



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 06th October 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 164th national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 16th March 2020

- No new COVID-19 related death recorded
- 4 new cases registered, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 3,617
 - This represents a 3.5% test positivity rate (4 out of 114 total tests performed)
 - The median age of the new cases is 32 years (range: 22 to 60 years)
- 114 new laboratory test results received from NPHL
 - Of these, none returned indeterminant / inconclusive
- 202 new COVID-19 patients recovered and got discharged
 - The unusually high number of discharges resulted from the resumption of virtual clinics where the condition of every asymptomatic case who is self-isolating at home is monitored
- While no person was newly taken into quarantine, 37 people were discharged from quarantine
- The country currently has 2 people in quarantine, 1,063 active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.2%

*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: **36,033,512**
- Recoveries: **27,140,006**
- Deaths: **1,054,061**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **15,141**
- Recoveries: **12,936**
- Deaths: **312**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **3,617**
- Recoveries: **2,437**
- Deaths: **117**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



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

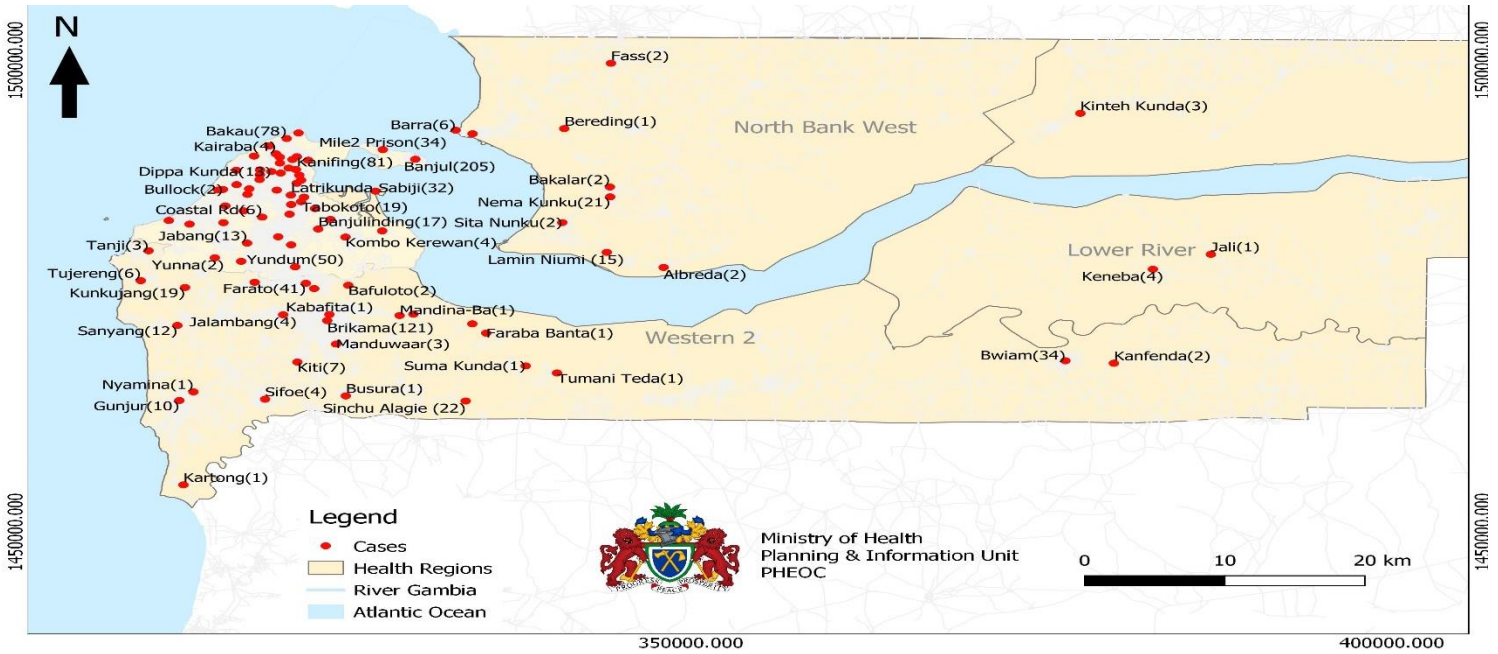


Figure 2: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in Western and North Bank West Regions, The Gambia, 2020

- All 7 health regions have reported cases of COVID-19 (See Fig. 1)
- 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.

