

EPHI, NATIONAL DATA MANAGEMENT CENTER FOR HEALTH (NDMC):- QUICK UPDATE ON COVID-19, 072st

This update summarizes:

- **Ethiopia's Covid-19 Situation Updates**
- **Global and Regional Burden Of Covid-19**
- **Continental Overview of COVID-19 Update**
- **Risks of Delta variant**

Ethiopia's Covid-19 Situation Updates

- Over the last two weeks since August 26, 2021, 21,104 new confirmed corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and 250 new deaths have been reported nationally. To date, a total of 319,101 COVID-19 cases and 4,830 related deaths (case fatality rate (CFR): 1.51 which is nearly similar compared to the rate reported two weeks earlier) have been reported from 9 regions and 2 city administrations in the country. Compared to the cases and deaths reported a two weeks ago, the national cumulative case and death reported this week showed increment by 2% each.
- There are 28,611 active cases currently, of which 204 (2.54%) of them are critical. The number of active cases and critical cases have shown increment by 5,504 and 204 case respectively compared to the report of two weeks ago.
- So far 286,384 cases have recovered from COVID-19, out of which 15,554 recoveries were over the last two-weeks period which increased by 2% compared to the report done two weeks ago.
- The proportion of active cases among the total cases so far has continued increasing as well (by 1.21%) while that of recoveries decreased by the similar rate compared. However, the proportion of death remained nearly the same over the last one-week period (Fig 1).

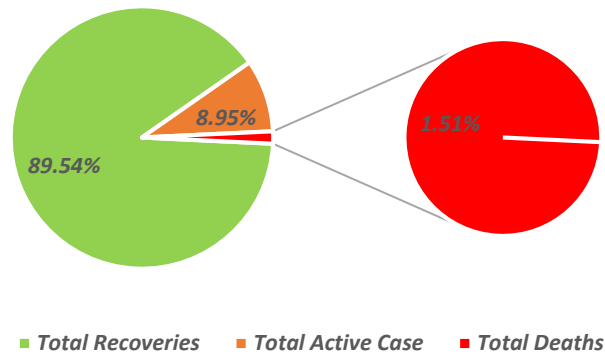


Fig 1: Proportions of active cases, recoveries and death as of August, 26, 2021.

- The total number of tests done to date is 3,301,802. Among 122,456 laboratory samples tested over the last two-weeks duration, 21,104 of them tested positive for COVID-19, yielding a positivity rate of 17.2% ; showing a (4.2%) increase from the positivity rate reported two weeks ago.
- The distribution of cumulative cases indicate Addis Ababa, Oromia and Amhara regions took the lead sequentially in total case load.

Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC)

Since Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC) is started in Ethiopia:

- A total of **238, 951** COVID-19 confirmed cases are followed in the HBIC as of Sep 9, 2021
- **229, 259** of them have recovered in the HBIC as of Sep 9, 2021
- **10, 792** cases are currently on HBIC
- **38** COVID-19 related deaths have occurred in the HBIC
- **2,122** cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC
- **984** cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers

EPHI and FMOH COVID 19 response highlights of the week /trainings and supply

- Weekly leadership and strategic virtual meeting, chaired by the H.E MOH Minister, is being conducted to oversee and guide the response efforts
- EPHI and MOH is providing an ongoing distribution of PPE, Viral Transport Media (VTM), swabs, pharmaceuticals, and other medical supplies to isolation and treatment centers
- On Sept 8/2021, African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) has donated more than 100,000 doses of Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccines to Ethiopia.

References

1. *Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOC), Ethiopia.*
2. https://twitter.com/lia_tadesse.
3. <http://www.covid19.et/covid-19/>.

Global and Regional Burden of Covid-19

- Globally the total number of cases is extended to 223,441,479 as of September 9, 2021. A total of 199,954,820 cases recovered and 4,610,403 people died since the beginning of the outbreak. Globally, in a week time, from September 2 to September 9, 2021, COVID-19 cases increased by 1.9% and deaths by 1.4%. In the past week, Asia is the leading in terms of cases followed by Europe and North America. Europe continued to be became a lead in terms of the number of deaths followed by South America and Asia (Table 1).

Table 1. Global cases and deaths reported as of September, 2021.

	COVID cases	Weekly % change	deaths	Weekly % change
Global	223,441,479	1.9	4,610,403	1.4
Europe	56,357,544	1.6	1,185,975	0.9
North America	49,698,450	2.7	1,017,629	1.8
Asia	72,010,678	2.2	1,065,635	2.4
South America	37,147,530	0.5	1,137,290	0.5
Africa	8,047,454	2.0	201,503	2.1
Oceania	179,102	7.9	2,356	7.3

