

# EDUCATION AND COVID-19

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# Overview

- What is COVID-19?
- Causes, Symptoms and Prevention
- The Zambian Covid-19 Situation
- Impact of Covid on Education provision and management
- Measures to Overcome the impact of covid-19

# What is Covid-19?

- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.
- Before, its name as Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), the first case of suspected pneumonia were first discovered in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December, 2019 and named so by the WHO on February 11, 2020.
- The pathogen of the new corona virus disease 2019 (2019-nCoV) is one of the pneumonia cases caused by the identified  $\beta$ -coronavirus.

## Cont...

- The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

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- The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads.
- Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.

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## □ SYMPTOMS

- Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment.
- Most common symptoms:
  - fever.
  - dry cough.
  - tiredness.
- Less common symptoms:
  - aches and pains.
  - sore throat.
  - diarrhoea.
  - conjunctivitis.
- headache.
- loss of taste or smell.
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes.
- Serious symptoms:
  - difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
  - chest pain or pressure.
  - loss of speech or movement.

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- People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should manage their symptoms at home.
- Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.
- On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms.

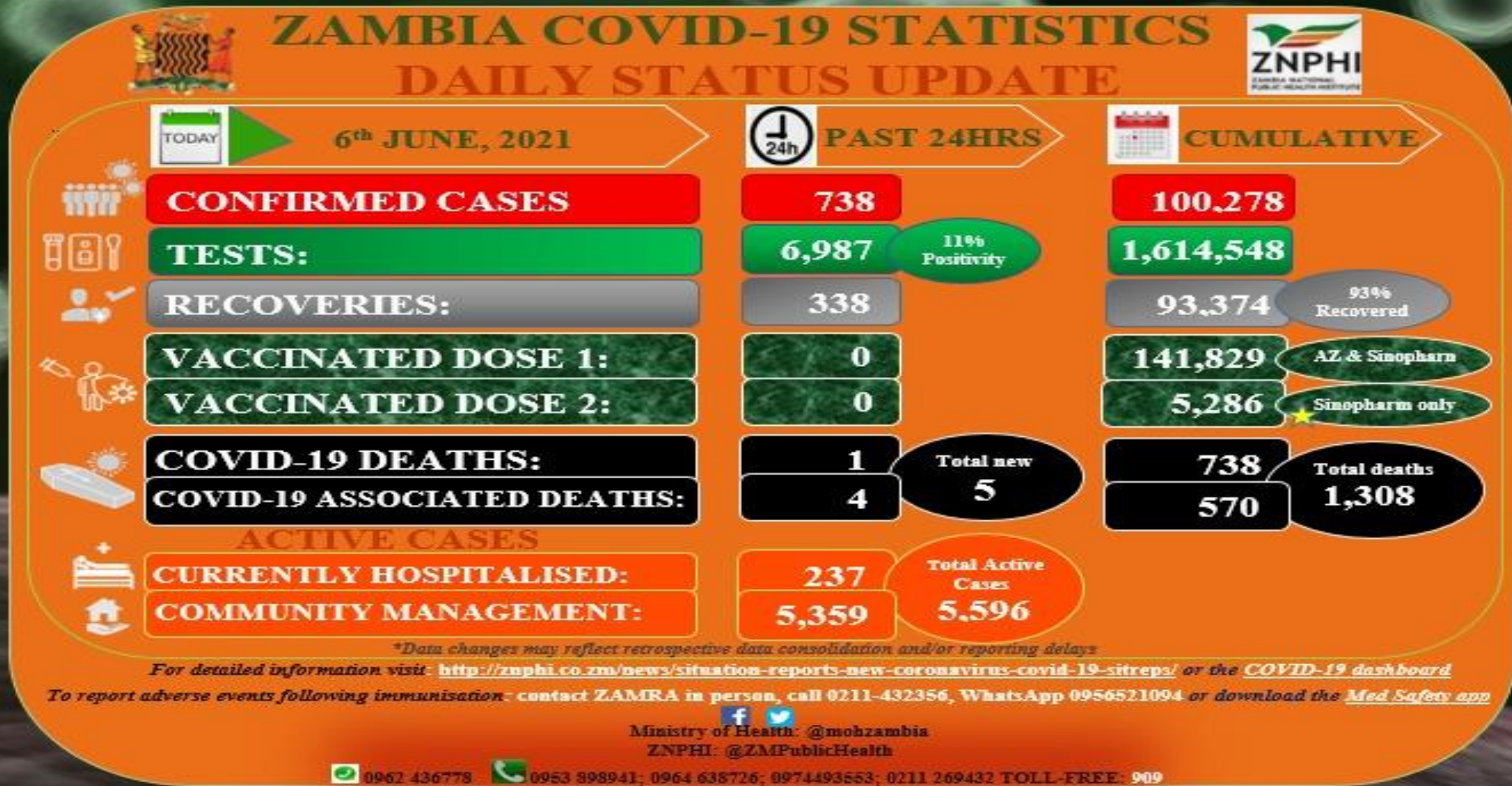
# PREVENTION

- To prevent infection and to slow transmission of COVID-19, do the following:
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub.
- Maintain at least 1 metre distance between you and people coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

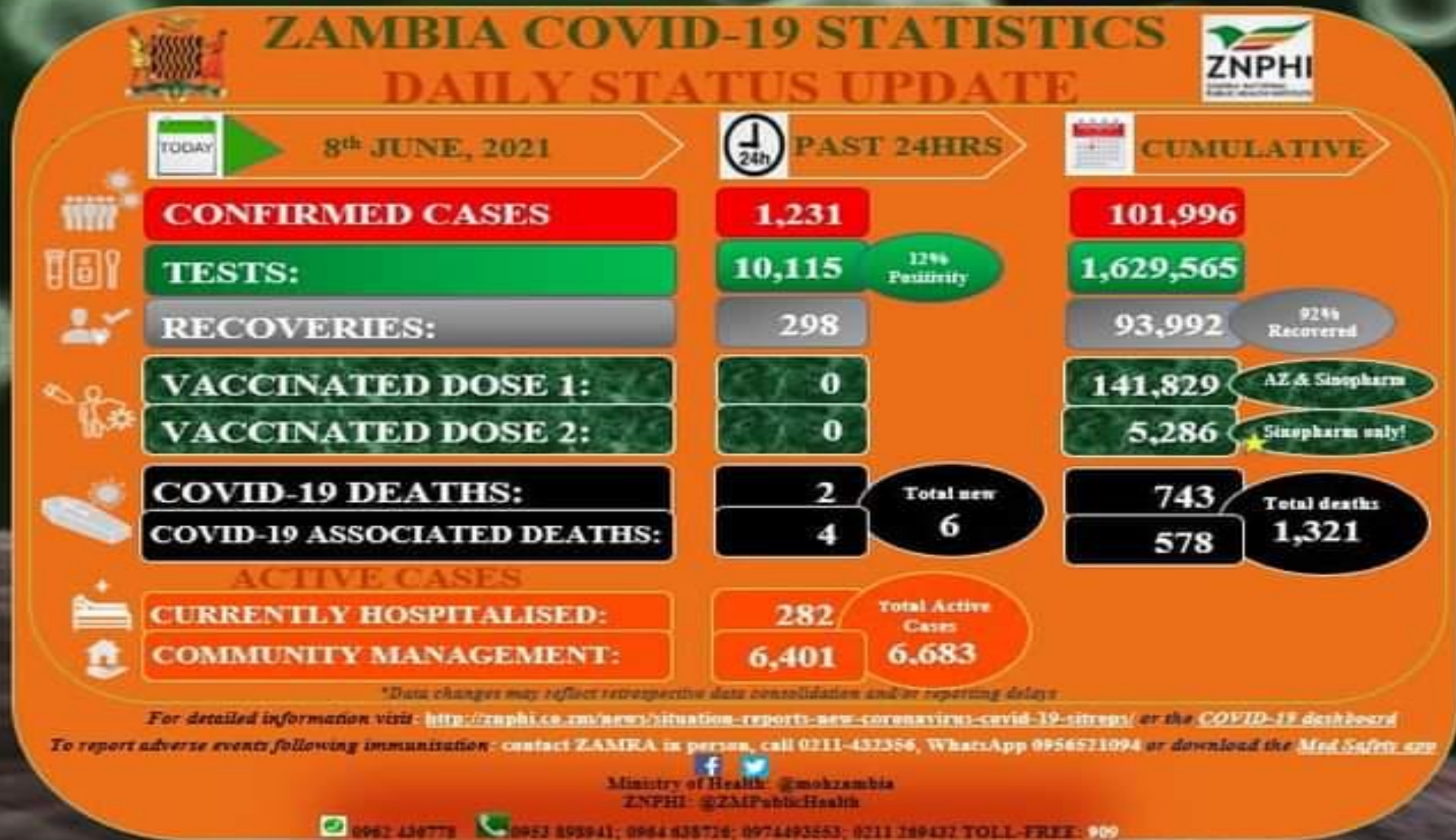
## Cont...

- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs.
- Practice physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.
- **Get the Vaccine**

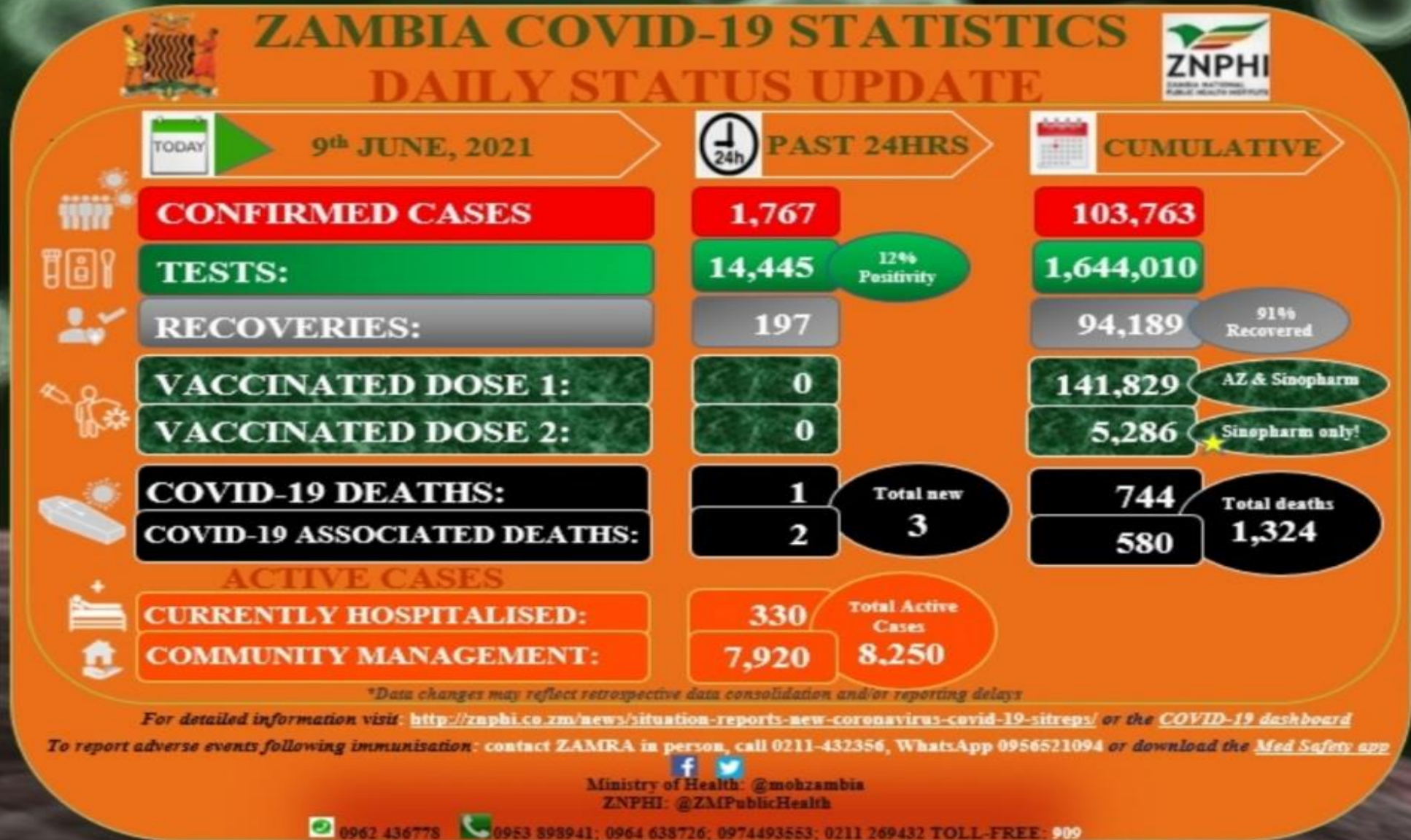
# Zambia COVID-19 Situation



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- **What has been the impact of COVID-19 on Zambia's education system?**

# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA

- The main core of education is to learn,
- Learning is a process of acquiring knowledge or skills through study, experience, or being taught.
- Any accident, such as disease outbreak that happens in the world will always leave its impact on education.
- And so the pandemic of COVID 19 has its **footprints** on education.
- The outbreak of this dangerous virus across the globe has forced educational institutions to shut down to control the spread of this virus.

