



○ Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 22nd & 23rd August 2020	Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.
Prepared by:	Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 126th 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

- 3 new COVID-19 related deaths recorded, bringing the total number of deaths, registered since March, to 90 - a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4%
 - Of these, while one was a known COVID-19 patient isolated at the Sanatorium, the remaining 2 had their COVID-19 statuses confirmed posthumously
 - The median age, at death, of the 3 deceased cases (2 males and 1 female) is 73 years (range: 72 to 83 years)
- 101 new cases registered, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 2,686
 - This represents a 27% test positivity rate (101 out of 379 total tests performed)
 - The median age of the new cases is 36 years (range: 1 to 100 years)
- 379 new laboratory test results received from MRCG and NPHL
 - Of these, 6 new tests returned indeterminant
- 111 new recoveries registered, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries, to date, to 601 (22.4% recovery rate)
- Whereas 11 people were newly taken into quarantine, 15 new discharges were made
- The country currently has 292 people in quarantine, 1,995 active cases, 227 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: **23,578,523**
- Recoveries: **16,075,953**
- Deaths: **812,190**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **12,949**
- Recoveries: **8,455**
- Deaths: **269**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **2,686**
- Recoveries: **601**
- Deaths: **90**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

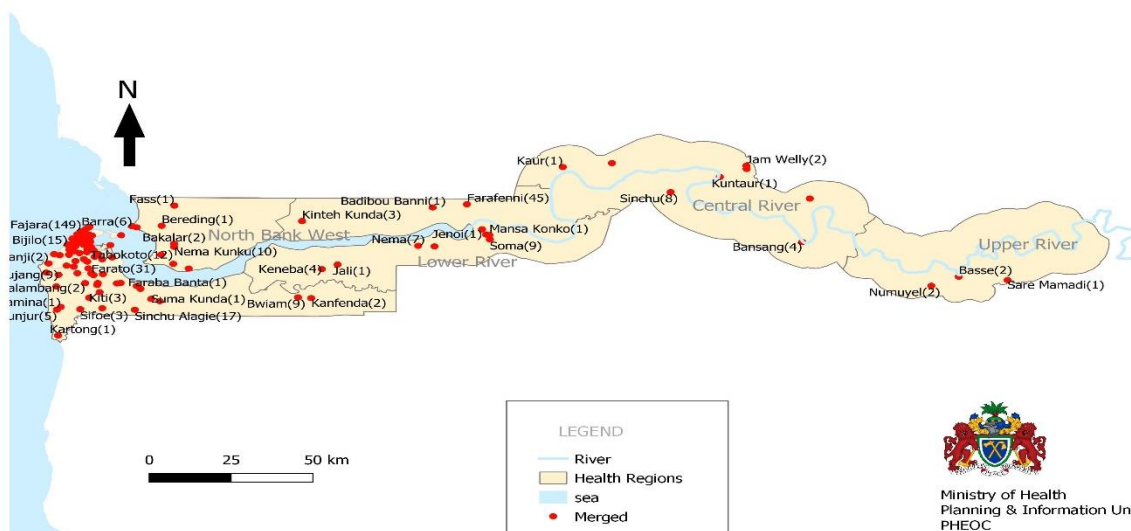


Figure 1: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in The Gambia, August 2020



