

## Responding to COVID-19: Highlights of a Survey in TANZANIA

### Summary

- Almost all Tanzanians know about COVID-19 and basic understanding about transmission and the importance of regular hand washing is high.
- There is strong support for government response and high levels of trust in information coming from governments.
- There is strong agreement with interventions to stop the spread of the virus including social distancing and closure of certain public places such as bars and restaurants but limited support for closing transportation in and around cities (61%) closing churches or mosques, shutting down markets and closing workplaces.
- Tanzanians believe that COVID-19 will be a big problem for their country and that they would be seriously impacted if infected, but the proportion of those seeing themselves as low risk is higher than those who see themselves at high risk.
- Television and radio are important media channels in Tanzania while digital platforms are less commonly used.

### Background

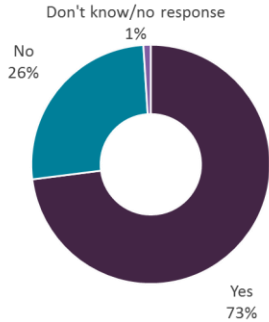
Public health social measures (PHSMs) are an important strategy to delay and reduce the magnitude of COVID-19. PHSMs particularly those that restrict movement or entail the closure of services, can place a significant burden on populations. The effective implementation of PHSMs will require public support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

### Key Findings of the Survey

#### **Awareness of COVID-19 is high - but a sizeable minority seek more information across a range of issues**

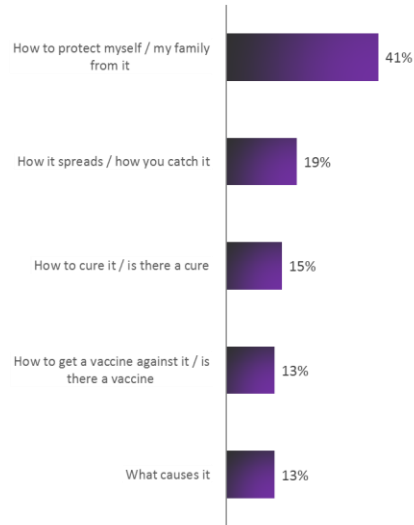
- Awareness of COVID-19 is very high at 93%.
- The most common association with COVID-19 is 'a sickness, illness, or disease' (64%), followed by 'a virus' (34%). Other associations are 'a respiratory illness, affects lungs or breathing, causes pneumonia' (17%), 'a kind of germ or bacteria' (11%) and 'like a cold or the flu' (9%).
- The perceived symptoms of COVID-19 are fever (76%), dry cough (63%), flu/cold like sickness (59%), difficulty breathing and shortness of breath (55%).
- Three in four (73%) Tanzanians feel they have enough information about it.
- Information needs are spread across a range of issues starting with 'how to protect myself, my family from it' (41%), followed by 'how it spreads / how you catch it' (19%), 'how to cure it / is there a cure' (15%), 'how to get a vaccine against it / is there a vaccine' (13%), 'what causes it' (13%), how likely it is to spread widely in my country (12%); and 'how dangerous it is' (12%).

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



% who feel they have enough information	
<b>Gender:</b>	
Male	76
Female	70
<b>Age:</b>	
18-25 years	65
26-35 years	73
36-45 years	75
46-55 years	78
56 and older	73
<b>Monthly Household Income:</b>	
\$0-100	70
\$101-200	77
\$201-500	78
\$501+	80

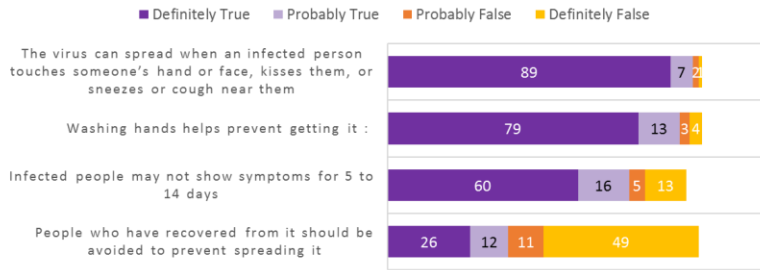
Q11. What are the two things about it that you would like most to have more information about? [Top five mentions]



