



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>		<b>Location: The Gambia</b>	
<b>Date of Report: 30<sup>th</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 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 **306<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 **175**
- **13** new cases registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **5,914**
  - **62%** tested for reasons of travelling and **15%** due to contact with a case
  - The median age of the new cases is (**11** Male & **2** Female) **36** (Range: <1yr-80yrs)
- A total of **727** new laboratory tests results received (**8** from MRCG and **719** from NPHL)
  - Of these, **13** new samples tested positive, representing a **1.8%** test positivity rate
- **4** COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **50** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **Only 2** COVID-19 patient is currently on oxygen therapy
- The country currently has no one in hotel quarantine, **266** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **3%**
- **22,833** people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 as of **27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**
- So far, **2,328** Rapid Diagnostic Tests (**RDT**) have been performed at the airport for travelers, with only **two** turning **positive for both RDT and PCR** as of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and being sent to treatment centers.

## COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

### Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **154,145,863**
- Recoveries: **132,203,101**
- Deaths: **3,226,027**

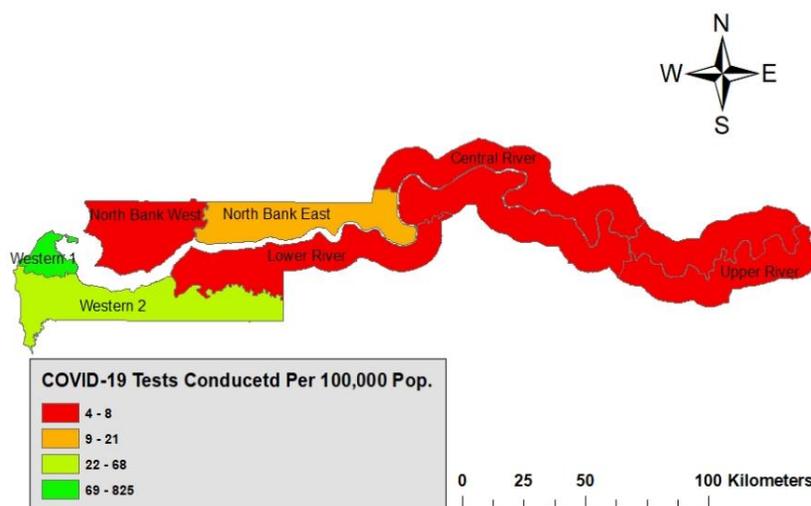
### Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **40,464**
- Recoveries: **39,192**
- Deaths: **1,111**

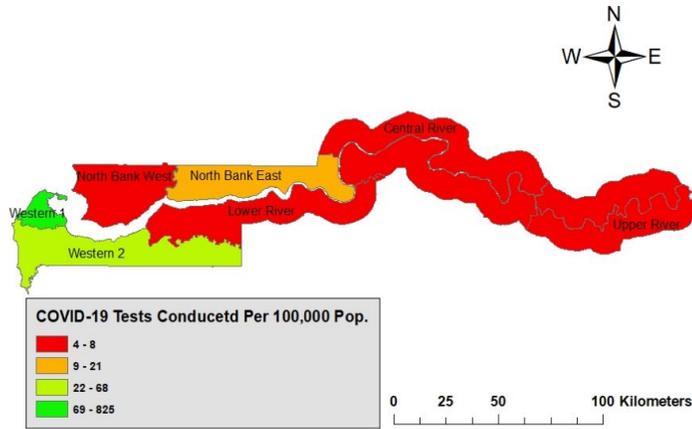
### The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **5,914**
- Recoveries: **5,473**
- Deaths: **175**

## II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



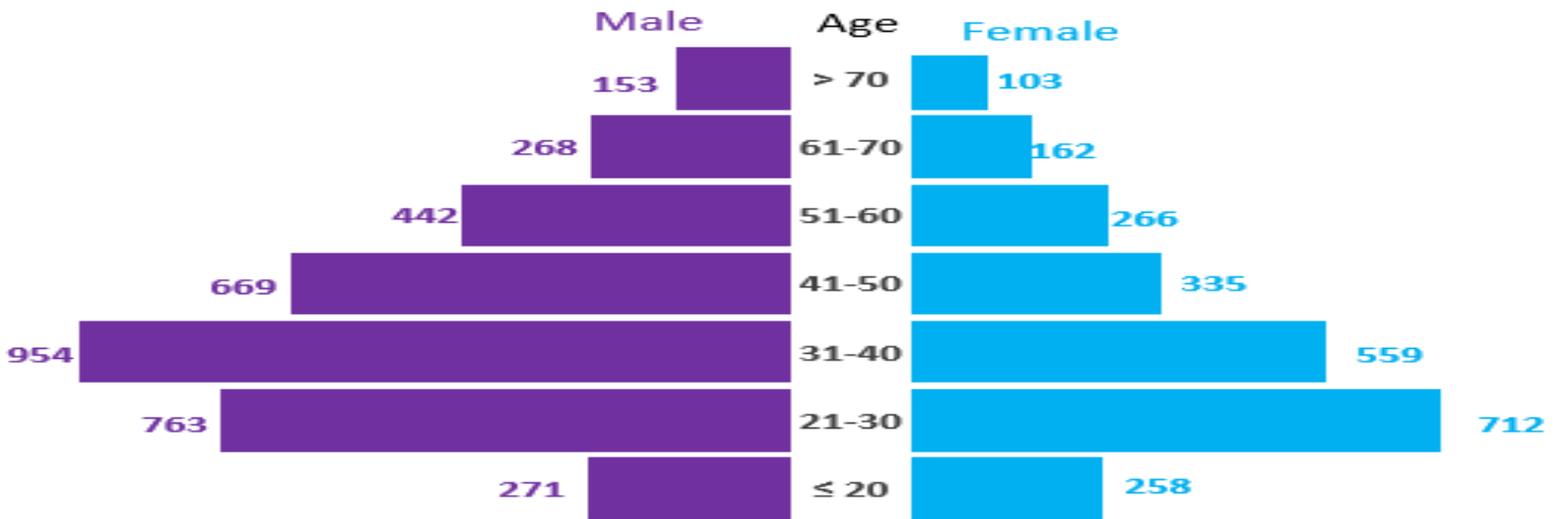
**Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, March 16-14 April 2021**



**Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, March 16-14 April 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.

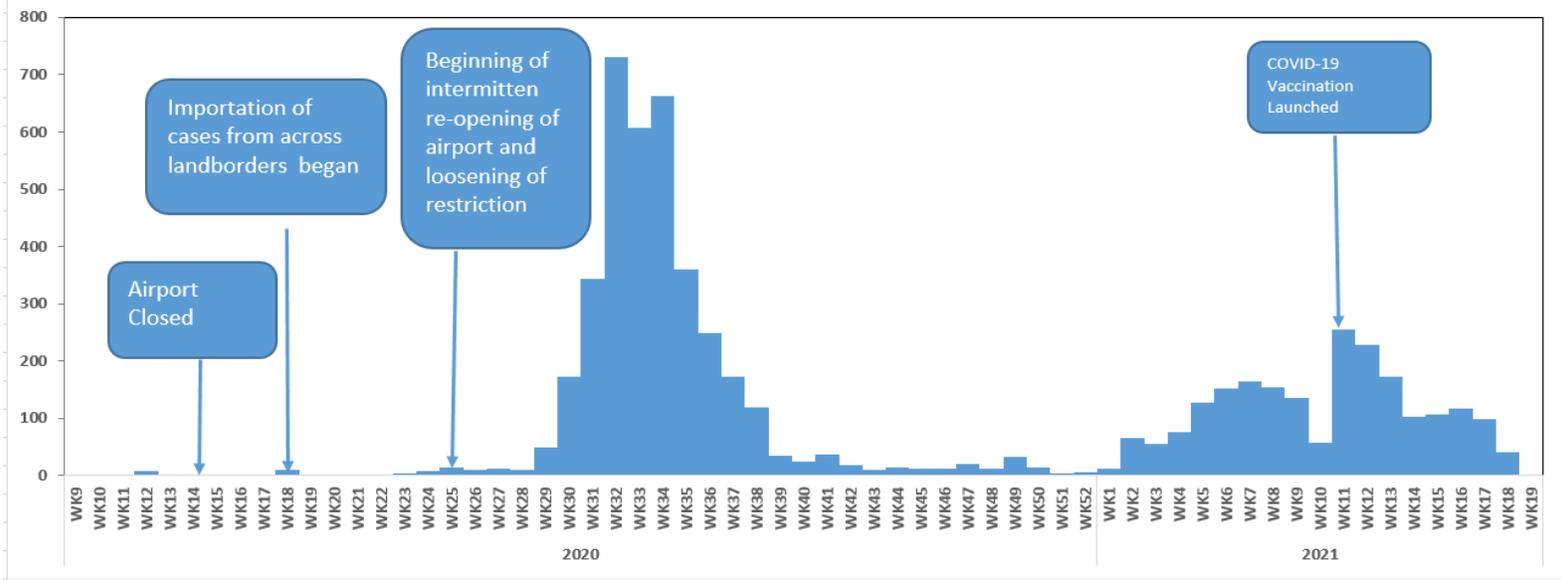


**Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021**

⚠ 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		14
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		2
No. of patients recovered and discharged	54	
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))***	727(0)***	64,694
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	13(0)	5,914
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	714(0)***	57,728
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- 27/4/21

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
54	678	54	63	21	1347

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

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>727</b> new laboratory test results received <b>8</b> from MRCG and <b>719</b> from NPHL)</li> <li>Of these, <b>no</b> test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>13</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><b>4</b> patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</li> <li><b>2</b> COVID-19 patient are 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							
Priority group	Dose 1				Total	AEFI	
	Fixed		Outreach/Mobile			MILD	SEVERE
	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Health Care workers	2970	2458	202	188	5818	0	3
People with pre-existing conditions	1261	1492	359	437	3549	1	0
Community workers	3683	2450	890	639	7662	1	0
65 years and above	1382	1354	609	498	3843	0	0
Teacher	140	114	296	85	635	0	0
Hoteliers	379	185	15	5	584	0	0
Security forces	427	119	178	18	742	0	0
<b>Total Cov-1</b>	<b>10242</b>	<b>8172</b>	<b>2549</b>	<b>1870</b>	<b>22833</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

Table 4: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 27<sup>th</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
- Difficulty in accessing data on time resulting to a delay in the production of the SITREP
- No security at the Stadium sample collection site

#### 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
- Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior needs to provide security at the Stadium sample collection site

**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**

