

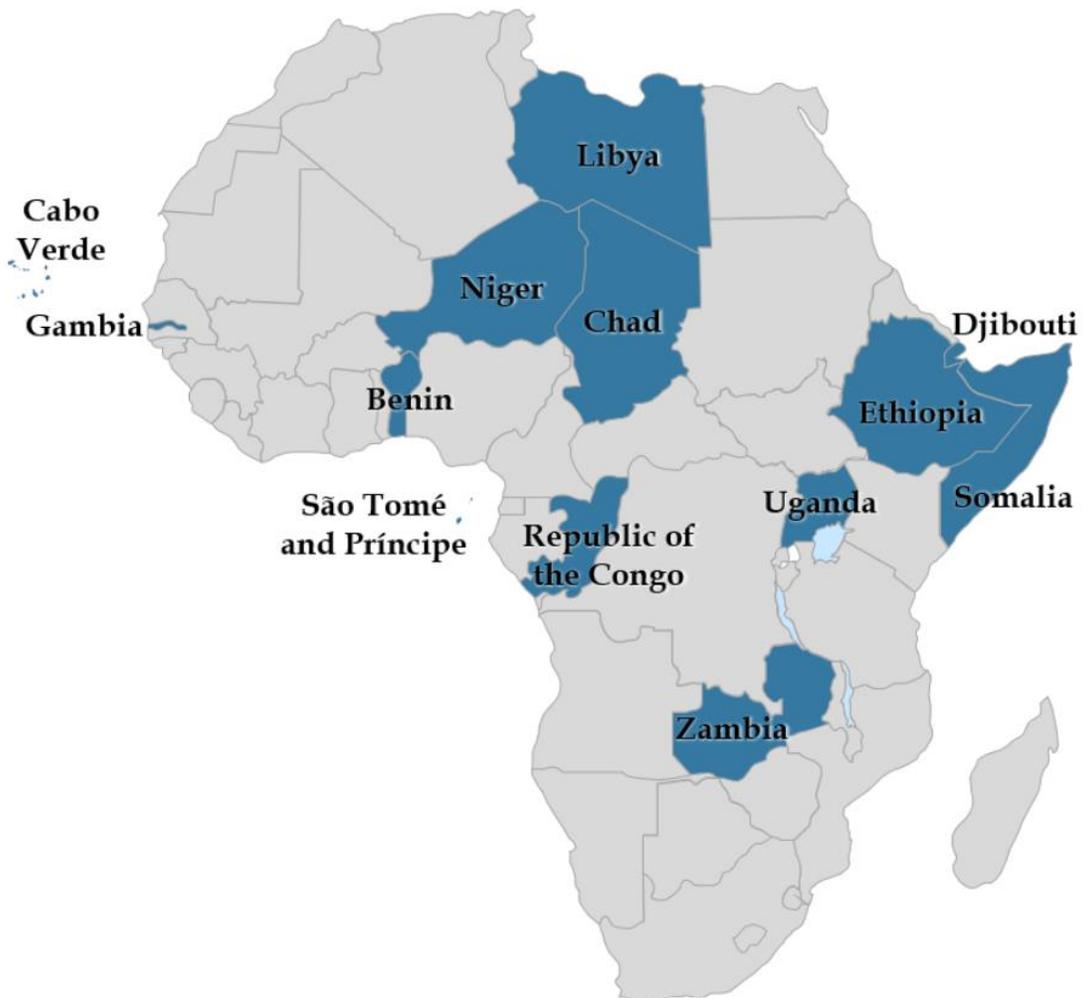
Zimbabwe Election Support Network



Monitoring Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic

2021 Update # 9

Elections in Africa in 2021



1. INTRODUCTION

This report covers developments that occurred in the first two weeks of November 2021, as reported by ZESN LTOs. ZESN hopes that the report will complement the information available for use in the development and reinforcement of strategies aimed at safeguarding the health of citizens in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further ZESN envisages that the report will also provide key electoral stakeholders with information on the political and electoral developments in the country.

1.1 MINISTRY OF HEALTH SUMMARY UPDATES

As of 03 December 2021, Zimbabwe had 137 441 confirmed cases, including 128 847 recoveries and 4 708 deaths. To date, a total of 3 844 394 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19.¹

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

During the period covered by the report, ZESN LTOs reported the following:

2.1 IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE HEALTH SECTOR

LTOs reported that local health facilities were offering services in their constituencies. However, understaffing and shortages of medication at local health facilities were reported in some constituencies, including Nkayi South and Glen View North, and Glen View South.



In general, LTOs' reports indicated that women were able to access antenatal and postnatal treatment locally. However, there were reports of the shortage of midwives at Highfield Polyclinic in Highfield East Constituency in Harare.

2.2 FOOD AID DISTRIBUTION

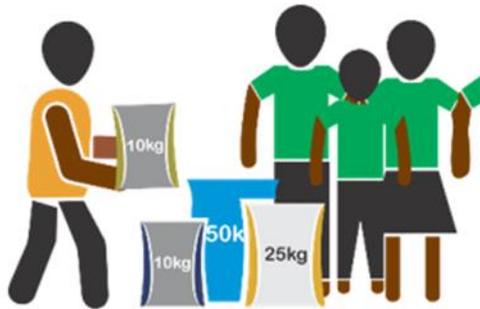
Beneficiaries of Social Welfare aid received 10 kgs of maize per person in Chiredzi East, 20 kgs in Mutoko South, 50 kgs per family

¹

<https://twitter.com/MoHCCZim/status/1466963070>

[681554944?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwtgr%5Etweet](https://twitter.com/MoHCCZim/status/1466963070)

in Chimanimani West, and 10 kgs of maize and 50 kgs of fertilizer in Bulilima East.



Selected beneficiaries received 50 kgs of maize, 5 litres of cooking oil, and 3 kgs of beans from Action Aid Zimbabwe under the World Food Programme.

2.3 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES DURING LOCKDOWN

Both opposition and governing party were reported to be conducting various campaign activities during the reporting period.

ZANU-PF meetings and voter education activities on voter registration were reported in Harare East Constituency. ZANU-PF meetings were also reported in Goromonzi West Constituency.

Efforts by political parties to encourage their supporters to register to vote were also reported in Masvingo West.

Reports of intra-party violence were reported. On 13 November, ZANU-PF youths reportedly clashed in a factional battle that turned violent at the party's offices in Kwekwe, prompting the intervention of the Police.

Inter-party violence was also reported. The Councillor for Ward 4 in Kadoma was reportedly manhandled by suspected hired thugs resulting in the cancellation of a scheduled address of MDC Alliance supporters by the party's president. There were violent clashes between ZANU-PF and MDC Alliance supporters in Magunje, with unofficial roadblocks mounted in some places when the MDC Alliance president visited the constituency.

Aspiring candidates for the National Assembly seats were campaigning at shopping centres and through door to door visits. Such reports were received from Marondera East, Mutare North and Wedza South Constituencies.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF ZESN ACTIVITIES

ZESN continued with several activities in pursuit of democratic elections in Zimbabwe. These include a workshop that reflected on Zimbabwe's election results management system, a public meeting on the role of the media in promoting electoral democracy and radio programmes on national or community radio stations in different provinces. ZESN also conducted virtual community town hall meetings on the delimitation of electoral boundaries in all provinces and continued with social media campaigns on voter registration and delimitation.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Political parties should encourage their supporters to register to vote.
- Political parties should restrain their supporters to ensure a peaceful political environment, free from politically motivated violence, ahead of the 2023 elections.