



<b>Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19</b>		<b>Location: The Gambia</b>	
<b>Date of Report: 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> December 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 413<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

- **One (1)** new COVID-19-related death registered, bringing the total to **343 (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, 3.37%)**
- **Thirty (34)** new cases were registered (**Cumulative cases 10,170**)
- **Thirteen (13)**, and **21** cases were reported on the **25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>** respectively
- The **test positivity rate is 4.76% (34/714)**, **NPHL – 708 (32 positives)** and **MRCG – 6 (2 Positives)**
  - No case is currently on **oxygen therapy**
- **Three (3)** cases were discharged after at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation and **3** from **COVID-19** treatment centres
- As of **28<sup>th</sup> December 2021**, the following number of people have been vaccinated with:
  - **Johnson & Johnson:**
    - Only 1 dose: **217,873**
  - **Sinopharm:**
    - Dose 1: **4,503**
    - Dose 2: **3,315**
  - **AstraZeneca:**
    - Dose 1: **40,680**
    - Dose 2: **28,327**
- **TARGET POPULATION** (based on microplanning estimates - **1,564,214**)
  - Proportion of target population fully vaccinated (2 doses of AZ/Sinopharm or 1 dose of J&J): **16.0%**
  - Proportion of target population that received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose (AZ or J&J or Sinopharm): **16.8%**
- **TOTAL POPULATION** (Based on final MoH population projections for 2021 - **2,438,899**)
  - Proportion of total population fully vaccinated (2 doses of AZ/Sinopharm or 1 dose of J&J): **10.2%**
  - Proportion of total population that received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose (AZ or J&J or Sinopharm): **10.8%**

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**Globally**

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **276,768,483**
- 👤 Recoveries: **248,279,739**
- ➡ Deaths: **5,388,733**

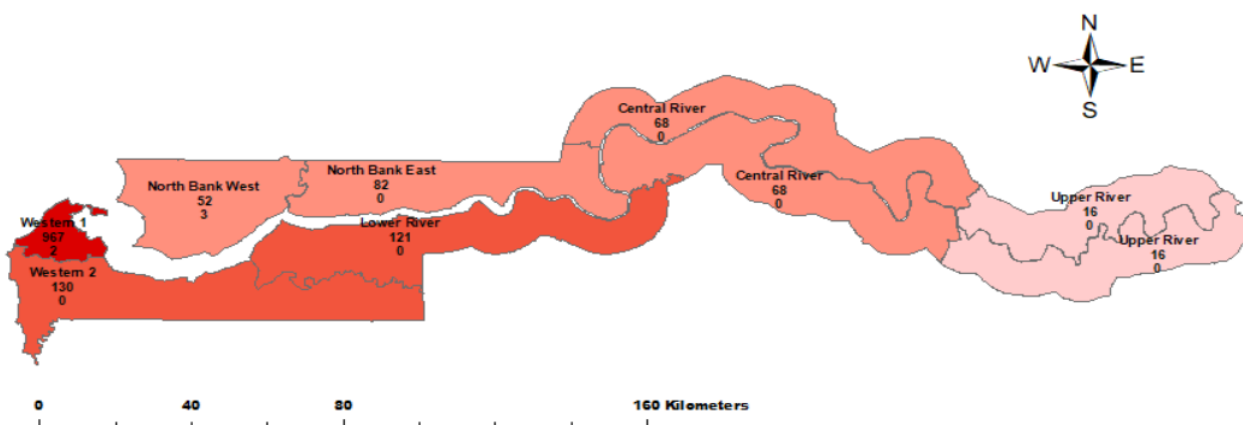
**Senegal**

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **74,223**
- 👤 Recoveries: **72,246**
- ➡ Deaths: **1,890**

**The Gambia**

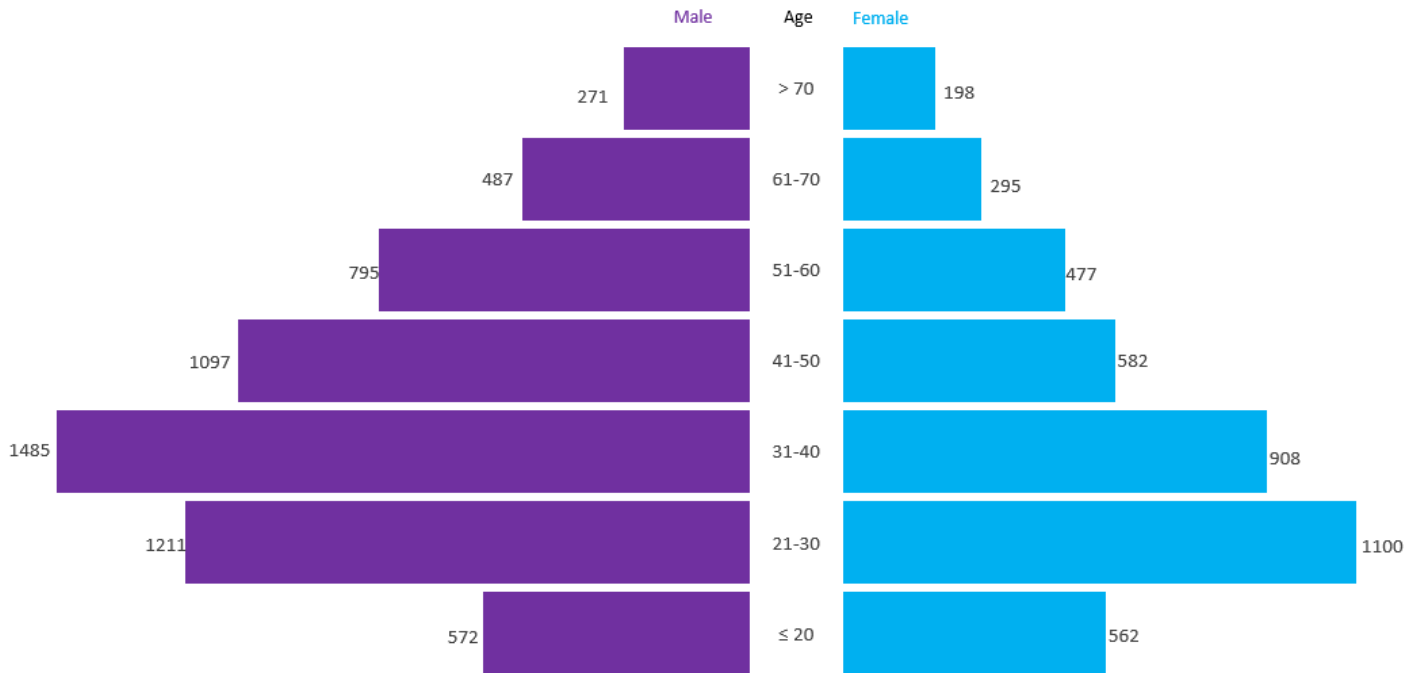
- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **10,170**
- 👤 Active Cases: **127**
- 👤 Recoveries: **9,700**
- ➡ Deaths: **343**

