



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>		<b>Location: The Gambia</b>	
<b>Date of Report: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021</b>		<b>Investigation Start Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as of 18hrs.</b>	
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia</b>		

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the **359<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**

- Five (**5**) new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total to **301** (Crude case-fatality ratio, **3%**)
- The decedents' age range from **44 - 74 year (5 males and 0 females)**
  - **All** had severe COVID-19 pneumonia and admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
  - **All** of them, had either, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, CVA or Cellulitis as a comorbidity
- A total of **31** new cases were registered (cumulative cases, **9,470**)
- The test positivity rate is **9.2% (31/338)** of which **MRCG** tested **20 (6 positive)** and **NPHL 318 (25 positive)**
  - Of the total new cases, **23** were **males** and **8** were **females**, with a **median** age of **34** years (**Range: 3 – 75 years**)
  - **Twenty-one (21)** cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
  - For reason of testing, **18 (58%)** tested for travelling, **2 (6.5%)** for suspicion of COVID-19, **1 (3%)** wanted to know COVID 19 status, **3(4%) 1 (1%)** and **10 (32%)** for unspecified reasons.
- **Ten (10)** cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **174** 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 **20<sup>th</sup> August 2021**, **132,756** and **4,388** 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:
  - **9.3%** are fully vaccinated (received **two doses** of **AZ** or **1 dose** of **J&J**)
  - **10.5%** received at least **one** COVID-19 vaccine dose (**AZ** or **J&J** or **Sinopharm**).

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **212,371,596**
- Recoveries: **189,987,525**
- Deaths: **4,441,671**

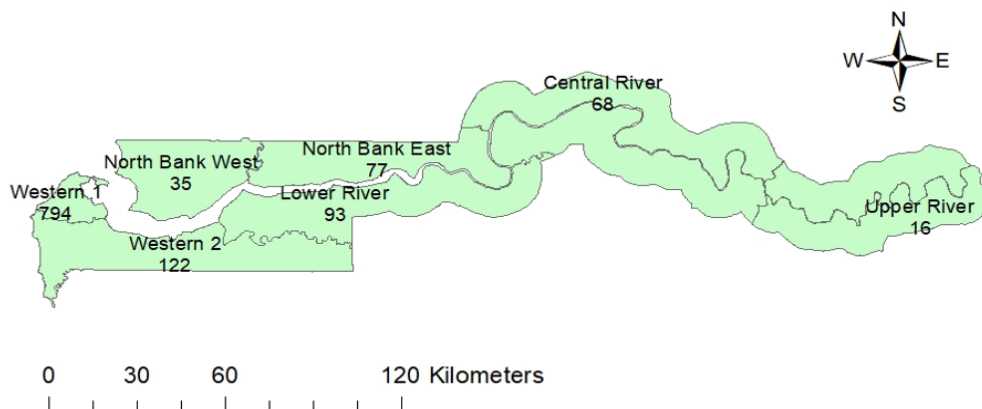
#### Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **71,927**
- Recoveries: **57,394**
- Deaths: **1,671**

#### The Gambia

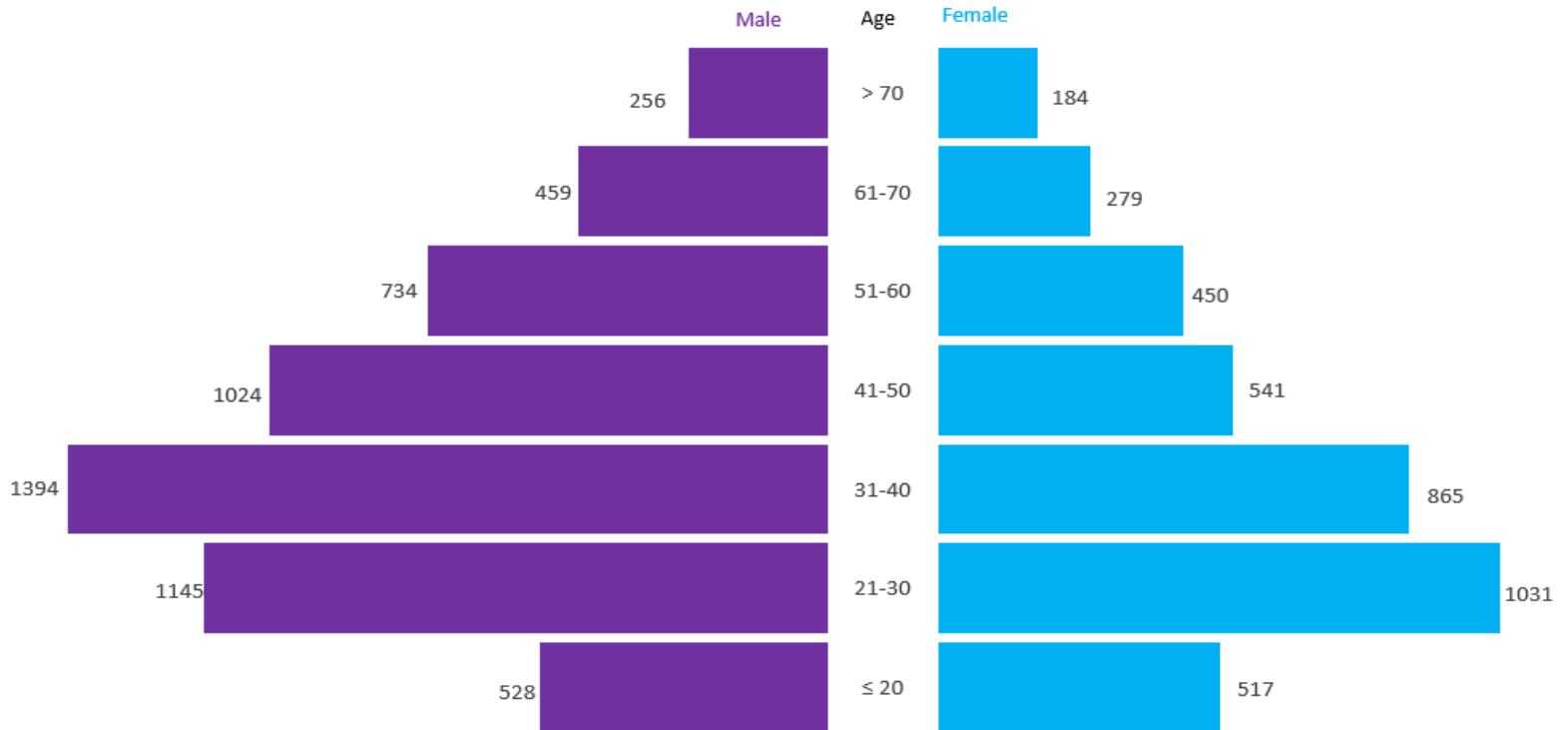
- Confirmed Cases: **9,470**
- Active Cases: **120**
- Recoveries: **9049**
- Deaths: **301**

