Zambia RECOVR Survey Analysis
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IPA’s Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses (RECOVR)

- Rapid response surveys to answer critical policy questions (8+ countries)
- A global hub that centralizes research and policy lessons
- A portfolio of IPA studies to generate rigorous evidence (80+ studies)
- Advising 15+ governments on evidence-based approaches
- Research-on-Research to strengthen the quality of remote data collection
RECOVR Survey: Key Takeaways

Over 25% of respondents say they never stayed home in the past week

More than 50% of employed individuals have earned less pay than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools

Over 50% of respondents say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020

Over 35% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals at least once in the past week

50% of respondents report their primary school children are spending time on education at home, and over 35% of respondents report their secondary school children are spending time on education at home
Zambia Survey Information

Dates of survey: June 15-July 6, 2020

Sampling method: Random Digit Dialing of a nationally representative sample of phone numbers

Sample size: 1,278 respondents out of 3,213 call attempts

Average respondent demographics:
- % Women: 43%
- Age: 31.9 years old
- % that completed secondary school: 80%
- Household size: 5.2 people
- % Under national poverty line: 31%
(Estimated with the PPI)
Zambia RECOVR: Survey and Policy Timeline

Partial Lockdown
20 Mar-8 May

- Closure of Public Schools
20 Mar

- Closure of restaurants, bars, cinemas, and crossborder commercial travel
27 Mar

- Facemasks required in public
16 Apr

- Suspension of tourist visas
29 Apr

- Enactment of fiscal measures
27 Mar

- Enactment of additional fiscal measures
20 Apr

- IPA RECOVR Survey Round 1
13 Jun-21 Jun

Legend
- Public Health Measures
- Economic Measures
- IPA RECOVR
Health & COVID-19 Mitigation
Health & COVID-19 Mitigation: Key Takeaways

- 10% of respondents say they delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits since mid-March. Over 50% of respondents say they delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits due to concerns about COVID-19.
- 10% of respondents have been unable to obtain prescription medications since mid-March.
- Over 25% of respondents say they never stayed home in the past week.
- Almost 80% of respondents say they washed their hands more often this week than before mid-March and have worn a cloth face mask in the past week.
- Almost 40% of respondents say they feel their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19. For those who do not feel at risk, over 80% of respondents say that it is because they are following preventive measures.
- Almost 60% of respondents say their main concern related to the effects of the coronavirus crisis on Zambians is lack of money.
10% of respondents say they delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits since mid-March and that they were unable to obtain prescription medications.

Over 50% of respondents say they delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits due to concerns about COVID-19.
Poorer and wealthier respondents similarly say they delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits since mid-March and were unable to obtain prescription medications.

Poorer and wealthier respondents similarly say they delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits due to concerns about COVID-19.
Over 25% of respondents say they never stayed home in the past week
Men were more likely than women to never stay home, while women were more likely than men to stay home every day in the past week.
Poorer and wealthier respondents were similarly unlikely to stay home in the past week.
Respondents from North Western, Lusaka, Eastern and the Northern regions were more likely to stay home in the past week.
Almost 80% of respondents say they washed their hands more often this week than before mid-March.
Men and women are similarly likely to say they washed their hands more often this week than before the end of February.
Men and women are similarly likely to say they washed their hands more often this week than before the end of February.
80% of respondents have worn a homemade (cloth) face mask or other nose/mouth covering in public in the last 7 days.
Almost 40% of respondents say they feel their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19

For those who do not feel at risk, over 80% of respondents say that it is because they are following preventive measures
Men are more likely than women to say they feel their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19.

For those who do not feel at risk, men and women similarly cite compliance with preventive measures.
Wealthier and poorer respondents are similarly likely to say they feel their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19.

For those who do not feel at risk, wealthier respondents are slightly more likely to cite compliance with preventive measures.
Almost 60% of respondents say their main concern related to the effects of the coronavirus crisis on Zambians is lack of money.
Poorer and wealthier respondents similarly say their main concern related to the effects of the coronavirus crisis on Zambians is lack of money.
2 Social Protection & Financial Resilience
Social Protection & Financial Resilience: Key Takeaways

