

# Heal Zimbabwe

lockdown update (3 May 2020)

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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

Given the increase in government efforts to contain the virus, Heal Zimbabwe's Early Warning and Early Response Situation Room increased the number of the indicators it was tracking in relation to the fight against COVID-19 in the country. 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 basic commodities such as mealie-meal and cooking oil, people's access to savings, 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 provide and verify information in this update.

## Presentation of Updates

### Masvingo Province

#### Masvingo

According to the Masvingo Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce Spokesperson Rodgers Virimai, by the 2nd of May, a total 831 people from around Masving had been arrested for breaching the

lockdown rules. Amongst the arrested, 70 people are illegal money changers from Yeukai shopping center Ward 4, Pangolin Ward 5 and Runyararo West Ward 3. Most informal sector traders have started to move around selling their wares as a way of supplementing their household incomes. On the 2nd of May, a sizeable number of people were seen queuing for ZUPCO buses to transport them to residential areas after 1200 hours. Absence of many commuter transport left many residents opting to walk on foot rather than waiting for two ZUPCO buses which are transporting people to and from town in all the ten wards which constitute Masvingo Urban.. Zimbabwe Citizen Initiative, a non-governmental organization was also reportedly facing difficulties in distributing personal protective clothing to Masvingo General Hospital. It was alleged that Zimbabwe Citizen Initiative Coordinator Wellington Mahohoma was instructed by the Provincial Medical Director to get clearance from Masvingo District Development Coordinator first before donating the PPEs. This resulted in the organization donating the PPEs to Masvingo City council and Masvingo Central Police station who were not demanding any recommendation. This development was a severe blow to nurses at Masvingo General Hospital who were refusing to attend to new patients stating that they did not have sufficient PPEs for them to safely render their services.

## Manicaland Province Updates

### Mutasa

Community members in Ward 31 Hauna Growth Point stayed in their homes. Both Hauna district hospital and clinics were open. However, health workers are still complaining over lack of PPEs to protect them from infection. Police officers were spotted at Hauna at around 13:00 hours, peacefully enforcing the lockdown.

### Buhera

Community members in Ward 5 stayed in their homes. Buhera district hospital was open attending to emergency cases only. However community members were still complaining over shortage of drugs especially for malaria and flu.

### Chipinge

Community members in Chipinge South Ward 27 were seen roaming around business centres. In Ward 16, Ward 3 and Ward 1 community members stayed in their homes. Vheneka clinic was open, although there were no drugs for most diseases. There has not been any COVID 19 referral centre in the district. Most of the shops in Chipinge town and other growth points had increased activity on the 2nd of May. The business community are interpreting that the lockdown has been relaxed for business and only the informal sector remain restricted. At Checheche growth point, police in plain clothes clashed with business operators over why most of the shops were open. Movement of cars have also increased, as if the lockdown is officially over. Community members have welcomed the idea that they can now use home-made masks.

### Makoni

Community members in Makoni Ward 12 Nyamugundura village stayed in their homes. Tandi clinic in Ward 12 was open, although nurses at the clinic are still complaining over shortage of drugs at the clinic and PPEs.

## Harare Metropolitan Province

### Harare Hopley

Cases of violence are still being recorded in Hopley. Yesterday, 2 cases of GBV were recorded in the area. Enforcement officers continue to clash with tuckshop owners who are opening their tuckshops since Hopley does have well established supermarkets. The nearest supermarket is in Waterfalls, yet police officers who man Mbudzi roundabout road block have been demanding clearance letters for Hopley residents to proceed to Waterfalls.

## Matabeleland North Province

### Lupane

Today, most of the people at Lupane Business Centre spent the whole day preparing their work places and business shops to start working tomorrow. These shops include restaurants and clothes shops and informal traders. There was further delivery of subsidized mealie and sugar for sale to the public. There were no police officers enforcing the lockdown and citizens were going about their movement freely. However, the situation was different at St. Paul's, Jotsholo, Tshongokwe, Mlonyeni and Menyezwa where most of the community members stayed in their homes.

### Tsholotsho

Most clinics such as Sipepa and Samahuru are open but are only offering emergency services. Tsholotsho District Hospital has been designated as a Covid 19 referral centre but no cases have been recorded so far. Prices of basic commodities have gone up with 10kg mealie meal being sold for 80 Rands or ZW\$150. There is no subsidized mealie meal. Community members are not observing social distancing as they fetch water at Community boreholes. Information on Covid-19 is usually accessible via radio mostly Radio Zimbabwe and mobile phones.