# COVID-19 in Zambia

- Zambia recorded its first confirmed COVID -19 cases in March, 2020 and the government has started taking measures to contain the virus from spreading widely.
- On 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, all schools in Zambia were closed to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus which had claimed main lives.
- Closure of all schools, colleges and universities had resulted in disruption of learning for more than 4.2 million children and adolescents.
- The longer children are out of school, the higher the risks that vulnerable children will not return.
- Being out of school puts children, especially girls, at increased risk of teenaged pregnancy, sexual abuse, child marriage and other dangers.

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- Declines in family income caused by the economic recession have increased the susceptibility of girls to sexual exploitation.
- Economic downturns affect learners' performance, school attendance and enrolment.
- The increased poverty rate will lower the transitional rate from free-primary education to fee-paying secondary education.

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- COVID-19 has impacted various aspect of the entire education system in Zambia.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken long-accepted beliefs about education, showing that learning can occur anywhere, at any time, and that education systems are not too heavy to move.
- Covid-19 has disrupted the academic calendar
- Covid-19 has disrupted the traditional methods of teaching.
- COVID-19 has put to questions the teaching skills and knowledge of educators
- Led to inequalities in access to education

# Cont....

- COVID\_19 also brought to light the importance of parental involvement in learner experiences- especially with the coming up of online learning.

## Measures to Mitigate impact of COVID\_19 on Education

- **Development of contingent plan**
- To mitigate the impact of this situation, the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) sought to work with stakeholders and partners to implement an emergency response and recovery plan to ensure students are engaged in learning in their homes.

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- Though this state of health emergency is new to many of the actors in the sector, international expertise building on the global experience in strengthening education as a response to national and global emergencies could offer insights that support the development of this plan.
- The plan was to be delivered in two phases.

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- While Phase One focuses on response plan to ensuring **continuous learning by students during the stay home period of the outbreak,**
- the focus of **Phase Two** was the **recovery plan** to prepare schools for re-opening and putting measures in place that will support a sustainably safe school environment across Zambia and ensure learning continues in the event of another emergency of this nature.
- **The key interventions to mitigate the impact of school closure include:**
- Enhance awareness among children and youth through dissemination of age appropriate messages as supplementary to regular delivery of lessons

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- Implement **continuity of learning through diverse platforms** with particular focus on disadvantaged and marginalized children and adolescents
- Implement **continuity of learning for children with special education needs through development of relevant contents**, identification of appropriate platforms and provision of teaching and learning materials
- Empower teachers to **provide remote learner support** on structured lessons delivered through multiple platforms as well as provide guidance on self-directed learning

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- Community sensitization to enhance usage of continuity of learning
- Design and implement strategies for monitoring coverage and access to continuity learning programme
- Provision of psychosocial support to teachers, learners and parents
- Support feeding programmes through alternative mechanisms focusing on learners from drought/flood affected districts
- Planning for remedial programme and accelerated learning
- Utilize some already existing interventions and good practices, facilities and human resource in ICT at the two ICT Centres of Excellence.

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- The key interventions proposed for early recovery phase are:
- Back to school campaign and community outreach to ensure that no child is being dropped out of school due to COVID-19 emergency
- Conduct an assessment to identify learning gaps and inform remedial programming and learning opportunities so that all children catch up to grade level.

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- Remedial/catch up lessons for highstake examination classes and learners who lagged behind
- Utilize ICT platforms and have a depository of teaching and learning materials that learners could use at their own time
- Implementation of accelerated learning based on revised school calendar

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- Provision of school grants for safe and protective learning environment
- Provision of school feeding targeting districts with the worst economic shocks
- Provision of psychosocial support to teachers and learners
- Strengthening prevention efforts and/or reducing future effect of similar or related outbreak through improved school water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and management.