- 20% of respondents say they could not come up with 5,000 kwacha for an emergency within the next 30 days
- Over 50% of respondents say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020
- More than 70% of respondents say they have had difficulty buying the amount of food they usually buy because the price of food was too high
- More than 40% of respondents have access to a bank account and over 80% of respondents have access to a mobile money account where they can make and receive payments
- Almost no households have received food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19
20% of respondents say they could not come up with 5,000 kwacha for an emergency within the next 30 days.
20% of respondents say they could not come up with 5,000 kwacha for an emergency within the next 30 days.
Women are more likely to say they’d be unable to access money for emergencies, and more likely to rely on family and social networks.
Poorer respondents are more likely to say they’d be unable to come up with money for emergencies. Wealthier respondents are more likely to say they would get money from working, while poorer respondents say they would sell assets.
For those that could come up with 5,000 kwacha to pay for an emergency (20%), 40% say it would be very difficult to come up with 5,000 kwacha within the next 30 days.
Respondents from Muchinga Province had the least difficulty in coming up with K5000 to pay for an emergency while Eastern region had the most difficulty.
Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to say that they could not come up with 5,000 kwacha to pay for an emergency. Poorer respondents are more likely to say it would be very difficult to come up with 5,000 kwacha within the next 30 days.
Women are more likely than men to say that they could not come up with 5,000 kwacha to pay for an emergency. Women are more likely to say it would be very difficult to come up with 5,000 kwacha within the next 30 days, while men say it would not be difficult at all.
Over 50% of respondents say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to say they have had to sell off assets or buy fewer inputs than planned to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
Men and women similarly say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
Respondents with school-age children were more likely to say they have had to sell off assets or buy fewer inputs than planned to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
Over 50% of respondents say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020
Over 35% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals at least once in the past week.
Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals at least once in the past week.
Men and women similarly say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals at least once in the past week.
Over 35% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals at least once in the past week.
Respondents with school-age children were more likely than those without to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals all seven days in the past week.
25% of respondents say they have had difficulty going to food markets due to mobility restrictions imposed by the government and difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed.
Poorer and wealthier respondents similarly say they have had difficulty going to food markets due to mobility restrictions imposed by the government and difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed.

Difficulties due to mobility restrictions imposed by government

Difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed

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Respondents with/without school-age children are similarly likely to say they have had difficulty going to food markets due to mobility restrictions imposed by the government and difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed.
More than 70% of respondents say they have had difficulty buying the amount of food they usually buy because the price of food was too high.
Poorer and wealthier respondents are similarly likely to say they have had difficulty buying the amount of food they usually buy because the price of food was too high or because household income has dropped.
Respondents with school-age children are more likely to say they have had difficulty buying the amount of food they usually buy because the price of food was too high or because household income has dropped.
More than 70% of respondents say they have had difficulty buying the amount of food they usually buy because the price of food was too high.
Almost 80% of respondents say they have had difficulty buying the variety of food they usually buy because the price of food was too high.
Poorer and wealthier respondents similarly say they have had difficulty buying the variety of food they usually buy because the price of food was too high.
Respondents with school-age children are more likely to say they have had difficulty buying the variety of food they usually buy because the price of food was too high or because household income has dropped.
Almost 80% of respondents say they have had difficulty buying the variety of food they usually buy because of shortages in the markets.
More than 40% of respondents have access to a bank account and over 80% of respondents have access to a mobile money account where they can make and receive payments.
Poorer and wealthier respondents have equal access to mobile money, but wealthier respondents are more likely to have access to bank accounts.
Respondents with/without school-age children have equal access to mobile money, but those without children are more likely to have access to bank accounts.
More than 40% of respondents have access to a bank account where they can make and receive payments.
4% of households (n=52) receive regular government transfers. Half of those have experienced delays since February.
Almost no households have received food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19
Men and women were similarly unlikely to have received food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19.
Poorer and wealthier households were similarly unlikely to have received food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19.
Respondents with/without school-age children were similarly unlikely to receive food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19.
Respondents older/younger than 60 were similarly unlikely to have received food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19.
Almost 10% of households have received food, cash, or other support from relatives in country in response to COVID-19
Poorer and wealthier respondents were similarly likely to have received food, cash, or other support from relatives in country in response to COVID-19.
Women were more likely than men to have received food, cash, or other support from relatives in country in response to COVID-19
Respondents with/without school-age children were similarly likely to have received food, cash, or other support from relatives in country in response to COVID-19.
Respondents older than 60 were slightly more likely to have received food, cash, or other support from relatives in country.
Education
Education: Key Takeaways

