



Covid- 19 Status Update 6

Period: Friday 22 May 2020- Monday 25 May 2020

- 1. Introduction** – As the lockdown level 2 continues, essential services continue to be accessible to residents, whilst informal street markets remain shut. Businesses are operating for more than eight hours between 8am and 4.30pm. The wearing of masks outside homes is still mandatory. Private transport operators are still encouraged to join ZUPCO if they are willing to operate during the lockdown. The Harare Residents' Trust (HRT) continues to monitor the situation in Harare suburbs during the lockdown. Key areas of monitoring include water delivery, citizens' awareness of the coronavirus, responsiveness of council officials on citizens' reports, lockdown enforcement by City and State security officials (human rights approach), refuse collections, compliance with lockdown regulations on people's movement. The situational update also highlights the situation on food security, the transport situation and availability of fuel around Harare.
- 2. Situation Update**
 - 2.1 Water** – Harare's water woes continue as most suburbs spent the weekend without water. Only a few suburbs received council water for the entirety of the weekend. Some received it for a few hours, whilst others had to endure a completely dry weekend. In Glenview, there was no water from Friday 22 May up to this morning, Monday 25 May. Residents are therefore crowding at community boreholes where queues and social distancing are not being observed. The situation is the same in Tafara where residents spent the whole weekend without council water. In Glen Norah B and C there was tap water on Friday Morning up to midday. From Friday afternoon up to Monday 25 May, the people in Glen Norah B and C have not received council water. In Braeside, there is no tap water since Friday night. St Martins' residents spent the whole weekend with tap water, resulting in less pressure at the community borehole. However, reports from the suburb have indicated that the water looks dirty and unfit for human consumption. The whole suburb of Hillside did not have water on Friday. The lower part of the suburb started receiving council water on Saturday afternoon, but the higher side of the community has not received water up to this day. Some parts of Kuwadzana and Southerton started receiving water on Sunday 24 May. Suburbs such as Sunningdale, Highfield, Egypt, Mbare National and Waterfalls had tap water for a few hours of the weekend. Other communities such as Unit K and L in Chitungwiza, Lochnivar, Warren Park D, Mabvuku, Cranborne and St Marys did not receive water at all during the weekend.
 - 2.2 Health** – Council clinics across Harare suburbs are operating but reports during the weekend were highlighting poor service from the clinics. Most of the clinics do not have medicine and people are forced to purchase medication at local pharmacies. However, prices at pharmacies are beyond the reach of many. As at Sunday 24 May, BP tablets were going for ZW\$110.00 in Glen Norah. In Highfield Ward 24, the clinic is operating but they do not have medication. At St Mary's Clinic residents are being attend to, but those who are seriously ill are referred to Chitungwiza General Hospital. In Mufakose, the council clinic does not have medication and it is reported that nurses are selling it at exorbitant prices. HIV and AIDS at the clinic have also complained of the lack of privacy, with the nurses calling HIV/AIDS patients waiting for ARVs in a way that draws the attention of people queuing for different issues. In Warren Park D, the clinic is functioning normally and patients are treated nicely despite the lack of drugs.

2.3 Movement and awareness of Covid-19 – It is business as usual in communities, especially in high density suburbs. People are moving around without caution, vendors are everywhere and children are flooding the streets without adhering to lockdown guidelines. Over the weekend, it was reported that residents in Glen View 3 were moving around without wearing masks. They were also queuing at the community borehole without practising social distancing. In St Martin's they are wearing face masks because people who were moving around without face masks were arrested on Saturday 23 May. In Tafara people are also moving around freely without wearing face masks. They are wearing them at the shops only because of fear of soldiers. In Glen Norah B people are moving around freely without any police interference. The same is also happening in suburbs such as Chitungwiza and Kuwadzana. However, reports from Rugare have indicated an improvement on the observance and implementation of Covid-19 preventative measures at community water points. A training session on Covid-19 awareness was held in the community on Friday 22 May 2020 by the HRT in collaboration with officials from the health department of the Harare City Council. The number of children who visit water points and play in the streets has also decreased over the weekend. Therefore in most parts of Harare, residents are still lacking awareness. There is a clear need for conducting education and awareness programs in the communities.

