

Responding to COVID-19: Highlights of a Survey in MOZAMBIQUE

Summary

- Almost all Mozambicans know about COVID-19 and basic understanding about transmission and the importance of regular hand washing is high. However, a sizeable minority seek more information, which may help address some misconceptions on avoidance and ‘cures.’
- The views on the government’s response to date and trust in the information it provides on it are skewed negatively.
- Mozambicans see the virus as both a high personal risk and a threat to their country. As such, they are supportive of a wide range of personal and community interventions to help limit the spread of the coronavirus at this comparatively early stage of its spread in Mozambique.
- National and local TV, along with friend and family, community leaders and social media are the key information sources the public relies on.

Background

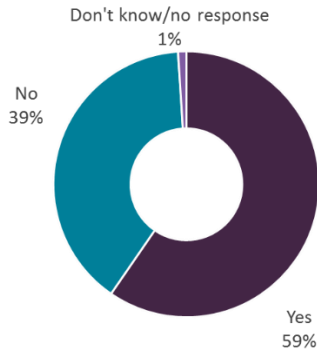
Public health social measures (PHSMs) are an important strategy to delay and reduce the magnitude of COVID-19. PHSMs particularly those that restrict movement or entail the closure of services, can place a significant burden on populations. The effective implementation of PHSMs will require public support and compliance. Hence, this survey was conducted to assess public support for, and the likely social impacts of PHSMs in Mozambique.

Key Findings of the Survey

Awareness of COVID-19 is high - but a sizeable minority seek more information and there is considerable misunderstanding on prevention and ‘cures’

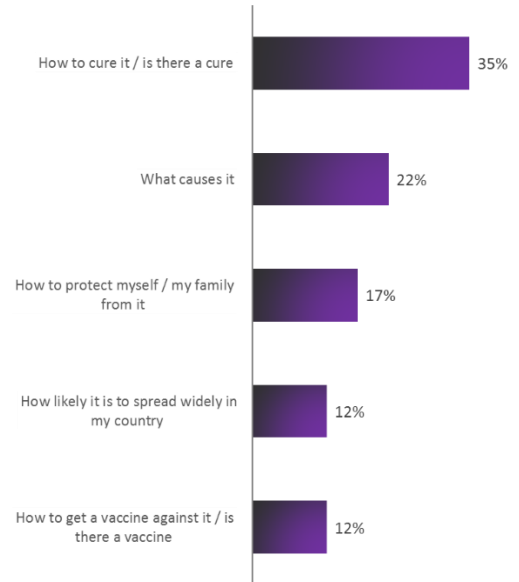
- Almost everyone has heard of COVID-19 (99%). Seven in 10 or more spontaneously associate the symptoms with a fever (75%) or dry cough (70%) with half citing difficulty breathing (51%). Nevertheless, two in five (39%) of Mozambicans feel they do not have enough information about it.
- One third would like more information on ‘how to cure it/is there a cure’ (35%); roughly one in five would be interested in ‘what causes it’ (22%) and ‘how to protect myself/my family from it’ (17%).
- Most Mozambicans believe that COVID-19 can be prevented by drinking lemon and Vitamin C (77%) or that hot climate prevents the spread of the virus (72%). A fifth (20%) believe that ‘Africans can’t get it’ while one in six think that it can be cured with garlic or by drinking bleach (17% each).

Q10. Do you feel you currently have enough information about the coronavirus/Covid-19 situation?



% who feel they have enough information	
Gender:	
Male	58
Female	61
Age:	
18-25 years	58
26-35 years	60
36-45 years	59
46-55 years	64
56 and older	61
Monthly Household Income:	
\$0-100	53
\$101-200	61
\$201-500	66
\$501+	68

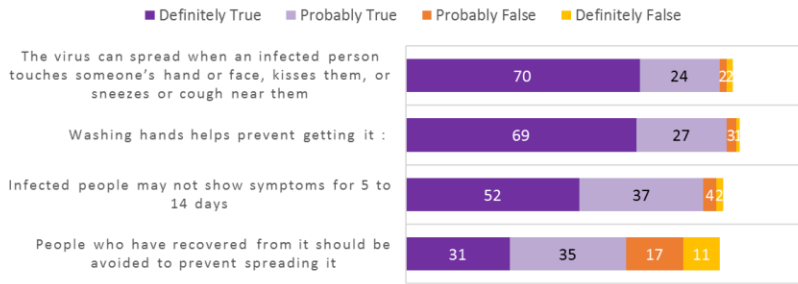
Q11. What are the two things about it that you would like most to have more information about? [Top five mentions]



