



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 13th – 15th August 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 **356th** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- Six **(5+1 posthumous)** new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total to **277** (Crude case-fatality ratio, **3%**)
- The decedents' age range from **40- 96 year (4 males and 1 females)**
 - **Five (5)** had severe COVID-19 pneumonia and admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
 - **Two (2)** had diabetes mellitus as a comorbidity
- A total of **123** new cases (**39, 49 & 35** cases reported on **13th, 14th & 15th** respectively) were registered (cumulative cases, **9,318**)
- The test positivity rate is **9.5% (123/1293)** of which **MRCG** tested **44 (4 positive)** and **NPHL 1249 (119 positive)**
 - Of the total new cases, **48** were **males** and **75** were **females**, with a **median** age of **36** years (**Range: 3 – 90 years**)
 - **Thirty-five (35)** cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
 - For **reason of testing, 48 (39%)** tested for travelling, **20 (16%)** for suspicion of COVID-19, **2 (2%)** contacts with a confirmed case and **10 (8%)** wanted to know their COVID 19 status and **41 (33%)** unknown reason.
- **Sixteen (16)** cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **293** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **No** new contacts were traced and monitored
- As of **14th August 2021**, **128,110** and **4,283** people received their single dose of **Johnson & Johnson's Janssen** and **1st dose of Sinopharm** vaccine respectively
- Of the total national target population (**≥ 18 years**) been vaccinated:
 - **8.9%** are fully vaccinated (received **two doses of AZ** or **1 dose of J&J**)
 - **10.2%** received at least **one** COVID-19 vaccine dose (**AZ** or **J&J** or **Sinopharm**)

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **208,511,121**
- Recoveries: **187,001,571**
- Deaths: **4,381,610**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **70,854**
- Recoveries: **54,357**
- Deaths: **1,614**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **9,318**
- Active Cases: **431**
- Recoveries: **8,610**
- Deaths: **277**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

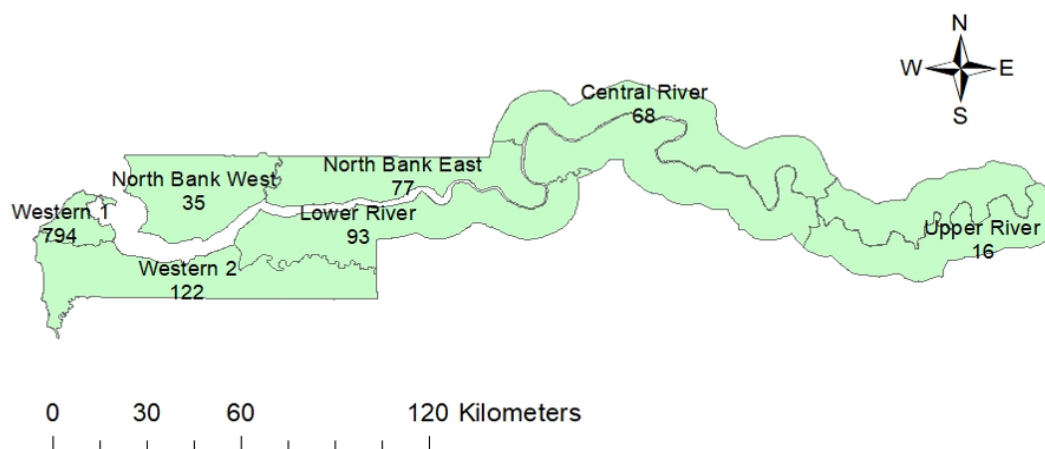


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of the Pandemic to 31st July 2021

- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (**See Fig. 1**)
- Below are the age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively (**See Fig. 2 and 3**)

