



○ Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 20th & 21st August 2020	Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 125th 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 to 87 - a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4%
 - While 2 of the new deceased cases were COVID-19 patients at a treatment centre, one tested positive when his sample was collected posthumously
 - Out of a total of 12 posthumous sample results received, only 1 returned positive for COVID-19
 - The median age, at death, of the deceased cases (2 males and 1 female) is 89 years (range: 37 to 93 years)
- 148 new cases registered, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 2,585
 - This represents a 31% test positivity rate (148 out of 483 total tests performed)
 - The median age of the new cases is 37 years (range: 6 to 104 years)
- 483 new laboratory test results received from MRCG and NPHL
 - Of these, 6 new tests returned indeterminant
- 35 new discharges effected from the treatment centres, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to date to 476 (18.4% recovery rate)
- Whereas 23 were newly taken into quarantine, 18 new discharges were made
- The country currently has 296 people in quarantine, 2,108 active cases, 214 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: **23,108,416**
- Recoveries: **15,700,385**
- Deaths: **802,600**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **12,689**
- Recoveries: **8,165**
- Deaths: **262**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **2,585**
- Recoveries: **490**
- Deaths: **87**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

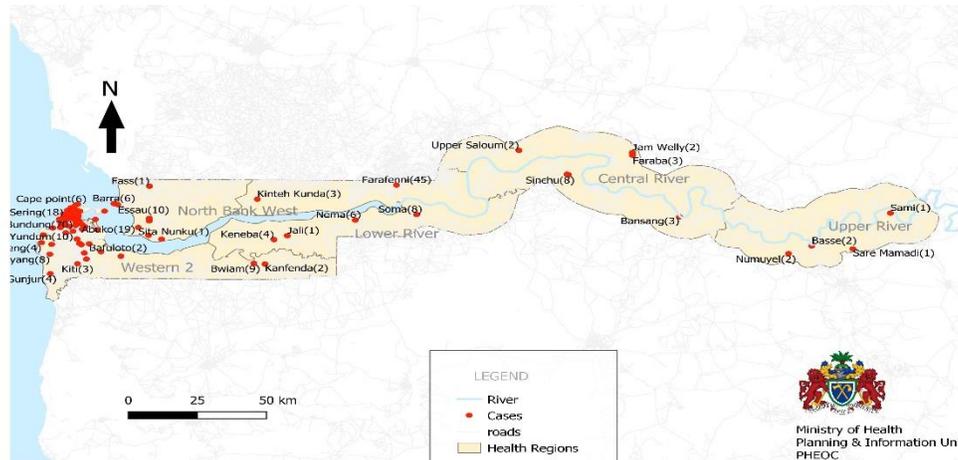


Figure 1: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in The Gambia, August 2020

