



# IOM ZIMBABWE

## ZIMBABWE FLOW MONITORING

### MARCH 2020 (UPDATED VERSION)



#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ A total of **368,346** regular movements (**330,085** at Beitbridge and **38,261** at Forbes) were observed during the month in review, with each Port of Entry (PoE) recording a significant decline in the number of movements observed in February 2020.
- ⇒ The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) announced a Nationwide lockdown for 21 days effective 30 March 2020 as a measure to prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 virus.
- ⇒ Twenty seven migrants of Ethiopian nationality stranded in Gwanda and Harare.
- ⇒ More than **800** Zimbabwean irregular migrants deported from South Africa and Botswana.

#### REGULAR MIGRATION

##### BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST( MATABELELAND SOUTH PROVINCE)

A total of **330,085** movements were recorded at the Beitbridge Crossing Points during the month of March 2020, representing an **11** per cent decrease in comparison to movements recorded in February 2020.

The month in review recorded **176,095 (53%)** entries and **153,990 (47%)** per cent exits at the Beitbridge Border Post as shown below.

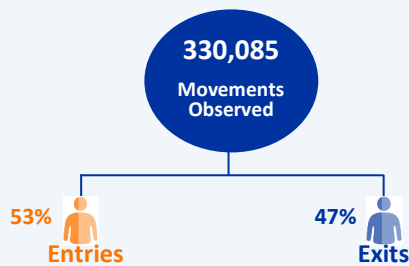


Fig 1– Summary of Regular Migration Movements at Beitbridge Border Post in March 2020

	Entries	Exits
January	232,908	304,365
February	185,855	185,542
March	176,095	153,990

Table 1 – Cumulative Summary of Regular Migration Movements at Beitbridge Border Post for Jan -Mar 2020

Fig 2 below shows cumulative entries and exits at Beitbridge Border Post from January 2020 to March 2020. As shown in the chart a declining trend in movements continues as a result of COVID-19 movement restrictions. Entries and exits for the month declined by **5** and **17** per cent respectively from the previous month's statistics.

##### CUMULATIVE REGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS THROUGH BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST

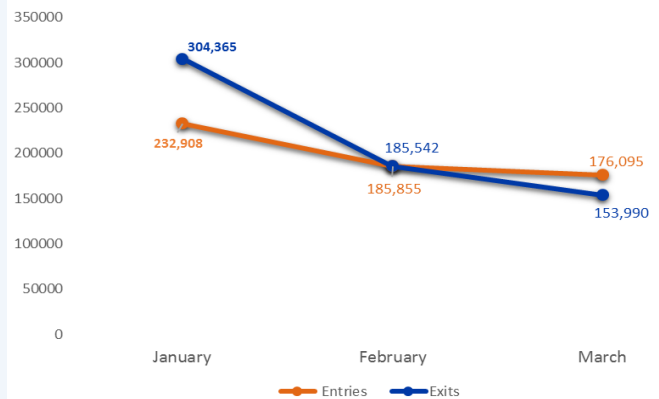


Fig 2: Summary Regular Migration Flow from January 2020 to March 2020

#### STATISTICS FOR THE QUARTER (JAN– MAR 2020)

AVERAGE MONTHLY ENTRIES	<b>198,286</b>
AVERAGE MONTHLY EXITS	<b>214,632</b>
AVERAGE MONTHLY FLOWS	<b>412,918</b>

##### FORBES BORDER POST (MANICALAND PROVINCE)

A total of **38,261** movements were recorded at the Forbes Border Post during the month of March 2020, representing a **39** per cent decrease in comparison to movements recorded in February 2020.

The month in review recorded **20,024 (52%)** entries and **18,237 (48%)** per cent exits at the Forbes Border Post as shown below.

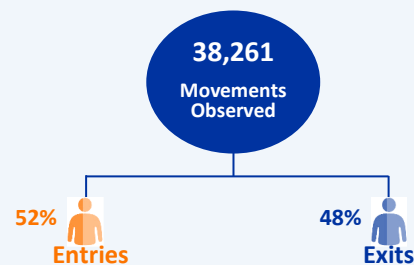


Fig 3 – Summary of Regular Migration Movements at Forbes Border Post in March 2020

Information presented in this report is a compilation of available data from Government sources: Immigration Officers, Border Patrol Officers, Department of Social Welfare and other organizations. DTM team categorized and analyzed the data to produce this Flow Monitoring Report.

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	Entries	Exits
January	34,240	41,227
February	31,745	30,650
March	20,024	18,237

Table 2 – Cumulative Summary of Regular Migration Movements at Forbes Border Post for Jan -Mar 2020

Fig 4 below shows cumulative entries and exits at Forbes Border Post from January 2020 to March 2020. As shown in the chart a declining trend in movements continues as a result of COVID-19 movement restrictions. Entries and exits for the month declined by **37** and **40** per cent respectively from the previous month's statistics.

