



BOTSWANA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT

Report Number: 85

1. Key Highlights

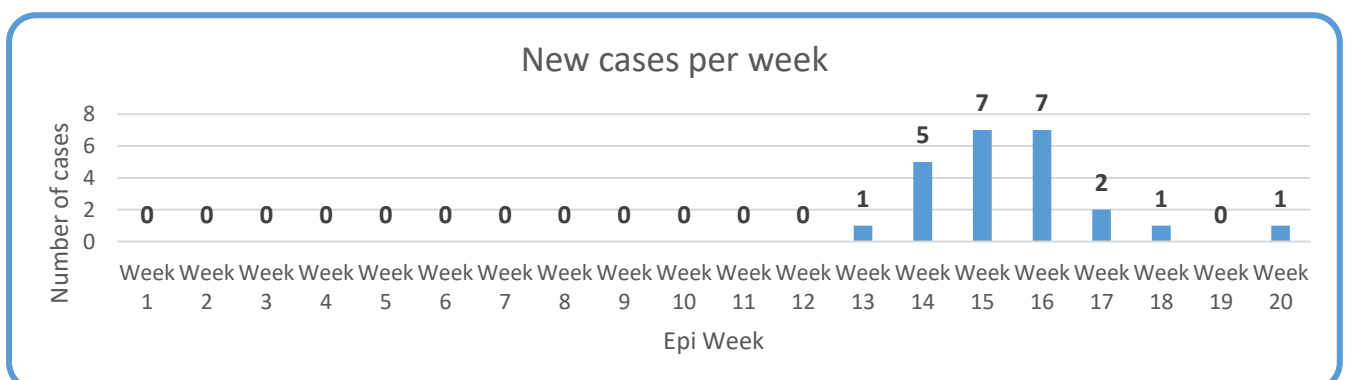
Data date: 15 May 2020

- There are no new confirmed cases reported in the last 24 hours.
- Total Confirmed cases in Botswana is 24.
- No cases have recovered in the last 24 hours. There are in total 17 recovered cases.
- There are six active cases. All are isolated in hospital and are stable
- No new deaths reported in the last 24 hours. There has been only one death reported in Botswana since the beginning of the outbreak
- Today marks the start of the last phase of the extreme social distancing for Botswana that will be lifted on the 20th of May
 - 50 % of the workforce will be allowed back to work
 - More businesses will be open

2. Situation in Botswana to Date

2.1 EPIDEMIOLOGY

Since the 30th of March when the first cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Botswana there has been 24 cases confirmed to date. The last recorded case was 2 days ago. Figure 1 shows how the epidemic has been evolving in the country so far. There has been no community transmission, 14 imported cases and 10 locally transmitted cases. There has been only one healthcare worker affected. The cases are distributed in 5 regions in the country (Fig 2). Greater Gaborone has the majority of the cases at 14. Most of the confirmed cases are male between the ages of 25 and 55 (fig 3). The fatality has remained at one and recovery rate to date at 71% (17 cases) (fig 4).



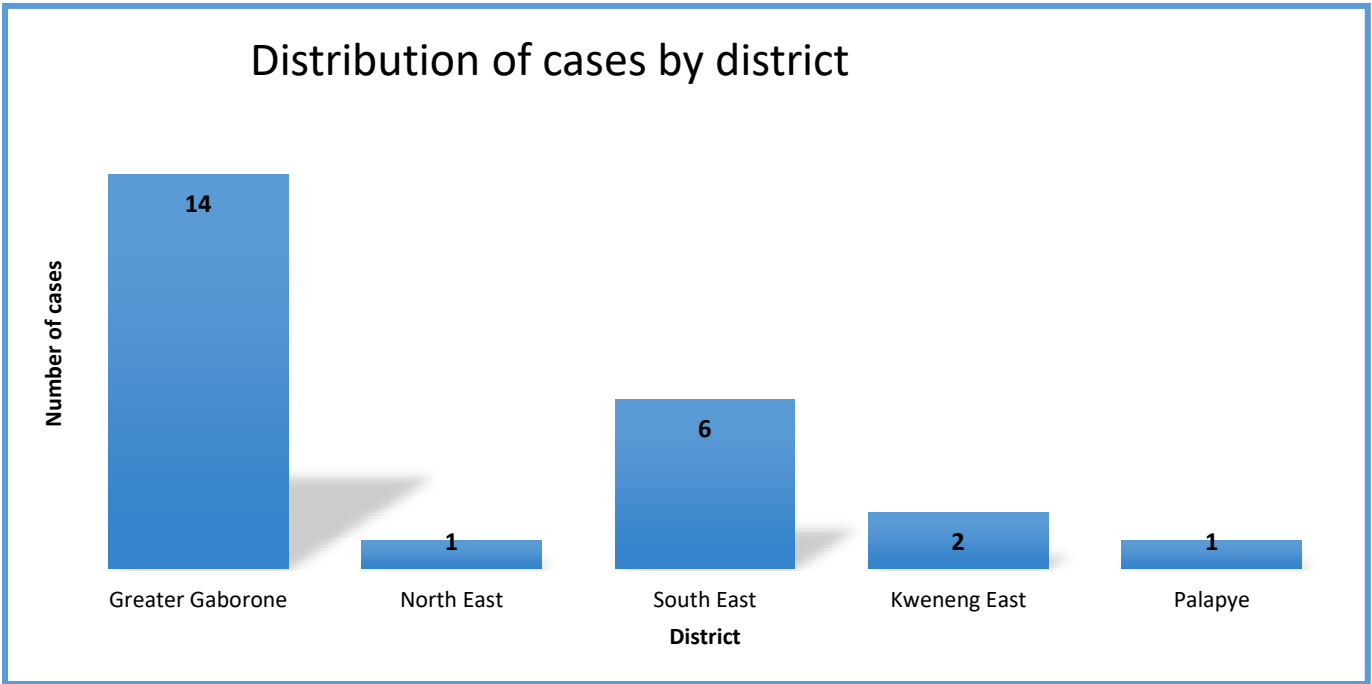


Figure 2: Distribution of cases in the country

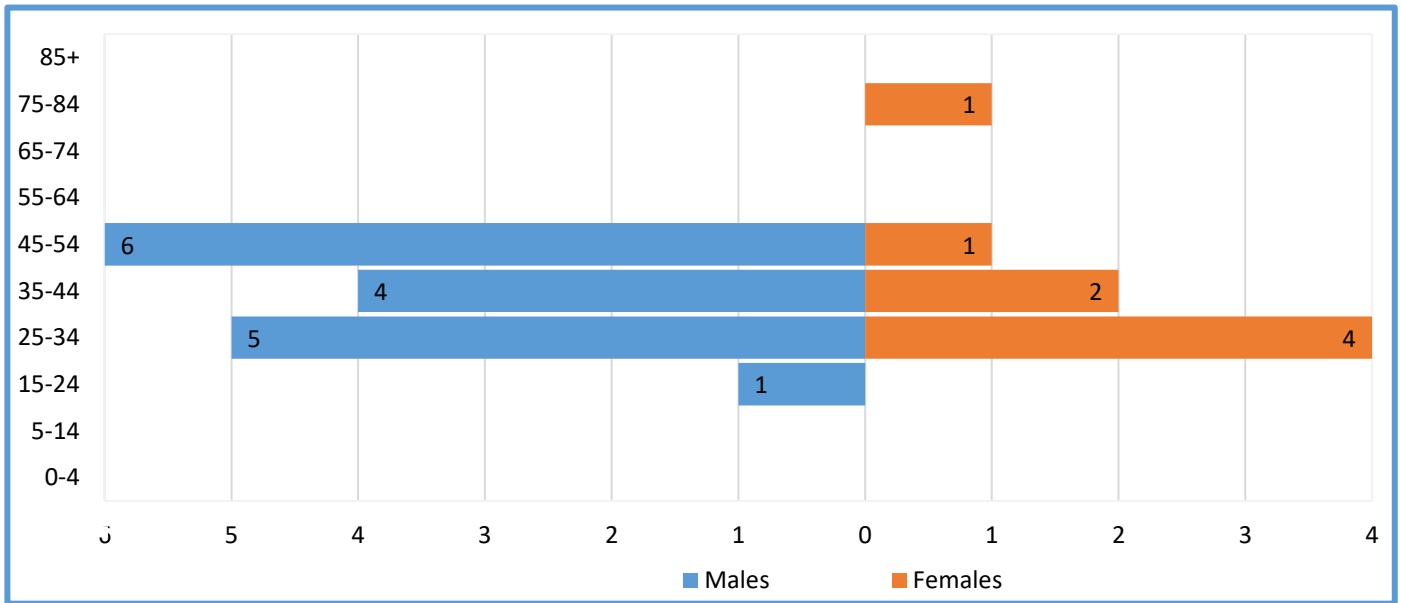


Figure 3: Cases by Gender & Age

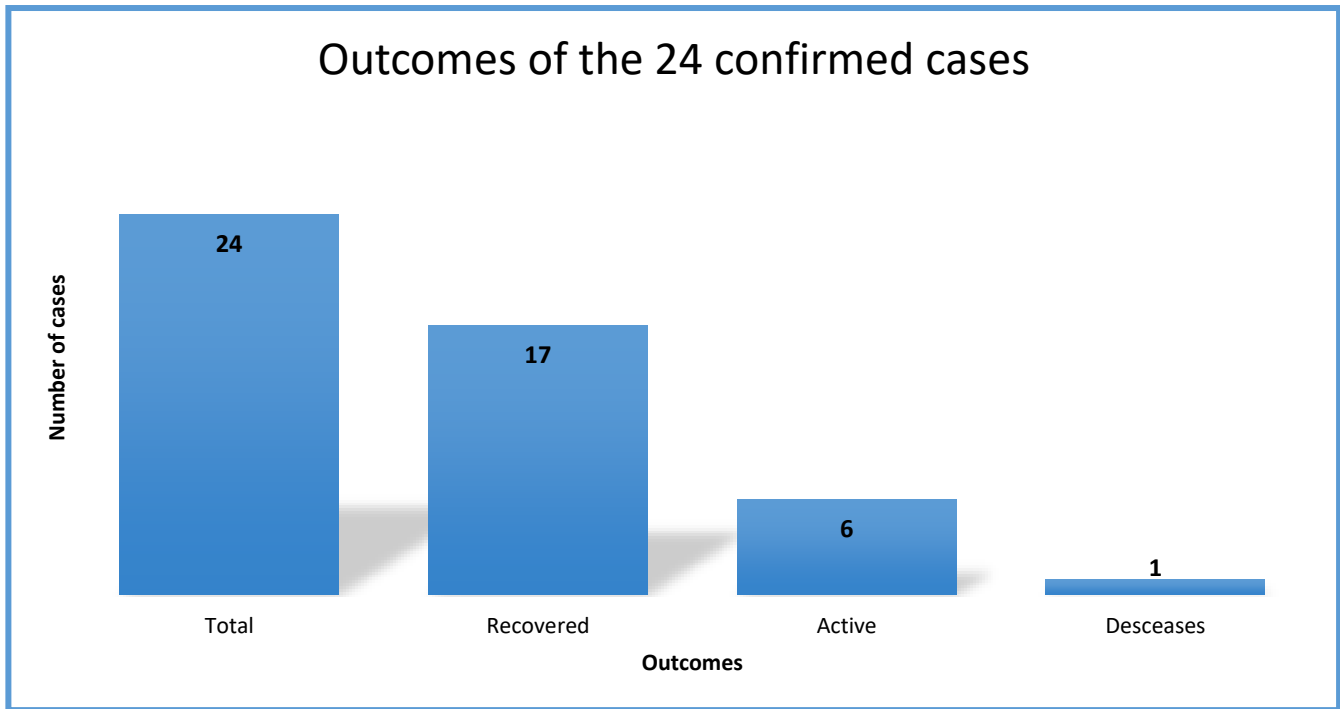


Figure 4: Outcomes of the confirmed cases on the 14th Of May 2020

2.2 Contact tracing

1. Table below shows the contacts of the 24th case. 460 are under quarantine while 6 who are truck drivers and close contacts have been handed to the South-African authorities.

