



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 26th – 28th August 2021		Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.	
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the **362nd** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- Five (**4+1 Posthumous**) new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total to **319** (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, **3.3%**)
- The decedents' ages ranged from **70 - 85 years (3 males and 2 females)**
 - Four (**4**) of the dead had COVID-19 pneumonia and admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
 - Two (**2**) of them had either diabetes mellitus or hypertension as a comorbidity
- A total of **72** new cases were registered (cumulative cases, **9,698**)
- The test positivity rate is **6.7% (72/1071)** of which **MRCG tested 45 (8 positives)** and **NPHL 1026 (64 positive)**
 - Of the total new cases, **41** were **males** and **31 females**, with a **median** age of **33 years (Range: 1 – 90 years)**
 - **Eighteen (18)** cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
 - For reasons of testing, **43 (60%)** tested for travelling, **12 (17%)** for suspicion of COVID-19, **3 (4%)** wanted to know COVID 19 status, **1(1%)** determine COVID 19 related death, and **13 (18%)** for unspecified reasons.
- **Seven (7)** cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **82** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **Five (5)** new contacts were traced and monitored
- As of **28th August 2021**, the following number of people have been vaccinated with:
 - **Janssen & Janssen:**
 - Only 1 dose:139,367
 - **Sinopharm:**
 - Dose 1: 4,457
 - Dose 2: 1,225
 - **AstraZeneca:**
 - Dose 1: 31,271
 - Dose 2: 17,212
- Of the total national target population (**≥ 18 years**) been vaccinated:
 - **10.1%** are fully vaccinated (**2 doses** of AZ/Sinopharm or **1 dose** of J&J)
 - **11.2%** received at least **one** COVID-19 vaccine dose (**AZ** or **J&J** or **Sinopharm**)

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **217,158,200**
- Recoveries: **194,041,703**
- Deaths: **4,513,872**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **72,709**
- Recoveries: **61,007**
- Deaths: **1,749**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **9,698**
- Active Cases: **96**
- Recoveries: **9,283**
- Deaths: **319**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

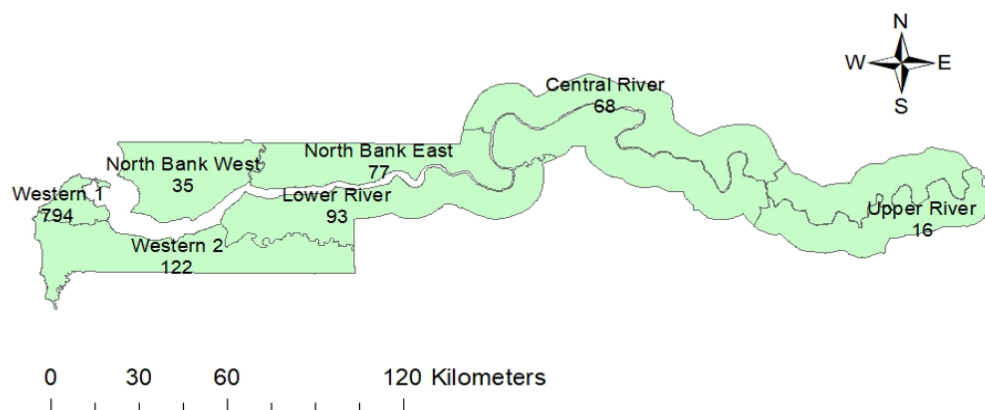


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases per 100,000 Pop.by Region in The Gambia since the start of the Pandemic to 31st July 2021

- 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**)

