



○ Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 18th August 2020	Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 123rd 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

- 4 new COVID-19 related deaths recorded, bringing the total number of deaths to 81 - a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4%
 - Samples from all 4 deceased cases (3 males and 1 female) were collected posthumously
 - Out of the 6 posthumous sample results received, 1 returned positive, 3 tested inconclusive and 2 were negative for COVID-19
- 113 new cases registered, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 2,401
 - This represents a 37% test positivity rate (113 out of 309 total tests performed)
 - The median age of the new cases is 37 years (range: 1 to 91 years)
- 309 new laboratory test results received from MRCG and NPHL
 - Of these, 3 new tests returned indeterminate
- Whereas no one was newly taken into quarantine, 11 new discharges were made
- The country currently has 291 people in quarantine, 1,885** active cases, 201 probable cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4%

**The bulk of the active cases are asymptomatic and are as such self-isolating at home pending the manifestation of symptoms

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **22,297,453**
- Recoveries: **15,040,338**
- Deaths: **783,519**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **12,305**
- Recoveries: **7,767**
- Deaths: **256**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **2,401**
- Recoveries: **435**
- Deaths: **81**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

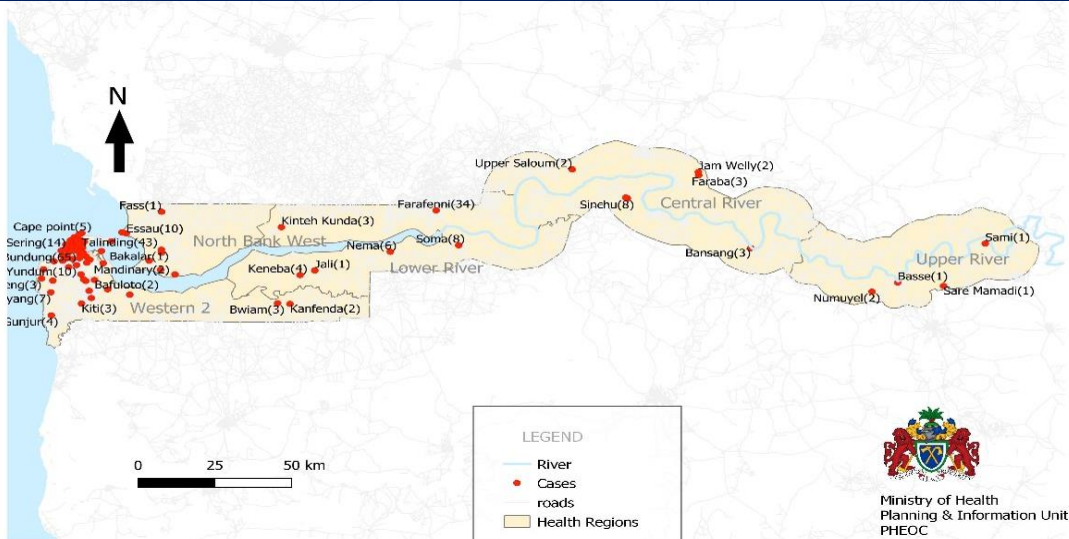


Figure 1: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in The Gambia, August 2020



Figure 2: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in Western and North Bank West Regions, The Gambia, 2020

- All 7 health regions have reported cases of COVID-19 (See Fig. 1)
- Comparatively, there is a disproportionate concentration of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Western 1 and 2 Health Regions (See Fig. 1)
- Notwithstanding its population and size, Banjul recorded more cases than any other location within WR1(See Fig. 2)

Figures 3 and 4 are the age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively.