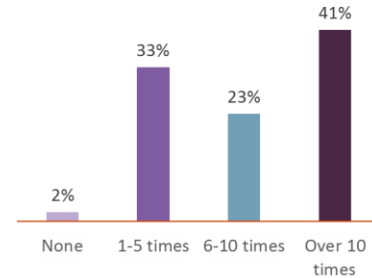
### The basic value and benefit of reducing close contact transmission and the importance of handwashing is seen as credible

- Almost all think COVID-19 can be spread by touch, kiss, sneeze, or cough (96%, including 89% thinking this is 'definitely true') and that washing hands helps prevent getting it (92% including 79% 'definitely true'). There is significant majority acceptance that infected people may not show symptoms for 14 days (76%) and two in five (38%) believe that people who have recovered from it should be avoided to prevent spreading it.
- Almost half believe 'hot climate prevents spread' (44%) while one in three (35%) believes the statement that 'you can prevent it by drinking lemon and Vitamin C' to be true. One in five Tanzanians believe that Africans 'cannot get it' (19%) and one in six (16%) believes it can be cured with garlic.
- Two in five (41%) stated they washed their hands 10+ times in the day prior to their interview.

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?

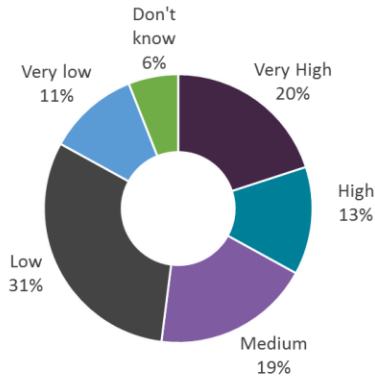


Q14. Share who agree definitely/probably true (%)	Male	Female	18-25 years	26-35 years	36-45 years	46-55 years	56 and older	\$0-100	\$101-200	\$201-500	\$501+
The virus can spread when an infected person touches someone's hand or face, kisses them, or sneezes or cough near them	96	96	96	96	94	98	96	94	97	100	100
Washing hands helps prevent getting it	91	93	93	94	89	92	89	91	93	94	100
Infected people may not show symptoms for 5 to 14 days	75	77	74	77	80	70	75	77	71	80	87
People who have recovered from it should be avoided to prevent spreading it	38	38	40	38	33	40	43	43	33	26	40

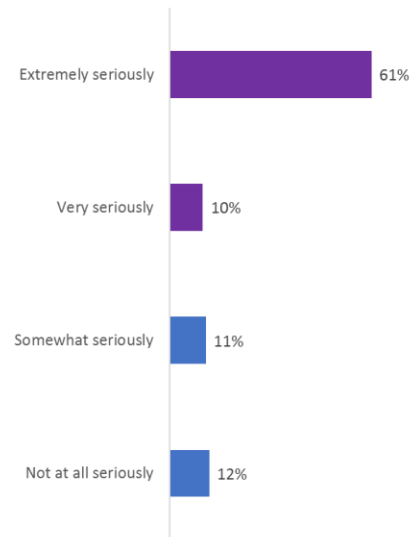
## 70% of Tanzanians perceive COVID-19 as a problem for their country; 33% see themselves at high risk of contracting COVID-19.

- Seven in ten (70%) think that the Coronavirus will be a 'big problem' in their country, with one in ten anticipating it will be 'not much of a problem' (10%). Three in four (74%) women see it as a big problem versus 66% men.
- One in three Tanzanians (33%) see themselves as a high risk versus 42% who say that they are at low risk. Notably there is no variation by age or gender.
- Even though the perception is that Tanzanians are at low risk, there is a view that if they are infected, it would seriously affect their health: 71% 'extremely/very seriously' vs. 23% 'somewhat/not very seriously'.
- The most commonly cited rationale for understanding the perceived effect on health is that it 'could kill me or make me very sick' (36%), that 'it causes pneumonia' (21%), that 'it is serious' (19%) and that 'it caused lots of problems abroad / in China / Iran / Italy / Korea' (17%).
- Four in five (81%) are confident about being able to immediately get the help they need versus 16% who are not confident.

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?

