



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>	<b>Location: The Gambia</b>
<b>Date of Report: 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>	<b>Investigation Start Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as of 18hrs.</b>
<b>Prepared by: Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia</b>	

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the **338<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**

- Two (2) new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020 to 185**
  - The decedents were an **80-year-old** man with severe COVID pneumonia and **46-year-old** women with chronic liver diseases who were admitted in one of the COVID-19 treatment centres
- Ninety-nine (99) new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **6,282**
- One (1)** case absconded from one of the treatment centres
- Four (4), **14**, **58** and **23** cases were reported on the **5<sup>th</sup>**, **6<sup>th</sup>**, **7<sup>th</sup>** and **8<sup>th</sup>** respectively
- The cases are composed of **58** males and **41** females with a median age of **40** years (Range **2 - 85** years)
- A total of **1,025** new laboratory test results were received (**116** from MRCG and **909** from NPHL)
  - Of these, **99** tested positive representing a **9.7 %** test positivity rate
- Twenty-five (25)** new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **5** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Six (6) COVID-19 patient are currently on oxygen therapy
- No new contacts have been traced
- Currently, seven (7) people are in hotel quarantine, **191** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.9%**
- As of **25<sup>th</sup> June 2021**, **31,254** and **12,303** people received the **1<sup>st</sup>** and **2<sup>nd</sup>** doses of **AstraZeneca** vaccine respectively, bringing the total number ever vaccinated to **43,557**
- So far **10,420 (518 New) Rapid Diagnostic Tests** were conducted at the Airport for travelers as of **7<sup>th</sup> July 2021**.
  - Of these, **only three (3)** tested positive for both RDT and PCR. They were all treated and discharged
- As of **20<sup>th</sup> June 2021**, **102** new clients received Psychological First Aid (PFA) Services provided by MoH, Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and Paradise Foundation, thus bringing the number patients of attended to **1,931** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **186,801,523**
- Recoveries: **170,863,550**
- Deaths: **4,034,575**

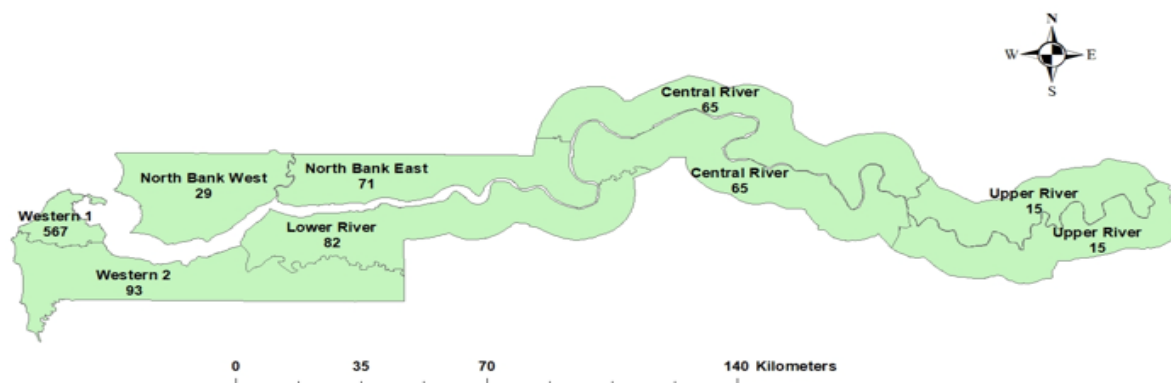
#### Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **45,266**
- Recoveries: **42,090**
- Deaths: **1,187**

