This is the 364th national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 16th March 2020

- **One (1) new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total to 323 (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, 3.3%)**
- The decedent was a **24 year male** who had COVID-19 pneumonia and admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
- A total of **21 new cases were registered (cumulative cases, 9,736)**
- The test positivity rate is **4% (21/525)** of which MRCG tested **43 (6 positives)** and NPHL **482 (15 positive)**
  - Of the total new cases, **13 were males and 8 females**, with age of range of 1 – 80 years
  - Eighteen (18) cases are currently on oxygen therapy
  - For reasons of testing, 9 (43%) tested for travelling, 4 (19%) for suspicion of COVID-19, and 8 (38%) for unspecified reasons.
- Twelve (12) cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **18 got discharged at least 10 days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation**
- **No new contacts traced and monitored**
- As of 30th August 2021, the following number of people have been vaccinated with:
  - **Janssen & Janssen:**
    - Only 1 dose: 141,342
  - **Sinopharm:**
    - Dose 1: 4,447
    - Dose 2: 2,039
  - **AstraZeneca:**
    - Dose 1: 31,369
    - Dose 2: 18,070
- Of the total national target population (≥ 18 years) been vaccinated:
  - 10.3% are fully vaccinated (2 doses of AZ/Sinopharm or 1 dose of J&J)
  - 11.3% received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose (AZ or J&J or Sinopharm)
- Since the start of RDT for COVID 19 at The Banjul International Airport, 19,082 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) have been conducted with 7 positives who were confirmed and treated after a PCR test

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**Globally**
- Confirmed Cases: 218,622,492
- Recoveries: 195,466,722
- Deaths: 195,466,722

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

**The Gambia**
- Confirmed Cases: 9,736
- Active Cases: 68
- Recoveries: 9,345
- Deaths: 323
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)
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)

### Table 2: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of active cases in institutional isolation</td>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of patients recovered and discharged</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Hotel Quarantine</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Hotel Quarantine</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Contact(s) Identified**</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Contacts being monitored</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Contacts lost to follow-up</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***</td>
<td>525(0)***</td>
<td>101,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))</td>
<td>21(0)</td>
<td>9,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***</td>
<td>504(0)***</td>
<td>90,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***</td>
<td>0(0)***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 | *Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels*
Surveillance/ Laboratory | *A total of 525 new laboratory test results received 43 from MRCG and 482 from NPHL*
  - Of these, no test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 21 new samples tested positive
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC | *One (1) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded*
  - Twelve (12) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres
  - No new contacts were traced and monitored
  - Eighteen (18) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy

*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