

Heal Zimbabwe 1

June 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

Masvingo Province

Gutu

A lot of community members from Ward 5, Ward 6, Ward 7 and Ward 31 are now moving around and vendors at Mupandawana Growth Point have also resumed with their work. Community members continue to commute to Chivhu and Masvingo in search of basic essentials.

Bikita

First lady, Auxillia Mnangagwa held several meetings across Bikita, addressing community members and handing food packs to the elderly. Police officers were very strict in enforcing the lockdown especially in Nyika Growth Point. However in villages community members continue to move around without masks.

Zaka

The district is expecting the First Lady and her team to hold several meetings on the 2nd of June. Community members in Zaka have improved on how they are staying at home. Shops and growth points now have less people and police officers continue to tighten their enforcement. Local transport, however, continue to operate and bribing police officers to continue their business.

Mwenezi

It continues to be business as usual for community members from around Neshuro Growth Point. People are moving around in large numbers and without masks. Police officers continue enforcing the lockdown, albeit without much strictness. Local taxis continue to ferry people around the district without being arrested by the police.

Chiredzi

It is business as usual for community members. People highlighted that they can no longer stay in their homes since they are running out of basics and their savings have been depleted. However people continue to wear their masks as they go about their business.

Mashava

On the 1st of June, community members from Ward 33 were receiving food aid from the Department of Social Welfare. The distribution took place at King Mine. However, community members did not practice any social distancing and some of them were not wearing masks during the distribution process.

Manicaland Province

Mutasa

Community members in Ward 4, Ward 21 and Ward 31 were roaming around wearing masks. A group of police officers were turning away those who did not have masks. Shops in Ward 4 had most of the basic commodities. Community members from Mutasa have not yet received any food aid from the government to help cushion them from the adverse effects of the lockdown.

Buhera

Community members in Ward 5 were roaming around wearing head wraps and homemade masks, whereas in Ward 9 people were roaming around without masks.. A group of police officers were seen around 08:30 hours turning away those who did not have masks. In Ward 33, community members were moving around wearing homemade masks. Community members were concerned that returnees from South Africa and Mozambique are increasing in the area and they do not have any means of confirming whether these went through mandatory testing and quarantining.

Chipinge

Community members in Ward 1 were roaming around without masks, whilst in Ward 16 most community members who were moving around were clad in masks. A group of police officers were seen around 08:00hours turning away those who did not have masks from local shopping centres. Most shops in the two wards had most of the basic commodities.

Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 8 were roaming around wearing homemade masks. There were no police officers enforcing the lockdown in Ward 8. Shops in Ward 8 had most of the basic commodities. Community members from this ward continue to lament over the lack of assistance from the government to help cushion them from the effects of the lockdown. In Ward 15, community members were roaming around wearing homemade masks and head wraps. A group of police officers were seen around 08:00hours turning away those who did not have masks.

Makoni

Community members in Ward 12 and Ward 32 were roaming around wearing homemade masks. A group of police officers were seen around 08:00hours turning away those who did not have masks. Most of the shops in Ward 12 are now running out of basic commodities especially sugar and mealie-meal.

Harare Metropolitan Province

Domboshava

Community members in Ward 4 stayed at home. A group of police officers were seen around 10:00hours enforcing the lockdown. Shops in Ward 4 had most of the basic commodities.

Matabeleland North Province

Lupane

Some basic commodities such as mealie meal are now available at Zapalala supermarket with a 10kg of mealie meal fetching ZWL\$352.00. Community members from around Lupane centre continue to stay in their homes. At Lupane and Jotsholo centres, vegetable markets were open and 90% of the kiosks were open. However, at Menyezwa, beer patrons turned up to have their favorite drinks in the late hours of the afternoon, without wearing face masks.

Key Development	Changes Observed
Compliance with lockdown terms	Most community members are now moving around, searching for means of sustaining themselves during the lockdown. This has also been exacerbated by the fact that the police have also relaxed in terms of how they enforce the lockdown.
Police enforcing the lockdown	Police officers across the 13 districts covered in this update have relaxed. They are no longer strict on people's compliance, with the extreme cases involving the police allowing taxi operators "mishikashika" to continue carrying passengers in a risky manner and against the ban against public transport.
Price of basic commodities	Prices of basic commodities such as mealie-meal, cooking oil and sugar remain high.
Availability of basic commodities	Only community members from Makoni Ward 12 highlighted that local shops had a shortage of basic good.
Availability of social assistance programs	Only community members from Bikita and Zaka highlighted that the First Lady has been distributing food handouts to the elderly. However, it was not clear whether this is the aid that the government promised to help cushion food insecure households from the unintended effects of the lockdown.