



Report No. 16, 2020

Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 03rd April 2020	Investigation Start Date: 17 March 2020 as of 18hrs.
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 16th 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.

- 5 laboratory test results received from MRCG were all negative
- 102 individuals completed their mandatory 14-day quarantine and have been discharged
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, the country reported a total of 4 confirmed cases (2 of whom recovered, 1 passed away and 1 undergoing treatment)
- An EU citizen who sneaked into the country through one of the land borders, was put in quarantine
- All four confirmed cases were imported – there is yet to be any evidence of the existence of local transmission

Regional situation: As of 03rd April 2020, 22:03 hrs, 48 African countries (including The Gambia) reported 4,995 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Senegal (The Gambia's only immediate neighbour) reported 207 cases. The first set of cases in affected African countries were imported. However, local transmission is now on the rise.

Global situation: Since 31st December 2019 and as of 03rd April 2020, at 22:03, a total of 1,095,134 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions in the affected countries) have been reported from 206 countries, areas or territories. Of these, 58,791 deaths were registered - a crude case fatality rate of 4.9%.

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

☐ 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 was since isolated/hospitalized at MRCG and got discharged from admission on the 31st March 2020, after producing two consecutive negative test results

☐ Second Case:

- The deceased was a 70-year old male Bangladeshi national who arrived from Senegal on the 14th March after passing through four other countries
- Died on the 20th March and buried on the 25th March

☐ Third Case

- The 71-year old male Gambian hails from URR, and returned from France on the 17th March, 2020
- Patient was hospitalized at MRCG and was discharged on the 1st April upon recovery

☐ Fourth Case

- A 53-year old Gambian who arrived in The Gambia from France on the 15th March and resident at Busumbala Village (was in the same flight with the index case)
- His issue was reported to the RRT through the 1025 Hotline by a concerned citizen. A sample was collected on the 27th March and test results came out on the following day (28th March)
- Currently receiving treatment at the government treatment centre

Tables 1 and 2 show both the epi-classification of cases and the summary of outputs on the various public health activities undertaken:

Table 1: Epi-Classification of Reported Cases, by Region, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Region	2020 Population Estimates	Epi Classification									
		New					Cumulative				
		Suspected case(s)	Probable Case(s)	Confirmed case(s)	Recovery (ies)	Death (s)	Suspected case(s)	Probable Case(s)	Confirmed case (s)	Recovery (ies)	Death(s)
Western Health Region One	950,266	5	0	0	0	0	102	0	3	1	1
Western Health Region Two	514,999	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Upper River Region	283,911	0	0	0		0	17	0	1	1	0
North Bank West	130,196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Bank East	129,629	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower River	88,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central River	257,332	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
National Total	2,354,433	5	0	0	0	0	125	0	4	2	1

Table 2: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Status	New	Cumulative
In Quarantine	1	36
Completed quarantine	102	212
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries)	0	310
Contacts Traced	0	233
Total Tests conducted	5	134
Positive test result	0	4
Negative test result	5	129
Inconclusive test result	0	1



Fig 1: Map of The Gambia showing COVID-19 affected regions

III. Major Response Activities

Table 3: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily coordination meetings ongoing at both the strategic and technical levels
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An EU citizen who sneaked into the country through one of the land borders in URR (after passing through 4 countries) was put in quarantine Regular monitoring of the condition of all persons under quarantine Tracing of contacts and contacts of contacts of the confirmed cases is ongoing All 5 laboratory test results received from MRCG on the 3rd April came out negative 102 persons discharged upon completion of their 14-day quarantine period
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of regular psychosocial support to people in quarantine Fourth case still receiving treatment and remains in stable condition (clinical and psychological)
Logistics/Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHEOC receives a car wash machine for disinfecting vehicles from a private business entity A private printing company has provided 100 ID cards for the staff working on COVID-19 response at no cost, for easy identification of people in the operations
Risk Communication and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 TV and 8 radio programs successfully conducted 1 press briefing conducted 32 communities sensitized/engaged on COVID-19 preventive measures using different community structures Summary of calls made to 1025: a total of 673 calls received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of the total calls received, 561 calls were related to COVID-19 inquiries and 112 calls were not related to COVID-19 6 calls were booked and referred for further follow-up Summary of Social media activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Facebook and 2 twitter posts shared with over 24, 000 people reached <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U-report poll found that over 92% of respondents heard about COVID-19 and that most respondents (47%) got COVID-19 related information from TV

IV. Next Steps/Recommendations:

- Test all persons (symptomatic or not) who are about to complete their quarantine period
- Efforts to be made to facilitate movement of health workers to their duty stations
- Review and implement national quarantine SOPs
- Immediate pre-positioning of PPEs in all health facilities
- Develop and distribute national COVID-19 treatment guidelines
- Continue with daily follow-ups of low risk contacts
- Encourage public reporting and self-reporting of high risk individuals through the toll-free line (1025)
- Increase psychosocial support to affected communities, persons under quarantine and those being followed up
- Forster collaboration between PHEOC and National security taskforce for COVID 19 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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