Contact Tracing Output Indicators	Number
Number of people identified with possible exposure to covid19 case.	738
Total number of people assessed for risk of exposure.	723
- Number of close contacts identified.	36
- Number of casual contacts identified.	448
- Number of contacts (both close & Casual) on facility quarantine	460

Table 1: Contact tracing

Facility quarantine

Currently in Botswana all close contacts and everyone returning from any country in the world is subjected to mandatory facility quarantine. Figure 5 below includes close contacts of confirmed cases, truck drivers and people who crossed at ungazetted points.

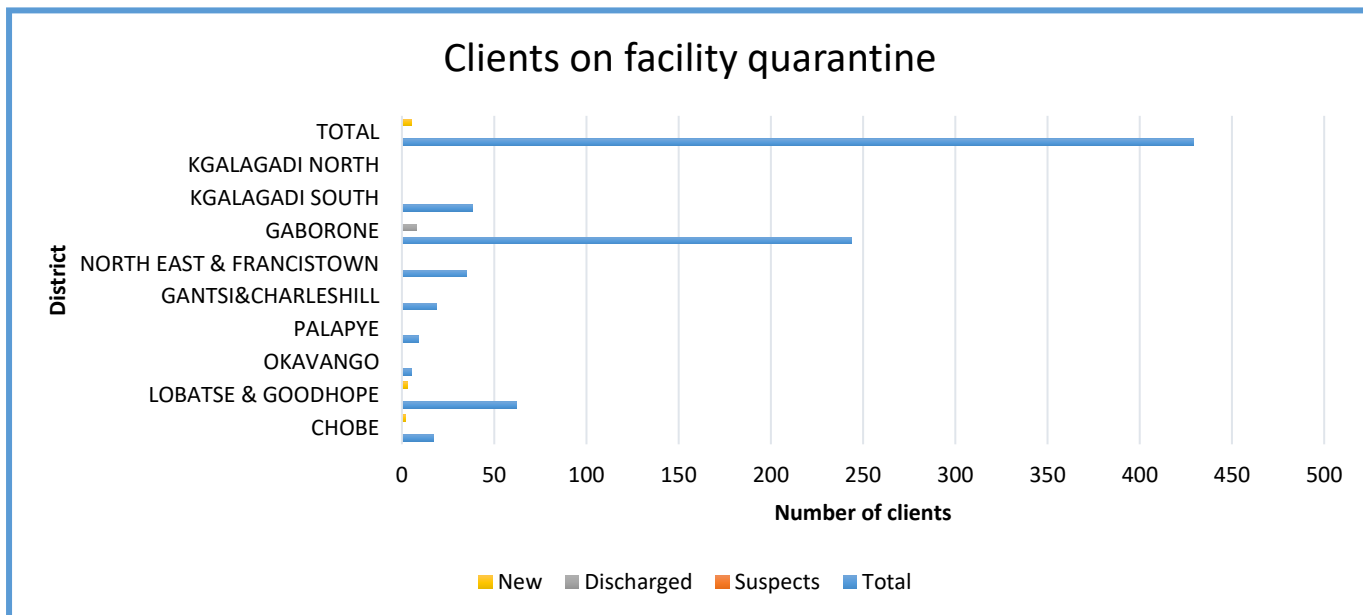


Figure 5: Clients on facility quarantine in Botswana on the 15th of May 2020

Ports of entry screening

With the current lockdown only trucks carrying essential goods such as food and pharmaceuticals are allowed into the country. In addition there are citizens returning from various countries screened at different ports. Figure 6 below captures arrivals and screening at ports of entry.

