



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>		<b>Location: The Gambia</b>	
<b>Date of Report: 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</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 **347<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**

- One (**1**) new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to **213**
- The decedent was a **72** years old man with severe covid pneumonia died while on admission in one of the Covid 19 treatment centres
- **253** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **7,962**
- **114** and **112** cases were reported on the **26<sup>th</sup>** and **27<sup>th</sup> July 2021** respectively
  - Of the **177** cases with known reasons for testing, **88 (49.7%)** tested for travelling, **46 (26%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **11 (6.2%)** contact with a confirmed case and **28 (16%)** wanted to know covid 19 status
- The cases are composed of **136** males and **116** females with a median age of **34** years (**Range: 1 – 86** years)
- A total of **1044** new laboratory test results were received (**99** from **MRCG** and **945** from **NPHL**)
  - Of these, **253** tested positive representing a **24.2 % test positivity rate**
- Thirteen (**13**) new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **235** 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
- Eight (**8**) new contacts were traced and are being monitored
- Currently, **no one** people is in hotel quarantine, **901** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.7%**

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### Globally

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **196,613,278**
- 👤 Recoveries: **178,003,700**
- ➡ Deaths: **4,202,366**

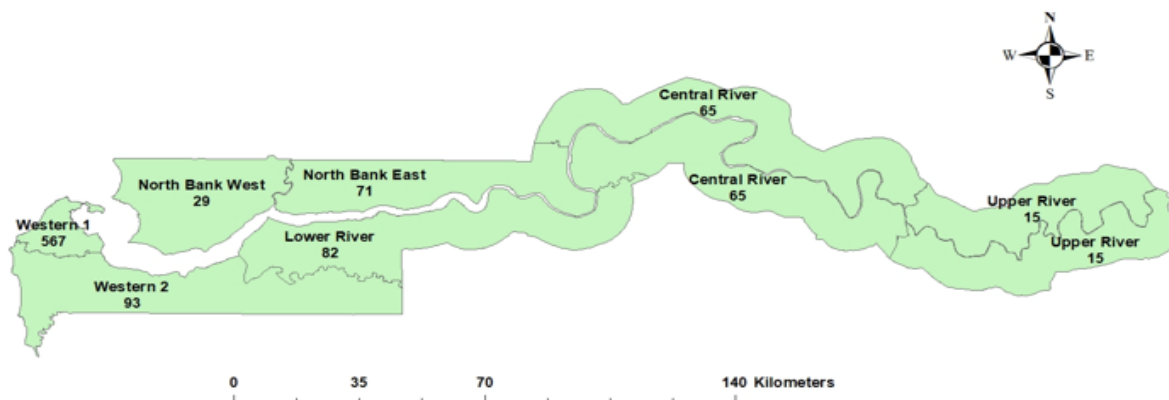
#### Senegal

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **59,286**
- 👤 Recoveries: **46,038**
- ➡ Deaths: **1,307**

#### The Gambia

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **7,962**
- 👤 Recoveries: **6,848**
- ➡ Deaths: **213**

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> July 2021, The Gambia

Date	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	Total	Test Positivity
26/7/2021	286	141	9	436	32.3
27/7/2021	491	112	5	608	18.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>24.2</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)

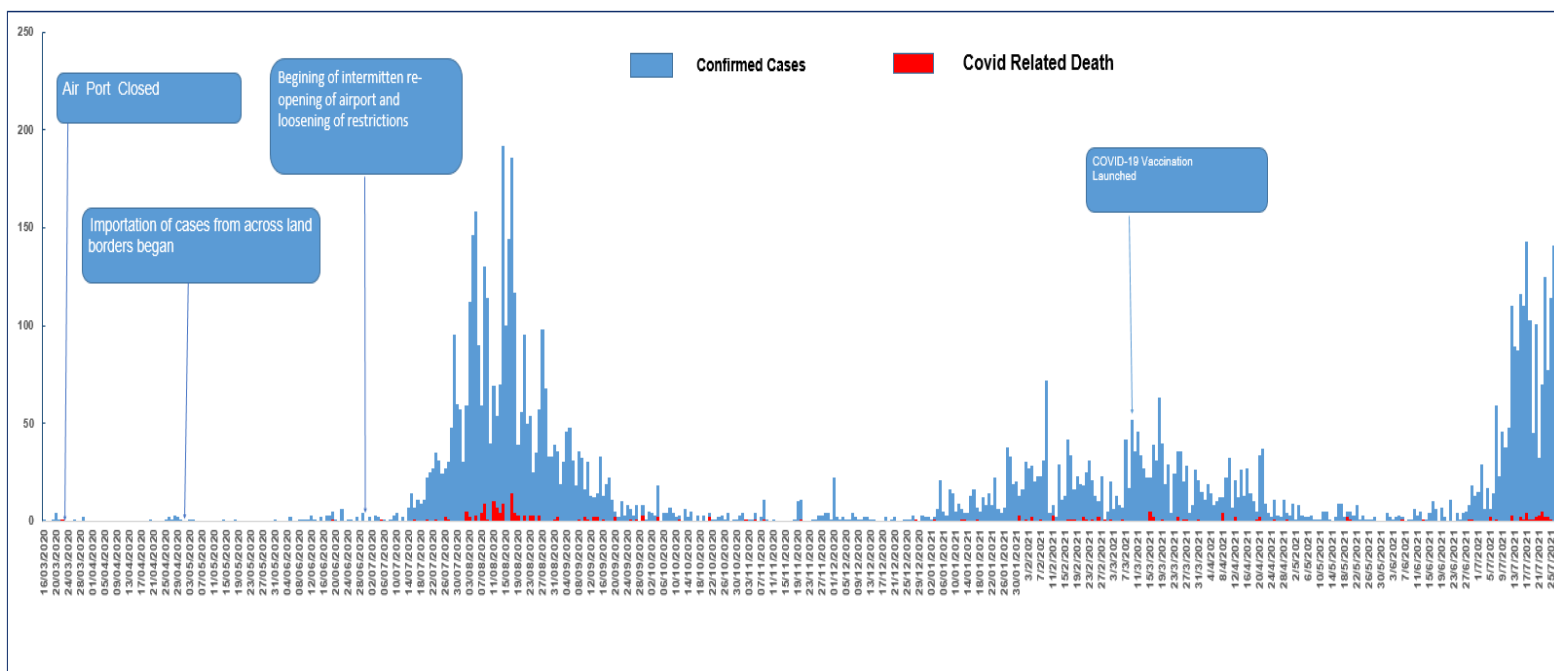


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021\*.

- 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		80
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		21
No. of patients recovered and discharged	248	
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**	8	
No. of Contacts being monitored	76	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	72	17,038
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	1044(0)***	87,380
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	253(0)	7,962
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	777(0)***	78,306
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	14(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>1044</b> new laboratory test results received 99 from MRCG and <b>945</b> from NPHL)</i></li> <li>• <i>Of these, <b>14</b> test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>253</b> new samples tested positive</i></li> </ul>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>One (<b>1</b>) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i></li> <li>• <i>Thirteen (<b>13</b>) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Eight (8)</b> new contacts were traced and monitored</i></li> <li>• <i>Twenty-one (<b>21</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.
- Expedite the process of 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
- 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 in order 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 including the donning of appropriate PPEs at all times

**For comments or questions, please contact:**  
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**PARTNERS**