- USA has recorded the highest number of cases 2.6% (40,330,712 to 41,397,587 cases) and 1.7% (659,927 to 671,183 deaths) that accounts 18.5% of the total global cases and carried 14.6% of global deaths as of September 9, 2021.
- India is the 2nd highest in terms of cases in a week time by 0.9% (32,857,937 to 33,139,981) and deaths by 0.5% (439,559 to 441,782).
- Brazil became the 3rd rank worldwide with increased number of cases in a week time by 0.6% (20,804,215 to 20,928,008) and deaths with 0.6% (581,228 to 584,458).
- UK ranked 4th globally with 7,094,592 cases and 133,674 deaths.
- Russia ranked 5th globally with 7,065,904 cases and 189,582 deaths.
- The line share of Africa to the global COVID-19 pandemic was 3.6% and 4.4% of the global cases and deaths as of September 9). The cases in the continent have increased by 2% in a week time (7,891,091 to 8,047,454 cases). Similarly, the total number of deaths in Africa has increased from 197,340 to 201,503 showing 2.1%. Total recoveries stand at 7,218,831.
- South Africa is the leading in the continent with 2,836,773 cases and 84,152 deaths. Morocco (893,462 cases, 13,296 deaths), Tunisia (680,074 cases, 24,041 deaths), Libya (319,568 cases and 4,374 deaths) and Ethiopia continued to be the 5th rank with (319,101cases and 4,830 deaths). These are the most four leading countries next to South Africa in reporting COVID-19 cases in Africa. (See table below).

Table 2: Case and death reported in selected African countries as of July 2021

Africa	September 2		September 9	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
South Africa	2,787,203	82,496	2,836,773	84,152
Morocco	866,968	12,749	893,462	13,296
Tunisia	666,168	23,538	680,074	24,041
Libya	310,637	4,263	319,568	4,374
Ethiopia	309,351	4,692	319,101	4,830

- In East African, COVID-19 cases and deaths have shown fast progress. As of March, Ethiopia and Kenya continued to be the major drivers of the COVID 19 burden in east African countries.

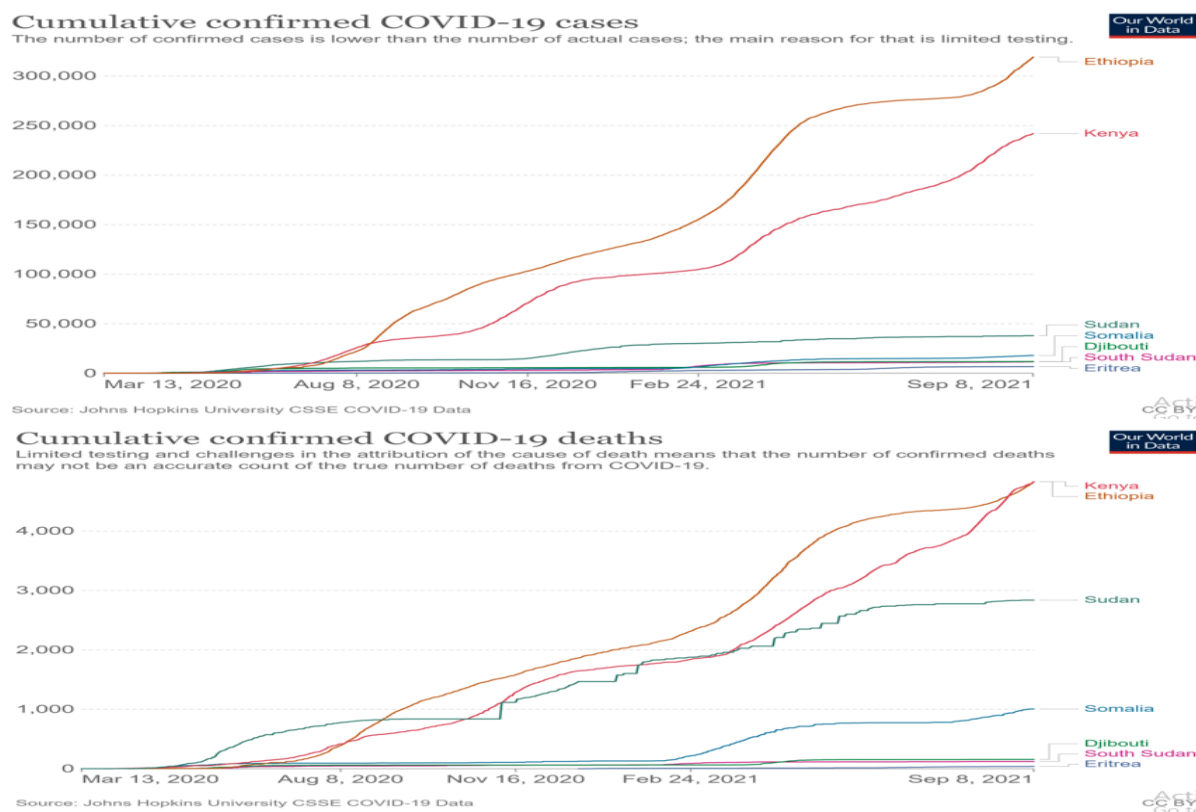


Figure2: The burden of COVID-19 in Eastern African countries.

References

1. John Hopkins, Corona Virus Resources <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
2. Worldometer, Corona Virus <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>
3. Africa CDC: COVID 19 Surveillance; <https://au.int/covid19>
4. Our World: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases>

Continental Overview of COVID-19 Update

- African continent has recorded over 8 million cases of COVID-19, with more than 200, 000 deaths (CFR 2.5%) and nearly 7 million people have recovered. The African continent accounts for 3.4% of global cases and 4.0% of global deaths
- In the one week (23 – 29 August 2021), the WHO African region reported a total of 132, 886 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), a 15% decrease compared to the prior week when 156, 426 new cases were reported. A total of 10 (22%) countries saw a 20% or more increase in weekly cases compared to the previous week: Cabo Verde, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone.
- Conversely, 20 (44%) countries reported a decrease of 20% or more in the number of new cases reported compared to the previous week. These countries are Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Five countries account for the majority (98 126, 74.0%) of the cases recorded in the past week namely; South Africa (73 958 new cases; 13.4% decrease, 126.3 new cases per 100 000 population), Ethiopia (10 313 new cases; 58.0% increase; 9.2 new cases per 100 000), Kenya (5 943 new cases; 28.2% decrease; 11.3 new cases per 100 000), Nigeria (4 322 new cases; 4.4% decrease; 2.2 new cases per 100 000), and Rwanda (3 590 new cases; 8.4% increase; 28.4 new cases per 100 000).
- The region recorded a 4.3% (n=3 695) decrease in the number of new deaths reported from a total of 33 countries. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from South Africa (2 174 new deaths; 4.6% decrease; 4.0 new deaths per 100 000 population), Kenya (213 new deaths; 157% increase; 0.4 new deaths per 100 000), Algeria (205 new deaths; 31.0% increase; 0.5 new deaths per 100 000), Nigeria (186 new deaths; 280.0% increase; 0.1 new deaths per 100 000), and Zimbabwe (152 new deaths; 145.2% increase; 1.0 new deaths per 100 000).
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in the WHO African Region, the cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported is 5 552 204. Nearly 5 million recoveries have been recorded, giving a recovery rate of 90.0%. The total number of deaths reported is now at 134 140, accounting for a case fatality ratio (CFR) of 2.4%. The WHO African

Region, accounts for 2.4% of global cases and 2.7% of global deaths, making it one of the least affected regions in the world after the WHO Western Pacific Region.

- A total of 21 countries are still experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the region namely Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, and Zimbabwe. Two countries, Algeria, and Kenya, are experiencing a fourth wave.
- Cumulatively, the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the region has been recorded in South Africa 2 764 931 cases (50.0%), followed by Ethiopia 306 117 (5.5%), Kenya 234 952 (4.2%), Zambia 206 051 (3.7%), and Algeria 195 162 (3.5%). These five countries account for 66.8% (n=3 707 213) of all cases. South Africa also has the highest number of deaths in the region (81 595 deaths, 61.0% of all deaths); followed by Algeria (5 209, 3.9%), Kenya (4 710, 3.5%), Ethiopia (4 644, 3.5%), and (Zimbabwe 4 401, 3.3%). These five countries account for 75.0% (100 559) of all deaths reported in the region

Reference

1. World health Organization COVID-19 Update Data reported Week 35: 23 - 29 August 2021
2. <https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/disease-outbreaks/outbreaks-and-other-emergencies-updates>

Risks of Delta variant

- As the SARS-CoV-2 became pandemic and new variants identified worldwide, and their pathogenesis varied among different variants. The SARS-CoV-2 delta (B.1.617.2) variant was first identified in England in March, 2021.
- This variant was rapidly become the predominant lineage, owing to high transmissibility.
- This variant was previously suspected that associated with more severe disease than the previously dominant alpha (B.1.1.7) variant.
- The recent cohort study conducted in England among all patients with COVID-19 in England between March 29 and May 23, 2021, who were identified as being infected with either the alpha or delta SARS-CoV-2 variant revealed the following.

- The finding from study indicated that there was two times higher hospital admission or emergency care attendance risk for patients with COVID-19 infected with the delta variant compared with the alpha variant.
- Another retrospective study in Singapore on clinical and virological features of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern by comparing B.1.1.7 (Alpha), B.1.315 (Beta), and B.1.617.2 (Delta) indicated the following;
- The Delta variant (B.1.617.2) of SARS-CoV-2 was associated with higher odds of oxygen requirement, ICU admission, or death.
- This finding suggested that outbreaks of the delta variant in unvaccinated populations might lead to a greater burden on health-care services than the alpha variant.
- In addition, this variant had lower Ct value and longer viral shedding provides a potential mechanism for increased transmissibility.
- Generally, this finding concluded that as there was a signal toward increased severity associated with Delta variant as compared with other variants such as Alpha and Beta SARS-CoV-2 variants.
- Since this variant has confirmed case in Ethiopia, according to different studies on the risks of Delta variant indicated that the need of rapid provision of vaccination for the whole population and to follow other non-pharmaceutical preventive intervention/protocols to reduce the rapid transmission, morbidity and mortality at country level.

REFERENCE

1. <https://www.isglobal.org/en/covid-19-novedades-cientificas>
2. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(21\)00474-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(21)00474-6)
3. <https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance>