



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 30th - 31st August 2021		Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.	
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

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: 4,457
 - 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**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

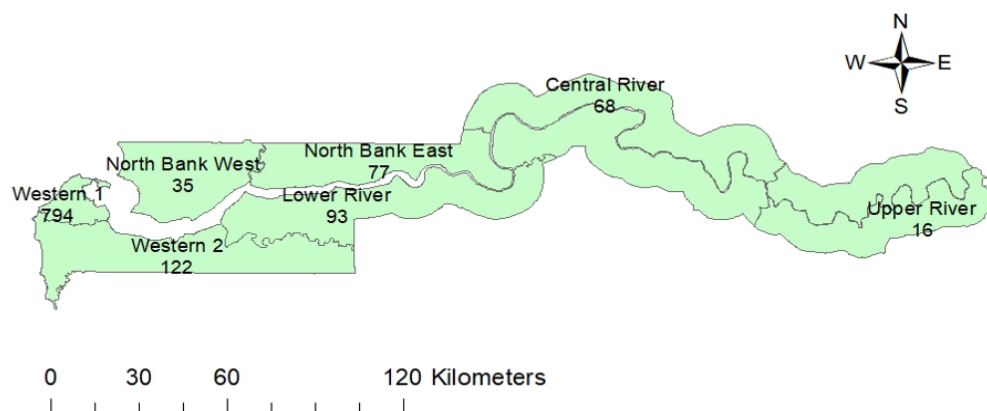


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases per 100,000 Pop.by Region in The Gambia since the start of the Pandemic to 31st July 2021

- 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**)

