

Heal Zimbabwe

lockdown update (9-10 May– 2020)

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

Masvingo Province

Chiredzi

Motorists queuing up for fuel in Chiredzi have increased, since the partial opening up of the lockdown. However, motorists were complaining that the supply of fuel has actually decreased in Chiredzi and they are now spending more hours queuing for fuel. They also highlighted that this may increase their susceptibility to contract the virus.

Zaka

Community members are still staying in their homes. However at funerals, the number of mourners is now exceeding the stipulated 50. Some of the mourners observed on the 10th of May in Ward 19 were not wearing their masks. At Jerera growth point and other surrounding

business centres, police were peacefully enforcing the lockdown. They are ensuring that everyone in the Growth Point wears a mask or risk paying ZWL\$500.00 as fine.

Gutu

By the 10th of May, community members from Ward 5, Ward 6, Ward 31, and Ward 41 were still staying in their homes. People were aware that they should put on masks outside homes or at least cover their mouths and noses whenever in public spaces. Police continued to peacefully enforce the lockdown. Community members highlighted that they are now aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and have improved their hygiene.

Bikita

Community members continue to stay in their homes. Police officers continued to increase their presence at Nyika Growth Point, ensuring that everyone who moves around the shops has something to cover his or her mouth. Community members were increasingly wearing some covers, including home-made masks and head wraps to protect themselves from COVID-19. Community members reported that this was mainly due to people's fear of losing money in fines to the local police instead of being a measure of protecting themselves from contracting the virus.

Masvingo

On the 9th of May, Ward 41 received bags of mealie-meal to aid those in need of relief. People had to wait till sunset in order for them to receive the aid. The aid was coming from government as part of the relief to people whose capacity to generate income and food for their families was affected by the lockdown. However reports of continued partisan distribution of food aid continue to trickle in from various wards across Masvingo North constituency.

Mwenezi

Community members from around Neshuro Growth Point continue to stay in their homes. People have improved on wearing of masks when they are in public areas and police officers continue to peacefully enforce the lockdown. However, community members have also increased their movement from one house to the other, without masks. Community members highlighted that it was very rare to find people wearing masks or any form of a cover when they move around searching for piece jobs in houses and when visiting one another.

Chivi

On the 10th of May, Zion Church of Christ and Ruvheneko Apostolic Church in Mhaka and Silindani villages held their usual Sunday services. Most of the congregants were not putting on masks and they were not practicing social distancing during the services. This was happening despite the fact that at Ngundu business centre, police officers continue to peacefully enforce the lockdown and making sure that everyone who visits the centre puts on a mask or simply pay ZW\$500.00 as fine.

Harare Metropolitan Province

Mabvuku

Community members in Tafara and Chizhanje areas are no longer staying in their homes as required by the terms of the lockdown. At Kamunhu Business Centre in Ward 19, OK supermarket opens from 0900 hours to 1500 hours. Local business operators are refusing people without masks to enter their shops. Police are enforcing the lockdown at shopping centres only, through controlling queues and ensuring that shops stick to the highlighted operating time. Most tuckshops in the area have stocked up masks, and each is selling at ZW\$40.00.

Chitungwiza

Community members in Zengeza 4 stayed in their homes. A group of police officer turned away everyone who had no masks from Zengeza shopping centre and encouraged people to observe

social distance. Homemade masks were being sold by local tailors at US\$2.00 each. This has resulted in a majority of people in Zengeza wearing homemade masks. They were also highlighting that proper masks were now risky as some community members were reselling used masks.

Mashonaland West Province

Magunje

People in Ward 10 have since returned to their normal day to day business. Local business operators are opening from 0900 hours to 1500 hours. Local police officers were enforcing the lockdown by arresting everyone moving around Magunje business centre without wearing a mask or any form of cover. They are also ensuring that local business operators stick to the operating hours highlighted by government and that only customers with masks are allowed to get into shops. Most people in the area have since resorted to home-made masks.

Chinhoyi

By the 10th of May, normalcy had returned in Chikonohono and Hunyani suburbs as community members have resumed normal businesses. There was an increase of people moving around these suburbs and in the CBD. Police were ensuring that people wear masks or any cover whenever they are in public places. They have been barring those without masks from entering supermarkets and banks. Police also arrested a group of people in Ruvimbo, who were caught drinking beer in groups at a local bar and loitering at odd hours.

Norton

A group of four community members from Ward 4 were assaulted for stealing maize from Reuben Barwe's farm. This took place last week on Thursday. It is alleged that Reuben Barwe himself and other farm employees assaulted the four, leaving them with scars all over their bodies. Residents from Norton also received shock after hearing rumours that security officials at ZIPHAM were taking bribes from returnees and allowing them to move around and return whenever they want.

Manicaland Province

Mutasa

On the 10th of May, community members in Ward 21- Penhalonga were roaming around without masks. Most of them were taking advantage of the fact that there was no police monitoring adherence in the area. In Ward 5, community members were covering themselves with t-shirts complaining they can't afford proper masks. However, in Ward 31 Hauna Growth Point where police have a permanent base, community members continue to stay in their homes.

Buhera

Community members in Ward 5 and Ward 33 were moving around covering themselves with head wraps and home-made masks. Police officers were turning away everyone who had no masks from Buhera office business centre and Birchenough Bridge business centre. Only homemade masks were now available in shops in Ward 5, costing ZW\$25.00 each. Community members in Ward 33 were roaming around, claiming that they only wear masks when they see police officers. Business is operating as usual including taxis and kombis from Buhera to Birchenough had community members who were not putting on masks.

Chipinge

Community members in Ward 1, Ward 3 and Ward 16 stayed in their homes. A group of police officers turned away everyone who had no masks from local shopping centres. Whereas most shops in these Wards sell a few home-made masks, only Tongogara Refugee Camp in Ward 16 has proper masks costing ZW\$20.00. This has resulted in most community members' covering themselves with head wraps.

Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 8 stayed at home. A group of police officers were seen around 14:00hours

chasing away everyone who had no masks from Nyanyadzi business centre. Only homemade masks were being sold in the area for ZW\$20.00.

Makoni

Community members in Ward 32, Taruwinga village stayed in their homes. A group of police officers turned away everyone who had no masks and encouraging people to stay in their homes. Only homemade masks were being sold in Ward 32, for ZW\$10.00.

Matabeleland North

Lupane

On the 10th of May, police officers manning Lupane centre were strict and ensured that there was limited activity at the centre. There were 34 returnees who entered the country through the Victoria Falls border and these are being kept at Lupane State University. It was also highlighted that Lupane was expecting to receive more returnees coming through the Beit Bridge and Plumtree boarder posts, later in the evening. Lupane State University was designated as the Provincial Isolation Centre. These developments have caused panic and fear among Lupane citizens, resulting in a decrease of people moving around the centre unnecessarily. Community members in Menyezwa, Sothani, Matshiya, Lupanda, St Pauls, Fatima and Jotsholo are staying at their homes. On the 9th of May, Lupane Local board officials moved around residential areas raising awareness on Covid 19 and encouraging citizens to wear masks.