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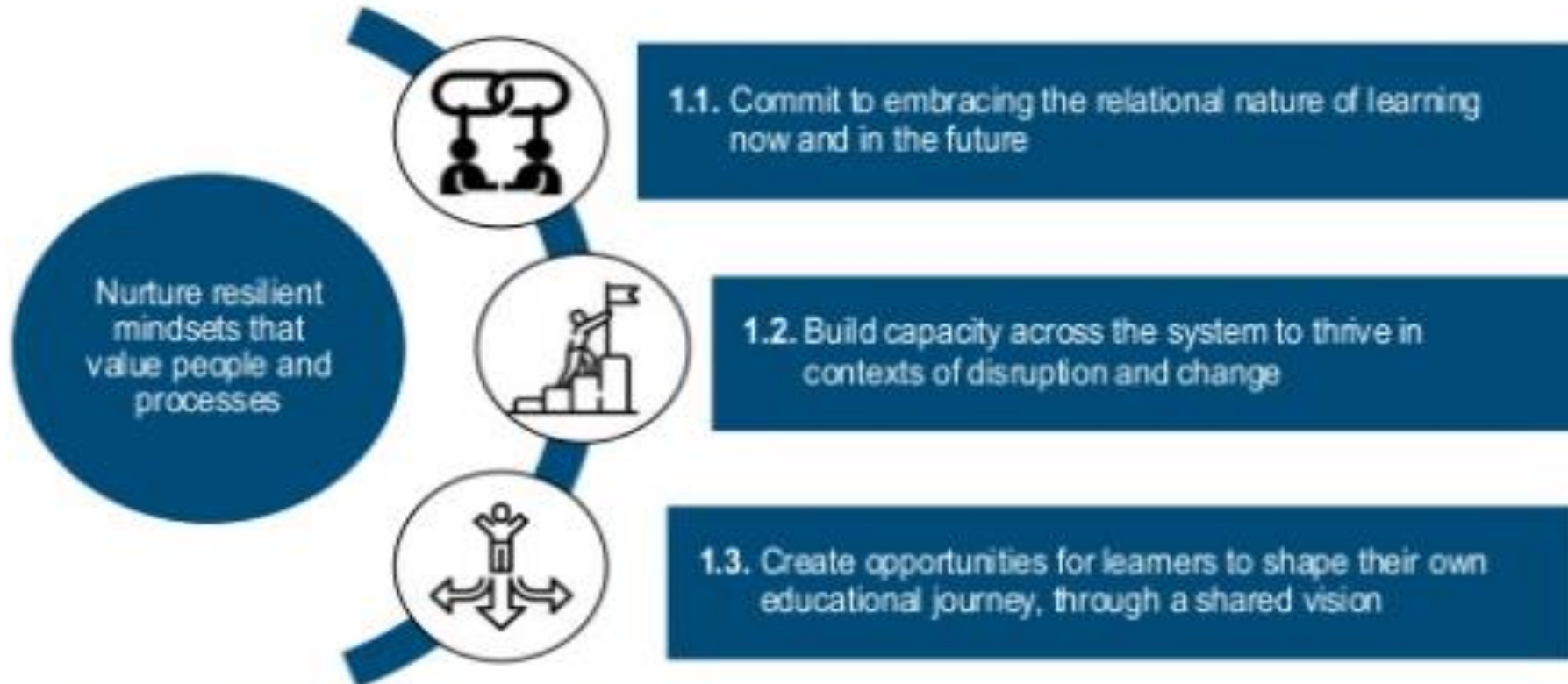
- It is, therefore, a key objective of the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) to work with partners to bridge the gap in student learning and eventually ensure all safety measures are in place for the re-opening of all institutions, public and private, across the country.

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- This happening made the teaching professionals think of alternative methods of teaching during this lockdown.
- And thus it paves the way towards web-based learning or e-Learning or online learning.
- In today's scenario learning has stepped into the digital world. In which teaching professionals and students are virtually connected

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Policy makers can follow three policy pointers for future related action



## REFERENCES

- OECD (2020), Lessons for Education from COVID-19: A Policy Maker's Handbook for More Resilient Systems, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/0a530888-en>
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- Ministry of General Education. (MOGE). 2020. Education Contingency Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Lusaka: MOGE