



# SADC REGIONAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

With focus on health system, labour, food security,  
law enforcement, air travel, transport and trade  
facilitation in the region



Bulletin No. 9

**#COVID19SADC**



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## ABOUT SADC

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an organisation founded and maintained by countries in southern Africa that aim to further the socio-economic, political and security cooperation among its Member States and foster regional integration in order to achieve peace, stability and wealth. The Member States are: Angola, Botswana, Union of Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Bulletin No. 9 of the COVID-19 response, brings you the WHO guidelines on health financing, to guide Member States as they invest in strengthening health systems during and beyond the COVID-19 crisis. The past week has also seen the hosting of the Global COVID-19 virtual conference held alongside the 23rd International AIDS Conference (IAC) which was also held virtually. The COVID-19 conference enabled engagement between the scientific community and other sectors to share information on latest science and new developments on COVID-19. The situation in the SADC region continues to escalate in some Member States, while in others the infection curve has remained low and within manageable levels.

Recently, some countries on the continent and in the SADC region have announced plans to re-open air travel and land borders, to that end, the report provides recommendations that Member States can follow, while doing so. Increased mental health concerns among frontline workers should not go unattended, it remains a critical aspect in the provision of the full continuum of care. Similarly, the report offers some guidelines on managing the resumption of work measures from the perspective of labour and employment and further takes stock of measures that Member States are putting in place, at a time when Member States are re-opening their economies and addressing the disruptions in the workplace.

Recent security events in the region and elsewhere indicate a deterioration of the humanitarian situation further aggravated by the pandemic and how the security challenges are causing displacement and likely negative repercussions that this will have on women and children, leading to another crisis of gender based violence. With disruptions in the food supply chain, the impact on food security and livelihoods is biting deeper and the magnitude of vulnerability will increase. Measures to assess the situation on food security and vulnerability are underway through a joint assessment by the SADC Secretariat and the UN World Food Programme (WFP). The results will inform policy and programme interventions.

### Key recommendations from the report are;

#### Health

- Member States are urged to adopt the WHO guidelines highlighted in the report as part of the implementation of response measures.
- As countries open-up borders, they should make decisions and take action based on the data

obtained from strong surveillance systems, case finding and testing to know where the virus is.

#### Re-opening of air traffic

- Member States are urged to follow infection prevention guidelines from WHO and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) when engaging in the process of resuming air travel

#### Labour and Workplace resumption

- Member States are urged to put in place psychosocial support plans to support staff including frontline workers in the workplace.
- In order to manage the health and economic dimensions, Member States are urged to protect workers by providing the necessary protective equipment and engage in social dialogues to find solutions to workplace related challenges.

#### Law Enforcement and Security

- Member States are urged to continue to monitor the emerging security events occurring during this period of COVID-19 and also manage other potential risks, such as gender based violence which arise in security and humanitarian settings

#### Economic and Social Protection

- Member States are urged to put in place social protection measures to cushion the population from the effects of loss of income.

#### Food Security and Vulnerabilities

- Member States are urged to actively participate in the ongoing National Vulnerability Assessments and implement the recommendations when they are published.
- Member States are urged to advocate for increased budget allocations for relief food aid, in order to cushion vulnerable households during the COVID-19 period.

#### Transport Facilitation

- Member States are urged to participate in the national consultations on the Draft Harmonized Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Implementation of the Transport, Trade Facilitation Measures within the Tripartite Region during the COVID-19.

# 1. GLOBAL OUTLOOK

## 1.1 Sustaining the Health System during COVID-19

Health systems around the world are being challenged by increasing demand for care of people with COVID-19 while trying to maintain the delivery of routine health services. As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continuity of essential health services across the life course is an important component in sustaining the health system during the pandemic.

Strengthening frontline services for pandemic response, the current priority for governments given the COVID-19 virus outbreak, requires supportive health financing policies. WHO's guidance on health financing policy is ultimately focused on strengthening health system resilience, health security and universal health coverage (UHC). It focuses on raising adequate revenues for health systems, organizing those revenues in order to maximize risk-sharing across the entire population, and spending those funds in the best way to improve the health of all citizens of a country. Public financial management is a cross-cutting theme across these core functions. Additional information on health financing during COVID-19 can be obtained from the following link: <https://www.who.int/teams/health-financing/covid-19>

## 1.2 The Global COVID-19 Conference

The International AIDS Society recently hosted a Global COVID-19 conference as part of the 23rd International AIDS Conference. The objective of the COVID-19 Conference was to share information and data on the latest science on COVID-19 as well a platform to share country experiences including impact of the pandemic on various aspects on the economies of the world. Key highlights from the conference are;