#### The Gambia

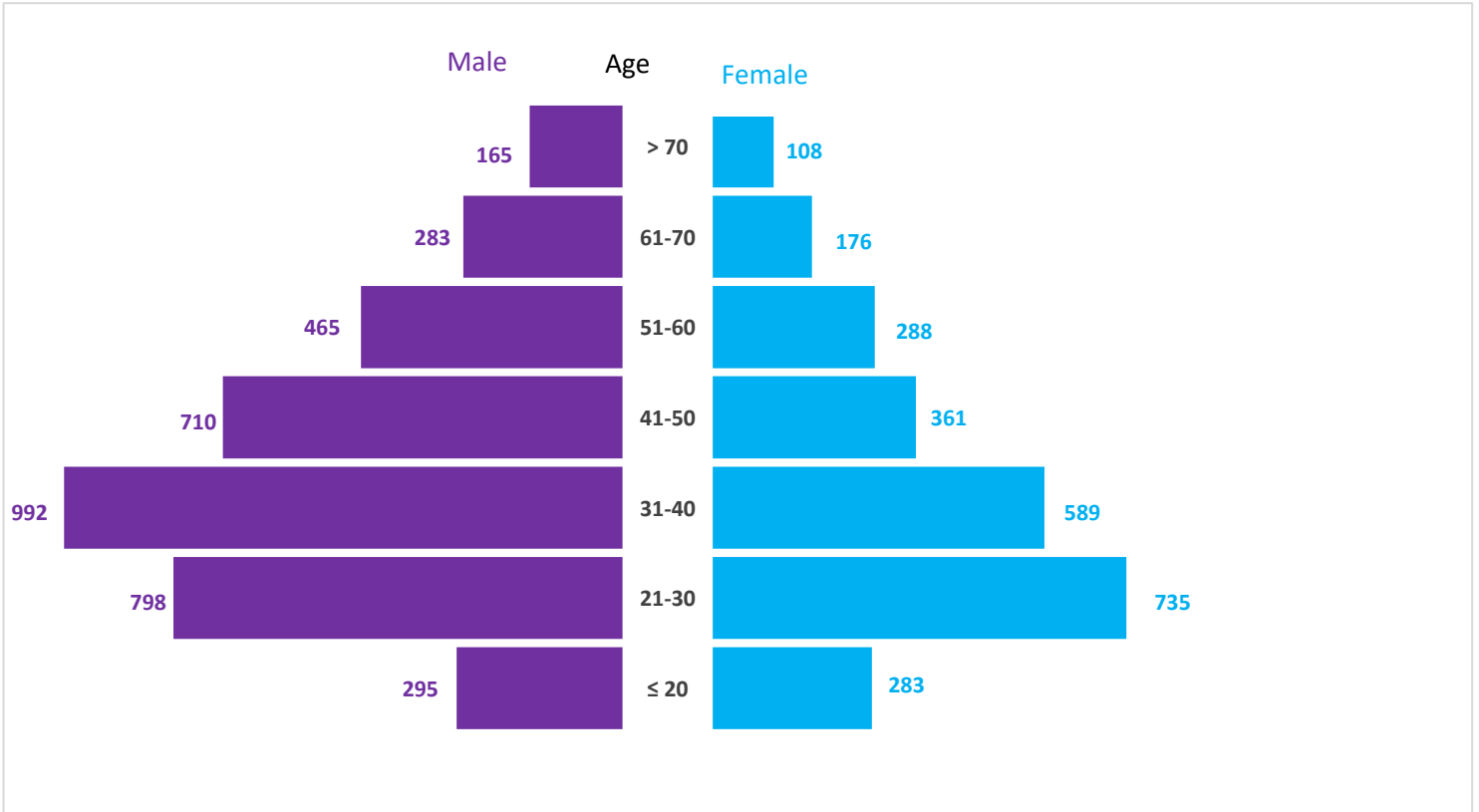
- Confirmed Cases: **6,282**
- Recoveries: **5,906**
- Deaths: **185**

## II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



**Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of pandemic to 30<sup>th</sup> June 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.

