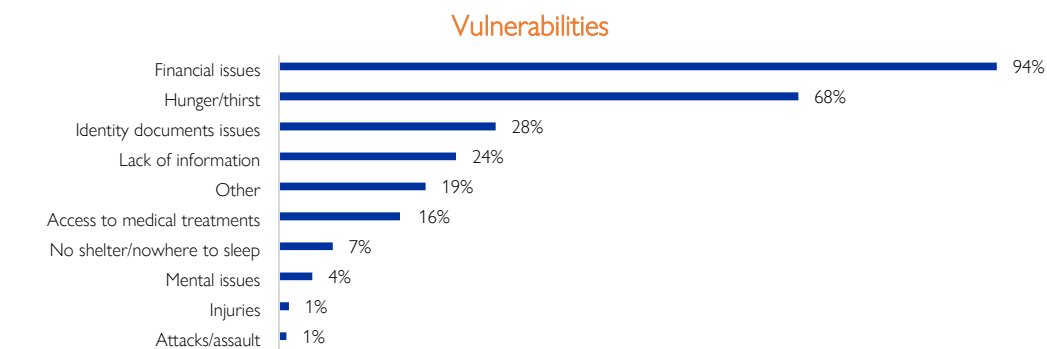
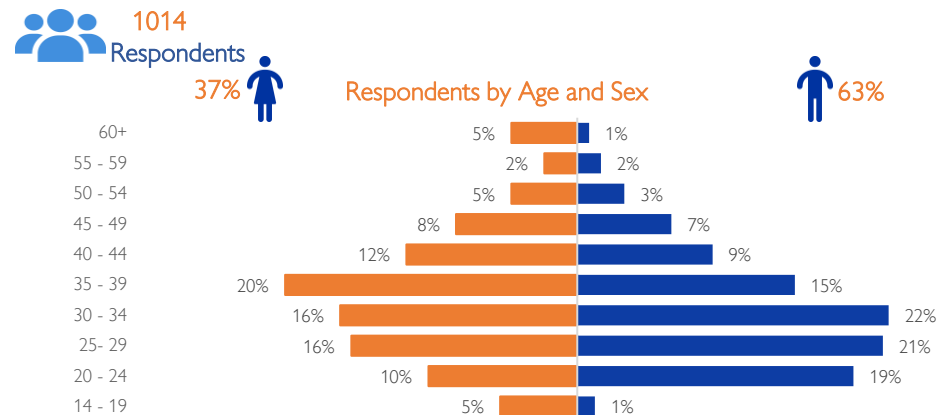
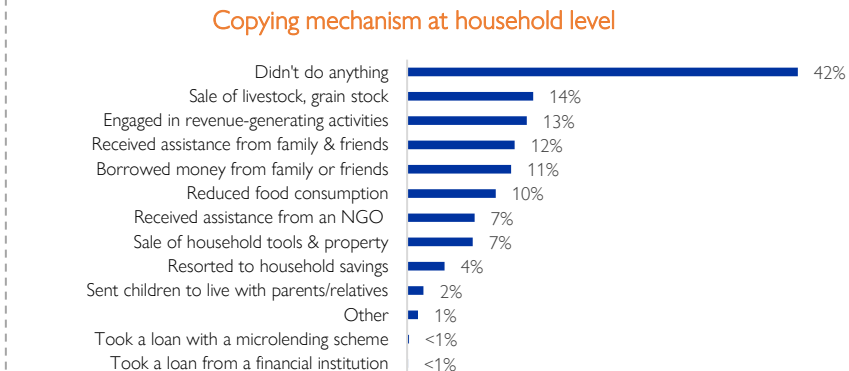
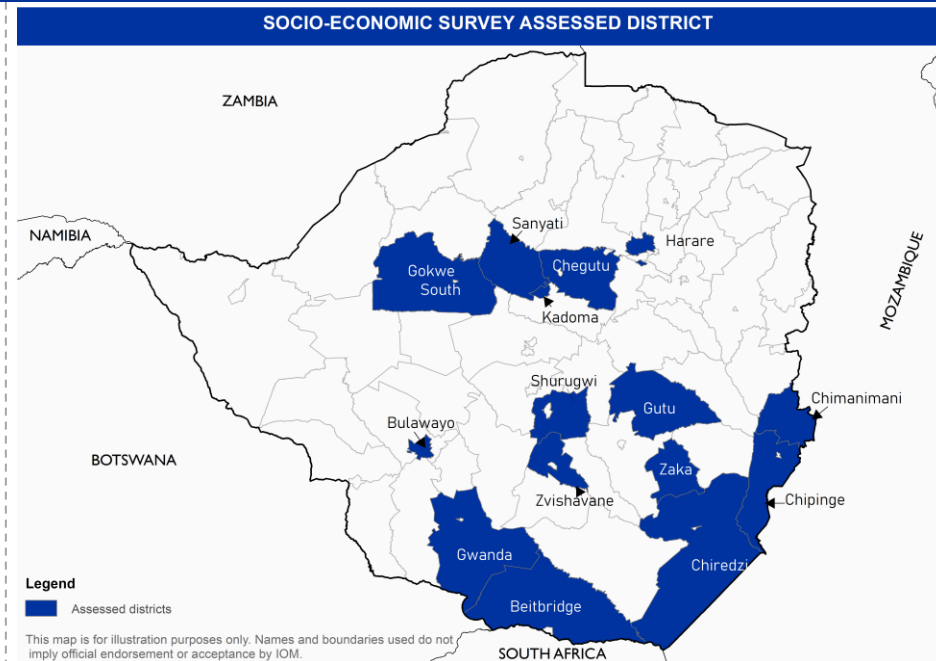