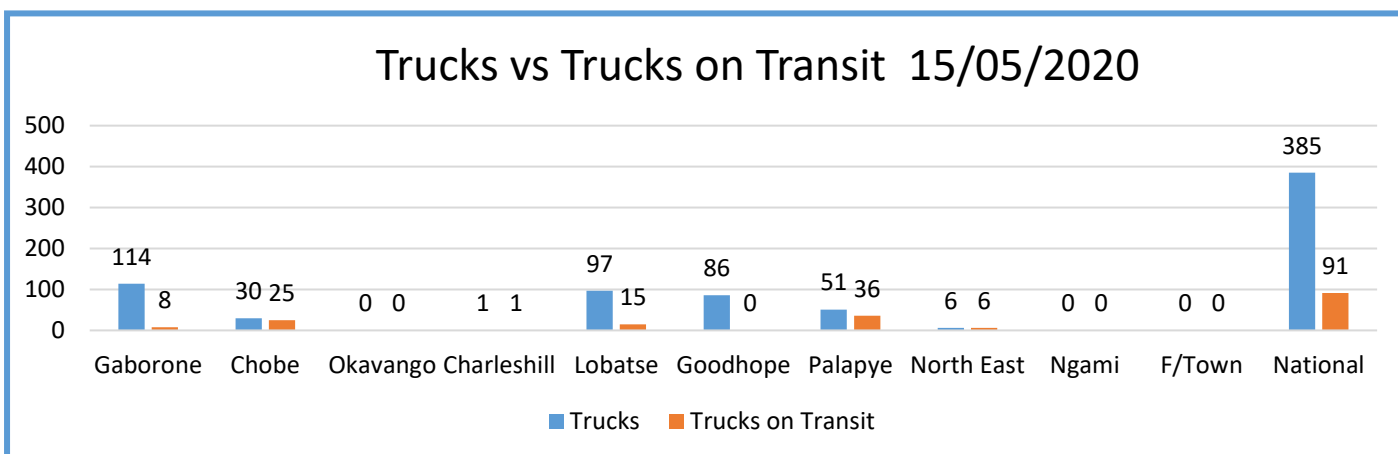


Figure 6: Screening at ports of entry

2.3: Laboratory Testing and Preparedness

- The Lab is currently testing locally. It has the capacity to test up to 3000 samples in a day
- The turnaround time for specimens is 24 hours
- Current testing rate is 4 872 tests per 1 million population

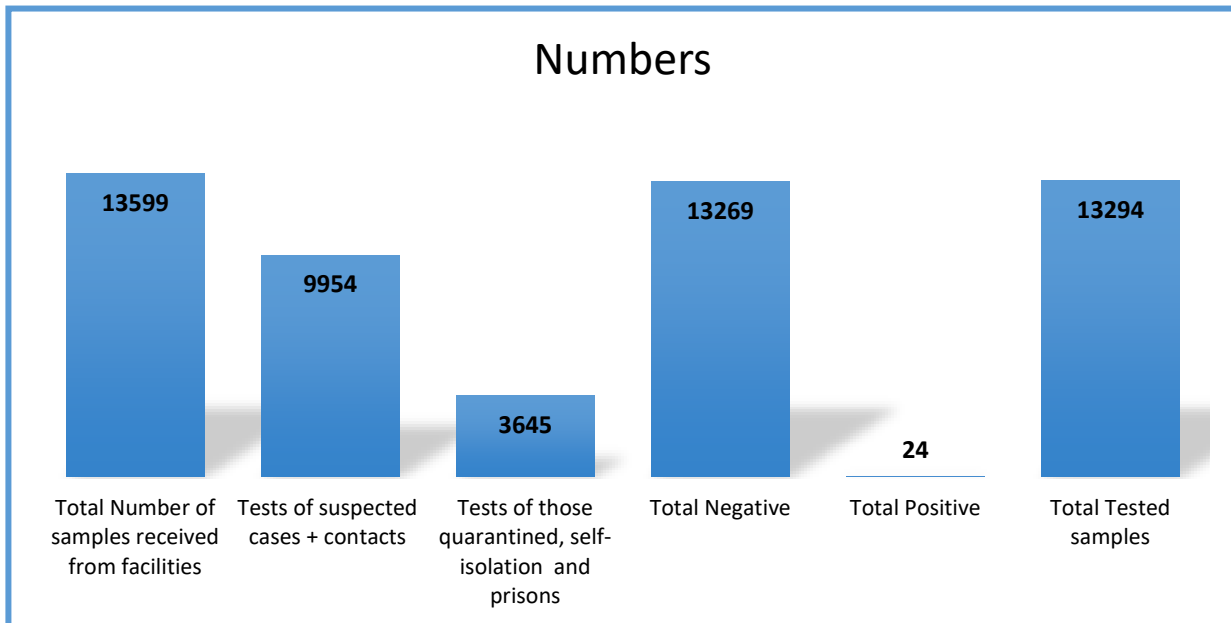


Figure 7: laboratory uptake by the 15th May 2020

3. Key Actions

3.1: Coordination and the Emergency Operation Centre (Eoc)

