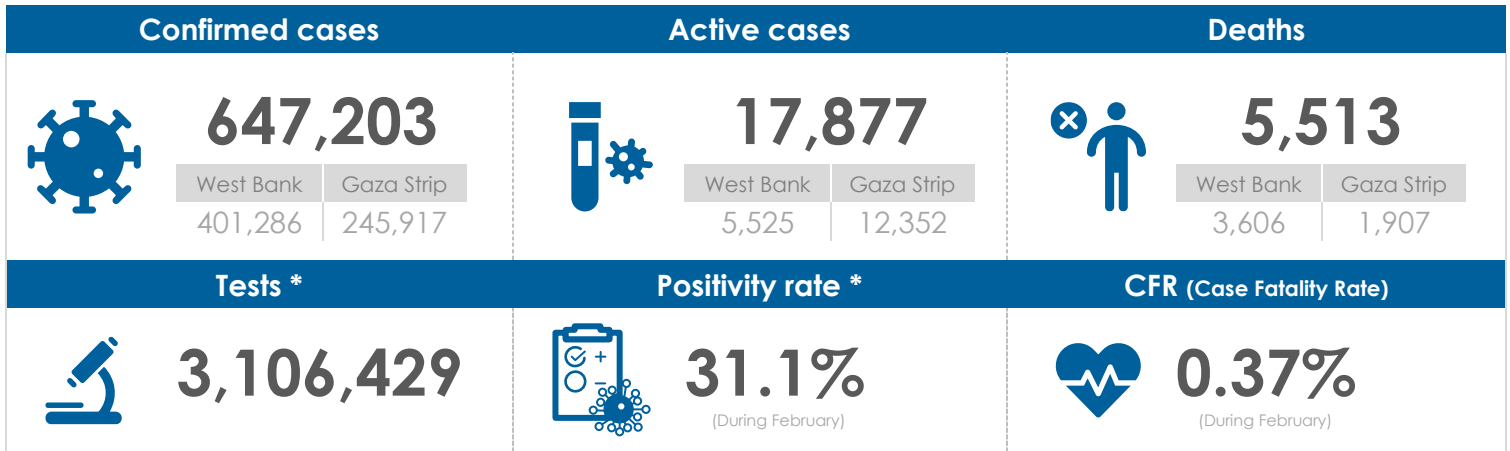


SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of 28 Feb 2022)

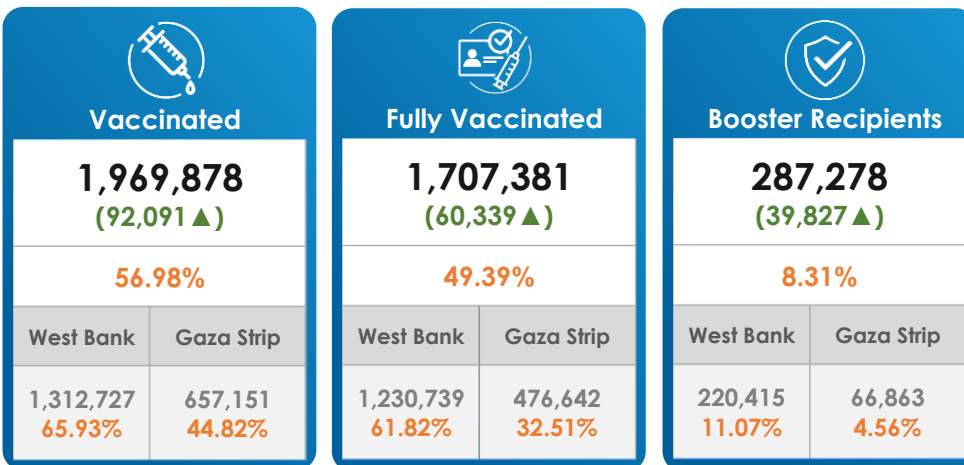


* Figures do not include East Jerusalem

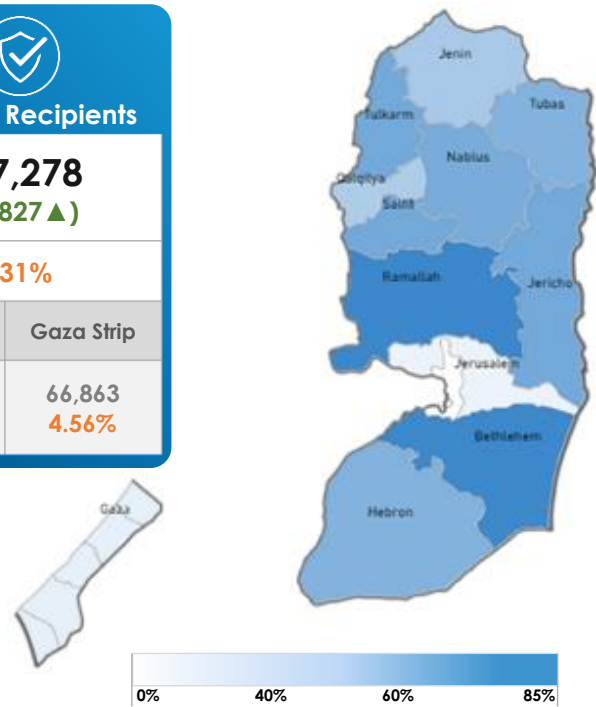
Overview

Transmission of COVID-19 driven by the Omicron variant continued across the occupied Palestine territory (oPt). The 4th and 5th waves of COVID-19 in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, respectively, started in January and peaked in early February.

