



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 16th September 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 **371st** 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 **332 (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, 3.4%)**
- A total of **3** new cases were registered (**cumulative cases 9,888**)
- The test positivity rate is **1.4% (3/210)** all from **NPH 190 (1 positive) and MRCG 20(2 Positive)**
 - Of the total new cases, **2** were **males** and **1 females**, with ages ranging from **20 – 67 years)**
 - Fifteen (**15**) cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
 - For reasons of testing, **1 (33%)** tested for travelling, and **2 (67%)** for unspecified reasons
- No cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **6** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **No** new contacts traced and monitored

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **228,290,963**
- Recoveries: **204,895,162**
- Deaths: **4,691,454**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **73,588**
- Recoveries: **68,811**
- Deaths: **1,842**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **9,888**
- Active Cases: **23**
- Recoveries: **9,533**
- Deaths: **332**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

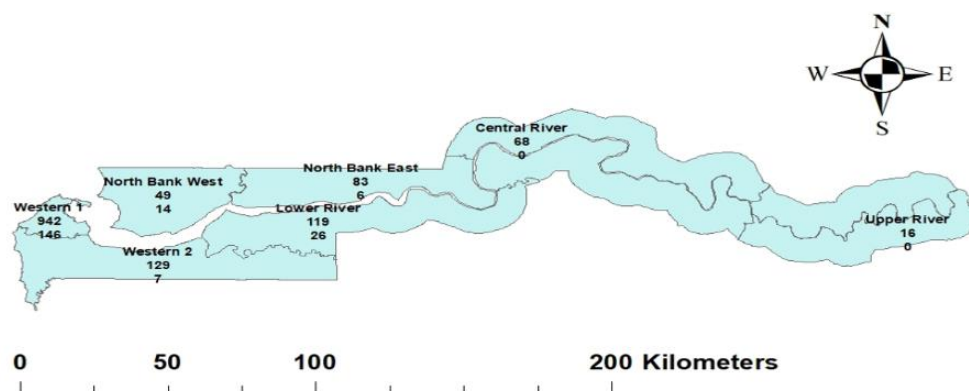


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region since the start of Pandemic to 31st August 2021 (Number Above) and the month of August 2021 (Number below) in The Gambia

- 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 reported date, respectively (**See Fig. 2 and 3**)

