



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 05th Jan 2021		Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.	
Prepared by:	Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia		

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 239th 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 death recorded
- 21 new cases registered, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 3,833
 - This is the highest single-day number of cases recorded in over 5 weeks
 - The median age of the new cases (14 male and 7 female) is 37 (range: 11 to 59 years)
 - 6 of the new cases are epi-linked to recently confirmed cases
- 265 new laboratory test results received (17 from MRC and 248 from NPHL)
 - Of these, 21 new samples tested positive, representing a 7.9% test positivity rate
 - 1 new test returned indeterminate
- Press release issued on the new hotel quarantine and testing guidelines in the wake of the emergence of a new fast-moving variant of COVID-19
- 20 high-risk contacts [of recently confirmed cases] have been identified and their follow-up began in earnest
- No new patients got discharged
- Whilst no people were newly taken into hotel quarantine, 30 were discharged
- The country currently has no people in hotel quarantine, 31 active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.3%

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **86,821,323**
- Recoveries: **61,535,224**
- Deaths: **1,875,209**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **19,964**
- Recoveries: **17,690**
- Deaths: **428**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **3,833**
- Recoveries: **3,677**
- Deaths: **125**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

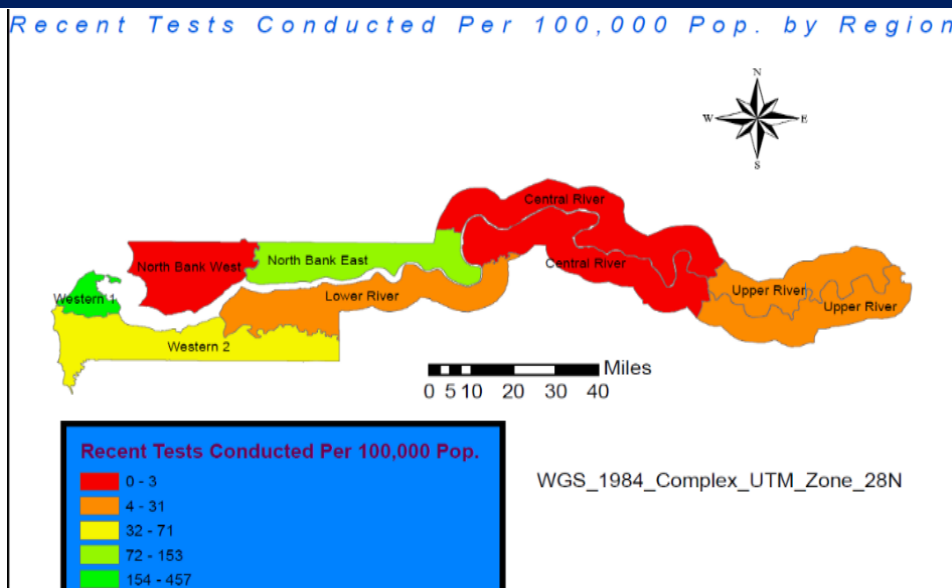


Figure 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, The Gambia, Nov. 11th – Dec. 10th

Distribution of Recent Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region

