



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>	<b>Location: The Gambia</b>
<b>Date of Report: 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<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 **357<sup>th</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**

- Eight (**8**) new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total to **285** (Crude case-fatality ratio, **3%**)
- The decedents' age range from **46- 74 year (6 males and 2 females)**
  - All had severe COVID-19 pneumonia and admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
  - **Four (4)** had either, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, CVA or liver diseases as a comorbidity
- A total of **46** new cases (**15& 31** cases reported on **16<sup>th</sup>& 17<sup>th</sup>** respectively) were registered (cumulative cases, **9,364**)
- The test positivity rate is **8.2% (46/560)** of which **MRCG** tested **57 (13 positive)** and **NPHL 503 (33 positive)**
  - Of the total new cases, **27** were **males** and **19** were **females**, with a **median** age of **47** years (**Range: 1 – 91 years**)
  - **Thirty-three (33)** cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
  - For reason of testing, **15 (33%)** tested for travelling, **11 (24%)** for suspicion of COVID-19, **1 (2%)** wanted to know COVID 19 status and **19 (41%)** for unspecified reasons.
- Eleven (**11**) cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **142** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **No** new contacts were traced and monitored
- As of **14<sup>th</sup> August 2021**, **130,601** and **4,323** people received their single dose of **Janssen & Janssen** and **1<sup>st</sup> dose of Sinopharm** vaccine respectively
- Of the total national target population (**≥ 18 years**) been vaccinated:
  - **9.1%** are fully vaccinated (received **two doses** of **AZ** or **1 dose** of **J&J**)
  - **10.4%** 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, **17,348** tests have been conducted with **7** positives who were confirmed and treated.

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### Globally

- 👤 Confirmed Cases:
- 👤 Recoveries:
- ➡ Deaths:

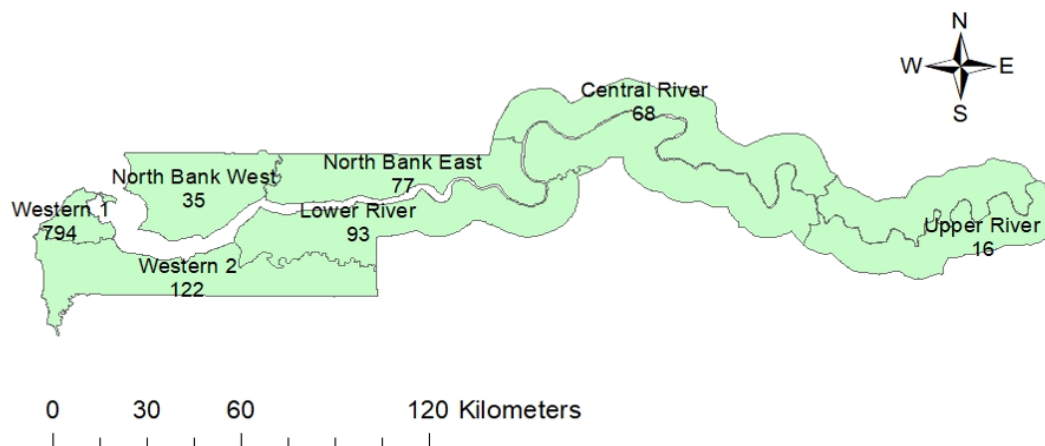
#### Senegal

- 👤 Confirmed Cases:
- 👤 Recoveries:
- ➡ Deaths:

#### The Gambia

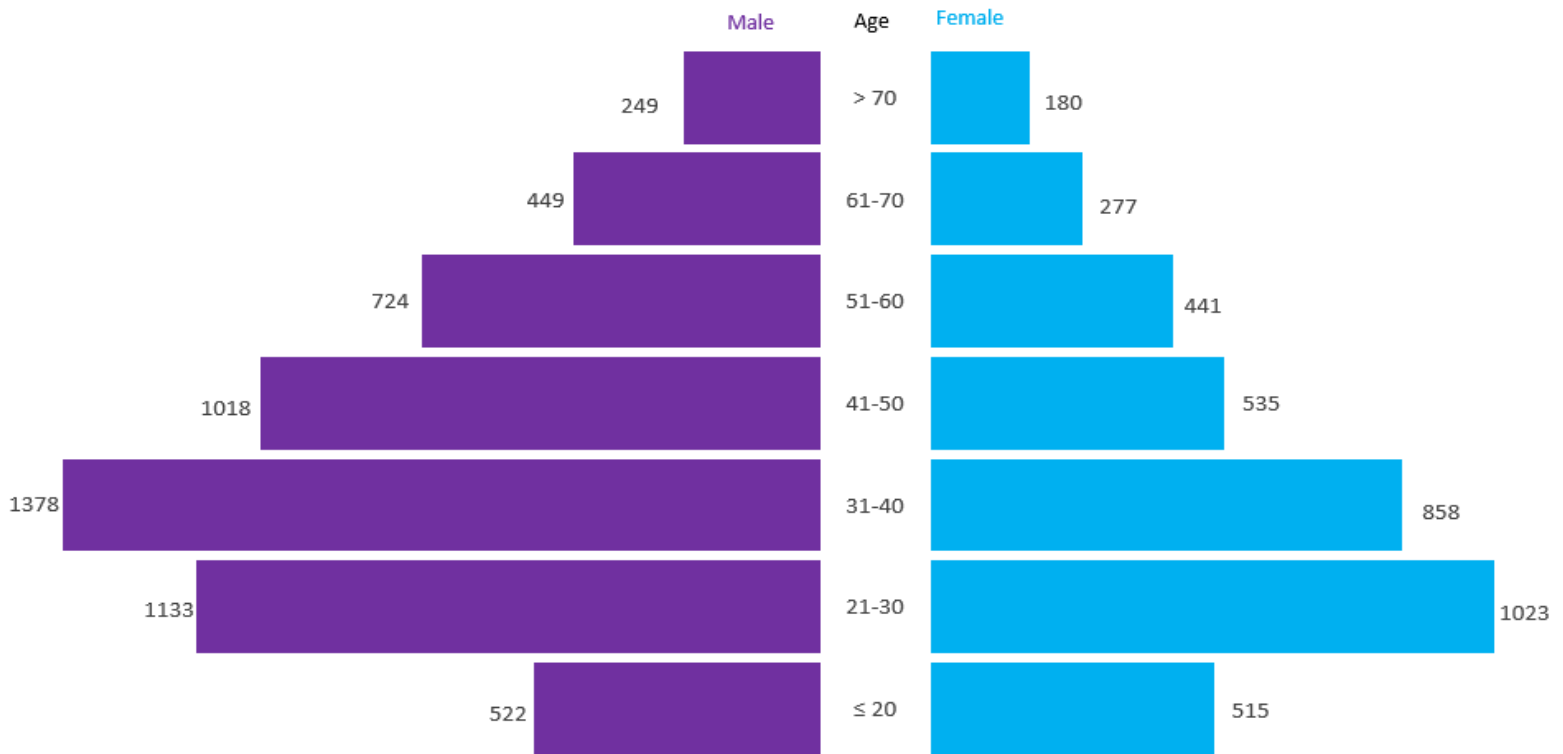
- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **9,364**
- 👤 Active Cases: **316**
- 👤 Recoveries: **8,763**
- ➡ Deaths: **285**

