



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 28 - 30th 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 **323rd** 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 179**
- Two (**2**) new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **5,995**
- A total of **819** new laboratory test results received (**24** from MRCG and **795** from NPHL)
 - Of these, **2** new samples tested positive, representing a **0.24%** test positivity rate
- One (**1**) COVID-19 patient was newly discharged from treatment centres, while **4** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Two (**2**) COVID-19 patient are currently on oxygen therapy
- Five (**5**) new contacts of the Indian variant have been traced and are being monitored
- The country currently has a total of **3** people in hotel quarantine, **30** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **3%**
- As of **28th May 2021**, **29,148** and **4,671** people received the **1st** and **2nd** doses of **AstraZeneca vaccine** respectively, bringing the total number ever vaccinated to **33,819**
- So far **5,055** Rapid diagnostic tests were conducted at the Airport for travelers as of **30th May 2021**.
 - Of these, **only 2** tested positive for both RDT and PCR. These were treated and discharged.
- As of **20th May 2021**, **82** new clients received Psychological First Aid (PFA) Services provided by MoH, Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and Paradise Foundation, thus bringing the number of clients attended to **1,829** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

Confirmed Cases: **171,491,204**

Recoveries: **153,984,144**

Deaths: **3,565,891**

Senegal

Confirmed Cases: **41,416**

Recoveries: **40,070**

Deaths: **1,139**

The Gambia

Confirmed Cases: **5,995**

Recoveries: **5,786**

Deaths: **179**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

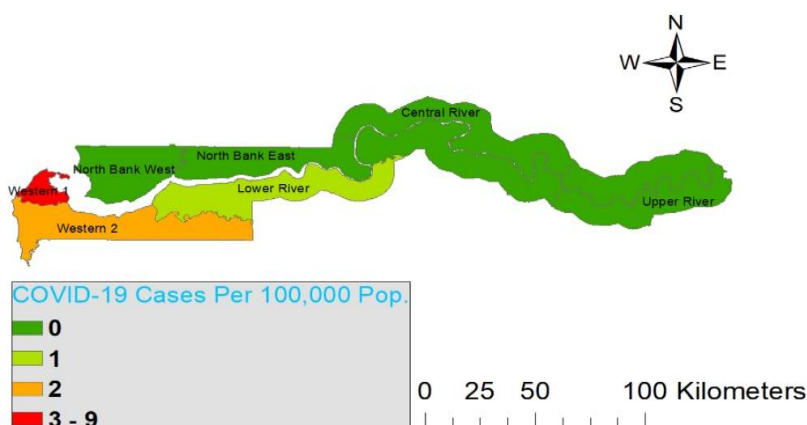


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Regions 15th April-14th May 2021

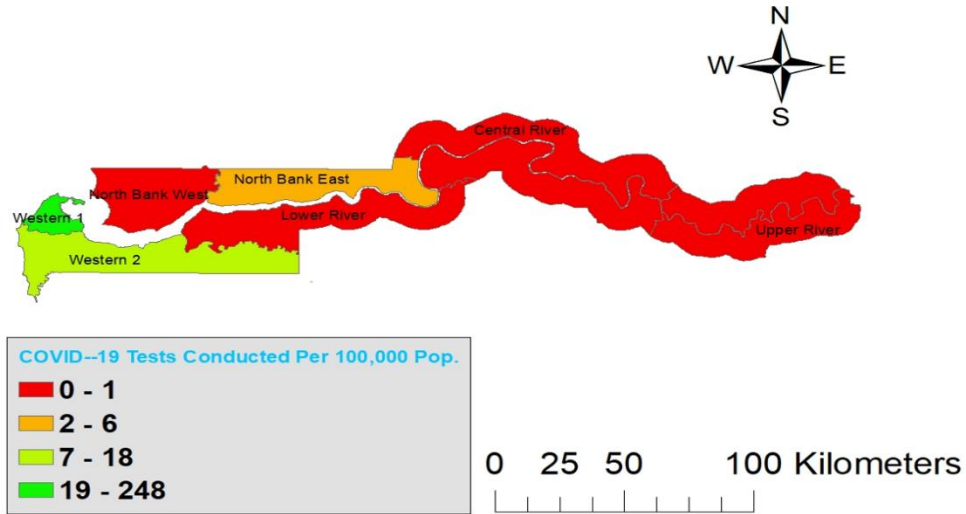


Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Tests Per 100,000 Pop. by Regions 15th April-14th May 2021

- 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.

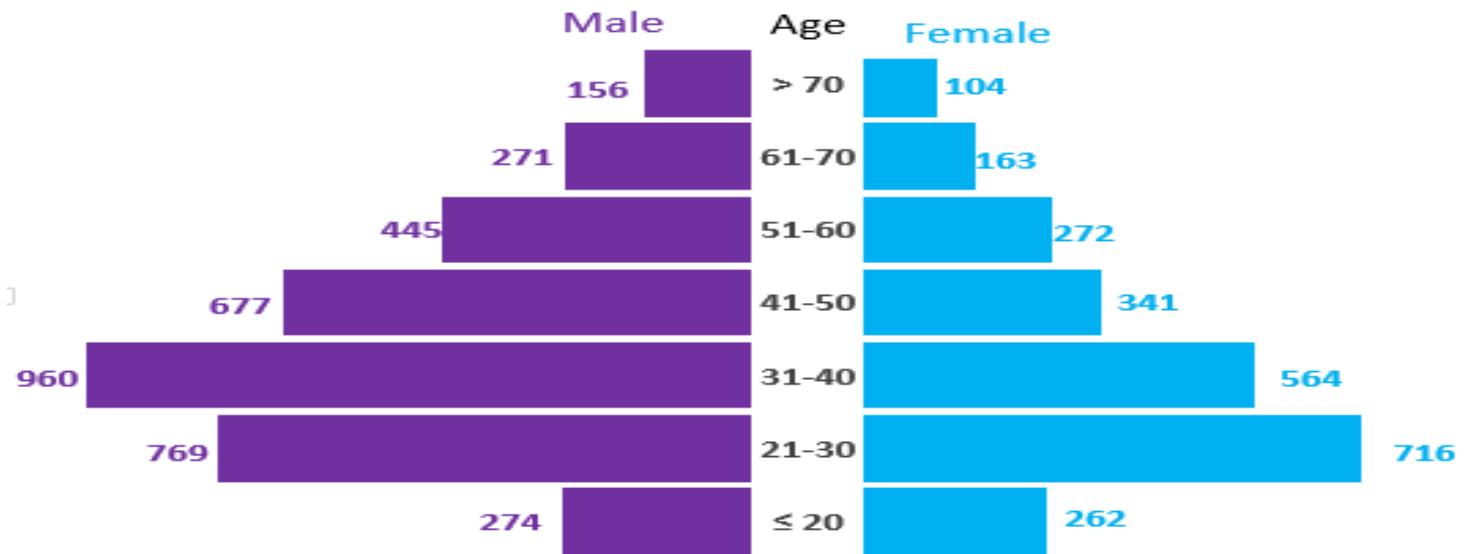


Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* 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)

