



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 52 (December 27, 2021 – January 02, 2022)

BULLETIN No. 88

I. Highlights

- The number of COVID-19 confirmed cases have surpassed 400 thousand and deaths due to COVID-19 has reached around 7,000 in Ethiopia.
- A total of 79,039 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-52 bringing the total number of samples tested to 4,131,607.
- A total of 27,960 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 60 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-52 bringing the total cases and death to 426,656 and 6,958 respectively.
- On January 02, 2022, there are 375 cases in severe condition which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (305).
- A total of 294,971 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 14,885 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-52.
- Risk communication and awareness creation activities are ongoing regarding the alarming increment of COVID-19 cases and rampant spread of flu like symptoms among the public in Ethiopia.



Figure 1: Dr. Mikiyas Teferi, COVID-19 response Deputy Incident Manager, on Walta TV Ihud Sebez program being interviewed regarding COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia, January 02, 2022

II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 10,936,490 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 83,706 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 4,009,118 (37%) people are fully vaccinated.

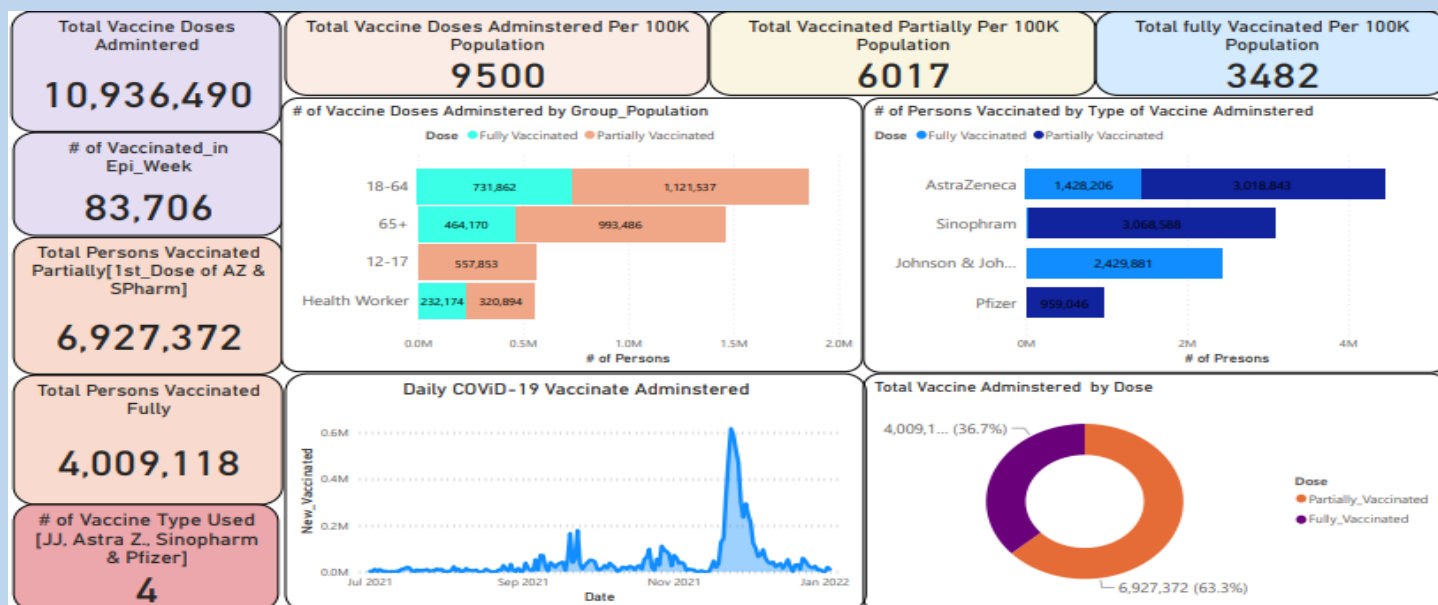


Figure 2: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of January 02, 2022

III. Epidemiological Situation

a. Global Situation

- Globally, the number of weekly COVID-19 cases have increased while the number of deaths due to COVID-19 have decreased.
- Over 13 million new cases and over 114,000 new deaths were reported during the week of December 27, 2021 – January 02, 2022. The number of confirmed cases in this week increased by 43% as compared to the previous week while the number of deaths decreased by 8% compared to the previous week.
- As of January 02, 2022, a total of 275,822,131 COVID-19 cases and 5,135,315 deaths (CFR=1.86%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 13,234,362 cases and 114,119 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-52.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (3,902,045 new cases), The United Kingdom (1,218,633 new cases), France (1,182,255 new cases), Italy (745,184 new cases) and Spain (595,726 new cases).
- In Africa, as of January 02, 2022, a total of 9,686,500 cases and 222,926 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.30%). Of these, 472,188 cases (14% increase compared to the previous week) and 5,047 deaths (22% increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-52.
- In Africa, the highest number of confirmed cases are reported from South Africa followed by Morocco.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