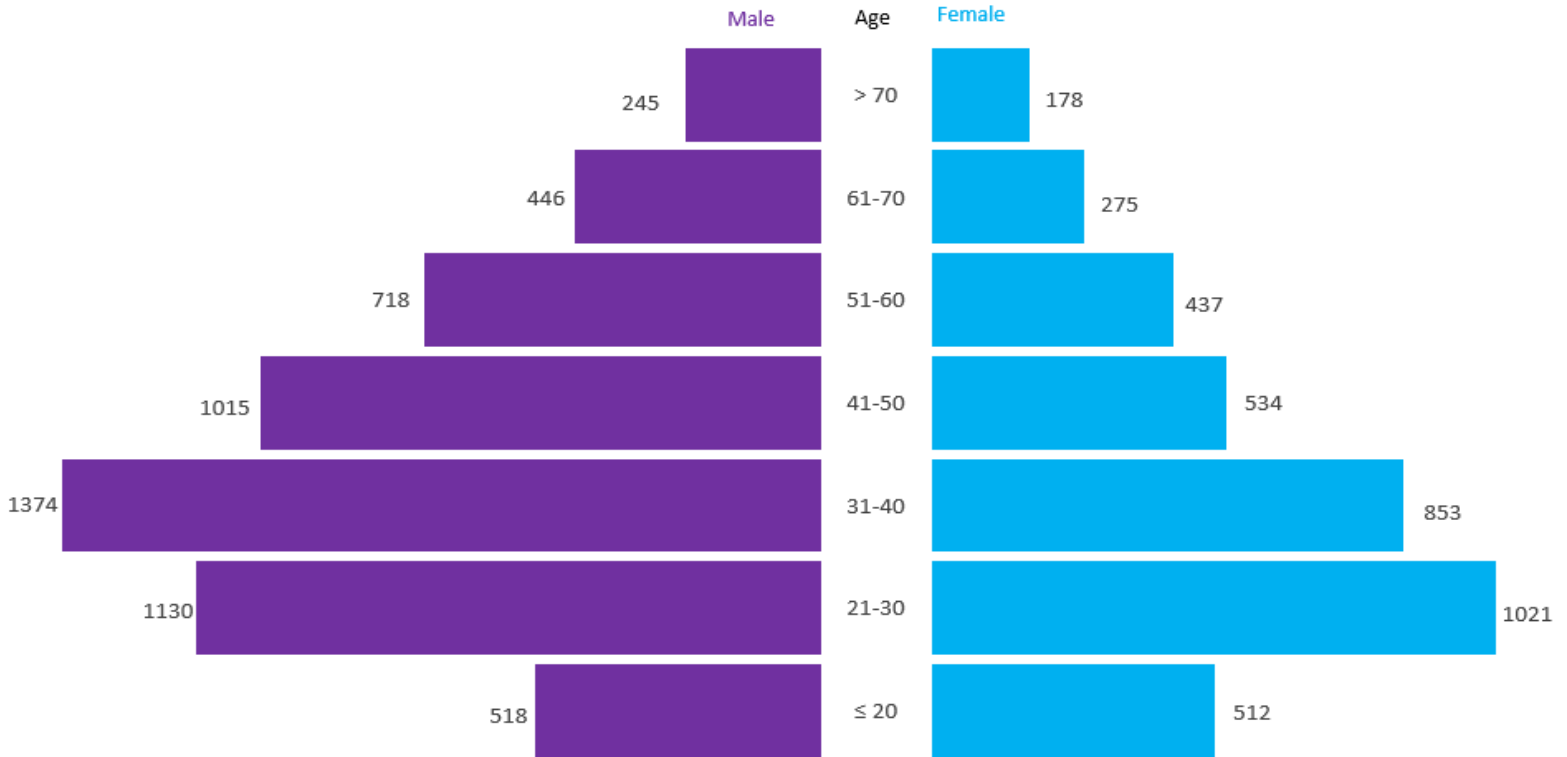


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

✧ This excludes the 27 confirmed cases whose demographic information are not yet available

About 59% of the confirmed cases are males (**See Fig. 2**)

About 58.6% of the confirmed cases are 40 years below (**See Fig. 2**)