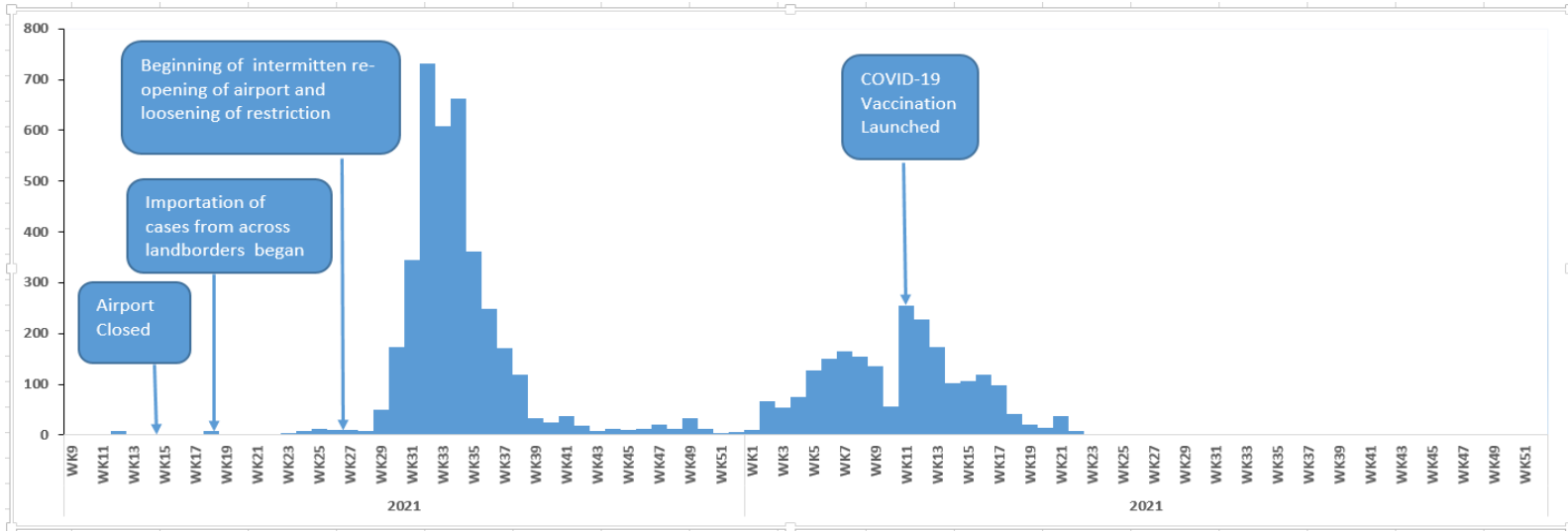


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported Weekly, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*. A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- 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		8
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		2
No. of patients recovered and discharged	5	
In Hotel Quarantine	1	3
Completed Hotel Quarantine	0	5,231
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	5	
No. of Contacts being monitored	44	
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))***	819(0)***	70,317
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	2(0)	5,995
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	815(0)***	63,267
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	2(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

COVID-19 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAILY REPORT- 24/5/21

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
176	110	176	40	8	852

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 819 new laboratory test results received 24 from MRCG and 795 from NPHL) Of these, No test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 2 new sample tested positive
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new COVID-19 related death recorded 1 patients was newly discharged from treatment centres 5 new contacts of the Indian variant have been traced and are being monitored 2 COVID-19 patient is 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-serious	Serious	Male	Female	Male	Female		Non-serious	Serious
Health Care workers	3164	2599	256	218	6237	0	3	638	587	167	116	1508	0	0
People with pre-existing conditions	1488	1793	441	537	4259	1	0	310	309	14	24	657	0	0
Community workers	4464	3045	1119	991	9619	1	0	651	457	99	53	1260	0	0
65 years and above	1705	1601	677	578	4561	0	0	334	294	12	23	663	0	0
Teacher	275	166	430	147	1018	0	0	28	25	5	1	59	0	0
Hoteliers	483	267	34	21	805	0	0	12	14	0	0	26	0	0
Security forces	847	206	251	24	1328	0	0	153	20	8	0	181	0	0
41yrs - 64yrs	152	142	76	102	472	0	0	138	102	1	2	243	0	0
18yrs - 40 yrs	285	184	124	256	849	0	0	23	37	6	8	74	0	0
Total Cov-1	12863	10003	3408	2874	29148	2	3	2287	1845	312	227	4671	0	0

Table 4: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 28th May 2021

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- 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:

- 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:
Sana M. Sambou
Public Health Emergency Operations Center
Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, The Gambia
Email: sanamsambou@hotmail.com **Phone:** +220 3516320/2422949

PARTNERS

