

COVID-19 & HEALTH ISSUES

A weekly snapshot of COVID-19 and other health topics in Zimbabwe

TOP STORY:

- Cholera in eight of the country's 10 provinces.


TOP ISSUES:

- Ministry Of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) has declared 17 Cholera hotspots.
- Zimbabwe records 8,000 new cancer cases every year.
- Life expectancy for people living with HIV has improved.
- Marburg virus disease could become global outbreak.



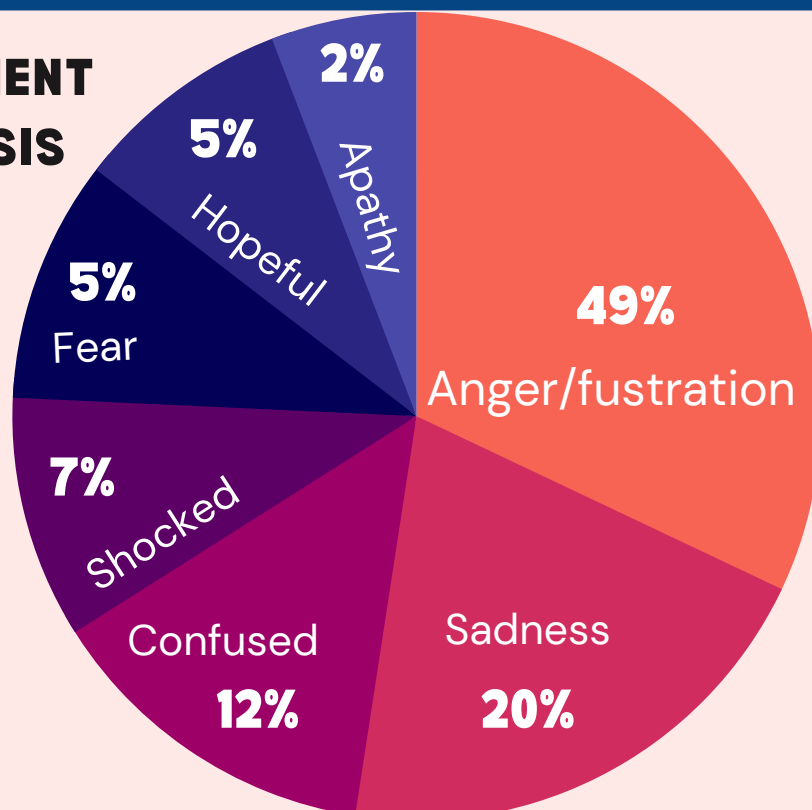
TOP TRENDING POST

The post with the highest reach this week:

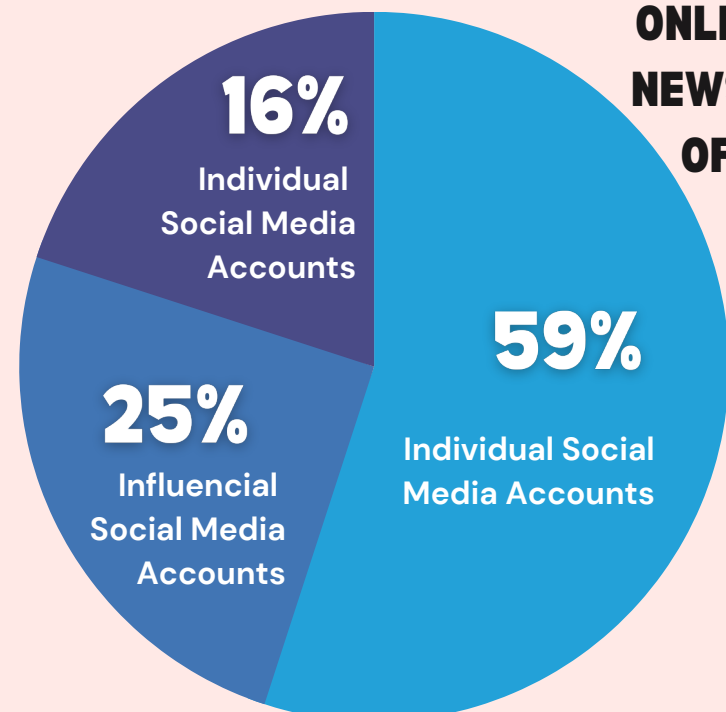
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- Potential Reach: 572.3K
 - Retweets: 199
 - Likes: 571
 - Comments: 12


"Today is World Water Day. ZANUPF has failed to build water sources for urban areas as required by the Water Act. Zimbabweans die from Cholera and Typhoid because they don't have clean water in their homes. I explain here what the issues are!"
(March 26, 2023, Twitter)

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS



ONLINE HEALTH NEWS SOURCES OF THE WEEK





"Cooked food selling points are now sprouted in cities; there is high risk of cholera outbreak."

Community Listening Group, Shona

FACTS

- Food vending in Zimbabwe has been noted as a perennial concern driven by the need for economic survival due to a hyper inflationary environment and over 80% of individuals employed in the informal sector.
- Africa Ahead Deputy Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programs Manager, Beauty Dzingirai highlights that undesignated places for selling food are usually a vehicle for transmission of diarrheal diseases as most food handlers would not have undergone medical examination to determine if they are not risking transmission of bacteria. Moreso, unavailability of designated places for washing hands and poor cleaning of utensils can fuel transmission of diarrheal diseases.
- Masvingo City Council (MCC) has noted concern over failure of food handlers to undergo prerequisite medical examinations which are mandated by the Public Health Act (Medical Examinations) (Food Handlers) Order, 1994 which make it a requirement for food handlers to be certified as being free from Typhoid, Enteric fever and any other infectious diseases.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the key risk factors for Cholera in Zimbabwe include the deterioration of sanitary and health infrastructure and increasing rural-urban migration which further strains existing water and sanitation infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO JOURNALISTS

- **Journalists can host WhatsApp and Facebook discussions with WASH experts and vendors to share general hygiene practices and public health requirements needed to ensure maximum hygiene at food stalls.**
- **Journalists can produce stories, podcasts and explainer videos highlighting Cholera risk factors and advise how the public can protect themselves through frequently washing hands with soapy water, maintaining hygienic practices at home and at their workplaces, handling and eating hot food.**

Rooted in Trust is collecting, analysing and responding to rumours in 13 countries with generous support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). We focus on equipping journalists and humanitarian communicators with tools they need, in languages they prefer, to combat rumours and misinformation in COVID-19 and other health issues of concern.



For more information on the project, visit: [here](#)