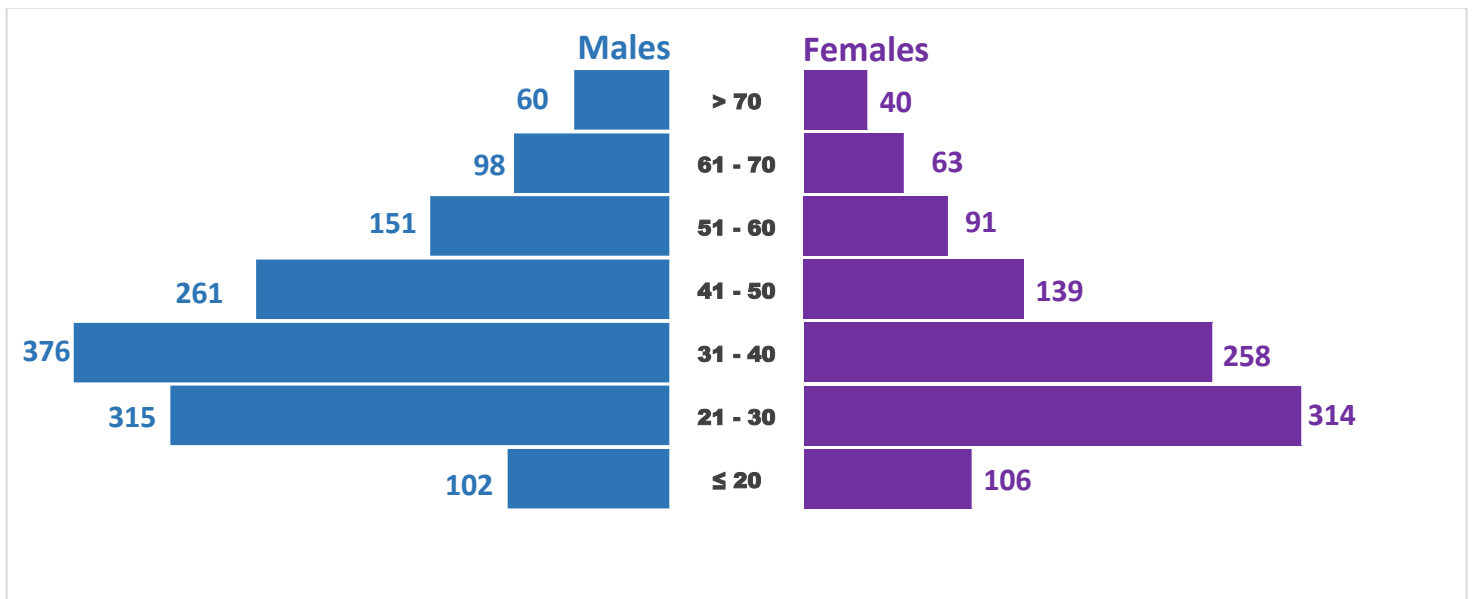


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

* This excludes the 27 confirmed cases whose demographic information are not yet available

- About 57% of the confirmed cases are males (See Fig. 3)
- About 63% of the confirmed cases are below age 40 (See Fig. 3)