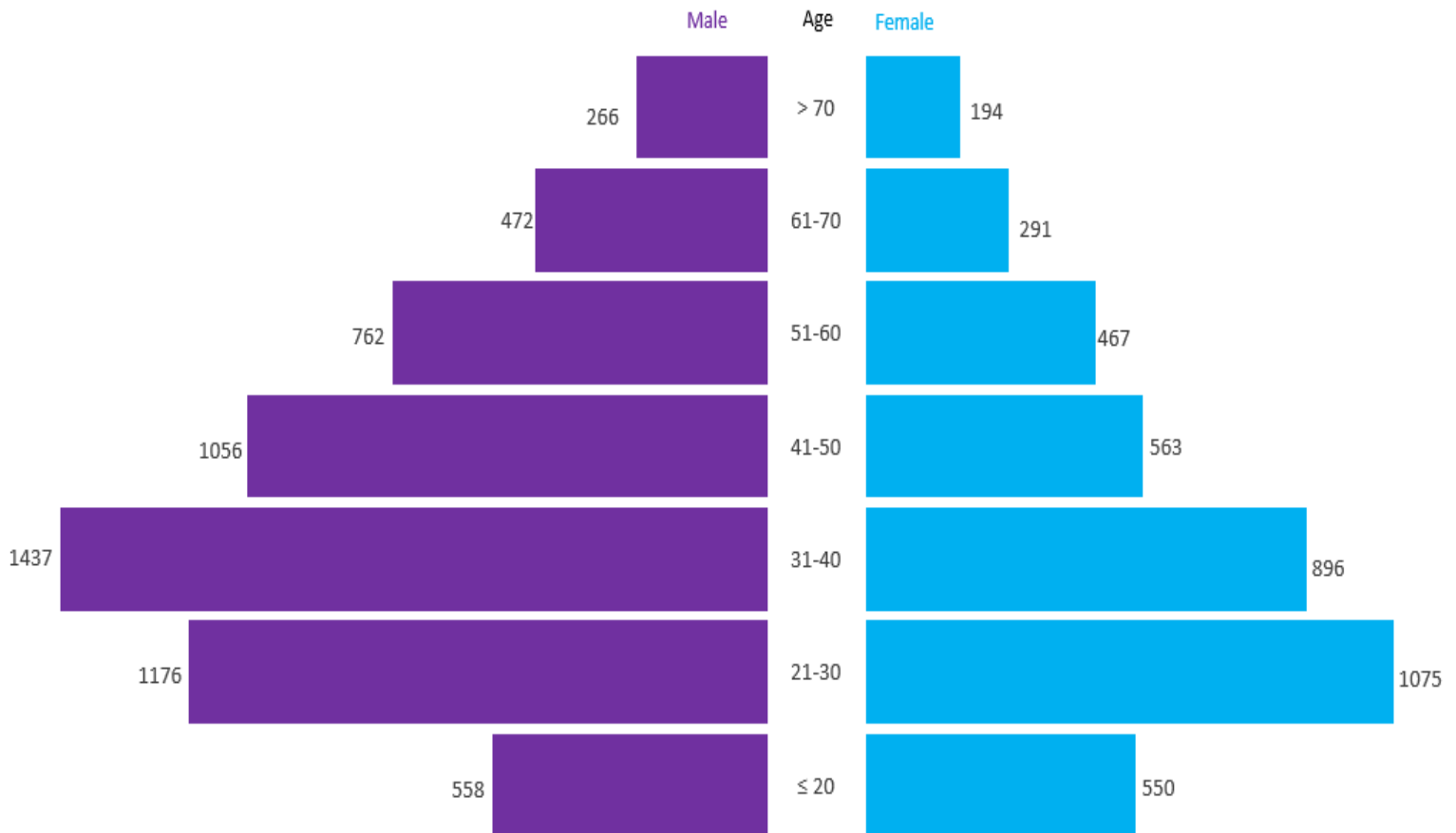


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

✧ 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**)

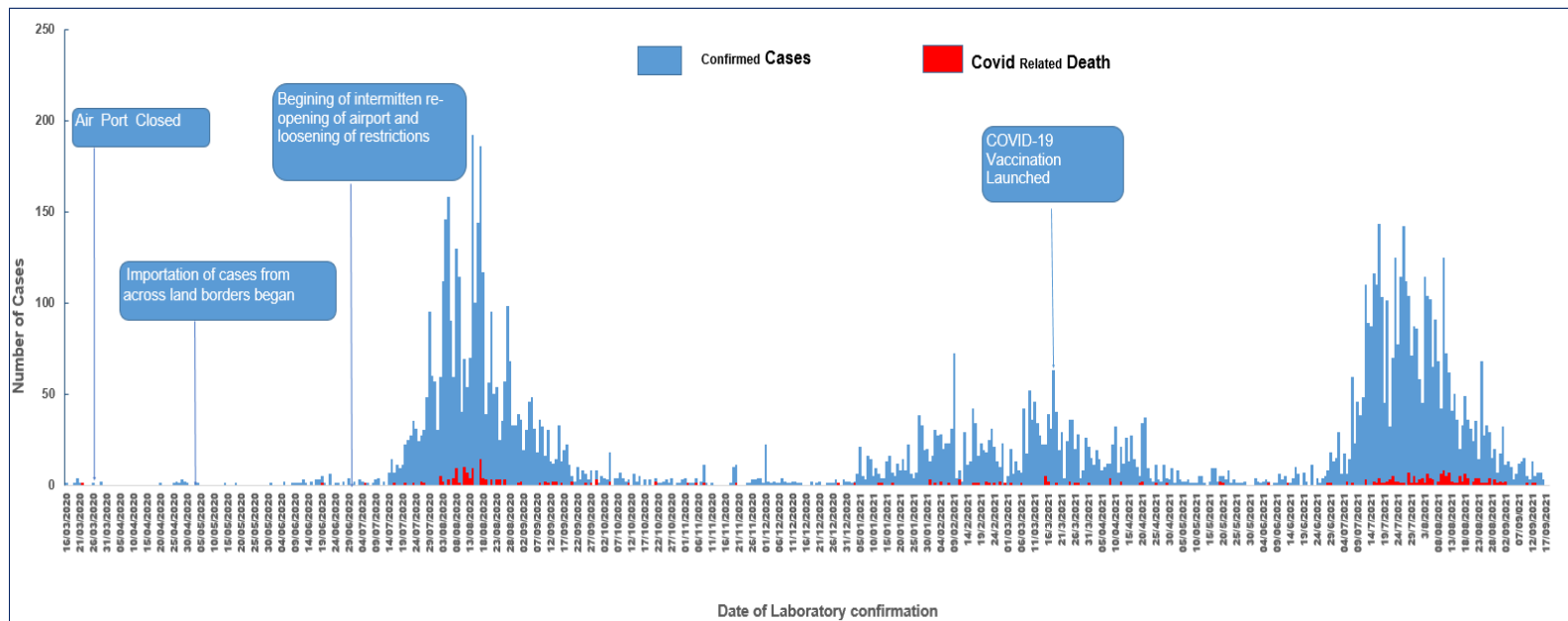


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-10th August 2021*.

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. 3)

Status	New	Cumulative
No. of active cases in institutional isolation		19
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		15
No. of patients recovered and discharged	6	
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))***	210(0)***	107,328
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	3(0)	9,888
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	206(0)***	96,188
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 210 new laboratory test results received 20 from MRCG and 190 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, one(1) test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 3 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new COVID-19 related death recorded • No patient was newly discharged from treatment centres • No new contacts were traced and monitored • Fifteen (15) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy

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

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PARTNERS

