



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 22nd - 24th May 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 **320th** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- **No** new COVID-19-related death was registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to **178**
- **12** new cases registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **5,990**
- **8, 1 and 3** cases were reported on the **22nd, 23rd and 24th May 2021**
- **89%** tested for reasons of travelling and **11%** were ill seeking healthcare due suspicion of COVID-19
- The median age of the cases (Females **6** and Males **6**) is **41** years and (Range: **> 1 - 68** years)
- A total of **586** new laboratory test results received (**28** from MRCG and **558** from NPHL)
 - Of these, **12** new samples tested positive, representing a **2.0%** test positivity rate
- **3** 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
- **3** COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy
- The country currently has no one in hotel quarantine, **45** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **3%**
- **27,266** and **1,324** people received the **1st** and **2nd** doses **respectively** bringing the total number vaccinated against COVID-19 to **28,590** as of **23rd May 2021**
- So far **4,576** Rapid diagnostic tests were conducted at the **Airport** for travelers as of **23rd May 2021**.
 - Of these, **only 2** tested positive so far for both RDT and PCR, treated and discharged.
- **82** new clients received Psychological First Aid (PFA) Services provided by MoH, DSW and Paradise Foundation, thus bringing the number of clients attended to **1,829** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as of **20th May 2021**.

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

Confirmed Cases: **167,534,605**

Recoveries: **148,631,437**

Deaths: **3,478,606**

Senegal

Confirmed Cases: **41,090**

Recoveries: **39,758**

Deaths: **1,132**

The Gambia

Confirmed Cases: **5,990**

Recoveries: **5,767**

Deaths: **178**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

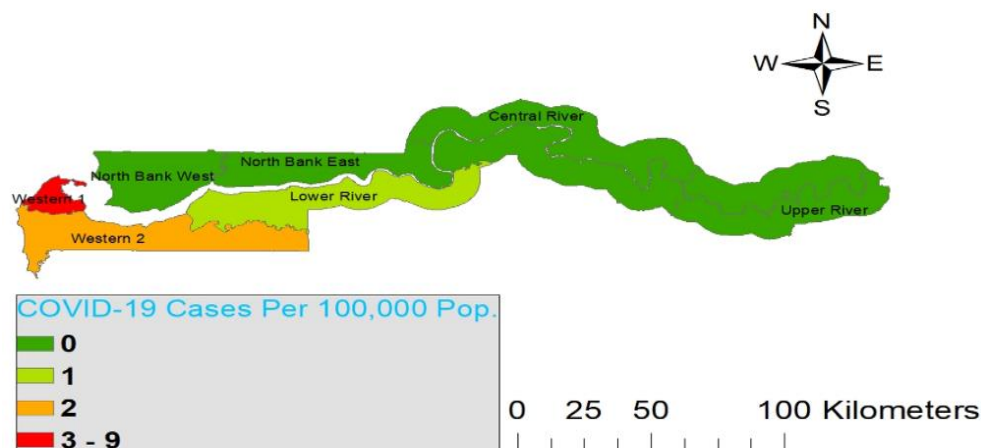


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Regions 15th April-14th May 2021

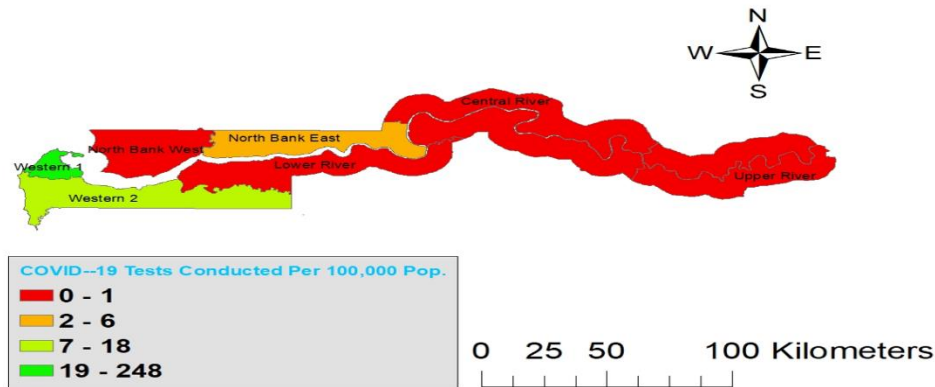


Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Tests Per 100,000 Pop. by Regions 15th April-14th May 2021

- 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.

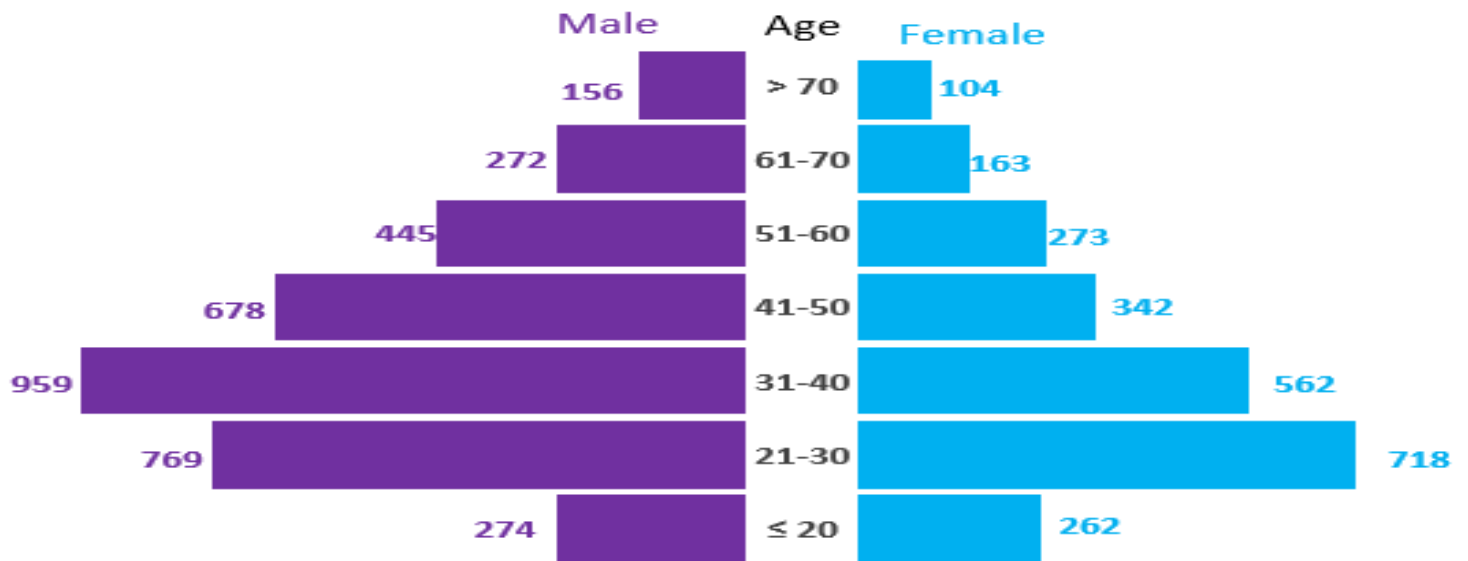


Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* 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**)