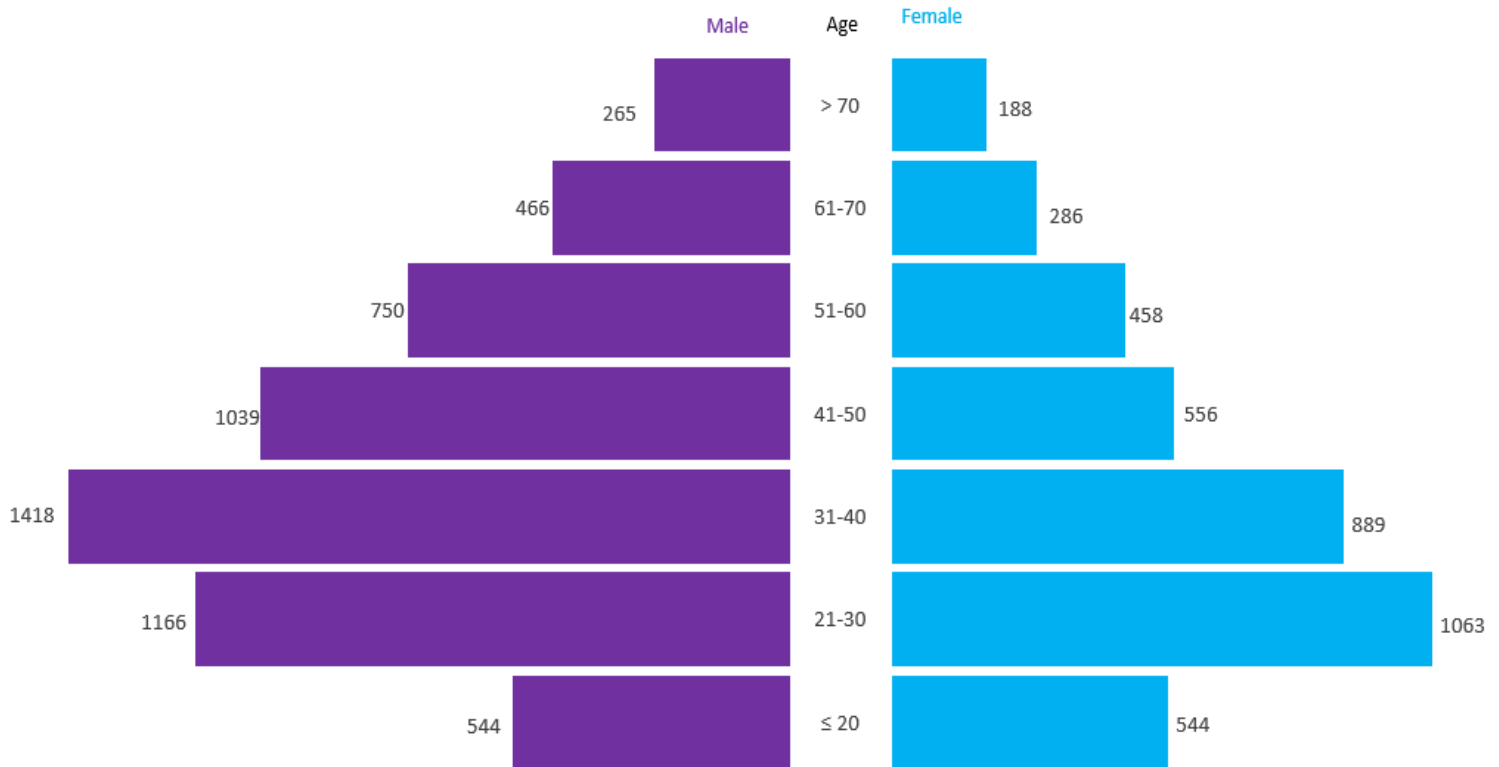


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* 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**)

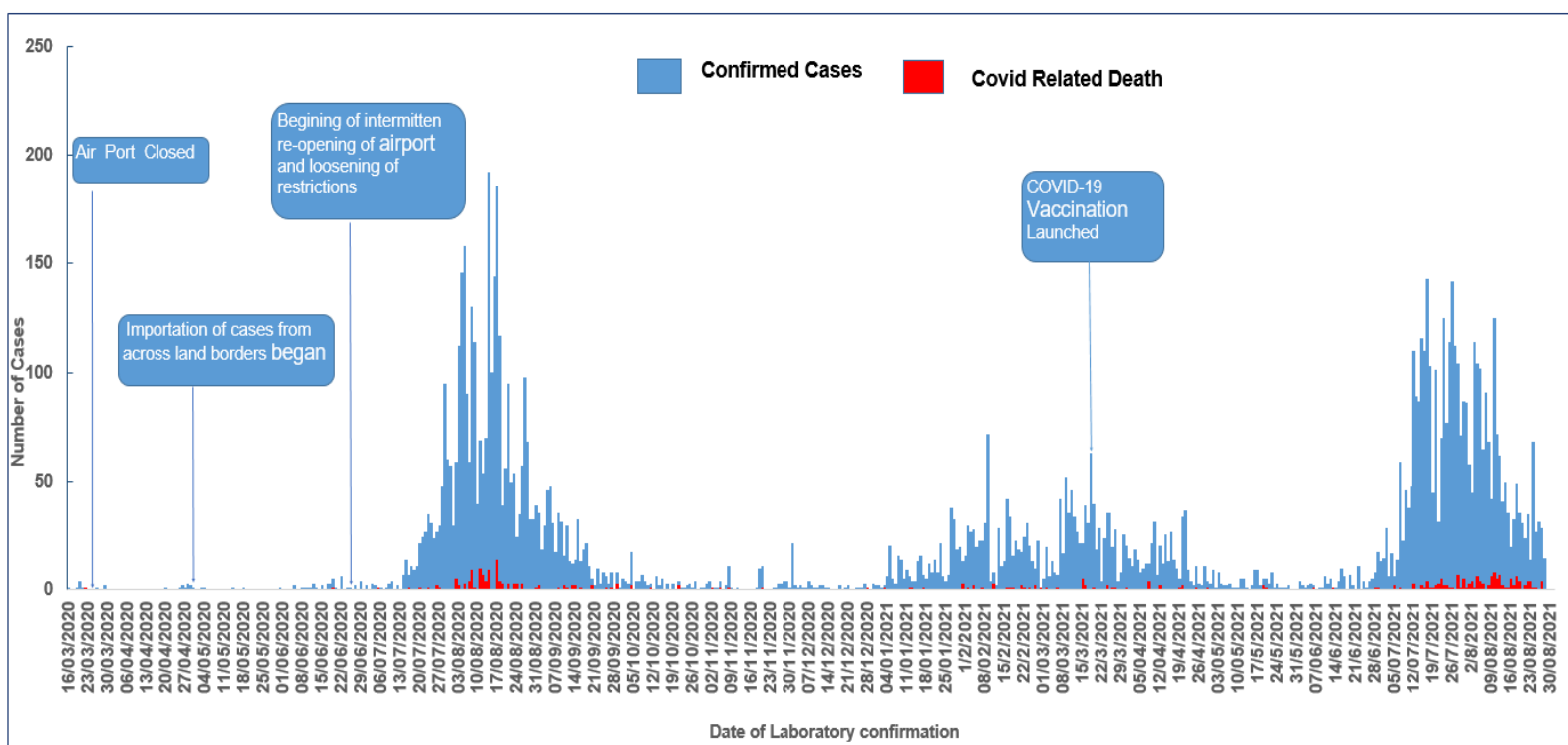


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-10th August 2021*.

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		40
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		18
No. of patients recovered and discharged	89	
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	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))***	1071(0)***	101,123
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	72(0)	9,698
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	997(0)***	90,180
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 1071 new laboratory test results received 45 from MRCG and 1026 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Of these, 1 test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 72 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Five (5) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Seven (7) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>Five (5) new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Eighteen (18) 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.
- Low COVID 19 Vaccination coverage rate

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CBS activities need to be synchronized with MRC's ILI surveillance to spur up testing rates in the hinterland.
- 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
- 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
- Intensify activities geared to increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage at all levels

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PARTNERS