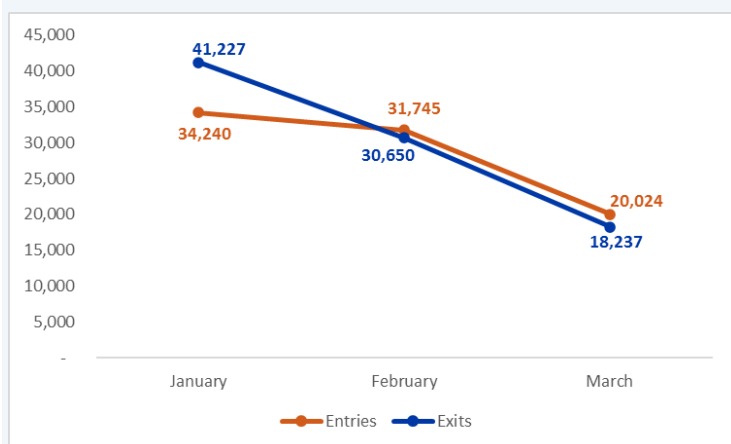


Fig 4– Summary of Regular Migration Movements at Forbes Border Post for Jan -Mar 2020

## MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

IOM carries out health assessments for various categories of migrants, including resettling refugees, labour migrants and displaced persons, either before departure or upon arrival. This reduces and manages the potential public health impact of human mobility on migrants, receiving countries and communities.

The month in review recorded a total of **175** applicants who went through the Migration Health Assessments, representing a **9** per cent decline from the previous month's assessments. The decline might be attributed to the effects of the **COVID-19 Virus** which has hit the world in the past 3 months.

The applicants comprised **57** per cent female and **43** per cent male as shown above, with **25** per cent being below the age of 18 years.



Fig 5 – Health Migration Assessment Applicants March 2020

The majority of the applicants who went through the Health Assessments applied for Settlement and Dependents Visas at **49** per cent, followed by Work Visas at **37** per cent, other visa types at **9** per cent, Family Reunion at **3** per cent and Student Without Scholarship Visas at **2** per cent, as shown in the chart below.

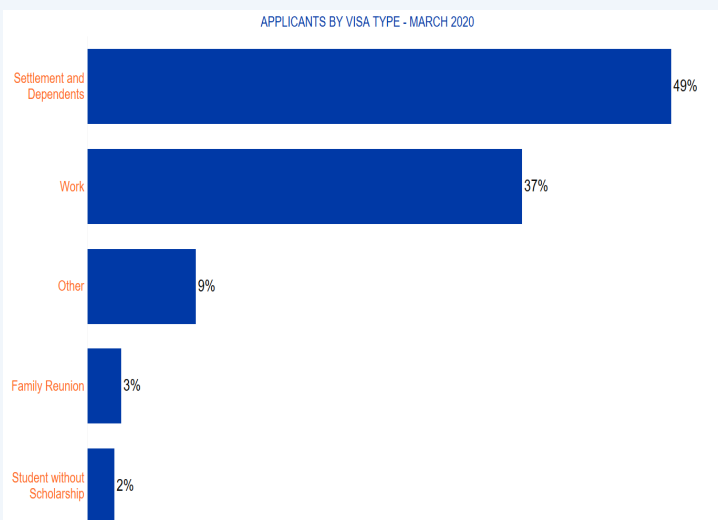


Fig 6 – Types of Visa Applications in March 2020

Fig 7 below shows a cumulative illustration of the types of visa applied by Health Assessment Applicants from January 2020 to March 2020. As illustrated in the chart the trend continues with most clients applying for Settlement and Dependent Visas, followed by Work, Other, Student Without Scholarship and Family Reunion Visas, indicating long-term migration for most applicants.

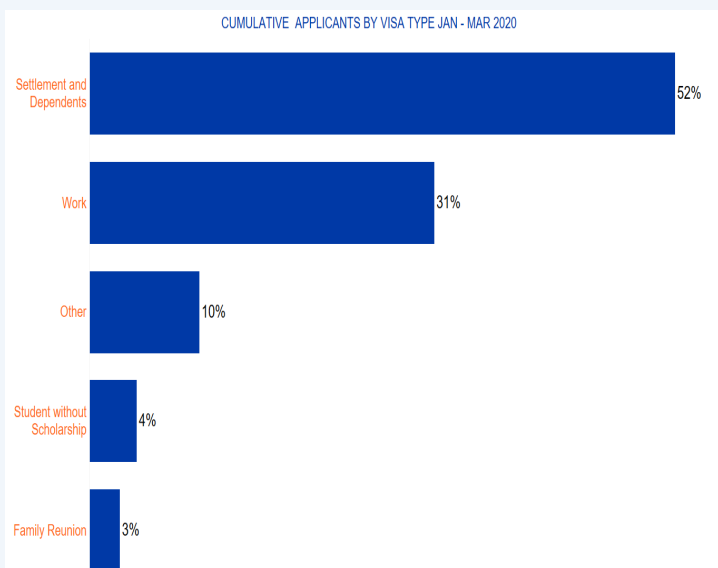


Fig 7 – Cumulative Clients by Visa Type from January 2020 to March 2020

Table 3 below shows a continuous downward trend of the number of visa applicants by during the first quarter of 2020, and the change in the number of applicants from the previous month.

