



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>		<b>Location: The Gambia</b>	
<b>Date of Report: 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021</b>		<b>Investigation Start Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as of 18hrs.</b>	
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## I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the **348<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**

- Fourteen (**14**) new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020 to 227**
  - **Seven (7), 1, 5 and 1** deaths were reported on the **28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>** respectively
- The decedents were **7 males and 7 females** with an age range of **34 - 85 years**
  - The youngest (**34 years**) was pregnant
  - All had severe covid-19 pneumonia with few being diabetes and hypertensive patients
  - All were admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
- **334** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **8,296**
- **97,70,82,** and **85** cases were reported on the **28<sup>th</sup>,29<sup>th</sup> ,30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>** respectively
  - Of the **237** cases with known reasons for testing, **121 (51%)** tested for travelling, **53 (22%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **14 (6%)** contact with a confirmed case and **32 (14%)** wanted to know covid 19 status
- The cases are composed of **192 males and 142 females** with a median age of **35.5 years (Range: 1 – 93 years)**
- A total of **2,501** new laboratory test results were received (**142** from **MRCG** and **2359** from **NPHL**)
  - Of these, **334** tested positive representing a **13.4 % test positivity rate**
- Twenty-one (**21**) new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **253** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Twenty-one (**21**) COVID-19 patients are currently on **oxygen therapy**
- Five (**5**) new contacts were traced and are being monitored
- Currently, **no one** is in hotel quarantine, **947** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.7%**

## COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

### Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **199,025,424**
- Recoveries: **179,634,871**
- Deaths: **4,240,425**

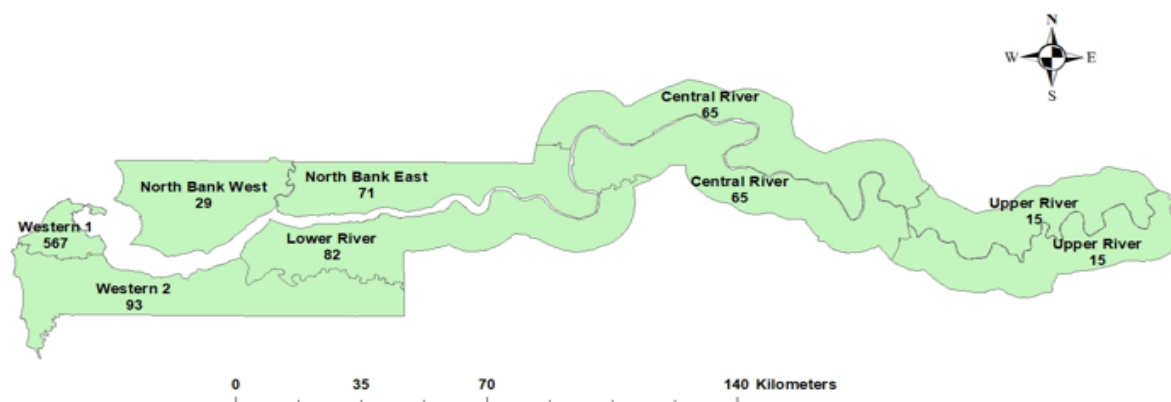
### Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **63,002**
- Recoveries: **47,579**
- Deaths: **1,367**

### The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **8,296**
- Recoveries: **7,122**
- Deaths: **227**

## 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)

**Table1:** Shows the test positivity rate from 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, The Gambia

Date	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	Total	Test Positivity
28/7/2021	582	97	5	684	14.2
29/7/2021	569	70	2	641	10.9
30/7/2021	504	82	2	588	13.9
31/7/2021	503	85	0	588	14.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2158</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2501</b>	<b>13.4</b>

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

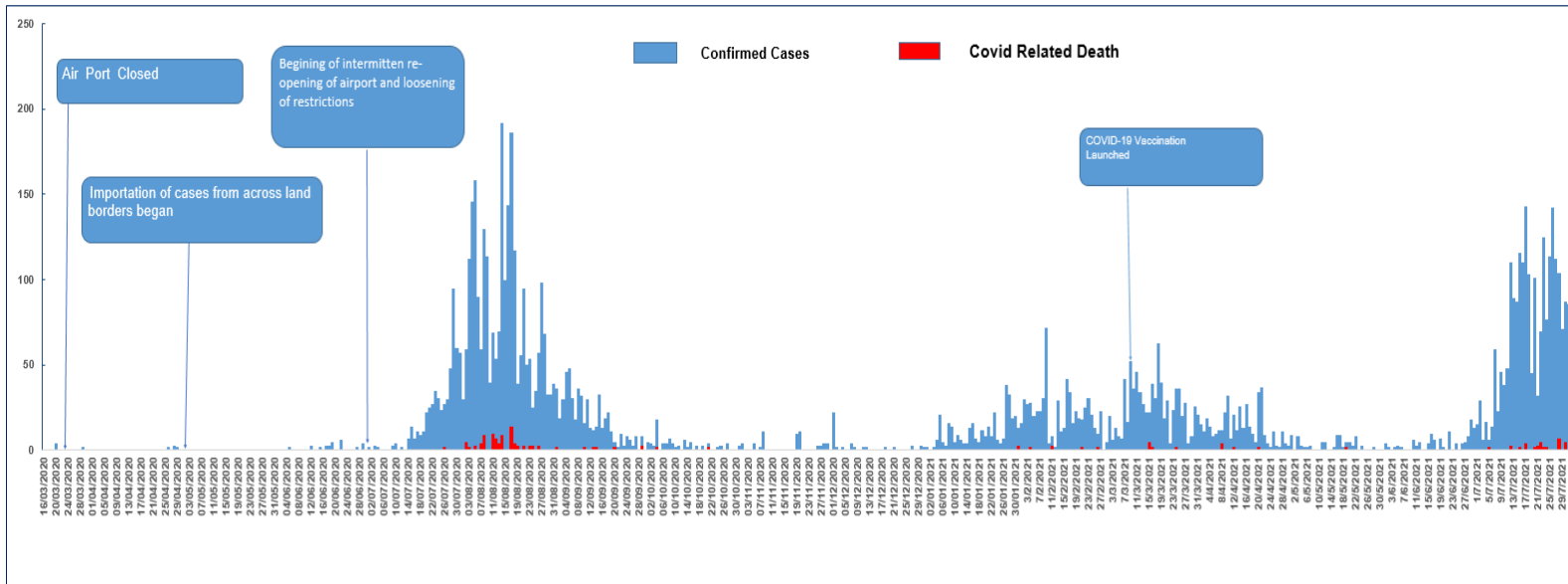


**Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021**

\* 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		75
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		21
No. of patients recovered and discharged	274	
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**	5	
No. of Contacts being monitored	13	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	68	17,106
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	2501(0)***	89,881
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	334(0)	8,296
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	2158(0)***	80,464
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 both central and regional levels</i></li> </ul>
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A total of <b>2501</b> new laboratory test results received <b>142</b> from <b>MRCG</b> and <b>2359</b> from <b>NPHL</b>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Of these, <b>9</b> test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>253</b> new samples tested positive</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fourteen (<b>14</b>) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i></li> <li>• <i>Twenty-one (<b>21</b>) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i></li> <li>• <i>Five (<b>5</b>) new contacts were traced and monitored</i></li> <li>• <i>Twenty-one (<b>21</b>) COVID-19 patients are currently on <b>oxygen therapy</b></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:**  
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