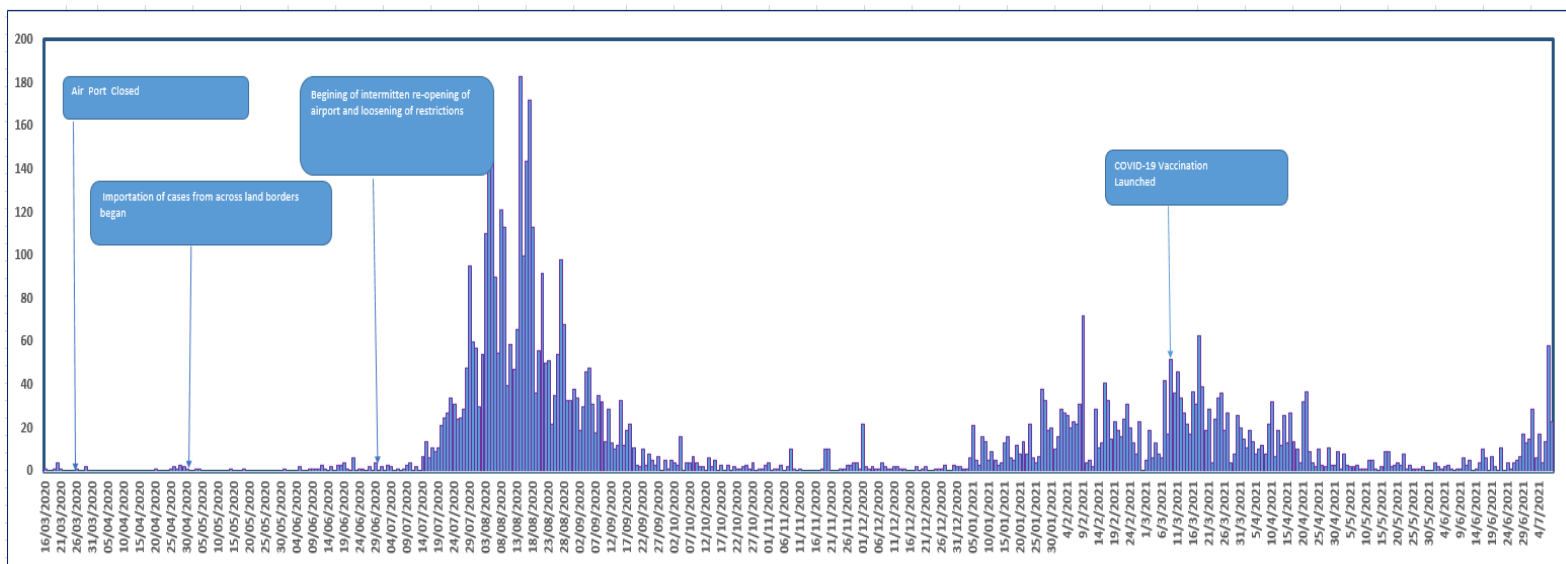


**Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021**

\* 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 daily, 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		64
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		6
No. of patients recovered and discharged	30	
In Hotel Quarantine	7	9
Completed Hotel Quarantine	0	5,240
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	57	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	16,908
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	1025(0)***	80,572
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	99(0)	6,282
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	924(0)***	73,220
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 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

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>1,025</b> new laboratory test results received <b>116</b> from MRCG and <b>909</b> from NPHL)</li> <li>Of these, two (<b>2</b>) test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>99</b> new sample tested positive</li> </ul>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two (<b>2</b>) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</li> <li>Twenty five(<b>25</b>) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</li> <li>No new contact has been traced</li> <li><b>Six (6)</b> COVID-19 patient are currently on oxygen therapy</li> </ul>

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
<b>Total Cov-24</b>	438	266	374	242	1320	0	0	281	171	159	123	734	0	0
Health Care workers	3246	2674	302	294	6516	0	3	1655	1503	262	177	3597	0	0
People with pre-existing conditions	1537	1851	555	671	4614	1	2	809	841	150	147	1947	0	0
Community workers	4561	3107	1134	1008	9810	1	0	1410	1082	251	205	2948	0	0
65 years and above	1776	1650	739	656	4821	0	0	642	692	123	138	1595	0	0
Teacher	333	195	487	212	1227	0	0	154	112	65	18	349	0	0
Hoteliers	513	304	34	21	872	0	0	153	137	0	0	290	0	0
Security forces	876	266	264	40	1446	0	0	268	65	74	62	469	0	0
41yrs - 64yrs	279	247	175	148	849	0	0	400	337	32	41	810	0	0
18yrs - 40 yrs	380	299	141	279	1099	0	0	104	136	30	28	298	0	0
<b>Total Cov-1</b>	13501	10593	3831	3329	31254	2	5	5595	4905	987	816	12303	0	0

Table 4: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 10<sup>th</sup> June 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.
- 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
- 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](mailto:sanamsambou@hotmail.com)     **Phone:** +220 3516320/2422949

## PARTNERS

