

Heal Zimbabwe

13 May 2020

lockdown update

Introduction

On the 19th of April, Zimbabwe extended its lockdown with 14 days as a way of escalating measures of reducing the spread of COVID-19. The country's extension illustrates the government's commitment towards effectively containing the virus in the country. The current partial lockdown relaxed restrictions on mining companies, agricultural and food producers, among others as a way of ensuring constant supply of revenue to the government and food. The government also rolled out social assistance programs for vulnerable households including the elderly, vendors and People with Disabilities as a way of reinforcing the lockdown extension. The government's Task Force on COVID-19 also intensified its outreach activities to establish district and provincial isolation centres for cases of COVID-19 across the country.

Issues covered in this Update

In this report, Heal Zimbabwe's Early Warning and Early Response Situation Room provides an update on: how communities are responding to the extended lockdown, availability and cost of face masks, the conduct of lockdown enforcement officers, the availability and quality of health care services for COVID-19 and other diseases, and the availability of information on COVID-19 in local communities.

Methodology

A total of 4 000 trained Early Warning and Early Response Committee members and at least 5 000 community members who participate in HZT's outreach activities, CBOs operating in areas where Heal Zimbabwe operates and Heal Zimbabwe's Peace Clubs provides and verify information in this update.

Presentation of Updates

Manicaland Province

Mutasa

Community members in Ward 31 - Hauna Growth Point stayed in their homes. Police officers were turning away those who did not have masks from the Growth Point. Shops in Ward 31 were open and most of the basic commodities were available including masks, each costing US\$2.00.

Buhera

Community members in Ward 5, Ward 6 and Ward 10 were moving around covering their faces with home-made masks and head wraps. Police officers in Ward 5 and 6 were turning away those who did not have masks from Jaggars, Dorowa and Buhera Office shopping centres. Most

shops were open in these wards. However, none of them had masks in their stocks.

Chipinge

Community members in Ward 1 and Ward 3 were moving around wearing homemade masks. Police officers were turning away those who did not have masks. Shops in Ward 1 were open from 0900 hours to 1500 hours. Community members were complaining over the price of sanitary pads which are now costing US\$3.00. On the 12th of May, two stray lions attacked a man in Rimbi village. The man is currently admitted at St Peters Mission Hospital. This incident shocked community members who, two weeks ago were taking pictures of stray elephants. Stray wild animals have caused security concerns among community members.

Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 15, Ward 20, Ward 5 and Ward 3 were moving around wrapping their faces with head wraps and home-made masks. Police officers were turning away those who did not have masks from local shopping centres. There were no masks at Ngangu shopping centre in Ward 15. These areas have not received any COVID-19 related assistance from the government since the beginning of the lockdown.

Makoni

Community members Ward 12 stayed in their homes. At around 0900 hours, Police officers were turning away those who did not have masks from Tandi shopping centre. Community members highlighted that women and girls were having difficulties in finding shops with sanitary pads in the ward.

Nyanga North

A group of police officers were spotted ensuring that people at Avila shopping centre wear masks. Customers were encouraged to exercise social distancing and give each other turns to get into the shops. However, cases of malaria continue to rise in the area although people are being encouraged to seek medication from Village Health Workers.

Mashonaland West Province

Magunje

It is now business as usual at Magunje Growth Point, with most people flocking into the township for non-essential businesses. Police officers from Magunje Police Station have been ensuring that everyone in the Growth Point wears a mask. Most shops at the Growth Point are now selling cooking oil in US dollars only, pegging it at US\$3.50. Community members from ward 10 highlighted that they have not received any COVID-19 related aid from the government since the beginning of the lockdown.

Mashonaland Central Province

Muzarabani

Although community members from Ward 17-Hoya are staying at home, most of those who move around public places move around without covering their faces. This has been worsened by shop operators at Hoya Growth Point who are not enforcing social distancing for their customers. The police have also not taken an active role in ensuring that people wear their masks and observe social distancing.

