



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 25th 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 255th 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

- 4 new cases registered, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 4,012
 - 1 out of the 4 cases was mandatorily tested for travelling into the country from hotspot countries of the new coronavirus strain
 - While 2 of the new cases sought to be tested by virtue of being sick with flu-like symptoms, 1 is an intending traveller who needed a test certificate
 - The median age of the new cases (1 female and 3 male) is 55.5 (range: 22 to 63 years)
- 122 new laboratory test results received (6 from MRC and 116 from NPHL)
 - Of these, 4 new samples tested positive, representing a 3.3% test positivity rate
 - No new tests returned indeterminate
- 2 new patients got discharged from the treatment centers
- 28 patients released from home isolation after 10 days from the onset of symptoms
- While 19 people were newly taken into hotel quarantine, 26 were discharged
- 2 COVID-19 patients currently on oxygen therapy
- The country currently has 19 people in hotel quarantine, 128* active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.2%

*3 patients recently absconded from the COVID-19 Treatment Centers

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **100,278,790**
- Recoveries: **72,284,123**
- Deaths: **2,148,962**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **24,992**
- Recoveries: **20,681**
- Deaths: **582**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **4,012**
- Recoveries: **3,753**
- Deaths: **128**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

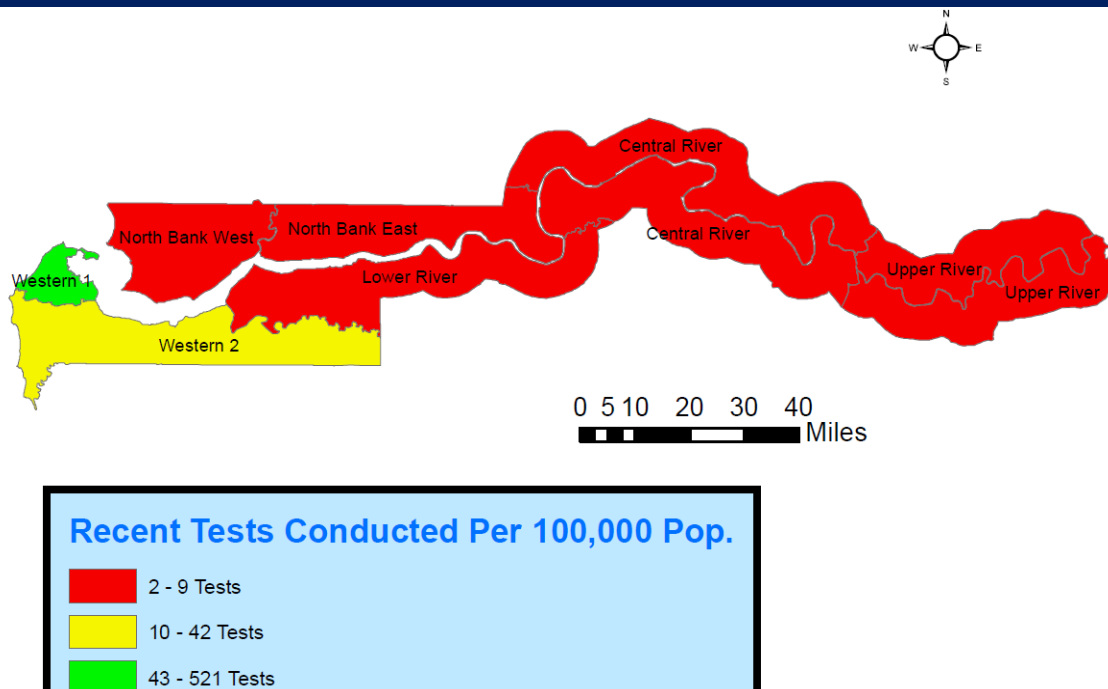


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, Dec 11th 2020 – Jan 9th 2021

