

Heal Zimbabwe

23 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

Mashonaland West Province

Norton

Members of the Apostolic Faith Church were gathered in Damafalls for their church service, despite the ban on gatherings. Police officers were enforcing the lockdown were spotted at Calf business centre, arresting people who were moving around without wearing face masks. However, beer halls like Mother and Son, Big Fish were open up to 1800 hours. Police officers in Norton are now taking bribes from shop owners to operate freely. Community members are now buying mealie-meal from local tuck shops where they are being charged US\$8.00 for a

10kg.

Magunje

Community members in Ward 10 are still staying in their homes. Police officers were enforcing the lockdown at Magunje Growth Point, arresting people who were roaming around without wearing masks. Local shops have hiked their prices such that a 2kg of sugar is now being sold for ZW\$120.

Hurungwe

Community members in Ward 24 are still staying in their homes. Shops at Madudzo shopping centre were open and serving only people wearing face masks. On the 22nd of May, local village heads distributed rice from the Ministry of Social Welfare. Each family received 2kgs of rice.

Matabeleland North Province

Lupane

There was a bigger crowd today at Zapalala supermarket, as people tried to buy sugar. The majority of citizens were covering their faces using different kinds of masks. Only a handful of people managed to get it. Sugar and other basic commodities have disappeared from local shops, forcing people to resort to black market suppliers. Community members highlighted that workers from Zapalala staff diverted the stock to black market where a 2 kg packet is fetching 50 rands. Almost all shops in Lupane do not have thermometers to screen test customers temperature when entering their shops. At Menyezwa Ward, the road side firewood market was closed and there were less people at the local shops. At St Pauls Ward there were few people as compared to other days. However, most of the people who were at St Pauls shopping centre were not wearing face masks.

Manicaland Province

Mutasa

Community members in Ward 5 were roaming around wearing homemade masks. There were no police officers to enforce the lockdown. Shops in Ward 5 had most of the basic commodities including mealie meal which was costing ZWL\$180 for a 10kg and cooking oil ZWL\$150. Community members were complaining with the police officers as they were neglecting Ward 5 and they were only enforcing in Ward 31. In Ward 31, people were moving around wearing homemade masks and head wraps. A group of police officers were seen around 08:00hours at Hauna Growth Point turning away those who did not have masks. In Ward 20, community members were roaming around without masks. A group of police officers were seen at around 1000 hours turning away those who did not have masks from local shops.

Buhera

Community members in Ward 5 and Ward 6 were roaming around wearing homemade masks. A group of police officers were seen at around 0700 hours enforcing the lockdown, turning away those who did not have masks from Buhera Office and Jagers shops. Community members highlighted that they were now running out of food and government's assistance has taken too long to help cushion them from the effects of the lockdown.

Chipinge

Community members in Ward 3 were roaming around without masks. There were no police officers seen enforcing the lockdown. Shops in Ward 3 had most of the basic commodities including mealie meal which was pegged at ZW\$220, cooking oil costing ZW\$150, and salt costing ZW\$50.

Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 8 were roaming around without masks. A group of police officers were seen around 1000 hours enforcing the lockdown at Nyanyadzi business centre. Shops in Ward 8 had most of the basic commodities. A 10Kg of mealie meal was costing ZW\$160, whilst cooking oil was \$US5 and salt was being sold at ZW\$50.

Makoni

Community members in Ward 32 stayed at home. A group of police officers were seen at around 0900 hours turning away those who did not have masks from local shopping centres. Shops in Ward 32 had most of the basic commodities including mealie meal which was costing ZW\$170, cooking oil costing ZW\$130 and salt being sold at ZW\$85.

Masvingo Province

Mashava

People in Mashava are still abiding by the lockdown measures. Police were peacefully enforcing the lockdown at the local shops. Community members are also wearing their masks whenever they are moving around in public places. Community members were happy that they now have a ZUPCO bus which transports people to Masvingo town. Nonetheless, they highlighted that police officers who are manning road blocks between Mashava and Masvingo CBD are making it difficult for people to travel for essential goods in Masvingo by demanding clearance letters from passengers. Community members highlighted that these clearances were only being issued at Chibi office, and yet there was no public transport operating between Mashava and Chibi office.

Mwenezi

Community members in Mwenezi are no longer abiding by the terms of the lockdown. Today, the 23rd of May, community members were playing soccer and they created a football ground in the bushes away from police officers and players as well as supporters were not putting on masks. It was also business as usual at Neshuro Growth Point, with local taxis operating.

Zaka

It is business as usual for Zaka community members. Strict compliance to the lockdown measures is only being observed at Jerera and Chinorumba shopping centres where the police were ensuring that everyone wears a mask and observes social distancing. In ward 18 on the 22nd of May, community members received food aid from CARE at St Joseph's School. The health department was enforcing social distancing and community members were also wearing masks.

Gutu

Community members in Ward 5, 6 and 7 continue to stay in their homes. On the 21st of May, women from ward 6 received family planning tablets at Serima shopping centre. Police officers and local health personnel attended the distribution and were ensuring that people observe social distancing and everyone was

expected to be putting on a mask. Community members from Ward 31 highlighted that some members were still gathering at beer halls and traditional beer drinking places.

Chivi

Community from Ward 25 are no longer observing the lock down measures. They continue to do their businesses as usual. Shops are not controlled by the police and hence they are not even sanitizing their clients. At Ngundu business centre, police officers continue to peacefully enforce the lockdown and people are wearing masks at all times when moving around Ngundu shopping centre.

Masvingo

The Department of Immigration hired a bus to repatriate 14 Malawi nationals who were intercepted in Masvingo on their way from South Africa eleven days ago. The 14 were quarantined at Masvingo Teachers' College.