



MONDAY 05 JULY 2021

MATABELELAND INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Email: mihroffice@gmail.com

Cell: +263771730018

Twitter: @MatHumanRights

www.matabelelandinstituteforhumanrights.org

COVID19 VACCINE SITUATION ANALYSIS REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION



Matabeleland Institute for Human Rights (MIHR) conducted a virtual situation analysis of the Covid19 vaccine availability in rural Matabeleland South Province targeting a random sample of 20 wards from Gwanda rural district, Insiza district, Matobo district and Mangwe district. The situation analysis was informed by key informants resident in those communities and active in public life – mostly the community leadership. From each district 5 wards were sampled for analysis.

The main objectives of the situation analysis were:

- (a) To establish the state of Covid19 vaccination availability in selected rural communities of Matabeleland South province;
- (b) To investigate any impediments to public access to the Covid19 vaccine in rural communities of Matabeleland South province;
- (c) To enhance Covid19 vaccine accountability in Zimbabwe.

2.1 Covid19 Vaccine Availability

In all the 20 communities of Insiza, Gwanda, Mangwe and Matobo Districts that were sampled and surveyed, key informants revealed that there was no Covid19 vaccine in their local clinics and this has been going on for more than 1 month now. In some of the clinics, they alluded to the 2nd dose being available but not the 1st dose. The key informants explained that they hear that the 1st dose is available in major hospitals and in Bulawayo.

2.2 Transport to District Covid19 Vaccination Centres

Interviewed key informants indicated that it is difficult to travel to District hospitals to access the 1st dose of the Covid19 vaccine because:

- (a) Due to ban on public transport, there is no transport to ferry people to the districts as there are no ZUPCO buses plying their local routes;
- (b) Private pirate transporters are now capitalizing on the ZUPCO unavailability and charging exorbitant fares. In some of the rural areas, a distance of 30km now costs ZAR100 (One Hundred Rands) one way only;
- (c) There is no publicly available information as to the availability of the 1st dose in the district hospitals and therefore people are sceptical to travel to the districts and find the 1st dose not there having spent lots of money for transport (including the risk of using pirate transporters);
- (d) In some district hospitals, the 1st dose is also not available.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

From the information gathered during the situation analysis, Matabeleland Institute for Human Rights (MIHR) recommends the following:

- i. Government devolve and make available to 1st Covid19 dose in rural communities as in urban areas;
- ii. District Covid19 taskforces make publicly available the health centres with Covid19 doses every week to enable citizens to make informed choices;
- iii. Should vaccines not be readily available in every local clinic, government consider removing the ZUPCO public transport monopoly so as to enable people to travel to district centres for Covid19 vaccination.

4.0 CONCLUSION



Matabeleland Institute for Human Rights (MIHR) is a registered non-profit organization that exists to enhance the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Zimbabwe through social accountability and nonviolent social movement building. MIHR views the Covid19 pandemic as a major human rights risk and therefore the importance of high levels of accountability in managing and responding the pandemic is critical.