Overall, oPt reported a significantly higher number of cases during the peak in February, compared to all previous waves. However, the spike in cases showed a fast decline mid-February onward across oPt. This could be associated with a significant drop in testing observed in the Gaza Strip and West Bank around the same time.



- Vaccination figures do not include East Jerusalem
- Target population: 12 years & above age groups



Highlights

- **New Cases:** In February, West Bank reported 69,154 new COVID-19 cases, a 33% increase compared to January. The Gaza Strip reported 42,889 cases, which is a massive 239% increase compared to last month.
- **Comparing Spikes:** West Bank hit a new record high of daily new cases with 8,467 on 1 February 2022, which is almost four times the previous highest number of cases reported since March 2020. In the Gaza Strip, 4,074 new cases were reported on 7 February 2022, which is more than double the previous record.
- **Deaths:** West Bank reported 259 new deaths during February, while the Gaza Strip reported 150 deaths. This represents a 129% increase in West Bank and a 163% increase in the Gaza Strip compared to January.
- **Hospitalisation*:** During the peak in February, hospitalisation in West Bank and the Gaza Strip showed an increase compared to January. However, the overall hospitalisation rate and death remained low compared to previous waves, which could be due to lower severity of infection from Omicron and protection offered by COVID-19 vaccines.
- **COVID-19 Testing*:** In West Bank 165,559 tests were conducted in February, a 17% decrease compared to January, while 109,746 tests were conducted in the Gaza Strip, which is a 140% increase. However, positivity remained high in February (37% West bank, 92% Gaza), indicating an overall limited scale of testing. Since testing mostly focused on symptomatic or hospitalised cases, the actual number of infected people could be higher than reported last month.

* Figures do not include East Jerusalem



Travel Requirements

- MoH stopped PCR testing at the Karamah crossing for travelers coming to West Bank. However, evidence of a negative PCR test result taken within 48 hours of reaching the crossing still needs to be provided. Those departing West Bank (except for children up to five years) from Karamah must present a negative PCR test result done no more than 72 hours before crossing.
- No home quarantine is needed for travelers coming to oPt from other countries.

West Bank Testing Update



The Ministry of Health (MoH) extended the operating time of COVID-19 testing centers in West Bank by three hours.



Vaccine Cold Chain

WHO continued to support MoH in strengthening the vaccine cold chain for ensuring safe transportation and storage of COVID-19 and other life-saving vaccines.

- **2 refrigerated vehicles** handed over for use in West Bank and the Gaza Strip
- **15 freezers** provided for vaccine storage in West Bank
- **45 fridges, 10 freezers and 50 vaccine cold boxes** delivered for the Gaza Strip



Through funding from Germany, WHO provided two refrigerated vehicles to MoH, for safe transportation of COVID-19 and other vaccines.

Supplies and Equipment

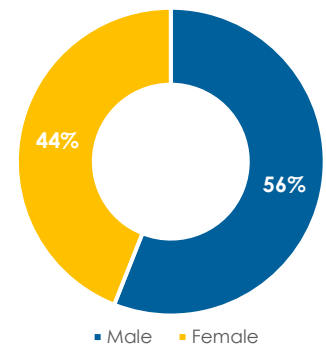
- WHO provided **3,600 oxygen masks** to MoH to support medical care for hospitalised COVID-19 patients.
- With funding from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, WHO provided **two gloveboxes integrated with safety cabinets** to MoH for protecting health workers from exposure while handling hazardous biochemical materials.



Vaccination

WHO, together with UNICEF and health partners continued support to MOH in strengthening the COVID-19 vaccination across oPt

- Overall, almost **57%** of the 12 years and above population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Over 191 thousand doses** of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in February, slightly less than the number of doses administered in January.
- **44%** of the vaccinated population are females and **56%** are males.



Percentage of Population Vaccinated by Gender

More Vaccines Arrive



Poland donated 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to MoH, with operational and logistic support from WHO.

Vaccination continues in public schools

Vaccination continued in schools in the Gaza Strip in February and resumed in public schools in West Bank after a brief pause.

WHO provided 100,000 posters to encourage vaccination uptake in schools.

Funding received by



Canada



OCHA
United Nations
Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs



For more information:

WHO oPt website: <http://www.emro.who.int/countries/opt/index.html>

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