



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>		<b>Location: The Gambia</b>	
<b>Date of Report: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021</b>		<b>Investigation Start Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as of 18hrs.</b>	
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia</b>		

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the **300<sup>th</sup>** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

- **No** new COVID-19-related death was registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to **173**
- **37** new cases registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **5,857**
  - **47%** (15/32) of these tested for reasons of travelling, **28%** (9/32) being ill seeking health due to suspicion of COVID-19 and **13%** (4/32) due to contact with a confirmed case
  - The median age of the new cases (**14** female and **23** male) is **36** (Range: 10 to 80 years)
- A total of **173** new laboratory tests results received (**27** from MRCG and **146** from NPHL)
  - Of these, **37** new samples tested positive, representing a **21.4%** test positivity rate
- **2** cases COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **10** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **Only 1** COVID-19 patient is currently on oxygen therapy
- The country currently has no one in hotel quarantine, **400** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **3%**
- **20,922** people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 as of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021
- **1537** Rapid diagnostic tests conducted at the Airport for travelers, only 1 was positive as of 22/4/2021.

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **145,922,561**
- Recoveries: **124,087,146**
- Deaths: **3,092,240**

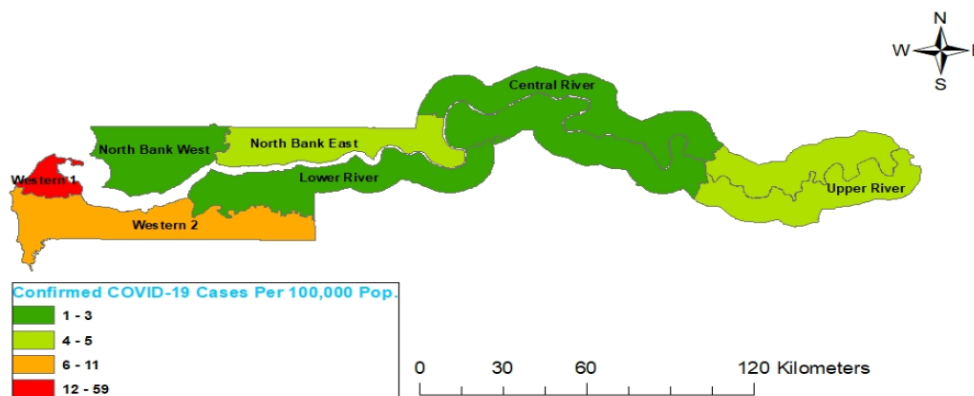
#### Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **40,022**
- Recoveries: **38,786**
- Deaths: **1,097**

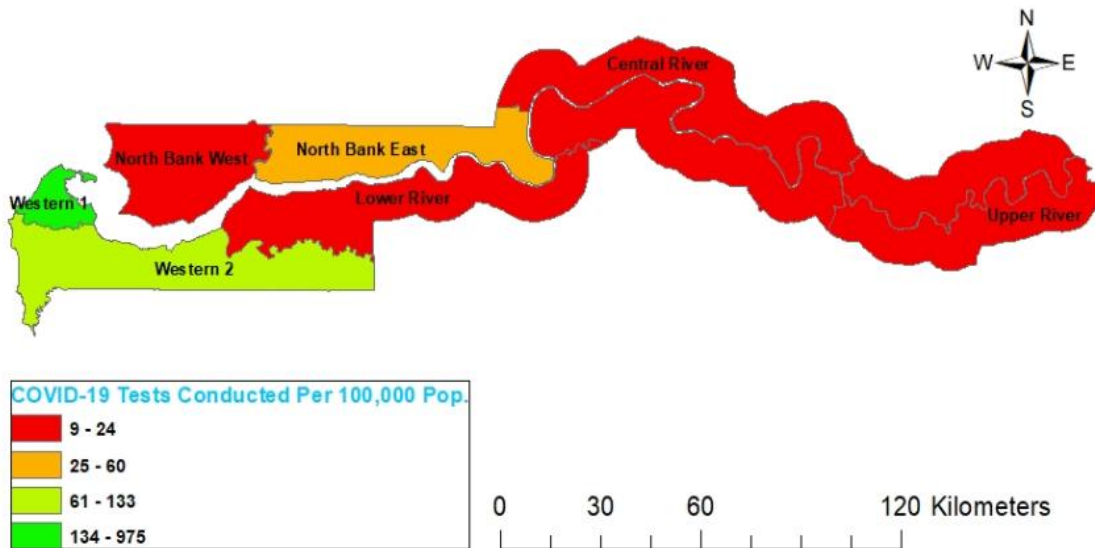
#### The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **5,857**
- Recoveries: **5,284**
- Deaths: **173**

