



IDSR Weekly Epidemiology and Surveillance Bulletin

11th – 17th September 2023, Epi-week 37, 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.

Published by:

Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit; National Public Health Laboratories; Expanded Program on Immunization; Health Management and Information Systems Unit

Email: edcweeklybulletin@gmail.com

- Table of Contents -

1. Active Outbreaks, Responses, Highlights, and Weekly IDSR Summary
2. Reporting Coverage
3. Priority Diseases, Conditions and Events
4. VPD Surveillance
5. COVID-19 Update
6. COVID-19 vaccination
7. Other Diseases/Events of Public Health Importance
8. Summary table of all suspected cases reported by region
9. Recommendations and public health measures

- 1 -

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 37, 2023

- In Epi week-36, 95 cases of diarrhea with blood, 29 schistosomiasis, 14 Dog Bite and 5 snakebite were reported into the national DHIS2 platform
- National timeliness and completeness were both **95.91%**
- The drop in the timeliness and completeness is becoming a concern because it is not usual trend.
- The drop in timeliness and completeness is due to the lack of report been sent from Upper River Region

- 2 -

Reporting Coverage and Performance Ranking

Timeliness and completeness

Table 1. District Weekly IDSR Reporting Coverage, The Gambia, Epi-week 37, 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	5	5	71.4	71.4
Western 1	3	3	3	100	100
Western 2	8	8	8	100	100
The Gambia	42	40	40	95.9	95.9

Legend	≥80% on time and complete	≥50% – 79.9% on time and complete	<50% on time and complete
---------------	----------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------

- National timeliness and completeness of District Reporting continue to be impressive but the weekly data from one district in both CRR and URR were not reported into the DHIS2. As a result, the national timeliness and completeness dwindled to 95.1%
- 100% for both national timeliness and completeness is now not been met for two consecutive weeks now

Priority Diseases, Conditions and Events

Diarrhea with Blood (DWB)

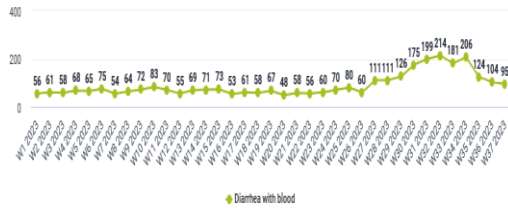


Figure 2: Reported cases of DWB, The Gambia, Epi-week 1- 37, 2023

- 95 cases were reported in Epi-week 37
- Of the 95 cases, 45.2% (43/95), 13.6% (13/95), 10.5% (10/95) and 10.5% (10/95) were reported from CRR, WR2, LRR and WR1 respectively
- There has been a decrease in the number of cases for the past 3 weeks

Acute flaccid paralysis

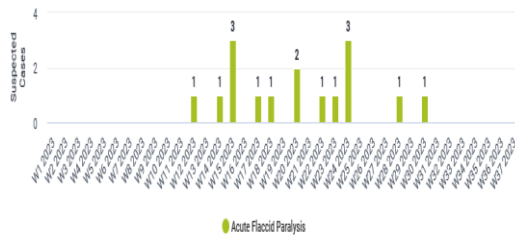
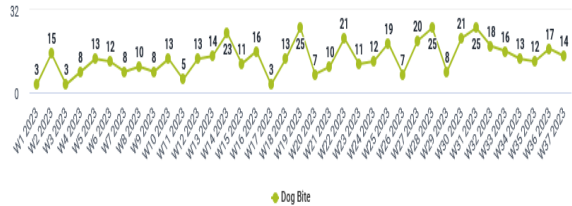


Figure 4: AFP cases reported, The Gambia, Epi-week 1- 37, 2023

- 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 the Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV)
- All the regions except URR have reported at least one AFP case so far

Dog bite

Figure 3: Reported Dog bite cases, The Gambia, Epi-week 1-37, 2023



- 14 dog bite cases were reported in epi-week 37
- A total of 492 cases have been reported since epi-week 1. Of these, 44.3% (218/492), 19.3% (95/492), 11.1% (55/478) and 10.1% (50/492) of the cases were reported by WR1, WR2, LRR and URR respectively
- North bank east reported the least number of cases (20) so far since epi-week 1

Schistosomiasis

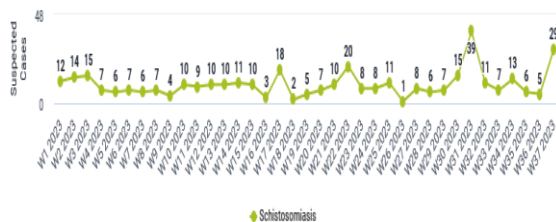


Figure 5: Reported cases of schistosomiasis, The Gambia, Epi-week 1-37, 2023

- A total of 377 cases have been reported since epi-week 1
- 29 cases of schistosomiasis were reported in Epi-week 36
- Again, 86.4% (326/377) of the total cases were reported from CRR

- 4 -

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- 37, 2023

REGION	Under 15 Population	No of cases expected	Total AFP Cases Wk. 01-- Wk. 36	Stool Adequacy	Annualized Non-Polio AFP Rate
Western Region 1	452970	9	7	100	2.17
Central River Region	117164	3	4	100	4.80
North Bank East Region	59461	2	1	100	2.36
Upper River Region	130995	3	4	100	4.29
Lower River Region	39007	1	1	100	3.60
North Bank West Region	59721	2	2	100	4.71
Western Region 2	259814	5	5	100	2.70
National	1119132	25	24	100	3.01

