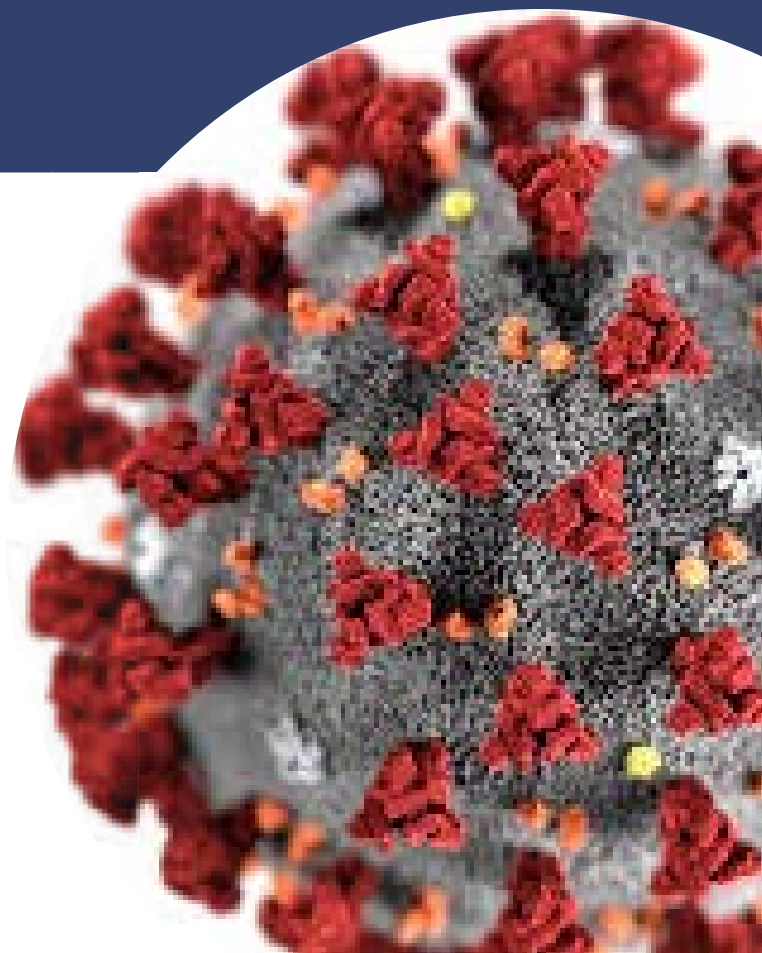


ECUMENICAL RESPONSE ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

UPDATE REPORT



Zimbabwe Council of Churches



Update Report on the Ecumenical Response to COVID-19

1. Introduction

The first case of COVID-19 can be traced back to the 17th of November 2019, according to media reports on unpublished Chinese government data. The report, found in the South China Morning Post, indicates that Chinese authorities had identified at least 266 people who had contracted the virus last year and who came under medical surveillance. Thus the earliest case was that date– which was weeks before authorities announced the emergence of the new virus. It was not until February 14th, 2020 that the first case in Africa was reported, in Egypt. Even then, the first case in Southern Africa was only reported in South Africa on March 5, 2020. By then, Zimbabweans began to realise that they too were at risk. Indeed, on March 20, 2020, Zimbabwe recorded its first case.

The inevitable landing of the virus on Zimbabwean territory required some level of preparedness. The Government began to seriously work to ensure that the country was aware of the virus. Regulatory frameworks were put in place to minimise the spread of the virus. The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) also coordinated a plan to prepare the church and the citizens to deal with this challenge. Therefore, this report covers the efforts that ZCC has made through its member churches in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as of 3 April 2020. The report is a culmination of daily updates from all the ten provinces in Zimbabwe generated by the ZCC's local ecumenical fellowships (LEFs). The Ecumenical Response is hinged on four intervention areas:

- a) Prevention through awareness raising on the virus to members churches and the general public through provision of protective clothing and sanitizers as well as targeted training.
- b) Service delivery (WASH) through provision of water at selected Mission Hospitals
- c) Policy advocacy where the Church continues to engage key stakeholders on health such as the relevant Government departments, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and others
- d) Coordination of efforts on the pandemic. This is meant to ensure that there is coordination in the response mechanism between the Government and other stakeholders for transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness.

Thus, the report covers the activities carried out between 23 March and 3 April 2020 where the focus was to design an effective church response mechanism to the threat of COVID-19 in Zimbabwe. Regular updates will be shared with key stakeholders for policy improvement and continued awareness raising.

.1]<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/13/first-covid-19-case-happened-in-november-china-government-records-show-report>

[2] LEFs are ZCC's implementing structures across the country. They are divided into Ministers of Religion, Women, Youths and Men's fellowships. The structures have the capacity to engage, campaign or advocate for relevant policy changes at the local level. For the purpose of this project, LEFs are organised and mobilised for responding to the challenge through raising awareness on prevention and policy engagement. Provincial Whats App groups ensure that ZCC is updated on a daily basis. Within the LEF structures are some sub structures like Local Peace Committees, researchers (data collectors), and other specialised areas like counsellors.

2. Establishment of an Ecumenical Emergency Response Coordination Centre

In the wake of covid, ZCC activated its structures for information sharing and grassroots monitoring of the covid-19 developments in communities. Through its regularly updated database, ZCC was able to cascade awareness information right to the lowest level of our society. All ZCC scheduled programs were collapsed into a COVID-19 response machinery at all levels. The ZCC staff members (both in the regions and at the head office) and the LEFs were mobilised for this new task.

The ZCC had initially proposed the establishment of a physical coordination centre that would be run from its Head Office in Harare. However, it soon emerged that a physical space would not be appropriate given the contagious nature of the virus and the Government directive to lockdown all activities and movements. Thus, ZCC decided to ensure that the centre became virtual as was consistent with the principle of social distancing that had been recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC). Although this arrangement comes with its challenges such as internet connectivity problems, the approach has worked well so far. A Centre Coordinator was assigned the task to ensure that there is smooth flow of information in and out of the centre, from and to the ZCC members and other key stakeholders. Engagement meetings with key stakeholders were coordinated from the centre and this has allowed the church to meet the State President, CSO leaders and other stakeholders as elaborated later in the report.

3. Scenario Mapping Exercise

The ZCC designed a survey to map the mild, and worst and catastrophic scenarios as well as gather the views of the Ministers of Religion, Bishops and other key stakeholders such as the business, civil society organisations, security sector, academia and Government representatives on how the country should prepare for the emergency. The survey named, “COVID-19 Scenarios for Zimbabwe: Preparing for effective Church Response,” informed the ZCC on the views of the stakeholders in dealing with the COVID-19 emergency

– See Table 1 below for the possible scenarios. The snap survey carried out via “Survey monkey and on WhatsApp platform informed the ZCC on specific recommendations that the key stakeholders, state and non-state, should implement to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. The suggestions have already been used to influence the actions that the Zimbabwe Task-force on COVID-19 should take.

Scenario	Characteristics
Mild	<ul style="list-style-type: none">—The COVID-19 is managed and does not spread nationally affecting the capacity of health care on citizens—Health institutions are better equipped to carry out several tests and respond early to any confirmed cases—Citizens play a proactive role in mitigating the spread of corona virus, they stay home and follow W.H.O and government guidance
Worse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">—The corona virus affects thousands of people spreading using a base of 1000 reported cases of urban areas across the country—New cases are reported rural areas and there is no enough health centres to respond—Health centres in in both rural and urban areas are overwhelmed and operate at 20% of their capacity.—Increased contestation around access to resources for health professionals
Catastrophic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— There is failure to detect infections accurately to limited testing equipment and tracing capabilities—The COVID-19 spreads across urban and rural areas with 5000 cases recorded,—There is breakdown in coordination efforts, citizens not following guidance of lockdown in search of livelihoods and in panic

Table 1. Possible Scenarios

4. The ZCC COVID-19 Tracker

The ZCC has also designed a tracking tool (Ecumenical COVID-19 Tracker) to gather key data on policy issues emerging and developments taking place around the country. The policy developments are actions and pronouncements by Government at national level as well as actions of state and non-state actors on the ground. This process is important for three reasons:

1. Enable the ZCC to inform and advise the Government where necessary.
2. Documentation enables the ZCC to interpret policies and unpack the same for the benefit of its ordinary members and citizens.
3. The third limb of the documentation is to enable the ZCC to learn from this emergency for the benefit of posterity.

