



Report No. 9, 2020

Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 27th March 2020		Investigation Start Date: 17 March 2020 as of 18hrs.	
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 9th 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.

- The Gambia records its second consecutive day without a new laboratory confirmed covid-19 case
- A repeat sample from the hitherto probable case (co-traveler to the deceased case) tested negative
- 4 new samples tested negative for COVID-19
- Cumulatively, the country still has a total of 3 COVID-19 confirmed cases
- All three confirmed cases are imported with no epidemiological link to each other
- Though probable case tested negative, needs to complete mandatory quarantine
- Index case and URR case both hospitalized and are clinically

Regional situation: As of 27th March 2020, 17:47, 43 African countries (including The Gambia) reported confirmed cases of COVID-19. Senegal (The Gambia's only immediate neighbour) reported 119 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 27th March 2020 at 17:47, a total of 577,547 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, 26,447 deaths were registered - a crude case fatality rate of 4.5%.*

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



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 case(s)	Probable Case(s)	Confirmed case(s)	Death(s)	Suspected case(s)	Probable Case(s)	Confirmed case(s)	Death(s)
Western Health Region One	950,266	4	0	0	0	56	0	2	1
Western Health Region Two	514,999	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Upper River Region	283,911	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
North Bank West	130,196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Bank East	129,629	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower River	88,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central River	257,332	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Total	2,354,433	4	0	0	0	57	0	3	1

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

Status	New	Cumulative
Quarantine	1	216
Completed quarantine	0	0
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries)	0	310
Contacts Traced	15	138
Total Tests conducted	4	61
Positive test result	0	3
Negative test result	4	58
Inconclusive test result	0	0

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"> Regular monitoring of the condition of all people under quarantine Tracing of contacts and contacts of contacts of the confirmed cases is still ongoing 4 new samples tested negative at MRCG and a repeat test on the probable case also tested negative 5 new samples collected and submitted for testing (results pending)
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two confirmed cases remain hospitalized/isolated and in a stable condition
Logistics/Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationwide assessment of PoEs, crossing points, regional medical stores and health facilities completed (report being awaited) Pledged ICT equipment and infrastructural support to the PHEOC delivered and received
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 TV and radio programs conducted covering 5 TV and 12 radio stations 1,470 posters developed and handed over to MoH 2 video spots with sign language messages developed and handed over to MoH 2 prominent Islamic scholars have taken forefront in the Covid-19 message dissemination 8,500 posters distributed to Regional Health Directorates for further distribution Social Media guidelines developed and in use to monitor media publications Conducted 2 press releases to refute fake news on covid-19 Large volume of calls to the toll-free 1025 hotline Summary of calls received on 1025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 468 calls received 23 calls were referred to contact tracing team, out of which 15 contacts were for followed 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
- MoH to implement WHO guidelines relative to immunization and ANC services
- Fumigation of the recently vacated quarantine facility and PHEOC
- 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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