

# WEEKLY FACTSHEET #15

## COVID-19: WEEK 27 JULY - 2 AUGUST 2020

### REGIONAL INDICATORS

#### SOUTH AFRICA

**CONFIRMED** 482,169  
**RECOVERED** 309,601  
**DEATHS** 7,812

#### ZAMBIA

**CONFIRMED** 5,555  
**RECOVERED** 3,289  
**DEATHS** 149

#### TANZANIA

**CONFIRMED** 509  
**RECOVERED** 183  
**DEATHS** 21

#### DRC

**CONFIRMED** 9,010  
**RECOVERED** 6,437  
**DEATHS** 215

#### IVORY COAST

**CONFIRMED** 15,978  
**RECOVERED** 11,160  
**DEATHS** 100

Source: [strategix.co.za](http://strategix.co.za)

### DID YOU KNOW?

A recent national survey conducted with more than 10 000 young people aged 18 to 35-years, through UNICEF's U-Report SMS platform, showed how COVID-19 and the related lockdown led to multiple shocks in young people's lives, whilst highlighting the inequalities when it comes to accessing digital learning and skills opportunities.

- Only 11% of young people reported access to a laptop and internet
- 41% of respondents reported

access to a smartphone but only 17% with a data bundle to connect

- 41% highlighted the need for information on skill-building and training opportunities

The inequalities in digital access highlight the urgent need to invest in connectivity and remote learning to ensure every student, particularly the most vulnerable, has access to a wide range of educational opportunities. Many young people are disconnected from digital solutions that could dramatically improve their lives.

### YOUTH VOICES

This pandemic is affecting all of us and it helps to reach out and share ideas, stories and concerns with one another about all things COVID-19. Please keep sharing your questions with us weekly, and we'll do our best to find you the most accurate and relevant answers.

#### REHEMA (HUHESO FM) - KAHAMA, TANZANIA

**QUESTION:** "It's said that the coronavirus infection has decreased, is it right to continue with our normal life?"

**RESPONSE:** Several newspaper articles and publications have stated that the authorities in Tanzania have not released official figures on the extent of the COVID-19 outbreak since the start of May. Schools were due to reopen on 29 June and President John Magufuli had said the virus had been largely defeated, but the lack of data has led to increasing concern over

the true level of infections. Tanzania's neighbours as well as international health organisations have expressed concerns that downplaying the epidemic there could impact the wider region negatively. Tanzania has 509 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 21 deaths, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But the World Health Organization has said that Tanzania is belated in releasing any data on COVID-19 infections.

Source: [BBC-News-World-Africa](http://BBC-News-World-Africa)

#### TOKELO RAMATSETSE (MCRS) - SOUTH AFRICA

**QUESTION:** "Will things go back to normal after this outbreak? What is to happen to disadvantaged homes that will probably run out of money to sustain their lives during this extension of Lockdown?"

**RESPONSE:** Here is an edited extract from an Academic Review Paper with some ideas for economic reformation in South Africa post COVID-19. "Without a new governance model, South Africa will be unable to overcome the COVID-19 health, social and economic crises; and the country is likely to plunge into economic chaos, social breakdown and rolling violent

unrest. There has to be partnerships between the public, private sector, civil society and communities to reconstruct the post-COVID-19 economy. Entrepreneurship has to be at the heart of post-COVID-19 economy reconstruction. Entrepreneurs create new industries, new jobs and new wealth. In South Africa, entrepreneurship will have to be promoted across society - within the state, private sector, civil society and communities.

Source: [University of Witswatersrand: Academic Review Paper - School of Governance](http://University-of-Witswatersrand-Academic-Review-Paper-School-of-Governance)

#### MMAKUBU PHOKWANE (MCRS) - SOUTH AFRICA

**QUESTION:** "My fear is that many people will stop taking treatment as they are afraid to go to the clinic during this lockdown so the risk of them being in a critical state is going to be high."

**RESPONSE:** The disruption to people accessing HIV treatment during lockdown is the result of several issues. 73 countries have warned that they are at risk of stock-outs of antiretrovirals (ARVs) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A failure of suppliers to deliver ARVs on time and

a shut-down of land and air transport services, coupled with limited access to health services within countries as a result of the pandemic, are among the causes cited for the disruptions. The guidance encourages countries to limit disruptions in access to HIV treatment through "multi-month dispensing," a policy whereby medicines are prescribed for longer periods of time - up to six months. To date, 129 countries have adopted this policy.

Source: [World Health Organization](http://World-Health-Organization)

#### PALESA MOTAUNG (ALEX FM) - SOUTH AFRICA

**QUESTION:** "A relative of mine tested positive and was hospitalized recently. She says that nurses don't want to enter their wards because they fear being infected. She says it's scary because every night a positive person is taken to ICU and never makes it out."

**RESPONSE:** There have been several situations highlighted in the media about the strain that South African hospitals have experienced as a result of COVID-19. An article released in June, 2020 gives us an idea of why health workers may be scared for their lives: "Not all hospitals and clinics are taking

steps to protect high-risk staff from the new coronavirus. People aged 50 or older are almost 10 times as likely to die from COVID-19 than otherwise healthy younger people. Almost half of registered nurses and midwives practicing legally in South Africa were above the age of 50 as of 2017. The National Institute for Occupational Health ranks health workers, alongside people working in emergency services, laboratories and mortuaries, as being among those employees at highest risk of contracting the new coronavirus."

Source: [Bhekisisa Centre For Health Journalism](http://Bhekisisa-Centre-For-Health-Journalism)

#### SITHEMBILE DAZA (ALEX FM) - SOUTH AFRICA

**QUESTION:** "I don't have any questions but I'd actually like to say I'm so ready to go back to level 5 lockdown rules. This thing of new levels is affecting a lot of us and our loved ones, it's not even funny."

**RESPONSE:** We've had several youth reporters tell us that people in their communities have not been taking COVID-19 seriously since the lockdown rules were eased. This article speaks about how refusal to follow the law puts other South Africans at risk: "None of us have the right to opt out from laws we don't like. If we do, we are guilty of an

offence. We are currently in a State of Disaster. Our only chance to avoid the worst of this - and the possible death of hundreds of thousands of neighbours - is to do as we are told: keep our distance, wash our hands and stay at home. Those that can't do this are breaking the law and will be isolated so that they don't pose a risk to anyone else. If we do as the government asks us, we will negotiate this crisis as quickly as we can, get back to a new normal and the soldiers can get off the streets and home to their families."

Source: [IOL: Opinion piece](http://IOL-Opinion-piece)