275,822,131

New Confirmed Cases_of Epi_Week Globally

13,234,362

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

5,135,315

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi_Week

114,119

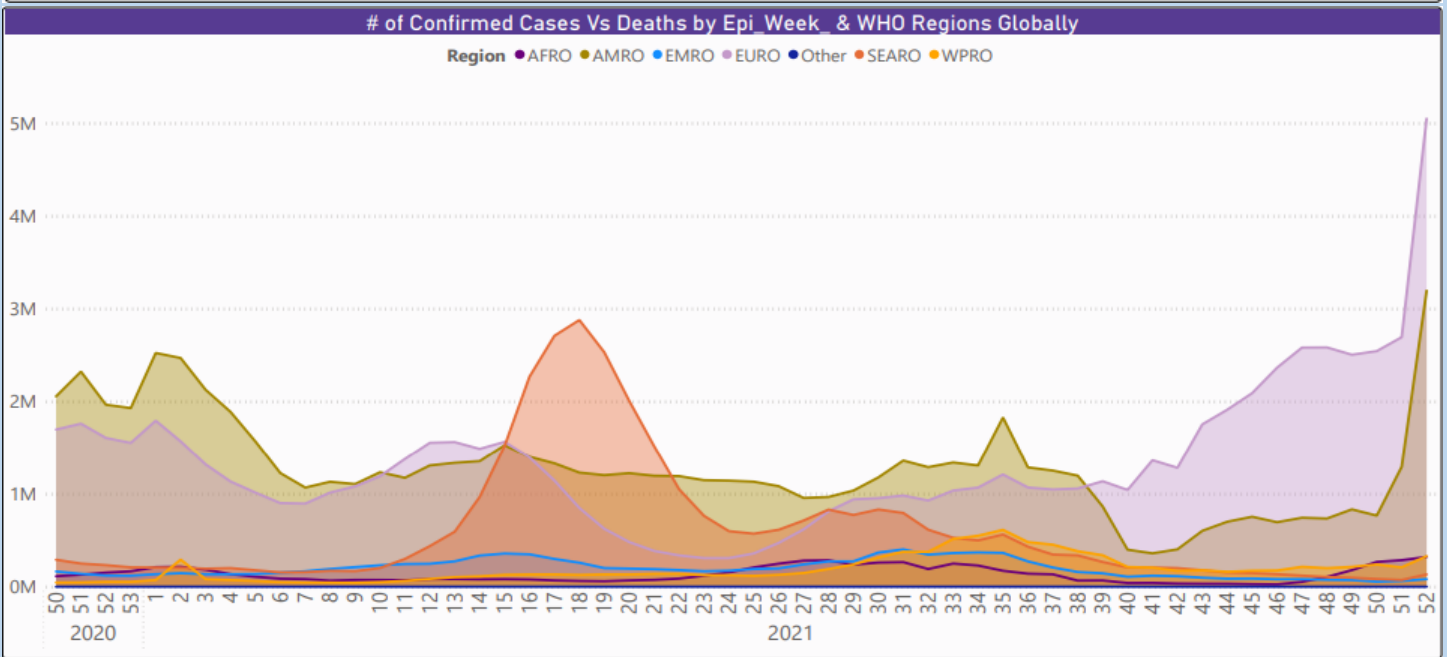
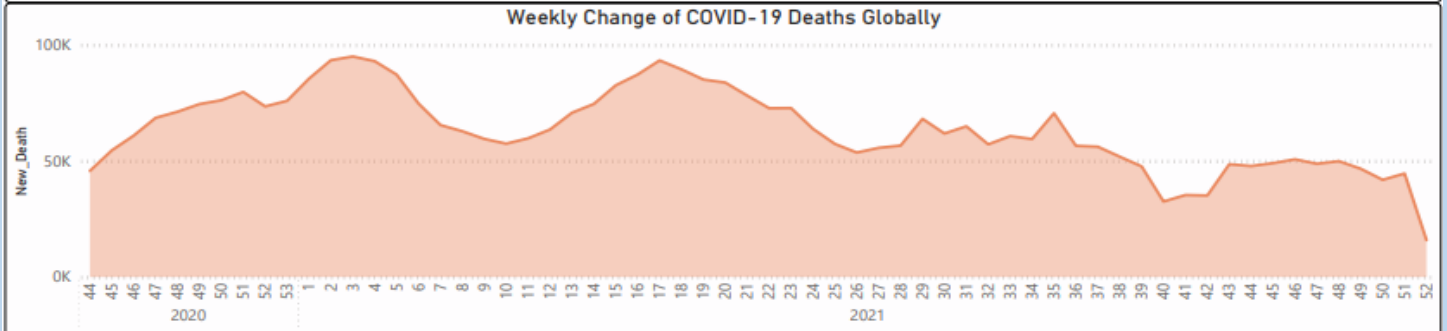
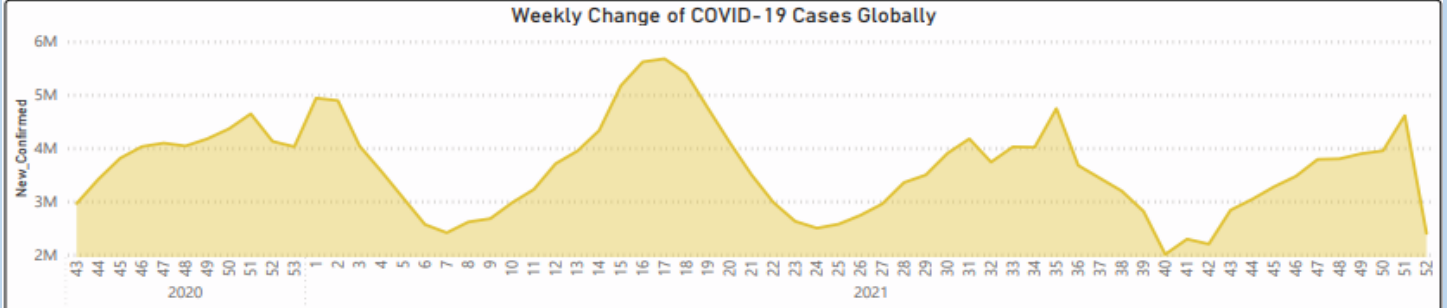
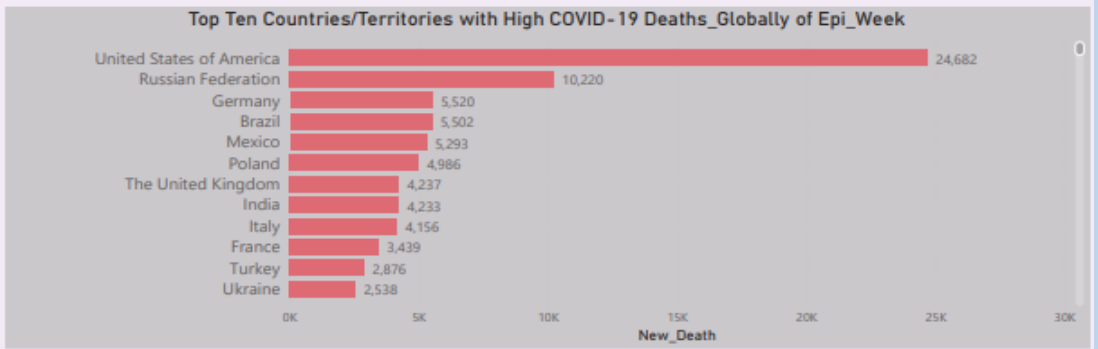
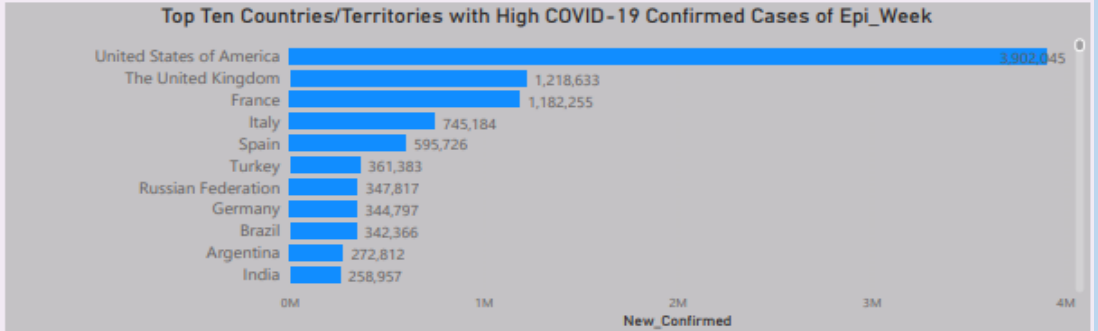