- There is growing evidence of disease interactions such as HIV/AIDS with COVID-19 and the need to address these co-morbidities.
- Importance of ensuring continuous and uninterrupted provision of other health services which have been neglected due to the focus on COVID-19.
- The impact that COVID-19 has had on the disruption of the global supply chain and likely stock outs for COVID-19 supplies and other medical supplies and equipment in the health service delivery chain.
- In his remarks, the WHO Director General (DG) Dr Tedros Adhanim Ghebreyesus highlighted the need to deliver effective vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics in an efficient manner, further highlighting the importance of national unity and global solidarity to address the pandemic. The DG called upon governments to engage with civil society organisations to garner the necessary support and collaboration, drawing from the lessons of the HIV/AIDS response where civil society played a critical role in the response.

## 2. SITUATION IN AFRICAN AND THE SADC REGION

The COVID-19 situation continues to escalate in the SADC region with a number of countries showing increased number of cases and fatalities. As countries start to reach the peak period, and with the opening of the economies, these numbers are to be expected. On a positive note, some countries are recording progress on recoveries, and keeping infections at very low levels. There is need to continue to follow public health guidelines and intensify their enforcement as countries grapple with balancing between keeping infections low and reviving their economies. The Table 1 below gives a summary of the COVID - 19 situation in the SADC region as at 12 July 2020. **Table 1 (Below)**

Country	Confirmed Cases	Total death	Recoveries	Active
Angola	483	25	118	340
Botswana	314	1	31	39
Comoros	317	7	296	14
DRC	8033	189	3615	4229
Eswatini	1351	20	668	663
Lesotho	233	2	32	199
Madagascar	4867	35	2378	2454
Malawi	2364	38	557	1769
Mauritius	342	10	330	2
Mozambique	1157	9	364	784
Namibia	785	1	26	758
Seychelles	100	0	11	89
South Africa	276042	4079	134874	137289
Tanzania	509	21	183	305
Zambia	1895	42	1348	505
Zimbabwe	982	18	320	644
<b>Total</b>	<b>299774</b>	<b>4497</b>	<b>145151</b>	<b>150083</b>

**Source: Member States data: July 2020**

## 2.1 COVID-19 safety measures as African countries resume air traffic

Many African governments acted swiftly in implementing confinement and travel restrictions in the early days of the pandemic. As countries begin to reopen borders and air spaces, it is crucial that governments take effective measures to mitigate the risk of a surge in infections due to the resumption of commercial flights and airport operations. So far Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania, and Zambia have resumed commercial flights.

While open borders are vital for the free flow of goods and people, initial analysis by health experts found that lockdowns along with public health measures reduced the spread of COVID-19. Even with border restrictions, imported cases have sometimes brought back COVID-19 to countries which had not reported cases for a length of time. For example, Seychelles had not had a locally transmitted case since 6 April 2020, but in the last week 66 new cases – all crew members of an international fishing vessel – have been recorded.

The resumption of international air travel should be done after the assessment of the epidemiological situation to determine whether maintaining restrictions outweighs the economic costs of reopening borders if, for instance, there is widespread transmission of the virus. It is also crucial to determine whether the health system can cope with a spike in imported cases and whether the surveillance and contact tracing system can reliably detect and monitor cases.

The resumption of commercial flights on the continent will facilitate the delivery of crucial supplies such as testing kits, personal protective equipment and other essential health commodities to areas which need them most. It will also ensure that experts, who can support the response can finally get on the ground and work.

Points-of-entry screening at land crossings have evolved into testing sites, in some countries this has occasionally led to long queues of vehicles and transport delays, and protocols have been developed to manage this situation. The impact of COVID-19 on airlines is likely to be severe. African airlines could lose US\$ 6 billion of passenger revenue compared to 2019 and job losses in aviation and related industries could grow to 3.1 million, half of the region's 6.2 million aviation-related employment, according to the International Air Transport Association. This is beginning to manifest in countries such as Kenya, South Africa and others where airline staff have suffered job losses and airlines are struggling to pay the necessary compensation which will result in protracted and unresolved law suits.

### Recommendations

Comprehensive entry and exit screening should be considered based on risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis, and as part of the overall national response strategy.

Such screening may target, as a priority, direct flights from areas with community transmission.