## 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**)

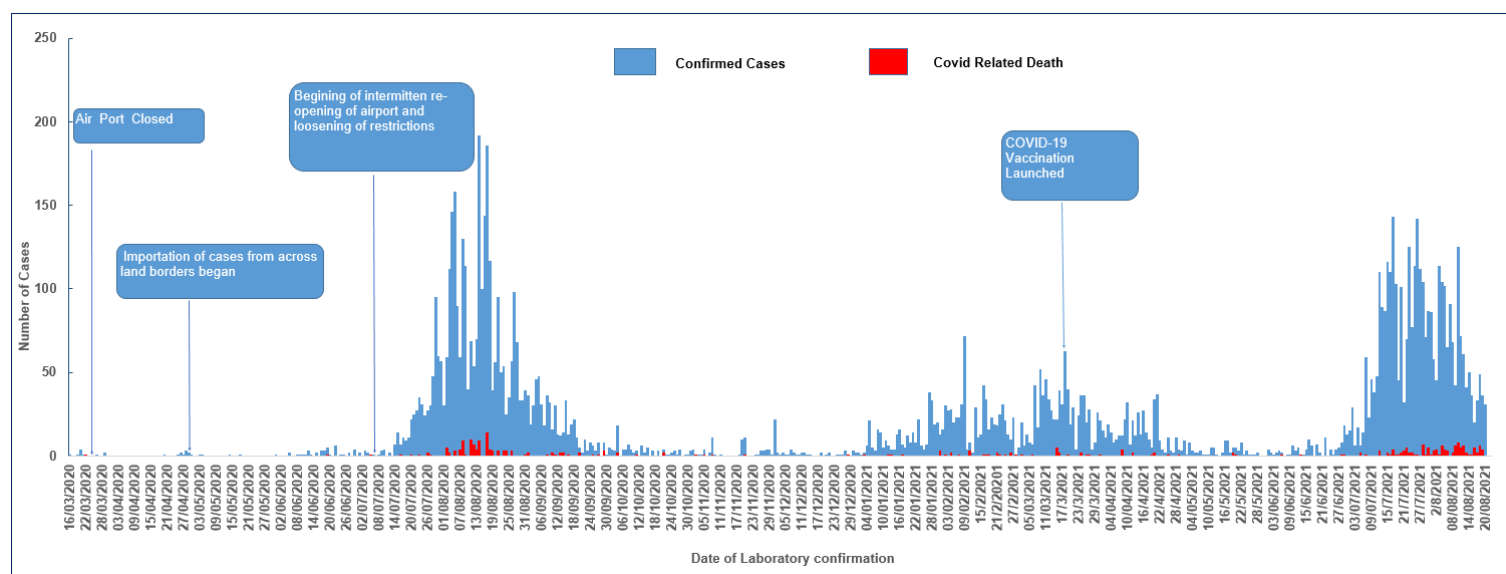


**Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021**

\* 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		42
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		21
No. of patients recovered and discharged	184	
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))***	338(0)***	98,435
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	31(0)	9,470
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	307(0)***	87,723
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	(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>338</b> new laboratory test results received <b>20</b> from <b>MRCG</b> and <b>318</b> from <b>NPHL</b>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Of these, <b>no</b> test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>31</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>Five (5)</b> new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Ten (10)</b> patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i></li> <li>• <i><b>No</b> new contacts were traced or monitored</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Twenty-one (21)</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.

### 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

**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](mailto:sanamsambou@hotmail.com)      **Phone:** +220 3516320/2422949

**PARTNERS**

