



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 26 - 27th May 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 **322nd** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- One **(1)** new COVID-19-related death was registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to **179**
 - The decedent was an **85yrs** old COVID-19 male with a comorbidity of cancer of the prostate who died on the **27th May 2021** in one of the treatment centers
- Two **(2)** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **5,993**
- They are all males, aged **17 & 32** years old
- A total of **500** new laboratory test results received (**38** from MRCG and **462** from NPHL)
 - Of these, **2** new samples tested positive, representing a **0.4%** test positivity rate
- Two **(2)** COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **6** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- One **(1)** COVID-19 patient is currently on oxygen therapy
- A total of **39** new contacts of the Indian variant have been traced and are being monitored as of **27th May 2021**
- The country currently has **2** people (travelers from India) in hotel quarantine, **34** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **3%**
- As of **28th May 2021**, **29,148** and **4,671** people received the **1st** and **2nd** doses of **AstraZeneca Vaccine** respectively, bringing the total number ever vaccinated to **33,819**
- So far **4,738** Rapid diagnostic tests were conducted at the Airport for travelers as of **28th May 2021**.
 - Of these, **only 2** tested positive for both RDT and PCR. These were treated and discharged.
- As of **20th May 2021**, **82** new clients received Psychological First Aid (PFA) Services provided by MoH, Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and Paradise Foundation, thus bringing the number of clients attended to **1,829** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

Confirmed Cases: **170,262,607**

Recoveries: **152,299,020**

Deaths: **3,540,528**

Senegal

Confirmed Cases: **41,296**

Recoveries: **39,932**

Deaths: **1,138**

The Gambia

Confirmed Cases: **5,993**

Recoveries: **5,780**

Deaths: **179**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

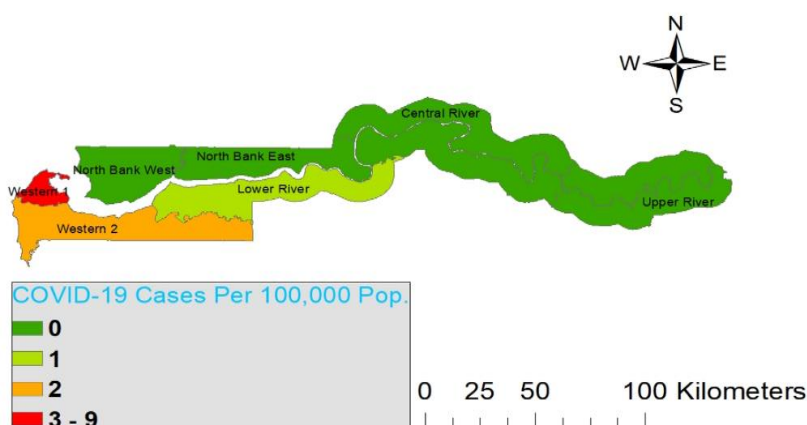


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Regions 15th April-14th May 2021

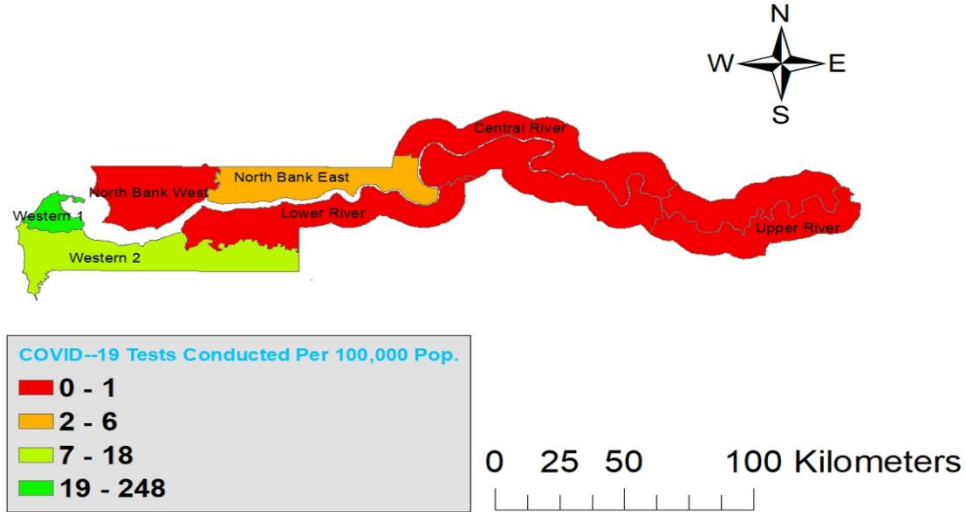


Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Tests Per 100,000 Pop. by Regions 15th April-14th May 2021

- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (**See Fig. 1**)
- Despite being far-flung from current testing sites, North Bank East has sent in more samples per 100,000 population than all other regions in the hinterland, over the last 30 days (**See Fig. 2**)

Figures 3 and 4 are the age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively.

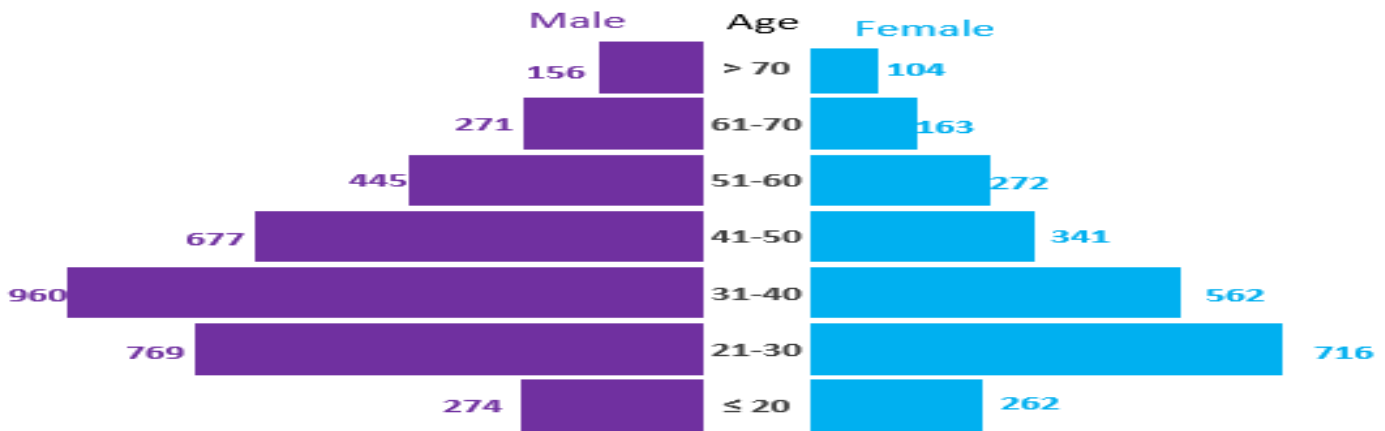


Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* This excludes the 27 confirmed cases whose demographic information are not yet available

About 59% of the confirmed cases are males (**See Fig. 3**)

About 62% of the confirmed cases are below age 40 (**See Fig. 3**)

