



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 3rd August 2021	Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.
Prepared by: Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia	

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 350th national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 16th March 2020

- **Three (2&1 posthumous)** new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to **238**
- The age of the decedents was **57, 60 and 60 years (2 males and 1 female)**
 - All had severe COVID-19 pneumonia with either Sepsis/chronic kidney or chronic liver disease
 - **Two (2)** were admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
- **113** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **8,505**
 - Of the **91** cases with known reasons for testing, **60 (66%)** tested for travelling, **10 (11%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **10 (11%)** contacts with a confirmed case and **12 (18%)** wanted to know their COVID 19 status
- The cases are composed of **60 males** and **52 females** with a **median** age of **35 years (Range: 3 – 80 years)**
- A total of **479** new laboratory test results were received (**37 from MRCG** and **442 from NPHL**)
 - Of these, **96** tested positive representing a **22.9 % test positivity rate**
- **Fourteen (14)** new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **99** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **Thirty-two (32)** COVID-19 patients are currently on **oxygen therapy**
- **No** new contacts were traced and monitored
- Currently, **no one** is in hotel quarantine, **844** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.8%**
- So far **15,922 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT)** were conducted at the airport for travelers
 - Of these, **seven (7)** tested for positive for both RDT and PCR. They were all sent to the treatment centers for further management

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **201,064,100**
- Recoveries: **181,054,497**
- Deaths: **4,271,371**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **64,522**
- Recoveries: **48,812**
- Deaths: **1,423**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **8,505**
- Recoveries: **7,423**
- Deaths: **238**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

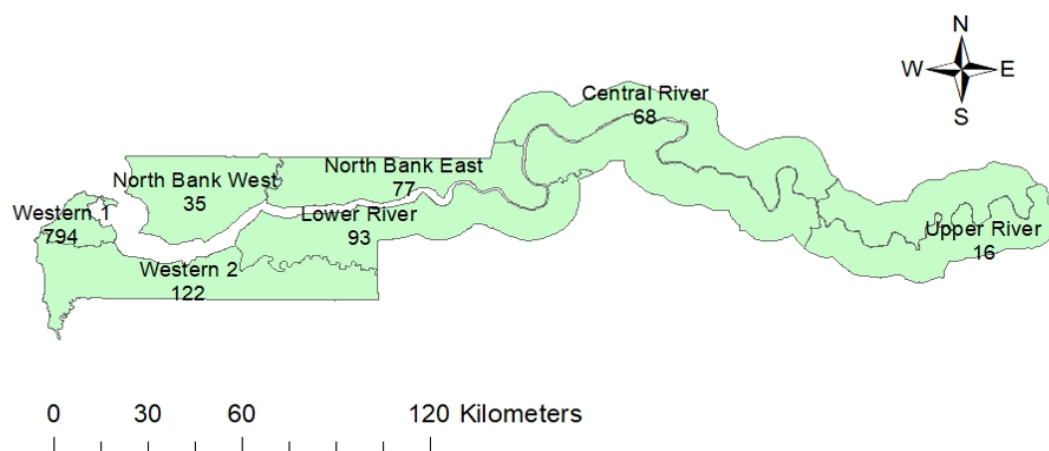


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of the Pandemic to 31st July 2021

- 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**)