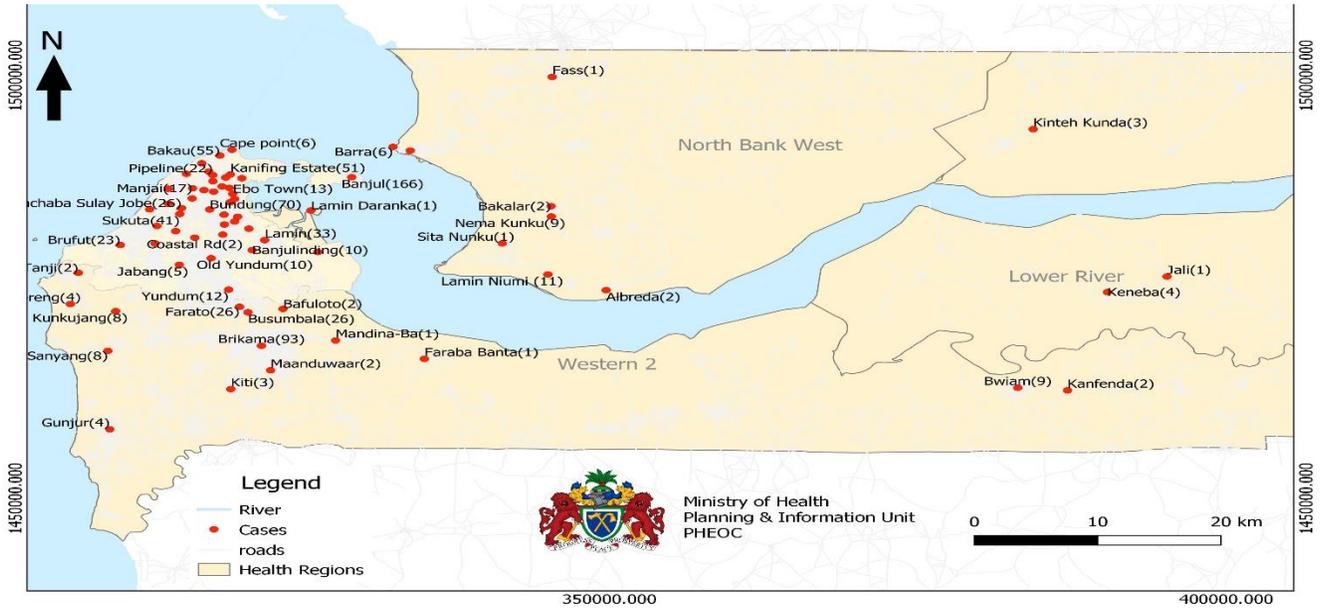


Figure 2: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in Western and North Bank West Regions, The Gambia, 2020

- 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.

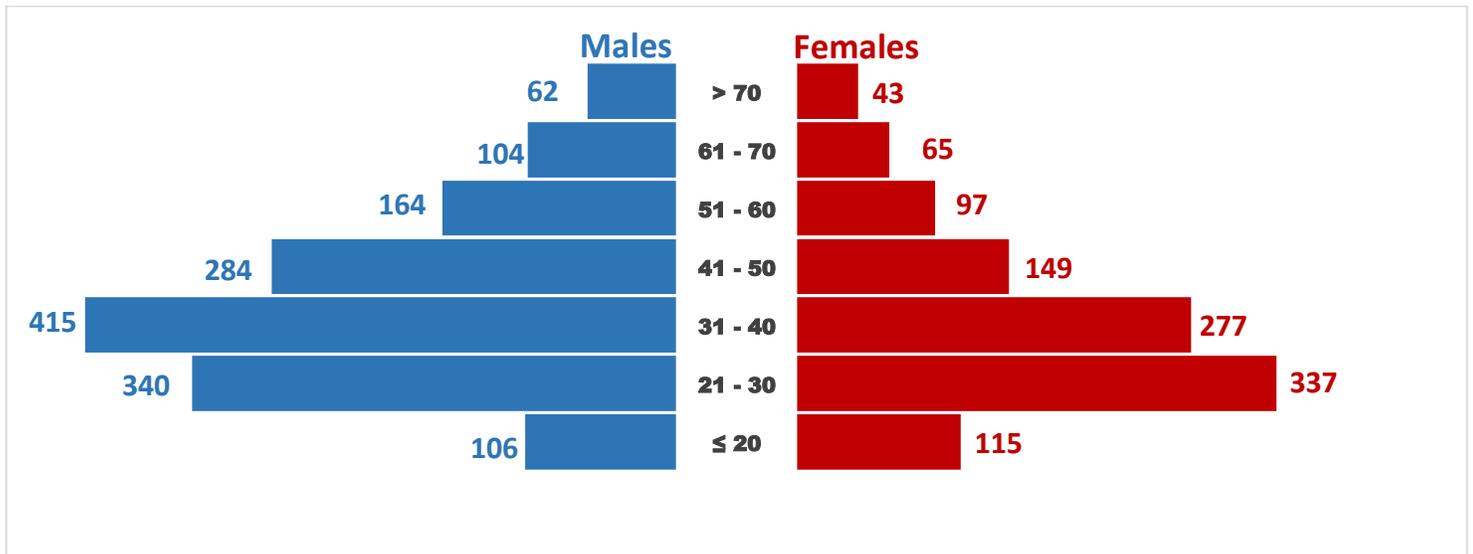


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

* 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)