This process has been made easier through the cooperation of the 1210 active Ministers of Religion as well as other LEF groups such as Mibatanzwa Yemadzimai, Local Peace Councils that are operational in all the ten provinces of the country. These structures have been working on the ground to champion local community organizing to address covid-19 safety and security needs.

The database for these LEFs was recently updated and is a critical asset in ensuring that all the communication from ZCC reaches as many citizens as possible. The LEFs also submit real time monitoring to the ZCC on a daily basis making it the fastest and cheapest way of information dissemination to and from the communities. On a daily basis between 6 am and 8 pm, the Ecumenical Emergency Centre Coordinator moderates and updates LEF sessions via the WhatsApp social media group platform where developments are shared and analysed from different corners of the country. The updates have continued to inform ZCC engagement processes.

5. Strategic Engagement Meetings

5.1 Meeting with Civil Society Organizations

The ZCC has coordinated engagement meetings between the General Secretary's office and the CSOs under the banner of the National Convergence Platform (NCP) in response to COVID-19. An outcome document articulating a non-state response has since been drafted and adopted by NCP member organisations.

5.2 Meeting with the H.E President of Zimbabwe and the members of Inter-ministerial Task Force on Covid-19

Engagement meetings with key institutions serve two purposes; the first is to learn what other stakeholders are doing and where they see the gaps. The second is to share the church's experiences. Thus, on the 2nd of April 2020, the ZCC together with the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishop's Conference, Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe, the Muslim community and the Zimbabwe Indigenous

Inter-denominational Council of Churches met with President Mnangagwa in Harare, where ZCC presented the work that it is doing in response to COVID-19. The ZCC delegation was comprised of the Ecumenical Liaison Officer and members of the Supervisory Council who shared the Church's work so far:

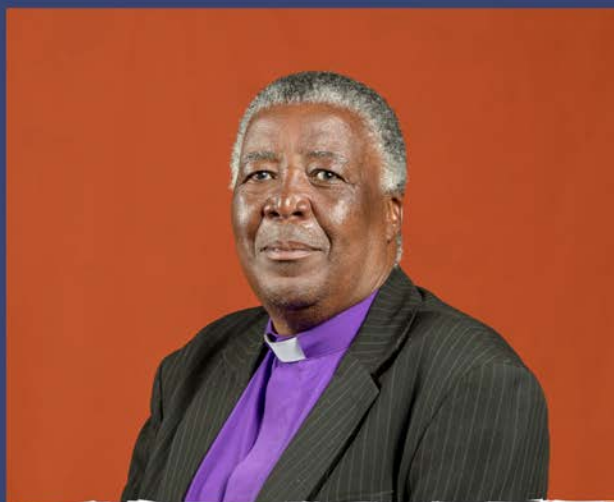
1. The pastoral letters and provision of theological leadership to member churches to put on halt on all physical church services that involve gathering of many people. This was to amplify and support the official regulations communicated by the Government on gatherings.
2. ZCC's humanitarian work with the vulnerable communities continued in Masvingo and Mashonaland East. This was made possible through the categorisation of such services as essential by the Government in the context of COVID-19.
3. Production and dissemination of IEC materials on radio, and social media platforms in as many local languages as possible.
4. Provision of clean water by the churches to communities around the Church premises across the country.
5. Provision of pastoral care and encouragement to communities to adhere to set rules, regulations and guidelines especially during the 21 day lock down.
6. Preparation for pastoral care and counselling in light of the anticipated spike in cases of COVID-19.