(Q1-2020)	No of Applicants	Change (%)
January	223	+14.36
February	193	-13%
March	175	-9%

Table 3 – Health Assessment Applicants for period Jan to Mar 2020

## ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

IOM through its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme assists migrants or asylum seekers willing to return to their country of origin with administrative, logistical or financial support.

No migrants or asylum seekers were recorded under the AVRR programme during the month in review.

A total of 6 migrants were assisted to return back to Zimbabwe, under the (AVRR) program for the period January to March 2020 as shown in Table 4 below.

(Q1-2020)	Female	Male	TOTAL
January	0	2	2
February	3	1	4
March	0	0	0

Table 4 – Summarised migrants assisted with AVRR (Jan –Mar 2020)

## REFUGEES RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE

During the month of March 2020, IOM assisted **six** migrants with resettlement assistance to the United States of America, recording a **33** per cent decline from the **nine** migrants assessed in February 2020.

(Q1-2020)	Female	Male	TOTAL
January	0	0	0
February	4	5	9
March	4	2	6

Table 5 – Summarised refugees assisted with Resettlement Assistance (Jan –Mar 2020)

## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The month in review recorded **1,330** migrants forcibly returned from South Africa through the Beitbridge Reception Centre, representing a nine per cent decrease from **1,454** recorded in February.

Male migrants constituted a greater proportion of the deported population, with **89** per cent male and **11** per cent female. Amongst the deported migrants during the month in review, there were **3** minors below the age of five, representing less than **1** per cent of the deported migrants, with more than **99** per cent being adults belonging to the **18-59** years age group.

**Thirty three** per cent of the migrants deported from South Africa were deported during a mass deportation of illegal migrants held at Lindela holding facility in central Johannesburg and other holding facilities in the Limpopo Province.

The highest number of returned migrants recorded during the month in review originated from Manicaland Province with **21** per cent followed by Masvingo with **20** per cent, as shown in above Fig 9.

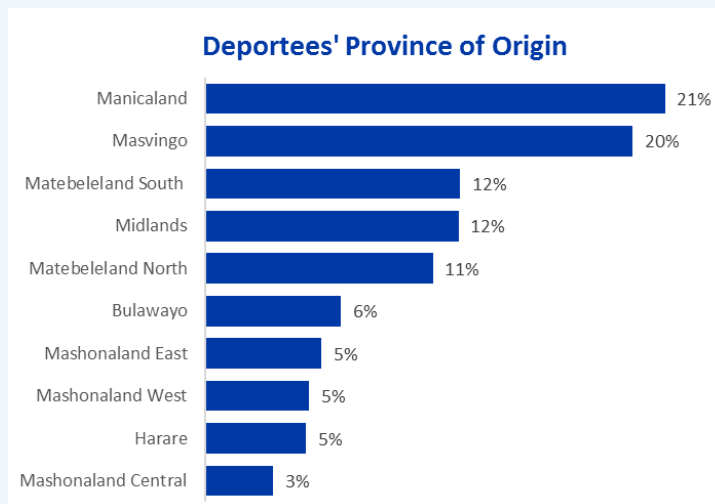


Fig 8 – Top ten Migrant Province of Origin for March 2020

A further analysis of the places highlighted as place of origin by deportees during the last quarter (January to March 2020), Fig 9 below shows that most of the deportees originate from Masvingo province (**27.9%**) followed by Manicaland (**19.4%**) and Matabeleland South Province (**13.2%**). Coincidentally the top 3 provinces highlighted as places of origin by most of the migrants deported from South Africa also have some of the most drought stricken districts categorised under IPC4 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, which opens up room for further investigation to identify and determine whether the IPC status could be the main push factor.