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

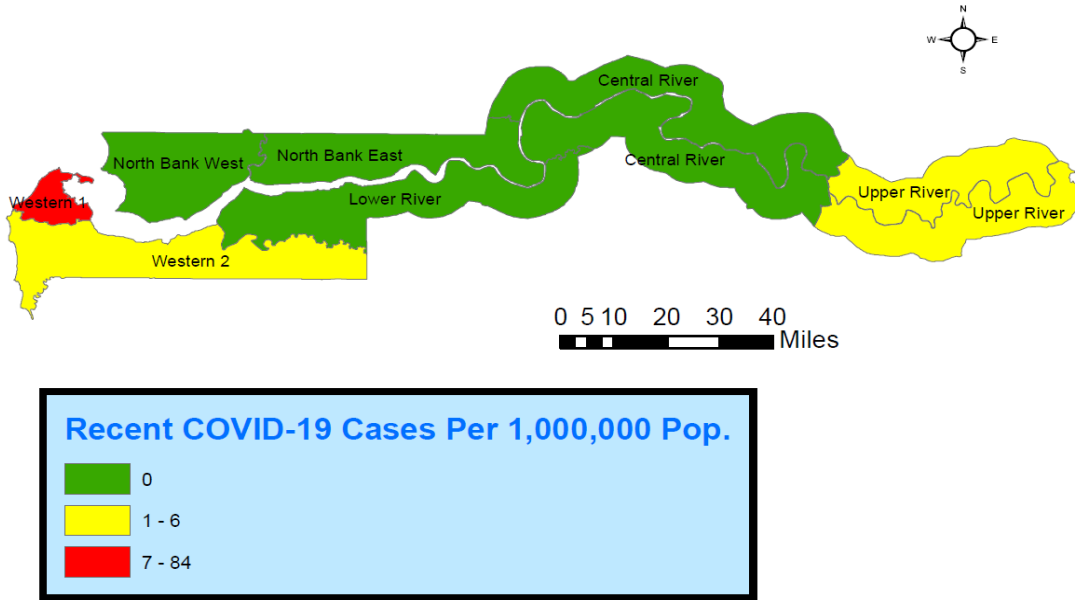


Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 1,000,000 Pop. by Region, Dec 11th 2020 – Jan 9th 2021

- 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.

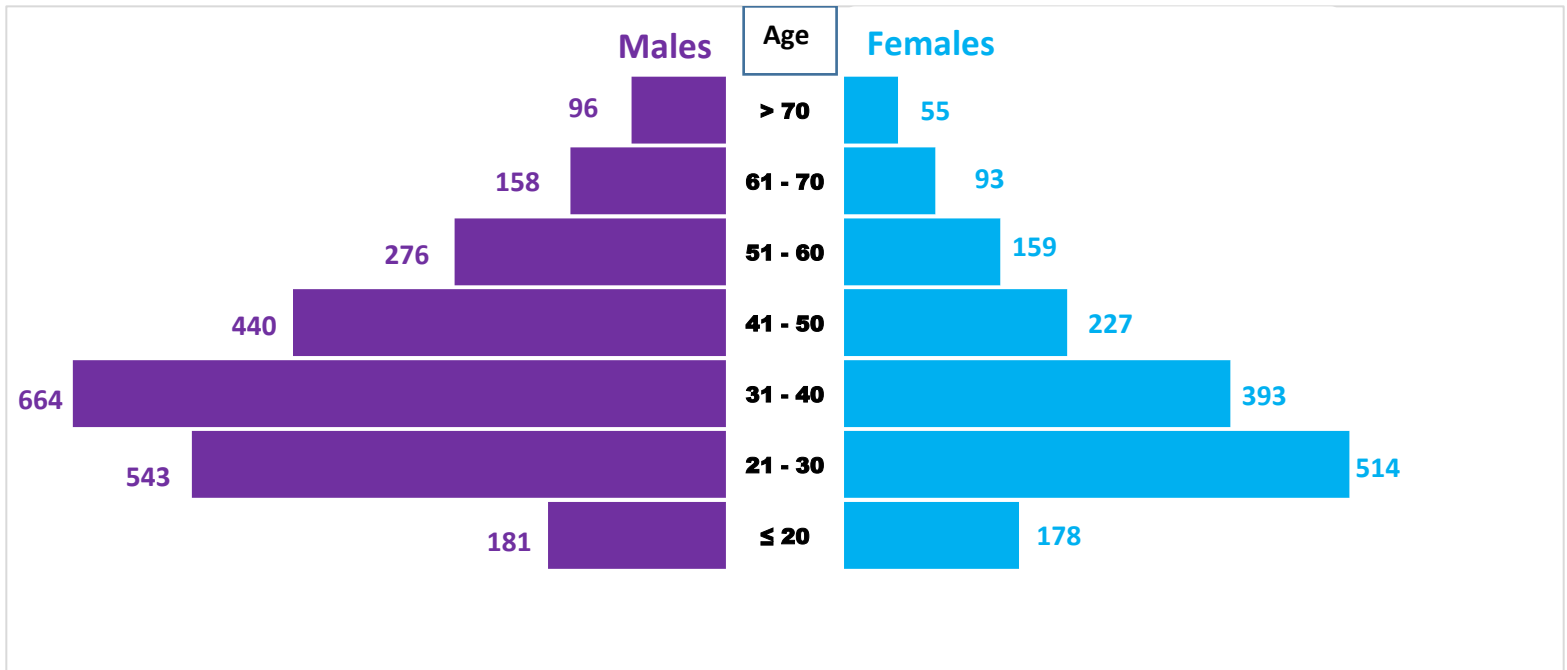


Fig. 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2020

* 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)

