



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 21st - 23rd August 2021	Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 360th national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 16th March 2020

- Ten (10) new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total to 311 (Crude case-fatality ratio, 3.3%)
- The decedents' age range from 54 - 90 year (6 males and 4 females)
 - Eight (8) had severe COVID-19 pneumonia and admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
 - Four (4) of them, had either, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, severe anaemia, Hepatic encephalopathy or Chronic bronchitis as a comorbidity
- A total of 63 new cases were registered (cumulative cases, 9,533)
- The test positivity rate is 6.9% (63/907) of which MRCG tested 28 (7 positive) and NPHL 879 (56 positive)
 - Of the total new cases, 33 were males and 30 were females, with a median age of 34 years (Range: 1 – 80 years)
 - Twenty-seven (27) cases are currently on oxygen therapy
 - For reasons of testing, 21 (33%) tested for travelling, 3 (5%) for suspicion of COVID-19, 5 (8%) wanted to know COVID 19 status, 2(3%) contact with a confirmed case, 2(3%) to determine COVID19 related deaths and 30(48%) for unspecified reasons.
- Five (5) cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while 56 got discharged at least 10 days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Fifteen (15) new contacts were traced and monitored
- As of 23rd August 2021, the following number of people have been with:
 - **Janssen & Janssen:**
 - Only 1 dose:135,083
 - **Sinopharm:**
 - Dose 1: 4,457
 - Dose 2: 595
 - **AstraZeneca:**
 - Dose 1: 31,254
 - Dose 2: 13,164
- Cumulative number of AEFIs: 25 (23 non-serious and 2 serious)
- Of the total national target population (≥ 18 years) been vaccinated:
 - 9.5% are fully vaccinated (2 doses of AZ/Sinopharm or 1 dose of J&J)
 - 10.9% received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose (AZ or J&J or Sinopharm)

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: 213,881,489
- 👤 Recoveries: 191,416,482
- ➡ Deaths: 4,463,273

Senegal

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: 72,086
- 👤 Recoveries: 58,424
- ➡ Deaths: 1,697

The Gambia

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: 9,533
- 👤 Active Cases: 112
- 👤 Recoveries: 9110
- ➡ Deaths: 311

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

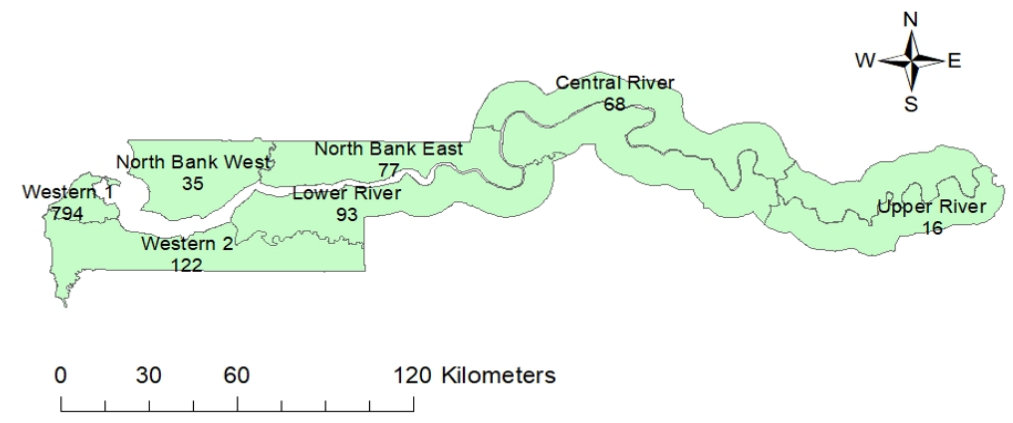


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of the Pandemic to 31st July 2021

- 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**)

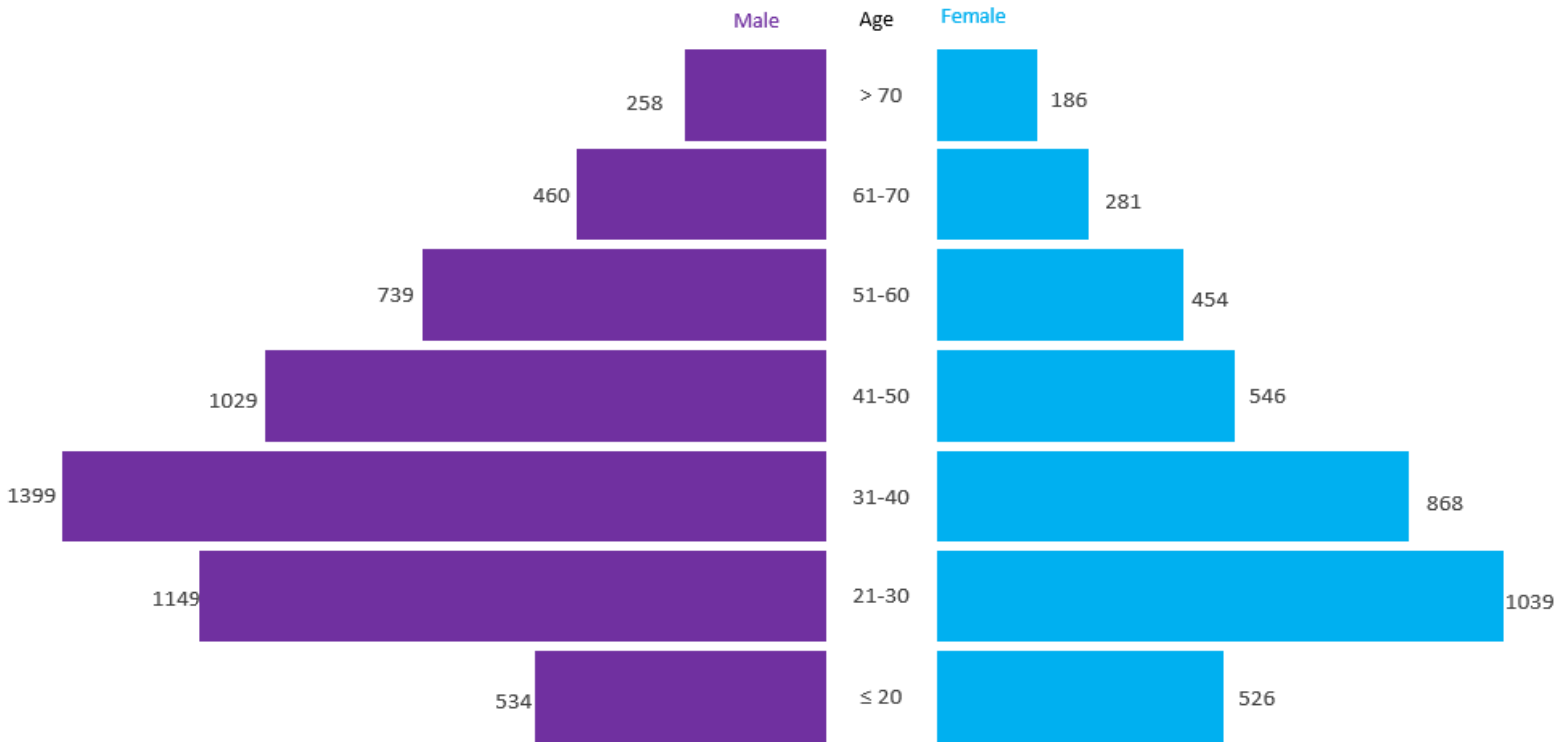


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

✧ 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**)

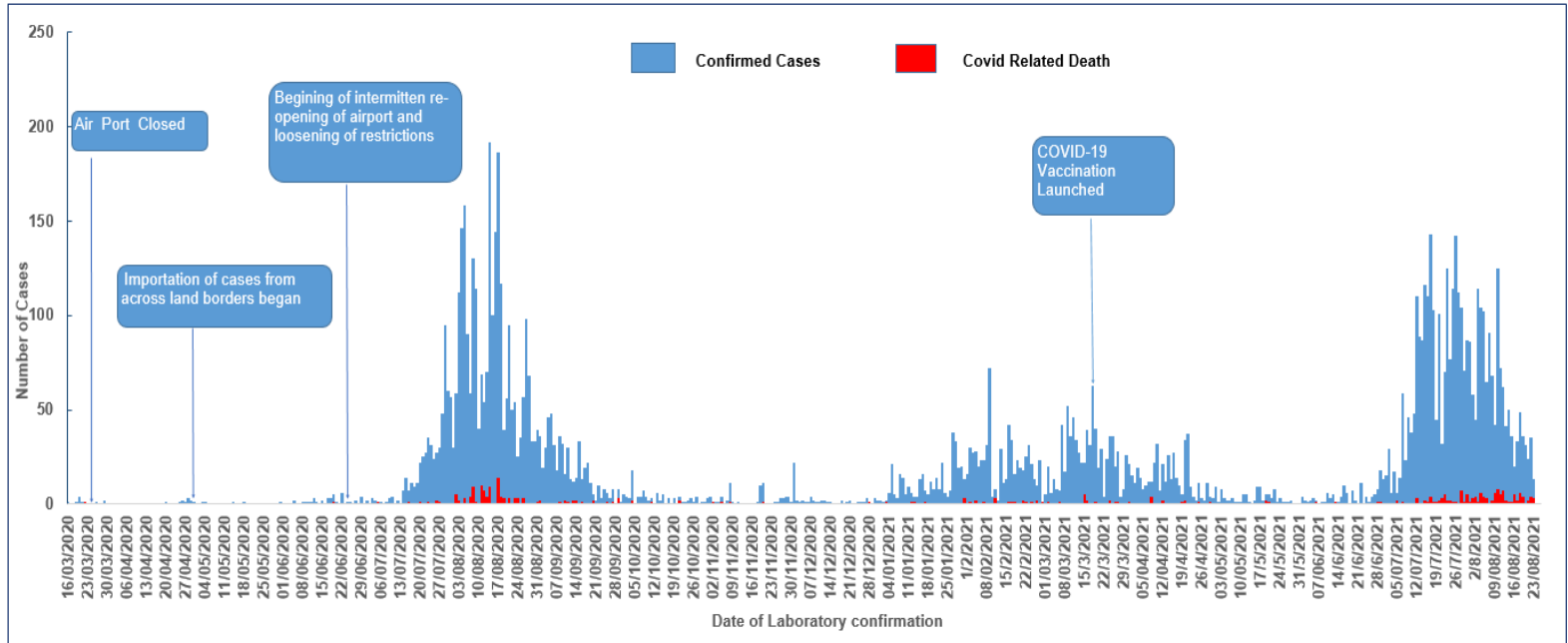


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-10th August 2021*.

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		38
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		27
No. of patients recovered and discharged	61	
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**	15	
No. of Contacts being monitored	0	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	4	17,119
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	907(0)***	99,342
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	63(0)	9,533
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	844(0)***	88,567
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	(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 907 new laboratory test results received 28 from MRCG and 879 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, no test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 63 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ten (10) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Five (5) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>Fifteen (15) new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Twenty-seven (27) 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