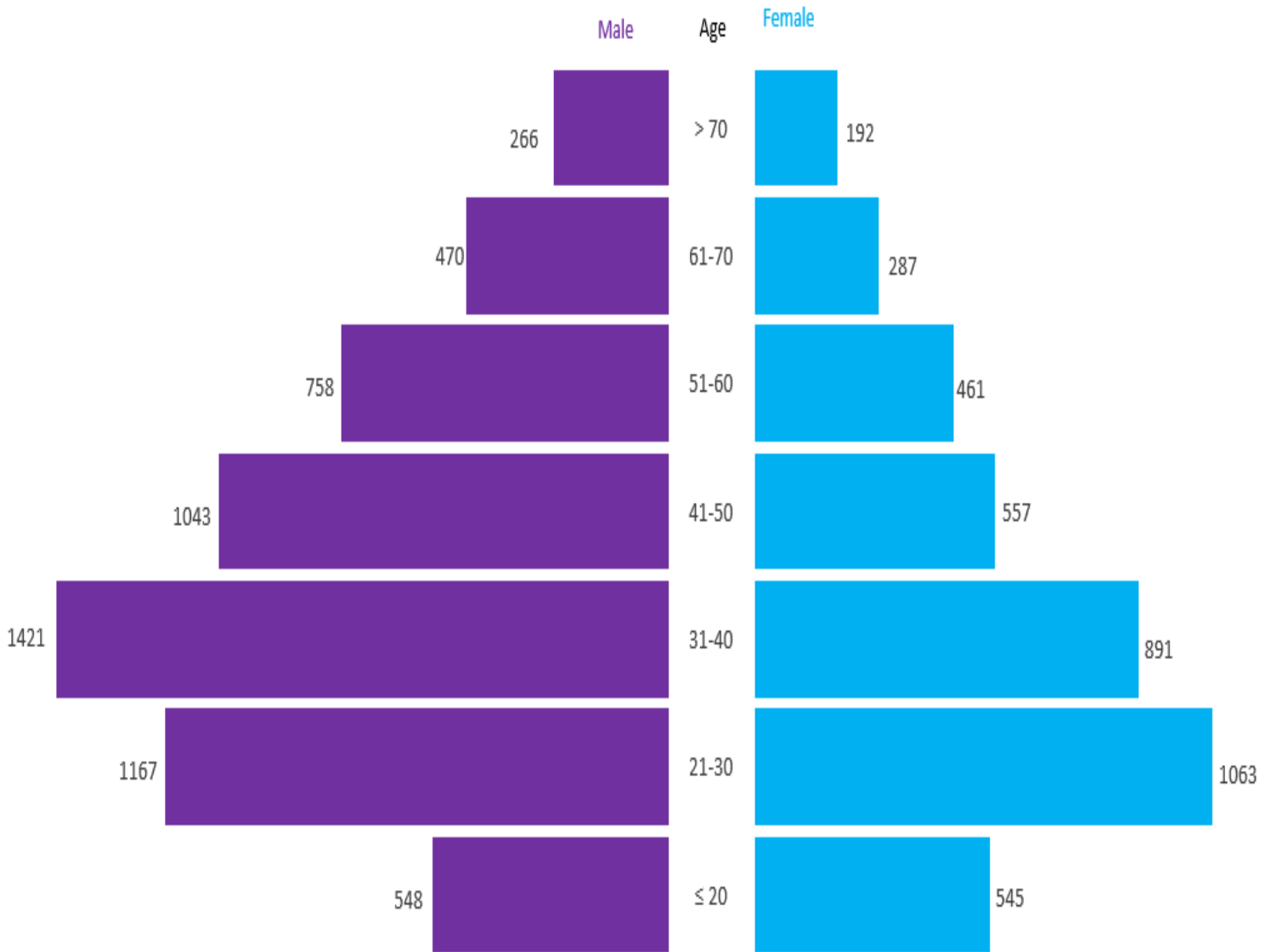


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

^{*} 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**)

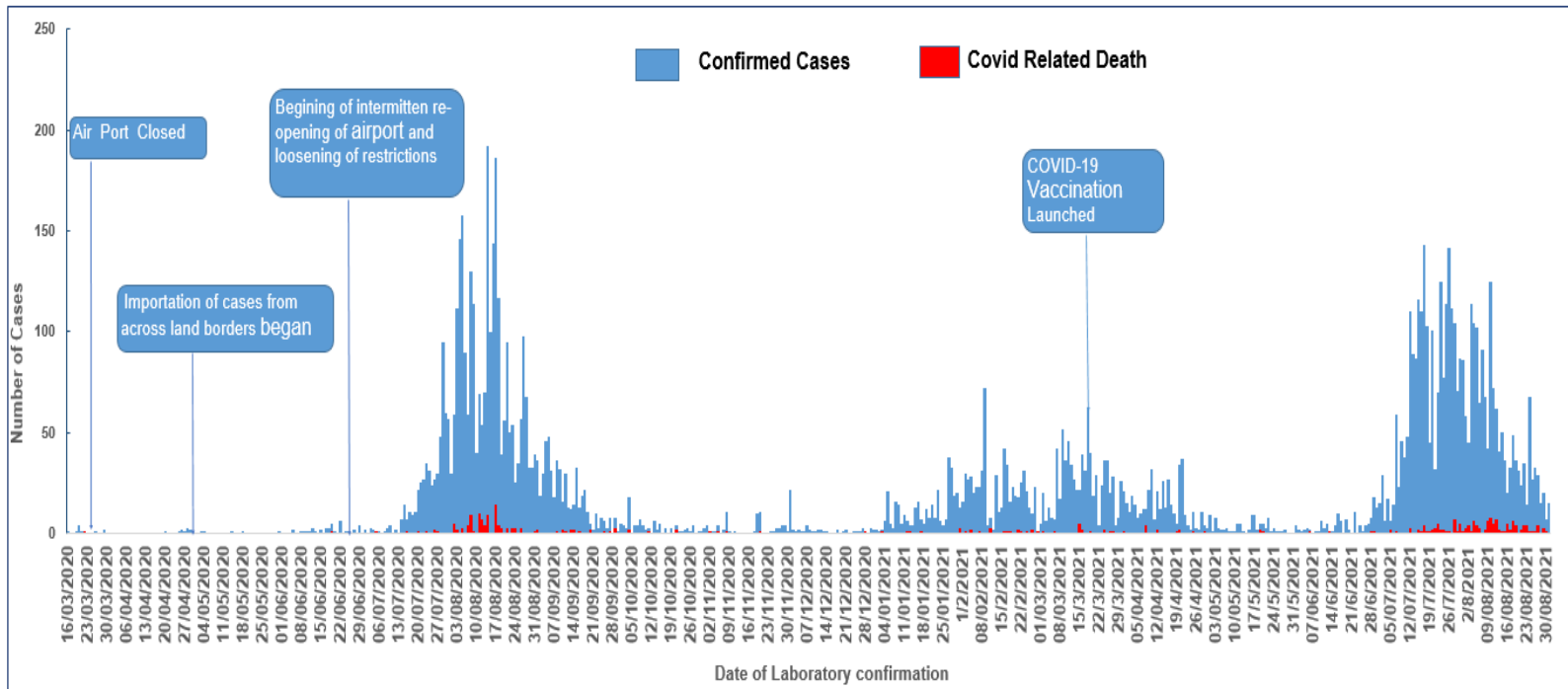


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-10th August 2021*.

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		34
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		18
No. of patients recovered and discharged	30	
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))***	525(0)***	101,915
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	21(0)	9,736
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	504(0)***	90,934
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 525 new laboratory test results received 43 from MRCG and 482 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, no test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 21 new samples tested positive</i> ○
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One (1) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Twelve (12) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>No 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

