



○ Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 26th 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 129th 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 more COVID-19 related deaths recorded, bringing the total to 96 – a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4%
 - All 3 tested positive for COVID-19 prior to their deaths
 - The said deaths were detected through the routine virtual clinics being conducted by volunteer doctors monitoring the conditions of COVID-19 positive cases in home isolation
- 54 new cases registered, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 2,797
 - This represents a 24.8% test positivity rate (54 out of 218 total tests performed)
 - The median age of the new cases is 34 years (range: 2 days to 68 years)
- 218 new laboratory test results received from MRCG and NPHL
 - Of these, 13 new tests returned indeterminate
- 105 new recoveries registered, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries, to date, to 743 (27% recovery rate)
- Whereas 17 people were newly taken into quarantine, 4 new discharges were made
- The country currently has 44 people in quarantine, 1,958 active cases, 233 probable cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4%

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **24,051,271**
- Recoveries: **16,600,858**
- Deaths: **822,726**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **13,056**
- Recoveries: **8,715**
- Deaths: **274**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **2,797**
- Recoveries: **743**
- Deaths: **96**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

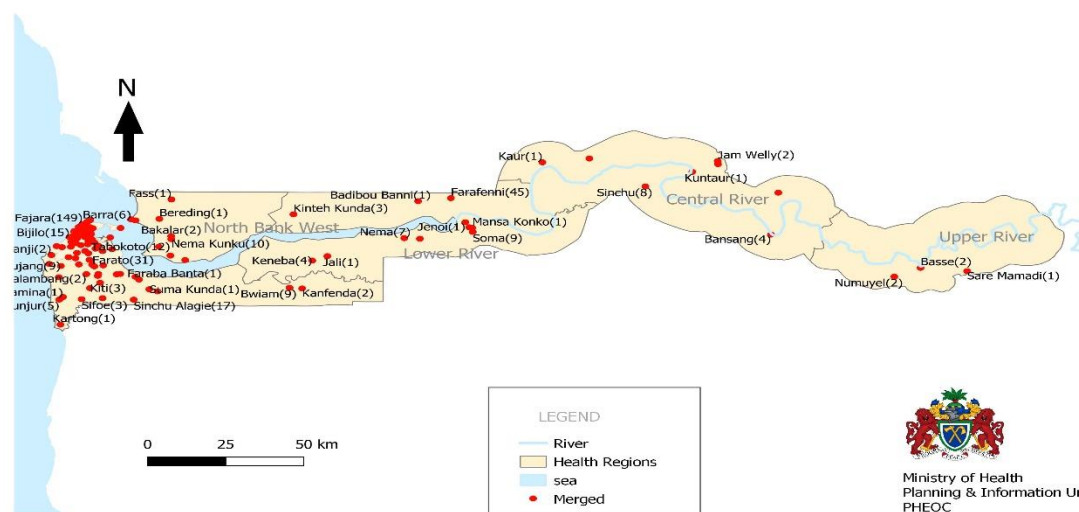


Figure 1: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in The Gambia, August 2020



