



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 23rd September 2021		Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.	
Prepared by:	Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia		

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the **376th** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- **No** new COVID-19-related death registered, bringing the total to **335 (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, 3.4%)**
- A total of **7** new cases were registered (**cumulative cases 9,925**)
- The test positivity rate is **3% (7/235)**, **NPHL – 213 (6 positives)** **MRCG – 22 (1 Positive)**
 - Of the total new cases, **4** were **males** and **3 females**, with ages ranging from **17 – 59 years**
 - **Five (5)** cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
 - For reasons of testing, **2 (42.8%)** for travelling, **2 (28.6%)** for knowing COVID-19 Status and **2 (28.6%)** for unspecified reasons
- **No** case was newly discharged from the treatment centres, while **4** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **No** new contacts traced and monitored
- Since the start of RDT for COVID-19 at The Banjul International Airport, **21,680** Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) have been conducted with **8** positives who were confirmed and treated

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **231,994,546**
- Recoveries: **208,622,046**
- Deaths: **4,753,201**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **73,728**
- Recoveries: **71,387**
- Deaths: **1,855**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **9,925**
- Active Cases: **26**
- Recoveries: **9,564**
- Deaths: **335**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

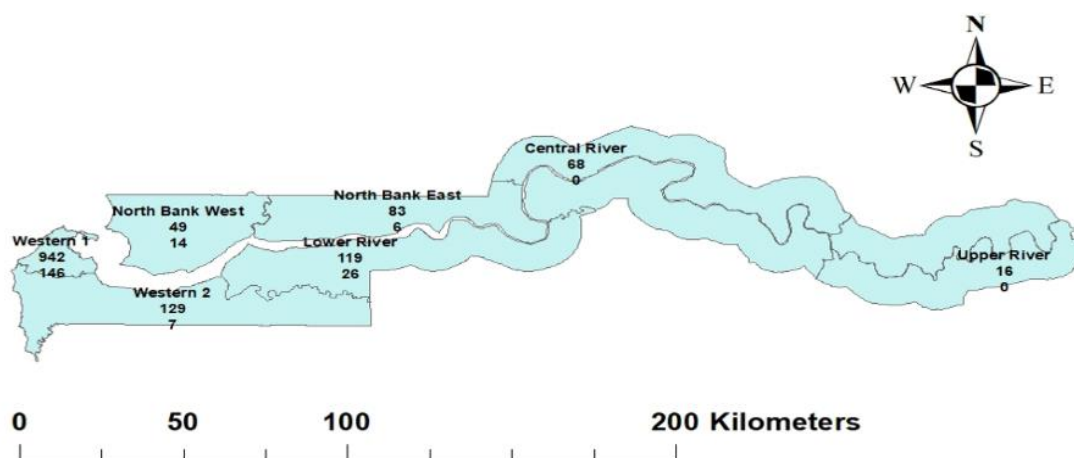


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region since the start of Pandemic to 31st August 2021 (Number Above) and the month of August 2021 (Number below) in The Gambia

- 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**)

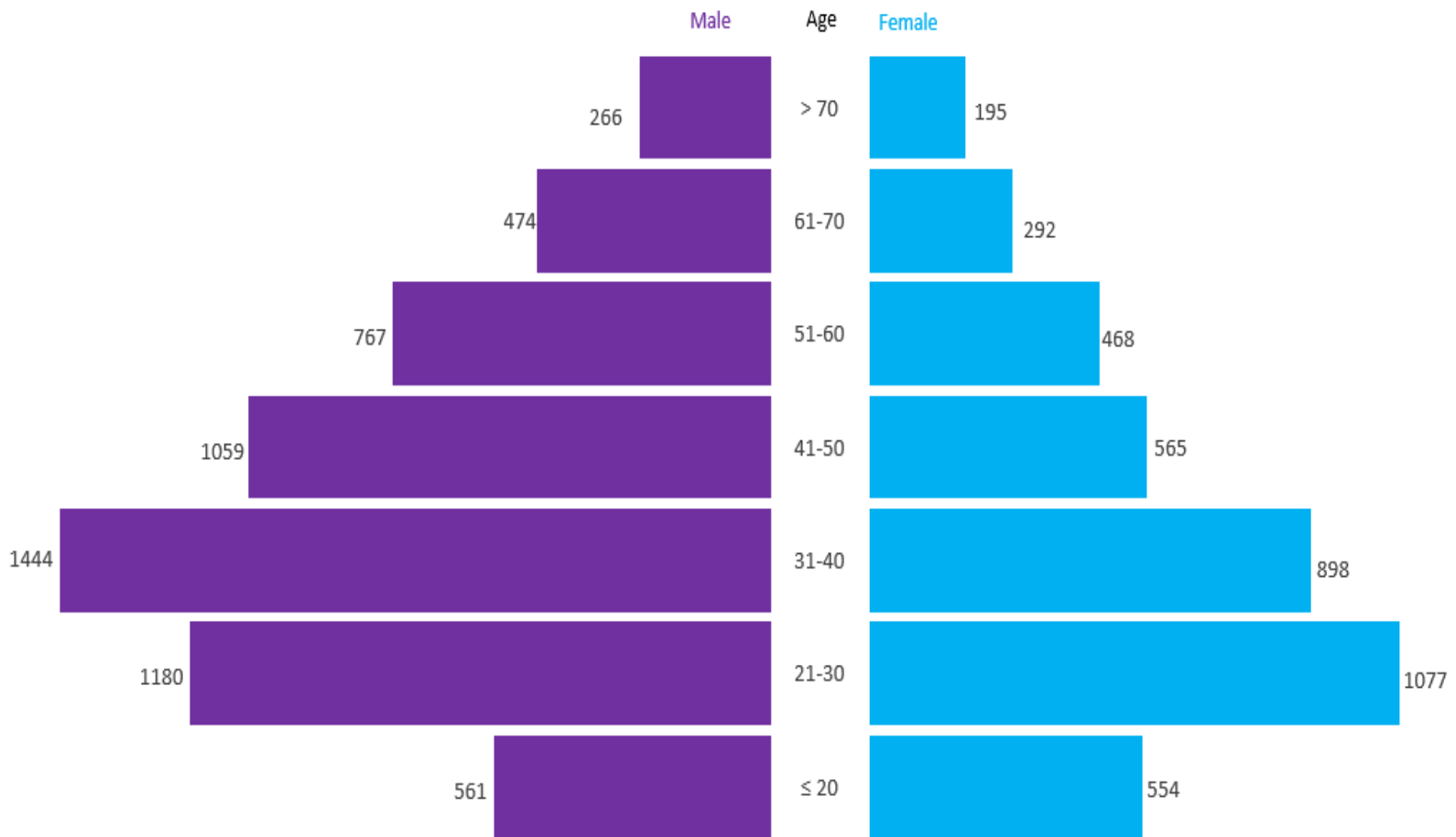


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

☆ 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**)

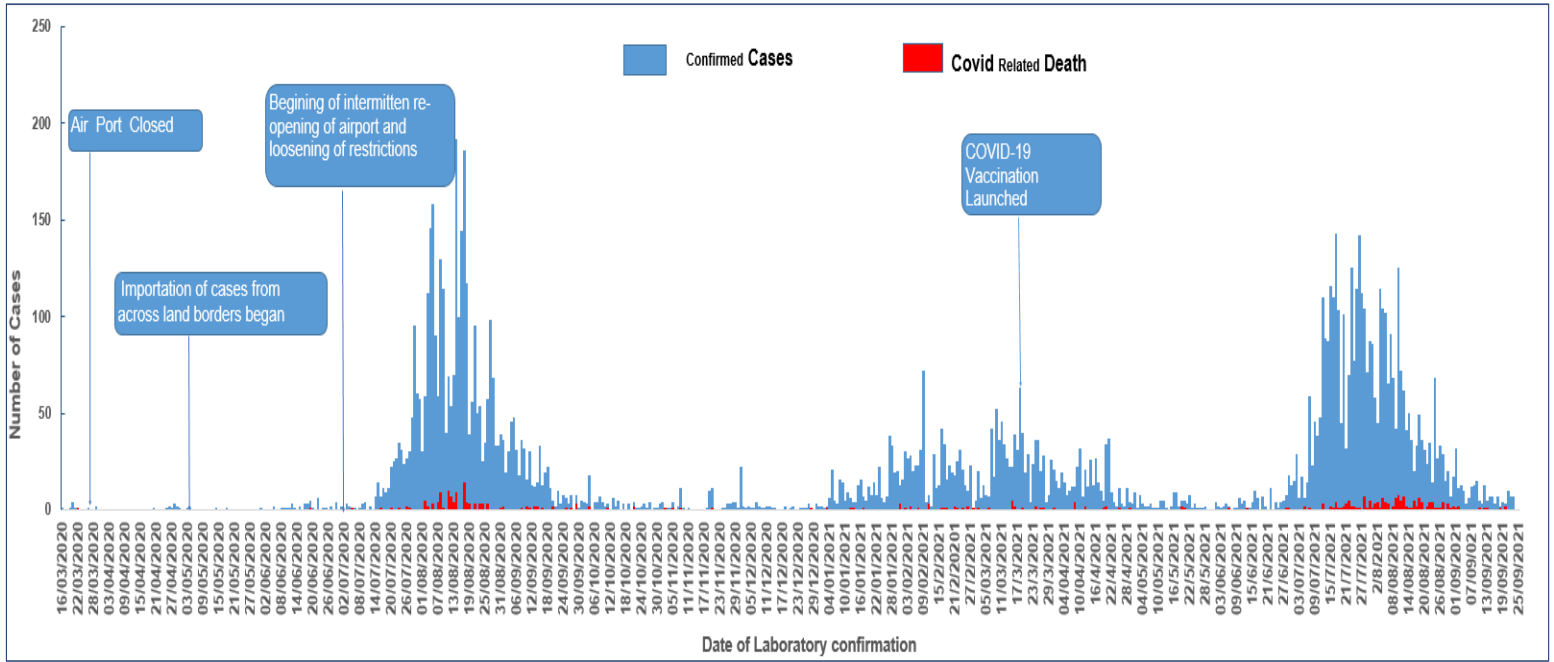


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-10th August 2021*.

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		15
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		5
No. of patients recovered and discharged	4	
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	0	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	17,119
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	235(0)***	109,419
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	7(0)	9,925
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	228(0)***	98,241
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	0(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 235 new laboratory test results received 213 from MRCG and 22 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, no test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 7 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No new COVID-19 related death recorded</i> • <i>No patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>No new contact traced and monitored</i> • <i>Five (5) 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
- 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.
- 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
- 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