## 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**)

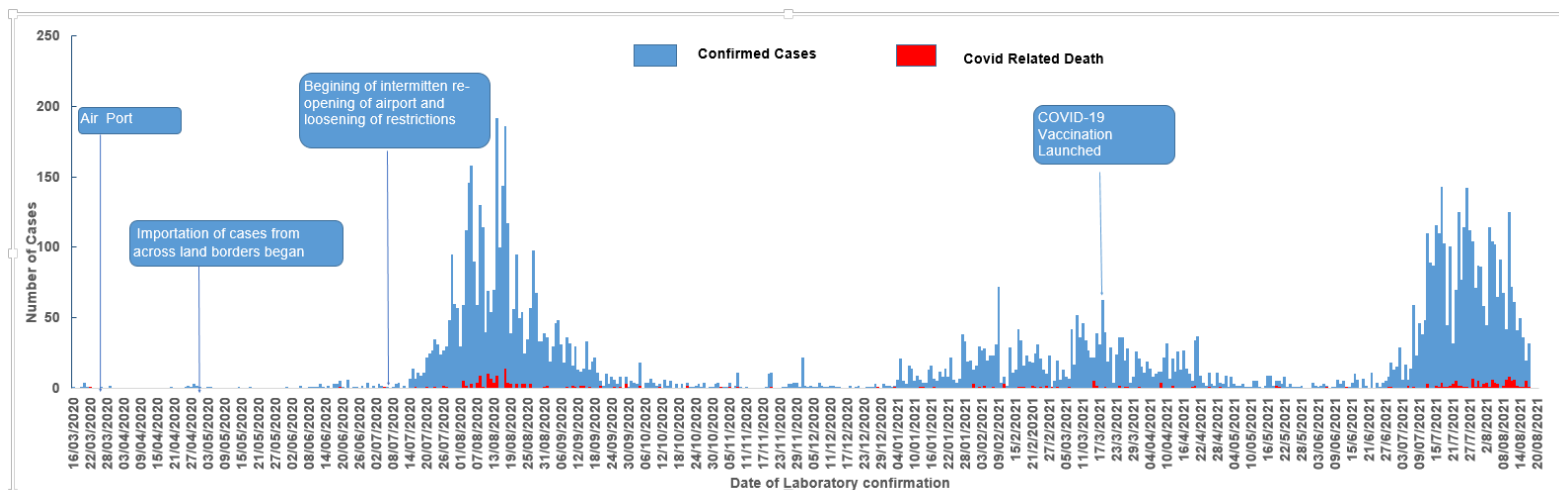


**Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021**

\* 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\*.**

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		71
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		33
No. of patients recovered and discharged	153	
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	4	17,119
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	560(0)***	97,324
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	46(0)	9,364
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	511(0)***	86,718
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	3(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
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<b>Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels</i></li> </ul>
<b>Surveillance/ Laboratory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A total of <b>560</b> new laboratory test results received <b>57</b> from <b>MRCG</b> and <b>503</b> from <b>NPHL</b>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Of these, <b>3</b> test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>46</b> new samples tested positive</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Case Management / Psychosocial Support &amp; Research / IPC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i><b>Eight (8)</b> new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Eleven (11)</b> patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i></li> <li>• <i><b>No</b> new contacts were traced and monitored</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Thirty-three (33)</b> COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy</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.

#### V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CBS activities need to be synchronized with MRC's ILI surveillance to spur up testing rates in the hinterland.
- Speed up having testing sites in CRR and NBW
- 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
- More tests required in the catchment area of the MRC Keneba testing site to ascertain the extent of spread of COVID-19
- 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

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**PARTNERS**