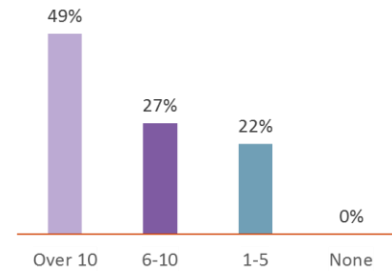
Nevertheless, the basic understanding of close contact transmission and the importance of hand -washing stands high

- Almost all think COVID-19 can be spread by touch, kiss, sneeze, or cough (94%, including 70% thinking this is 'definitely true') and that washing hands helps prevent getting it (96% including 69% 'definitely true'). Two in three (66%) think people who have recovered from it should be avoided due to risk spreading the virus.
- Half stated they washed their hands or used hand sanitizer over 10 times in the day prior to their interview compared with one in five washing 5 times or fewer (49% vs. 22%). Those living in informal self-built housing tend to wash their hands less frequently.

Q14. I'm going to read things people have said about coronavirus or Covid-19. Please tell me if you think each is definitely true, probably true, probably false, or definitely false. %



Q40. Yesterday, how many times did you wash your hands with soap or use hand sanitizer?

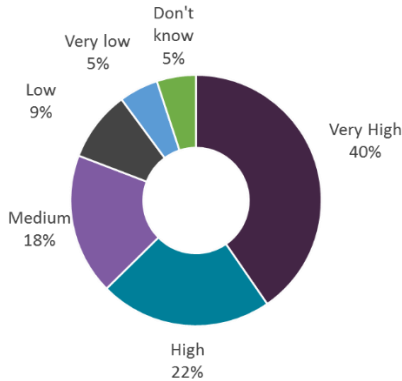


Q14. Share who agree definitely/probably true (%)	Male	Female	18-25 years	26-35 years	36-45 years	46-55 years	56 and over	\$0-100	\$101-200	\$201-500	\$501+
The virus can spread when an infected person touches someone's hand or face, kisses them, or sneezes or cough near them	94	95	95	94	93	97	94	91	94	95	95
Washing hands helps prevent getting it	96	95	99	96	93	95	94	95	96	96	92
Infected people may not show symptoms for 5 to 14 days	90	86	88	88	89	91	85	86	91	90	86
People who have recovered from it should be avoided to prevent spreading it	68	64	63	66	67	73	63	72	61	65	79

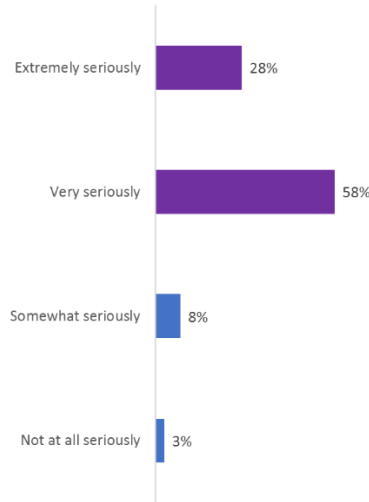
89% of Mozambicans believe that COVID-19 poses a big problem for the country; 63% see themselves at high risk for catching COVID-19.

- Almost all Mozambicans think that the coronavirus will be a problem for Mozambique (89%, including 71% thinking it 'will become a big problem').
- Significantly more Mozambicans feel they are at high risk of catching the coronavirus compared to low risk (63% high risk, including 40% 'very high' versus 14% low, including 5% 'very low').
- The clear majority believes that infection would seriously affect their health (86% 'extremely/very seriously' vs. 11% 'somewhat/not at all seriously').
- The most commonly cited rationale for understanding the perceived effect on health is 'it could kill me/make me very sick' (64%), followed by 'it caused a lot of problems abroad' (22%), 'it seems serious' (18%) and 'it can require hospitalization' (18%).
- Half of Mozambicans (48%) are optimistic about receiving help they would need to deal with the illness if they become infected. The confidence level is the same regardless of age or gender.

Q5. Please indicate what you think your level of risk of catching coronavirus or Covid-19 is?



Q6. If you were infected by coronavirus or Covid-19, how seriously do you think it would affect your health?