Figure 3: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of January 02, 2022 (Source: WHO)

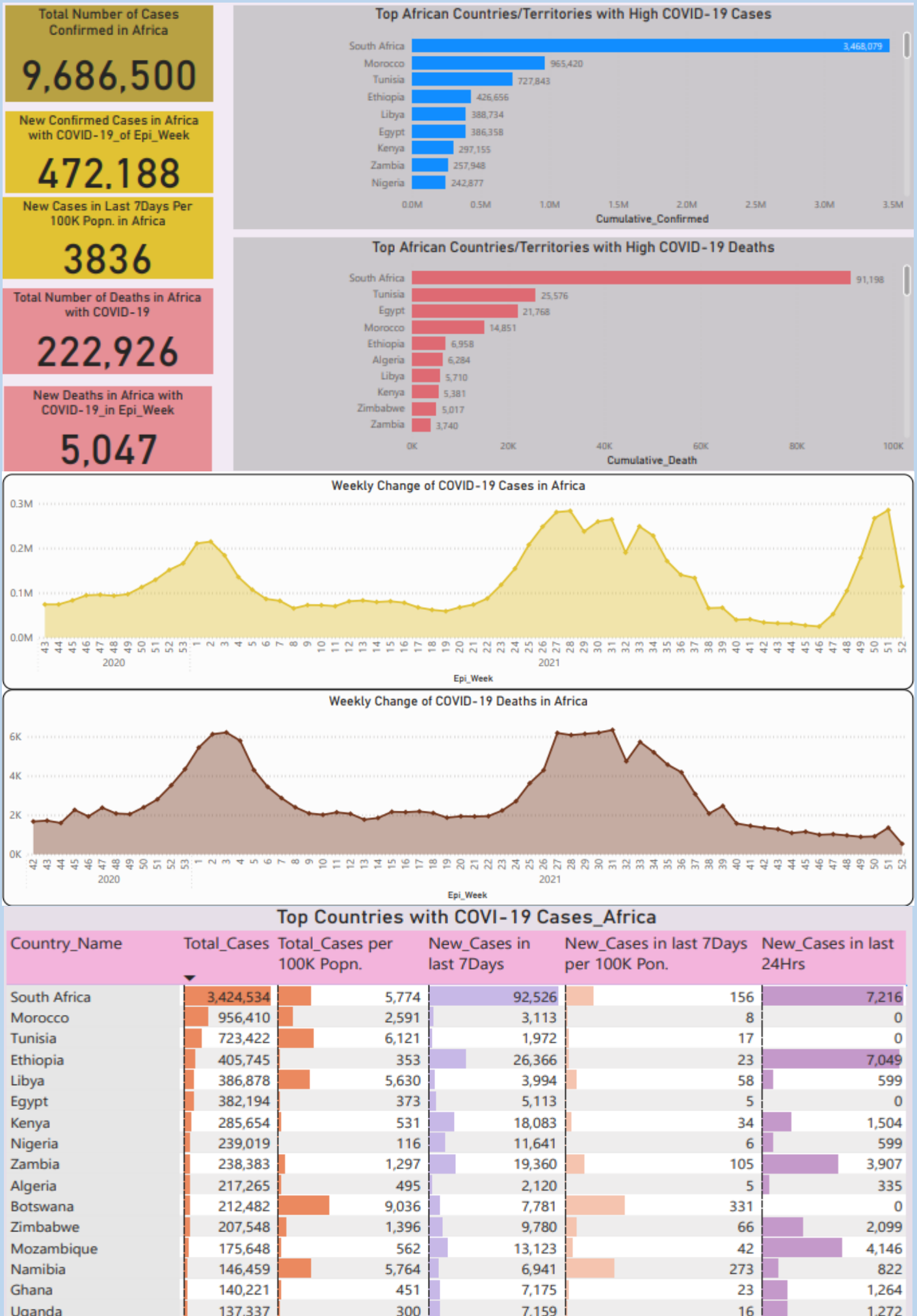


Figure 4: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of January 02, 2022 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of January 02, 2022, a total of 426,656 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,958 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.63%.
- Twenty-seven-thousand-nine-hundred-sixty (27,960) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 60 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-52.
- There is a sharp increase in the number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19 in this week. In this week, there is 25% increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 88% increase in the number of deaths due to COVID-19 compared to the previous week. This sharp increment in the number of cases may be related to unidentified new variant of the virus in the country. There is also an associated high positivity rate in the country especially in Addis Ababa.
- 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-52 of 2022

Regions	New_Testeds	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	47401	21516	623	38	43.9
Oromia	13555	2990	230	16	23.1
SNNPR	8634	1661	30	2	19.4
Dire Dawa	2766	539	10	0	19.1
Sidama	2111	715	10	1	33.9
Harari	1546	201	1	0	12.4
Afar	834	12	0	0	1.4
Benishangul G	709	89	11	0	14.2
Somali	628	66	0	0	12.3
Amhara	556	138	48	3	26.3
Gambella	299	33	0	0	7.0
South West	0	0	0	0	
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
Total	79039	27960	963	60	19.6

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

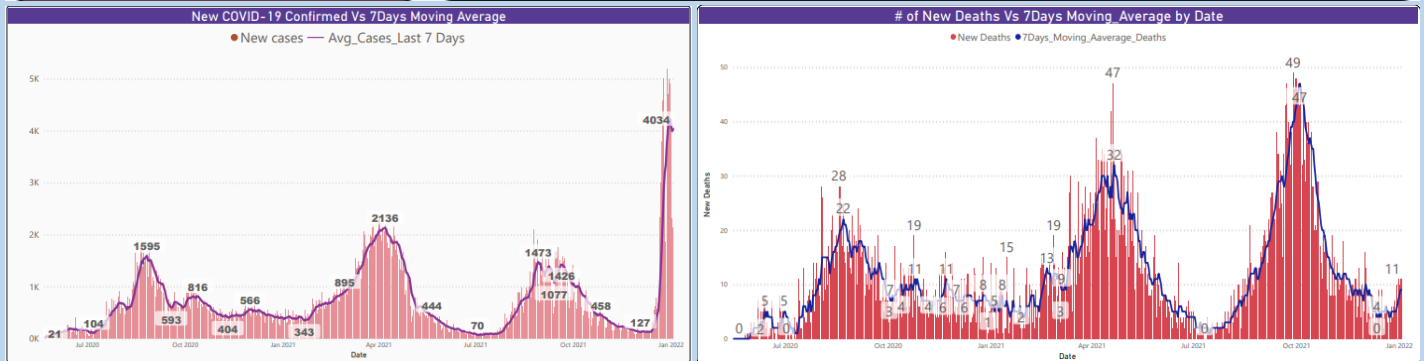
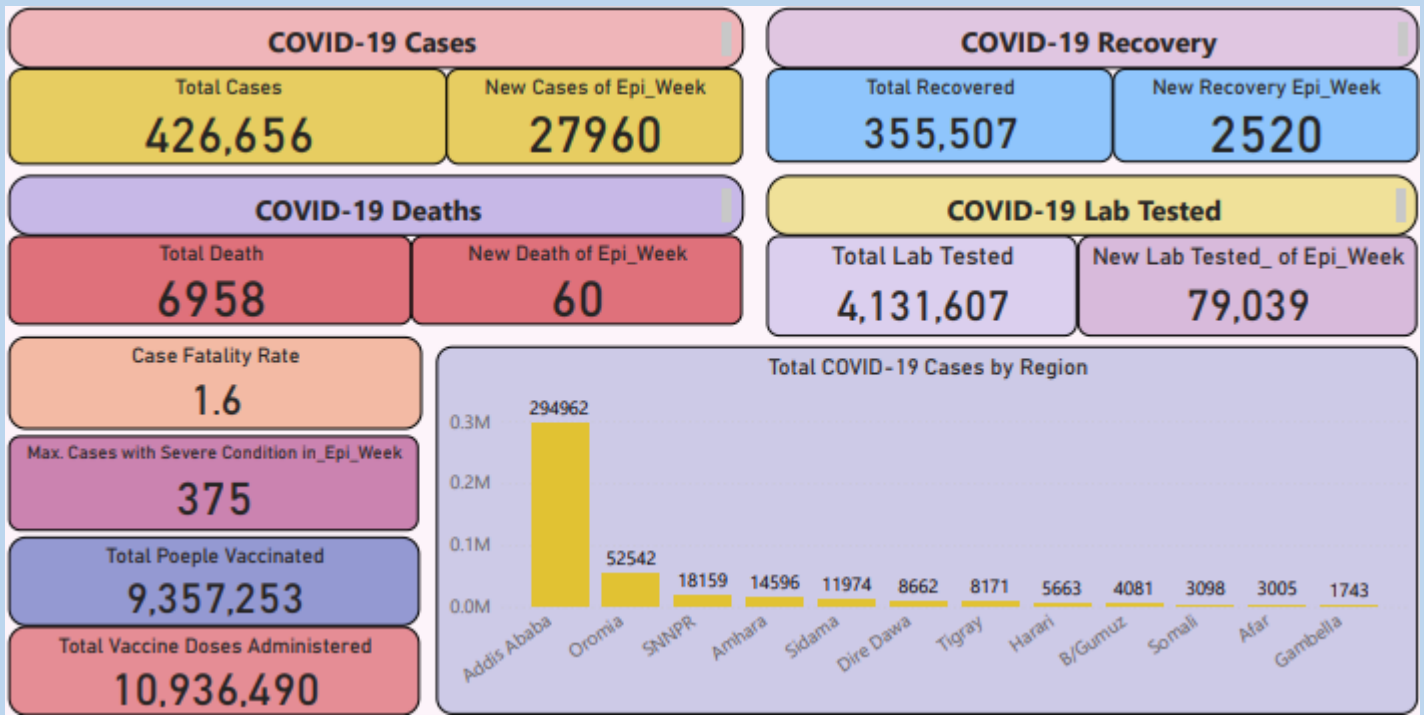


Figure 5: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 02, 2022, Ethiopia

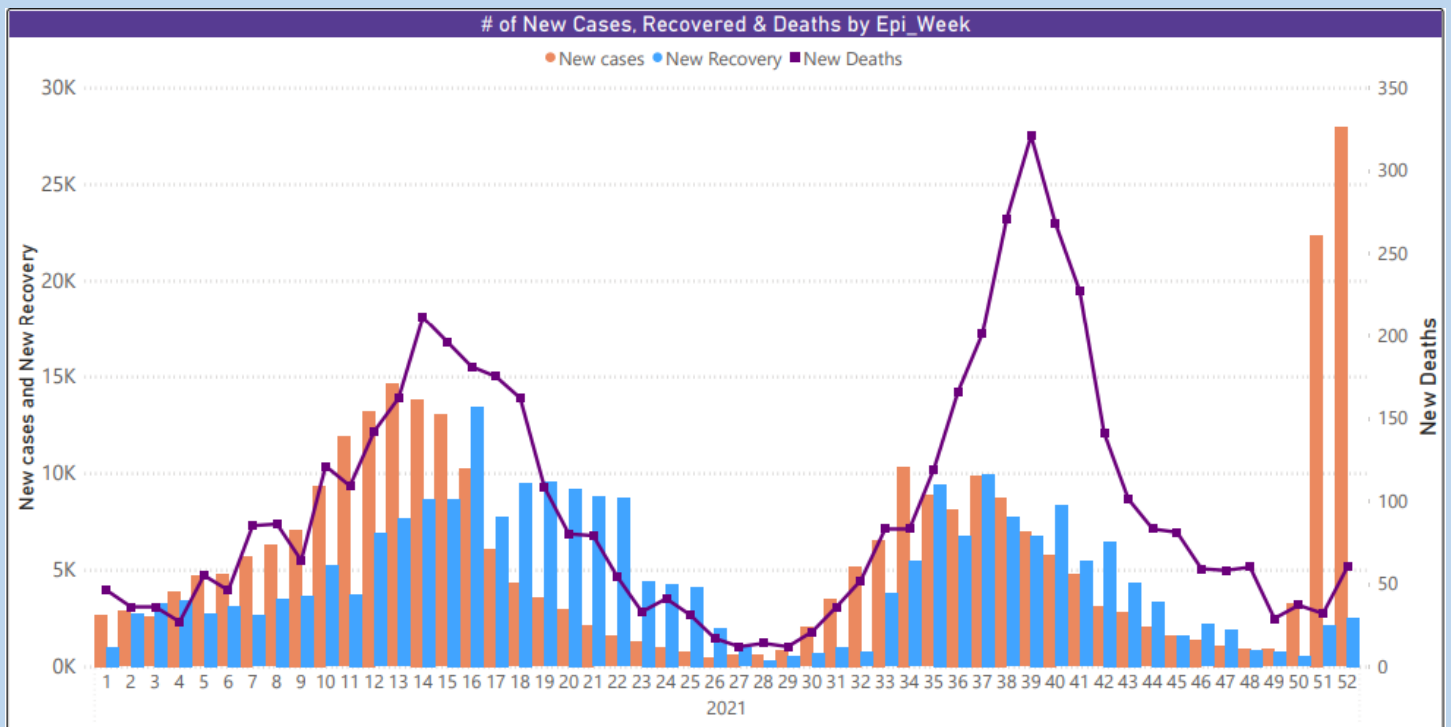


Figure 6: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of January 02, 2022, Ethiopia

c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), rumor collection, verification, investigation and information provision via toll free call center 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.