[3] NCP is made up of various actors including but not limited to Churches, CSOs, Professional bodies, Women and Youth organizations, Business as formally represented by their apex bodies where possible.. Currently the apex member bodies are ten.

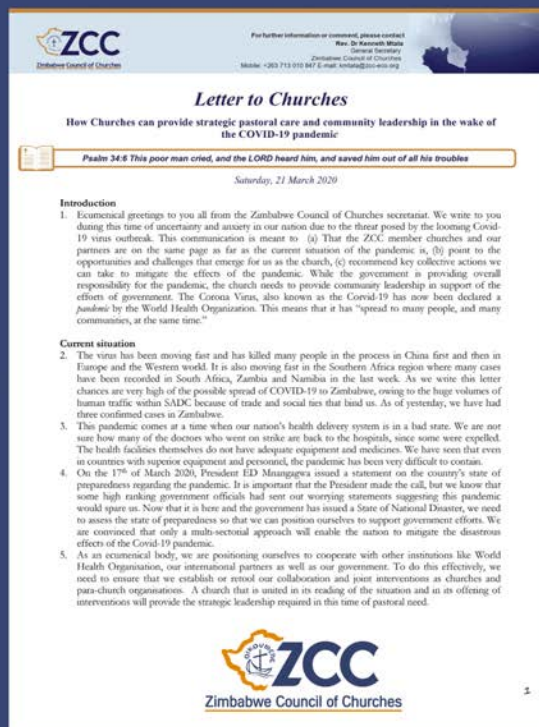
PHOTO GALLERY



ZCC Ecumenical Fellowship raising awareness on COVID-19 through distributing soap and clean water



"I am the Presiding Bishop of Presbyterian Church of Africa (PCA). In this COVID-19 Pandemic, I choose to stay and worship from home." Lazarus Mpande Khanye #StayHome #FightCovid19



Church Leaders Taking the initiative to #Stay and #Worship from Home.

This was also an opportunity to hear what the Government is planning to do in order to combat the spread of COVID-19 virus. These plans will need the church to find ways to complement them.

6. COVID-19 Multi-Media Messaging

The ZCC COVID-19 response implementation plan is centered around dissemination of information to church and community members across the country. To be consistent with the national and international (WHO) messaging, ZCC embarked on a process of identifying key content from the messages and rebranding them to infuse a theological perspective to the communication, albeit without distorting the meaning of the original messages. ZCC observed that the majority of messages disseminated by the state were in English. Although the state gradually introduced Shona and Ndebele, ZCC realized that marginalized communities in the periphery of society were still left out. The ZCC embarked on a translation process of the key messages. Pastoral statements were translated into Shona, Ndebele, Nambya and Setswana. Audio messages were translated into Shona, Ndebele, Venda, Sotho, Kalanga and Tonga. The audios have been disseminated through the social media and radio stations.

The Venda communities live along the Zimbabwe - South Africa border and around the Beit-bridge area which is one of the main transit points for both cargo and human traffic. It was important that these communities are informed adequately of the danger posed by COVID-19.

Similarly, the Kalanga language is spoken by the people on the border between Zimbabwe and Botswana. It was envisaged that the Plumtree border communities also needed adequate education on the dangers of the COVID-19. The Tonga language is spoken by communities along the Zambezi river valley and along the major Bulawayo – Victoria Falls Road. They are therefore at risk of the disease from transit traffic and tourists who visit the Zambezi River. Thus the translation from English messages into these languages will help these communities get the messages like all other nationals.

The ZCC has been using a multi-media approach in order to reach out to as many people as possible. The first choice in disseminating the information is through the LEFs. Messages are being sent directly via WhatsApp groups (there are 15 Provincial groups being administered by the Secretariat). The LEFs in turn share with their congregants. The ZCC multiplier effect is such that once the message gets to the LEFs mapped in the database specifically for the COVID-19 response, they can pass on the message to at least 40-50% of members of their rural churches and 60-80% of congregants per urban church. The ZCC envisages that the messages have a potential of reaching at least 100 000 members directly. These members are also in other WhatsApp groups and the potential for the message to continue circulating increases.

