



Weekly UN in Zimbabwe Update

Issue 29 | 13 Nov <u>2020</u>

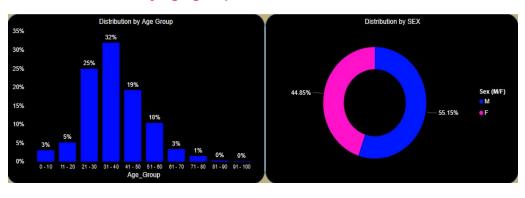
# Figures on COVID-19 in Zimbabwe, 13 November. Source MOHCC

8,765
Positive Cases

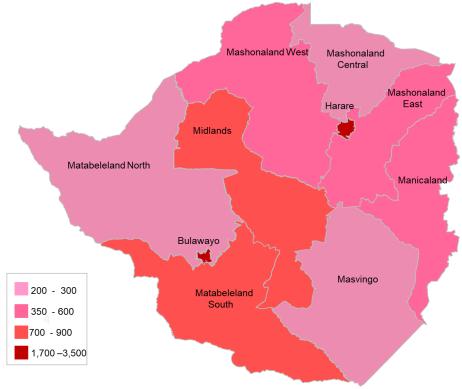
8,090 Recoveries

257 Deaths

## Cases distribution by age group and sex, 13 November. Source MOHCC



# of confirmed cases by province, 13 November. Source MOHCC



Province	Number of cases
Bulawayo	1,788
Harare	3,335
Manicaland	546
Mash Central	218
Mash East	429
Mash West	358
Midlands	734
Masvingo	280
Mat North	208
Mat South	869
Total	8,765

## Response to COVID-19 must not exacerbate measles crisis



In a recent report released on 12 November, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed that measles cases worldwide increased to 869,770 in 2019, the highest number reported since 1996 with increases in all WHO regions.

Although reported cases of measles are lower in 2020, necessary efforts to control COVID-19 have resulted in disruptions in vaccination and crippled efforts to prevent

and minimize measles outbreaks. As of November, more than 94 million people were at risk of missing vaccines due to paused measles campaigns in 26 countries. Many of these countries are experiencing ongoing outbreaks. Of countries with postponed planned 2020 campaigns, only eight (Brazil, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines and Somalia) resumed their campaigns after initial delays.

To control measles and prevent outbreaks and deaths, vaccination coverage rates with the required MCV1 and MCV2 must reach 95 percent and be maintained at national and subnational levels. Vaccination coverage against measles remains well below the 95 percent or higher needed with both doses to control measles and prevent outbreaks and deaths.

#### Integration of services, information critical in COVID-19 response



With support from UNICEF, GOAL Zimbabwe and Promobile Africa are reaching out to communities with integrated information on COVID-19 preventative measures, infant health, Gender Based Violence (GBV), child abuse and water and sanitation (WASH) issues among others.

The integrated approach, to health, WASH, child and women's rights and social issues has been well received by communities as they receive critical information on their

#### doorsteps.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care and with generous financial assistance from the Health Development Fund (UK Aid, EU, SIDA-Sweden, Irish Aid and GAVI), the Hygiene and Behaviour Coalition (UK Aid and Unilever), Government of Germany and USAID has been supporting the specialized mobile trucks to conduct effective community outreach.

# Strengthening COVID-19 testing in all provinces of Zimbabwe



This week, experts from WHO, Africa-CDC and the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) trained 34 laboratory technicians on testing for COVID-19 in their local facilities. The trainees drawn from all 10 provinces of the country will cascade the training in their respective provinces.

Meanwhile, this week, the MoHCC, WHO and Zimbabwe Diabetes Association provided free Diabetes and Blood Pressure testing services in Gweru. The exercise was carried out to mark World Diabetes Day which falls ever year

on 14 November.

"As a diabetic patient who has been on treatment for 19 years, I have managed to take care of myself with a proper diet advice from medical professionals. I have now dedicated my time towards sensitizing communities on the importance of screening of diabetes," says, Mrs Irene Zvenyika (63),



Reinforcing public health measures at key points of entry
IOM and its partners are working to support Zimbabwe in strengthening core capacities for public health measures at points of entry (PoEs).

With support from Sweden and the EU, IOM has established new staff presence in four new key border posts: Sango, Kariba, Kazungula and Victoria Falls Airport, bringing to nine, the PoEs that IOM has a presence in. IOM staff are equipped to track mobility trends, support COVID-19 surveillance and infection prevention and control.

Together with border officials and other frontline workers, as of 10 November 2020, IOM has facilitated the safe return of over 28,000 Zimbabweans and supported provision of healthcare, psychosocial and mental health support for migrants, frontline staff and host communities.



**WUNDSS** 























