



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>	<b>Location: The Gambia</b>
<b>Date of Report: 29<sup>th</sup> August 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 363<sup>rd</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

- Three (3) new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total to 322 (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, 3.3%)
- The decedents' ages ranged from 34 - 80 years (3 males)
  - All of the dead had COVID-19 pneumonia and admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
  - Two (2) of them had either diabetes ketoacidosis (DKA) or hypertension as a comorbidity
- A total of 17 new cases were registered (cumulative cases, 9,715)
- The test positivity rate is 6.4% (17/267) of which MRCG tested 3 (0 positives) and NPHL 264 (17 positive)
  - Of the total new cases, 12 were males and 5 females, with ages of range of 9 – 75 years
  - Eighteen (18) cases are currently on oxygen therapy
  - For reasons of testing, 6 (35%) tested for travelling, 3 (17.6%) for suspicion of COVID-19, 4 (23.5%) wanted to know COVID 19 status, 1(5.9% and 3 (17.6%) for unspecified reasons.
- Two (2) cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while 30 got discharged at least 10 days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Three (3) new contacts were traced and monitored
- As of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the following number of people have been vaccinated with:
  - Janssen & Janssen:
    - Only 1 dose: 139,618
  - Sinopharm:
    - Dose 1: 4,457
    - Dose 2: 1,346
  - AstraZeneca:
    - Dose 1: 31,280
    - Dose 2: 17,260
- 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: 218,439,125
- Recoveries: 195,287,699
- Deaths: 4,531,749

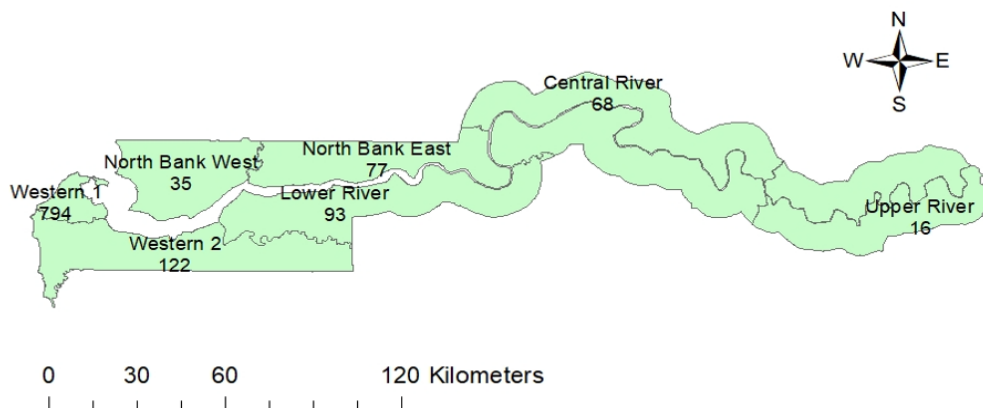
#### Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: 72,805
- Recoveries: 62,014
- Deaths: 1,765

#### The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: 9,715
- Active Cases: 78
- Recoveries: 9,315
- Deaths: 322