- Observance of preventive measures such as personal hygiene, cough etiquette, physical distancing remains crucial.
- Passengers should be registered and followed up, and if they develop symptoms be advised to inform health authorities.
- As countries open-up borders, they should make decisions and take action based on the data obtained from strong surveillance systems, case finding and testing to know where the virus is.

## 2.2 Mental health for COVID-19 caregivers

Fear, worry and stress are normal responses to perceived or real threats, and at times when we are faced with uncertainty or the unknown. So it is normal and understandable that people are experiencing fear in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including caregivers.

Added to the fear of contracting the virus in a pandemic such as COVID-19 are the significant changes to our daily lives as our movements are restricted in support of efforts to contain and slow down the spread of the virus.

Faced with new realities of working from home, temporary unemployment, home-schooling of children, and lack of physical contact with other family members, friends and colleagues, it is important that we look after our mental, as well as our physical health.

Many people will feel stressed and exhausted while working in the COVID-19 response. This is natural given the difficult demands. Everyone reacts differently to stress. Evidence shows that caregivers experience physical symptoms such as headaches, difficulty sleeping and eating, behavioural symptoms such as low motivation to work, increased use of alcohol or drugs, disengaging from religious/spiritual practices or emotional symptoms such as fear, sadness and anger.

### Recommendations

Stay up to date with accurate information about COVID-19 and follow safety measures to prevent infection.

- Eat well, get enough sleep and exercise physically every day.
- Do an activity you enjoy or find meaningful every day (e.g. art, reading, prayers, talking to a friend).
- Take five minutes out of your day to talk to a friend, family member or other trusted person about how you are feeling.
- Talk to your manager, supervisor or colleagues about your well-being at work, particularly if you are worried about working in the COVID-19 response.
- Minimize your use of alcohol, drugs, caffeine or nicotine. These might seem to help in the short term, but they can lead to lower mood, anxiety, difficulty sleeping and even aggression as the effects wear off.



### 3. IMPACT ON THE LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT SECTOR AND GUIDELINES FOR RESUMPTION OF WORK

One of the sectors that is hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts is the employment and labour sector. As the economy, including enterprises, has been affected by measures to contain the spread of the disease, employment levels have dropped across sectors with increases in underemployment, informality, and working poverty being expected throughout 2020. The most at risk jobs are those dependent on trade, tourism and transport, most notably, those in the hospitality industry such as hotels, restaurants, wholesale and retail trade. Overall, at least 60 million jobs were affected though reduced working hours, lay-offs and general inactivity during the height of the lockdown measures. The worst affected workers are those in the informal economy who constitute the majority, accounting for at least 50% of the employed in more than half of the Member States. The employment sector is also directly impacted by the virus itself, in the context of the safety and health of workers in essential services who continue to report for duty thereby being at high risk of infection.

As part of the regional response, on 18 June 2020, the SADC Secretariat and International Labour Office jointly convened a virtual meeting on labour inspection and occupational health and safety in the context of COVID-19. The meeting facilitated information sharing involving 14 SADC Member States on how to ensure the health and safety of workers as countries are increasingly opening up their economies. Cognizance was also taken of the need to ensure that workers on the frontline who are delivering essential services continue to receive maximum protection. The meeting showed that Member States had continued to take significant and unprecedented measures to manage the health and economic dimensions of the crisis within the framework of the following four (4) strategic areas:

- **Stimulating the economy and jobs:** All Member States introduced economic stimulus packages to ensure the survival of businesses during the crisis. Various fiscal and monetary policy measures have been utilized through vehicles such as COVID-19 relief funds and cooperation arrangements with financial institutions to defer and restructure loan obligations.
- **Supporting enterprises, employment and incomes:** All Member States have relied on extensive social protection measures to cushion the population from the effects of income loss during the crisis. Measures have included cash transfers, food relief, wage subsidies, unemployment benefits as well as child grants, among other initiatives. These measures have contributed to reduced vulnerabilities in Member States and have also contributed to sustaining consumer demand which is critical for faster economic recovery. However, it must be noted that the provision of social protection systems in Member States remains inadequate as most schemes introduced to address the crisis were ad hoc, temporary in nature and potentially unsustainable. As at June 2020, non-contributory

social security schemes were dominant in the response at about 80%, while almost 70% of the schemes under implementation were actually new programmes.

