Poverty and Social Impact of COVID-19: Results from the Third Round Rapid PICES Phone Survey Data

July 23rd, 2021
Zimbabwe has a strong poverty monitoring system based on ZIMSTAT’s ‘Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Surveys (PICES)

Rapid-PICES telephone survey introduced in July 2020 (no consumption measurement)

2011 PICES

2017 PICES

2019 Mini-PICES

2020 July

Rapid PICES First Wave

2020 September

Rapid PICES Second Wave

December 2020 – March 2021

Rapid PICES Third Wave

Note: PICES 2011 and PICES 2017 are robust year-round surveys. In the 2019 (face-to-face) and 2020-2021 (by telephone) surveys a subsample of the PICES households was re-interviewed during 1-2 months and data are only representative for those months. Telephone surveys were introduced across the world after the onset of Covid19, with support from the World Bank.
The Rapid-PICES Objectives

- Estimating the economic and social impacts of the crisis
- Monitoring information access and behavioral responses
- Understanding the economic transmission channels
- Assessing the impacts on small business, farming, health, food security, and welfare
- Providing evidence to support mitigation and recovery programs and improving targeting and management
Summary of Sample Coverage to Date

- 1,747 households in the first round
- 1,639 households in the second round
- 1,235 households in the third round
- 109 Enumeration Areas covered
- Sample representative at rural and urban areas
- Coverage of all 10 provinces
- 15 December to 10 March 2021
The proportion of people taking preventive health measures continued to fall. In the third survey wave, 58 percent avoided social gatherings, down from 91 percent in July 2020. A drop was also reported in wearing masks and washing hands.
About 63 percent of the respondents said they will definitely get the vaccine if available free of charge, while 16 percent stated they will not get the vaccine or that they were unsure.

Attitude toward COVID-19 vaccination (Percent of respondents)

- Definite to get the vaccine: 63%
- Likely to get the vaccine: 21%
- Will not get the vaccine: 16%
A significant share of households that wanted to buy basic food stuffs such as maize meal, cooking oil, or chicken was unable to do so. This share was much higher among rural households than urban households.

The most common reason was unaffordability.

The pandemic led to a substantial drop in employment

13% of those who were working pre-COVID no longer worked in July 2020. This was 18% for the urban population.

Employment had recovered slightly by March 2021 when 57% of the working-age respondents worked.

Source: ZIMSTAT Rapid PICES phone survey conducted in July 2020

Employment status, July 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked last week</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked pre-COVID but not last week</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not work pre-COVID or last week</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ZIMSTAT Rapid PICES phone survey completed in March 2021

Employment status, March 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked last week</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked last month but not last week</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not work last month or last week</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ZIMSTAT Rapid PICES phone survey conducted in July 2020

‘Worked’ or ‘having a job’ is defined as doing any work for pay or to generate income.
A significant share of households continued to report reduced income from various sources

Proportion of households with reduced or no income since the onset of COVID-19 (round 1) or since last interview (rounds 2 and 3) (among the households reporting income from the source)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>% of households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pension</td>
<td>Round 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from properties, investments or savings</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-farm family business</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remittances from abroad</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance from family members in the country</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance from the government</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance from NGOs/charitable organizations</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extreme poverty rate was estimated to have reached 49 percent in 2020 according to the Rapid PICES second round survey.
Food security has also improved but the level of insecurity remains high

More households were severely or moderately food insecure...

...especially in rural areas

Source: ZIMSTAT, Rapid PICES phone survey July 2020 and March 2021.
Coverage of social protection programs and humanitarian assistance is limited

Only half of the extreme poor indicated they received public spending programs and humanitarian assistance in April-May 2019.

About 10% of urban households had access to cash transfers in Sept ‘20 and March ‘21.

Around 20% of rural households received food aid in March ‘21.

Source: Based on ZIMSTAT mini-PICES 2019 data

Source: based on Rapid PICES phone survey July 2020, September 2020, and March 2021
Access to Health favoured urban areas compared to rural areas in the third round. Lack of money was the primary reason for not being able to access medical treatment as sited by 78 percent of households.
Access to Education Services

• With the easing of lockdown and reopening of schools since October 2020, most of the children were in school.

• In the third-round survey, 91 percent of school-age children were attending school.

• The COVID-19 pandemic continued to play a negative role in keeping children out of school.

• The main reason for not attending school was that teachers were not yet teaching as reported for 40 percent of those who were out of school.

• Those who feared getting infected constituted 8 percent.

• Almost 40 percent of children were engaged in some form of remote learning.
A government’s agricultural programme aimed at improving the productivity of smallholder farmers.

About 61 percent of agricultural households participated in this programme.

Of those who participated 61 percent received a partial input package of seed and fertilizers.

Of those who participated 30 percent received the complete input package.

Among those who did not participate, 36 percent did not meet the criteria of pre-planting preparations.

Among those who did not participate 41 percent were not interested.

For 9 percent of households the program was not available in their village.
THANK YOU