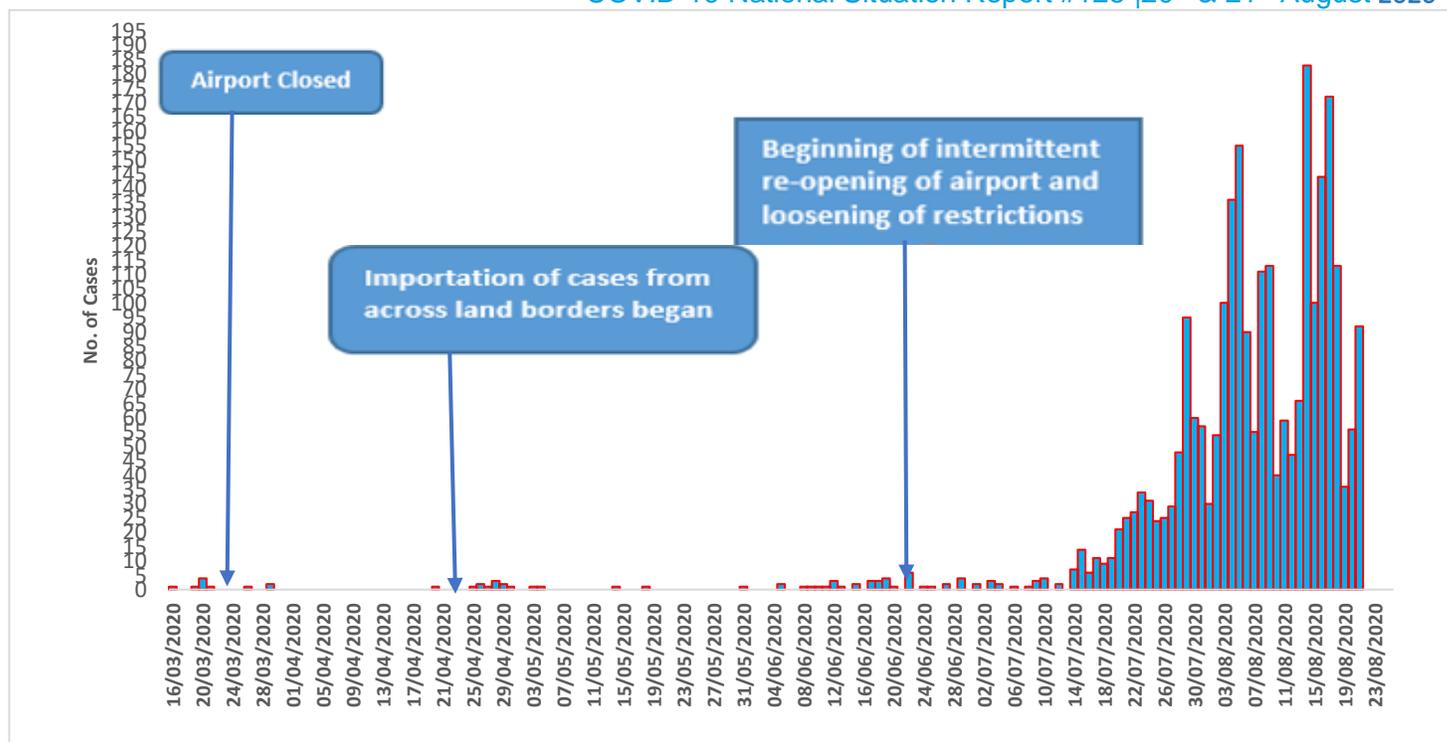


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.

* 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)
- 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	130	
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support	10	
No. of patients recovered and discharged	35	
In Quarantine	23	296
Completed quarantine	18	2,020
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))***	483 (0)***	11,925
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	148 (0)	2,585
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	329(0)***	8,712
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	6(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"> A delegation of Senegalese public health emergency response experts arrived in the country to meet with counterparts and share experiences and best practices in the fight against COVID-19 Daily coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 483 new laboratory test results received from MRCG and NPHL Of these, 6 new tests returned indeterminate and 148 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 to 85 - a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.4% 35 new patients have recovered and were discharged

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
92	3	9	12	6	21	33	12	5	1952

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

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PARTNERS