- 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- 37, 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	21	0	10	33	10.76
LRR	91,309	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	9.24
NBE	139,188	0	0	0	93	0	14	100	93.9
NBW	139,796	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	6.03
URR	306,637	0	0	0	12	0	2	14	5.5
WR1	1,060,321	0	0	0	12	0	2	14	1.59
WR2	608,179	0	0	0	10	3	2	15	2.77
National	2,619,690	0	0	0	154	2	30	188	8.69

- A total of 188 suspected cases have been recorded in the EPI VPD surveillance database of which and 15.95% (30/188) are lab confirmed

- 4 -

COVID-19 update

- 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 = 2.93%)
- About 58% of the confirmed cases are males

Table 4: Total number of COVID-19 test conducted by region, epi-week 1 to epi-week 37, The Gambia, 2023

REGION	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	TOTAL TEST CONDUCTED
CRR	155	5	200
LRR	560	6	566
NBE	87	12	99
NBW	24	0	24
URR	204	13	217
WR 1	1651	42	16
WR 2	356	15	371
TOTAL	3037	93	3130

- The number of COVID-19 tests remains low across the country
- Western 1 recorded the highest number of tests (1687) and a test positivity rate of (2.4%) while North Bank East conducted the lowest number of tests (24) with a test positivity rate of (0%)
- The national test positivity rate for the period was 2.97%

Synopsis of the COVID-19 Vaccination

Table 5: Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered by region as of 26th September, 2023

REGION	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
CRR	41,955	68,919	110,874
LRR	26,919	42,379	69,298
NBER	21,810	34,408	56,218
NBWR	25,905	40,272	66, 177
URR	53,141	68,333	121,474
WR1	141,844	153,367	295,211
WR2	71,273	92,595	163,868
TOTAL	382,847	500,273	883,120

- 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 439,523 doses administered so far accounting for 49.76% of all doses administered followed by the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine of which 364,751 doses have been administered so far
- The highest number of doses is been administered in WR1 region so far but this does not translate to vaccination coverage in the region

Table 6: Percentage of population who received at least 1 dose of COVID-19 Vaccine by region as of 26th September, 2023

REGION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION
CRR	33.4
LRR	48.5
NBE	32.9
NBW	37.6
URR	36.7
WR1	22.9
WR2	23.0
NATIONAL	28.0

- Lower River Region recorded the highest vaccination coverage so far while URR and WR1 recorded the lowest
- The national coverage stands at 28.0. This is way below the 70% target recommended by the WHO

- 6 -

Other Diseases/Events of Public Health Importance

Malaria, RDT positive cases, all districts

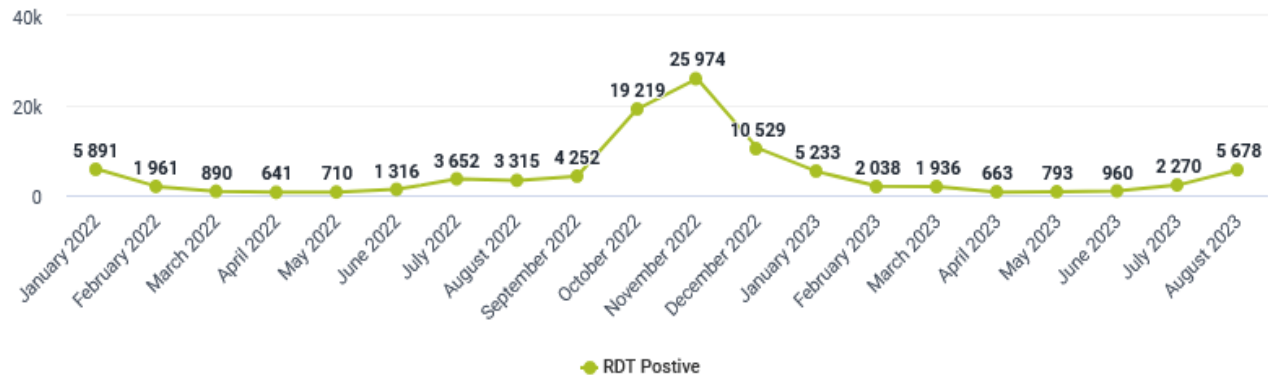


Figure 7: Monthly Reported RDT positive Malaria cases, The Gambia, 2022 and 2023

- Malaria cases were steadily declining since November of 2022 but has started increasing since May of 2023
- The number of cases reported in January of this year (2023) is 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 a 60.02% increment from July 2023 to August 2023. This could be associated to the increase in mosquitoes because of increase rains and suitable breeding ground for mosquitoes
- The malaria case base surveillance has started in the North Bank East and West in epi-week 34. This entails an investigation into every confirmed malaria case in their communities to check further spread by instituting control measures

-7-

Reported cases (suspected/confirmed) and events by region, week 37, 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	43	10	1	9	9	10	13	95
Dog Bite	2	0	0	0	1	5	6	14
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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schistosomiasis	27	0	0	0	1	1	0	29
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snake bite	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	5
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
COVID-19	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

-8-

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
- Healthcare workers in CRR should include prevention and control messages of schistosomiasis in their school health programs in order to reduce the incidence of schistosomiasis in the two regions
- Health workers are encouraged to include malaria prevention and control messages 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



