



IDSR Weekly Epidemiology and Surveillance Bulletin

21st – 27th August 2023 | Epi-week 34, 2023

Introduction:

We are pleased to share our weekly epidemiological bulletin. This bulletin serves to inform all stakeholders at district, regional, national and international levels on disease trends, public health surveillance and interventions undertaken in detecting, preventing and responding to public health threats in The Gambia on a weekly basis.

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Active Outbreaks, Responses, Highlights, and Weekly IDSR Summary



Active Outbreaks and Responses

1. The national response to COVID-19 continues; see the latest COVID-19 SitRep available for additional details.
2. The last AKI case was recorded on the 29th of June 2023, response and other AKI related activities are ongoing at a de-escalated level. Please refer to the latest AKI SitRep for additional information

Highlights

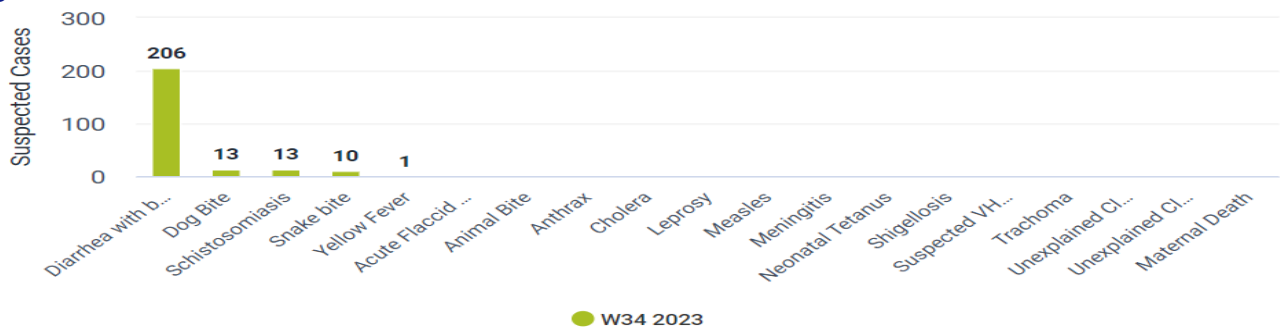


Figure 1: Cases reported into the national DHIS2, Week 34, 2023

- In Epi week-34, 206 cases of diarrhea with blood, 13 Dog Bite, 13 schistosomiasis, 10 snakebite and 1 suspected yellow fever case were reported into the national DHIS2 platform
- National timeliness and completeness were both **100%**
- The recurrent high number of Diarrhea with blood and Dog bite in some of the regions continue to be a cause for concern
- There was 12% increment in the number of diarrhea with blood from epi-week 33. Efforts are still ongoing to mount a thorough investigation into the phenomenon
- The three yellow fever samples received from CRR in epi-week 30 and 31 have been sent to Senegal for lab confirmation. The results are yet to be received. Surveillance officers from the region are encouraged to make periodic follow-up visit (active surveillance) to where the suspected cases emanate from
- The yellow fever suspect reported in epi week-34 was reported from western 2 and the rest results came out to be negative for the yellow fever virus. The test was conducted by the NPHL

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Reporting Coverage and Performance Ranking

Timeliness and completeness

Table 1. District Weekly IDSR Reporting Coverage, The Gambia, Epi-week 34, 2023

Regions	Number of reports Expected	Number of Reports Received	Number of Reports Received on Time	Timeliness (%)	Completeness (%)
Central River	11	11	11	100	100
Lower River	6	6	6	100	100
North Bank East	4	4	4	100	100
North Bank West	3	3	3	100	100
Upper River	7	7	7	100	100
Western 1	3	3	3	100	100
Western 2	8	8	8	100	100
The Gambia	42	42	42	100	100

Legend	≥80% on time and complete	≥50% – 79.9% on time and complete	<50% on time and complete
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- National timeliness and completeness of District Reporting continue to be impressive as all regions continue to score 100% for both reporting indicators. We implore on all the regions to maintain the momentum
- 100% for both national timeliness and completeness wasn't met in only five epi-weeks since epi-week one

Priority Diseases, Conditions and Events

Diarrhea with Blood (DWB)

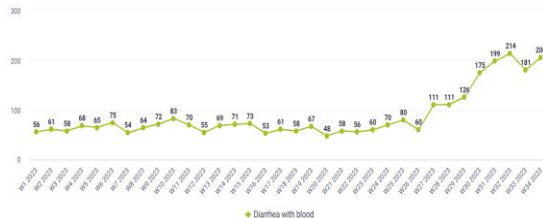


Figure 2: Reported cases of DWB, The Gambia, Epi-week 1- 34, 2023

- 206 cases were reported in Epi-week 34
- Of the 206 cases, 31.5% (65/206), 14.5% (30/206) and 14% (29/206) were reported from CRR, WR2 and WR1 respectively
- The increase in trend may be attributed to the increase in rains as sanitary conditions in most areas become poor during the rainy season
- Efforts are ongoing to establish the cause of the increased incidence

Acute flaccid paralysis

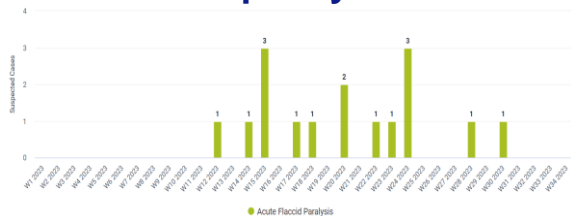


Figure 4: AFP cases reported, The Gambia, Epi-week 1- 34, 2023

- A total of 16 AFP cases have been recorded in the DHIS2 since Epi week 1
- All of the test results received so far are negative for both the wild polio virus and Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type (cVDPV2)
- All the regions except URR have reported at least an AFP case so far

Yellow fever

Figure 3: Reported suspected cases of Yellow fever, The Gambia, Epi-week 1-34, 2023



- 6 suspected cases of yellow fever have been reported since epi-week 1
- 66.6% (4/6), 16.7% (1/5) and 16.7% (1/5) of the suspected cases were reported by CRR, NBE and WR2 respectively as per the DHIS2 records
- The results of the 3 samples in epi-week 30 and 31 are yet to be received
- The test result for the yellow fever sample reported in epi-week 34 turns out **negative**

Schistosomiasis

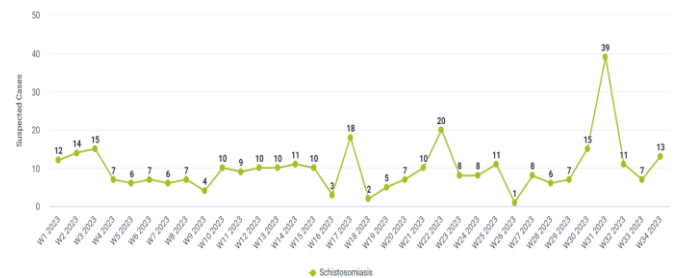


Figure 5: Reported cases of schistosomiasis, The Gambia, Epi-week 1-34, 2023

- 13 cases of schistosomiasis were reported in Epi-week 33
- This is 86% increment in the number of cases as compared to the previous week (epi-week 32)
- Again, 100% (13/13) of the cases were reported from CRR

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VPD Surveillance

Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)

Table 2: National and Regional Annualized Non-Polio AFP Rate as per EPI VPD surveillance database, The Gambia, Epi-week 1- 34, 2023

REGION	Under 15 Population	Total AFP Cases Wk 01-- Wk 34	Stool Adequacy	Annualized Non-Polio AFP Rate
Western Region 1	452970	7	100	2.36
Central River Region	117164	4	100	5.22
North Bank East Region	59461	1	100	2.57
Upper River Region	130995	4	100	4.67
Lower River Region	39007	1	100	3.92
North Bank West Region	59721	2	100	5.12
Western Region 2	259814	5	100	2.94
National	1119132	24	100	3.28

- 24 cases of AFP have been reported so far as per the EPI VPD surveillance data base
- All of the test results received so far are negative for both the wild polio virus and Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type (cVDPV2) and stool adequacy have been adequate for all the samples collected so far

Measles

Table 3: National and Regional Annualized Non-Measles Febrile Rash Rate as per EPI VPD surveillance database, The Gambia, Epi-week 1- 34, 2023

									Annualized Non-Measles Febrile Rash
Reporting Region	Total Population	Epi-linked	Clinically confirmed	Indeterminate (Equivocal)	Discarded (Negative)	Pending	Lab confirmed	Total	
CRR	274,260	0	0	0	19	4	10	33	10.60
LRR	91,309	0	0	0	5	1	0	6	8.37
NBE	139,188	0	0	0	85	6	10	101	93.40
NBW	139,796	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	6.56
URR	306,637	0	0	0	10	0	1	11	4.99
WR1	1,060,321	0	0	0	6	0	2	8	0.87
WR2	608,179	0	0	0	9	2	1	12	2.26
National	2,619,690	0	0	0	140	13	24	177	8.17

- A total of 177 suspected cases have been recorded in the EPI VPD surveillance database of which 13.55% (24/177) are lab confirmed

- 5 - COVID-19 update

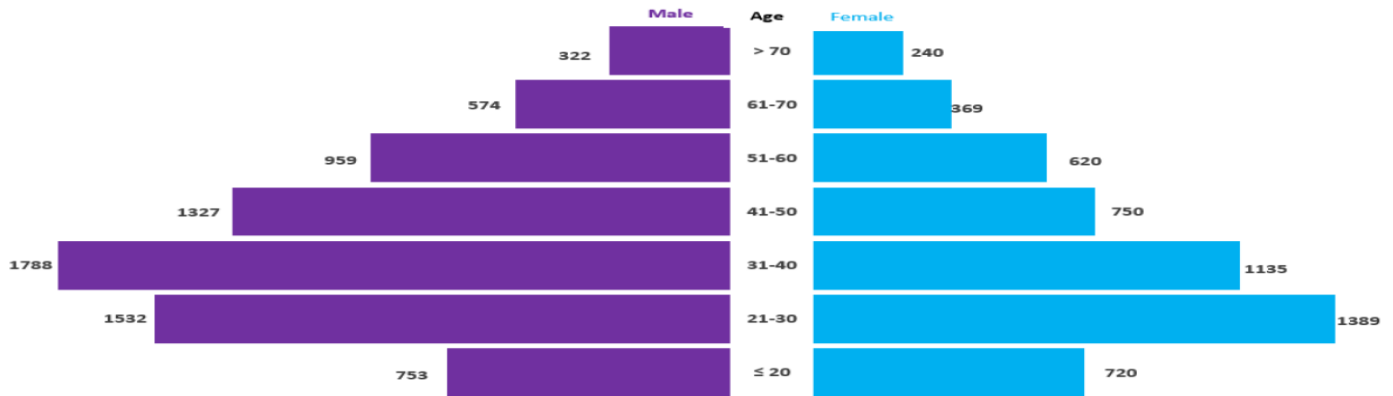


Figure 6: Age and sex distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases, March 2020 to August 2023, The Gambia

- A total of 12,684 confirmed cases have been recorded in the country since the start of the pandemic and 372 of those have died (CFR = 2.9%)
- About 58% of the confirmed cases are males
- About 58% of the confirmed cases are at most 40 years

Table 4: Regional Test positivity rate for COVID-19, 14th March 2023 - 14th August 2023, The Gambia

REGION	TOTAL PCR TEST CONDUCTED	TOTAL RDT TEST CONDUCTED	TOTAL TEST CONDCUTED (PCR+RDT)	POSITIVE RESULT	TEST POSITIVITY RATE
CRR	10	37	47	0	0
LRR	1	21	22	1	4.5
NBE	5	15	20	4	20
NBW	7	1	8	0	0
URR	7	72	79	1	1.3
WR 1	495	37	532	35	6.6
WR2	157	24	181	8	4.4
NATIONAL	682	207	898	49	5.5

- The number of COVID-19 tests remains low throughout the period across the country
- Western 1 recorded the highest number of tests (532) and the highest test positivity rate (6.6%) while North Bank West conducted the lowest number of tests (8) with a test positivity rate of (0%)
- The national test positivity rate for the period was 5.5%

Synopsis of the COVID-19 Vaccination

Table 5: Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered by region

REGION	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
CRR	40762	66698	107460
LRR	26313	41462	67775
NBER	21388	33385	54773
NBWR	25775	40128	65903
URR	51253	64948	116201
WR1	139653	151094	290747
WR2	69891	90881	160772
TOTAL	375035	488596	863631

- The types of vaccines administered across the country include Astrazeneca, Johnson and Johnson, Pfizer and Sinopharm
- Johnson and Johnson is the highest number of vaccine doses administered so far in the country with 436,153 doses administered so far accounting for 50.5% of all doses administered
- The highest number of doses is been administered in WR1 region so far but this does not translate to vaccination coverage

Table 6: Percentage of population who received at least 1 dose of COVID-19 Vaccine by region

REGION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION
CRR	32.4
LRR	47.9
NBE	32.3
NBW	37.5
URR	35.7
WR1	22.7
WR2	22.7
NATIONAL	27.6

- Lower River Region recorded the highest vaccination coverage so far while URR and WR1 recording the lowest
- The national coverage stands at 27.6. This is way below the 70% target recommended by the WHO

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Other Diseases/Events of Public Health Importance

Malaria, RDT positive cases, all districts

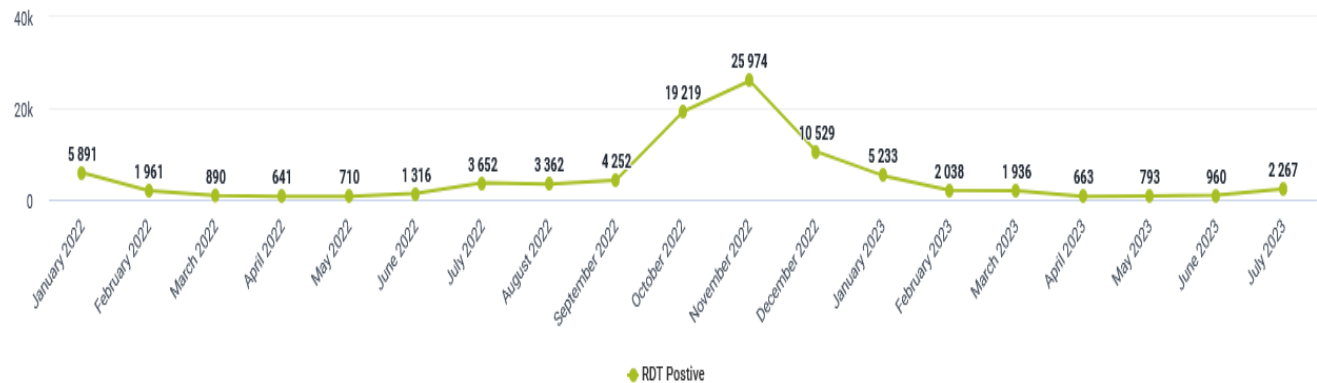


Figure 7: Monthly Reported RDT positive Malaria cases, The Gambia, 2022 and 2023

- Malaria cases continue to steadily decline monthly since November of 2022 but has slightly started increasing since May of 2023
- The number of cases reported in January of this year (2023) is very similar to what was reported in January of 2022
- The number of cases recorded in June and July of this year are lower than that recorded in the same months last year
- There was 45.7% decrease in the number of malaria reported across the country from December 2022 to January 2023. This is a common trend and it can be attributed to the reduction of mosquito breeding sites across the country as we go deeper into the dry season. Further studies can be done to test this hypothesis
- There was 5.96% and 66.78% reduction in malaria cases from February 2023 to March 2023 and from March 2023 to April 2023 respectively
- There was also a 19.6% from April to May 2023, 19.9% increment from May to June 2023 and 136.14% from June to July
- The malaria case base surveillance is expected to commenced in the North Bank Region in epi-week 35. This will require an investigation to every confirmed malaria case in the two regions to check further spread

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NTD Scorecard

■ Gambia Neglected Tropical Diseases Scorecard : Gambia (H2/2022)

■ On track Not applicable ▲ Increase
■ Progress No data ▼ Decrease
■ Not on track

National

Lymphatic Filariasis	Schistosomiasis		Onchocerciasis		Leprosy		Human African Trypanosomiasis		Programme Management and Finance				Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis	Trachoma
	LF verification dossier submitted	Proportion of districts mapped for SCH	Proportion of onchocerciasis cases reported	Proportion of morbidity reported on Onchocerciasis	Number of health care workers trained on leprosy case management	Prop patients with disability (Grade 2) at diagnosis/100,000	% districts where trypanosomiasis is diagnosed and managed in livestock	% districts where trypanosomiasis is diagnosed and managed in humans	Number of advocacy meetings conducted	% government budget contributed to the implementation of the Annual Operation Plan	Proportion of partners contribution as per the ACP	% of IU with CBS for endemic NTDs (SCH, STH, Trachoma, LF, Human Rabies, HAT)	Proportion of districts mapped for STH	Proportion of regions with Community Based Surveillance for Trachoma
0	0%	0%	0%	0%	1	1	0%	▲0%	▲0	0%	▲0%	0%	0%	0%
NTD Program Report	Mapping report	DHIS2	DHIS2	DHIS2	NLTP	NLTP	DLS report	DHIS2	Activity report	Budget report	Budget report	Program Report	Mapping report	NEHP

Subnational

Region	Lymphatic Filariasis			Schistosomiasis		Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis		Onchocerciasis	Trachoma		SBCC		WASH		Snake bites envenoming			Leprosy	
	Number of confirmed Lymphatic Filariasis cases	Number of LF cases treated at the health facility level	Number of health regions with Lymphatic filariasis (LF) morbidity management and disability prevention (MMDP) services	Therapeutic coverage for Schistosomiasis MDA	Number of cases treated in health facilities in all districts	STH MDA Therapeutic coverage	Number of STH cases treated in health facilities in all districts	Number of secondary eye units treating Onchocerciasis	Number of trachoma cases reported	Proportion of Trachoma Trichiasis (TT) cases detected and managed through surgery (TRABUT)	% districts where SBCC was conducted	Number of advocacy meetings conducted nationally	% households in endemic districts where WASH is implemented	Number of snake bites reported at HF	Number of deaths reported due to snake bites at HF	Number of Health Care Workers trained on Snakebite management	Number of patients with disability due to snakebite envenoming	Number of notified cases of Leprosy	
Gambia	0	0	0	▲0%	236	▲98%	▲5,957	0	▲2	0%	0%	0	0%	▲29	0	0	0	0	
Central River	0	0	0	▲0%	▲224	▲92%	▲613	0	0	0%	0%	0	0%	7	0	0	0	0	
Lower River	0	0	0	0%	1	0%	▲246	0	0	0%	0%	0	0%	5	0	0	0	0	
North Bank East	0	0	0	0%	0	▲92%	▲697	0	0	0%	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	
North Bank West	0	0	0	0%	0	▲98%	▲262	0	▲1	0%	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	
Upper River	0	0	0	▲0%	▲11	▲83%	▲943	0	▲1	0%	0%	0	0%	1	0	0	0	0	
Western 1	0	0	0	0%	0	▲0%	▲2,152	0	0	0%	0%	0	0%	1	0	0	0	0	
Western 2	0	0	▲0	0%	1	▲0%	▲1,044	0	0	0%	0%	0	0%	6	0	0	0	0	
	OPD Registers	OPD and Laboratory	Program Report	Activity reports	DHIS2	MDA report	DHIS2	DHIS2	DHIS2	NEHP	DHPE	Program Report	EDC/WASH	DHIS2	DHIS2	DHIS2	DHIS2	DHIS2	

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Reported cases (suspected/confirmed) and events by region, week 34, 2023

Data Name	Central River	Lower River	North Bank East	North Bank West	Upper River	Western 1	Western 2	TOTAL
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Animal Bite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhea with blood	65	23	17	14	28	29	30	206
Dog Bite	2	0	2	0	0	5	4	13
Human Rabies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lymphatic Filariasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maternal Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schistosomiasis	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snake bite	2	0	2	5	0	0	1	10
Suspected VHF (incl. EVD)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trachoma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unexplained Cluster Health Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unexplained Cluster of Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

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Recommendations and public health measures

- The AKI Incident Management System should mobilize needed resources to conduct a drug recall mop up exercise across the country targeting health facilities, pharmacies and drug stores
- Ministry of Health should partner with the Ministry of Agriculture to implement measures that will reduce the incidence of dog bite in the country
- The Directorate of Health Promotion and Education should continue the health education on AKI preventive measures
- Healthcare workers in CRR should include prevention and control of schistosomiasis in their school health programs in order to reduce the incidence of schistosomiasis in the two regions
- Testing of the samples from the three suspected yellow fever cases from CRR in epi-week 30 and 31 should be expedited by the NPHL to draw conclusion on the investigations
- Health workers are encouraged to include malaria prevention and control in their routine health talks as we are witnessing a gradual increase in the number of cases nationally
- The Expanded Program on Immunization should continue mobilizing resources to conduct more COVID-19 mass vaccination campaigns to boost the national coverage
- All regions are encouraged to share this bulletin with all staff under their purview using the different social media platforms at their disposal
- The different surveillance data receiving institutions within the Ministry of Health should work together and put in place mechanisms to correct data discrepancies.

- 11 - Partners