# Socio-economic Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on Returnees in Zimbabwe

IOM carried out a socio-economic survey in 15 districts of Zimbabwe to assess the impact of COVID-19 on returnees from June to August 2020 (Round 1, 938 respondents) and from 17 November to 20 December 2020 (Round 2, 1014 respondents). Mixed methods were used to collect and analyze data from the Socio-economic Surveys. Most of the respondents (80%) returned from South Africa followed by Botswana with 12% of the returnees. Mozambique, USA and Zambia had 1% each and 5% of the returnees were coming from other countries. This dashboard presents the findings of the Round 2.



Ninety-four per cent of the respondents indicated financial issues as a vulnerability followed by hunger/thirst with 68%. The third highest vulnerability (29%) highlighted was of respondents that had lost identity documents, expired documents or did not have them at all. Health vulnerabilities such as limited access to medical treatments were mentioned by 16% of the total respondents while a significant percentage of 7% of the returnees indicated that they had no shelter.



# Socio-economic Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on Returnees in Zimbabwe

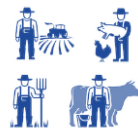
## Occupational Skills reported by Returnees



18.8% have construction skills



9.5% have trading skills



8.7% have skills in agriculture



6.9% have driving skills



5.4% have catering skills



2.5% are in domestic work



3.2% have skills in painting

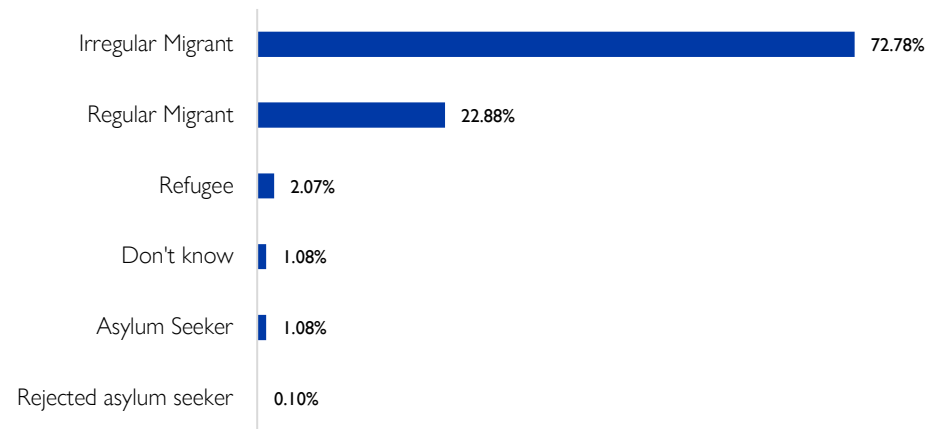
Unemployment amongst returnees who were interviewed in the socio-economic survey is very high as half of the returnees reported that they were unemployed. Persons between the ages 18-39 constitute 78% of the total unemployed.

### Physical Vulnerabilities

	Difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?	Difficulty hearing, even when wearing hearing aids?	Difficulty walking or climbing stairs?	Difficulty remembering or concentrating?	Difficulty with self-care	Difficulty communicating using your usual language
No Difficulty	926	983	926	943	997	999
Some Difficulty	69	28	74	61	16	13
High level of Difficulty	17	1	14	10	1	2
Cannot do at all	2	2	0	0	0	0

Seventeen individuals indicated that they have a lot of difficulty seeing and two indicated that they cannot see at all. One reported having a lot of difficulty hearing and two indicated that they cannot do at all. Fourteen individuals have a lot of difficulty walking or climbing stairs and 10 have a lot of difficulty in remembering or concentrating. One individual has a lot of difficulty with self-care and two have a lot of difficulty communicating using their local language (understanding or being understood by others).