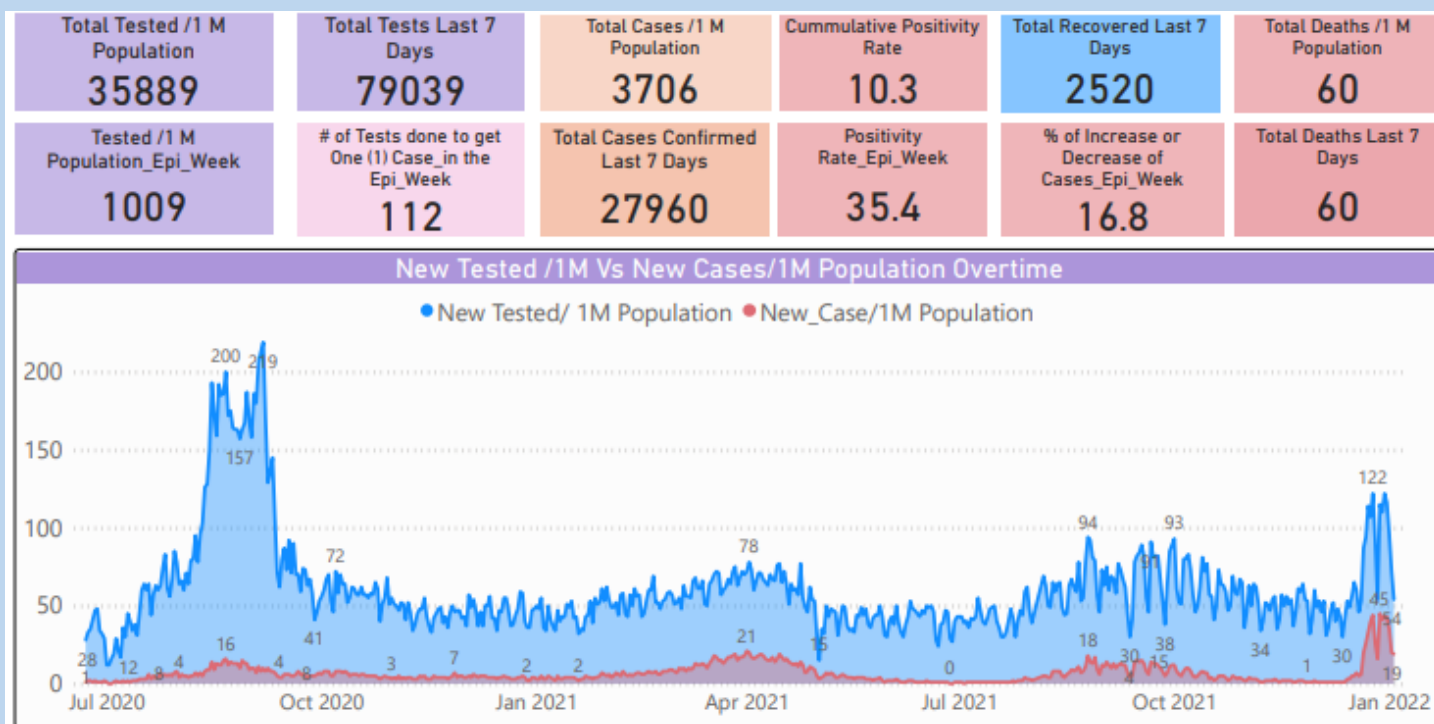


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 02, 2022.

i. 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, Point of Entry (PoE), Community surveillance and Special Settings.
- As of January 02, 2022:
 - 393,061 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
 - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 9,163 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