We have also made use of the Heads of Church who come in the form of Bishops, Moderators and Presidents differing as per denomination. These have a combined influence of more than 2 million of their congregations across the nation.

However, noting the limitations of this approach, ZCC engaged local radio stations. Most rural households have access to radio via their cell-phone handsets. The ZCC is therefore disseminating information using 7 local radio stations. These are shown on the table in the next page:

Radio station	Estimated reach	Target Province
1. YA Fm	200 000	Midlands and Masvingo and parts of Matabeleland South
2. Nyami Nyami FM	200 000	Matabeleland North and Mashonaland West
3. Diamond FM	500 000	Manicaland
4. Khuluma	500 000	Bulawayo and Matabeleland South
5. Star FM	2 million	All provinces
6. Capitalk	500 000	Harare and Mashonaland Provinces
7. National FM	5 million	All provinces

Table 1: Radio Stations Working with ZCC on COVID-19

ZCC & ZTN COVID-19 Awareness Updates

Schedule

Date	10:00am Blitz	1pm Blitz	4pm Blitz	4:30 pm Heartbeat
March 2020				
27	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
30	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
31	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
April 2020				
1	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
2	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
3	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
6	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
7	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
8	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3
9	Message 4	Message 1	Message 2	Message 3

Follow the messages on Twitter @ZTNNews, Facebook @Zimpapers TV Network and YouTube @ZTN

#Stayhome, #Staysafe and #StopTheSpread.



ZCC & YA FM COVID-19 Awareness Updates

Schedule

1. Spot Ads every hour between 6am and 6pm until 13 April 2020
2. Tele-interviews with Church Leaders between 12:45 - 13:00hrs every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
3. Languages
 - English
 - Shona
 - Ndebele
 - Kalanga
 - Venda



#Stayhome, #Staysafe and #StopTheSpread.



Sample Radio Schedules designed to sensitize the ZCC Constituency on Radio Programs

The radio stations collectively have a national reach which guarantees wide spread of ZCC key messages on the virus.

The ZCC is also sending messages about COVID-19 using the Zimbabwe Television Network (ZTN), an online Zimpapers station with a viewership of an estimated number of 7 700 and accessible via cellphones and other IT gadgets.

Due to the 21 days lockdown and guidelines by the Government that office spaces de-congest, the radio stations are not operating at full capacity. However, all of the radio stations have played the ZCC messages so far. The annexure attached to this report summarize that various communications initiatives adopted and their impact.

7. Pastoral Guides

The ZCC developed COVID-19 pastoral guides on conduct of the church during this crisis time and these guidelines having been shared are already being used in the conduct of church business in Zimbabwe. The guides focus on encouraging congregants to worship from home until the COVID-19 virus is under control. A COVID-19 pastoral letter was generated and shared with all the ZCC Bishops advising them to ensure that their members abide by the Government regulations on gatherings.

8. Analysis of Statutory Instruments

In response to COVID-19 challenge, the Government of Zimbabwe has made responsive policy pronouncements. The ZCC has analysed these policies for the benefit of the ZCC members. The full analyses of these policies are found in the annexures attached to this report.

8.1 Economic measures

On the 26th of March the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe presented monetary statement in response to COVID-19. On the 29th of March, the Government gazetted Statutory Instrument 85 of 2020 to give effect to the Reserve Bank statement. Subsequent to this, the Minister of Finance presented fiscal measures to provide a policy framework to respond to COVID-19.

1. On the 26th of March 2020, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) announced interventions in response to the financial vulnerabilities caused by COVID-19 Pandemic.
For the full analysis done by ZCC- see Annex 1

2. On the 29th of March 2020, the Government of Zimbabwe gazetted Statutory Instrument (SI) 85 of 2020 Exchange Control (Exclusive Use of Zimbabwean Dollar for Domestic Transactions) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (No. 2)

3. The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning's Fiscal statement
For the full analysis done by ZCC see Annex 3

Table 2. Economic measures

8.2 Health measures

In light of the COVID-19 virus threat, The Government of Zimbabwe presented two Statutory Instruments. The first, Statutory Instrument 77 of 2020 was meant to legalise the State of Disaster. The second, Statutory Instrument 83 was meant to give effect to the National lockdown. The two SIs fall within the Civil Protection Act.

