

Heal Zimbabwe 2

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

Manicaland Province

Mutasa

A majority of community members in Ward 21 and Ward 31 were moving around wearing masks and head wraps. Police was only visible at Hauna Growth Point in Ward 31, turning away a few people who were coming to the centre without anything covering their faces. Shops in Ward 21 and Ward 31 had most of the basic commodities. However community members were complaining with the hiking of prices for basic commodities.

Buhera

Community members in Ward 5, Ward 9 and Ward 33 were roaming around covering their mouths with home-made masks or head wraps. Police officers were spotted in Ward 5 and Ward 33 at around 10:00 hours enforcing the lockdown at Buhera office and Birchenough Bridge shopping centres respectively. Most shops in the three wards had most of the basic commodities.

Chipinge

Community members in Ward 27, Ward 16 and Ward 3 were roaming around wearing masks or wrapping their faces with head wraps. There were no police officers seen enforcing the lockdown in Ward 16. Most of the shops across the three wards had most of the basic commodities.

Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 15 were roaming around wearing masks. A group of police officers were seen around 08:30 hours enforcing the lockdown. Shops in Ward 15 had most of the basic commodities. Community members from this ward highlighted that they never witnessed any incidences of politically motivated human rights violation during the lockdown.

Makoni

Community members in Ward 16 were roaming around without masks. Community members were concerned that churches such as Johani Masowe and Johani Marange Apostolic Sects have resumed their normal church services and they are not observing social distancing or wearing masks.

Mashonaland West Province

Hurungwe

Community members in ward 24 are still staying in their home whilst in Ward 15 community members have resumed with their normal daily activities. Community shops at Chiedza business centre are operating throughout the day and are adhering to the lockdown terms. This has been worsened by the fact that the police have not been monitoring activities in the two wards. Community members from the two wards complained that mealie-meal and sugar were now in short supply.

Magunje

Community members in ward 10 have resumed with their normal daily activities, moving around unnecessarily. Police officers arrested and fined several people in Magunje Growth Point who were moving around without wearing masks. Community members highlighted that medical personnel at Magunje Hospital were attending to patients without wearing any protective clothing including face masks. They further lamented that most men in Kambamura, Mbereko and Chitemerere villages are gathering in numbers in local shebeens drinking home brewed beer.

Mashonaland Central Province

Muzarabani

Community members in Ward 17 are still staying in their homes. Shops at Hoya business centre were open and extending services only to customers wearing face masks. Police officers were arresting community members who were moving without wearing face masks.

Mt Darwin

Community members in ward 12 and 14 are still staying in their homes. Community members highlighted that they only see police officers enforcing the lockdown in Mt Darwin town. Shops like N.Richards are only saving customers wearing face masks.

Masvingo Province

Gutu

Community members from Ward 6, Ward 7, Ward 5, and Ward 31 are now moving around. There was an increase of people at Mupandawana Growth Point, most of them queuing for sugar at N Richards, fuel at Genesis service station and for ZUPCO bus at the bus terminus. At all these points, people were not practicing social distancing and some were not even wearing their masks. Local transport continues to operate and there is no roadblock from Gutu to Chivhu resulting in taxi operators "mishikashika" overloading passengers.

Zaka

A few community members were moving around at Jerera and Chinorumba shopping centres. There is now low movement of people in Ward 13, Ward 18, Ward 19 and Ward 24 and community members continue to put on their masks as they move around. Police officers continue to peacefully enforce the lockdown.

Chiredzi

Police officers manning Chiredzi CBD were turning away people from entering the CBD, as long as one could not prove that they were searching for essential goods and services.