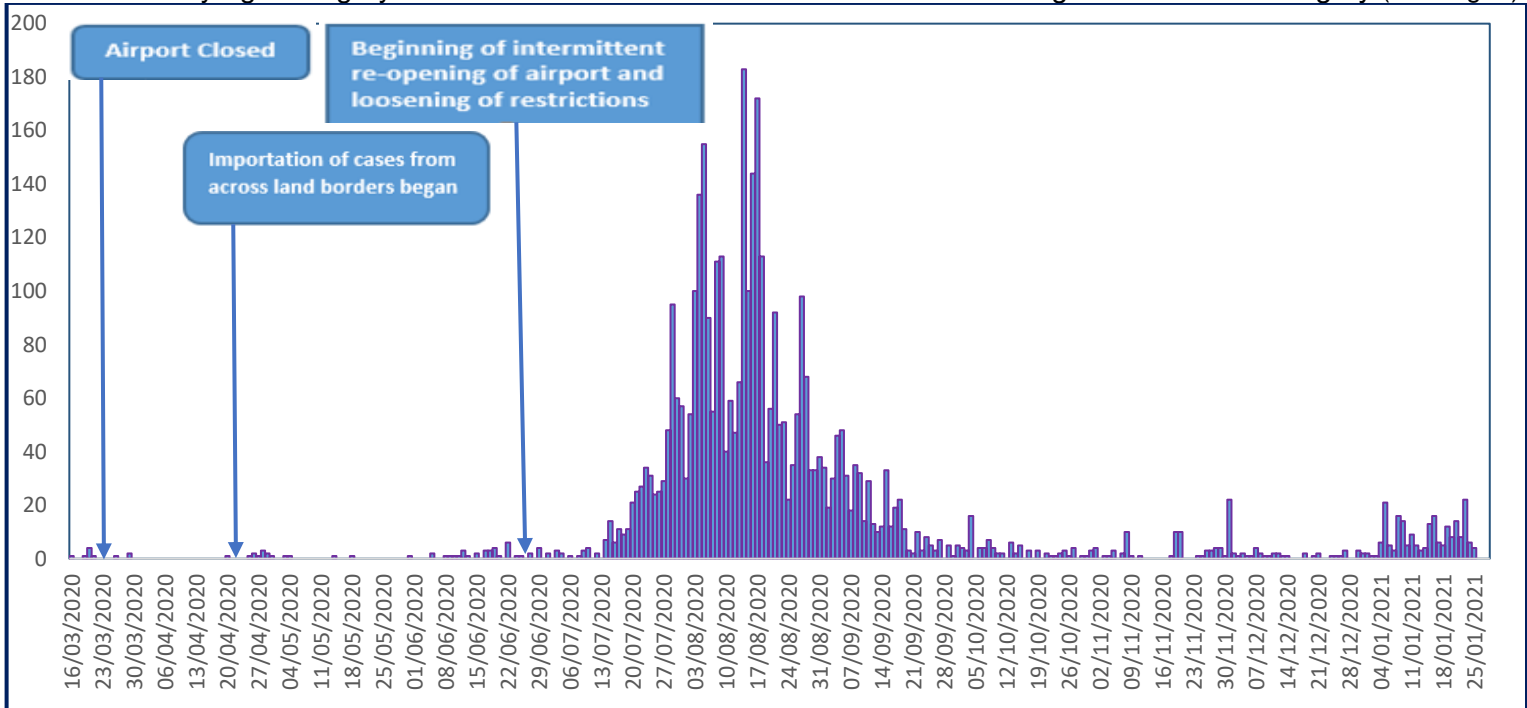


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.
 * A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- 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		36
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		2
No. of patients recovered and discharged	30	
In Hotel Quarantine	19	19
Completed Hotel Quarantine	26	3,390
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	496	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	14,874
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	67 (55)***	37,185
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	4 (0)	4,012
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	63 (55)***	31,812
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"> <i>Daily coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels</i>
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>122 new laboratory test results received (6 from MRC and 116 from NPHL)</i> <i>Of these, while 0 new test results returned inconclusive or indeterminant, 4 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No new death registered</i> <i>2 new patients got discharged from the treatment centers</i> <i>28 patients released from home isolation after 10 days from the onset of symptoms</i> <i>2 patients are currently on oxygen therapy</i>

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

