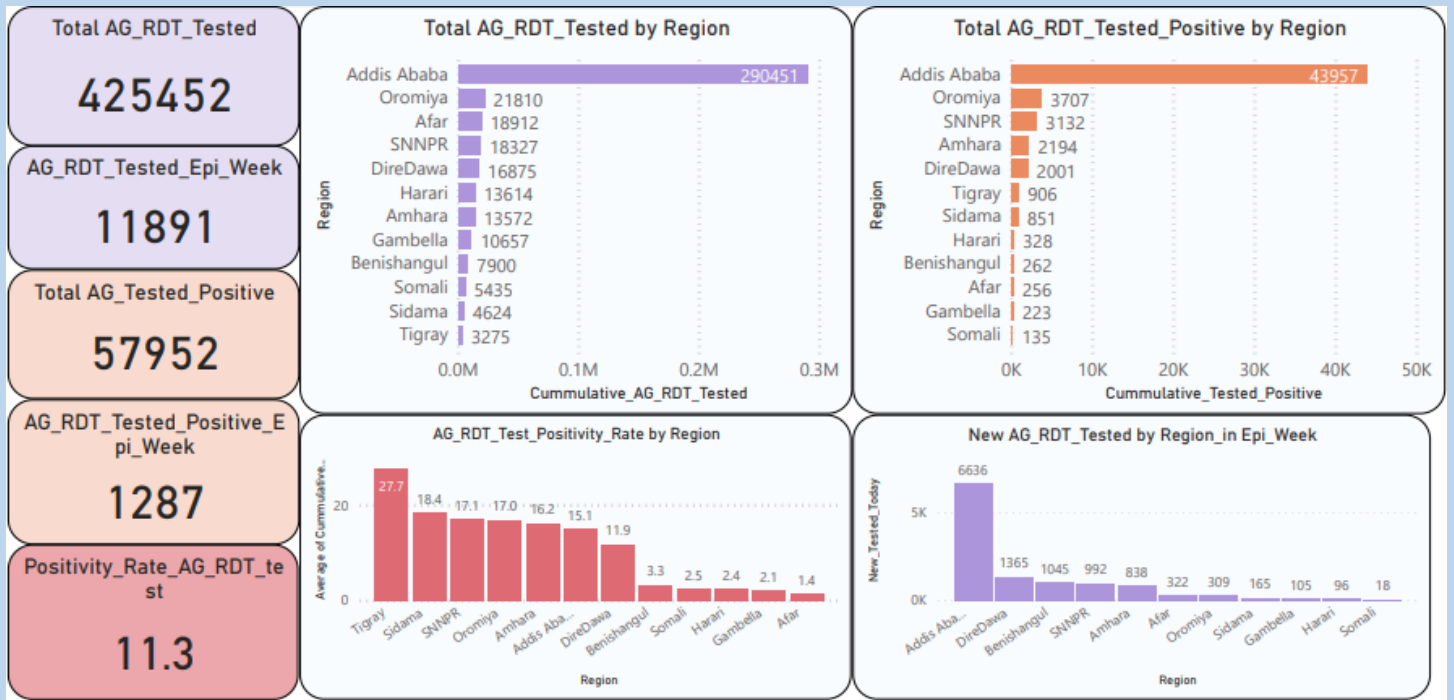


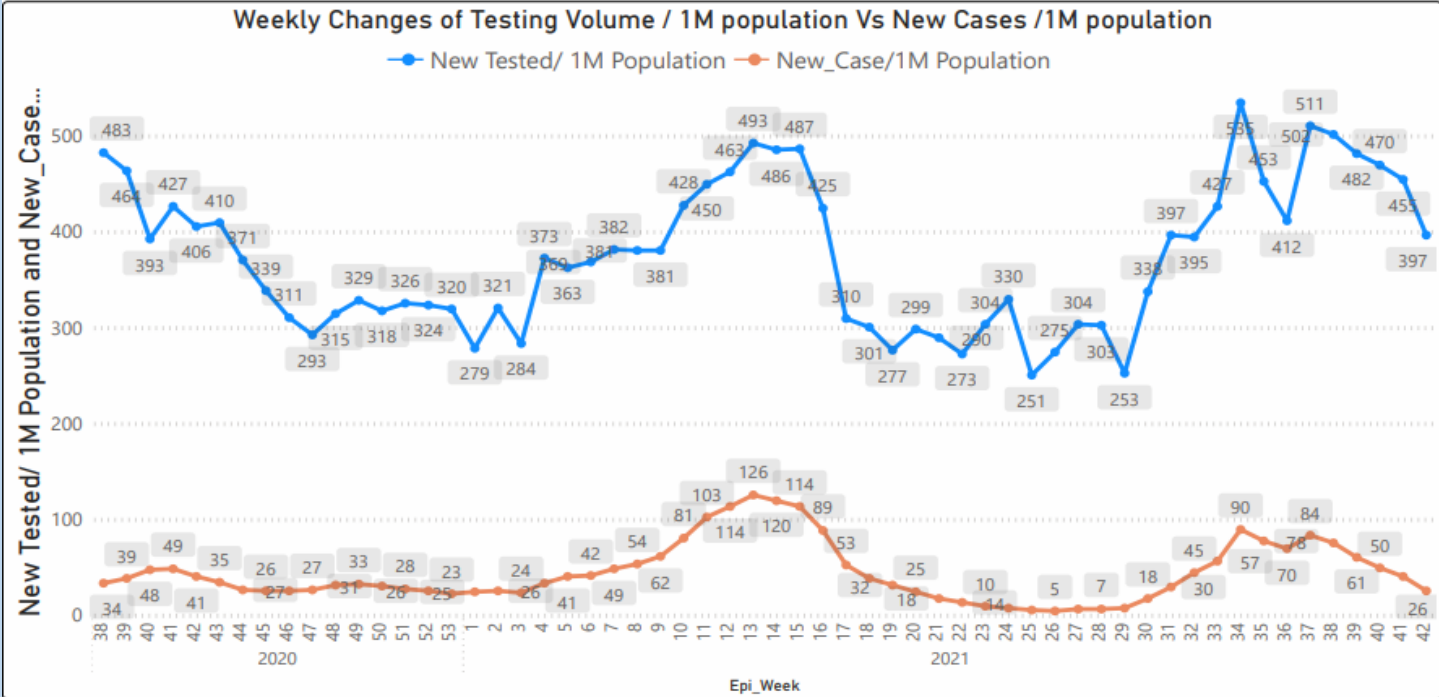
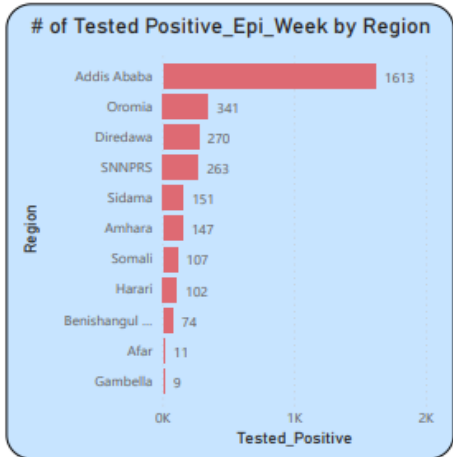