## II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



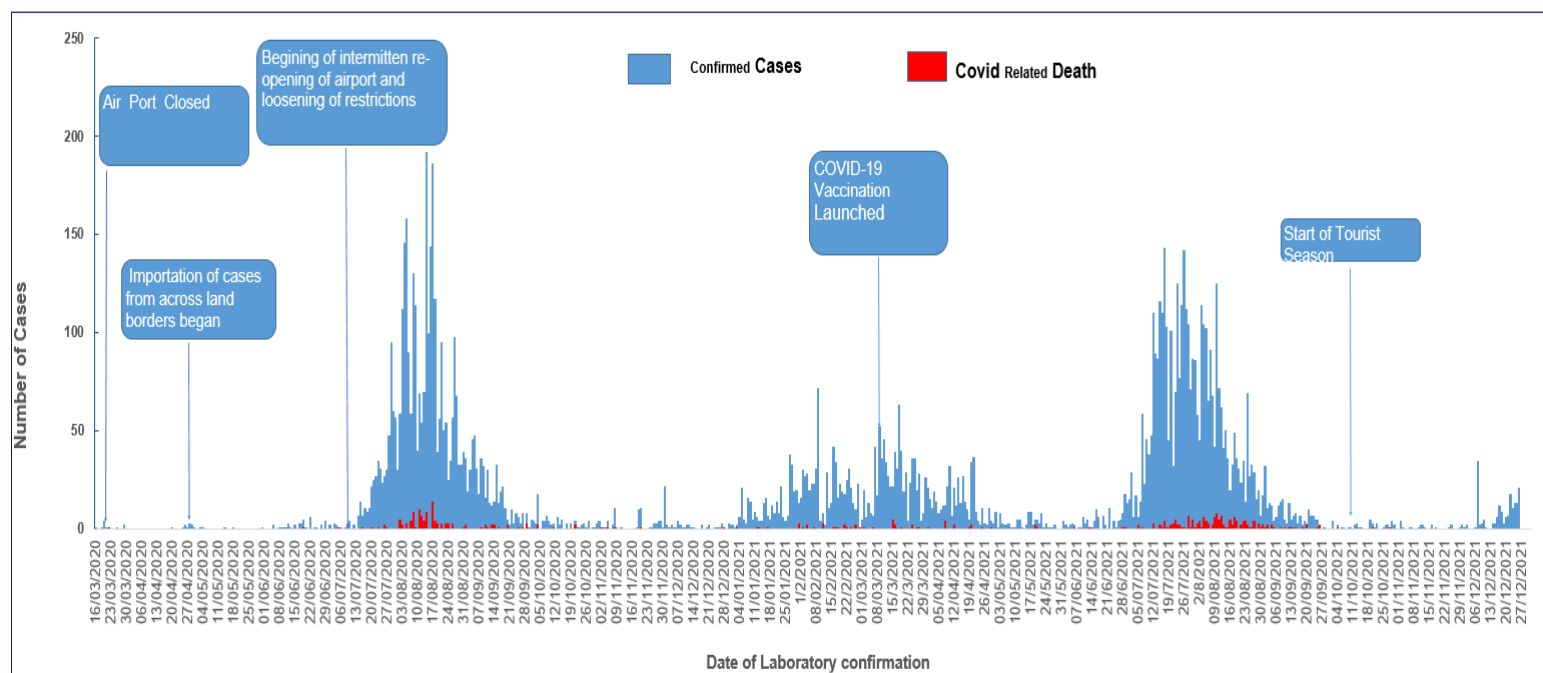
**Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Covid-19 Cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region Since the start of the Pandemic to 30<sup>th</sup> November (Number Above) and October only (Number below) in The Gambia**

- 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 date of sample collection, 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 59% 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 2020-24<sup>th</sup> December 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

**Table 1: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021**

Status	New	Cumulative
No. of active cases in institutional isolation		N/A
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		N/A
No. of patients recovered and discharged	0	
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 Tests)***	714(0)	132,861
Positive test result (Repeat Tests)***	34(0)	10,170
Negative test result (Repeat Tests)***	680(0)	121,433
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Tests)***	0(0)	

\* 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

Table 2: COVID-19 vaccine doses administered over the last 10 days by region in The Gambia, 2021

Region	19-Dec	20-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	Total
CRR	174	0	0	0	0	387	557	741	559	634	3,052
LRR	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	516	938	1,793
NBER	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	423	497	952
NBWR	3	76	122	169	100	112	9	0	22	14	627
URR	0	0	0	96	290	655	774	1070	1250	1002	5,137
WR1	0	133	226	381	131	89	6	0	2527	3168	6,661
WR2	0	0	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	182
<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>1275</b>	<b>1346</b>	<b>2069</b>	<b>5297</b>	<b>6359</b>	<b>18,404</b>

Table 3: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2021

### III. MAJOR RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels</li> </ul>
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of <b>714</b> new laboratory test results received <b>708</b> from <b>NPHL</b> and <b>6</b> from <b>MRCG</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of these, <b>no</b> test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, <b>34</b> new samples tested positive</li> </ul> </li> <li>New COVID-19 sample collection site opened at the Gambia Tourism Board in Senegambia</li> </ul>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>One (1)</b> new COVID-19 related death recorded</li> <li><b>Three (3)</b> patient was newly discharged from treatment centres</li> <li><b>No</b> new contacts traced and monitored</li> <li><b>No</b> COVID-19 patient is currently on <b>oxygen therapy</b></li> </ul>

### IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- CBS activities not replicated in all regions 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.
- Strengthen community-based surveillance in all regions to increase awareness and testing rates
- 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
- 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
- Strengthen the capacity of the National Public Health Laboratories to conduct sequencing to identify new variants from positive samples as the COVID-19 virus evolves.

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### PARTNERS

