

# Heal Zimbabwe

## 4 June 2020

lockdown update

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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

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

#### Chivi

Community members are no longer staying in their homes, as most of them are moving around without wearing masks. Community members are taking advantage of the fact that police Officers manning Ngundu business area are no longer strict and some shops are also not offering sanitizers at the door. In ward 25 Mupfigo village, 3 members of the same family illegally returned from South Africa using undesignated border crossing areas to evade mandatory

COVID-19 screening and quarantine. Health officers were informed but they have not taken any action. Community members also highlighted that in Mutote village, there is another individual returnee from South Africa who has not gone through mandatory quarantine.

#### Gutu

Community members from Ward 5, Ward 6, Ward 7, Ward 31 and Ward 41 are no longer staying in their homes. Most community members from around Mupandawana Growth Point spent the whole day queuing for subsidized mealie-meal at Gains shop. They were not observing social distancing at the queue. Local taxis "mishikashika" continue to operate between Gutu and Chivhu, whilst those to Masvingo have resorted to travelling as early as 0300 hours before police erect roadblocks. These return at night after roadblocks are all closed. Community members from Ward 6 were shocked to receive rumours on Whatsapp highlighting that the ward housed 2 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

#### Bikita

Community members from Ward 10, Ward 12, Ward 32 and Ward 20 are staying in their homes. However, community members were complaining over some people who were running shebeens in the area, where community members gather in groups drinking traditional beer. Police officers continue to operate at Nyika Growth Point, while neglecting leaving rural communities.

#### Mwenezi

In Mwenezi, returnees jumping the border from South Africa have increased and these are not going through mandatory COVID-19 screening and quarantining. This has put Neshuro community members at the risk of infection since most of them are no longer staying at home. Most of them have since resumed with their normal daily lives. Most of the people spotted at Neshuro Growth Point were moving around without masks. Local taxi operators continue to ferry people, in a crowded manner.

#### Zaka

Most community members in Ward 13, Ward 18, Ward 19 and Ward 24 are cautiously conducting their businesses in their homesteads and garden activities wearing masks. An increased number of people was recorded at Chinorumba business centre. Community members highlighted that local taxi "mishikashika" continue to ply between Jerera Growth Point and the surrounding wards. Passengers in these taxis are not practicing social distancing and community members expressed concern over the complacency of local police officers. Community members have improved on ensuring that they inform the police and health technicians of anyone who would have arrived from South Africa, suspiciously.

#### Masvingo

Residents from Masvingo town were shocked with the news that 500 Netone sim cards meant to be used by beneficiaries of COVID-19 Fund to access their allocations were stolen last week. It is suspected that the thieves thought these lines were already loaded with the funds. Residents also highlighted that many informal traders in Masvingo urban are being fleeced of their income by bogus agents purporting to represent council in issuing market stalls. These agents are taking advantage of the fact that most of the vendors are stampeding for council regulated market stalls.

#### Manicaland Province

## Mutasa

Community members in Ward 5, Ward 20 and Ward 31 were roaming around wearing masks and wrapping their faces with head wraps. People highlighted that police officers were not enforcing the lockdown beyond Hauna Growth Point in Ward 31. They also highlighted that community members crossing over to Mozambique to buy essentials continue unabated and some of the citizens from Mozambique also cross over to Ward 31 and surrounding wards without being stopped by the police. These are using undesignated border entry points. Community members from Ward 21 also raised the same complaint, stating that some community members are even selling used clothes imported from Mozambique.

## Buhera

In Ward 9, community members were roaming around without masks. There were no police officers enforcing the lockdown. However, community members from Ward 5 and Ward 33 were moving around wearing masks and they were being regulated by the police. Although most shops in the three wards had most of the basic commodities, but they remain out of reach for many community members. Community members highlighted that they were now looking forward to aid from the government, lest they die out of hunger.

## Chipinge

Community members in Ward 28 were roaming around wearing masks. A group of police officers were seen around 08:00 hours turning away those who did not have masks from local shops. Shops in Ward 28 had most of the basic commodities. In Ward 1 and Ward 3, farmers from Maunganidze and Manesa Irrigation schemes are continuing with their activities wrapping their faces with head wraps.

## Chimanimani

Community members in Ward 8 were roaming around wearing homemade masks and head wraps. There were no police officers enforcing the lockdown in Ward 8. Shops in Ward 8 had most of the basic commodities. However, community members expressed concern over the prices set for basic commodities.

## Makoni

Community members in Ward 16 were roaming around without masks. A group of police officers were seen around 09:00 hour turning away those who did not have masks from local shopping centres. Shops in Ward 16 had most of the basic commodities.

## Matabeleland North Province

### Lupane

There were more people in and around Lupane business centre, with most of them queued at Agribank which was issuing withdrawals to a maximum of a ZWL\$1000.00. This has in turn increased the number of people shopping for basic commodities in big shops such as Zapalala and Gain supermarket. Although most of the shoppers had masks, they were roaming around without wearing them. They were only using them to access shops and banks only. When outside these shops they removed them and only wore them upon encountering police officers.

## Summary of the Update

The table below summarizes the indicators highlighted in this update

Key Development	Changes Observed
Compliance with lockdown terms	Most community members are now moving around, searching for means of sustaining themselves during the lockdown. They mainly wear masks or cover their faces with head wraps when to avoid arrest or access shops and banks.
Police enforcing the lockdown	Although Police officers are still manning Growth Points and major shopping centres, they have relaxed their insistence on people wearing masks and shops sanitizing their clients by the door. Incidences of mishikashika operating in Zaka, Gutu, Mwenezi and Buhera continue unabated
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 Mupandawana Growth Point reported that there was subsidized mealie-meal in local shops. Other basic commodities remain available across the 12 districts covered in this update.
Availability of social assistance programs	Only community members from Masvingo urban heard of the preparations to start disbursements of COVID-19 Fund. However, the sim cards that were earmarked for recipients of the fund were stolen.