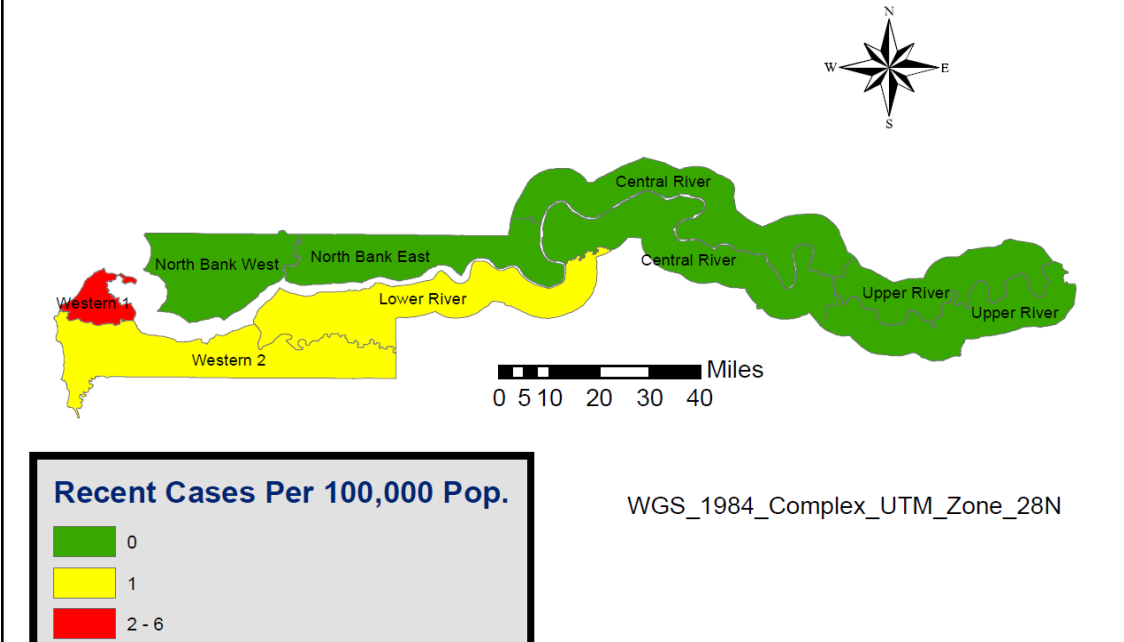


Figure 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, The Gambia, Nov. 11th – Dec. 10th

- 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.

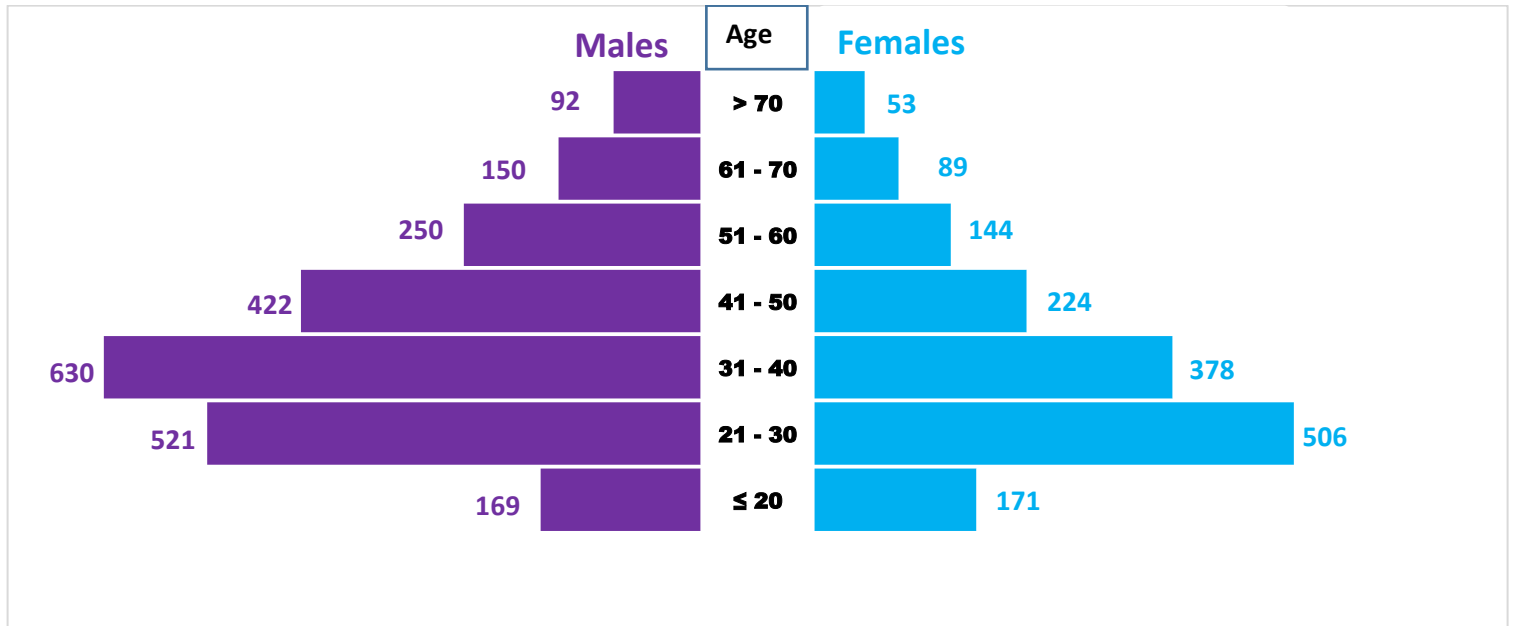


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

✧ 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)