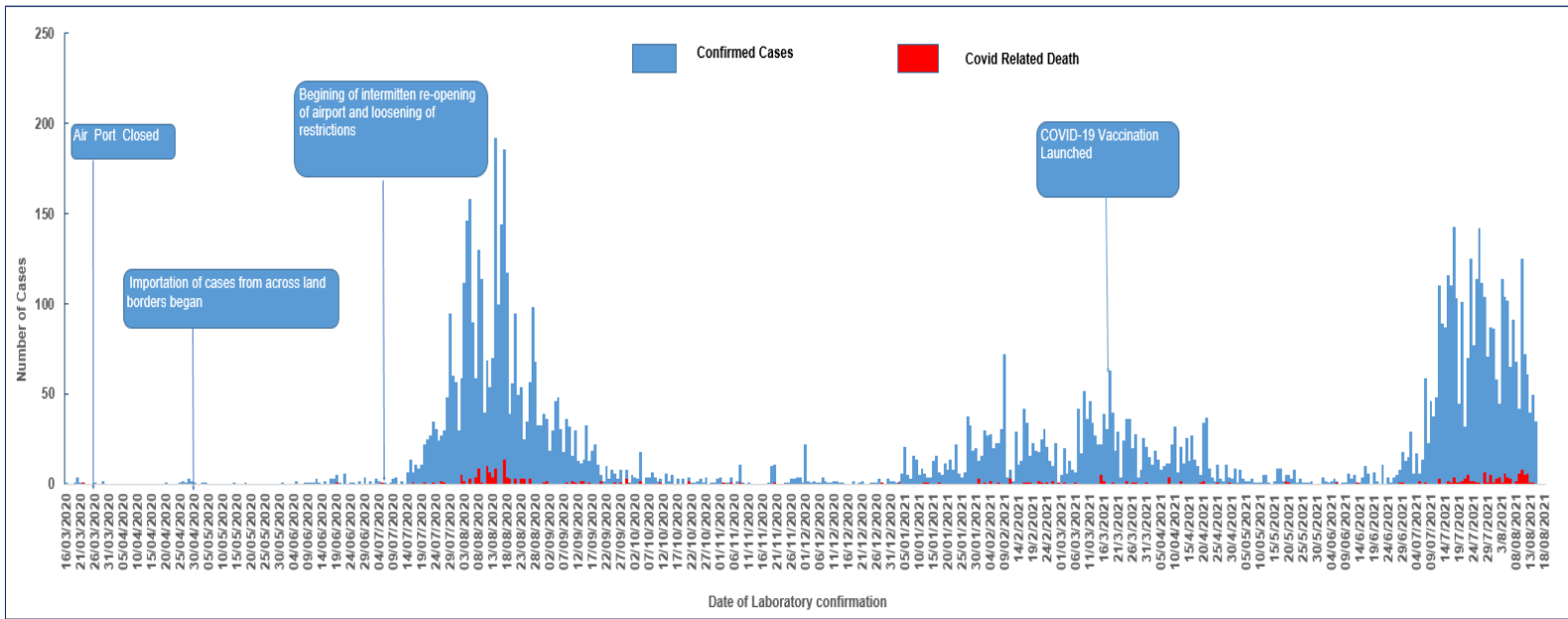


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-10th August 2021*.

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. 3**)

Status	New	Cumulative
No. of active cases in institutional isolation		72
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		35
No. of patients recovered and discharged	309	
In Hotel Quarantine	0	19
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	4	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	9	17,115
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	1293(0)***	96,764
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	123(0)	9,318
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	1166(0)***	86,207
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	4(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"> • <i>Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels</i>
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A total of 1293 new laboratory test results received 44 from MRCG and 1249 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, 4 test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 123 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eight (5+1 posthumous) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Sixteen (16) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>No new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Thirty-five (35) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy</i>

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

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CBS activities need to be synchronized with MRC's ILI surveillance to spur up testing rates in the hinterland.
- Speed up 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 and vaccine hesitancy
- 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 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 always including the donning of appropriate PPEs

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

