



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 08th Dec 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 216th 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 registered
 - No posthumous sample collected
- 2 new cases registered, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 3,778
 - Both new cases are male aged 46 and 54 years
 - While one of the 2 cases is an intending traveller, the other sought to be tested on account of being ill with influenza-like symptoms
- 137 new laboratory test results received from NPHL
 - Of these, 2 new tests returned positive, representing a test positivity rate of 1.5%
 - None returned indeterminate
- 2 COVID-19 patients newly got discharged
- A WHO-funded training of trainers, involving 28 participants (4 per health region), was held for regional IPC focal persons who will cascade the lessons learnt to other health workers in their respective regions
- 3 of the 23 people recently quarantined have been transferred to the treatment centre after testing positive for COVID-19
- 3 newly admitted COVID-19 patients have absconded from the Sanatorium
- The country currently has 20 people in quarantine, 14 active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.3%

*3 recently confirmed cases absconded from the Sanatorium

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **68,564,472**
- Recoveries: **47,474,575**
- Deaths: **1,562,364**

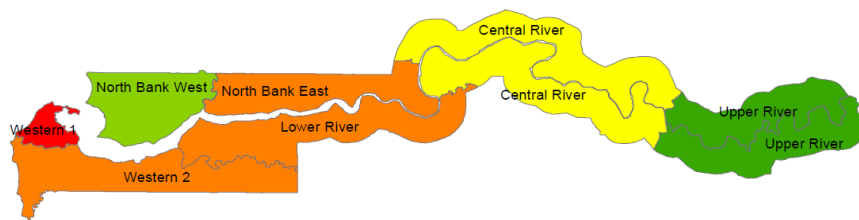
Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **16,596**
- Recoveries: **15,864**
- Deaths: **340**

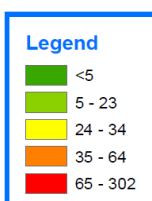
The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **3,778**
- Recoveries: **3,638**
- Deaths: **123**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles



WGS_1984_Complex_UTM_Zone_28N

Figure I: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, The Gambia, March 16th – 2nd Dec, 2020

COVID-19 Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop., Nov 3rd - Dec 2nd, 2020

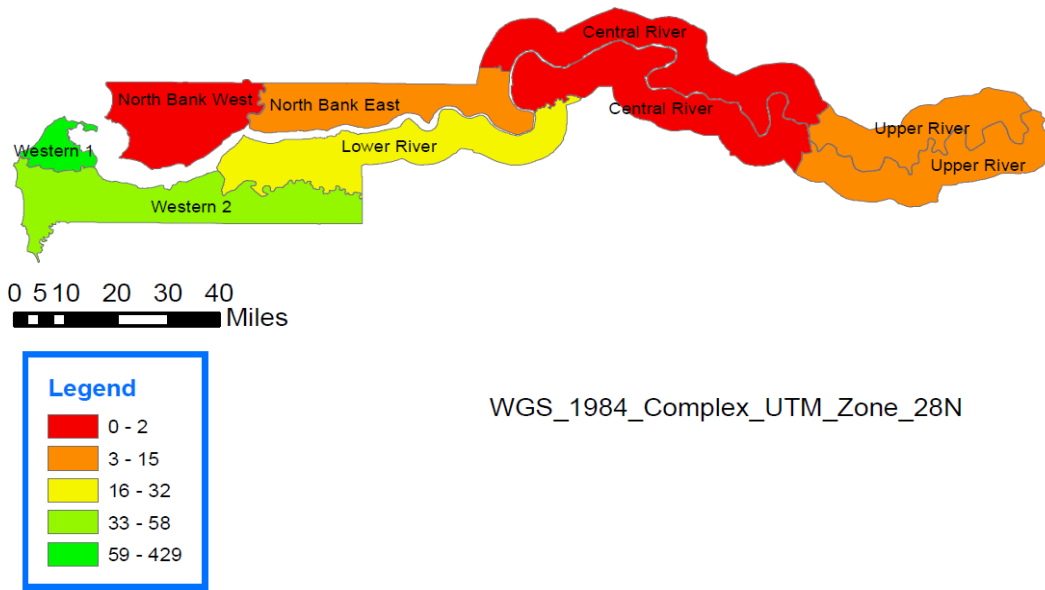


Figure 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, 3rd Nov. – 2nd Dec, 2020

- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (See Fig. 1)
- Regions furthest from testing sites had the lowest testing rates over the last 30 days (See Fig. 2)

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

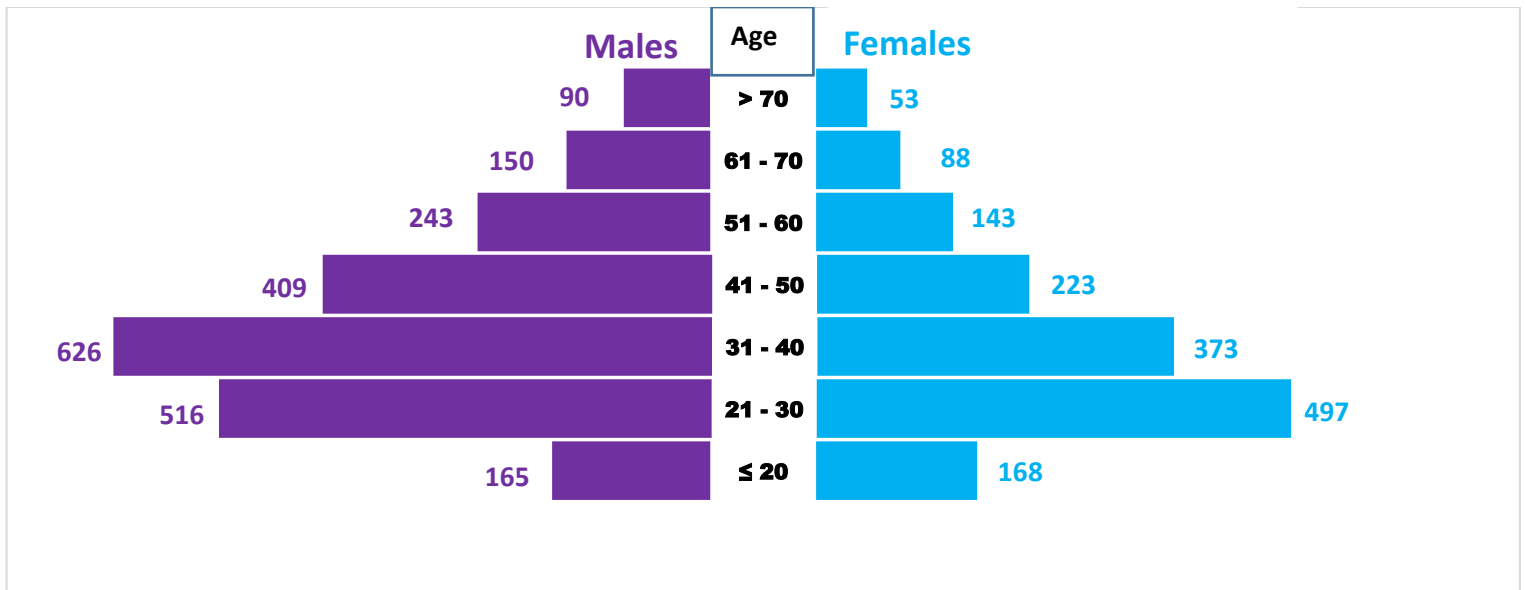


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

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

- About 59% of the confirmed cases are males (See Fig. 3)
- About 62% 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)

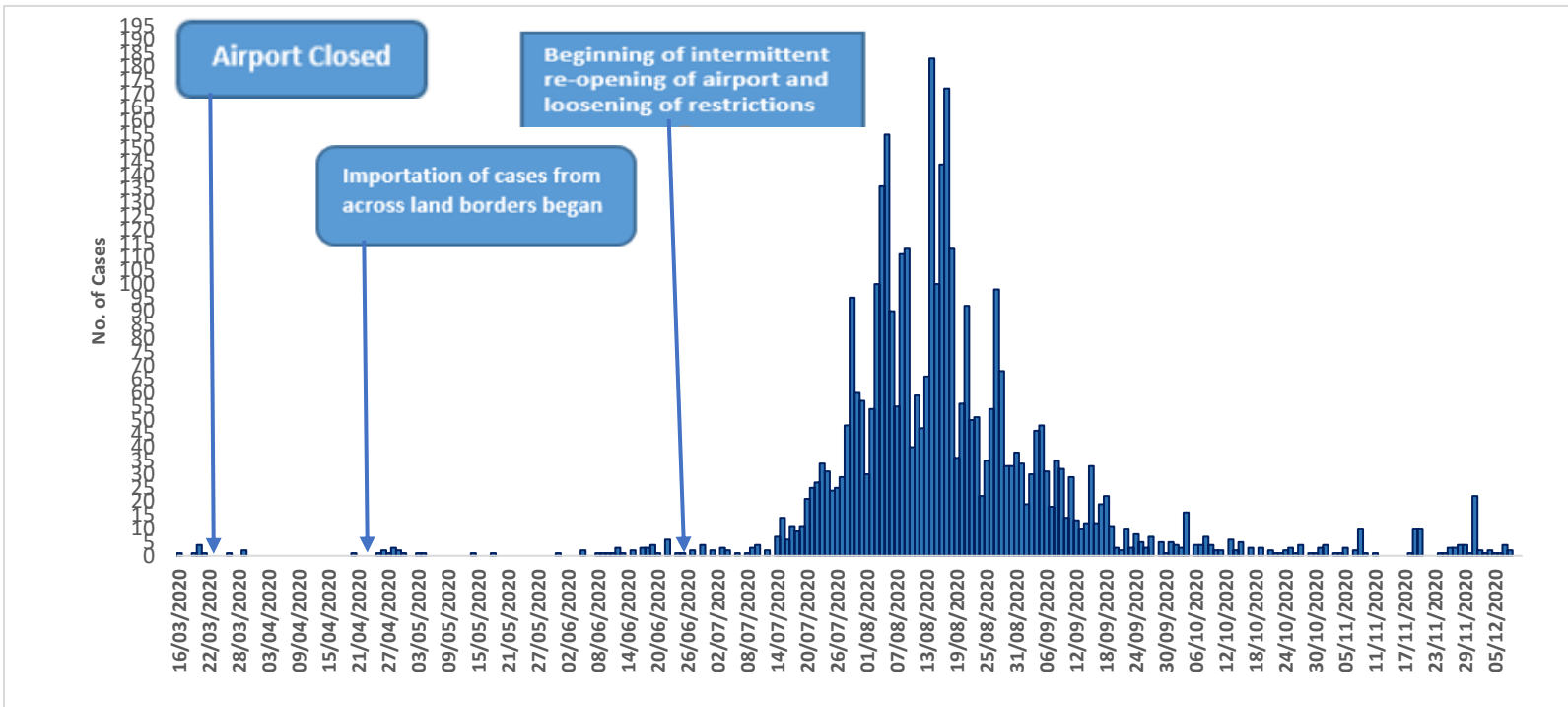


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.

* 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		10
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		1
No. of patients recovered and discharged	2	
In Quarantine	0	20
Completed Quarantine	3	2,734
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	14,724
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	113 (24)***	26,741
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	2 (0)	3,778
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	111 (24)***	21,840
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"> 137 new laboratory test results received from NPHL Of these, no test result returned inconclusive or indeterminant and 2 new tests returned positive for COVID-19
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A WHO-funded training of trainers, involving 28 participants (4 per health region), was held for regional IPC focal persons who will cascade the lessons learnt to other health workers in their respective regions 3 newly admitted COVID-19 patients have absconded from the Sanatorium 2 new COVID-19 patients got discharged

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- CBS activities not translating to increase in the number of daily tests being conducted
- Regions furthest from testing sites had the lowest testing rates over the last 30 days
- Support for innovative countrywide risk communication strategies and activities on COVID-19 is suboptimal
- 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

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CBS activities need to be synchronized with MRC's ILI surveillance to spur up testing rates in the hinterland
- Expedite the process of having testing sites in CRR and NBW
- Intensify risk communication and community engagement activities, on COVID-19 at community level, including at LUMOS, in a bid to curtail community transmission and dispel misinformation and denial
- More tests required in the catchment area of the MRC Keneba testing site to ascertain the extent of spread of COVID-19
- Security needs to be beefed up at all COVID-19 treatment/isolation centers to prevent the abscondence of patients
- Strengthen community-based surveillance in order to increase awareness and testing rates
- 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

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