- **Protecting workers in the workplace:** The Labour inspectorate function is active in Member States to promote adherence with public health directives to contain the spread of COVID-19 at workplaces. The main focus of the labour inspectorate in the Member States is education and information sharing on COVID-19, with involvement of public health and occupational safety and health authorities. Key messages have focused on promotion of social distancing, maintenance of appropriate hygiene standards, psychosocial support and provision of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in order to protect workers and the general public. Employers in SADC, under the banner of the SADC Private Sector Forum have also recently launched an online SADC Labour Law Guide (<https://www.sadclabourlawguide.spsf.org.bw/>) that includes a dedicated, user-friendly module on COVID-19 responses by SADC Member States. The COVID-19 module allows users to access detailed information on measures being implemented in the region.
- **Using social dialogue between government, workers and employers to find solutions:** Member States reported that tripartite discussions between government, employers' and workers' organisations continued to be a key feature of the response framework at national level. Governments and social partners have managed to reach agreements on such issues as freezes on retrenchments during the lockdowns such as in Namibia. In other countries, the tripartite parties have already started work on extending their social security systems. For example, Eswatini and Zimbabwe have already taken steps towards establishment of national unemployment insurance schemes. The use of social dialogue has ensured a stable industrial relations atmosphere in most Member States, which is very crucial for economic production and recovery.

Member States committed to continue strengthening labour administration systems, including through increased resource allocation for the labour inspectorate to ensure occupational safety and health. As a follow up to the virtual meeting, the Secretariat and ILO are already collaborating to extend support to Member States through a number of actions as noted below:

  - The Secretariat and ILO have commissioned a comprehensive assessment of COVID-19 impacts on the regional labour market. The assessment is already underway and a report will be published by 31 August 2020 to inform concrete actions at both regional and Member State levels.
  - The Secretariat is working with the ILO in undertaking a rapid assessment of socio-economic challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic to migrant workers. The findings and recommendations will inform actions to be implemented through

the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan (2020-2025).

- o A capacity building meeting on social protection systems is being organised with Member States. Social Security will continue to be crucial in building socio-economic resilience in the face of shocks such as those induced by pandemics and other disasters.

In order to galvanise international cooperation and solidarity, the ILO convened a virtual Global Summit on COVID-19 and the world of work from 2-9 July 2020. SADC Member States participated in the Summit and the Kingdom of Lesotho represented Africa on behalf of the region in the discussion on the topic of full and productive employment and decent work for all. The Africa Group highlighted that the region was exposed to weaknesses in the global economy, due to its reliance on commodity exports, the importance of tourism and the service sector at large. This was being exacerbated by widespread informality, lack of effective social protection systems, and high levels of poverty. In terms of the way forward, Africa emphasised the need for the following measures:

- To maintain pro-employment monetary and fiscal policies, employment-intensive public investments, as well as active trade and economic incentives noting that there is a need to avoid a sharp tightening of the fiscal space.
- To enhance social dialogue between government, workers and employers in order to ensure shared responsibility in finding home-grown solutions to both old and new challenges.
- To enhance infrastructural development through digitalisation of work wherever possible, shaped in such a way that the wellbeing of workers and employers is safeguarded.
- To put in place measures to address gender-based violence and the exploitation of women at work, noting the rising trends in this regard.

The Global Summit endorsed the 4-pillar strategy for the ILO in the form of **stimulating the economy and employment; supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes; protecting workers in the workplace and relying on social dialogue for solutions**. The Summit underscored the overriding goal to protect people throughout the crisis period, including the protection of workers serving on the frontline and the extension of social security to cushion the most vulnerable.

The SADC Secretariat continues to work closely with the ILO to support Member States in the implementation of these commitments in the context of the 4-pillar strategy.

## 4. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY

The Islamist militia continue with violent attacks, which have increased in scale and scope, leading to the significant deterioration of the humanitarian situation, amidst the COVID-19 health crisis, in some

Member States. This has led to the displacement of high numbers of people, overwhelmingly women and children, forcing them to either flee to neighboring provinces/regions or seek safety in neighboring countries as refugees. The Governments and humanitarian actors are finding it difficult to respond to the rising needs that include the effects of COVID-19, as the resources are stretched.

During this period, a number of protests and demonstrations have been noted in some Member States, especially by health workers against low salaries and unpaid bonuses. Some police stations have been temporarily closed for decontamination as officers attached to them tested positive for COVID-19, which is hampering the delivery of police services to the communities.

Cross-border restrictive measures are still in place. Only those transporting goods are allowed to cross borders and returning citizens and residents who are subjected to Health protocols as prescribed by the different Member States.