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021**

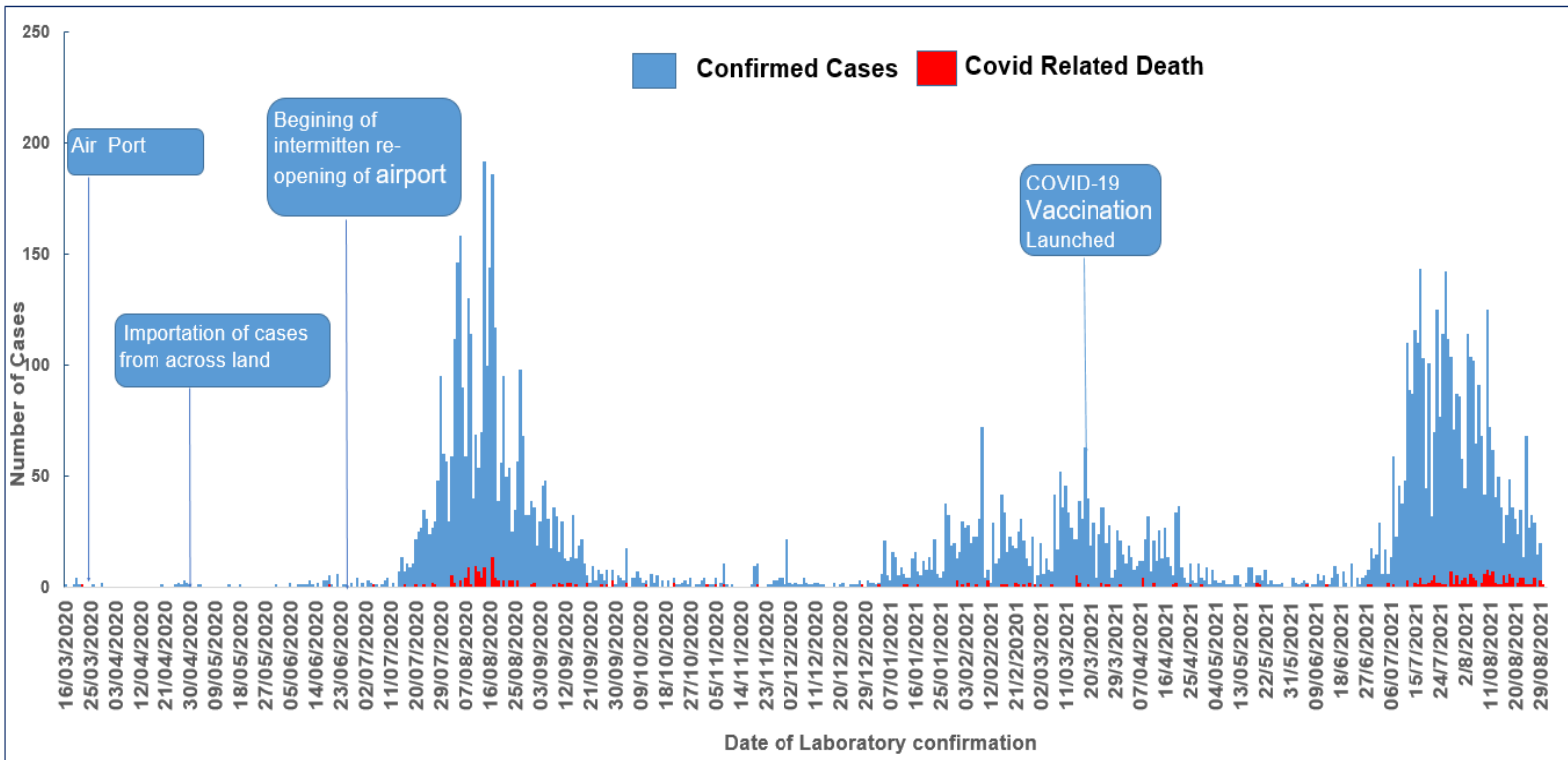
- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (**See Fig. 1**)
- Below are the age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively (**See Fig. 2 and 3**)



**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, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020-10<sup>th</sup> August 2021<sup>a</sup>.**

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		34
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		18
No. of patients recovered and discharged	32	
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**	3	
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))***	267(0)***	101,390
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	17(0)	9,715
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	250(0)***	90,430
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 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>267</b> new laboratory test results received <b>3</b> from <b>MRCG</b> and <b>264</b> from <b>NPHL</b>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Of these, <b>no</b> test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>17</b> new samples tested positive</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i><b>Three (3)</b> new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Two (2)</b> patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Three (3)</b> new contacts were traced and monitored</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Eighteen (18)</b> COVID-19 patients are currently on <b>oxygen therapy</b></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.
- 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**

