



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>		<b>Location: The Gambia</b>	
<b>Date of Report: 4<sup>th</sup> August 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 **351<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**

- **Four (4)** new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to 242
- The ages of the decedents were **45, 62, 65 and 70 years (3 males and 1 female)**
  - All had severe COVID-19 pneumonia with comorbidities
  - All were admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
- **98** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **8,603**
  - Of the **79** cases with known reasons for testing, **44 (57%)** tested for travelling, **7 (9%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **4 (5%)** contacts with a confirmed case and **16 (20%)** wanted to know their COVID 19 status
  - The cases are composed of **55 males** and **43 females** with a **median age of 34 years (Range: Less than 1 – 85 years)**
- A total of **543** new laboratory test results were received (**54 from MRCG** and **489 from NPHL**)
  - Of these, **98** tested positive representing **18 % test positivity rate**
- **Nine (9)** new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **104** 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, **825** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.8%**
- As of **4<sup>th</sup> August**, **94,976** and **3679** people received their **single dose of Johnson & Johnson (J&J)** and **1<sup>st</sup> dose of Sinopharm** vaccine respectively
- Of the total national target population (**≥ 18 years**) vaccinated:
  - **6.9%** are fully vaccinated (received two doses of **AZ OR** single dose of **J&J**)
  - **8.1%** received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose (**AZ or J&J or Sinopharm**)
- So far **15,922 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT)** were conducted at the airport for travelers
  - Of these, **seven (7)** tested 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: **202,015,331**
- Recoveries: **181,704,034**
- Deaths: **4,285,725**

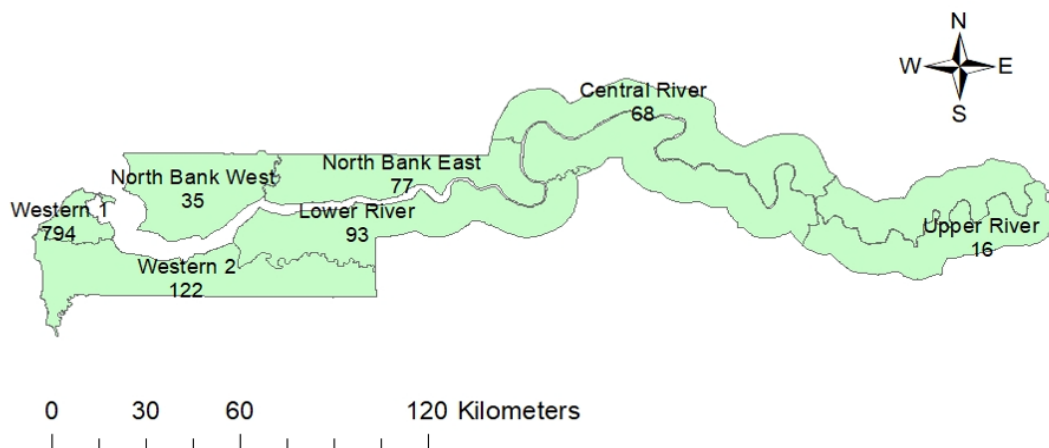
#### Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **66,250**
- Recoveries: **49,691**
- Deaths: **1,457**

#### The Gambia

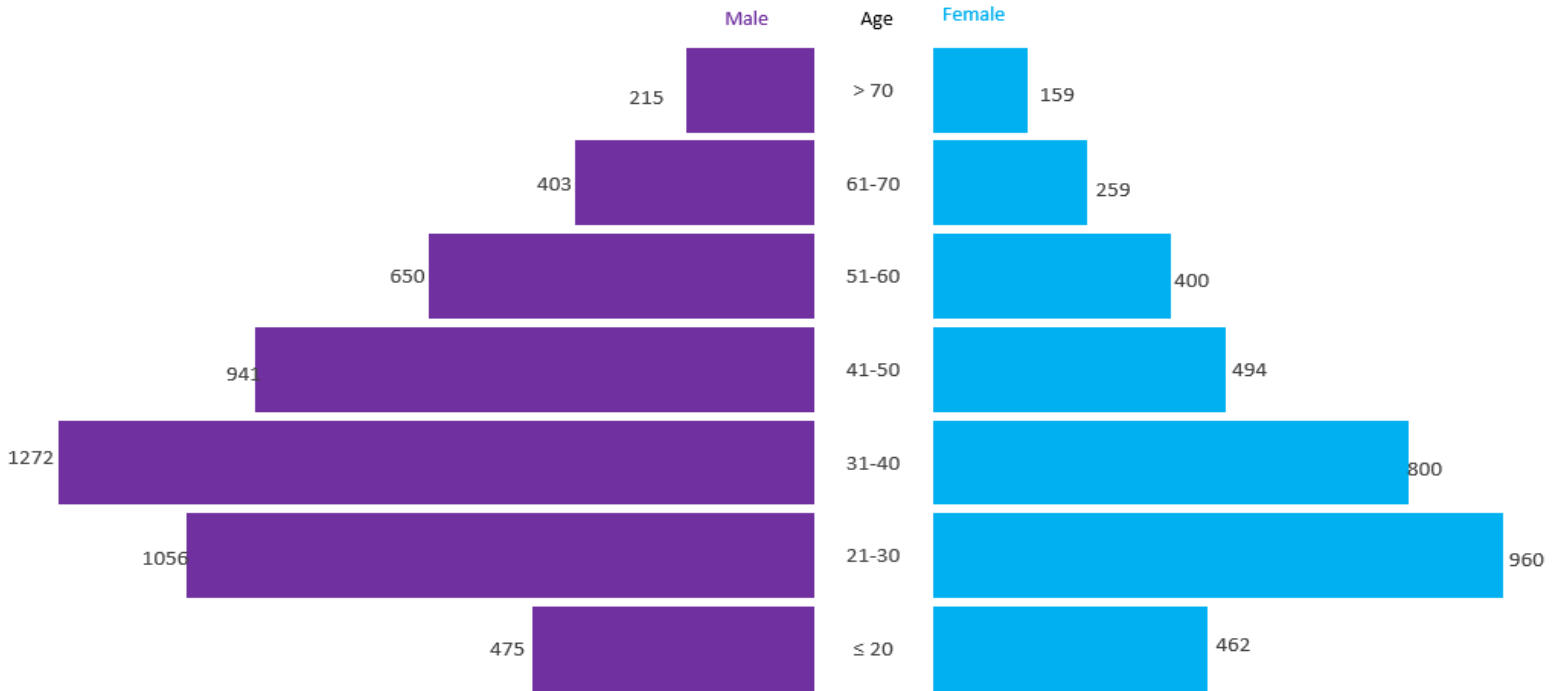
- Confirmed Cases: **8,603**
- Recoveries: **7,536**
- Deaths: **242**