- i. The country is working with the WHO Botswana Office and other partners, in order to implement and manage several outbreak preparedness and response interventions.
- ii. PHEOC continues to meet 3 times a week

3.2. Case Management, Infection Prevention and Control and Surveillance

- i. Various aspects of COVID -19 management in Botswana continues to be shared virtually every Tuesday and Thursday in collaboration with Botswana -Rutgers Partnership.
- ii. Screening continue at ports of entries
- iii. Influenza like illness (ILI) surveillance re-activated country- wide
- iv. Guidelines for case management in businesses and work places developed and shared

3.3: Operation support and logistics

The committee continues to source all commodities needed for COVID-19. There is shortage of Aprons and gowns.

3.4: Risk communication and community engagement

Risk communication continues to be done through the following platforms

- i. Multiple sessions on Botswana Television
- ii. Interviews on both public and commercial radio stations: Yarona FM, Duma FM, RB1, RB2
- iii. Interviews on commercial television channels (, Hub tv, E-TV)
- iv. Television adverts on the national television
- v. Radio jingles playing in all radio stations four times a day
- vi. Posters, leaflets and pamphlets
- vii. Bulk SMSs sent to all mobile networks (Mascom ,Orange and Bemobile) subscribers. The message is continually being refreshed
- viii. Dedicated Facebook page that is updated daily

Community engagement activities

1. Health talks at all facilities in the morning
2. Engagement of members of parliament and local government to give the messages

3.6: Points of Entry

Screening at ports of entry

- i. Screening is ongoing at designated points of entry.
- ii. Surveillance SOPs have been amended such that travellers returning to Botswana are placed on mandatory facility quarantine and after lifting of the lockdown they will bear the cost of the quarantine.
- iii. Screening continues for all truckers arriving in Botswana. They are placed on facility quarantine provided by their employer but followed by the healthcare workers until their next trip outside the country or for 14 days if they will not be making any more trips outside the country.
- iv. Truckers in transit are escorted on their journey across the country to their exit point.

PoE closure

- i. Only nine border posts (Kazungula, Mamuno, Martins drift, Mohembo, Ngoma, Pioneer, Ramatlabama and Tlokweng), two rail entry points and fourteen airports/airstrips remain as points of entry into Botswana.

3.7: Prevention measures

1. International Travel

- a) People from high risk areas will not be allowed entry into Botswana
- b) Issuance of Visa at Ports of Entry and at all Embassies for any person from high risk areas were suspended with immediate effect. Already issued visas were cancelled with immediate effect until further notice.
- c) International travel, meetings and conferences by all Government employees, parastatals and State owned Entities has been suspended
- d) All government, parastatals, and state owned entities local international meetings and conferences were cancelled until further notice
- e) To prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into Botswana a public health order cited as the Public Health (Prevention of introduction of COVID-19 into Botswana) order was enacted on the 24th of March. It stated that all Botswana citizens and Residents arriving from affected countries will be quarantined in a facility determined by government for 14 days.

2. Extreme Social Distancing

Botswana is currently in phase 2 of easing extreme lockdown. In this phase:

1. Some businesses will be open but they will operate at 25% of staff and follow some guidelines set by the COVID-19 response team
2. Public transport will resume
3. A permit that allows people to go back to work will be put in place
4. All the other lockdown rules remain in place for everyone not involved with the above

3. Core Infection Prevention and Control measures

- a) Frequently wash hands with soap and clean water or use hand sanitizer
- b) Cover nose and mouth when sneezing with a flexed elbow or tissue
- c) Avoid direct contact with anyone with cold or flu symptoms
- d) To clean high touch areas with disinfectants (e.g. doors, elevators etc.) frequently
- e) Avoid handshakes, hugs and kisses when greeting other people
- f) Mandatory use of masks when in public spaces for everyone

3.8: Challenges or Obstacles

1. Surveillance – Proper monitoring of all truck drivers entering the country remains a challenge.
 - Monitoring of people who enter the country in non-gazetted entry points
2. Community engagement – Extreme lockdown measures poses difficulties in doing house to house visits.