Harare Metropolitan Province

Domboshava

Community members in Ward 4 were moving around Mungate Shopping centre. All shops were open and had most of the basic commodities including mealie-meal, salt and masks. A group of police officers were turning away those who did not have masks from the shopping centre. Community members highlighted that they have not yet received any COVID-19 related aid since the start of the lockdown.

Masvingo Province

Zaka

Community members are still staying at their homes. Police officers continue to peacefully enforce the lock down and making sure shops are closed at 1500hrs. Community members continue to put on masks and or head wraps whenever they are outside their homes.

Gutu

Community members from ward 5, 6,7,31, and 41 continue to stay at home. People continue to put on masks whenever they are in public places. Police continue to peacefully enforce the lock down. Prices for basic goods remain high and women in the area have highlighted that they can no longer afford to purchase sanitary pads which now cost ZW\$65.00 a packet.

Bikita

Community members from Ward 32, Ward 20, Ward 12 and Ward 10 continue to stay in their homes. Police officers continue to peacefully enforce the lock down and community members continue to wear their masks whenever they visiting public places. Basic goods continue to be scarce and very expensive for most households in the district.

Mwenezi

Community members from Neshuro Growth Point continue to stay in their homes. People are wearing of masks in public places and police officers continue to peacefully enforce the lock down. Prices of goods have also not changed and they remain expensive. No food packs have yet been handed out to community members by the government to help ease the effects of the lockdown.

Chivi

People in the rural villages of Ward 25 and 26 are not staying in their homes nor observing any of the lockdown measures. They are moving around and frequenting business centres without masks. Most community members are done harvesting their crops. Most community members are now brewing traditional beer as a way of generating income for their households. Police officers are only enforcing the lockdown at Ngundu business centre, ensuring that people stay in their homes and put on masks whenever they visit public spaces. Community members were gathered at Masunda Secondary where they were receiving food aid today. The distribution exercise was orderly and social distancing was being observed.

Chiredzi

Community members continue to stay in their homes. Those who are going to work are putting on their masks and police officers are peacefully enforcing the lockdown. Prices of basic goods have also gone up. Residents highlighted that they have not seen subsidized mealie meal for the past 2 weeks, thereby forcing them to buy expensive mealie-meal from the black market. They further highlighted that this was also worsened by the fact that the government has not given them any assistance to help them during the lockdown.

Masvingo

Police officers were demanding clearance letters allowing people to move in and Masvingo CBD. Community members also lamented that the ZUPCO buses were now failing to match up the number of people commuting to town every day. This has resulted in people failing to observe social distancing when queuing for ZUPCOs and most people are being left stranded in town after work when the buses have

finished their trips. Vendors whose stalls were destroyed have been instructed that they should re-register and they do this at Mucheke administration office in order for them to be considered at Garikai market (Chitima) and downtown market stalls. A lot of people were gathered there today, without observing social distancing.

Matabeleland North

Lupane

A few people were arrested for loitering and not wearing their face masks at Lupane centre. Lupane Local Board in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare also disinfected some of the rooms at Lupane State University which is being used as the Provincial Quarantining Centre. These rooms had been occupied by the 23 returnees who were released yesterday. By late afternoon, most shops in Lupane hiked prices of their products in response to changes in the black market forex exchange rates. Community members from Pupu, Mzola, Tshongokwe and Makovula stayed in their homes. However, women and girls in Emlonyeni frequent the water points in the morning and evening without masks.

Mashonaland East

Murehwa

Only a few community members from Ward 27 wear on face masks when visiting public places. It is still business as usual for most community members and this has been worsened by the fact that the police has not been actively enforcing compliance. Community members continue to gather in groups, especially at shopping centres without observing social distancing. However, in Ward 30, people are complying with the terms of the lockdown, wearing masks in public places and observing social distancing. This could be as a result of the fact that police officers and sold