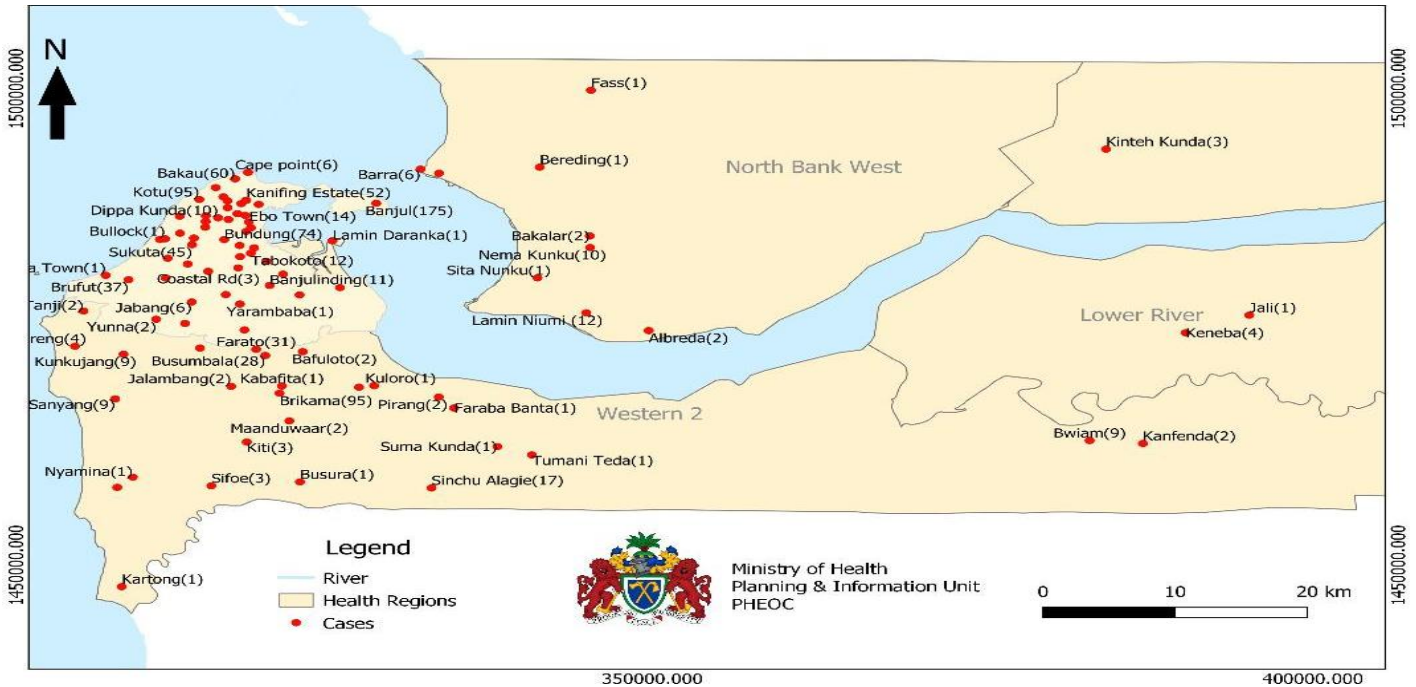


Figure 2: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in Western and North Bank West Regions, The Gambia, 2020

- All 7 coastal 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.

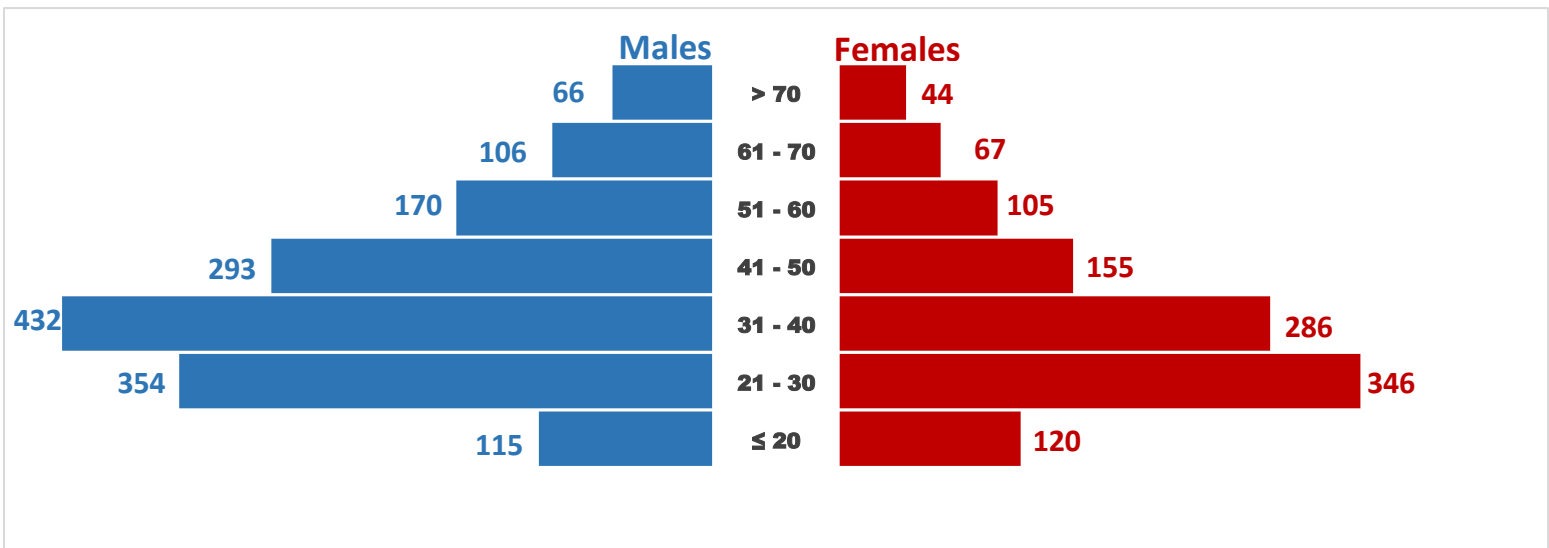


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

* 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)