1. On the 23rd of March 2020 Government gazetted Statutory Instrument SI 77 of 2020 (Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Regulations
For the full analysis done by ZCC see Annex 4

2. Statutory Instrument 83 of 2020 (Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment)
National Lockdown Order)
For the full analysis done by ZCC see Annex 5

Table 3: Health Measures

9. Psychosocial Support System for LEFs responding to COVID-19

The ZCC considers LEFs as frontline workers in responding to COVID-19. Based on anticipation of a worse-to-catastrophic scenario in terms of the impact of the virus, the ZCC has immediately established a toll-free helpline-based technical support for LEFs responding to COVID-19. The objectives of the intervention are as follows:

- To increase access to quality spiritual and psychosocial support services to those affected and infected by COVID-19
- To increase access to professional technical backstopping/advisory and care services to ecumenical frontline actors who are responding to COVID-19 in Zimbabwe.

Current official approaches to addressing the plethora of mental health issues associated with COVID-19 have largely taken a modern scientific approach involving medical treatment and attending to mental health and psychosocial issues through the services of certified and registered professionals. Yet the majority interpret the pandemic as an act of God. Therefore, despite the deployment of modern scientific approach, several questions remain unanswered and anxiety and fear continues. Moreover, during self-quarantine, self-isolation or treatment, most people would still require spiritual accompaniment. Besides being inadequate in addressing the spiritual dimensions of the problem, these services have remained inaccessible to the majority of the poor and vulnerable. Current approaches are therefore not adequate and holistic, hence the urgent need to strengthen spiritual counselling and psycho-social support capacity amongst LEFs. The capacity needs (of church leaders) that have been observed during a recent rapid assessment include adequate (scientific) knowledge of COVID-19, technical support in handling complex cases in a context of social distancing; and support in linking clients to resource/support systems.

10. ZCC COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies in Humanitarian Programmes

In light of Covid-19 global pandemic, the ZCC introduced mitigation strategies to curb the risk of contracting and subsequently spreading the virus amongst and between the beneficiaries. These strategies were made in line with the preventative measures laid out by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health and Child Care in Zimbabwe. These strategies include

- 5.1 Decentralization of distribution points
- 5.2 Pre-distribution address
- 5.3 Provision of handwashing facilities at distribution points
- 5.4 Emphasis on maintaining 1 m social distance
- 5.5 Provision of Protective clothing

Find a detailed layout of the strategies in annex 7: ZCC Mitigation Strategies

11. Lessons/Observations

ZCC continues to monitor ZCC messages on social media and on radio stations and updates the Communications team. So far a number of observations have been made with regard the environment and recommendations made. The following observations have been made:

11.1 People are not taking the lockdown seriously:

People in outlying areas seem to think the virus will affect people in Harare and other big cities. ZCC LEFs in various areas, for example, reported people going about their business as usual. Some people are taking the lockdown as a holiday, therefore are taking the opportunity to visit the rural areas. Some people have expressed the fear that if the infection rate increases, these people who are moving around could spread it to the innocent who are abiding by the isolation guidelines. The updates shared from provinces have shown that generally, the people who are moving and congregating are looking for:

- a) Beer
- b) Food- particularly mealie meal which has been very scarce in the shops prior the lock-down.
- c) Fuel and gas
- d) Water – water access has become the biggest challenge in most areas. Yet, many people gather around water points in urban areas, further increasing the chances of spreading the virus



People going about their usual business in Masingo, Zina Setai
Photo Credit: Benedict Gondani - 3 April 2020

11.2 Security sector violence:

There have been reports of security personnel physically assaulting the citizens they encountered on the roads, at water points and at beer halls. Such reports were shared from Epworth, Zvishavane, Dangamvura, Masvingo and Norton.