## 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**)
- 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**)

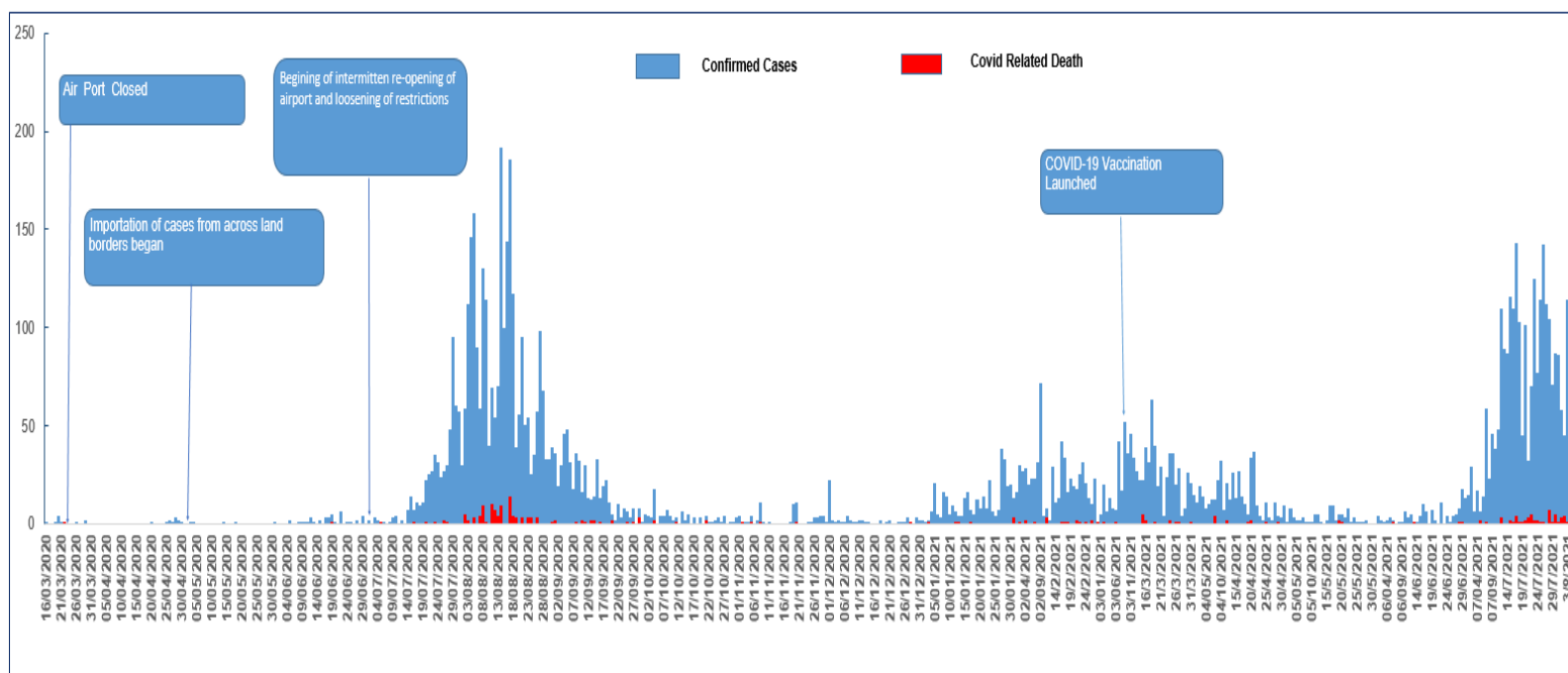


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021<sup>#</sup>.

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		73
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		30
No. of patients recovered and discharged	113	
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))***	543(0)***	91,665
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	98(0)	8,603
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	442(0)***	81,835
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	3(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>543</b> new laboratory test results received (<b>54</b> from <b>MRCG</b> and <b>489</b> from <b>NPHL</b>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Of these, <b>3</b> test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>98</b> new samples tested positive</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i><b>Four (4)</b> new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Nine\ (9)</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 (30)</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:**  
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**PARTNERS**

