



Report No. 7, 2020

Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 25th March 2020	Investigation Start Date: 17 March 2020 as of 18hrs.
Prepared by:	Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 7th 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:

- Laboratory results for the 4 samples sent to MRCG are still pending
- Compound of the third confirmed case put on quarantine (locked down) since the evacuation of the patient
- Cumulatively, the country still has a total of 3 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 1 probable case
- Probable case (co-traveler of the second confirmed case) has started developing mild pneumonia-like symptoms
- A second sample for confirmatory laboratory test to be collected on the 26th March, 2020 from the probable case
- Safe and dignified burial of the deceased case carried out by the Gambia Red Cross Society burial team
- 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 clinically stable

Regional situation: As of 25th March 2020, 43 African countries (including The Gambia) reported confirmed cases of COVID-19. Senegal (The Gambia's only immediate neighbour) reported 99 cases. The first set of cases in affected African countries were imported. However, local transmission is now on the rise.

Global situation: Since 31st December 2019 and as of 25th March 2020 at 16:10PM, a total of 454,939 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, 20,547 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:**
 - A 70-year old male Bangladeshi national arrived from Senegal on the 14th March after passing through four other countries
 - Onset of symptoms on 17th, reported to a public health facility on the 19th & 20th March. Passed away en route to EFSTH on the 20th March 2020
 - Sample collected on the 21st March and positive test received on the 22nd March 2020
 - Buried on the 25th of March, 2020 at the Jeshwang cemetery
- **Third Case**
 - A 71-year old Gambian, of URR origin (Numuyel Village), who recently returned from France
 - Arrived in The Gambia on the 17th March 2020 and travelled to Numuyel in his son's vehicle

- Manifestation of symptoms began on the 20th March 2020, sample collected 21st March and positive test result received on the 23rd March 2020
- **Probable Case**
 - 47yr old Bangladeshi national male
 - Travel companion of deceased Bangladeshi national
 - Sample collected on 23rd March and inconclusive test result received on 24th March 2020
 - Probable case currently on quarantine

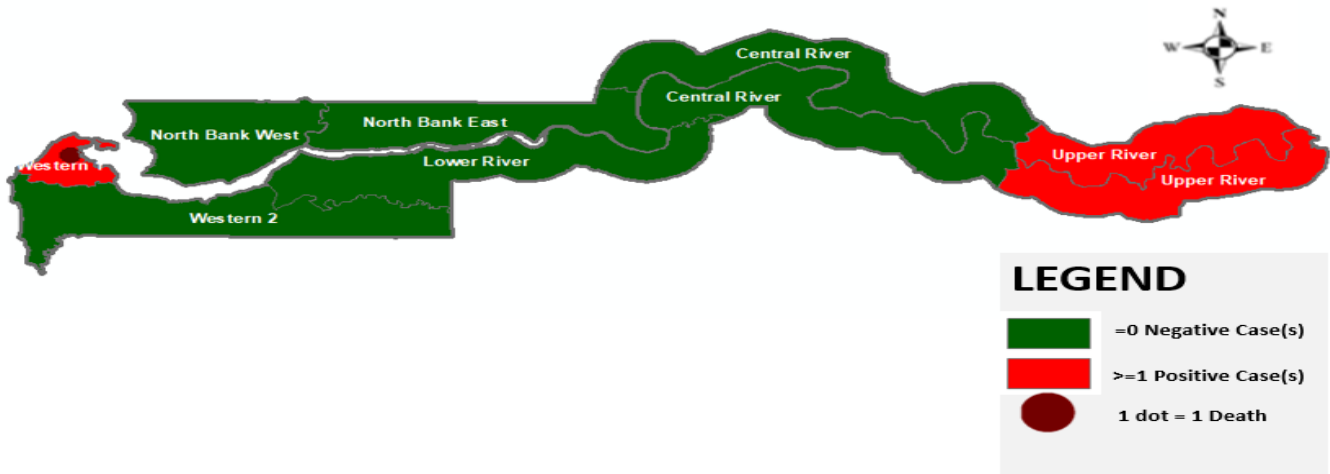


Fig 1: Map of The Gambia showing COVID-19 affected regions

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 by region

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	18	1	0	0	37	1	2	1
Western Health Region Two	514999	0	0	0	0	0	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	18	1	0	0	37	1	3	1

Table 2: Summary of some public health response outputs

Status	New	Cumulative
Quarantined	0	177
Completed quarantine	0	0
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries)	0	310
Contacts Traced	16	73
Total Tests conducted	0	52
Positive test result	0	3
Negative test result	0	47
Inconclusive test result	0	1

Major Response Activities

Table 3: Major response activities undertaken newly

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Press briefings ongoing • Daily coordination meetings ongoing • Statement issued by Supreme Islamic and Christian Councils advising the public to abide by government directives on the suspension of congregational prayers
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans underway to have 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
Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 samples collected but results from MRCCG are still pending
Logistics/Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics needs assessment conducted at the Sanatorium, EFSTH, Ferry Services and the Sea Port • Transfer of suspected and confirmed cases through the pre-hospital care ambulance services run by GRCS • Deployment of 100 security personnel to support response activities by JOC at quarantine facilities
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing country-wide community sensitization by several partners • U-Report poll ongoing to assess the level of understanding and to inform the public on COVID-19 • Additional risk communication materials with messages on the banning of public gatherings developed • Large volume of calls to the toll-free 1025 hotline • Summary of calls received on 1025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 821 calls received o 228 calls received related to community case surveillance reports

- o 315 calls received related to enquiry on signs and symptoms and prevention
- o 278 calls not related to COVID-19
- o 118 calls referred to Contact tracing team for follow-up

IV. Next Steps/Recommendations:

- Probable case to be transferred to treatment center
 - PPEs to be provided to all health personnel conducting outreach 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 BL3 Laboratory
 - Fumigation of the PHEOC
 - Recruit additional personnel for the response (including contact tracers and RRTs)
- 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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