3.9: Way – forward

1. To continue with active case finding and plans for going into the Flu season
2. Continue follow up on suppliers for commodities
3. Engage with law enforcement and immigration on the surveillance challenges above
4. Continue with risk communication and social engagement targeting vulnerable groups such as the elderly, pregnant women, the disabled

4. Global situation

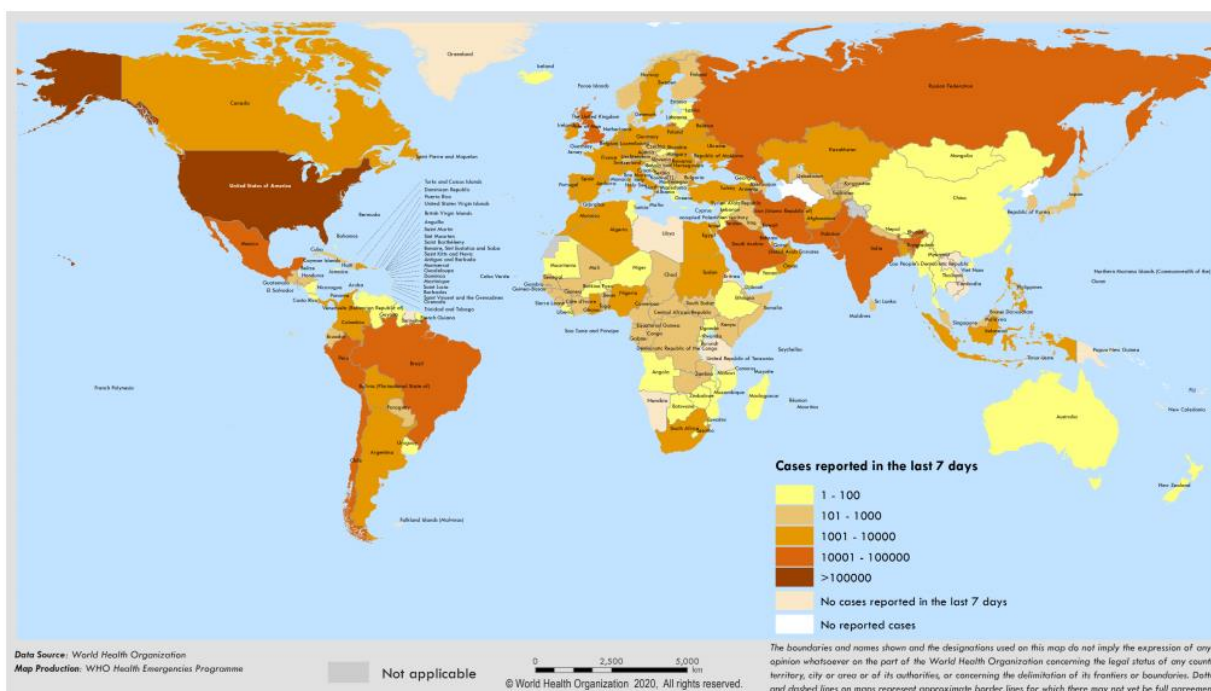
4. 1: Southern Africa

Table 14: Southern Africa Situation in numbers by the 14th May 2020

Country	Total confirmed	Total new	Total deaths
South Africa	12 739	665	238
Lesotho	1	0	0
Eswatini	187	0	2
Botswana	24	0	1
Namibia	16	0	0
Zimbabwe	37	0	4
Mozambique	115	8	0
Zambia	654	208	7
DRC	1298	56	50

4.2: Global update

Figure 8. Countries that reported cases between the 9th May and the 15th May 2020



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

COVID-19 call center -16649, 0800 600 111

Facebook page - Covid-19_Mohw

Website – www.gov.bw