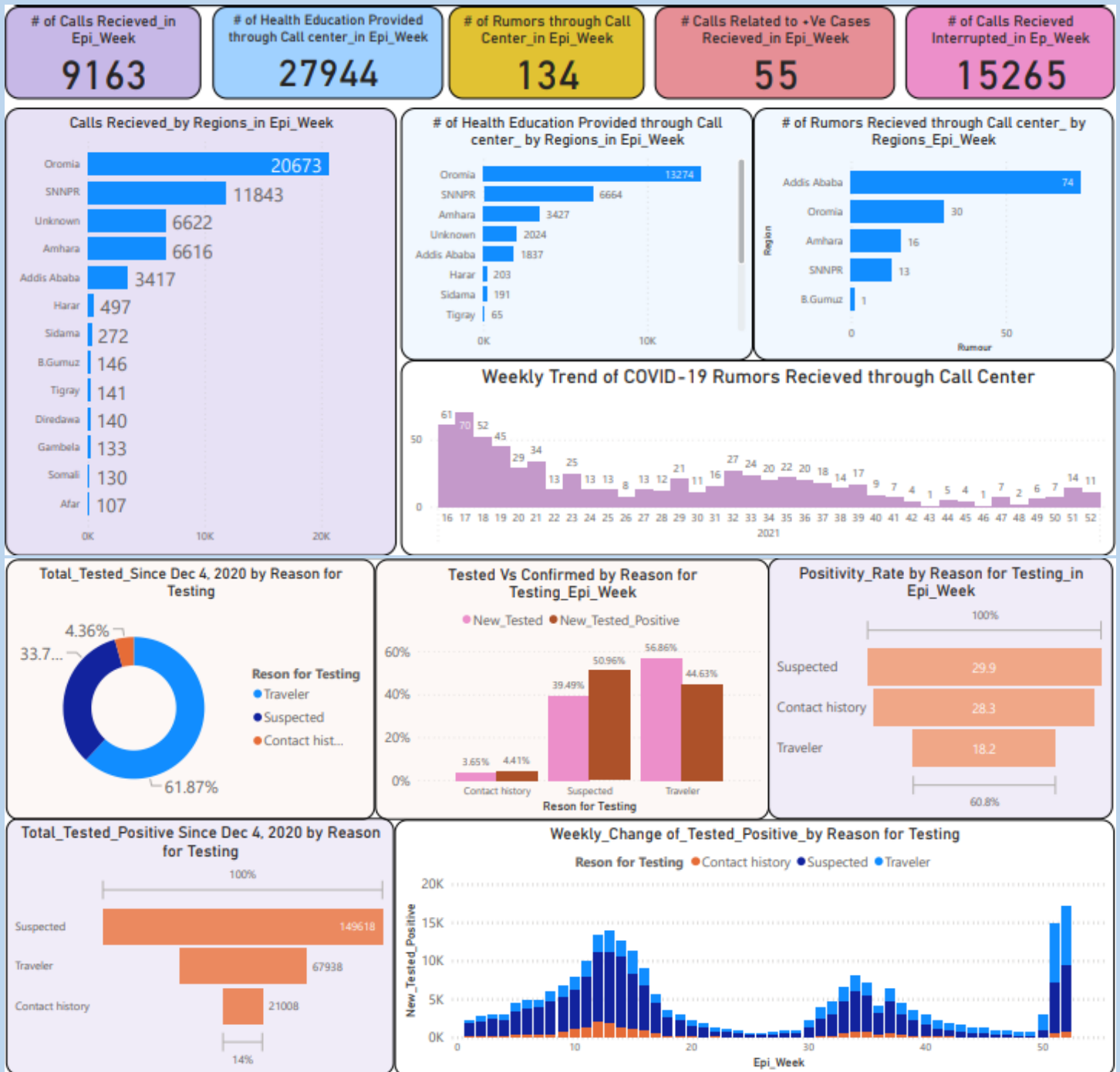


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as January 02, 2022, Ethiopia.

ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,996,217 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 881,146 (30%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 15,186 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-52.
- A total of 73,852 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 27 returnees were received in the Epi-week-52. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 72,576 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,276 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of January 02, 2022.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 02 January 2022, a total of 4,131,607 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 77,083 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-52 which is a 25% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-52 is 35.37%, which is higher than that of the preceding week (28.96%).
- Addis Ababa city administration and Sidama, Amhara and Oromia regional states and have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 10 below).
- Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 632,335 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 29,102 is performed in the Epi-week-52 (figure 9 below).