11.3 Socio-economic reality of the majority of the citizens:

Observations have been made that the generality of the Zimbabwean citizens live one day at a time. They have no savings and have to go out every day to eke out a living. Mealie meal, fuel, gas, water have always been in short supply in the country before the pandemic. The number of days given as notice for the lockdown did not allow citizens to adequately prepare even if they could. Citizens will therefore go out for these scarce commodities whenever they become available in the shops. When they jostle for these commodities the “social distancing guideline” is ignored.

11.4 Inadequate preparation for the masses/Insufficient communication:

Like the point above, the notice period was inadequate. People were not fully informed of the nature and rationale for the lockdown. Hence citizens are arguing that dying of COVID-19 is similar to starving so they will take their chances. There are reports of farmers who travelled from Manicaland to sell their perishable produce at Mbare Musika (Market). They argue they were not aware of the proposed lockdown. Now they are trapped in Harare and their produce is rotting away. Besides risking contracting the COVID-19 virus, this development will greatly affect their livelihoods.

11.5 Lack of protective clothing for the security services as they discharge their duties:

Citizens are expressing concern that the police officers themselves are not protected from the COVID-19 virus. Besides, they risk their lives as they drive around crammed in small pickup trucks and disregard of the social distancing regulations

11.6 Lack of Transparency on the government financial response plan

There has been no public breakdown by Government on the resources from Treasury, Donors and other players towards servicing the response to COVID-19. So far there have been pronouncement of figures hanging in the air. Of concern is that Government is now soliciting for tenders from Zimbabweans to fight the pandemic.

11.7 ZCC LEFs established localised initiatives on awareness raising on COVID-19.

For instance in the Epworth area in Harare, the Local Peace Committee embarked on a process of assisting the vulnerable groups with sanitizers and soap. In Masvingo and Bindura, ZCC recorded cases where the LEFs risked their lives through assisting some people who had visited the urban areas and became stranded due to the current lock down regulations.

12.0 Challenges and Innovation

12.1. The response strategy has been affected by the various Government regulations mainly the lockdown which meant change from physical to virtual Ecumenical COVID-19 Response Centre. The Coordination team has since adopted virtual coordination approach. While this increased the cost of running the project, it allowed the team to realise the intended results.

12.2. The lock down also affected the airspace that had been agreed upon with the various radio stations. Multi-media approach was adopted hence other channels like social media was maximised for disseminating the messages.

12.3. Movement restrictions meant that the Coordination team could not physically visit certain areas to verify some of the reported cases of violence by the security agents who enforced the lock down. Thus, LEFs in the respective areas were requested to use their local strategies to ensure that they confirm the reported cases without any movement from their homes.

12.4. The ZCC has adopted the strategy of live streaming some church services held by the member churches and motivate the LEFs to watch via the social media.

13.0 Recommendations

- 13.1 There is great need for water in the communities. Both the state and non-state actors have a role to play. The state alone will not be able to meet this demand. If water is not sufficiently distributed, the lockdown will be ineffectual in the residential areas.
- 13.2 The state will have to ensure that there is sufficient provision of basic commodities in the shops at affordable prices. This is going to play a key role in ensuring that those citizens who can, buy their needs and stay home. Otherwise the people will continue to move around in search of the basic commodities
- 13.3 The ZCC and other Civic bodies will need to up their engagement with the relevant government departments to ensure the security details patrolling the roads exercise restraint and observe human rights as they discharge their duties.
- 13.4 The state will need to deploy security personnel to assist in maintaining order and social distancing at shops. As it is, the security services are raising challenges with adequate fuel for them to comprehensively discharge of their duties.
- 13.5 Government could come to the aid of vendors at Mbare Market place and other citizens in desperate situations by helping them to find alternative safe accommodation.
- 13.6 The State will have to ensure protection of the first responders, police, health personnel and others by providing them with protective clothing. Otherwise the first responders become the greatest danger in the transmission of the virus to themselves and to society
- 13.7 The ZCC and other key non-state actors need to foster community organizing to help activate citizen agency in responding to a veritable existential threat to their safety and security. This is key as citizens may need to compliment government effort to respond to COVID-19.
- 13.8 The ZCC, through its chairmanship of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), should issue a statement to encourage the SADC to foster a transnational strategy to dealing with the threat of COVID-19.
- 13.9 The Parliament of Zimbabwe should shore-up its oversight role in current efforts to respond to COVID-19. Failure to do so may expose citizens to more harm than good.
- 13.10. There is need to institute research on the utility and challenges of social distancing in a deeply religious and cultural context.
- 13.11 The progression of the virus from infection to full manifestation needs urgent communication. As it is, people do not fully appreciate how the virus has progressed in other countries where things appeared normal then there was a sudden sharp rise in the rate of infection. This is critical because after initial compliance within the first two days people seem to have relaxed again.



