Learning from Rapid Data to Inform Policy on COVID-19 in Zambia and Malawi
Today’s Panelists

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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 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

**Launch of Emergency Cash Transfer**
- 28 July

**IPA RECOVR Survey Round 1**
- 15 Jun-6 July

**Closure of border with Tanzania**
- 11 May

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**Legend**
- Public Health Measures
- Economic Measures
- IPA RECOVR
Health & COVID-19 Mitigation
Almost 40% of respondents say they feel someone in their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19. For those who do NOT feel at risk (64%), over 90% of respondents say that it is because they are following preventative measures.
Respondents report increases in some virus-mitigating health behaviors

Almost **80%** of respondents report more frequent hand-washing since mid-March

**80%** of respondents report wearing a homemade (cloth) face mask or other covering in public in the last 7 days
...and less compliance with other behaviors

- Men were more likely than women to not stay entirely at 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.

Over 25% of respondents say there was not 1 day in the week in which they stayed entirely at home.
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Social Protection & Financial Resilience
Respondents have experienced sharp, adverse effects from the economic fallout of COVID-19 restrictions.

- 40% report shortages in the markets prevent them from buying food.
- 64% report drops in income prevent them from buying food.
- More than 70% report the price of food was too high.
- Over 35% say they've had to limit portion sizes or reduce the number of meals in the past week.
Households with school-age children are more likely than those without children to report difficulty in buying the usual amount of food because price of food was too high or household income has dropped.
More than half of respondents say they have had to deplete their savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
20% of respondents say they could not come up with 800 kwacha for an emergency within the next 30 days. Respondents from Northern Province had the least difficulty in coming up with K800 to pay for an emergency while Eastern region had the most difficulty.
Policy Implications: Health and Social Protection
Economic Activity & Employment
While 67% of respondents report working in February, 44% of households report working in the past 7 days.
Of those working in the past week, over 50% report working fewer hours and earning less than they did in February, before schools closed.
Almost 50% of respondents say their business/place of work is open with business as usual
Education
Approximately 50% of respondents report that primary school children are spending time at home since schools were closed.

Over 30% of respondents report that primary school children in the household are spending an average of 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.
Households report that the main reasons why children are not spending more time on education include lack of motivation, lack of support from teachers and schools and lack of access to television.
Policy Implications: Education
Partner with us

As a Researcher:
- We connect researchers with partners, assist with research design, implement data collection, and much more.

As a Practitioner:
- We can help answer your questions and support you in using evidence to make your programs or policies as effective as possible.

As a Funder:
- Our funders make it possible for us to generate evidence and inform debates about how to effectively reduce poverty and improve lives.

Get in touch at contact@poverty-action.org
Thank you

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