## II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



**Fig 1: Geographic Distribution Of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop.by Region, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb-16<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

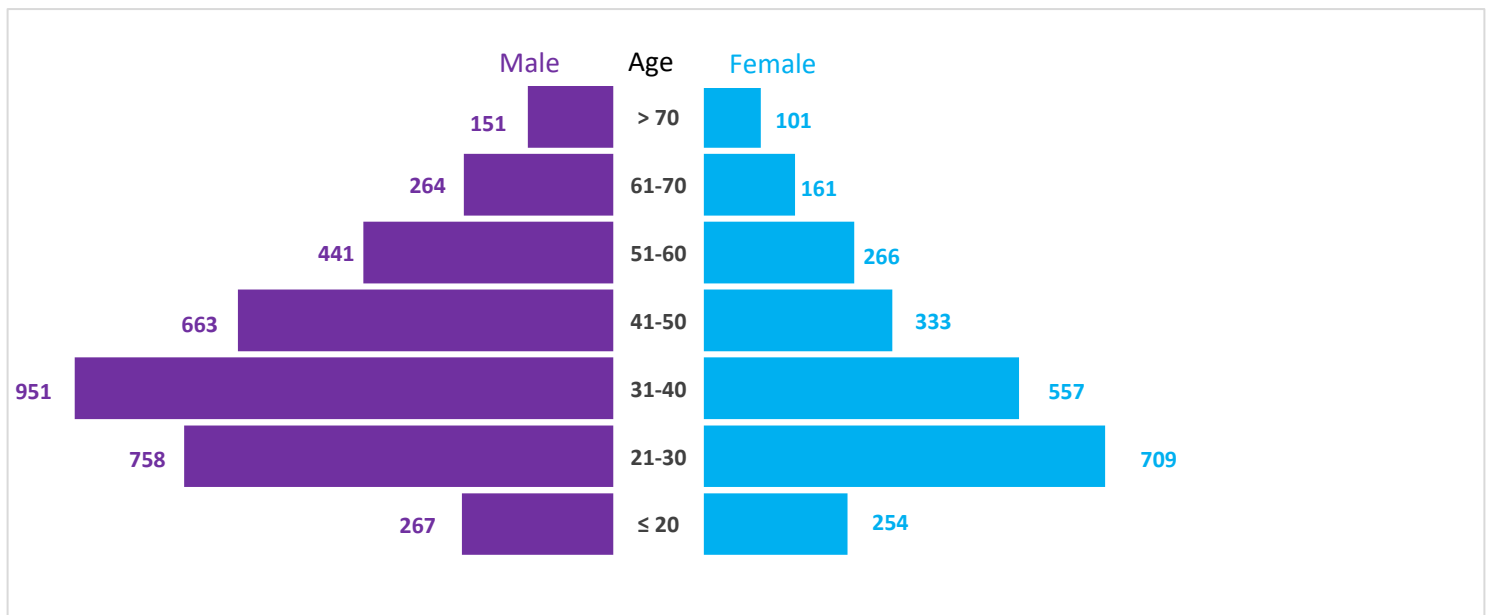


**Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, Feb 15-March 16, 2021**

- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (See *Fig. 1*)
- Despite being far-flung from current testing sites, North Bank East has sent in more samples per 100,000 population than all other regions in the hinterland, 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 age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively.

