



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 08th 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 242nd 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
- 16 new cases registered, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 3,857
 - The median age of the new cases (12 male and 4 female) is 40.5 (range: 14 to 67 years)
 - While 3 of the new cases are epi-linked to recently confirmed cases, the remaining 13 (81%) sought to be tested on account of being intending travellers who needed a test certificate
- 394 new laboratory test results received (18 from MRC and 376 from NPHL)
 - Of these, 16 new samples tested positive, representing a 4.1% test positivity rate
 - 3 new tests returned indeterminate
- No new COVID-19 patients got discharged
- 16 people were newly taken into hotel quarantine for coming into the country without valid negative COVID-19 PCR test certificates
- The country currently has 16 people in hotel quarantine, 55 active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.2%

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **89,343,183**
- Recoveries: **64,000,367**
- Deaths: **1,921,119**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **20,672**
- Recoveries: **18,016**
- Deaths: **446**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **3,857**
- Recoveries: **3,677**
- Deaths: **125**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

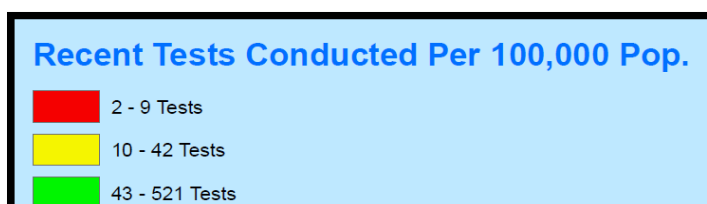
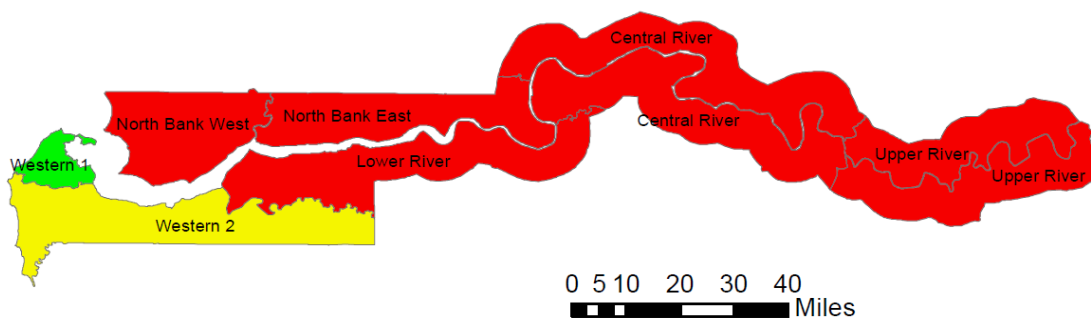


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, Dec 11th 2020 – Jan 9th 2021

Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 1,000,000 Pop.