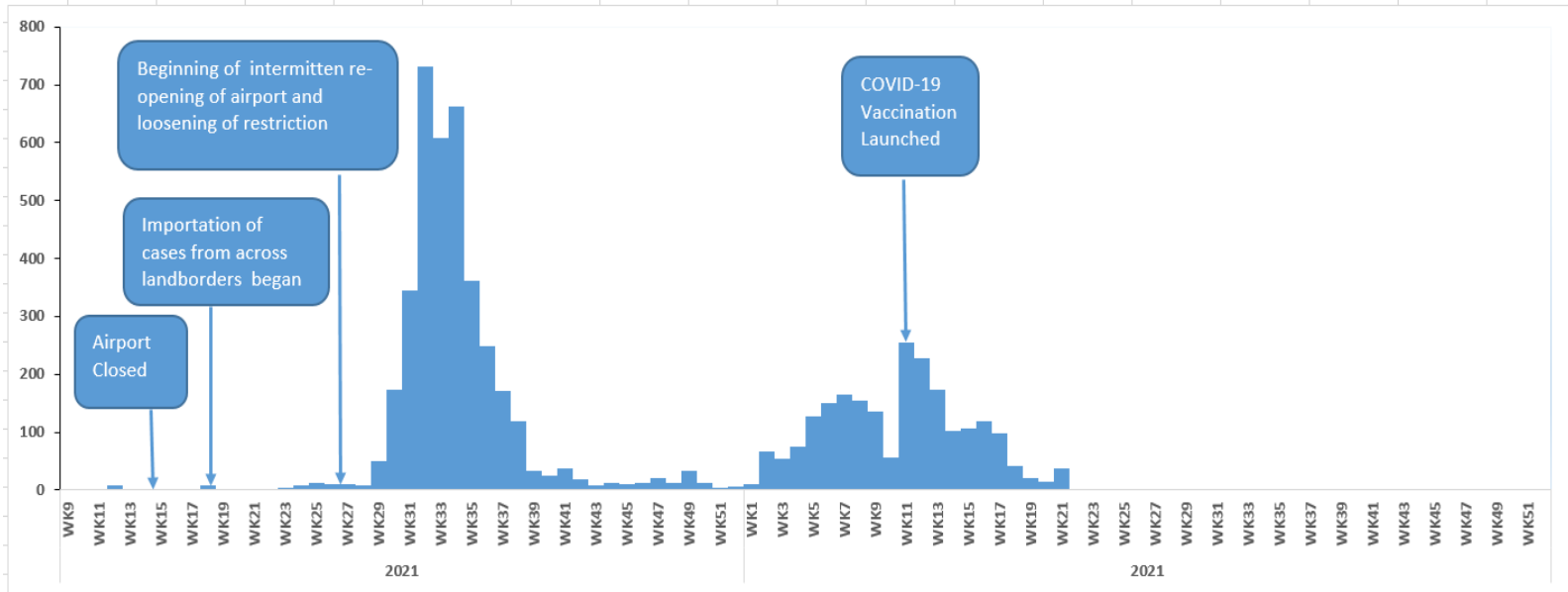


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported Weekly, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*. A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- 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		10
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		3
No. of patients recovered and discharged	13	
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	0	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	16,787
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	586(0)***	68,826
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	12(0)	5,990
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	567(0)***	61,784
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 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

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels • Gambian philanthropist and businessman have helped in improving the internet problem at National Public Health Laboratories (NPHL)
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 586 new laboratory test results received 28 from MRCG and 558 from NPHL) • Of these, No test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 12 new samples tested positive
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new COVID-19 related death recorded • 3 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres • 3 COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy • 82 new clients received Psychological First Aid (PFA) Services

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

Priority group	Dose 1						Dose 2							
	Fixed		Outreach/Mobile		Total	AEFI		Fixed		Outreach/Mobile		Total	AEFI	
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Non-ser	Serious	Male	Female	Male	Female		Non-ser	Serious
Health Care workers	3047	2508	254	217	6026	0	3	135	98	100	77	410	0	0
People with pre-existing conditions	1401	1708	422	509	4040	1	0	42	56	0	0	98	0	0
Community workers	4301	2941	1079	868	9189	1	0	313	173	7	5	498	0	0
65 yrs and above	1559	1540	662	560	4321	0	0	60	70	1	1	132	0	0
Teacher	244	145	407	133	929	0	0	3	3	0	0	6	0	0
Hoteliers	468	252	33	21	774	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Security forces	814	179	240	23	1256	0	0	140	11	7	0	158	0	0
41yrs - 64yrs	77	99	49	71	296	0	0	5	5	1	2	13	0	0
18yrs - 40 yrs	75	69	97	194	435	0	0	3	4	0	0	7	0	0
Total Cov-1	11986	9441	3243	2596	27266	2	3	702	421	116	85	1324	0	0

Table 4: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 23rd May 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
- Difficulty in accessing data on time resulting to a delay in the production of the SITREP

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
- Response committee leads should endeavor to provide data to the SITREP team on time

For comments or questions, please contact:
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PARTNERS