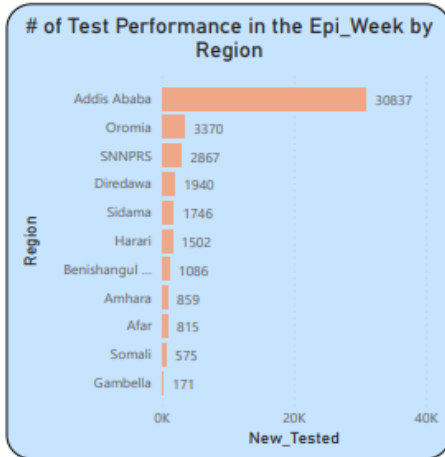
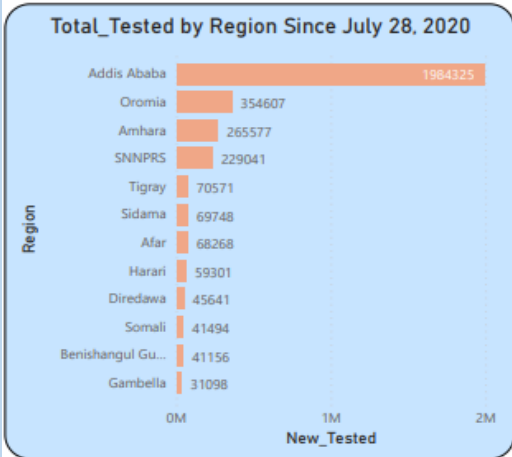
Figure 10: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of October 24, 2021