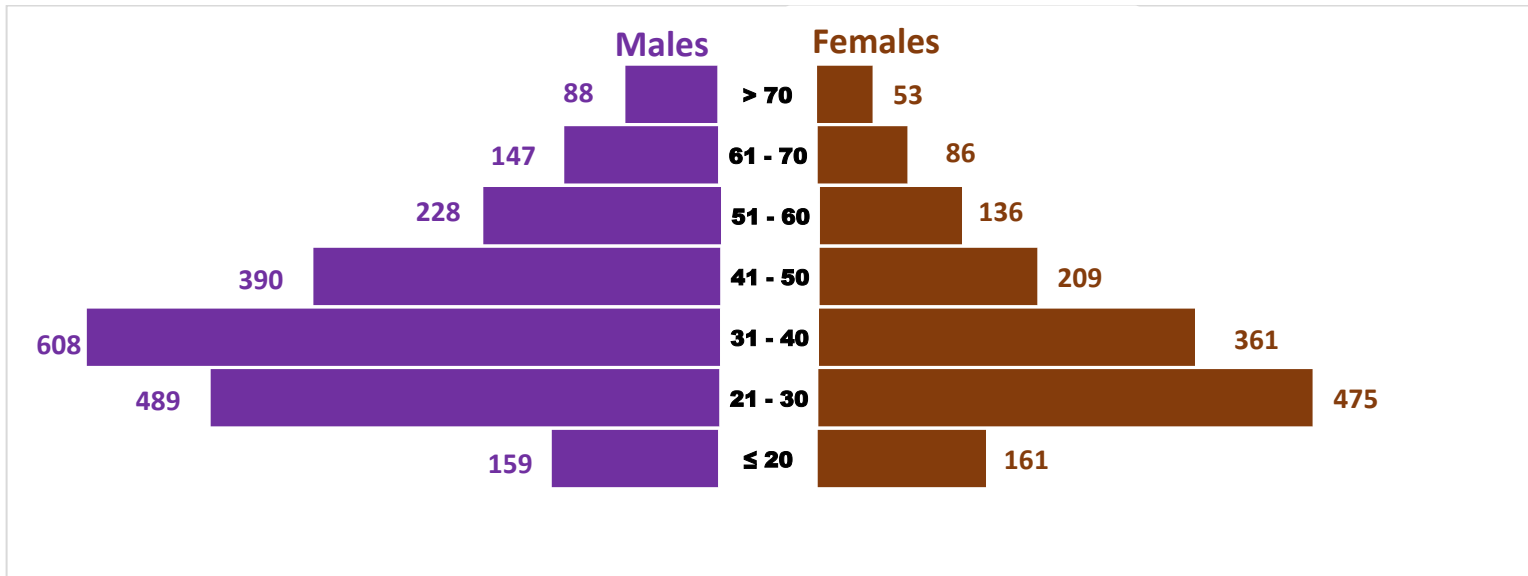


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

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

- About 58% of the confirmed cases are males (See Fig. 3)
- About 60% of the confirmed cases are below age 40 (See Fig. 3)

- The only age category with a few more female cases than males is the “age 20 and less” category (See Fig. 3)