COVID-19 PREVENTION

← MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING →

Not going to church on a Sunday does not make you less of a Christian. Zimbabwe Council of Churches encourages all its member churches to make use of social media platforms and podcasts for Sunday service as continuation of fellowship and discourage mass gatherings to prevent the potential spread of the covid-19 virus.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:20

ZCC
Zimbabwe Council of Churches

f @ZimbabweCouncilofChurches
t @zccinzim



COVID-19 PREVENTION

If possible please stay at home.

Temporarily worshipping outside big gatherings is possible. Jesus was isolated for forty days in the wilderness, John was isolated on the island of Patmos. All these were isolated but God, who is not confined to spaces was with them.

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed"
- Matthew 18:20

ZCC
Zimbabwe Council of Churches

f @ZimbabweCouncilofChurches
t @zccinzim

Sample Messages on COVID-19

Links to ZCC Ecumenical Response Work on COVID-19

1. ZCC Food Distributions during COVID-19
<https://www.facebook.com/227152304126070/posts/1443441102497178/?sfnsn=mo>
2. Church Leaders taking the initiative to #StayHome and #WorshipFromHome
<https://twitter.com/kennethmtata/status/1243242255361675264?s=20>
3. Sample of ZCC Messages on the Leading Newspapers in Zimbabwe - The Herald
<https://www.facebook.com/TheHeraldZimbabwe/videos/238985297279478/?sfnsn=mo&d=n&vh=e>
4. Sample of ZCC Messages playing during the ZTN News editions
<https://www.facebook.com/ZTNnews/videos/252905802417088/?funlid=jO5lLTCsTnbagMjE&d=w&vh=e>
5. Article on the Economic Trajectory of Zimbabwe during the COVID-19 Pandemic
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/ZimbabweCouncilofChurches/posts/>
6. ZCC Official Pastoral Pronouncement on COVID-19
<https://www.facebook.com/227152304126070/posts/1435640663277222/?sfnsn=mo>
7. ZCC Celebrates International Happiness Day during the COVID-19 Pandemic
<https://www.facebook.com/227152304126070/posts/1438609006313721/?sfnsn=mo>
8. Sample of ZCC Pastoral Pronouncement Translated into local languages
<https://www.facebook.com/227152304126070/posts/1442288852612403/?sfnsn=mo>
9. Newspaper Coverage on ZCC Food Distributions to the marginalized communities during COVID-19
<https://www.theanchor.co.zw/2020/04/02/council-of-churches-feeds-the-vulnerable-during-lockdown/>
10. ZCC Messages on social distancing, good hygiene and hope during the COVID-19 Pandemic
<https://www.facebook.com/227152304126070/posts/1443441102497178/?sfnsn=mo>
<https://twitter.com/zccinzim/status/1246060053641093122?s=20>
<https://twitter.com/zccinzim/status/1242511659840741376?s=20>
<https://twitter.com/zccinzim/status/1242511719848706048?s=20>
<https://twitter.com/zccinzim/status/1220671228672913408?s=20>

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

The Triumphant Entry into
Jerusalem



**SUNDAY 5 APRIL, 2020
9:00AM**

**LIVE FROM THE
ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
OF ST MARY'S & ALL
SAINTS**

**WITH
THE RT REV DR. FARAI
MUTAMIRI
ANGLICAN BISHOP OF
HARARE**

Watch Live on Facebook
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