



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>	<b>Location: The Gambia</b>
<b>Date of Report: 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> August 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 **349<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**

- Six (**5 with one (1) posthumous**) new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to **235**
- The age of the five (**5**) decedents range from **26 - 70 years**
  - All had severe covid-19 pneumonia with one(1) have diabetes and hypertension
  - All were admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
- **96** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **8,392**
- **Seven (7), 2, 3, 43** and **41** cases were reported on the **28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>** (not reported in July from MRC), **1<sup>st</sup>** and **2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021** respectively
  - Of the **68** cases with known reasons for testing, **30 (44%)** tested for travelling, **22 (32%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **3 (4%)** contact with a confirmed case and **12 (18%)** wanted to know covid 19 status
- The cases are composed of **58** males and **37** females with a median age of **37 years (Range: Less than 1 – 101 years)**
- A total of **762** new laboratory test results were received (**21** from **MRCG** and **741** from **NPHL**)
  - Of these, **96** tested positive representing a **12.6 % test positivity rate**
- **Twenty-nine (29)** new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **159** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **Thirty-two (32)** COVID-19 patients are currently on **oxygen therapy**
- No new contacts were traced and monitored
- Currently, **no one** is in hotel quarantine, **847** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.8%**
- So far **15,922 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT)** were conducted at the airport for travelers
  - Of these, **seven (7)** tested for positive for both RDT and PCR. They were all sent to the treatment centers for further management

## COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

### Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **200,353,706**
- Recoveries: **180,600,447**
- Deaths: **4,260,635**

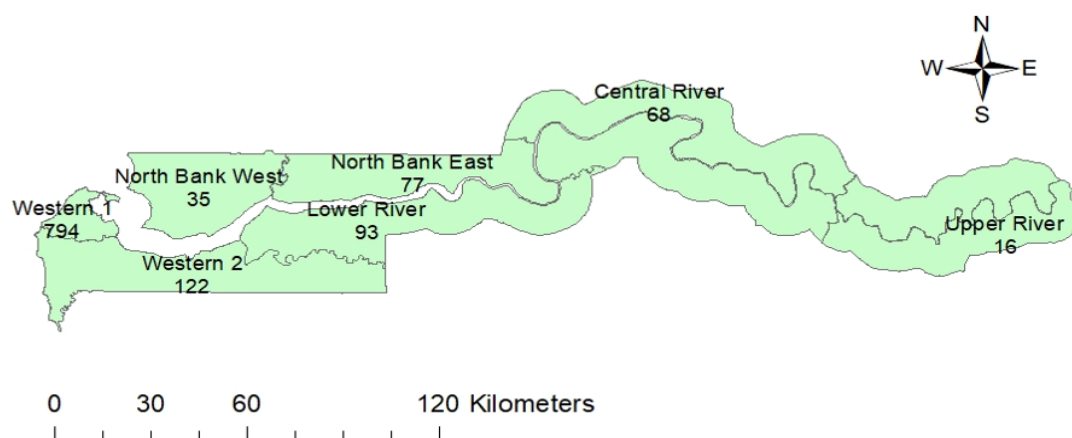
### Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **64,024**
- Recoveries: **48,378**
- Deaths: **1,394**

### The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **8,392**
- Recoveries: **7,310**
- Deaths: **235**

## II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



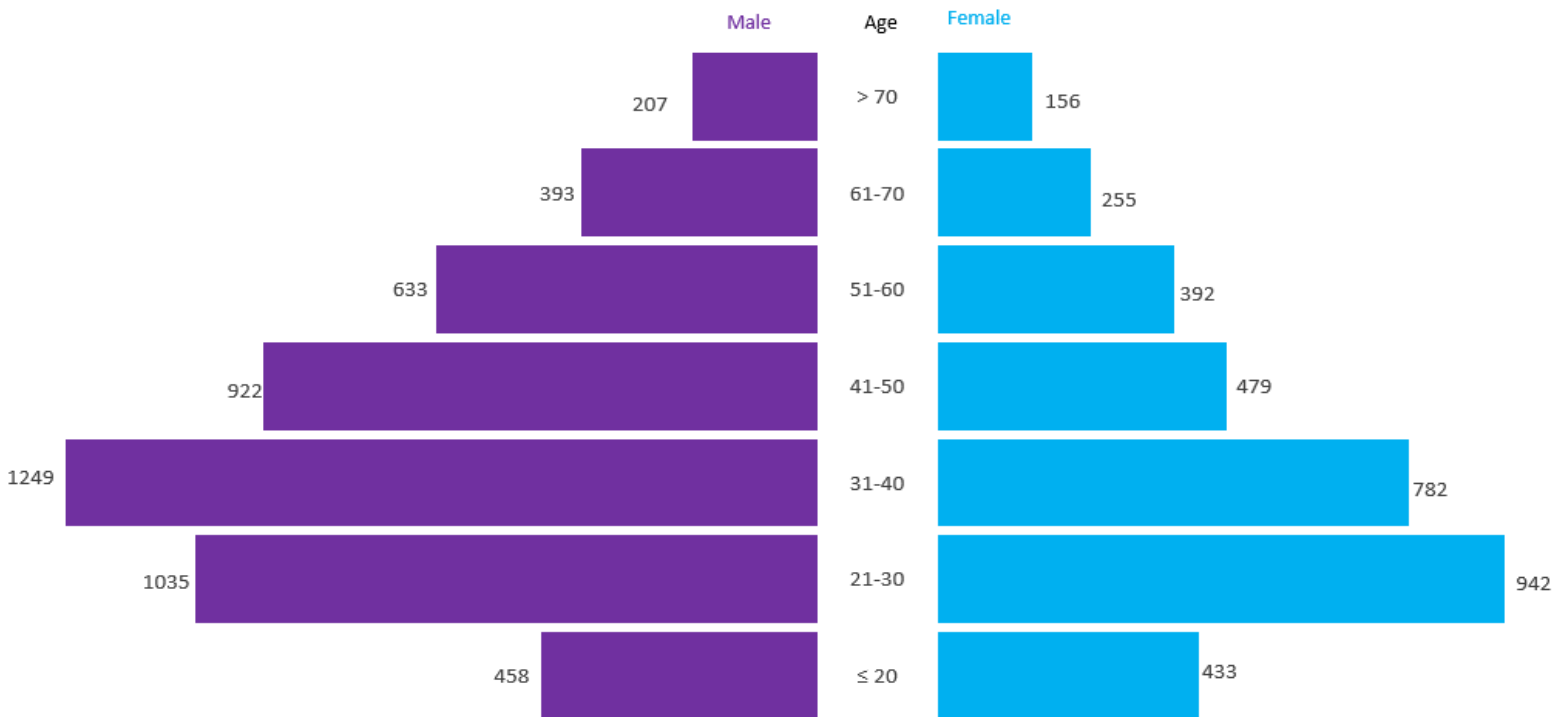
**Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of the Pandemic to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021**

- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (See Fig. 1)

Date	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	Total	Test Positivity
1/8/2021	334	43	0	377	11.4
2/8/2021	325	41	2	327	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>11.9</b>

**Table1:** Shows the test positivity rate from 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021, The Gambia

- Below are the age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively (See Fig. 2 and 3)

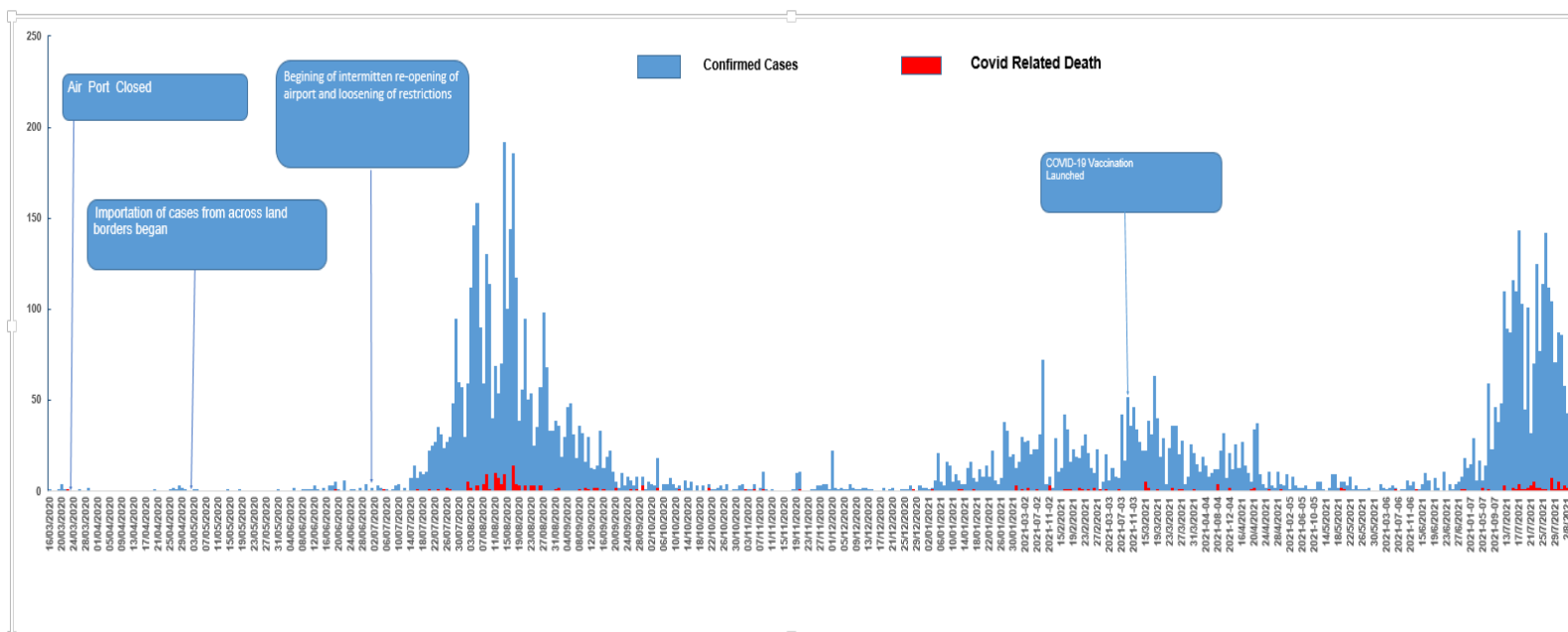


**Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021**

\* 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, 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		76
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		32
No. of patients recovered and discharged	188	
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	13	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	17,106
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	762(0)***	90,643
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	96(0)	8,392
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	664(0)***	81,128
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	9(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>• <i>Coordination meetings held at central and level</i></li> </ul>
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A total of <b>762</b> new laboratory test results received <b>21</b> from <b>MRCG</b> and <b>741</b> from <b>NPHL</b>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Of these, <b>2</b> test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>253</b> new samples tested positive</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>So far <b>15,922 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT)</b> were conducted at the airport for travelers</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Of these, <b>seven (7)</b> tested for positive for both RDT and PCR</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i><b>Six (6)</b> new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Twenty-nine (29)</b> patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i></li> <li>• <i><b>No</b> new contacts were traced and monitored</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Thirty-two (32)</b> COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy</i></li> </ul>

**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](mailto:sanamsambou@hotmail.com) Phone: +220 3516320/2422949/

**PARTNERS**

