



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 7th - 8th August 2021	Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 353rd national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 16th March 2020

- **Nine (6+3 posthumous)** new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020 to 254**
- The decedents age range from **50 - 87 years (3 males and 3 female)**
 - All had severe COVID-19 pneumonia with comorbidities
 - **All** were admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
- **Three (3),2,2,2** cases died on the **6th,7th,8th and 9th** respectively
- **157** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **8,920**
 - **91** and **66 cases** were reported on the **7th** and **8th**
 - Of the **121** cases with known reasons for testing, **81 (67%)** tested for travelling, **23(19%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **5 (4%)** contacts with a confirmed case and **8 (7%)** wanted to know their COVID 19 status
- The cases are composed of **86 males** and **69 females** with a **median** age of **39 years (Range: 1 – 86 years)**
- A total of **1,003** new laboratory test results were received (**17 from MRCG** and **986 from NPHL**)
 - Of these, **157** tested **positive** representing **15.7 % test positivity rate**
- **Twenty-eight (28)** new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **221** 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, **631** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.8%**

As of **8th August**, **108,856** and **3,844** people received their **single dose of Janssen & Janssen** and **1st dose of Sinopharm** vaccine respectively

- Of the total national target population (≥ 18 years) been vaccinated:
 - **7.7%** are fully vaccinated (received two doses of **AZ** or **single dose of J&J**)
 - **9.0%** received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose (**AZ** or **J&J** or **Sinopharm**)
- So far **16,425 (503) 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: **204,313,984**
- Recoveries: **183,485,290**
- Deaths: **4,320,346**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **68,348**
- Recoveries: **51,566**
- Deaths: **1,526**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **8,920**
- Recoveries: **8,038**
- Deaths: **254**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

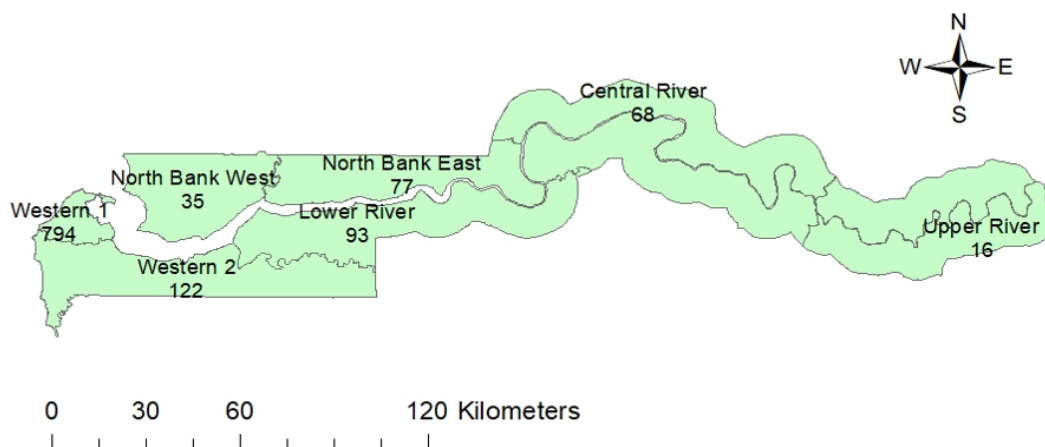


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of the Pandemic to 31st July 2021

- 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**)

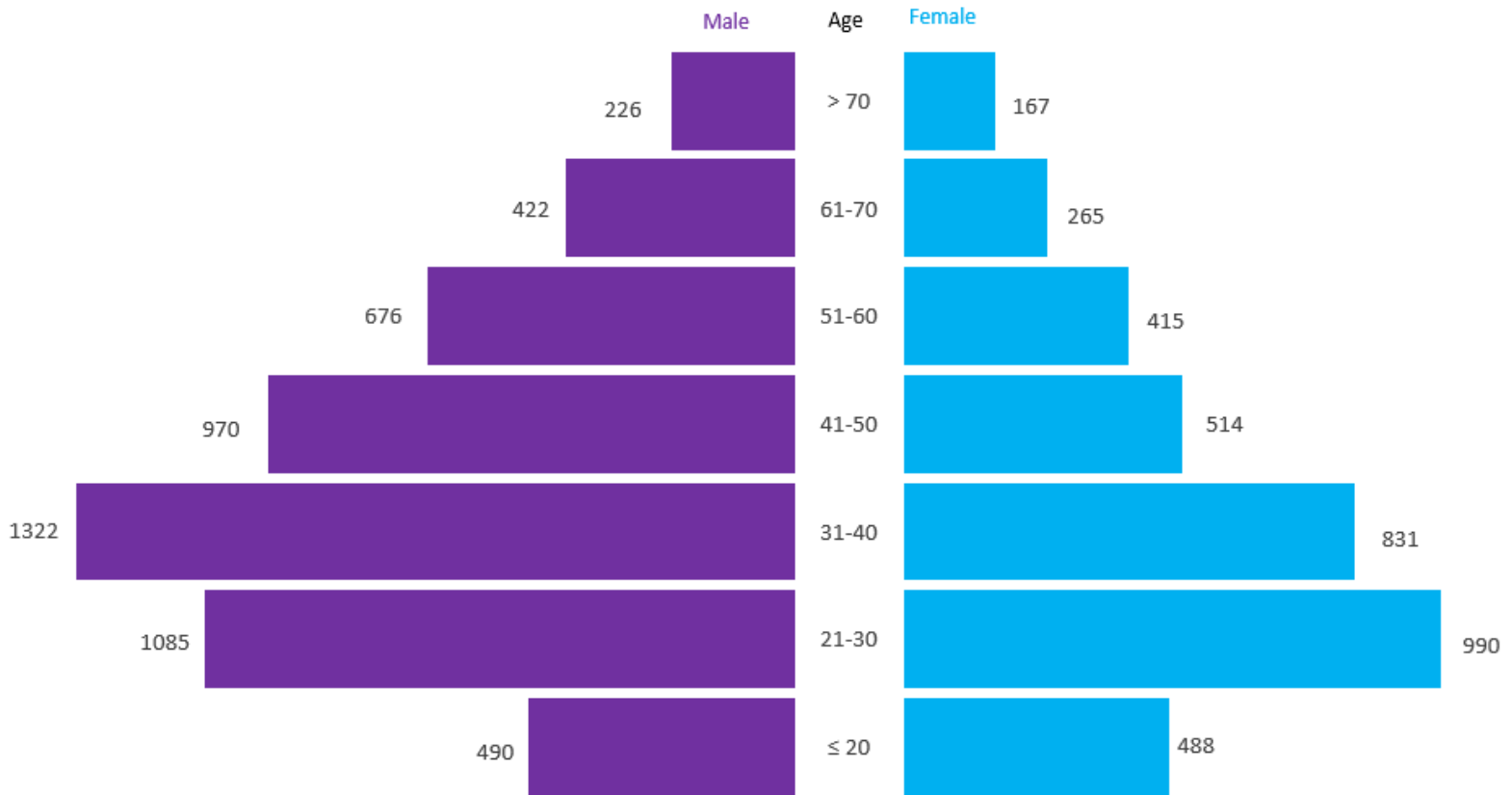


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

^{*} 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**)

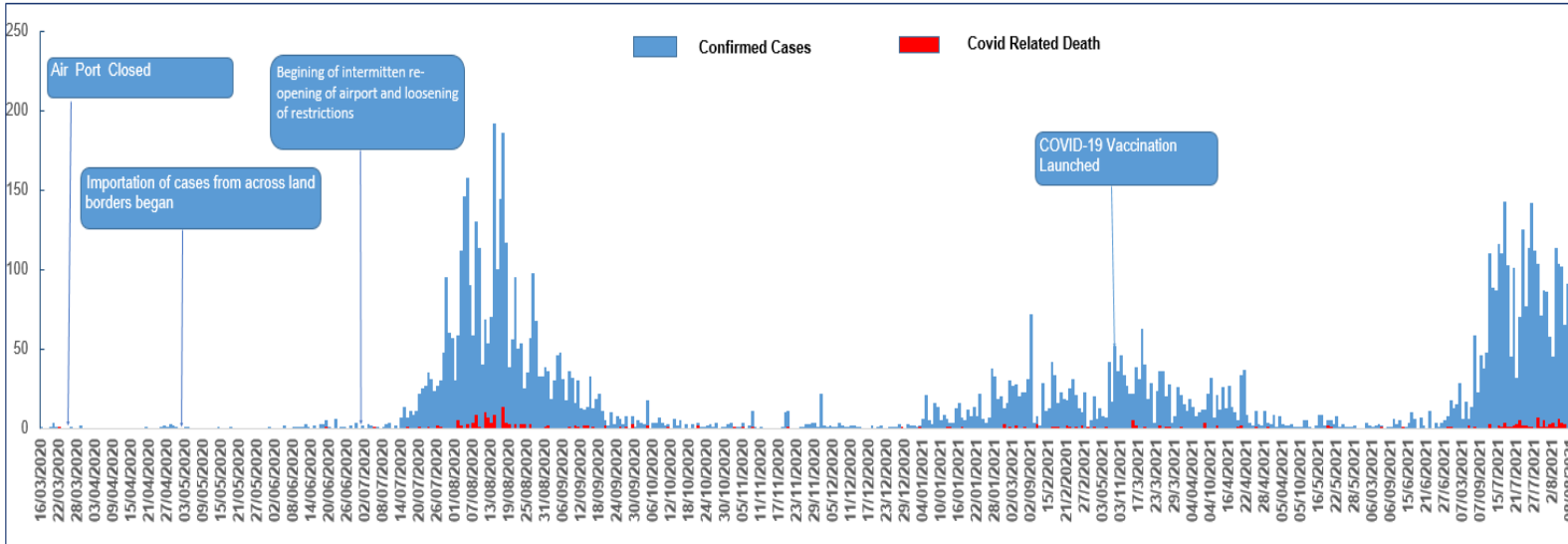


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021#.

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		89
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		43
No. of patients recovered and discharged	249	
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))***	1003(0)***	93,657
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	157(0)	8,920
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	844(0)***	83,507
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 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 1003 new laboratory test results received 17 from MRCG and 986 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, 2 test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 157 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nine (9) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Twenty-eight(28) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>No new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Forty-three (43) 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

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PARTNERS