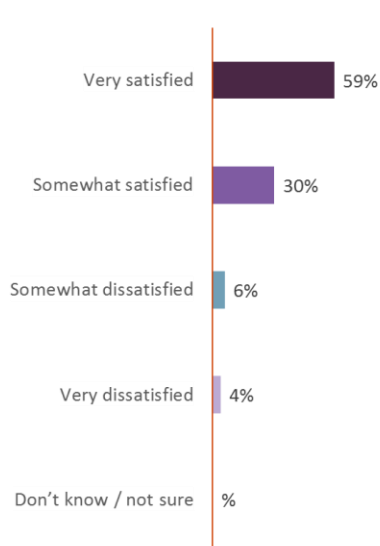


% who think coronavirus would affect their health extremely seriously/very seriously:	
<b>Gender:</b>	
Male	71
Female	72
<b>Age:</b>	
18-25 years	69
26-35 years	73
36-45 years	72
46-55 years	72
56 and older	67
<b>Monthly Household Income:</b>	
\$0-100	70
\$101-200	73
\$201-500	74
\$501+	73

### Perceptions of the governmental response to COVID-19 is strongly positive

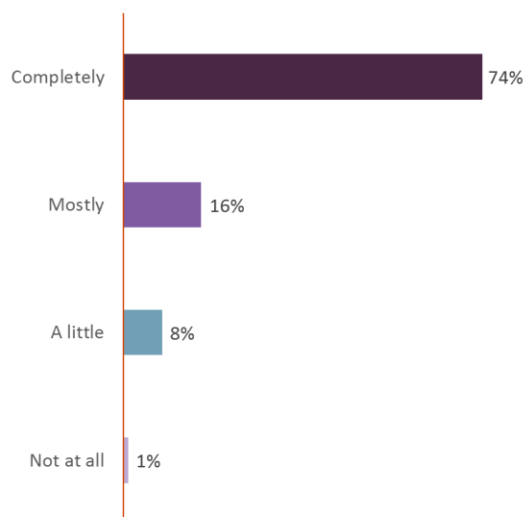
- There is a high degree of satisfaction with the government’s response to COVID-19 with 89% satisfied (including 59% very satisfied).
- The levels of satisfaction are reflected in the trust in information from the government with 74% indicating they completely trust the information received and 16% who mostly trust the information.

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



% who are very/somewhat satisfied with government's response:	
<b>Gender:</b>	
Male	88
Female	91
<b>Age:</b>	
18-25 years	91
26-35 years	89
36-45 years	89
46-55 years	89
56 and older	91
<b>Monthly Household Income:</b>	
\$0-100	92
\$101-200	88
\$201-500	85
\$501+	80

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



**Support for personal Public health social measures (PHSMs) is high**

- Almost all Tanzanians support stopping handshake/kiss greetings (95%), with significant support for requiring those who have contact with infected people to self-isolate (85%) and requiring those with COVID-19 to remain home until they are well (79%).

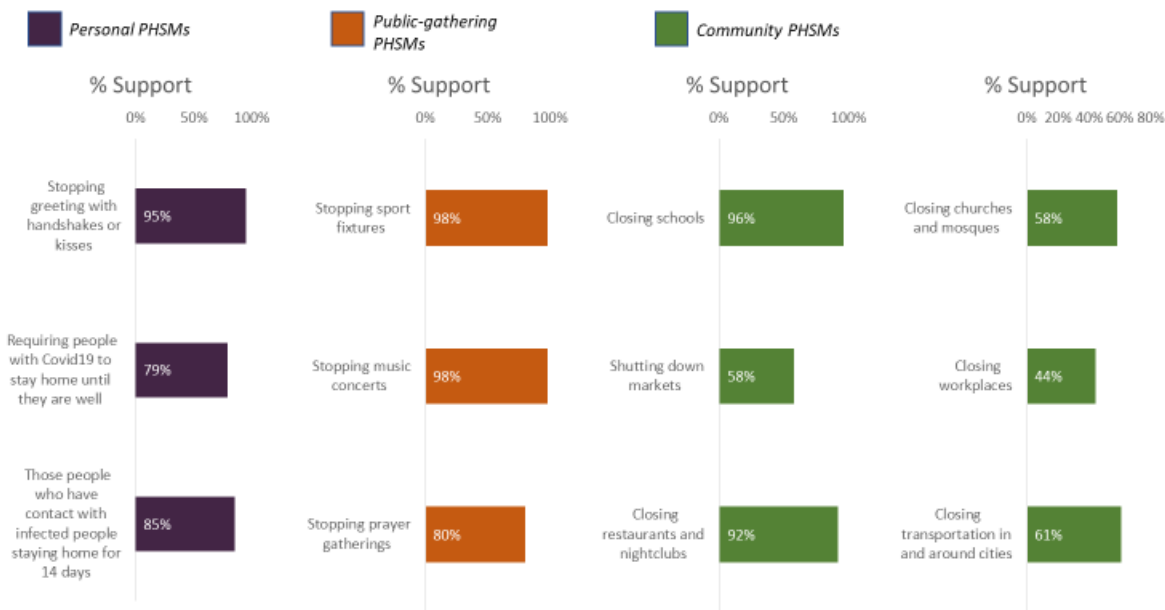
**Tanzanians also support restricting public gatherings**

- Support is almost universal for restricting public gatherings to help limit a COVID-19 outbreak by stopping music concerts and sports fixtures (both 98%); whilst still majority, there are lower levels of support stopping prayer gatherings (80%).
- The most frequently cited way to make prayer or religious gatherings easier would be radio broadcasts (46%), followed by services on TV or Internet (30%).

**There is mixed support for restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus**

- Nine in ten support closure of schools (96%) and closing restaurants and nightclubs (92%).
- Fewer, but albeit still a majority, support closing transportation in and around cities (61%), closing churches or mosques (58%) and shutting down markets (58%).
- Fewer than half (44%) support closing workplaces.

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

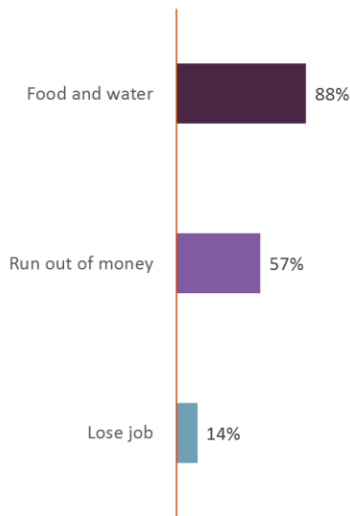


**This suggests that quarantines could be challenging for many Tanzanians with particular hardship for those on lower incomes**

- Slightly more than one in two (55%) work outside the home while 28% indicate they are not working. Of those employed outside the home, seven in 10 (68%) indicate that their workplace could accommodate staggered shifts.

- About one in three have a separate room to isolate someone who becomes sick (35%); this gradually increases with rising household monthly income.
- Nine in ten (88%) indicate that food and water would be a problem if they had to be at home for 14 days, declining gradually as income rises. 57% indicate they would run out of money and just over one in 10 (14%) believe they would lose their job.
- If asked to stay at home, on median average, Tanzanians would need to get food after 4 days and money after 3 days.

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
<b>Gender:</b>			
Male	87	58	16
Female	88	57	12
<b>Age:</b>			
18-25 years	87	59	14
26-35 years	88	54	16
36-45 years	87	61	13
46-55 years	91	62	15
56 and older	88	52	8
<b>Monthly Household Income:</b>			
\$0-100	90	53	11
\$101-200	87	63	18
\$201-500	86	64	18
\$501+	53	60	7

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



### Television is the most commonly used of any of the media tested measured

- One in two indicate using television as a media source (51%), followed by radio (32%).
- Local television (58%) and local radio (52%) were cited as the most frequently used sources for information on the country. For local information, television and radio (both 35%) were also mentioned, although one in four (24%) also mention friends and family.

### Technical Note

The fieldwork on this study was conducted by Ipsos with results based on 1,103 interviews with adults aged 18+ in Dar Es Salaam and Zanzibar. Fieldwork was administered by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) using a Random Digit Dial (RDD) approach incorporating both landline and mobile sample. Data are representative of the populations of the urban area (s) included and are unweighted. Fieldwork took place between March 30 and April 2, 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 NPIs 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.