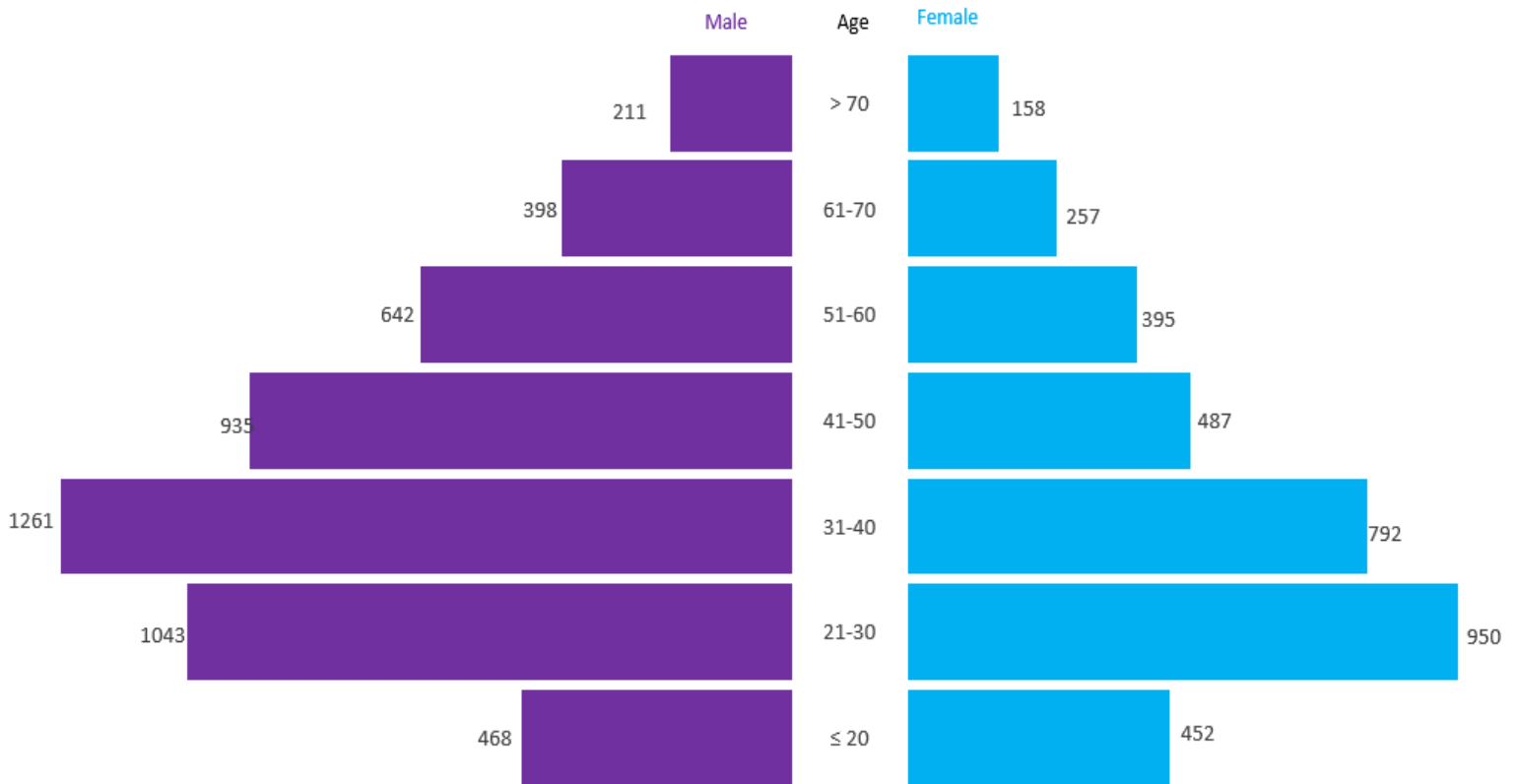


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* 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**)

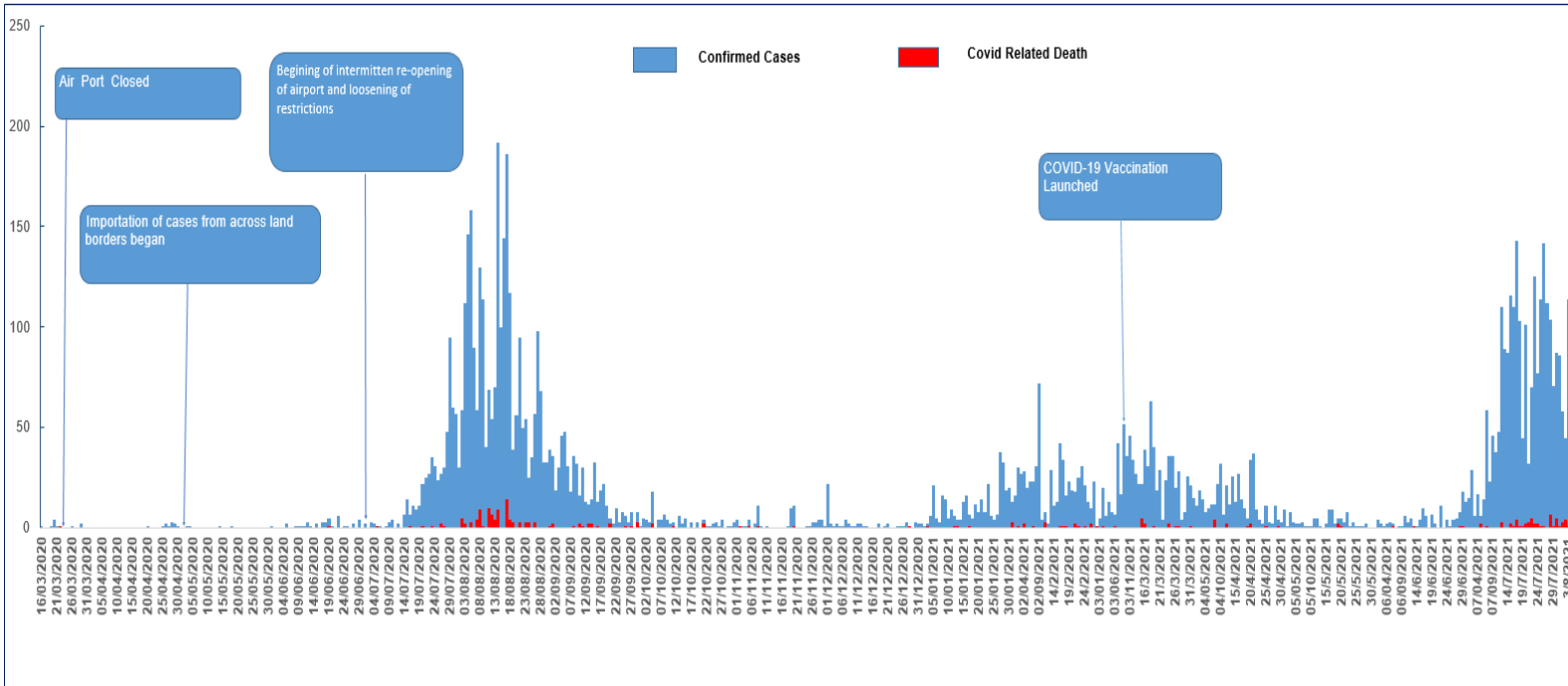


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*.

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		72
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		32
No. of patients recovered and discharged	113	
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	13	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	17,106
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	479(0)***	91,122
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	113(0)	8,505
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	365(0)***	81,493
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 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 479 new laboratory test results received 37 from MRCG and 442 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, 1 test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 113 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Three (3) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Fourteen (14) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>No new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Thirty-two (32) 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.

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

