

# Heal Zimbabwe

## 22 May 2020

lockdown update

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# 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 21 were roaming around without wearing masks. In Ward 31, community member were moving around wearing homemade masks. There were no police officers seen today in Ward 21. At around 0800 hours, police had already started moving around Hauna Growth Point to enforce the lockdown.

#### Buhera

Community members in Ward 5 stayed at home. A group of police officers were seen around 09:00hours turning away those who did not have masks from local shopping centres. Shops in Ward 5 had most of the basic commodities including mealie meal costing ZW\$180, cooking oil ZW\$150, salt ZW\$100 and no masks were available.

#### Chipinge

Community members in Ward 1 were roaming around wearing homemade masks and head wraps. A group of police officers were seen around 12:00hours turning away those who did not have masks. Shops in Ward 1 had most of the basic commodities including mealie meal costing ZW\$180 for a 10kg, cooking oil ZW\$140, salt ZW\$100.

#### Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 8 were roaming around without masks. A group of police officers were seen around 14:00hours enforcing the lockdown, turning away those who did not have masks. Shops in Ward 8 had most of the basic commodities including mealie meal costing ZW\$150, cooking oil ZW\$150, and salt ZW\$30.

#### Makoni

Community members in Ward 12 were moving around without masks. A group of police officers were seen around 09:00hours turning away those who did not have masks from local shops. Shops in Ward 12 had most of the basic commodities. A 10Kg bag of mealie meal was costing US\$7, cooking oil US\$5 and salt US\$1,50.

#### Harare Metropolitan Province

##### Domboshava

Community members in Ward 4 were roaming around. A group of police officers were seen around 09:00hours turning away those who did not have masks from Mungate shopping centre. Supermarkets in Ward 4 had most of the basic commodities. A 10Kg of mealie meal was being sold at ZW\$180, cooking oil ZW\$150, and salt ZW\$50.

##### Hopley

At around 1700 hours, a group of soldiers assaulted residents in Ward 1 - Zone 2, 3 and 5 who were caught moving around. Women who were selling vegetables at a local vending market also suffered the same fate. Most people in Hopley no longer afford to stay indoors as they are faced with hunger and shortage of savings.

##### Mabvuku

Community members in Old and New Mabvuku are no longer staying in their homes. People are operating their businesses as usual without observing social distancing. Most shops in Mabvuku no longer sanitize their customers. At Kamunhu Business Centre in Ward 19 shops and beer halls are open throughout the day.

#### Mashonaland East Province

##### Murehwa

Community members in Ward 27 were moving around without wearing masks. They were claiming that people in rural areas are safe from the virus. People are now resorting to traditional beer being brewed in the communities. This is despite the fact that about 3 weeks ago, police arrested people who were responsible for brewing the beer in ward 27. Prices of basic commodities have gone up and now most of the people who are less privileged are now heavily relying on aid from the Ministry of social welfare.

#### Mashonaland West

##### Norton

People are not staying in their homes. Most people rely on informal industry to earn a basic living yet these were ordered to stay closed throughout the lockdown. However, police enforcing the lockdown are requesting for pass from community members to travel to Chegutu.

##### Hurungwe

Community members in Ward 15 are no longer staying at home. There is no police to enforce the lockdown in Ward 15 and shops at Chiedza Business Centre are operating as usual, from morning up to 8pm. However, community members highlighted that basic commodities such as sugar and mealie meal are now scarce.

#### Matabeleland North

##### Lupane

It was business as usual at Lupane centre. People are back to their usual daily business activities except for those in transport business. Bars were open and allowing patrons to drink inside and closed at 4:30pm. Vending activities are back and there was no policing in that regard. Basic commodities are not available in the main shops and are flooding the black market. A bottle of 750ml cooking oil is costing SAR70 at the parallel market. Community members are slowly disregarding wearing of masks in public places. Public transport connecting rural areas remains unavailable and most shops some remote parts rural are finding it hard to restock. To access services, citizens are now resorting to using animal drawn scotch carts. This is evidenced by increased volume of scotch carts at local clinics and St Luke's hospital, major shops, and other essential government departments.

