



Report No. 4, 2020

Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 21st & 22nd March 2020	Investigation Start Date: 17 March 2020 as of 18hrs.
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 4th national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 17th March 2020.

- First COVID-19-related death registered
- The deceased is the new confirmed case who had no epidemiological link to the index case
- Cumulatively, The Gambia now records two confirmed cases
- A total number of 20 laboratory tests were conducted and a total 131 persons have been screened and placed under mandatory quarantine
- A total number of 310 people have been completed follow-ups and have since reintegrated into society/resumed normal duties
- **Global situation:** Since 31 December 2019 and as of 21 March 2020, a total of 271,364 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions in the affected countries) have been reported from 184 countries, areas or territories. Of these, 11,252 deaths were registered - a crude case fatality rate of 4.1%.

As at March 21st, 38 African countries (including The Gambia) reported confirmed cases of COVID-19. Senegal (The Gambia’s only immediate neighbor) reported 47 cases. Other countries in the sub-region who reported cases are Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin, Liberia, Guinea, Nigeria and Ivory Coast. The first set of cases in affected African countries were imported. However, local transmission is now on the increase.

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

1. Index Case:

- The 28-year old Gambian female arrived from London on the 15th March and self-reported for a laboratory test at the MRCG Laboratories on the 16th March. She is still admitted at the MRCG while her contacts are being traced and followed.

2. Second Case:

- A 70-year old male Bangladeshi national
- Arrived in The Gambia, with 3 other Bangladesh nationals, by Air Peace Airline, on the 14th of March, 2020
- A total of 25 passengers (4 Bangladeshis, 2 Gambians and 19 Nigerians) were onboard the flight
- Began their journey from Bangladesh and passed through Thailand, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali and Senegal before reaching The Gambia (see the schema in figure 1 below)
- They were picked up from the airport by two vehicles
- Was resident at Bundung Markaz, a closely knitted religious community, since arrival in the country

- First reported to the OPD of Bundung Maternal and Child Health Hospital with mild symptoms on the 19th of March
- Reported back to Bundung Maternal and Child Health Hospital the following day (20th March) with severe pneumonia-like symptoms
- The deceased was a known diabetic
- Patient was referred to EFSTH (brought in dead) on the 20th March
- Sample was collected at the EFSTH mortuary and transported to MRCG Laboratories on the 21st March
- Positive test result came out on the 22nd March

