



Report No. 8, 2020

Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 26th March 2020	Investigation Start Date: 17 March 2020 as of 18hrs.
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 8th national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 17th March 2020.

National Situation:

- 16 Samples collected from high-risk contacts of the Numuyel case, while the compound remains under total lockdown
- Frontline workers encountering stiff resistance from the affected community in URR
- 5 new samples tested negative at MRCG and a repeat test on index case still positive
- A repeat sample collected from Probable Case to be taken for further testing at the Regional Reference Lab in Dakar, Senegal
- Cumulatively, the country still has a total of 3 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 1 probable case
- All three confirmed cases are imported with no epidemiological link to each other
- Index case and URR case both hospitalized and responding to treatment at MRCG. Both patients are clinically stable

Regional situation: As of 26th March 2020, 18:40, 43 African countries (including The Gambia) reported confirmed cases of COVID-19. Senegal (The Gambia's only immediate neighbour) reported 105 cases. The first set of cases in affected African countries were imported. However, local transmission is now on the increase.

Global situation: Since 31st December 2019 and as of 26th March 2020 at 18:43, a total of 519,899 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions in the affected countries) have been reported from 196 countries, areas or territories. Of these, 23,588 deaths were registered - a crude case fatality rate of 4.51%.*

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

☐ Index Case:

- The 28-year old Gambian female arrived from London on the 15th March and self-reported for a laboratory test at the MRCG Laboratories on the 16th March.

☐ Second Case:

- The deceased was a 70-year old male Bangladeshi national who arrived from Senegal on the 14th March after passing through four other countries

☐ Third Case

- The 71-year old male Gambian hails from Numuyel Village, URR, and returned from France on the 17th March, 2020

☐ Probable Case

- The 47-year old male Bangladeshi national travelled together with the second confirmed case and tested positive on a pan-coronavirus assay but negative for the virus that causes COVID-19 on the 24th March, 2020
- Sample collected for repeat test at MRCG and specialist WHO lab in Senegal (further isolation of virus)

- Probable case currently on quarantine and plans are underway to move him to a treatment center

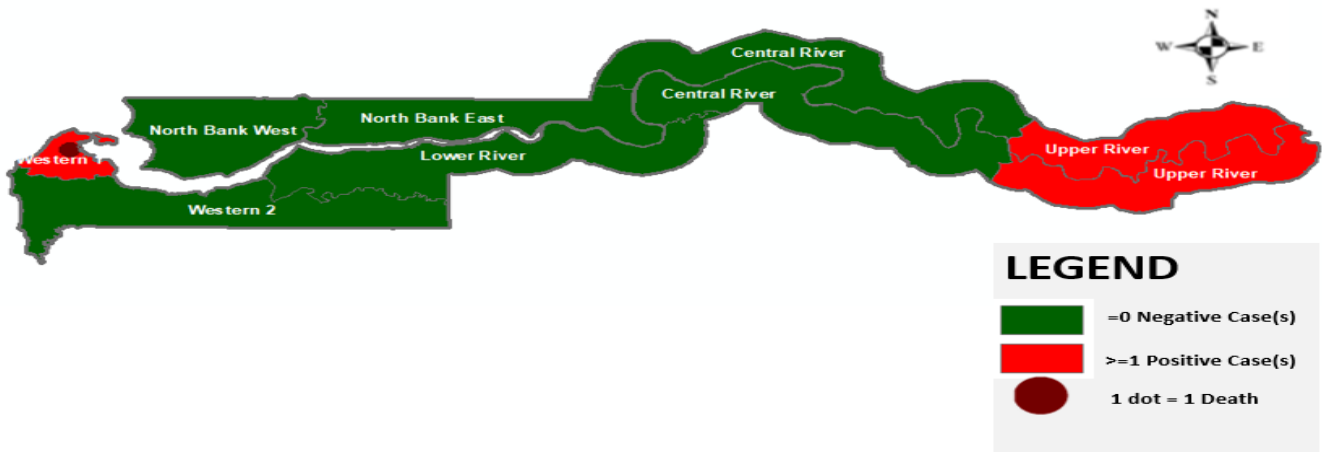


Fig 1: Map of The Gambia showing COVID-19 affected regions

Tables 1 and 2 show both the epi-classification of cases and the summary of outputs on the various public health activities undertaken:

Table 1: Epi-Classification of Reported Cases, by Region, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Region	2020 Population Estimates	Epi Classification							
		New				Cumulative			
		Suspected cases	Probable Cases	Confirmed cases	Deaths	Suspected cases	Probable	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Western Health Region One	950266	4	1	0	0	52	1	2	1
Western Health Region Two	514999	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Upper River Region	283911	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
North Bank West	130196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Bank East	129629	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower River	88100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central River	257332	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Total	2354433	5	1	0	0	53	1	3	1

Table 2: Summary Statistics on New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Status	New	Cumulative
Quarantined	38	215
Completed quarantine	0	0
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries)	0	310
Contacts Traced	50	123
Total Tests conducted	5	57
Positive test result	0	3
Negative test result	5	53
Inconclusive test result	0	1

III. Major Response Activities

Table 3: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Component	Interventions
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 samples collected from the high-risk contacts of URR confirmed case • Regular monitoring of the condition of all people under quarantine • Tracing of contacts and contacts of contacts of the confirmed cases is still ongoing • 5 new samples tested negative at MRCG and a repeat test on index case still positive
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both living confirmed cases remain hospitalized/isolated and in a stable condition • A repeat test on the index case still came out positive but viraemia is lower
Logistics/Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics needs of several health facilities and points of entry have been assessed by the national level logistics team • Mayor of KMC approached to help facilitate the collection and disposal of solid waste from isolation centers • Internet bandwidth increased from 5mbps to 50mbps by Gamtel to support response activities at the EOC • Affected family and entire community of the URR case extremely violent issuing threatening remarks directed at the health facility staff, OIC and ward councilor • An additional 42 security personnel deployed to strengthen response activities
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing U-Report poll has found that most respondents (47%) prefer COVID-19 related information shared on TV • Large volume of calls to the toll-free 1025 hotline • Summary of calls received on 1025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 882 calls received o 333 calls received related to community case surveillance reports o 394 calls received related to enquiry on signs and symptoms and prevention

- o 140 calls not related to COVID-19
- o Of the total calls received, 69 were referred to contact tracing team for follow-up

IV. Next Steps/Recommendations:

- Intensify sensitization in URR in order to minimize resistance to response interventions
- More samples to be collected from remaining high-risk contacts of the Numuyel case
- Probable case to be transferred to treatment center 27th March, 2020
- PPEs to be provided to all health personnel conducting routine immunization services
- Health staff conducting routine immunization services to further sensitize mothers on the importance of social distancing
- Expand COVID-19 testing facility to the National Public Health Laboratory BLT3 Laboratory

- Outbreak case definition (**see below**)

1. Suspected case:

Any person with

- History of travel from any affected country within 14 days OR
- Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection within 14 days OR
- Exposure to healthcare facility in a country where hospital associated COVID-19 infections have been reported **with or without** fever, cough, difficulty breathing

2. Community Case Definition:

Any person with hot skin, cough, not breathing well, and who has travelled outside The Gambia recently OR who has taken care of sick person in The Gambia

3. Probable case:

A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive or for whom testing was positive on a pan-coronavirus assay

4. Confirmed case:

Any person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection with or without signs and symptoms

For comments or questions, please contact:

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