REPORTED COVID-19 CASES PER SEX

female: 17
male: 32
NATIONAL SITUATION

The Gambia reported a total of 49 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 26 recoveries and 2 fatalities as of June 30th 2020. **Sixty-three** per cent of the confirmed cases are below the age of 40. The number of reported cases surged by 40 per cent in June. On the 10th June 2020, the president extended the state of public emergency for a further 21 days throughout the country.

REGIONS WITH CONFIRMED CASES

SOCIAL SERVICES
• **Face masks**

Ensuring that students and teachers are protected from COVID-19 and adhering to the WHO precautionary guidelines, UNFPA The Gambia on 22th June 2020, presented 20,000 facemasks to the Honourable Minister of Basic and Secondary Education, to support the resumption of school for grade 9 students to enable them participate in their final exams. Speaking during the presentation ceremony, UNFPA The Gambia Country Representative highlighted that the presentation of the masks is in a bid to ensure that students return to school in a safe and healthy environment. Mr Adeniyi expressed his belief that, the masks will support the students, especially the adolescent girls who we work for, noting that “we work to bridge the education gap for the adolescent girls because we believe she requires education to reach her fullest potential and to do this, she must be healthy and as we always say, health is wealth and education is important.”

The production of the 20,000 masks was entirely done by women entrepreneurs including female students at the Ida’s Ideas Fashion School. According to Tako Bajjie, 25, a student at the school, being able to use her passion for fashion and her sewing skills to contribute to the National COVID-19 Response, is a pride she will always remember.

**Read more:**

• **Aerobics**

Being in Quarantine can cause additional stress and challenge the mental health of many. Physical activity and relaxation techniques can be valuable to help persons in quarantine remain calm in addition to staying fit and healthy. UNFPA has signed a contract with a fitness coach to provide aerobics and workout sessions for people at the quarantine centres. The training includes Pilates (yoga) power stretch and body conditioning. Forty yoga mats have been procured for the aerobics workout sessions.

**COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE**

As government eases some of the state of public emergency restrictions it is critical that robust surveillance is in place to control the spread of COVID-19. There is need to significantly strengthen community surveillance to rapidly identify cases of COVID-19, and follow-up their contacts, monitor disease trends over time. Individuals in the communities can play a pivotal role in the surveillance of COVID-19 whereby, communities participate, monitor and reports to health authorities.
**RCCE**

- Decade of Action activities

The UN Working Group on Youth as part of its Decade of Action activities intends to organize series of webinars (brown bags) to discuss the implication of COVID-19 on young people, covering areas that deal with holistic youth empowerment such as education, economic, health, human rights, and governance amongst others. The webinars will seek suggested interventions to mitigate the negative impacts and discover any opportunities that may exist in the prevailing situation. The theme of the first webinar was on ‘Young People and COVID-19: Matters Arising’.

The panelist included the Representative of UNFPA Gambia CO who moderated the session, United Nations Resident Coordinator, National Youth Council Executive Director and a Women’s Rights Activist. The second episode was centered around "Addressing the Mental Health and Psycho-social Support Needs of Young People" during the pandemic.

*Watch recordings of the webinars here:*

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**Training of female politicians on peacebuilding and COVID-19**

With support from UNFPA through the UN Peacebuilding funded project on Increasing Women and Youth Participation in Decision Making and as Agents of Community Conflict Prevention, Think Young Women on May 30 commenced a 10-day training of women politicians in 6 regions of The Gambia on leadership and peacebuilding. The training brought together 10 women leaders of various age categories in each of the regions to build their leadership capacities.
Women’s Leadership = Peaceful and Inclusive Societies.

Given the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and its possible impact on the lives and livelihoods of women and their families in the country, the training included sessions on COVID-19 prevention and how women can contribute towards the response. Some of the women leaders have been actively involved in community sensitisation on COVID-19 and this training provided them with additional leadership skills to use in raising community awareness on the virus and supporting local response structures.

Speaking at the final training held in Greater Banjul Area which brought together participants from Banjul and the Kanifing Municipality, the Mayoress of Banjul, Rohey Malick Lowe stressed that “if women constitute more than 50 per cent of The Gambia’s population, investing in their empowerment is progress for the nation.”

Read more:
Launching of GBV hotline

The national GBV Helpline “1313” was successfully launched on 30th June 2020 by Paradise Foundation to support the national GBV response under the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare (MoWC&SW), in partnership with the PSSR Subcommittee Partners and UNFPA. The National GBV Helpline is the result of a collaboration between the MoWC&SW, CSO’s and supported by UNFPA through the COVID-19 MPTF project. The helpline will provide a mechanism for reporting incidences of domestic and gender based violence in homes and communities and ensure a referral pathway that provides victims and survivors of violence an effective response system.

Read more: 📌