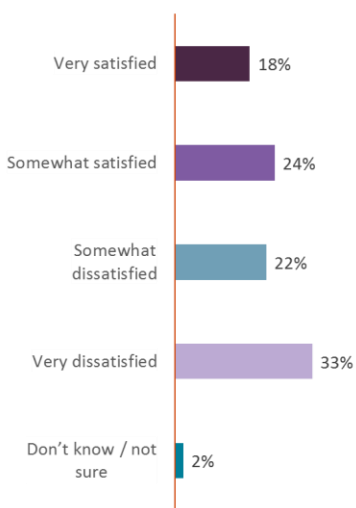
% who think coronavirus would affect their health extremely seriously/very seriously:

Gender:	
Male	86
Female	87
Age:	
18-25 years	86
26-35 years	87
36-45 years	86
46-55 years	83
56 and older	91
Monthly Household Income:	
\$0-100	83
\$101-200	86
\$201-500	88
\$501+	98

Mozambicans' perceptions of the governmental response to COVID-19 are leaning negatively

- More than half are dissatisfied with their government's response (55%; vs. 42% satisfied). Those with higher income are more likely to say they are dissatisfied.
- Mozambicans are also more likely to distrust the information provided by the government (53% mistrusting including 17% 'not at all' vs. 46% trusting including 24% 'completely trust'). Younger Mozambicans tend to be less trusting.

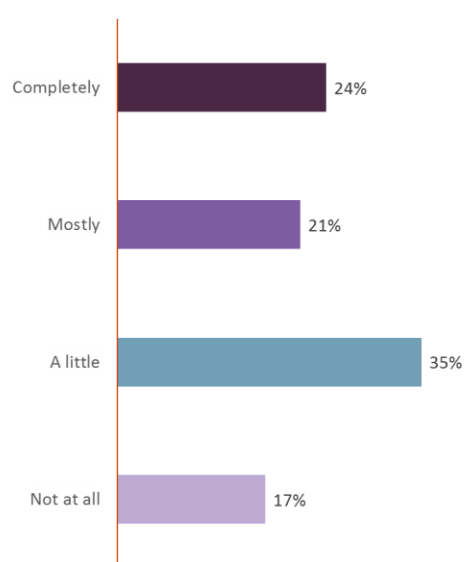
Q12. How satisfied are you with the government's response to coronavirus or Covid-19?



% who are very/somewhat satisfied with government's response :

Gender:	
Male	42
Female	42
Age:	
18-25 years	43
26-35 years	36
36-45 years	42
46-55 years	50
56 and older	47
Monthly Household Income:	
\$0-100	44
\$101-200	46
\$201-500	37
\$501+	15

Q13. How much do you trust information from the government about the coronavirus or Covid-19?



Support for personal interventions runs high

- Almost all Mozambicans support stopping handshake/kiss greetings (94%); requiring those who have contact with infected people to self-isolate (89%); and requiring those with COVID-19 to remain home until they are well (88%).

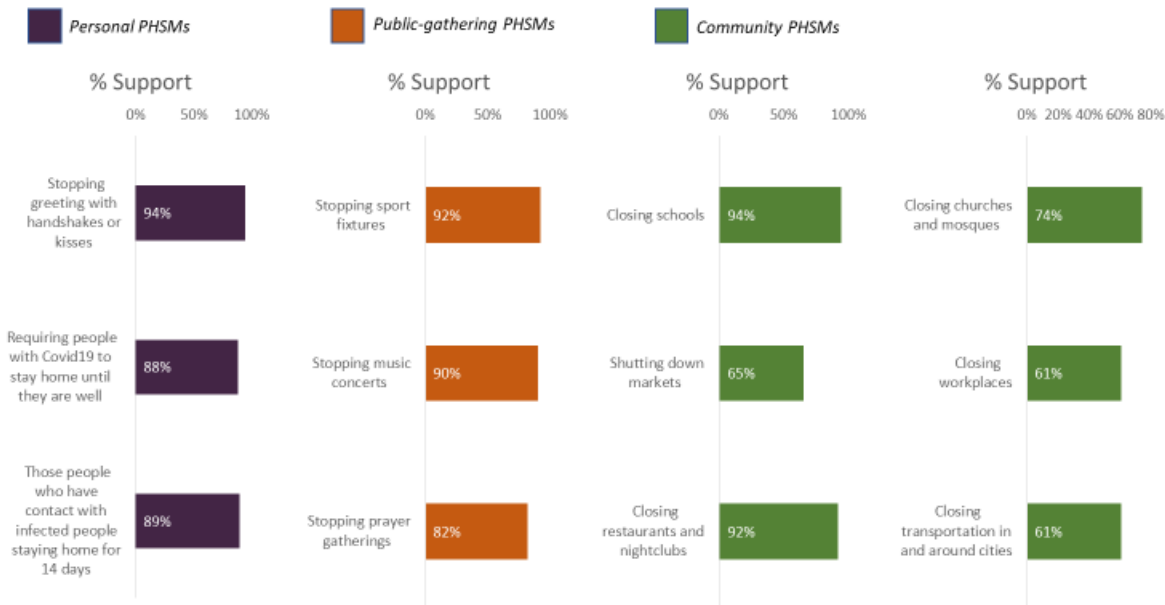
Mozambicans also support restricting public gatherings

