

COVID-19 Monthly Brief

February 2021

#UnitedAgainstCoronavirus #StrongerTogether #GlobalResponse

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Statistics and graphs

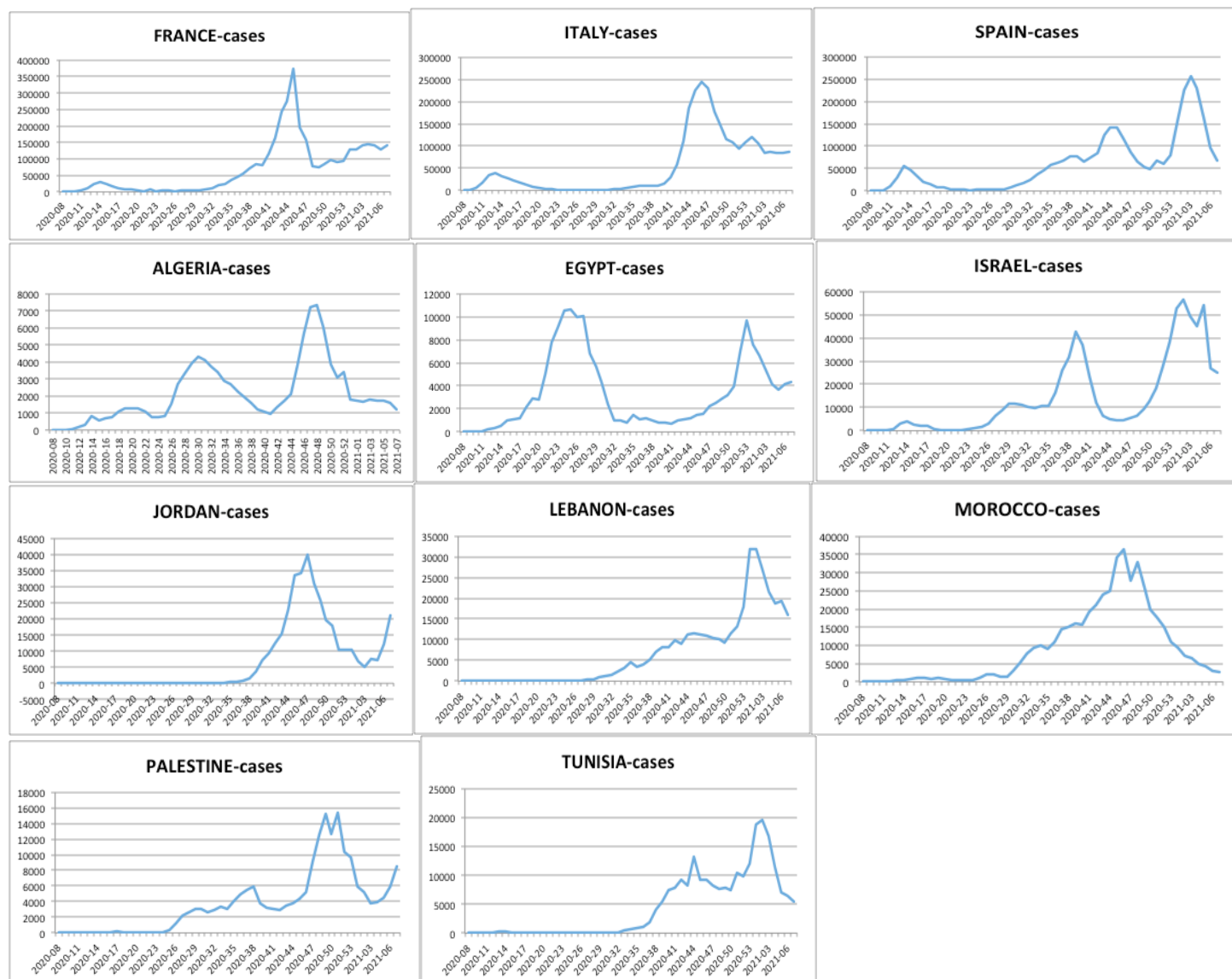
TOTAL CASES REPORTED

ITALY	FRANCE	SPAIN	ALGERIA	EGYPT	ISRAEL	JORDAN	LEBANON	MOROCCO	PALESTINE	TUNISIA
2809243	3605169	3153969	111917	178150	752398	368287	355073	481155	197774	28937

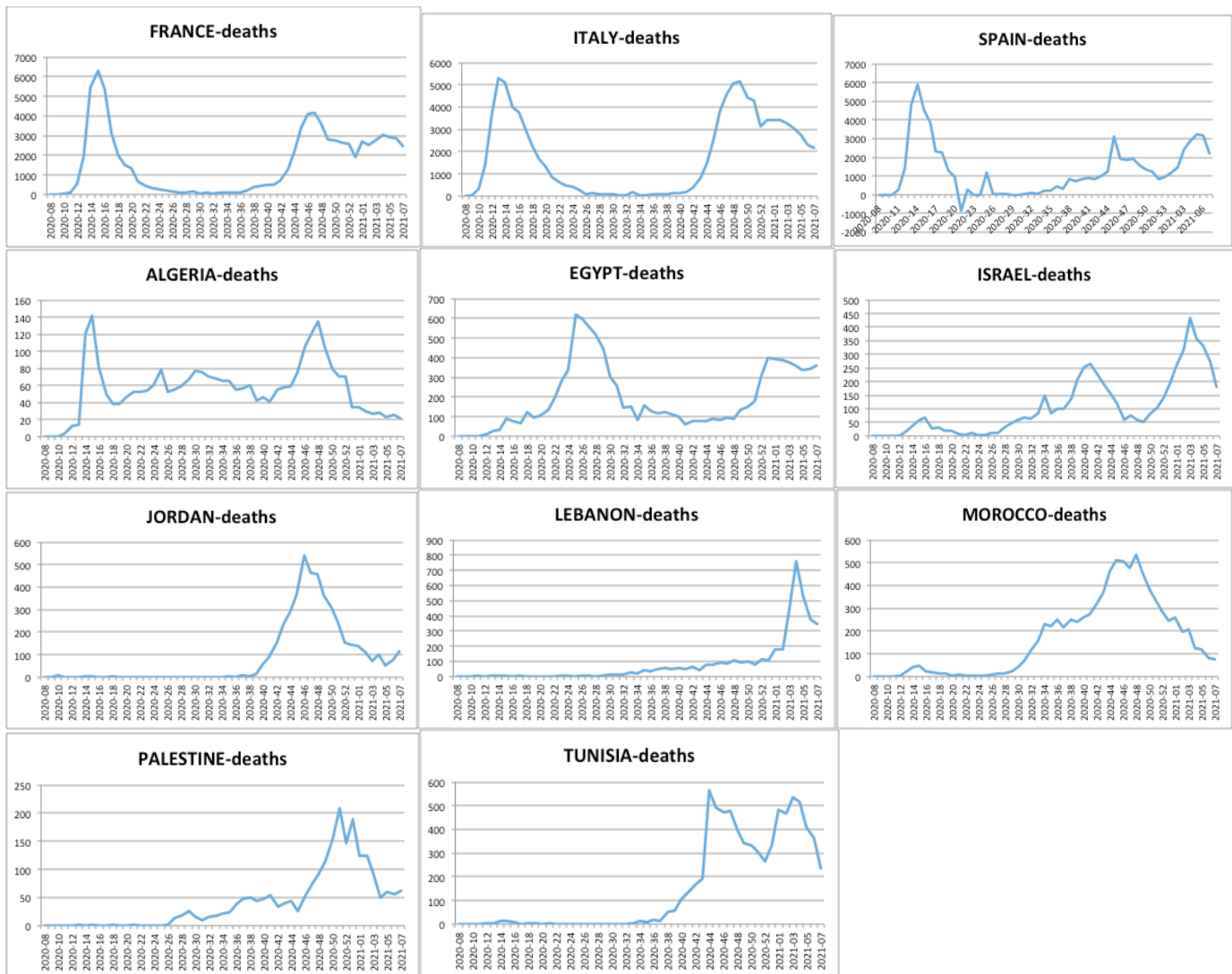
TOTAL DEATHS REPORTED

ITALY	FRANCE	SPAIN	ALGERIA	EGYPT	ISRAEL	JORDAN	LEBANON	MOROCCO	PALESTINE	TUNISIA
95718	84305	67636	2961	10353	5585	4579	4340	8554	2190	7811

Covid-19 cases by week



Covid-19 deaths by week



Latest news

[A report published by ECDC concluded that in most Member States, the sequencing capacity for identification of SARS-CoV-2 variants is below the recommendation set by the European Commission to sequence at least 5%, and preferably 10%, of positive test results, to detect and track mutations. Many countries are increasing or planning to increase their sequencing capacity but have indicated the need for support from ECDC. Specific needs include support with sequencing capacities and protocols and with bioinformatics in particular.](#)

[The European Commission launched the 'HERA Incubator', that will bring together researchers, biotech companies, manufacturers, regulators and public authorities to monitor variants, exchange data and cooperate on adapting vaccines. The program will have three key aims: \(1\) detecting, analysing and adapting to virus variants; \(2\) speeding up regulatory approval of vaccines, providing guidance on data requirements and facilitating the certification of new or repurposed manufacturing infrastructures; and \(3\) supporting the speedy mass production of adapted or novel COVID-19 vaccines.](#)

[According to EUROSTAT, in total, over 450 000 more deaths occurred in the EU between March and November 2020 compared with the same period in 2016 – 2019. During the early rise of COVID-19, the excess mortality in the EU reached its first peak in April 2020, with an increase of 25% compared with the average of the same month over 2016 – 2019. Based on the ECDC data, slightly more than 260,000 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported in the EU at the end of November since the start of the COVID-19 crisis.](#)

An Oxygen Emergency Taskforce has been launched to secure oxygen supplies and technical support. It requires US\$90 million in immediate funding to meet urgent needs in up to 20 countries. It is composed of Unitaid, Who, Wellcome and the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, created by the WHO, European Commission, France and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Guidance documents and trainings

In the wake of the pandemic: Preparing for Long COVID: New policy brief calls on decision-makers to support patients as 1 in 10 report symptoms of "long COVID", by WHO.

Latest news about PPRD South 3

- The No Cost Extension has been approved by the EC and the project will last until the 31 of August
- The Steering Committee took place online the 24th of February with SPCs, EC, TD and the project team. It allowed the partners to be informed on the status of the project, opened the discussion on current guidelines and charters and launched the "exit strategy" of the phase III.
- C1:
 - A training on crisis management around the Impact Module will be organized in March (22-25) for French speaking countries. A second one for English speaking countries will be proposed in May
 - A series of National Trainings on the utilisation of the PPRD South 3 "earthquake simulator" will be done during the month of March
 - The third online training on the utilisation of myDEWETRA.world for improving national early warning systems for flood and forest fire risk will be started during the month of March
- C2: Training on crisis management around the Impact Module in March (22-25) for French speaking countries. A second one for English speaking countries will be proposed in May.
- C3:
 - Launch of the first Spokesperson training for the SPCs
 - Finalisation of the support to SPCs on the creation of the VOST teams and on how to get involved in the global coalition
 - Launch of the activity aimed at fostering women's participation
 - National online meetings will be also organised with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon for the illustration of the PPRD South 3 Guideline document on "How to set up a host nation support plan through a check list of what to do"
 - On the 30 March 2021, PPRD South 3 will present its "Regional Guidelines Document on Emergency Planning"

Useful links

Institutional links

France

[Site du Gouvernement](#) - Government website

Spain

Ministerio de Sanidad, [Consumo](#) y Bienestar Social – Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare

Italy

[Protezione Civile](#) – Civil Protection

EU

[European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)

[The coronavirus Response Team](#)

[MediPIET: Mediterranean and Black Sea Field Epidemiology Training Programme Network](#)

United Nations

[WHO / WHO Whatsapp Group](#)

[Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

New links of interest

[COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan: 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2022](#), by WHO

[International Experiences with Co-Production and People Centredness Offer Lessons for Covid-19 Responses](#), by the British Medical Journal

Disclaimer

All the information provided is the information PPRD South 3 has found screening all news. If there is another important info not in the