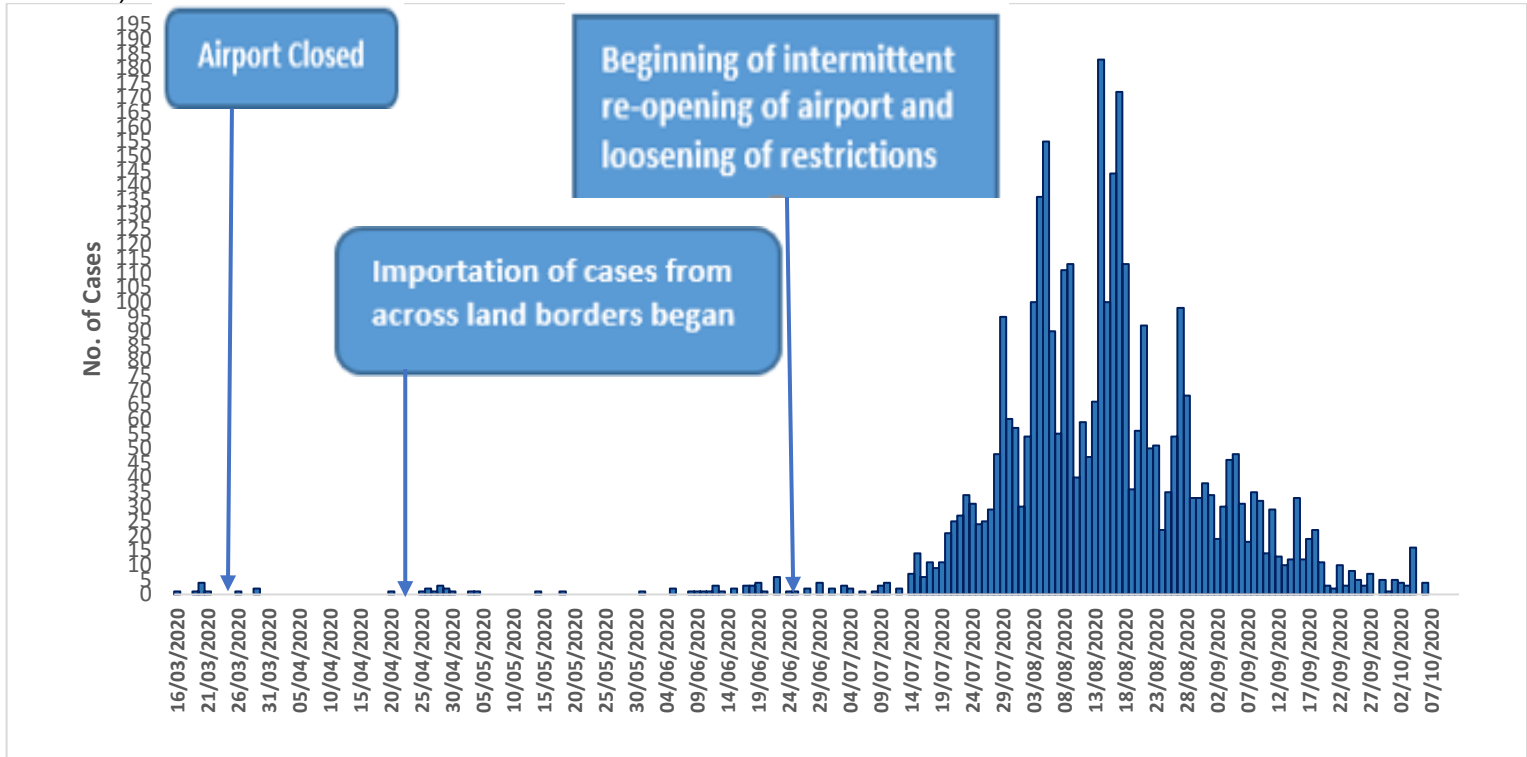


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.

* 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)

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	25	
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support	1	
No. of patients recovered and discharged	202	
In Quarantine	0	2
Completed Quarantine	44	2,680
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	0	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	8,659
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	30
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	101 (13)***	18,368
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	4 (2)	3,617
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	97 (11)***	13,639
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	0 (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"> 114 new laboratory test results received from NPHL Of these, no test results returned inconclusive or indeterminant and 6 (2 repeats and 4 new) tests were positive for COVID-19
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 202 patients recovered and got discharged within the last 24Hrs
Logistics and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 new vehicles procured to support and ease mobility in the COVID-19 response

RISK COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- Absence of community-based surveillance to shore up demand for COVID-19 tests
- Security lapses at some of the treatment centers resulting in the abscondence of patients
- Dwindling compliance with mask-wearing requirements
- Low turn-out at COVID-19 sample collection sites resulting in fewer number of daily tests
- Denial, misinformation, stigma and discrimination against COVID-19 affected families
- The lack of a strong and reliable Internet connection at the NPHL is hampering the implementation of e-surveillance at the laboratory
- Uptick of COVID-19 among healthcare workers

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Security needs to be beefed up at all COVID-19 treatment/isolation centers to prevent the abscondence of patients
- Urgently institute a robust community-based surveillance system in order to increase testing
- Thorough enforcement of the mandatory mask-wearing regulation
- Ensure there is reliable internet access at the NPHL to support the effective implementation of e-surveillance
- 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
- Intensify RCCE activities at community level in a bid to curtail the ongoing community transmission and dispel misinformation and denial

For comments or questions, please contact:
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PARTNERS

