



|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>                             |   | <b>Location: The Gambia</b>  |  |
| <b>Date of Report: 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 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 **378<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**

- **Three (3)** new COVID-19-related death registered, bringing the total to **338 (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, 3.4%)**
- A total of **4 new** cases were registered (**cumulative cases 9,934**)
- All the **Four (4)** cases were reported on the **25<sup>th</sup> September 2021**
- The test positivity rate is **0.7% (4/570)**, **NPHL – 557 (4 positive)** **MRCG – 13 (0 Positives)**
  - Of the total new cases, **3** were **males** and **1 female**, with ages ranging from **36 – 40 years**
  - **Three (3)** cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
  - For reasons of testing, all the **4** tested for travelling
- **Seven (7)** cases were newly discharged from the treatment centres, while **3** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **No** new contacts traced and monitored
- As of **24<sup>th</sup> September 2021**, the following number of people have been vaccinated with:
  - **Janssen & Janssen:**
    - **Only 1 dose: 147,946**
  - **Sinopharm:**
    - **Dose 1: 4,457**
    - **Dose 2: 3,168**
  - **AstraZeneca:**
    - **Dose 1: 31,874**
    - **Dose 2: 20,438**
- Of the total national target population (**≥ 18 years**) been vaccinated:
  - **11.0%** are fully vaccinated (**2 doses of AZ/Sinopharm or 1 dose of J&J**)
  - **11.8%** 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, 23,006 rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) have been conducted with 8 positives who were confirmed and treated

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**Globally**

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **232,931,042**
- 👤 Recoveries: **209,604,874**
- ➡ Deaths: **4,766,828**

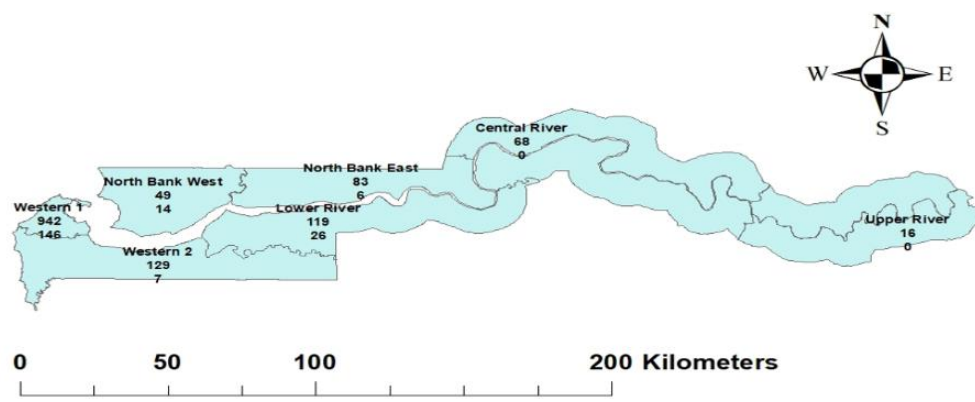
**Senegal**

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **73,747**
- 👤 Recoveries: **71,612**
- ➡ Deaths: **1,855**

**The Gambia**

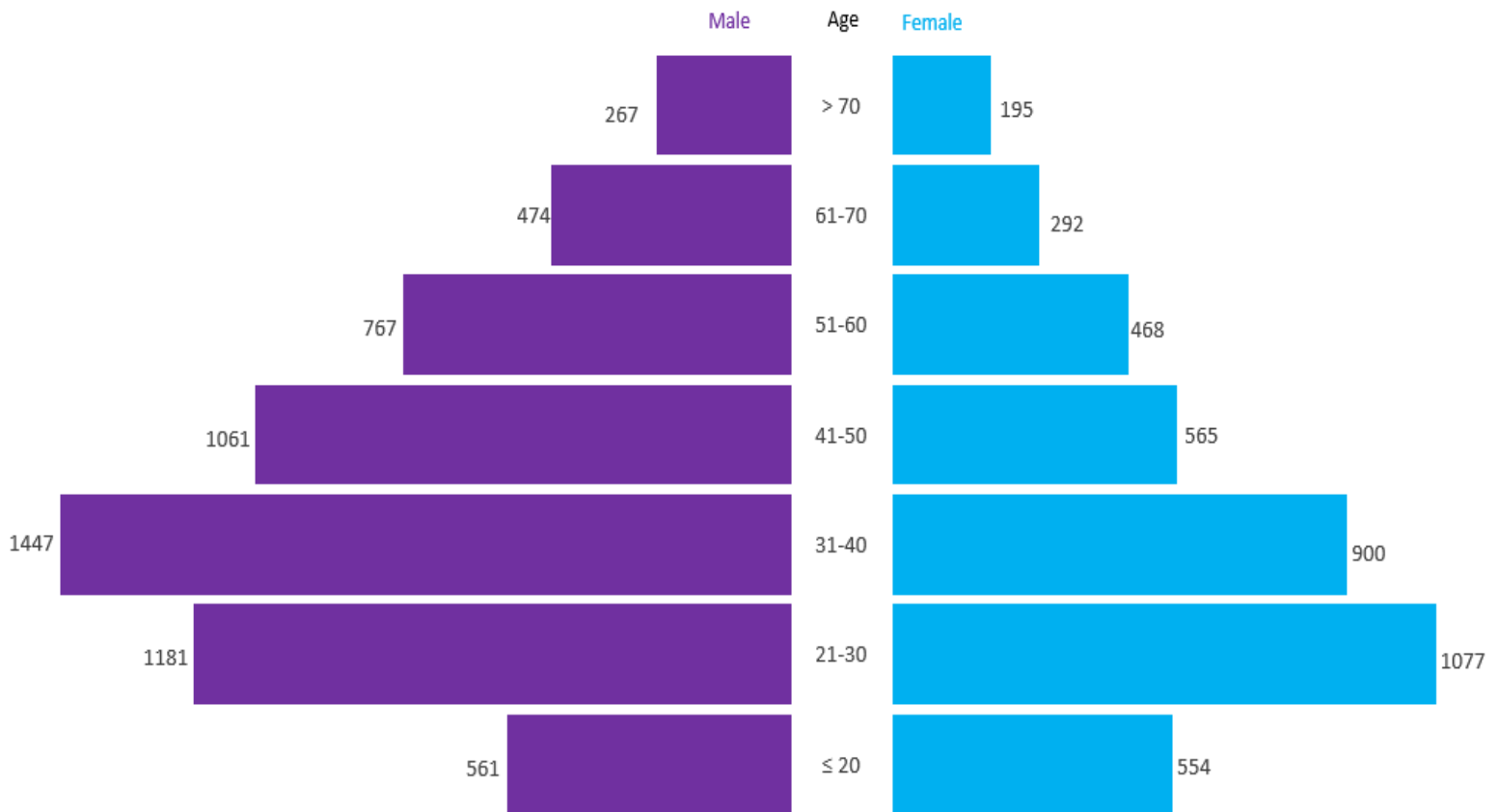
- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **9,934**
- 👤 Active Cases: **15**
- 👤 Recoveries: **9,581**
- ➡ Deaths: **338**