In the past few days, the region has experienced violent protests in some Member States in which Truck Drivers have resorted to burning cross-border trucks. The protests have the potential to negatively affect the flow of goods across the region, and thereby affecting the supply and availability of food and other much needed goods across the region.

## 5. ANALYZING THE EFFECT OF THE PANDEMIC ON REGIONAL FOOD, NUTRITION AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

An estimated 44.8 million people in 13 SADC Member States are food insecure this year – representing 75 per cent (33.6M) of rural population and 25 per cent (11.2M) of urban population. This is almost 10 per cent increase compared to 2019. Significant increases in the number of people that are food insecure from last year have been recorded in Eswatini (58%); Zimbabwe (40%) and Malawi (140%). Given the fast-evolving situation brought about by COVID-19, most of the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) are still analysing the impact of the pandemic on food and nutrition security, as well as the secondary effects that might have been brought about by the global pandemic.

The region also faces the triple burden of malnutrition. Children under age 5 are fed predominantly poor diets. There are more than 18.7 million stunted children (being too short for their age). The stunting prevalence is above 30% - classified as very high - in 9 of the 16 SADC Member States. While the effects of COVID-19 on malnutrition are not yet fully known, it is anticipated that, with the effect of COVID-19 containment measures taken, acute malnutrition across the region could increase by 25% or more over the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. With these considerations, there are expected to be approximately 8.4 million children who will suffer from acute malnutrition across the region in 2020, and of these, approximately 2.3 million children will require life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition.



The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased the risk to malnutrition due to the lockdown measures taken by various Member States to contain the spread of the virus, resulting in reduced access to food. As more restrictions have been put in place by Member States, diverse varieties of food have become unavailable, inaccessible and unaffordable to the most vulnerable households. There is a risk that households will be forced to adopt negative feeding practices, including reducing frequency, quantity and quality of foods, to adapt to the lockdown measures.

As a result of the restrictions and disruptions to the food systems, there is risk of a looming food crisis in the region unless measures are taken to protect the most vulnerable, keep food supply chains alive and mitigate the pandemic's impacts across the food system. It is with this background that the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with UN World Food Programme (WFP) is undertaking an assessment to understand better the impact of COVID-19 on food, nutrition and livelihood security in the region. The objectives of the assessment are to;

- Review the response measures Member States have taken to respond to, and combat COVID-19 concerning food, nutrition and livelihoods security;
- Analyze the disruptions caused by the regional and national food and nutrition situation within the region and how these impact on livelihoods of the vulnerable population;
- Investigate the implications of COVID-19 on the current and future food production, agricultural supply chains and markets;
- Propose a COVID-19 monitoring mechanism, building on existing information systems and additional information.
- Develop key recommendations to the SADC Secretariat and Member States to mitigate the risks of the pandemic on food security and nutrition over the short, medium and long term.
- Increase awareness amongst policy makers and development and humanitarian agencies on the impacts of the pandemic, especially in countries in the SADC region already affected by high levels of food insecurity.

Findings of the study will be published in August 2020 and will be included in future editions of the COVID-19 report.

It is also to be noted that resources to sustain the food supply chain remain critical and it has been projected that agencies like WFP may not be able to undertake their work as resources start to diminish and yet are needed to sustain measures to ensure that the region is food secure, especially in the face of COVID-19. Some of the recommendations are;

- Member States are advised to expand high-impact nutrition interventions that target children under age 5, adolescent girls, and women of reproductive age, including expanding school meal coverage.
- Reduction of frequency of follow-up visits to the

health facility and instead increase take-home ration of ready to use therapeutic foods to be used over longer periods of time, and;

- Member States are urged to actively participate in the ongoing National Vulnerability Assessments and implement the recommendations when they are published.
- Member States are urged to advocate for increased budget allocations for relief food aid, in order to cushion vulnerable households during the COVID-19 period.