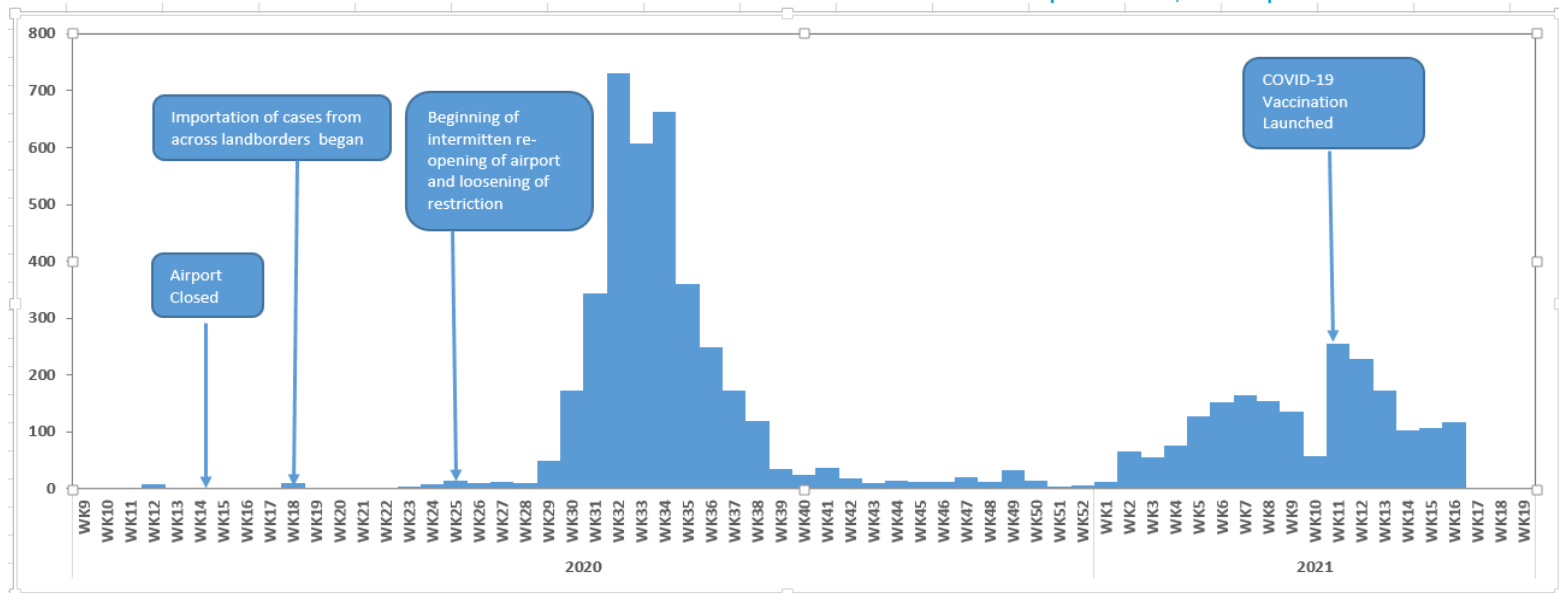


**Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021**

☆ 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*)



**Fig. 4:** Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported Weekly, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021<sup>\*</sup>. 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)

Status	New	Cumulative
No. of active cases in institutional isolation		31
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		1
No. of patients recovered and discharged	12	
In Hotel Quarantine	0	0
Completed Hotel Quarantine	0	5,231
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	13	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	16,774
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	173(0)***	62,738
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	37(0)	5,857
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	136(0)***	55,829
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	0(0)***	

**Table 2: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021**

\* Follow-up completed prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> 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

#### COVID-19 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAILY REPORT- 19/4/21

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
48	65	48	22	0	963

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels</li> <li>• Gambian philanthropist and businessman have helped in improving the internet problem at National Public Health Laboratories (NPHL)</li> </ul>
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of <b>173</b> new laboratory test results received <b>27</b> from MRCG and <b>146</b> from NPHL)</li> <li>• Of these, <b>no</b> test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>37</b> new samples tested positive</li> </ul>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No</b> new COVID-19 related death recorded</li> <li>• 2 patients newly discharged from treatment centres</li> <li>• Only 1 <b>COVID-19</b> patient is currently on oxygen therapy</li> </ul>

Table 3: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2021

THE GAMBIA COVID19 VACCINATION DAILY REPORTING								
Dose 1								
Priority group	Fixed		Outreach/Mobile		Total	AEFI		
	Male	Female	Male	Female		MILD	SEVERE	
Health Care workers	2898	2366	193	157	5614	0		3
People with pre-existing conditions	1231	1446	256	302	3235	1		0
Community workers	3550	2339	746	441	7076	1		0
65 years and above	1356	1325	407	329	3417	0		0
Teacher	96	71	254	63	484	0		0
Hoteliers	373	184	10	5	572	0		0
Security forces	302	94	113	15	524	0		0
<b>Total Cov-1</b>	<b>9806</b>	<b>7825</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>20922</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>

Table 3: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

#### **IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:**

- High site-specific test positivity rate registered at the Basse COVID-19 testing site
- CBS activities not translating to increase in the number of daily tests being conducted
- 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.
- Weak and unreliable internet connection at the NPHL is hampering the implementation of e-surveillance at the laboratory.
- Inadequate electronic devices and internet bundles for capturing vaccination data at vaccination sites

#### **V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- More tests required in the catchment area of the MRC Basse testing site to ascertain the extent of spread of COVID-19
- 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
- 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
- Stakeholders/partners to support in filling the gaps identified in the vaccination campaign process

**For comments or questions, please contact:**  
**Sana M. Sambou**  
Public Health Emergency Operations Center  
Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, The Gambia  
Email: [sanamsambou@hotmail.com](mailto:sanamsambou@hotmail.com) Phone: +220 3516320/2422949

**PARTNERS**