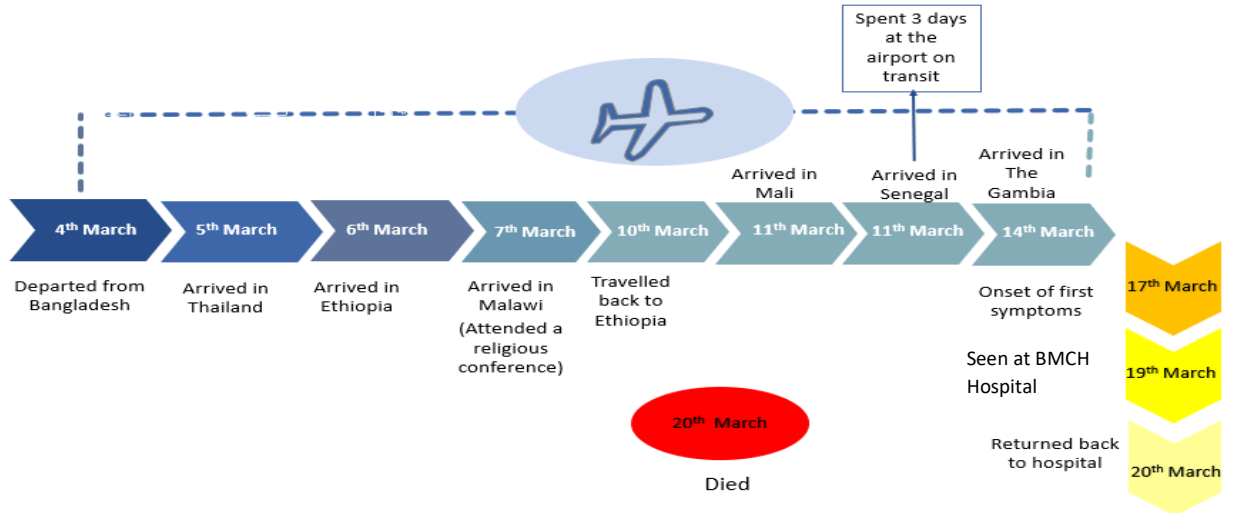


Fig 1: Timeline of events surrounding the second case



Fig 2: Map of The Gambia showing COVID-19 affected region

Table 1: Summary of public health response outputs

Status	New	Cumulative
Quarantined	38	131
Completed follow-up	0	310
Suspected cases	0	13
Contacts Traced	25	66
Confirmed cases	1	2
Death(s)	1	1
Total Tests conducted	2	21
Positive test result	1	2
Negative test result	1	18

III. Public Health Actions initiated following confirmation

- Incident Manager and team visited Markaz immediately and facilitated the quarantining of the remaining 3 Bangladeshi nationals and 9 other Markaz residents
- 3 nurses, a doctor and an orderly from Bundung Maternal and Child Health Hospital who met the patient also among those in quarantine
- Samples will be collected from all high-risk contacts
- Plans are afoot to fumigate and lock down the entire Markaz premises
- Tracing of contacts and contacts of contacts of the index case is ongoing
- Screening, mandatory quarantine of all passengers arriving from hotspot countries, and testing of all suspects meeting the case definition
- Continuous community sensitization
- Daily press briefings
- Memos to facilitate rumor management and prevent the spread of false information disseminated

IV. Next Steps/Recommendations:

- Continue with tracing the contacts of the second case (including mortuary attendants), line listing, quarantine, and testing of suspects that meet case definition
- Plans are under way to quarantine all staff who have had contact with the deceased
- Fumigation of Bundung Maternal and Child Health Hospital, EFSTH Mortuary, and the ambulance that carried the corpse
- SOP for sample reporting system to be developed and implemented with immediate effect
- SOP for burial to be developed and disseminated
- Personnel responsible for receiving passengers (to be quarantined) at airport must reconcile flight manifesto with the actual number of passengers received (this should be facilitated by the airlines GCAA and airport immigration)
- Daily press briefings to keep the public abreast of developments regarding the pandemic
- Training of drivers, mortuary attendants, personnel responsible for EOC and quarantine centre security on COVID-19
- Fumigation and shutdown of Markaz where second case was identified
- Executive directives to suspend congregational prayers should be given and implemented/enforced
- Shift work of 1025 hotline handlers, contact tracers, RRT member and other EOC members
- Develop and implement the use of daily call logs
- Expand COVID-19 testing facility to the NPHL BL3 Laboratory
- SOP for quarantine to be disseminated and implemented

- Rapid assessment tool developed for the upcoming nationwide assessment of isolation centres, health facilities and POEs. This assessment tool will be shared with other committees for their input to capture their needs
- Fumigation of the airport
- Funds are yet to be released for COVID- 19 coordination and response

- **Outbreak case definition (see below)**

1. Suspected case:

Any person with

- History of travel from any affected country within 14 days OR
- Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection within 14 days OR
- Exposure to healthcare facility in a country where hospital associated COVID-19 infections have been reported **with or without** fever, cough, difficulty breathing

2. Community Case Definition:

Any person with hot skin, cough, not breathing well, and who has travelled outside The Gambia recently OR who has taken care of sick person in The Gambia

3. Probable case:

A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive or for whom testing was positive on a pan-coronavirus assay

4. Confirmed case:

Any person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection with or without signs and symptoms

For comments or questions, please contact

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