## II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



**Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region since the start of Pandemic to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 reported date, respectively (**See Fig. 2 and 3**)

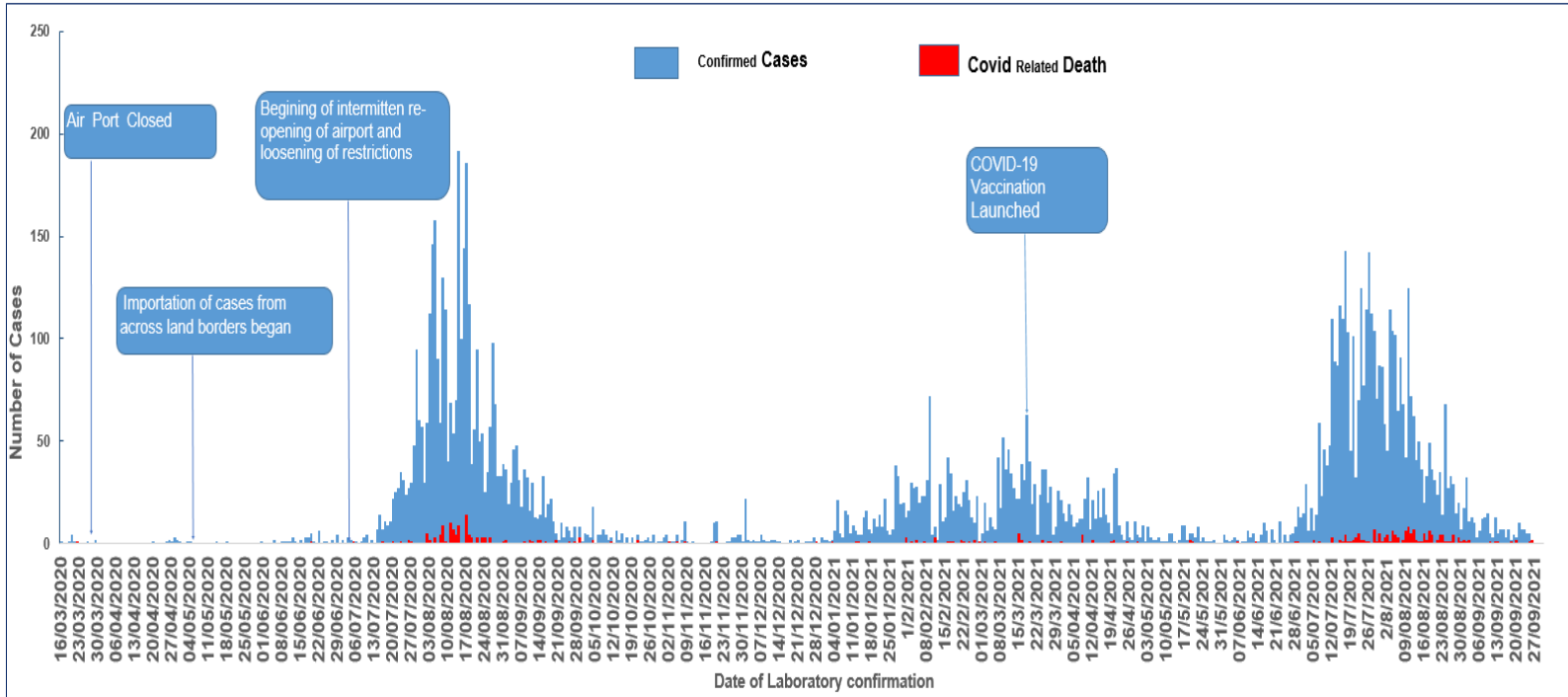


**Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021**

✧ 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  |           | 10         |
| No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support  |           | 3          |
| No. of patients recovered and discharged  | 10        |            |
| 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 Test (s))***  | 570(0)*** | 110,468    |
| Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))  | 4(0)      | 9,934      |
| Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***   | 565(0)*** | 99,280     |
| Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***   | 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 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>570</b> new laboratory test results received <b>13</b> from <b>MRCG</b> and <b>557</b> from <b>NPHL</b>)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Of these, <b>1</b> test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>4</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>Three (3)</b> new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Seven (7)</b> patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i></li> <li>• <i><b>No</b> new contact traced and monitored</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Three (3)</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
- 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](mailto:sanamsambou@hotmail.com)      **Phone:** +220 3516320/2422949

**PARTNERS**