2.4 Food and security – The situation is still dire for most families and it did not improve over the weekend. It has actually worsened because of price increases. There was no government food aid distribution over the weekend. Residents are still waiting. During the weekend, the government subsidised mealie meal was available in some suburbs whilst some communities did not receive it. During the weekend, the government subsidised mealie meal was available in some suburbs whilst some communities did not receive it. At Machipisa Shops (Ward 24), the subsidised maize meal was available, going for ZW\$70.00. However, the mealie meal could not meet the demand that was available. Many people went back home empty handed. At Gain Supermarket in Ward 26, they sold to less than 50 residents. The rest was kept for staff, who went on to sell the mealie meal individually, at prices equivalent to those charged by small tuck shops. Other shops at Machipisa are selling a 10kg packet for an average of US\$4.50. In St Mary's shops are selling at prices ranging from US\$3.00 to US\$4.00. On Saturday, the OK Supermarket in St Mary's which used to provide the government subsidised mealie meal at 10kg started selling the 10kg packet for ZW\$250.00. In Warren Park D, a 10kg pack is going for US\$2.00, but one is able to access it under the condition that they purchase other groceries worth US\$3.00. One resident in Glen Norah lamented the ZW\$ price increases, saying that she receives ZW\$400.00 per month as a pensioner. That amount can only buy her a 10kg packet of mealie meal (ZW\$280.00) and a 2kg packet of sugar (ZW\$120.00). Sugar supplies have also started dwindling across Harare. Residents in Sunningdale are now struggling to access sugar. The basic commodity is not available at the Choppies supermarket most of the times. When sugar is available, preference is given to staff and their relatives. As a result, people have also begun queuing for sugar in Harare.

2.5 Responsiveness of council officials on citizens' reports – ZESA officials are trying their best to attend to faults in time. A fault in Highlands was attended to during the weekend and the officials also managed to visit a site in Highfield Canaan where they found that a new transformer is needed. However, sewage flows in St Mary's Chiratidzo were reported last week. The issue has not been resolved as yet. An issue of a dysfunctional street tower lights in Unit k Chitungwiza still needs attention.

2.6 Transport – During the weekend the transport situation was better. This might be attributed to the fact that there are less commuters during weekends. The number of ZUPCO buses and omnibuses operating across Harare suburbs is still inadequate.

2.7 Other updates – Lockdown enforcement agents are not doing their job thoroughly in the high density suburbs. Movement into the CBD is restricted but people are moving freely within their communities. This weekend, a single report of arrests was received from St Martin's, where people moving around without masks were taken to Sunningdale Police Station. The police are also restricting the movement of some people providing essential services to the communities. On Monday 25 May, a staff member of HRT who was supposed to deliver some Covid-19 educational and awareness material to Glen View was not allowed to go and collect the materials in town. The police were only allowing nurses and other uniformed workers into town. The fuel situation in Harare has not improved. Queues are seen at service stations all over the city. Diesel is still unavailable at most service stations.

3 Conclusion – Awareness on Covid-19 is still lacking in communities around Harare. However an improvement was noted in Rugare after a training conducted on Friday by HRT and Harare City Council officials. There was no water in most Harare suburbs during the weekend. Those who received it, had it for short periods. Issues were also raised about the quality and acceptability of the water. It is not potable. The water situation needs to be improved to avoid overcrowding at community water points. Lockdown enforcement authorities also need to monitor people's movements in the high density suburbs for the lockdown to be successful. Something also needs to be done to cushion the poor and vulnerable, against the increasing prices and shortages of basic commodities. The promised cash transfers for the most vulnerable have to be urgently disbursed before they are eroded by inflation. There is constrained food availability, and the Government needs to fully utilise the donated materials from foreign embassies and humanitarian agents. There is need for transparency and accountability.

4 Next Update – Thursday, 28 May 2020.

HRT- Achieving Free, Empowered and Prosperous Citizenry! Stay Safe!

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