### Immigration Status in Host Country

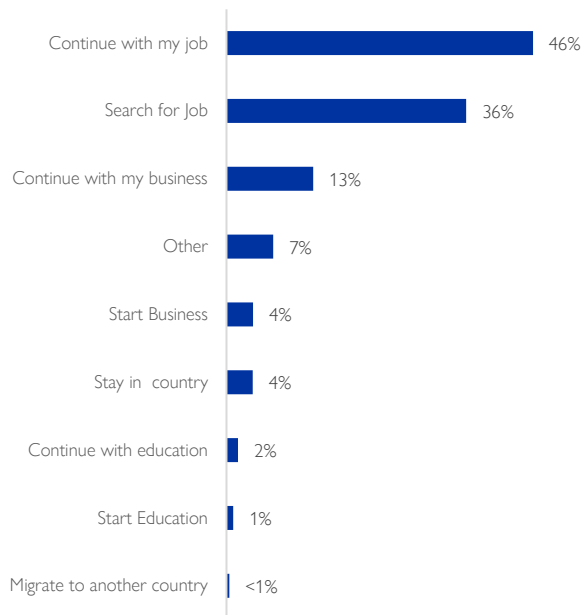


Immigration status of returnees in host countries indicated that 72.78% were irregular migrants against 22.88% had a regular migrant status. The remaining returnees (4.34%) were either a rejected asylum seeker, asylum seeker or they did not know their immigration status.

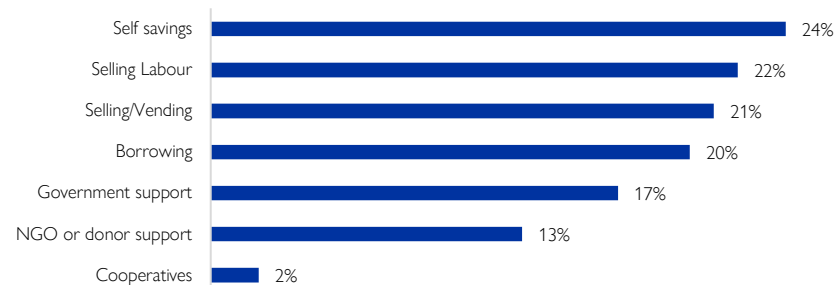
# Socio-economic Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on Returnees in Zimbabwe

## Intentions of Returnees

Fifty-five per cent of the returnees interviewed indicated that they plan to return to their host countries while 45% reported that are not planning to return. More males (49%) plan to return compared to females (42%). Forty-six per cent of the returnees with the intention to return to their host countries after lockdown wish to continue with their jobs in the host country. Thirty-six per cent of the returnees intend to look for a job upon return while 17% indicated that they will either start a business or continue with their businesses.

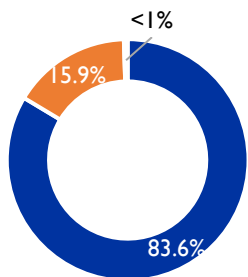


## Coping Mechanisms



Returnees utilized several COVID-19 coping mechanisms since their return to Zimbabwe. Twenty-two per cent of the respondents indicated that they were using their manual labour in exchange for goods or money while 21% were involved in vending and retailing. Twenty per cent of the respondents borrowed money while 24% were using their self-savings, and 13% of returnees stated support from NGO or government support (17%) were part of their coping mechanisms.

## Savings and Remittances



Almost 84% of the returnees do not have savings back in the host countries. Only 16% of the returnees have savings in their host country. Of these, 37% have access to their savings. Since returning to Zimbabwe, 67% of the returnees received money from their family members outside of Zimbabwe. Most of the returnees received less than USD 500 on a quarterly basis. Out of all the respondents, almost 90% of the returnees indicated that they are unemployed while 10% indicated that they were employed since their return to Zimbabwe.

■ No ■ Yes ■ Prefer not to say

## Recommendations

- Eighty-four per cent of the returnees do not have savings in host countries and as a result, they face other challenges such as limited access to healthcare and education for their household members. A comprehensive reintegration package that may include social grants in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe may be required to ensure safe, secure and successful re-integration of returnees.
- Seven percent of the returnees have no place to stay. Shelter support should be prioritized.
- Sixty-eight per cent of the returnees also cited that they face hunger and financial constraints. It is therefore, suggested that an immediate intervention such as cash transfers, non-food items and agricultural kits be extended to them in the short-term to meet their needs.
- In the long-term, a sustainable reintegration and COVID-19 recovery plan is needed such as livelihoods project which suit their occupational skills and other potential economic activities that may be available in their host communities.

This project was funded by:

