



| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19 | | Location: The Gambia | |
| Date of Report: 23 rd - 25 th October 2021 | | Investigation Start Date: 17 th March 2020 as of 18hrs. | |
| Prepared by: | Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia | | |

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the **393rd** 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 **340 (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, 3.4%)**
- **One (1)** new case was registered (**cumulative cases 9,963**)
- The test positivity rate is **0.16% (1/627)**, **NPHL – 600 (0 positive) and MRCG – 27 (1 Positives)**
 - **Two (2)** cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
- **Five (5)** cases were discharged after at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation and 1 from COVID-19 treatment centres

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **245,150,482**
- 👤 Recoveries: **222,209,928**
- ➡ Deaths: **4,975,762**

Senegal

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **73,897**
- 👤 Recoveries: **71,995**
- ➡ Deaths: **1,878**

The Gambia

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **9,963**
- 👤 Active Cases: **13**
- 👤 Recoveries: **9,610**
- ➡ Deaths: **340**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

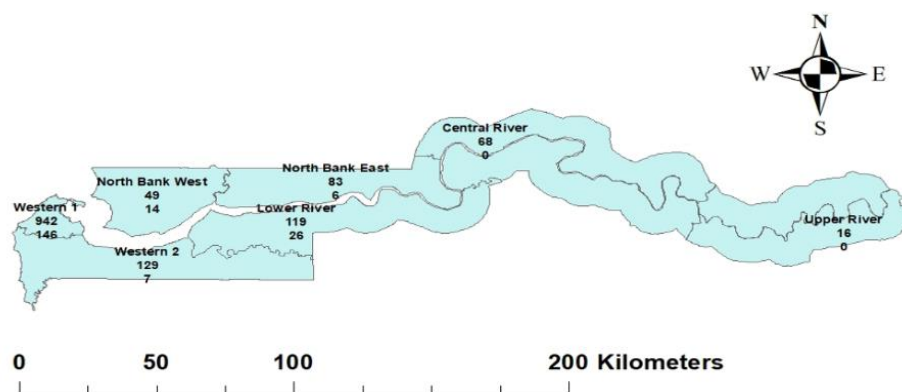


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region since the start of Pandemic to 31st August 2021 (Number Above) and the month of August 2021 (Number below) in The Gambia

- 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 date of sample collection, respectively (**See Fig. 2 and 3**)

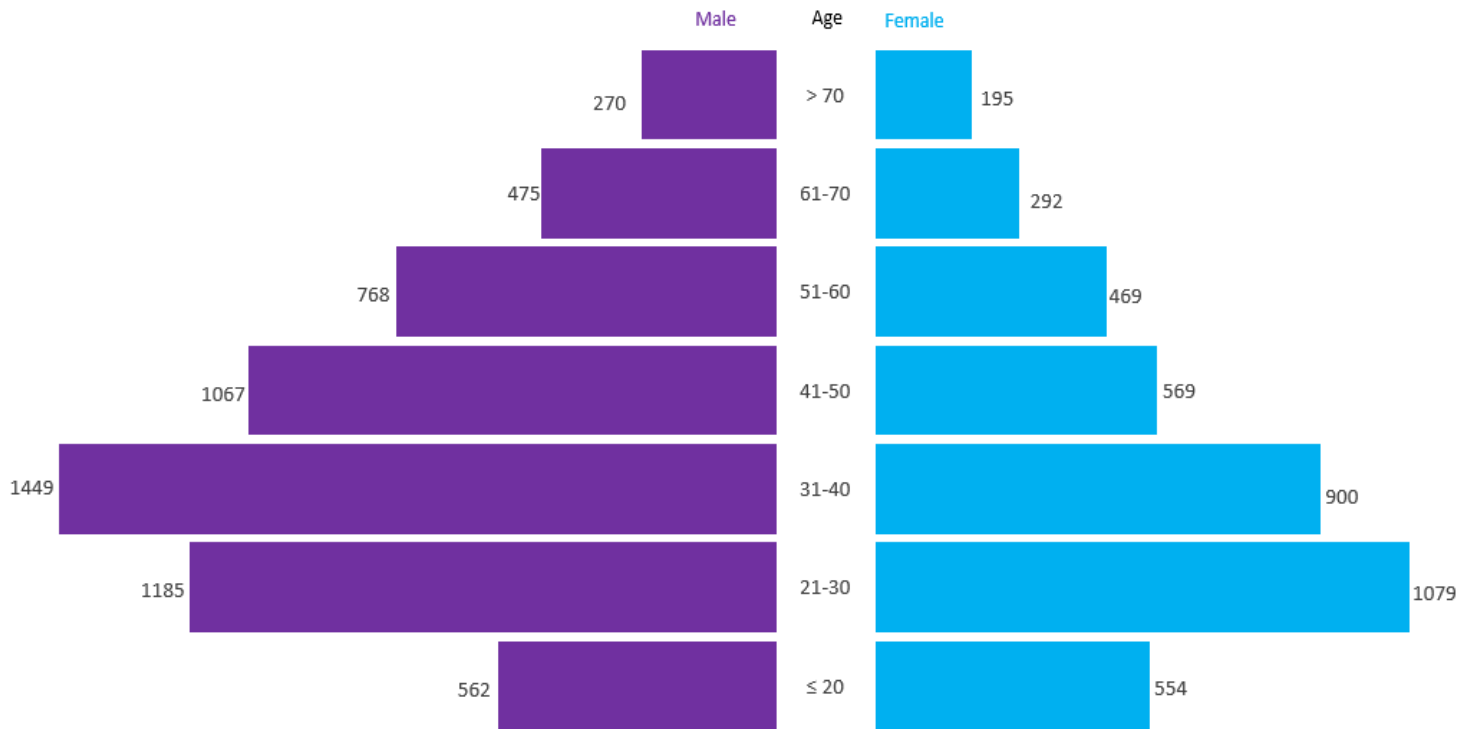


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

✧ 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 59% of the confirmed cases are 40 years below (**See Fig. 2**)

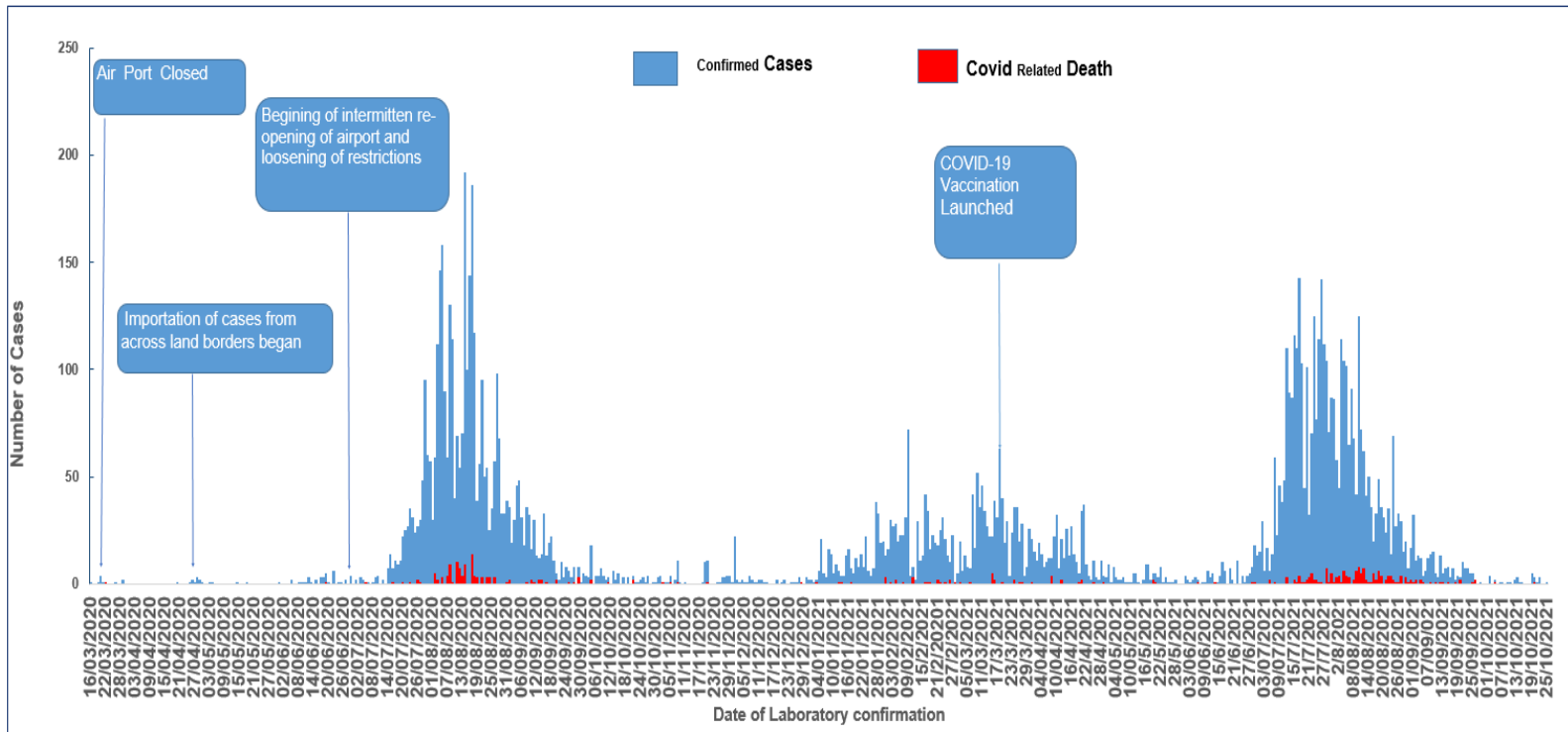


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-10th August 2021*.

- 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.

| Status | New | Cumulative |
|---|--------|------------|
| No. of active cases in institutional isolation | | 5 |
| No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support | | 2 |
| No. of patients recovered and discharged | 0 | |
| 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 Tests)*** | 627(0) | 117,456 |
| Positive test result (Repeat Tests)*** | 1(0) | 9,963 |
| Negative test result (Repeat Tests)*** | 625(0) | 106,236 |
| Inconclusive test result (Repeat Tests)*** | 1(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 627 new laboratory test results received 27 from MRCG and 600 from NPHL</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, 1 test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 1 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>One (1) patient was newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>No new contacts traced and monitored</i> • <i>Two (2) 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

For comments or questions, please contact:
Sana M. Sambou
Public Health Emergency Operations Center
Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, The Gambia
Email: sanamsambou@hotmail.com Phone: +220 3516320/2422949/3921415

PARTNERS