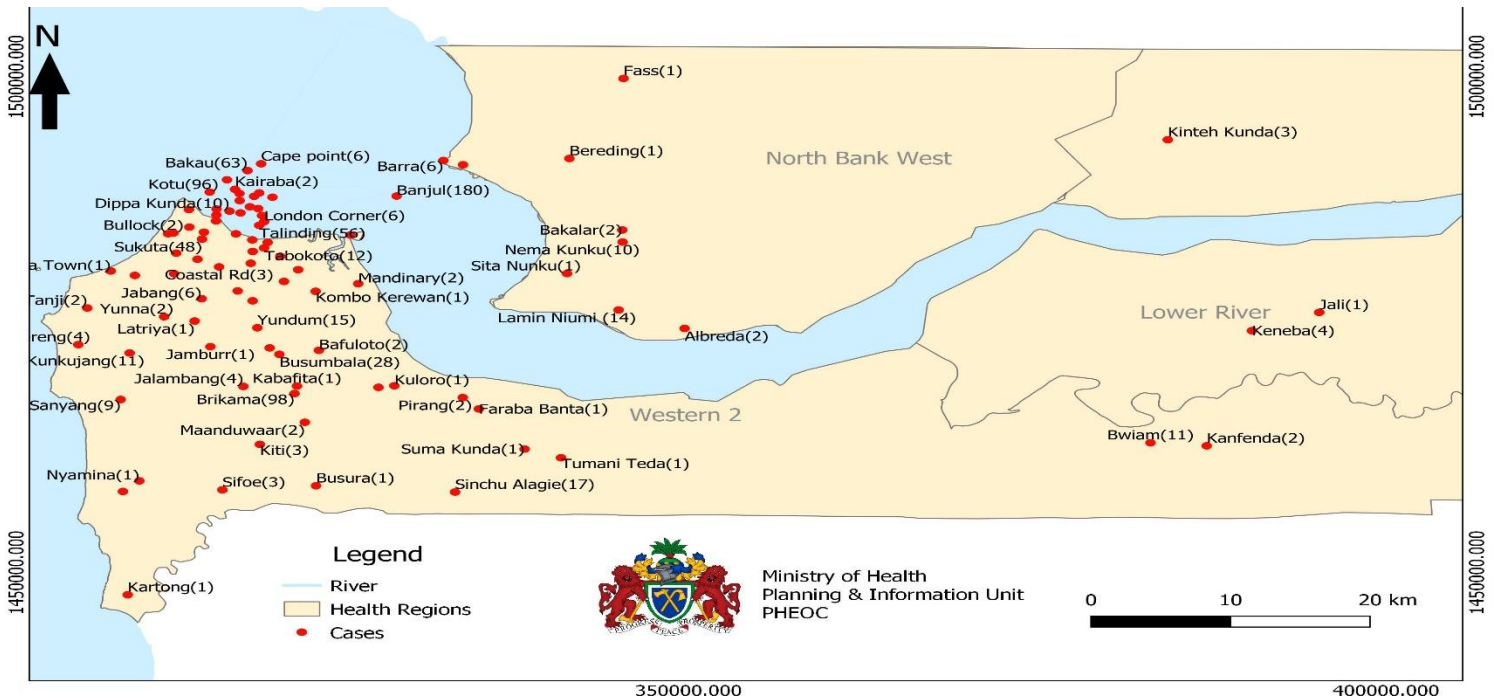


Figure 2: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in Western and North Bank West Regions, The Gambia, 2020

- 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.