- Support is almost universal for restricting public gatherings to help limit a COVID-19 outbreak by stopping sports fixtures (92%); music concerts (90%); and prayer gatherings (82%). The most commonly mentioned means to make stopping prayer gathering easier is broadcasting services on TV/internet or radio (49% and 43% respectively).

A clear majority of Mozambicans also support other temporary ‘community PHSMs’ to help slow the COVID-19 outbreak

- This includes closing restaurants/nightclubs (92%); churches and mosques (74%); and markets (65%). In particular, those with higher income are more likely to support closing places of worship and markets.
- Three in five or more would support closing transport between cities (66%); closing transport in and around cities (61%); and closing a city off for two weeks (63%). Older Mozambicans and those with higher income are more likely to be in favor of these measures.
- More than nine in 10 (94%) would support school closures. Of those with children, around seven in 10 say they would have someone to look after them.

Level of support for Public health social measures (PHSMs) by type of intervention

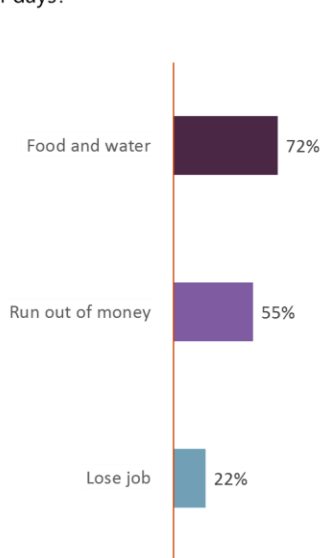


PHSMs will place a significant burden on many Mozambicans

- Three times as many work outside the home as in it to earn money (45% vs. 15%) and one third doubt that their workplace could accommodate staggered shifts (32%).

- Almost three in five do not have a separate room to isolate someone who becomes sick (56%). Those with higher income are less likely to have this potential problem.
- Asked about the biggest problems posed if staying at home for two weeks, most spontaneously talking about access to food and water (72%). More than half talk of running out of money (55%), while one in five say losing their job (22%).
- If asked to stay at home, on median average, Mozambicans would need to get more, money after 7 days and food after 14 days. Those with lowest income are likely to face these potential problems sooner.

Q17: What would be the biggest problems for people like you to stay at home for 14 days?



Share who think the following would be the biggest problem... (%)	Food and water	Running out of money	Losing your job
Gender:			
Male	70	55	22
Female	75	56	23
Age:			
18-25 years	65	48	19
26-35 years	71	56	26
36-45 years	78	59	23
46-55 years	71	63	24
56 and older	78	56	17
Monthly Household Income:			
\$0-100	72	58	25
\$101-200	75	59	22
\$201-500	70	65	22
\$501+	79	61	27

Q38: Would you have a separate room in your home to keep someone isolated if they are sick?



TV is the main source for national information, supplemented by friends and family and community leaders more locally

- Nine in 10 Mozambicans say they normally get their information on what’s happening in the country from TV (89%); with sizeable reach also coming from social media (20%). For local news, friends and family also provide for an important source of information (53%); along with local TV (21%) and community leaders (20%).

Technical Note

The fieldwork on this study was conducted by Ipsos with results based on 1,057 interviews with adults aged 18+ in Maputo. Fieldwork was administered by Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) using a random walk approach to household selection and Kish grid for respondent selection. Data are representative of the populations of the urban area (s) included and are unweighted. Fieldwork took place between March 29 and April 3, 2020.

This program of research is an outcome of a partnership between Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies, Africa CDC, the World Health Organization’s African Regional Office (AFRO) and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), and the World Economic Forum to form a new public-private partnership to support evidence-based implementation of PHSMs to reduce COVID-19 transmission in African countries (“flattening the curve”) while working with governments to mitigate social and economic disruption and other unintended consequences.