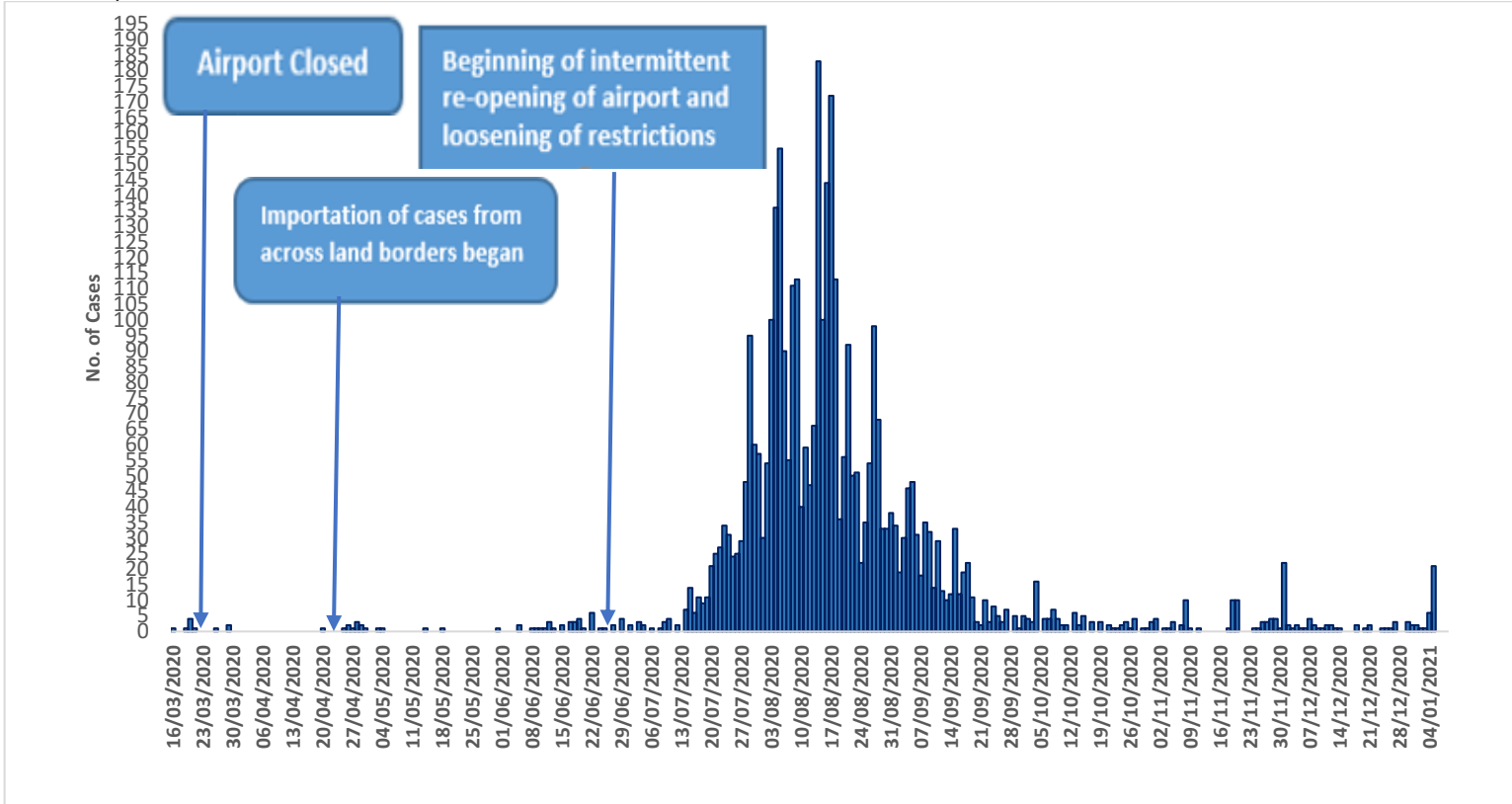


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.
 * A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- 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		7
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		1
No. of patients recovered and discharged	0	
In Hotel Quarantine	0	0
Completed Hotel Quarantine	30	2,983
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	20	
No. of Contacts being monitored	142	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	14,784
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	222 (43)***	31,359
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	21 (0)	3,833
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	201 (43)***	26,225
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"> Press release issued on the new hotel quarantine and testing guidelines in the wake of the emergence of a new fast-moving variant of COVID-19 Daily coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 265 new laboratory test results received (17 from MRC and 248 from NPHL) Of these, while 1 new test result returned inconclusive or indeterminant, 21 new samples tested positive
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new COVID-19 patient got discharged 1 patient is currently on oxygen therapy

Risk Communication & Community Engagement

COVID-19 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAILY REPORT- 6/1/21

Total No. of Calls received on toll free helpline	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 react to post and or shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs
51	38	49	23	0	166

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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PARTNERS