Additional information on SADC's work food security and livelihoods can be obtained from the attached bulletin titled RVAA COVID-19 Technical Brief (June/July 2020)

## 6. TRANSPORT AND TRADE FACILITATION

### 6.1 Tripartite Guidelines for the movement of goods and services across the Tripartite region during COVID-19 pandemic and Electronic Systems to facilitate implementation of the Guidelines

At its 32nd meeting of 29 June 2020 the Tripartite Task Force (TTF) which comprises the Chief Executive Officers of COMESA, EAC and SADC that was chaired by Dr Stergomena L. Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC, considered among other things, the Draft Tripartite Harmonized Guideline and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Implementation of the Transport, Trade Facilitation Measures within the Tripartite Region during the COVID-19 and Electronic Systems to facilitate implementation of the guidelines. The Guidelines require that, inter alia:

- Member/Partner States shall use real time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or any other molecular test and mutually recognise the test results;
- Driver and crew members shall test for COVID-19, at either the one stop health post or any other designated testing facility in the country of departure;
- Only drivers/crew with negative tests shall be allowed to undertake cross border trips and these test results shall be valid for 14 days;
- Member / Partner States agree to mutually recognize each other's COVID19 test certificates;

The two electronic systems are the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) that has been piloted in some corridors in EAC and the Corridor Trip Monitoring System (CTMS) which was first released on 22 June 2020 and is ready for piloting. These systems are for management of the registration of cross border trips, recording, monitoring and surveillance of driver wellness including medical test results for specified communicable diseases such as COVID-19, tracking of vehicles, loads and drivers, contact tracing, queue management at ports, border posts and other facilities and statistical analysis and reporting.

The Tripartite Task Force further made the following undertaking:

- Endorsed the Draft Harmonized Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Implementation of the Transport, Trade Facilitation Measures within the Tripartite Region during the COVID-19.
- Submitted the Draft Guidelines/SOPs to Member/Partner States to facilitate review and national consultations prior to the Tripartite workshop to validate the Draft Guidelines / SOP on 16th July 2020 and;
- Noted the development of Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) and Corridor Trip Monitoring System (CTMS) which works in conjunction with the Tripartite Transport Registers Information Platform System (TRIPS) and ensured that the RECs continue collaboration on further development, integration and implementation of these systems.

## **6.2 Sensitization of Member States and other key partners on the CTMS**

The CTMS will be first piloted on the Trans Kalahari Corridor and the SADC Secretariat has embarked on sensitization workshops with the Ministries responsible for Transport, COVID-19 Task Forces or equivalent bodies and Road Transport Operators Association of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, the countries on this corridor. All countries and stakeholders so far consulted have endorsed the CTMS and pledged their full cooperation in the piloting and implementation of the CTMS.

- On 19 June 2020 SADC Secretariat presented the CTMS to, and discussed it with the Botswana Permanent Secretary and Ministry staff.
- On 3 July a similar presentation was made to the Botswana COVID-19 Task Force.
- On 6 July Secretariat presented the CTMS to the Namibia Executive Director/Permanent Secretary related for transport, and staff as well as other stakeholders such as the Walvis Bay Group, Namport.

## **6.3 Threat of Strike by South African Truck**

Drivers against employment of Foreign Truck Drivers South African Truck Drivers gave notice to strike against employment of foreign truck drivers in South Africa on 7 July 2020, a court injunction, government intervention and interventions from SADC Executive Management have managed to avert the strike although there are still reports of sporadic violence in some areas in South Africa. The negotiations between the South African officials and the truck drivers' unions do not seem to have reached an amicable solution, consequently there might be still violence against foreign drivers in South Africa during this period.

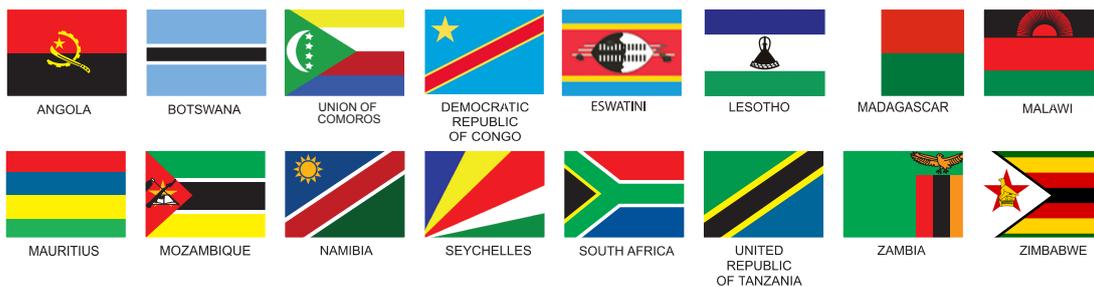
It is to be noted that the transport sector has suffered a shortage of fuel supply aggravated by delays in the delivery of fuel and petroleum products. Botswana is one of the countries that has been heavily affected and regulations have been enacted to ration fuel to a quantity equivalent to 250 Botswana Pula per

motorist, in order to manage the shortage



**1 REGION, 16 NATIONS WORKING TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE**

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