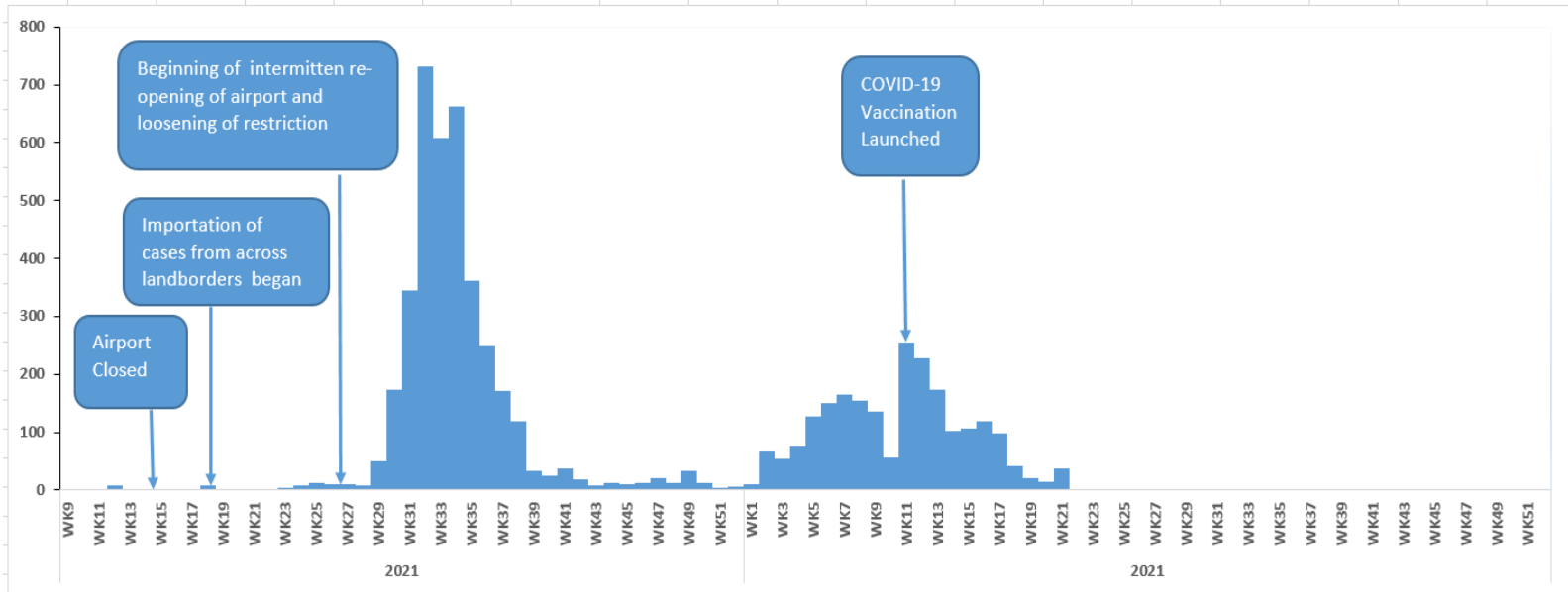


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported Weekly, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*. A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- 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. 4**)

Status	New	Cumulative
No. of active cases in institutional isolation		7
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		1
No. of patients recovered and discharged	8	
In Hotel Quarantine	2	2
Completed Hotel Quarantine	0	5,231
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	29	
No. of Contacts being monitored	39	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	16,787
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	500(0)***	69,498
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	2(0)	5,993
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	498(0)***	62,452
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	0(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

COVID-19 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAILY REPORT- 24/5/21

Total No. of Calls received on toll free helpline	No. of communities reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	Toll Free Helpline: No. of people shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs	Radio phoning programme: No. of people shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs	TV phoning programme: No. of people shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs	Social Media pages: No. of people react to post and or shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs
176	110	176	40	8	852

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels Gambian philanthropist and businessman have helped in improving the internet problem at National Public Health Laboratories (NPHL)
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 500 new laboratory test results received 38 from MRCG and 462 from NPHL) Of these, No test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 2 new sample tested positive
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new COVID-19 related death recorded 2 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres 39 new contacts of the Indian variant have been traced and are being monitored 1 COVID-19 patient is currently on oxygen therapy 82 new clients received Psychological First Aid (PFA) Services

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

Priority group	Dose 1						Dose 2							
	Fixed		Outreach/Mobile		Total	AEFI		Fixed		Outreach/Mobile		Total	AEFI	
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Non-serious	Serious	Male	Female	Male	Female		Non-serious	Serious
Health Care workers	3164	2599	256	218	6237	0	3	638	587	167	116	1508	0	0
People with pre-existing conditions	1488	1793	441	537	4259	1	0	310	309	14	24	657	0	0
Community workers	4464	3045	1119	991	9619	1	0	651	457	99	53	1260	0	0
65 years and above	1705	1601	677	578	4561	0	0	334	294	12	23	663	0	0
Teacher	275	166	430	147	1018	0	0	28	25	5	1	59	0	0
Hoteliers	483	267	34	21	805	0	0	12	14	0	0	26	0	0
Security forces	847	206	251	24	1328	0	0	153	20	8	0	181	0	0
41yrs - 64yrs	152	142	76	102	472	0	0	138	102	1	2	243	0	0
18yrs - 40 yrs	285	184	124	256	849	0	0	23	37	6	8	74	0	0
Total Cov-1	12863	10003	3408	2874	29148	2	3	2287	1845	312	227	4671	0	0

Table 4: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 28th May 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.
- Inadequate electronic devices and internet bundles for capturing vaccination data at vaccination sites
- Difficulty in accessing data on time resulting to a delay in the production of the SITREP

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CBS activities need to be synchronized with MRC's ILI surveillance to spur up testing rates in the hinterland.
- Expedite the process of 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
- 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 in order 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 including the donning of appropriate PPEs at all times
- Stakeholders/partners to support in filling the gaps identified in the vaccination campaign process
- Response committee leads should endeavor to provide data to the SITREP team on time

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PARTNERS

