



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 9th April 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 **292nd** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- **2** new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to **168**
- **0** Decedents are **70 & 84** - years old men, known COVID-19 patients with comorbid conditions (hypertension & diabetes) admitted in one of the COVID-19 treatment centres
- **38** new cases registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **5,602**
 - **8, 10, 12 & 8** new cases were reported on the **5th, 6th, 7th & 8th April 2021** respectively
 - **75%** of these tested for reasons of travelling and **21%** being ill seeking health due to suspicion of COVID-19
 - The median age of the new cases (**18** female and **20** male) is **45.5 (Range: 2 to 80)** years
- A total of **833** new laboratory tests results received (**62** from MRCG and **771** from NPHL)
 - Of these, **38** new samples tested positive, representing a **4.6%** test positivity rate
- **25** high-risk contacts [of recently confirmed cases] were identified
- **14** COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **20** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **8** COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy
- The country currently has no one in hotel quarantine, 289 active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **3%**
- **14,363** people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 as of **6th April 2021**
- **165 Rapid diagnostic tests conducted at the Airport for travelers coming into The Gambia**
- A Gambian philanthropist and businessman has helped greatly in improving the internet problem at National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) with plans to assess and improve the entire complex

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **135,452,245**
- Recoveries: **108,996,836**
- Deaths: **2,931,769**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **39,364**
- Recoveries: **38,101**
- Deaths: **1,077**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **5,602**
- Recoveries: **5,145**
- Deaths: **168**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

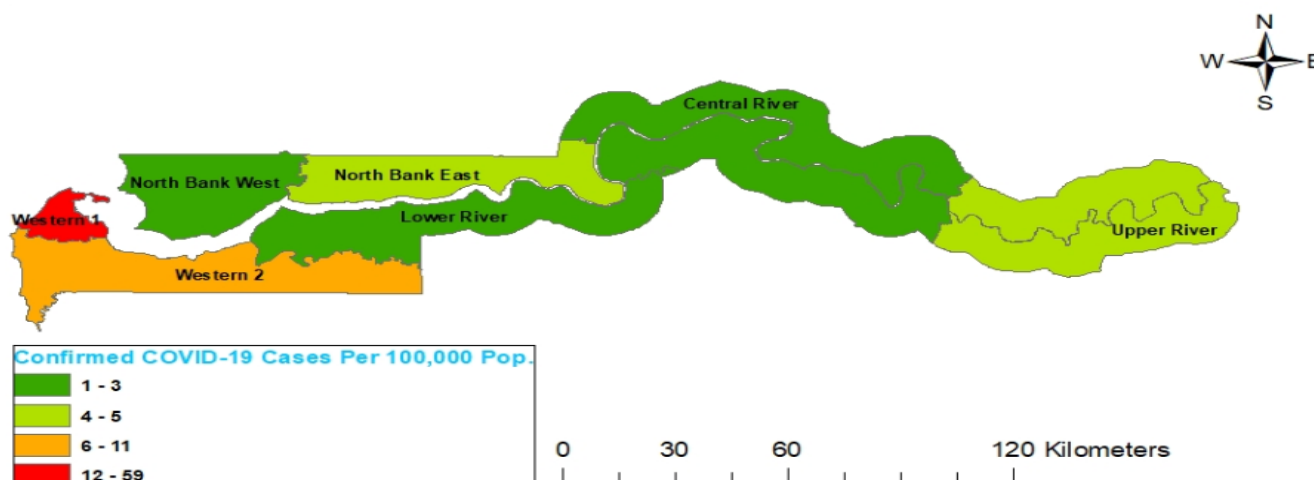


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution Of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, 15th Feb-16th March, 2021

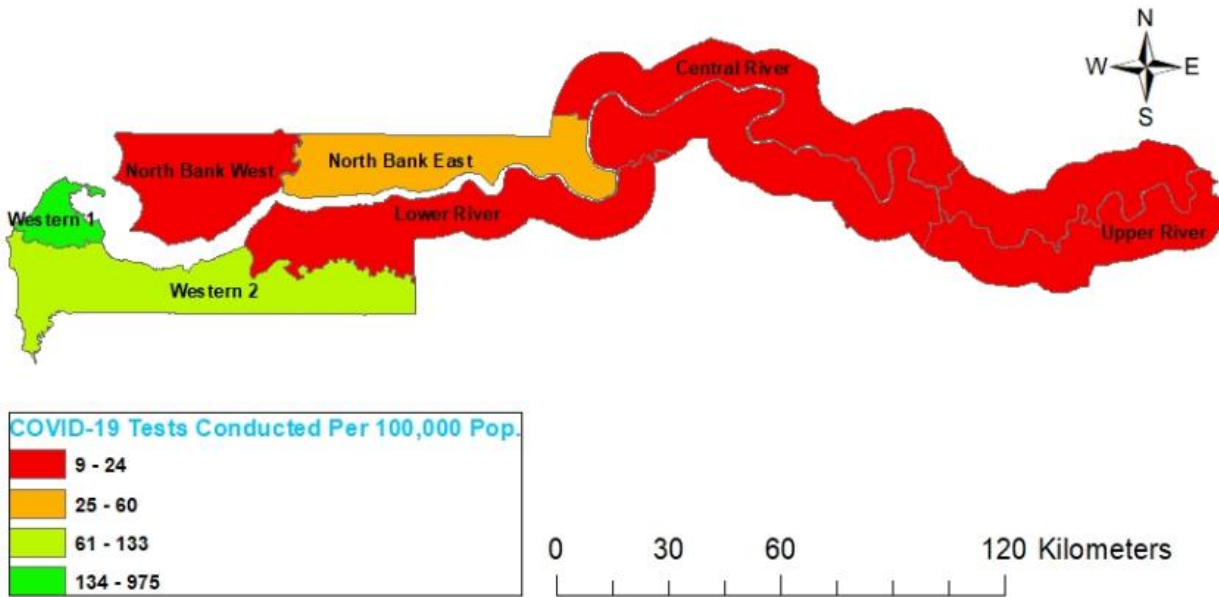


Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, Feb 15-March 16, 2021

- 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)

Table 1: summary of COVID-19 tests conducted, The Gambia, 5st -8th April 2021

Date	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive	Test Positivity
5/4/2021	8	86	0	8.5
6/4/2021	10	163	0	5.8
7/4/2021	12	252	1	4.5
4/4/2021	8	293	0	2.7

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.

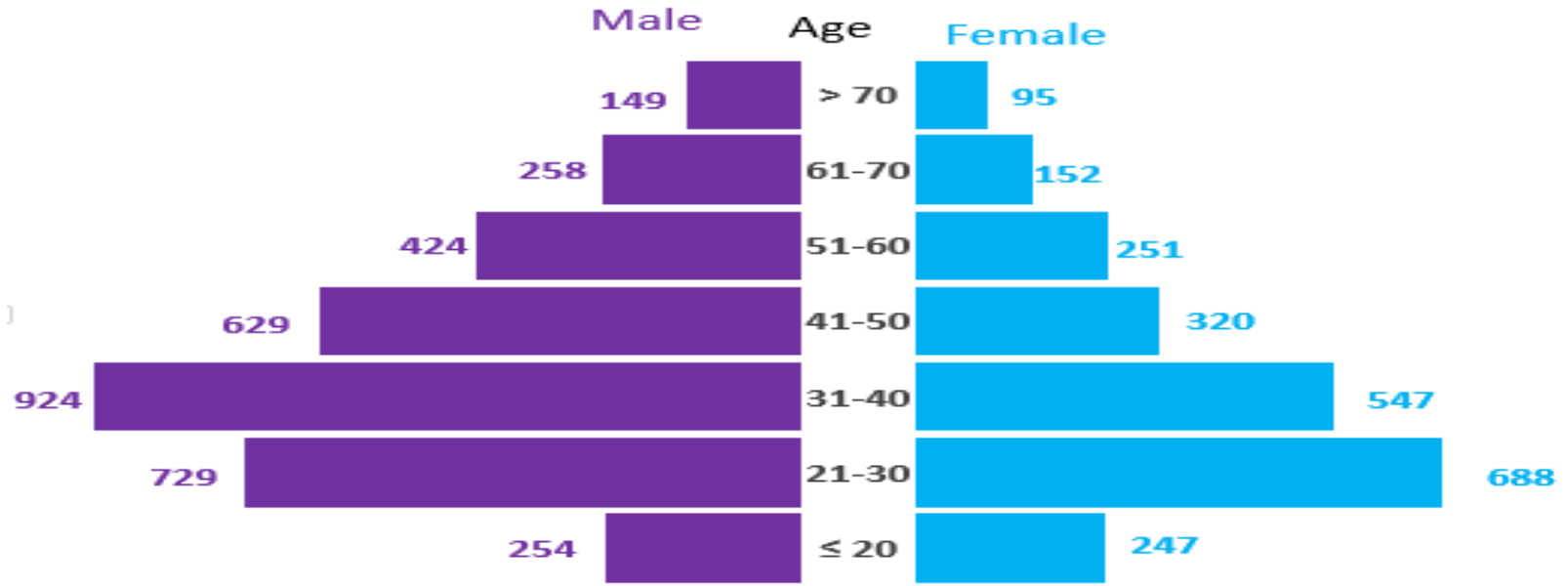


Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* 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)

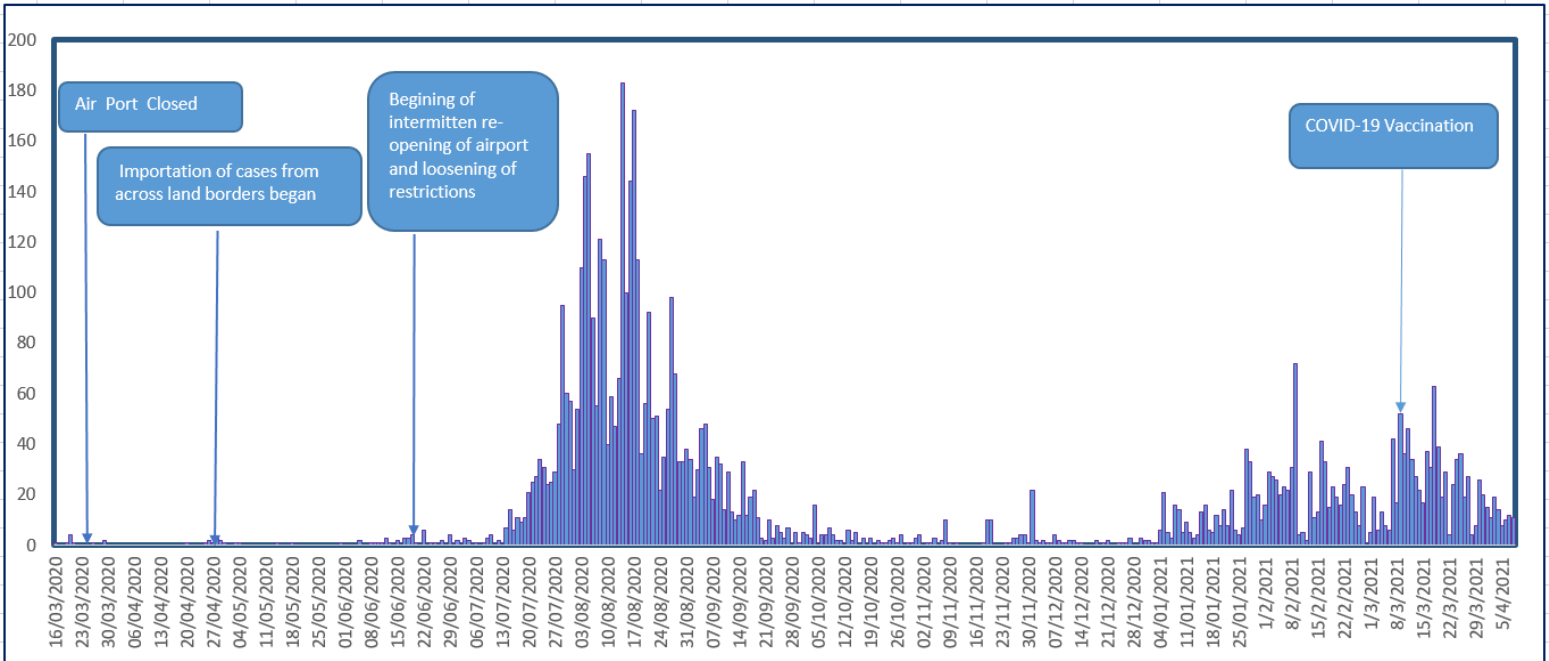


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*.

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		14
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		8
No. of patients recovered and discharged	34	
In Hotel Quarantine	0	0
Completed Hotel Quarantine	0	5,231
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	25	
No. of Contacts being monitored	93	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	21	16,670
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	833(0)***	59,297
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	38(0)	5,602
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	794(0)***	52,653
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	1(0)***	

Table 1: 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- 6/4/21

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 shared their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs
55	39	55	18	12	388

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels • Gambian philanthropist and businessman have helped greatly in improving the internet problem at National Public Health Laboratory(NPHL)
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 833 new laboratory test results received 62 from MRCG and 771 from NPHL) • Of these, 1 test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 59 new samples tested positive
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new COVID-19 related deaths recorded • 14 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres • 8 COVID-19 patients currently on oxygen therapy

Table 2: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2021

THE GAMBIA COVID19 VACCINATION DAILY REPORTING							
Priority group	Dose 20				Total	AEFI	
	Fixed		Outreach/Mobile			MILD	SEVERE
	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Health Care workers	2829	2277	148	125	5379	0	3
People with pre-existing conditions	1004	1162	150	130	2446	1	0
Community workers	2628	1891	375	180	5074	0	0
65 years and above	1182	1162	247	155	2746	0	0
Teacher	54	43	65	21	183	0	0
Hoteliers	341	162	2	0	505	0	0
Security forces	231	75	84	12	402	0	0
Total Cov-1	8269	6772	1071	623	16735	1	3

Table 3: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 10th April 2021

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- High site-specific test positivity rate registered at the Basse COVID-19 testing site
- 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.
- Inadequate electronic devices and internet bundles for capturing vaccination data at vaccination sites

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- More tests required in the catchment area of the MRC Basse testing site to ascertain the extent of spread of COVID-19
- 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

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PARTNERS