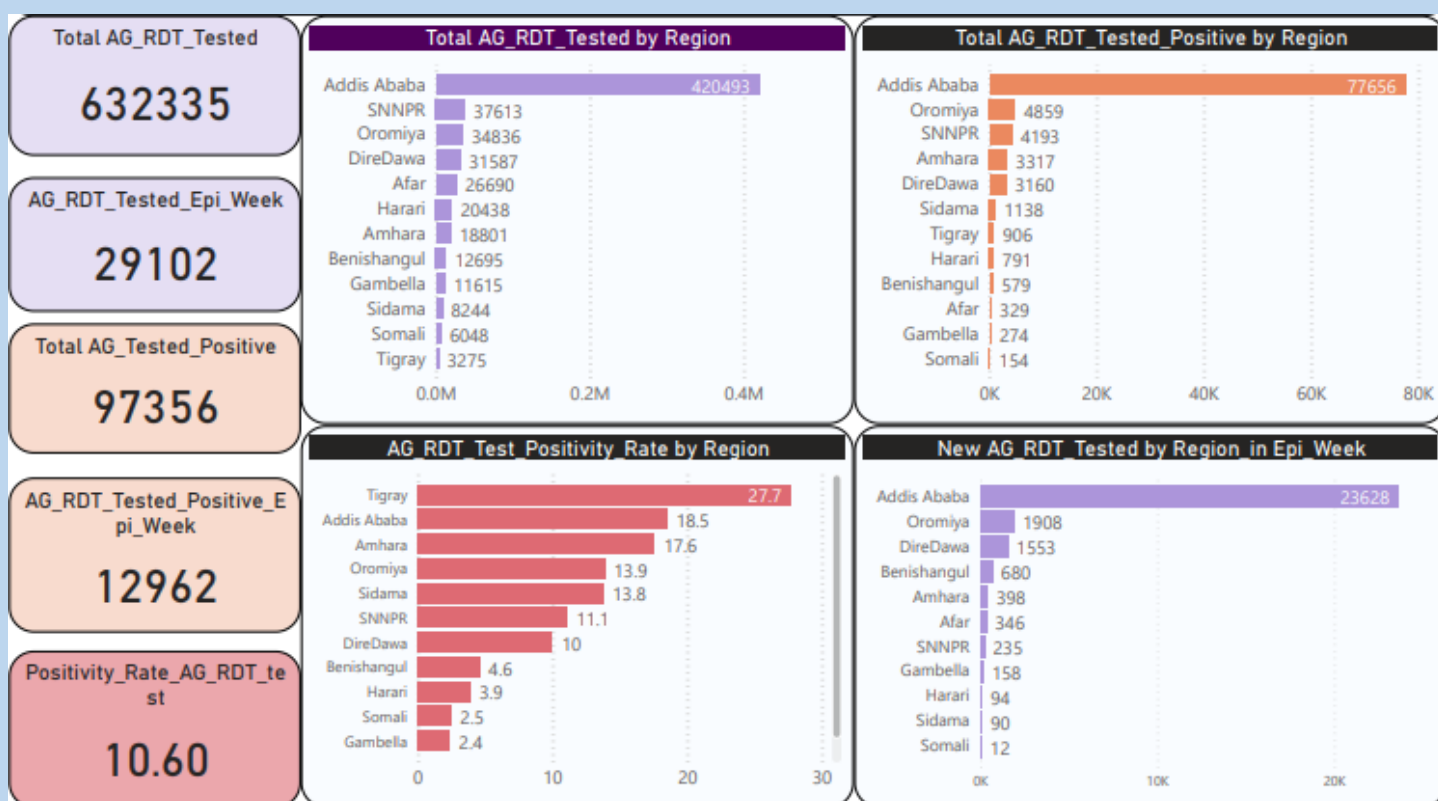
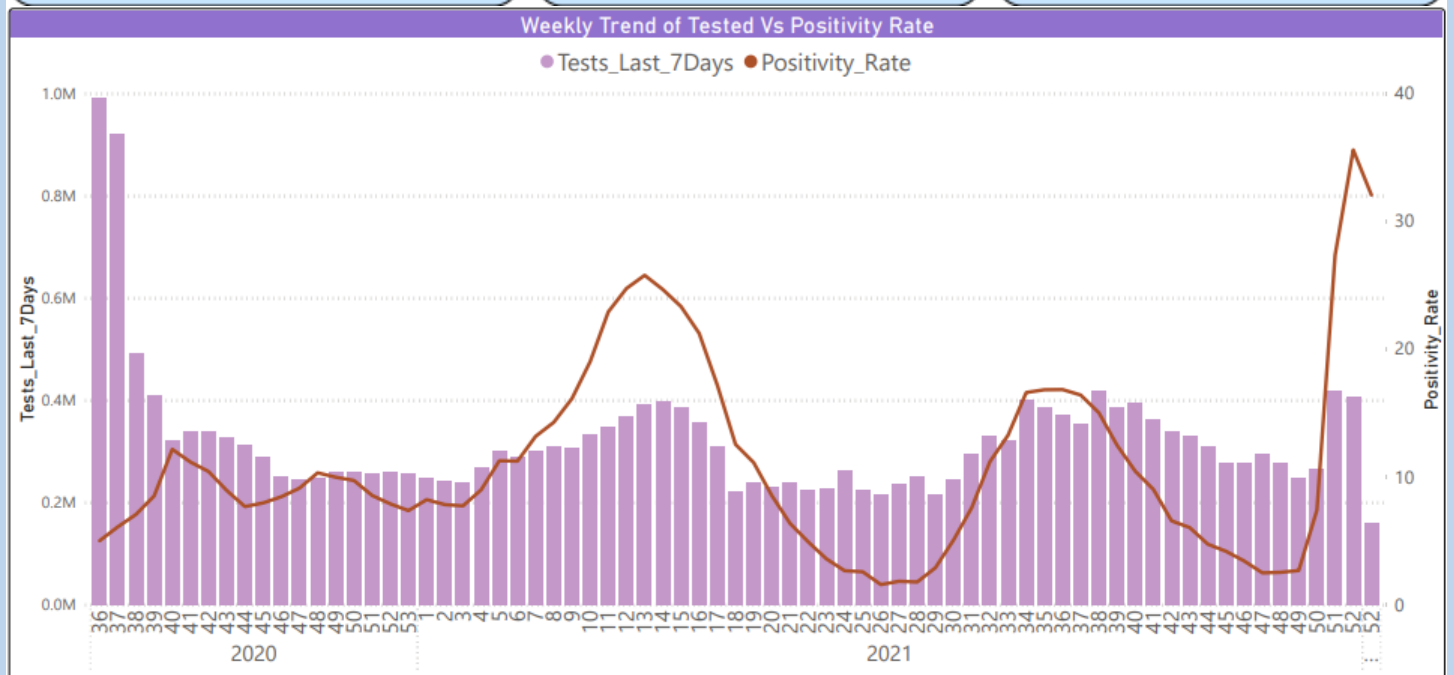
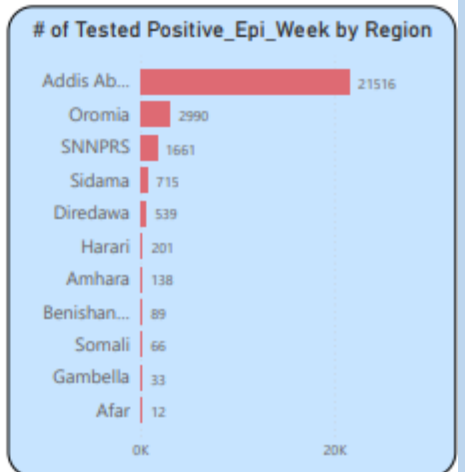
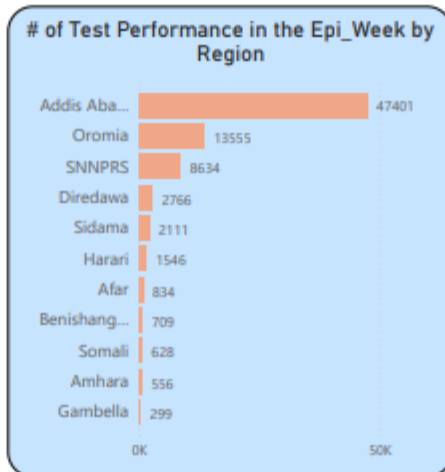
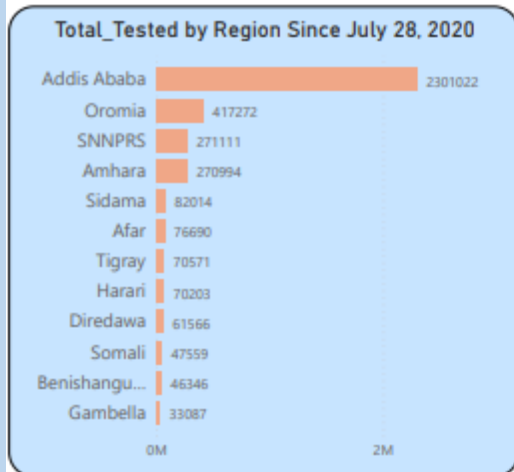
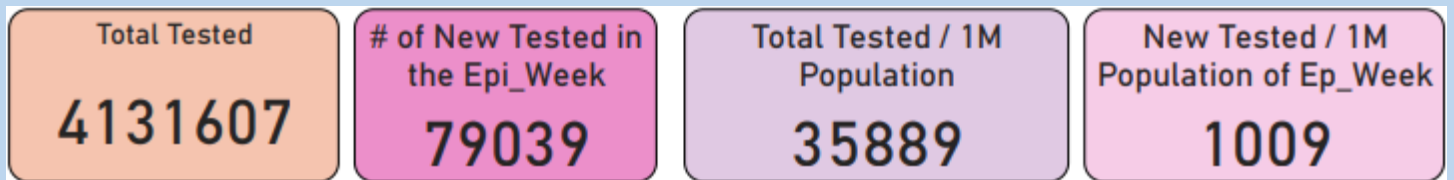


Figure 9: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of January 02, 2022



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	47401	21516	38	43.9
Oromia	13555	2990	16	23.0
SNNPRS	8634	1661	2	19.4
Diredawa	2766	539	0	19.1
Sidama	2111	715	1	33.8
Harari	1546	201	0	12.6
Afar	834	12	0	1.5
Benishangul Gumuz	709	89	0	14.2
Somali	628	66	0	12.3
Amhara	556	138	3	26.1
Gambella	299	33	0	6.9
Tigray	0	0	0	
Total	79039	27960	60	19.6