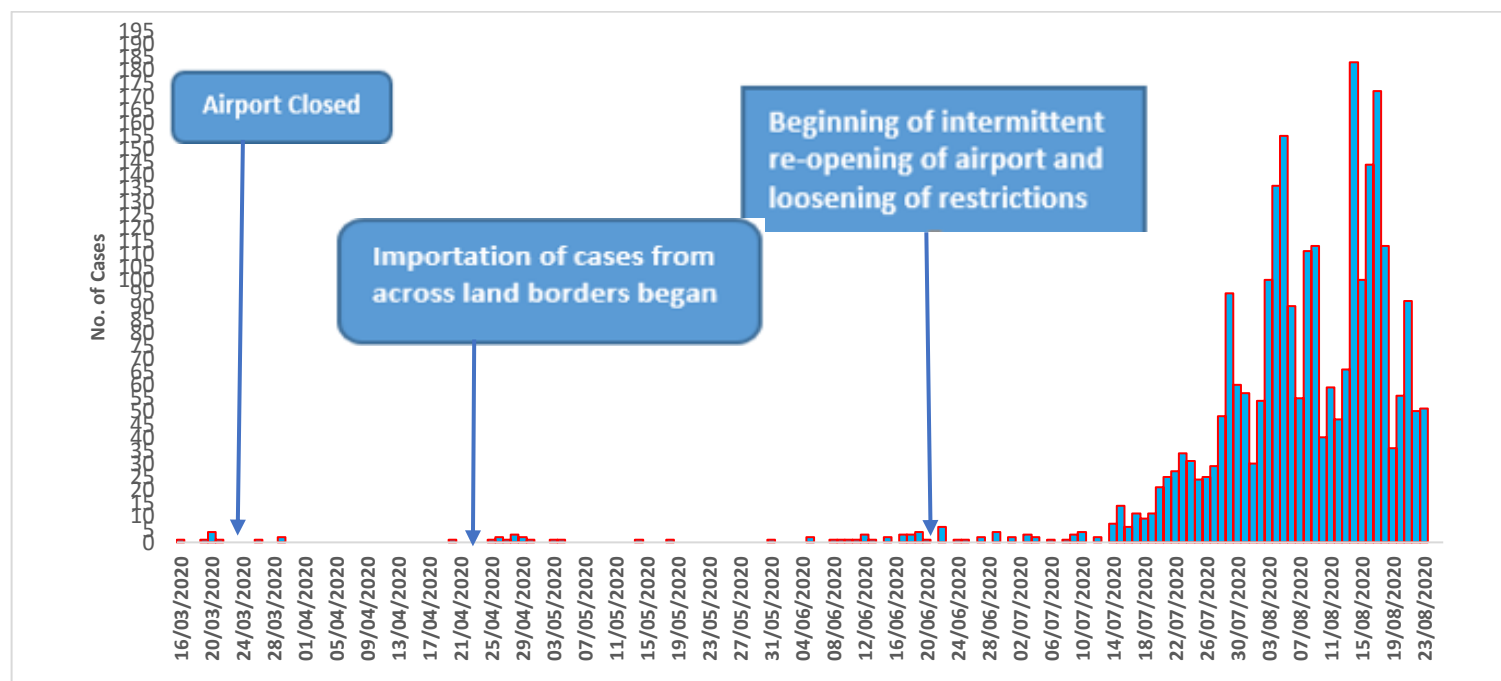


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.

* 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)
- In the last couple of weeks, there has been exponential increases 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
No. of active cases in institutional isolation	122	
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support	4	
No. of patients recovered and discharged	111	
In Quarantine	11	292
Completed quarantine	15	2,035
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
Contact(s) Traced (Target)**	840	1,681/1,731 (Target)
Follow-up Made to Low-Risk Contacts	795/830	
Completed follow-up of low risk contacts	0	
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	369 (10)***	12,304
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	101 (4)	2,686
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	249(6)***	9,047
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	19(0)***	

* 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"> 379 new laboratory test results received from MRCG and NPHL Of these, 19 new tests returned indeterminant and 105 tests (4 repeats and 101 new) were positive for COVID-19
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 new COVID-19 related deaths recorded, bringing the total number of deaths registered, since March, to 90 - a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4% 111 new patients have recovered and were discharged
Logistics / Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP has restored Internet connection at the PHEOC and will continue the payment of Internet bills for the next 3 months Some Gambian philanthropists donated ICT equipment to the surveillance unit of the response 23 health workers benefitted from a UNICEF-funded IPC training at Soma Nationwide distribution of PPEs is ongoing

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Public Information Center Actions					Community Engagement Actions	Feedback from Public Engagement Actions			
Total No. of Calls received on toll free helpline	Calls referred to Contact Tracing team for Action	Calls referred to Quarantine team for action	Calls referred to Rapid Response Team for Action	Calls referred to safety and security team for action	No. of communities reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	Toll Free Helpline: No. of people shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs	Radio phoning programme: No. of people shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs	TV phoning programme: No. of people shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs	Social Media pages: No. of people shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs
41	4	6	6	11	16	11	26	-	853

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- The Case Management Pillar of the COVID-19 response is grappling with transportation difficulties to move clinicians around the treatment centers according to their shifts
- Proper management of the continuously generated healthcare waste is a concern as there is only one functional incinerator at the NPHL
- The lack of a strong and reliable Internet connection at the NPHL is hampering the implementation of e-surveillance at the laboratory

- 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:

- Urgent provision of more vehicles to ease the movement of clinicians
- Ensure there is reliable internet access at the NPHL to support the effective implementation of e-surveillance
- 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

For comments or questions, please contact:
Sana .M. Sambou
 Public Health Emergency Operations Center
 Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, The Gambia
Email: sanasambou@hotmail.com Phone: +220 3516320/2422949

PARTNERS