**Total Tested**  
**3650175**

**# of New Tested in the Epi\_Week**  
**45768**

**Total Tested / 1M Population**  
**31707**

**New Tested / 1M Population of Ep\_Week**  
**803**



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	30837	1613	73	5.1
Oromia	3370	341	24	9.9
SNNPRS	2867	263	10	9.6
Diredawa	1940	270	8	15.0
Sidama	1746	151	4	8.4
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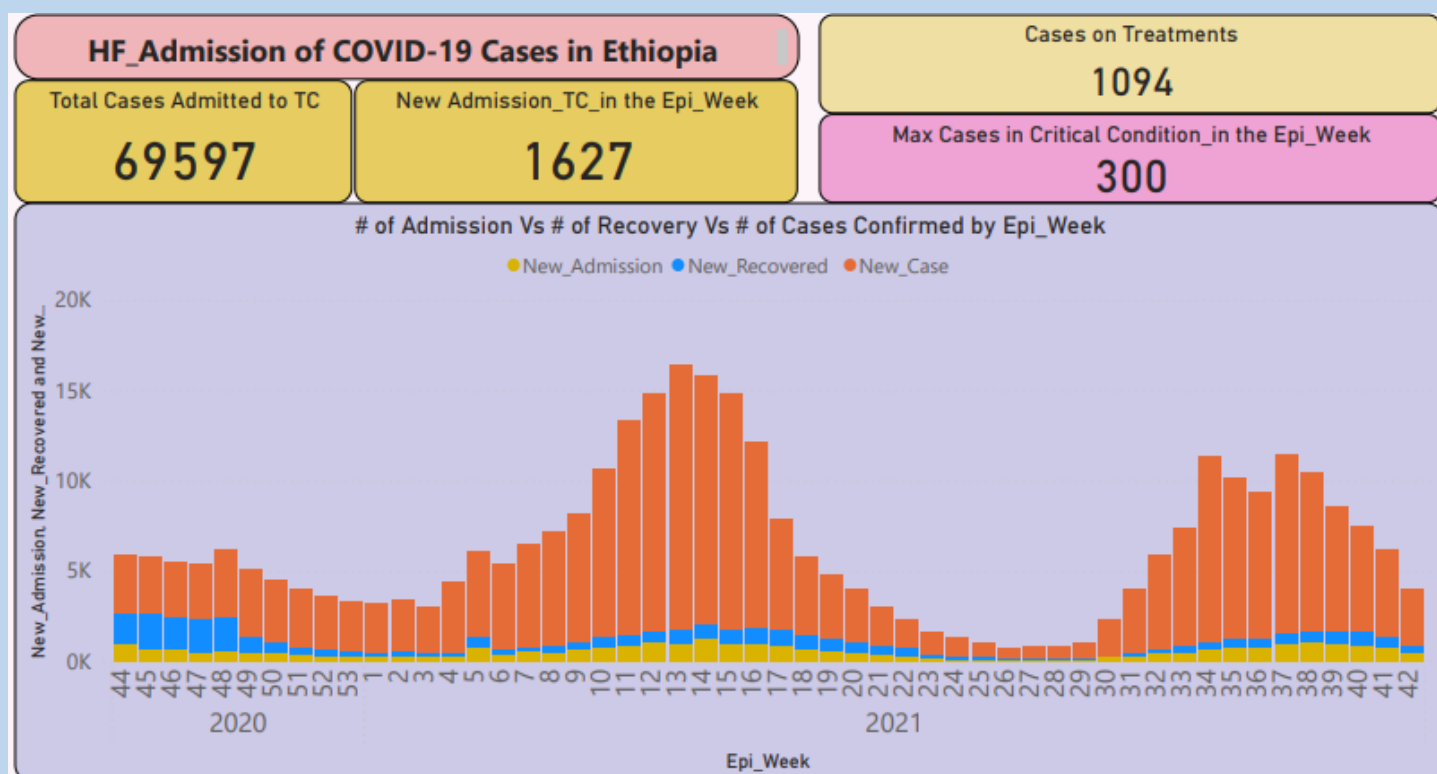
\*\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distrn of Rates

**Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of October 24, 2021, Ethiopia.**

## V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 6,454 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-42, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 335,416 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 93%.
- On October 24, 2021, there are 523 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (599).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 12: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of October 24, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of October 24, 2021

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	244085	153	35558	14	3550	30187	376	256
Oromia	47284	24	8948	10	857	7699	397	134
SNNPR	15139	11	5092	2	234	4828	67	10
Amhara	13633	4	5081	5	372	4639	67	46
Sidama	10796	14	3667	0	209	3356	38	18
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Dire Dawa	7186	31	1357	3	104	1225	28	16
Harari	4883	3	1349	3	165	1167	13	11
Benishangul G	3763	6	983	1	25	900	60	1
Afar	2924	0	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2825	1	764	0	86	627	48	31
Gambella	1646	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

## b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 278,512 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 273,927 (98.35%) have recovered and 41 (0.015%) died.
- Of these, 3,219 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 5,998 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-42.
- As of October 24, 2021, there are 7,723 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,493 (four in the Epi-week-42) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,214 (eight in the Epi-week-42) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