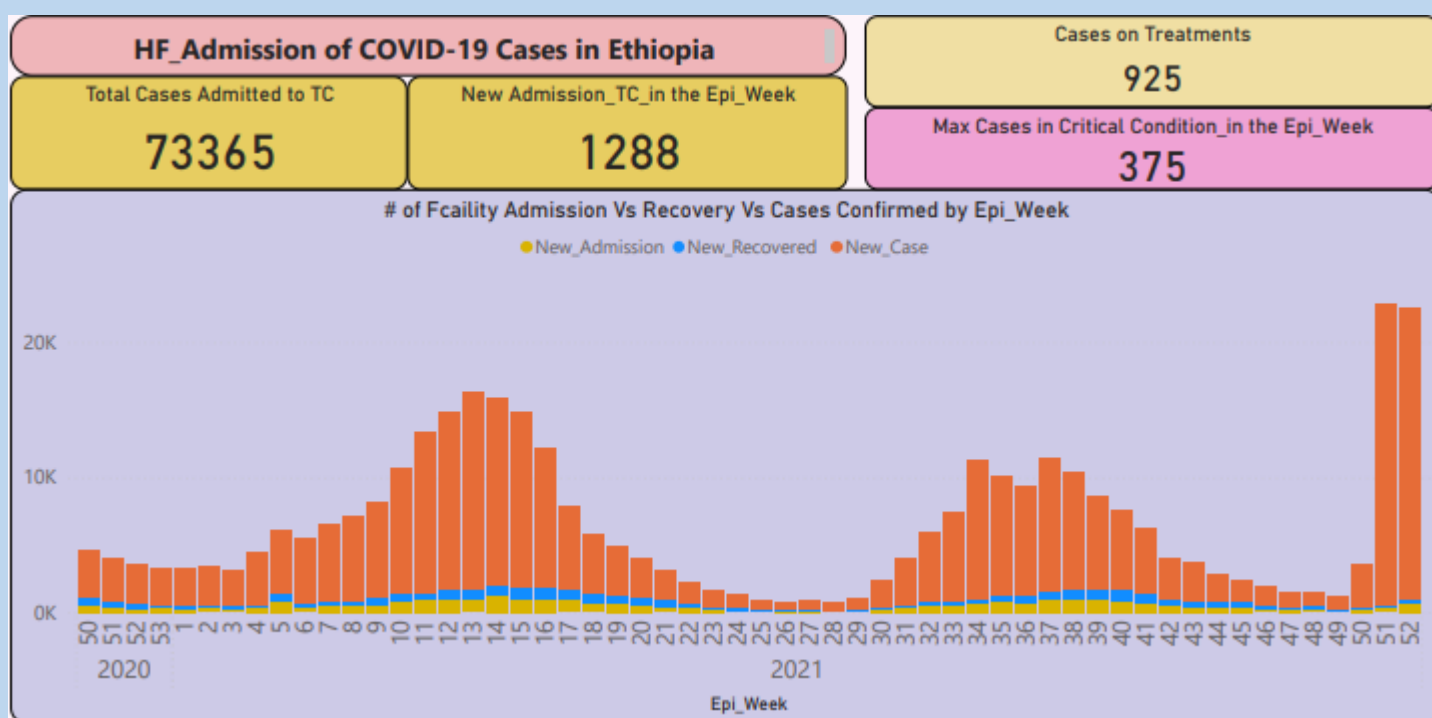
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distrn of Rates

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of January 02, 2022, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 2,520 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-52, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 355,507 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 83%.
- In the week-52, the maximum number of cases in severe condition are 375 which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (305).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of January 02, 2022.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of January 02, 2022

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	294962	1256	37419	47	3818	31384	550	247
Oromia	52542	504	9914	27	994	8707	209	62
SNNPR	18159	314	4845	12	258	4511	76	25
Amhara	14596	21	5495	12	435	5011	46	29
Sidama	11974	73	3712	3	226	3418	4	4
Dire Dawa	8662	83	1467	4	133	1322	12	4
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Harari	5663	44	1431	0	186	1240	1	1
Benishangul G	4081	1	1030	0	32	990	10	0
Somali	3098	7	770	0	96	654	17	3
Afar	3005	2	826	0	5	812	0	0
Gambella	1743	11	682	0	8	674	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 309,856 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 290,938 (93.89%) have recovered and 49 (0.017%) died.
- Of these, 14,885 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 2,079 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-52.
- As of January 02, 2022, there are 20,816 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,546 (none in the Epi-week-52) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,286 (seven in the Epi-week-52) 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.
- Risk communication and awareness creation activities are ongoing regarding the alarming increment of COVID-19 cases and rampant spread of flu like symptoms among the public in Ethiopia.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.

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Ethiopian Public Health Institute
 አዲስ አበባ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

ሰነድ ቁጥር: 22/2021
 ቀን: 02/01/2022

በግምት ውስጥ የሚገኝ የብሔራዊ የጤና ስርዓት

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• በዚህ ስርዓት ውስጥ የተጠቀሱት የጤና ስርዓቶች የሕዝብ ጤና ለማረጋገጥ እና ለመቆጣጠር ያለፉትን ስርዓቶች ያመለክታል።

አለታዊ	ደምር
የላብራቶሪ ምርመራ	8,247
የላብራቶሪ ምርመራ	4,131,607
ቫይረሱ የተገኘባቸው	2,316
በአሁኑ ጊዜ ቫይረሱ ያለባቸው	64,189
በጥንቃቄ የተገኘው	375
ቫይረሱ የተገኘባቸው	426,656
ህይወታቸው ያለፈ	11
ህይወታቸው ያለፈ	6,958
ከበሽታው ያገገው	51
ከበሽታው ያገገው	355,507
የተሰጠ ክትትል	10,936,490
የተከተቱ ሰዎች	9,357,253

DATE	Daily	Total
02-01-2022	Laboratory test cases: 8,247	Laboratory test: 4,131,607
	severe cases: 2,316	Active Cases: 64,189
	New Deaths: 11	Total cases: 426,656
	Recovery: 51	Total Deaths: 6,958
	Total Dose Administered: 10,936,490	Total Recovery: 355,507
		Total people vaccinated: 9,357,253

Figure 12: COVID-19 key message and situation update as of January 02, 2022 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.
- Review meeting on COVID-19 vaccine rollout and routine immunization has been held in Adama Town from December 28 to 31, 2021. The review meeting has been held in the presence of leadership from Ministry of Health, Regional Health Bureau Heads, public relations and communication leaders and other stakeholders. During the meeting, H.E Dr. Dereje Duguma, state Minister of Health, said that despite high effort of the government to avail COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination of around 10 million people, public negligence and hesitancy towards the vaccine has made the disease to spread highly among the community.



Figure 13: Review meeting on COVID-19 vaccine rollout and routine immunization, December 28-30, Adama, Ethiopia

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 COVID-19 vaccination
- Enhancing law enforcement to enhance public health and social measures by all responsible bodies.
- 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.
- 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.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/srhbdot.com/...	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.WH

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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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