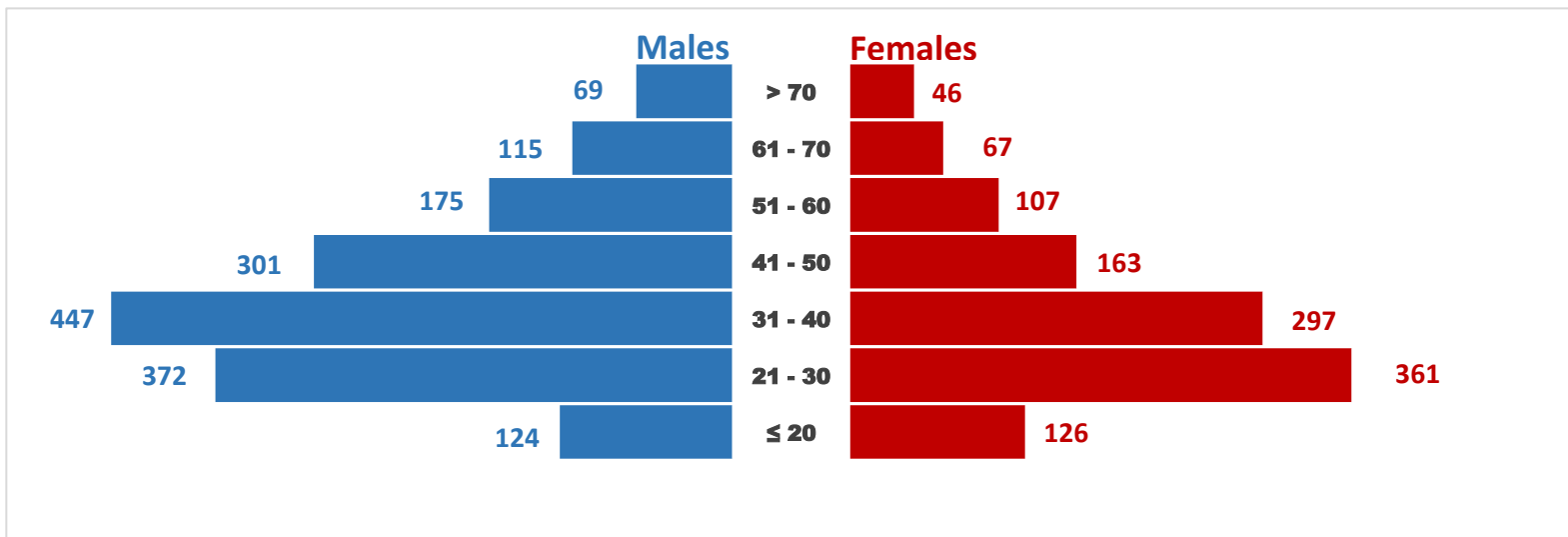


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

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

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

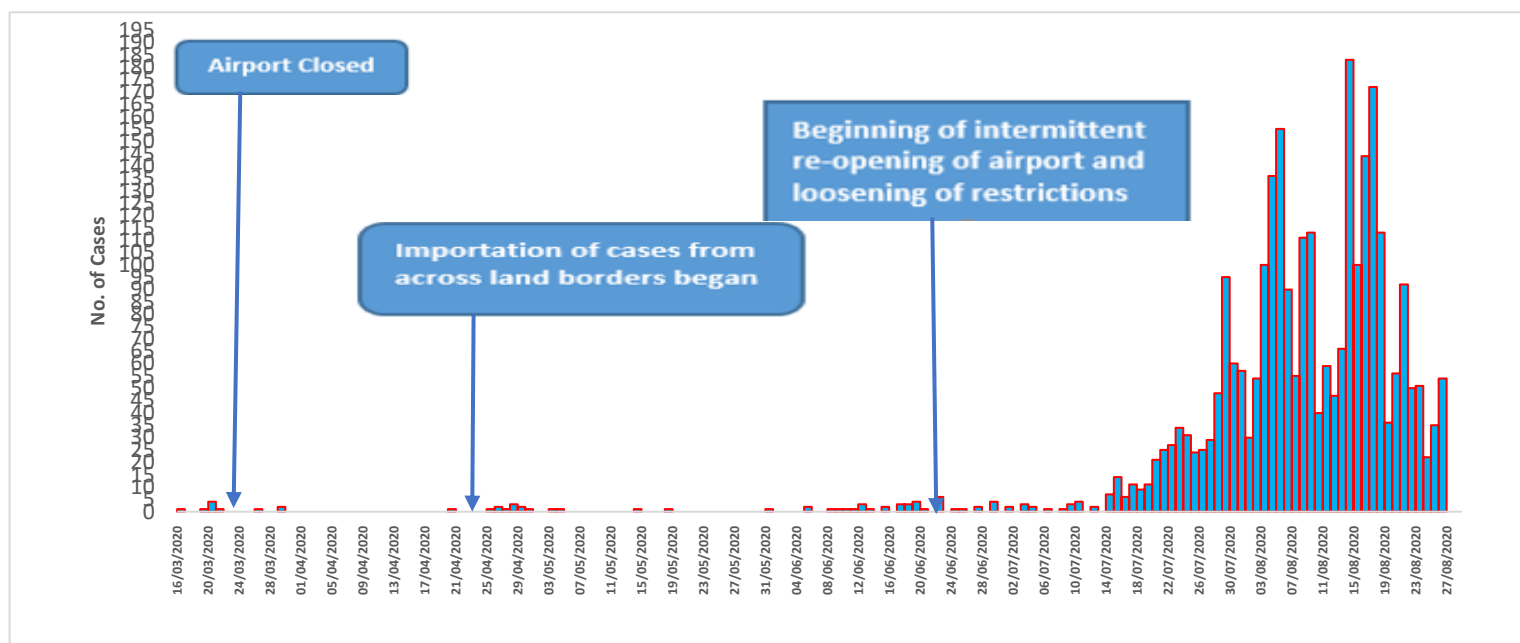


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.

* 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	124	
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support	9	
No. of patients recovered and discharged	105	
In Quarantine	17	44
Completed quarantine	4	2,317
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
Contact(s) Traced (Target)**	134	3,460/3,520(Target)
Follow-up Made to Low-Risk Contacts	10	
Completed follow-up of low risk contacts	0	
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	110 (18)***	12,798
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	54 (4)	2,797
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	133(14)***	9,360
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	13(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"> 218 new laboratory test results received from MRCG and NPHL Of these, 13 new tests returned indeterminant and 55 (1 repeat and 54 new) were positive for COVID-19
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 more COVID-19 related deaths recorded, bringing the total to 96 – a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4% 105 new patients have recovered and were discharged

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