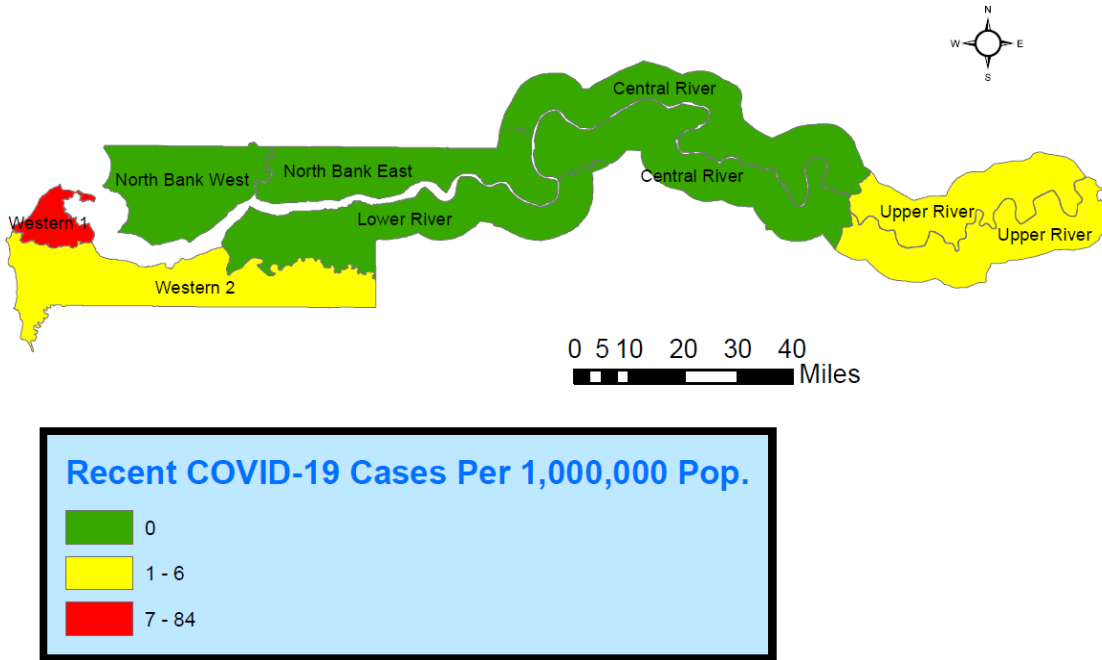


Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 1,000,000 Pop. by Region, Dec 11th 2020 – Jan 9th 2021

- 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.

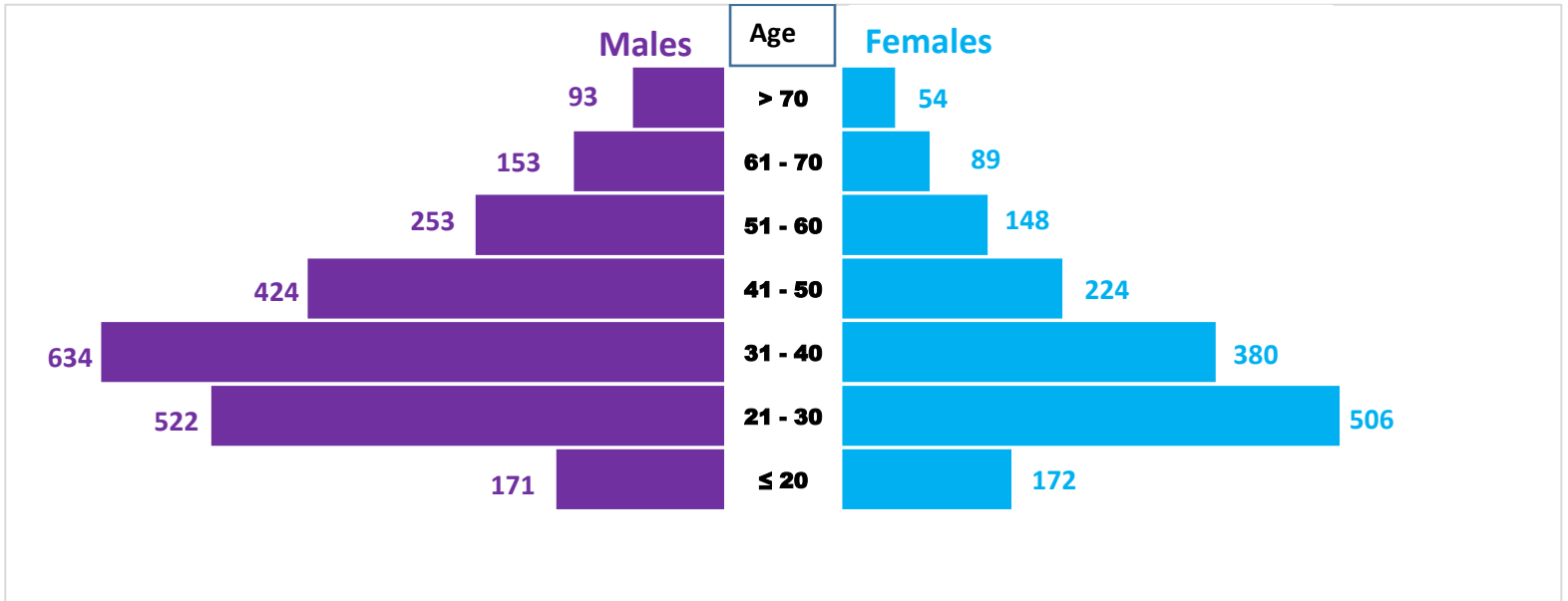


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

* 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)