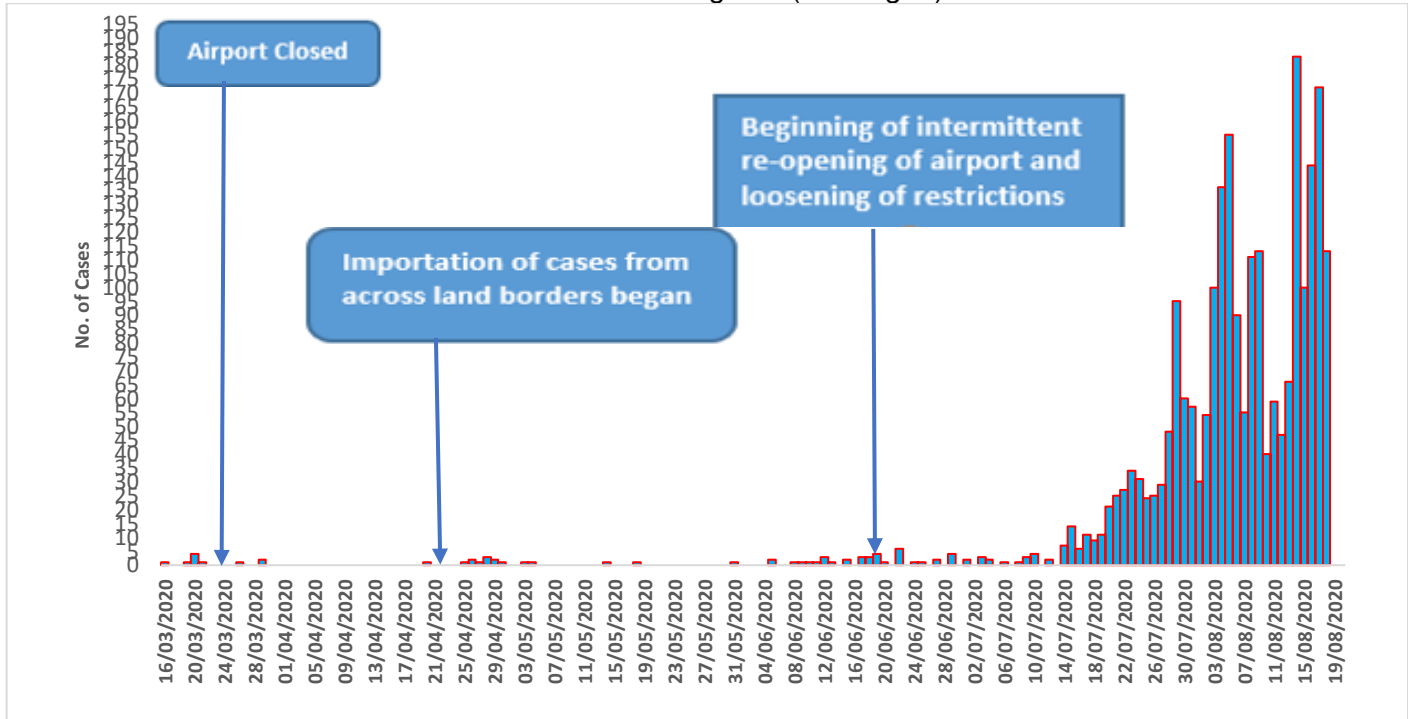


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.

* A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- Three main waves of infection occurred – the pre airport closure wave, the importation from Senegal wave and the intermittent airport re-opening and loosening of restrictions wave (See Fig. 4)
- Within the last 10 days, there has been over a 100% increase in the number of COVID-19 cases reported by the country (See Fig. 4)

Table 1: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020

Status	New	Cumulative
In Quarantine	0	291
Completed quarantine	11	2,002
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
Contact(s) Traced (Target)**	0	1,681/1,731(Target)
Follow-up Made to Low-Risk Contacts	674/709	
Completed follow-up of low risk contacts	0	
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	280 (29)***	11,305
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	113 (16)	2,401
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	164(12)***	8,383
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	3(1)***	

* Follow-up completed prior to the 17th March (when the first confirmed case was reported)

** Includes both low-risk and high-risk contacts and not mutually exclusive with number quarantined (as some have been quarantined)

*** Includes repeat tests in bracket

III. Major Response Activities

Table 2: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 309 new laboratory test results received from MRCG and NPHL Of these, 3 new tests returned indeterminant and 129 tests (16 repeats and 113 new) were positive for COVID-19
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 new COVID-19 related deaths recorded, bringing the total number of deaths to 81 - a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4% 8 radio talk shows conducted on the psychosocial impact of COVID-19 50 Majalis benefitted from food and sanitary items from the PAPEV Project, ISRA and the Department of Social Welfare 2 families benefitted from psychosocial support interventions at their homes

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- Proper management of the continuously generated healthcare waste is a concern as there is only one functional incinerator at the NPHL
- Existence of pervasive community transmission of COVID-19 in the country, especially in Western 1 and 2 Health Regions
- Uptick of COVID-19 among healthcare workers
- Cost borne by government at designated quarantine facilities is prohibitive and may be unsustainable

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Expedite the allocation of land to construct the waste management plant that has been procured by the World Bank Group to address healthcare waste management issues
- Imposition of stringent lockdown measures in the country in order to curb the spread of the virus
- IPC measures should be strictly adhered to in all public and private health healthcare facilities
- Provision of adequate stocks of PPEs to all health facilities
- Health workers to observe all COVID-19 preventive measures including the donning of appropriate PPEs at all times
- Implementation of updated quarantine and isolation guidelines

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