- 50% of respondents report their primary school children are spending time on education at home
- Over 30% of respondents say their primary school children are spending more than 2 hours per day on education
- Over 35% of respondents report their secondary school children are spending time on education at home
- Among children in primary school engaged in distance learning, the majority are using their own school books
- Less than 25% of households with a child in primary school have been contacted by anyone from their children’s school since schools have been closed
- More than 60% of households with primary school children say their children will most likely return to school once schools are reopened
Almost 70% of respondents say their main concern regarding children in their household is children falling behind in their education.
Poorer and wealthier respondents similarly say their main concern regarding children in their household is children falling behind in their education.
50% of respondents report their primary school children are spending time on education at home
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Poorer and wealthier respondents similarly report their primary school children are spending time on education at home.
Over 30% of respondents say their primary school children are spending more than 2 hours per day on education.
Over 30% of respondents say their primary school children are spending more than 2 hours per day on education.
Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to say their primary school children are spending more than 2 hours per day on education.
Over 35% of respondents report their secondary school children are spending time on education at home.
Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to report their secondary school children are spending time on education at home.
Almost 40% of children in secondary school are spending more than 2 hours per day on education.
Poorer and wealthier respondents are similarly likely to report children in secondary school are spending more than 2 hours per day on education.
Among children in primary school engaged in distance learning, the majority are using their own school books.
Wealthier respondents are more likely to report primary school children using educational content on the internet.
Among children in secondary school engaged in distance learning, the majority are using their own school books.
Wealthier respondents are more likely to report secondary school children using educational content on the internet.
Respondents cite lack of motivation, lack of support from teachers and schools, and lack of access to television as reasons their children are not spending time on education at home.
Respondents cite lack of motivation, lack of support from teachers and schools, and lack of access to television as reasons their children are not spending time on education at home.
Poorer and wealthier respondents similarly cite lack of motivation, lack of support from teachers and schools, and lack of access to television as reasons children are not spending time on education at home.
Over 50% are supporting primary school children’s education by talking to their children about school, over 40% are telling their children to review their books, and 30% are helping with homework.
Poorer and wealthier respondents are similarly supporting primary school children’s education by talking to their children about school, telling their children to review their books, and helping with homework.
Respondents are supporting secondary school children’s education by talking to their children about school (over 50%), telling children to review their books (over 40%), and helping with homework (30%).
Poorer and wealthier respondents are similarly supporting secondary school children’s education by talking to their children about school, telling their children to review their books, and helping with homework.
Less than 25% of households with a child in primary school have been contacted by anyone from their children’s school since schools have been closed
Poorer and wealthier households with a child in primary school have been similarly likely to be contacted by anyone from their children’s school since schools have been closed.
Less than 25% of households with a child in secondary school have been contacted by anyone from their children’s school since schools have been closed.
Wealthier households with a child in secondary school have been more likely to receive communication from the Ministry of General Education since schools have been closed.
Less than 24% of households with a child in school have been contacted by anyone from their children’s school since schools have been closed.
Almost 80% of households with primary school children say their children will definitely return to school once schools are reopened.
Poorer and wealthier households are similarly likely to say their primary school children will return to school once schools are reopened.
Almost 80% of households with secondary school children say their children will definitely return to school once they are reopened.
Poorer and wealthier households are similarly likely to say their secondary school children will return to school once schools are reopened.
78% of households with primary school children say their children will most likely return to school once schools are reopened.
4 Economic Activity & Employment
Economic Activity & Employment: Key Takeaways

- 70% of respondents working in agriculture have altered planting, harvesting, or marketing of agricultural products because of COVID-19-related restrictions.
- Almost 50% of households’ places of work are currently open with business as usual.
- More than 50% of employed individuals have spent fewer hours working than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools.
- More than 50% of employed individuals have earned less pay than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools.
70% of respondents working in agriculture (n=116) have altered planting, harvesting, or marketing of agricultural products because of COVID-19-related restrictions.

These respondents have faced challenges buying required inputs, carrying out farming activities as usual, and selling crops or livestock as planned.
Almost 50% of respondents’ places of work are currently open with business as usual.
Men and women’s places of work are similarly currently open with business as usual.
Wealthier respondents’ places of work are more likely to be currently open with business as usual.
Places of work for respondents working in services and manufacturing in retail are more likely to be currently open with business as usual.
Almost 50% of households’ places of work are currently open with business as usual
67% of respondents were employed in February, whereas 44% worked in the past week.

Of those working in the past week, over 50% report earning less than in February.
Women were less likely to be employed in February, but the employment gap grew considerably since then.

Of those working in the past week, men and women similarly report earning less than in February.
Wealthier respondents are more likely than poorer respondents to have worked in the past week

Wealthier and poorer respondents similarly report earning less than in February
More than 50% of employed individuals have spent fewer hours working than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools.
Women are more likely than men to have spent fewer or no hours working than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools.
Poorer and wealthier respondents have similarly spent fewer hours working than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools.
Respondents working in all sectors have similarly spent fewer hours working than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools.
Employed individuals working in all sectors have similarly earned less pay than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools.