



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 11th 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 244th 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

- 9 new cases registered, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 3,885
 - The median age of the new cases (6 male and 3 female) is 33 (range: 13 to 82 years)
 - While 3 of the new cases had their samples mandatorily collected at the airport for travelling into the country without valid test results, 1 is epi-linked to a recent case
 - The remaining 5 (57%) sought to be tested on account of being intending travellers who needed a test certificate
- 219 new laboratory test results received (14 from MRC and 205 from NPHL)
 - Of these, 9 new samples tested positive, representing a 4.1% test positivity rate
 - 7 new tests returned indeterminate
- 8 high-risk contacts [of recently confirmed cases] have been identified and their follow-up began in earnest
- 1 new COVID-19 patient got discharged
- No people were newly taken into hotel quarantine
- The country currently has no people in hotel quarantine, 80* active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.2%

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **91,415,094**
- Recoveries: **65,428,273**
- Deaths: **1,955,773**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **21,685**
- Recoveries: **18,502**
- Deaths: **480**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **3,885**
- Recoveries: **3,679**
- Deaths: **125**

*1 patient recently absconded from the Ndemban Clinic Treatment Center

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

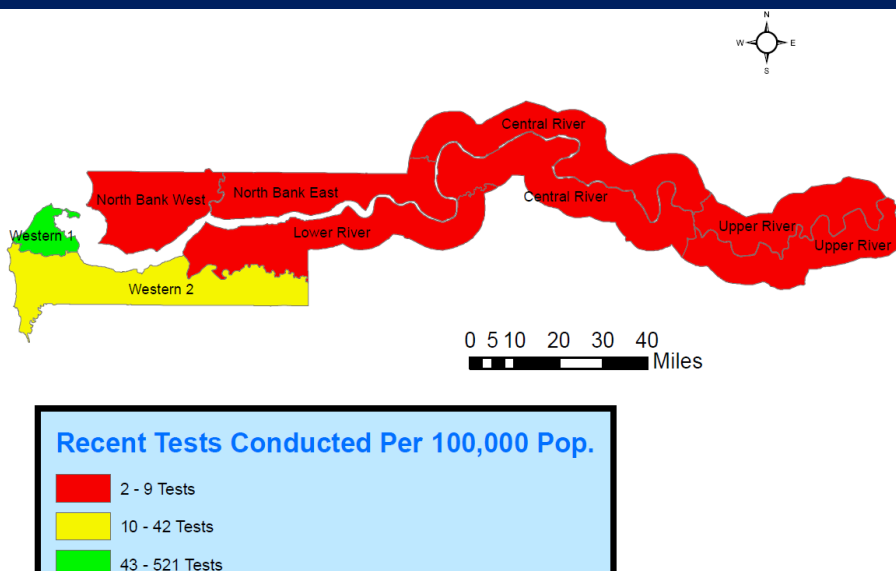


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, Dec 11th 2020 – Jan 9th 2021

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

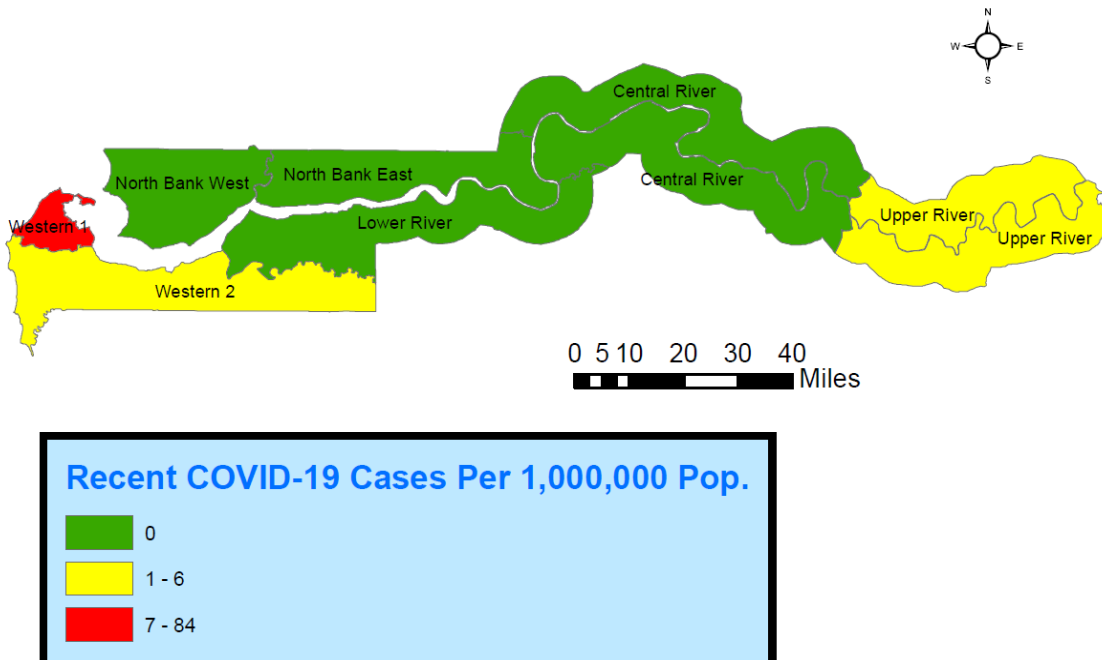


Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 1,000,000 Pop. by Region, Dec 11th 2020 – Jan 9th 2021

- 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.

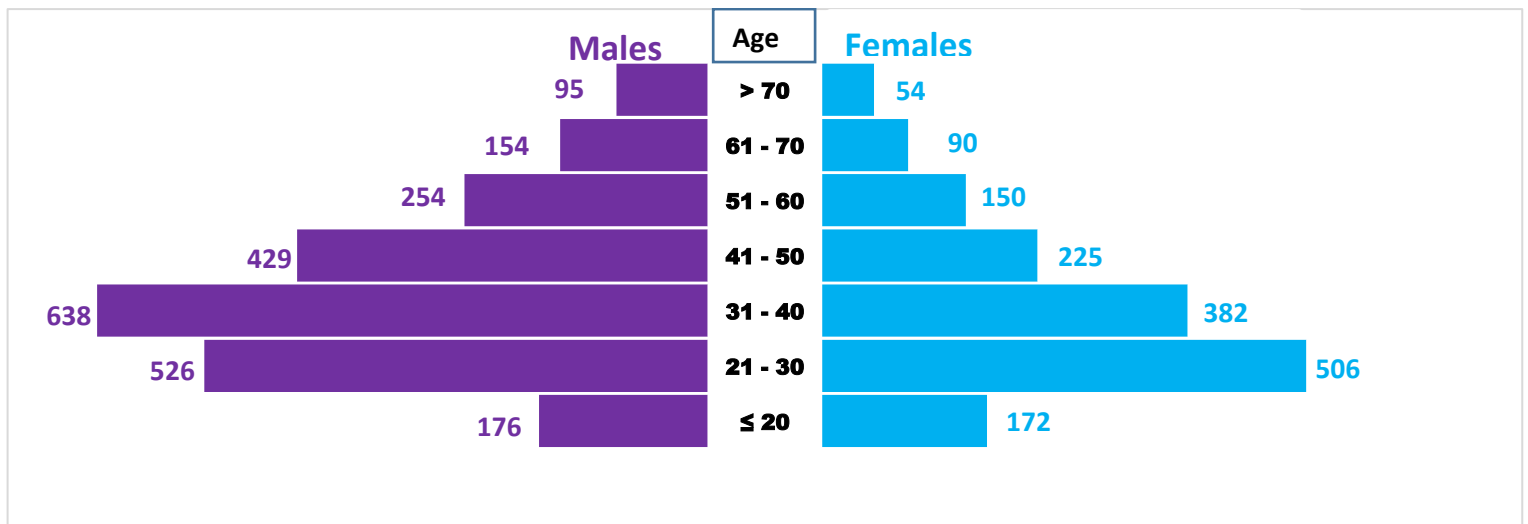


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

* 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)

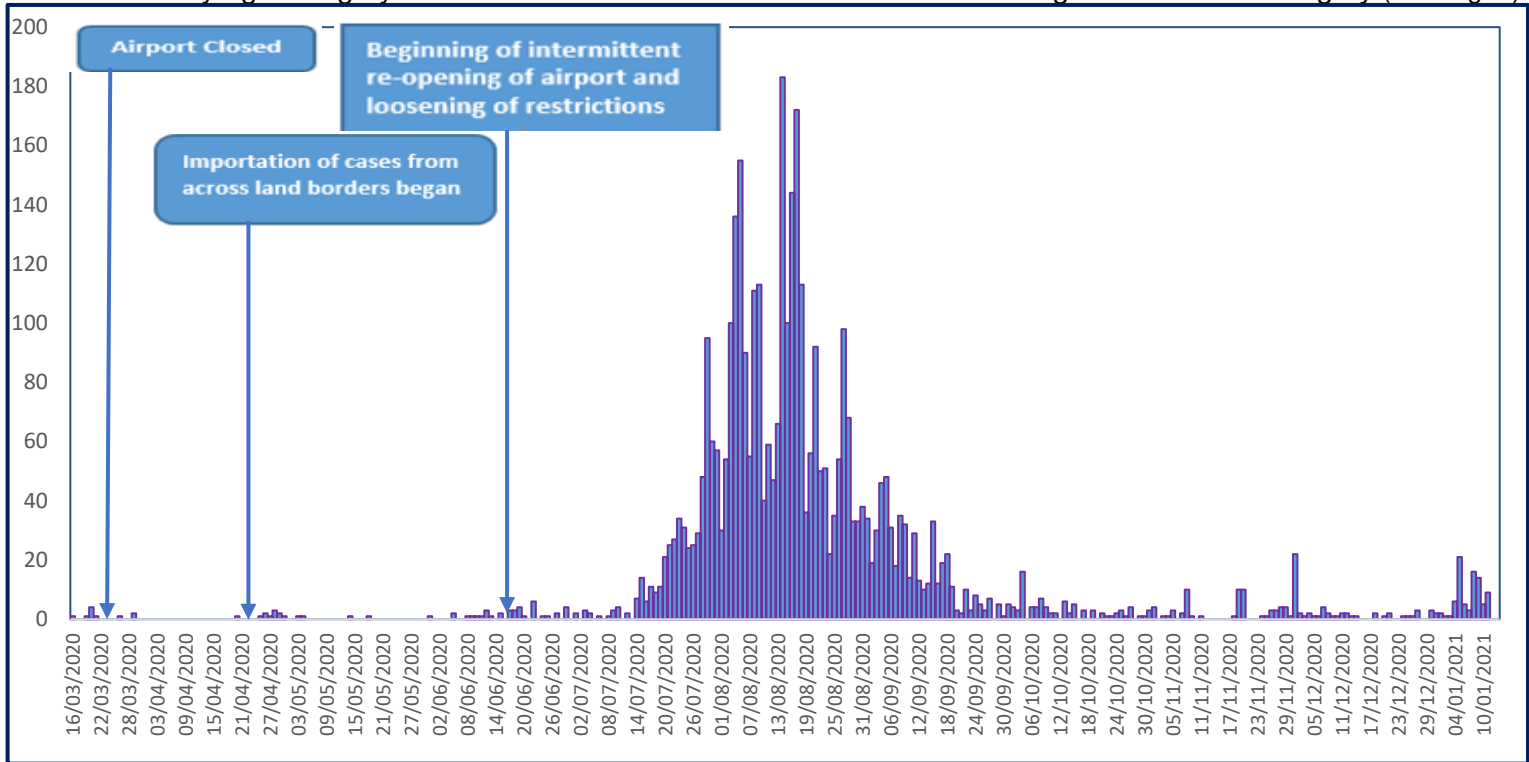


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.

* 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		35
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		1
No. of patients recovered and discharged	1	
In Hotel Quarantine	0	0
Completed Hotel Quarantine	0	2,999
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	8	
No. of Contacts being monitored	380	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	14,801
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	205 (0)***	33,038
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	9 (0)	3,866
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	189 (0)***	27,836
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	7(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"> 8 high-risk contacts [of recently confirmed cases] have been identified and their follow-up began in earnest 219 new laboratory test results received (14 from MRC and 205 from NPHL) Of these, while 7 new test results returned inconclusive or indeterminant, 9 new samples tested positive
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new COVID-19 patient got discharged 1 patient is currently on oxygen therapy

Risk Communication & Community Engagement

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
21	35	21	18	6	132

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