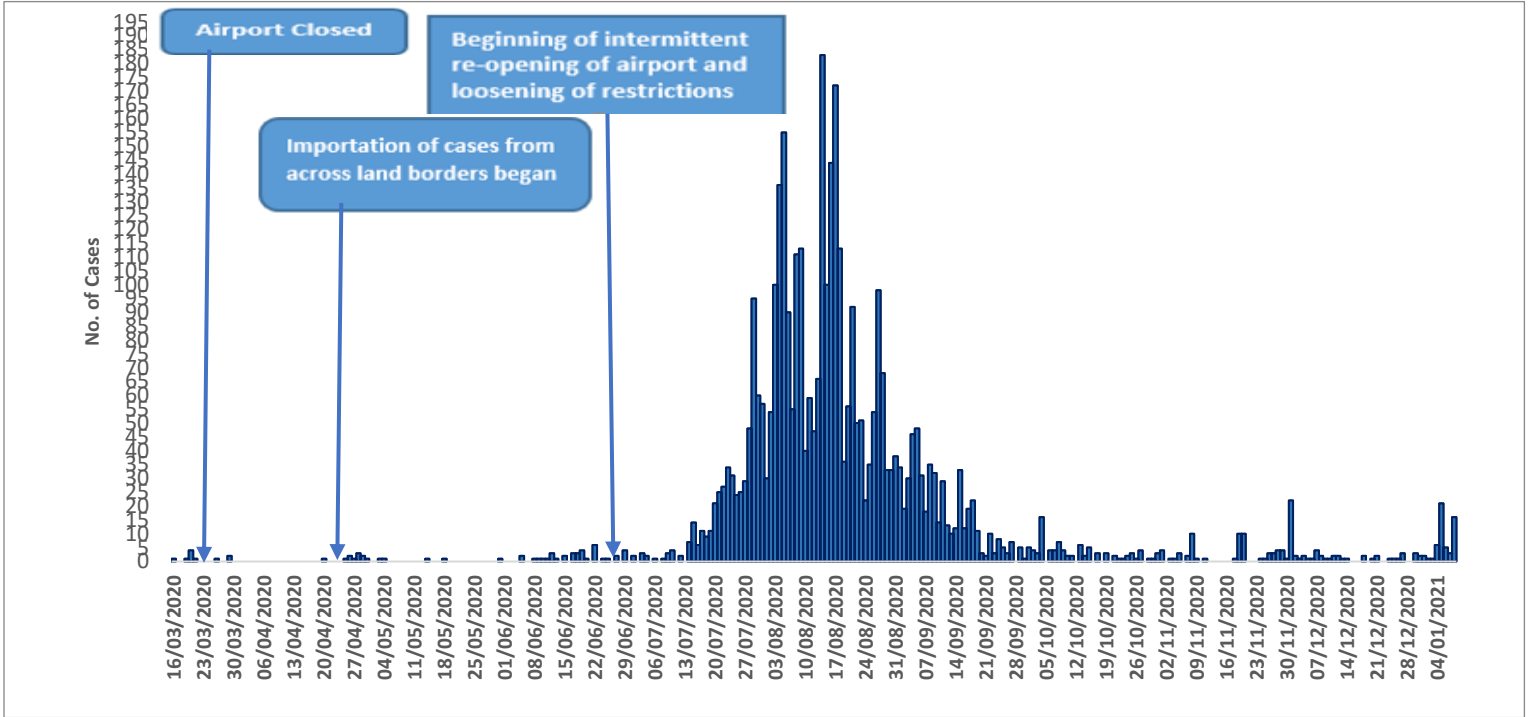


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.
 * A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- 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		27
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		1
No. of patients recovered and discharged	0	
In Hotel Quarantine	16	16
Completed Hotel Quarantine	0	2,983
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	316	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	14,797
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	338 (56)***	32,263
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	16 (1)	3,857
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	319 (55)***	27,101
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	3 (0)***	5

* 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"> 394 new laboratory test results received (18 from MRC and 376 from NPHL) Of these, while 4 new test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 17 (1 repeat and 16 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

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

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