## 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.



Figure 13: COVID-19 situation update as of October 24, 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 virtual meeting of Joint Steering Committee encompassing MOH, Agencies and RHB top leadership under the leadership of H.E Minister of Health is ongoing once in two weeks.
- The Chinese government donated 800,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Ethiopia. China donated 800,000 doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to Ethiopia. Speaking at the handover ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia Zhao Zeyohan said China has been donating COVID-19 vaccines to various

countries including Ethiopia, as of September 2020. And added that today's donation was in line with Chinese President Xi Jinping's pledge to support developing countries with COVID vaccines. He said the Chinese government is working to make more than two billion doses of the vaccine available worldwide, adding that 100 million doses will be distributed to developing countries. During the handover, the Minister of Health HE. Dr. Lia Tadesse said the COVID-19 vaccine has been received from various international organizations and governments so far and the Chinese government had previously provided more than 1 million doses of the vaccine. HE. Dr. Lia added that today's donation is 800,000 doses of Sino Pharm vaccine which is part of the Chinese government's pledge to provide additional 2 million doses of the vaccine to our country and expressed her gratitude to the Chinese government and people and informed citizens of Ethiopia to get the vaccine at government health centers in their area.



**Figure 14: A handover ceremony for Chinese-donated COVID-19 vaccines is held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Oct. 24, 2021.**

## **VIII. Challenges and Way Forward**

### **a. Challenges**

- 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.
- Weak law enforcement efforts to enhance adherence to COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- COVID-19 vaccine related misinformation and hesitancy.
- 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.
- Intensifying risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Strengthening collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- 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.
- Intensification of a capacity building trainings and orientation including through virtual/online platforms.
- Enhancing performance and follow up on Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits from regional COVID-19 testing sites.

## IX. Public Health Policy Recommendation

### Advice for the Public:

- COVID-19 vaccines should be provided to the public only at public health facilities and free of charge. According to the program developed by the Ministry of Health, COVID-19 vaccines are still being given to priority groups at public health institutions at all levels.
- 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	<a href="https://www.eph.gov.et/">https://www.eph.gov.et/</a>	8335/952	<a href="mailto:ephieoc@gmail.com">ephieoc@gmail.com</a>
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	<a href="https://covid19.eph.gov.et/">https://covid19.eph.gov.et/</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ephipa/ge/">https://www.facebook.com/ephipa/ge/</a>		

Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	<a href="https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia">https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	<a href="https://t.me/EthPHI">https://t.me/EthPHI</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute YouTube Channel	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw</a>		
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Website	<a href="http://www.moh.gov.et">www.moh.gov.et</a>	952	
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/">https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/</a>		
Afar Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/">https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/</a>	6220	<a href="mailto:afarpheoc@gmail.com">afarpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Amhara Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/">https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/</a>	6981	<a href="mailto:aphieoc@gmail.com">aphieoc@gmail.com</a>
Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/">https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/</a>	6016	<a href="mailto:bgpheoc@gmail.com">bgpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau">https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau</a>	6184	<a href="mailto:gambellapheoc@gmail.com">gambellapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Harari Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/">https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/</a>	6864	<a href="mailto:hrrbpheoc@gmail.com">hrrbpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/">https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/</a>	6955	<a href="mailto:oromiapheoc@gmail.com">oromiapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Somali Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/">https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...</a>	6599	<a href="mailto:somalipheoc@gmail.com">somalipheoc@gmail.com</a>
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs">https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs</a>	6929	<a href="mailto:snnppheoc@gmail.com">snnppheoc@gmail.com</a>
Tigray Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/">https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/</a>	6244	<a href="mailto:tigraypheoc@gmail.com">tigraypheoc@gmail.com</a>
Sidama PHEM			<a href="mailto:sidamapheoc@gmail.com">sidamapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/">https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/</a>	6407	<a href="mailto:ddpheoc@gmail.com">ddpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/aaahb.gov.et/">https://www.facebook.com/aaahb.gov.et/</a>	6406	<a href="mailto:aapheoc@gmail.com">aapheoc@gmail.com</a>

### COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:

Source	Link
WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) dashboard	<a href="https://covid19.who.int/">https://covid19.who.int/</a>
Africa CDC Dashboard, COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard	<a href="https://au.int/en/covid19">https://au.int/en/covid19</a>
WHO COVID-19 daily situation reports	<a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports</a>
WHO Academy mobile learning app for health workers, COVID-19 information	Android- <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA</a> Apple- <a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873</a>

**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.

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All interested health and other professionals can get this bulletin at the Institute website; [www.ephi.gov.et](http://www.ephi.gov.et)

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