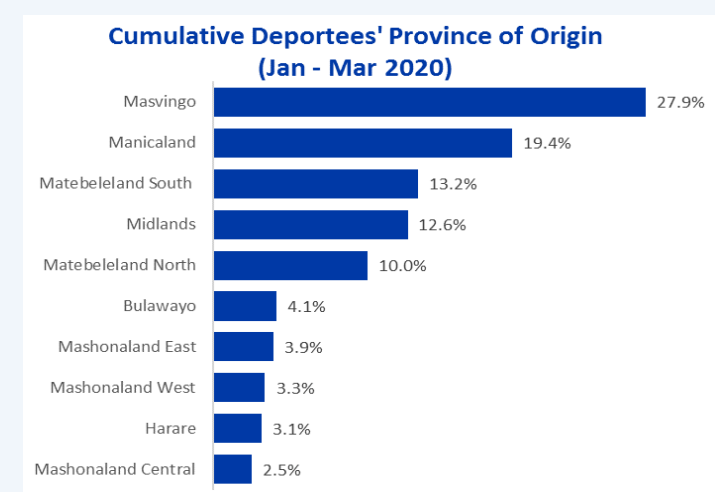


Fig 9 – Top ten Migrant Province of Origin for period January – March 2020

At District Level Chipinge recorded the highest number of forcibly returned migrants, with **173** deportees during the month in review as shown in table 6 below.

Districts	Total < 5	Total 18to59	Total Males	Total Females	Total
Chipinge	2	171	139	34	173
Bulawayo	0	84	66	18	84
Harare	0	62	51	11	62
Chiredzi	0	61	53	8	61
Mwenezi	0	44	40	4	44
Mberengwa	0	41	38	3	41
Mutare	0	39	36	3	39
Chivi	0	38	33	5	38
Bikita	0	38	35	3	38

Table 6 –Top 10 Deportees' District of Origin in March 2020

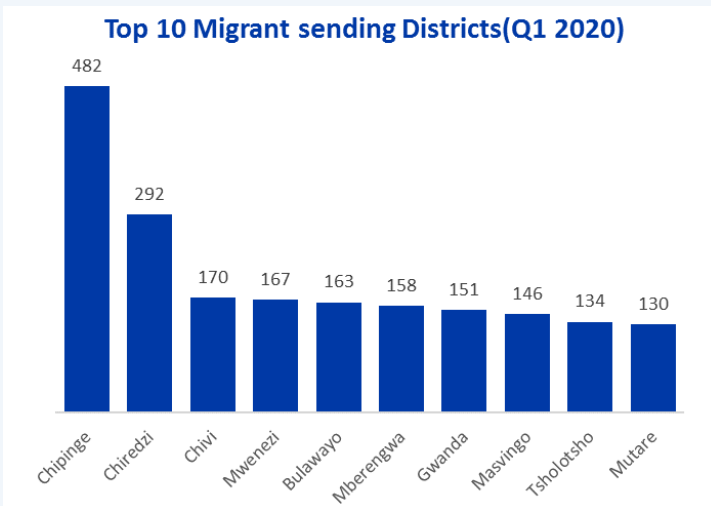


Fig 10 – Top ten migrant sending Districts of origin for period January to March 2020

## DEPORTEES FROM BOTSWANA

More than 390 Zimbabwean irregular migrants were repatriated from Botswana through the Plumtree Border Post. The migrants are currently quarantined at Plumtree High School, which has been turned into a COVID-2019 isolation center. The deportees have been living in squalid and unhygienic conditions at the school, waiting for the lapse of the 21-day lockdown period so that they could travel to their homes. According to the Immigration officials there are high possibilities of more repatriations during or immediately after the lockdown period.

## ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS STRANDED IN GWANDA AND HARARE

The imposed lockdown measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic has seen an increase in the number of trafficking and smuggling cases.

In response to a request for assistance from the Ethiopian Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, IOM Zimbabwe is working to repatriate a total of **27** stranded Ethiopian migrants currently held under quarantine in two different detention centers, **(15)** in Gwanda and **(12)** in Harare. Migrants at both centres were screened for COVID-19 by the Ministry of Health and Child Care officials and none of them presented the symptoms that fit the case definition.

## IOM COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- IOM as lead of the Points of Entry (POE) pillar is tasked with conducting cross-border coordination, providing capacity building for the setting up of surveillance efforts at entry points (airports and land border crossings), in relation to COVID-19, undertaking population mobility mapping (PMM) to better understand mobility trends to inform regional and national preparedness and response plans. Recently IOM and other partners in the POE pillar have assessed **8** of the major POEs in Zimbabwe.
- IOM assisted in the development of a preparedness and health response plan in POEs and dissemination of a POE-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) for detection, notification, isolation, management and referral of travelers suspected to have COVID-19.
- IOM is participating in the development of a global mobility restrictions database based on the information from local stakeholders, IATA, WHO situational reports and official sources.
- IOM tracks and monitors in-country and cross border flow in order to understand population mobility trends within and between certain areas of interest to help inform public health preparedness and response strategies.
- IOM is providing technical support to country-level, cross border and regional coordination mechanisms towards the preparedness and response to COVID-19.
- As part of its support towards the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, IOM pledged to support with provision of tarpaulins and non food items (NFI) kits for preposition with the Beitbridge district in support of the setting up of a quarantine centre in Beitbridge (Matabeleland South).

As a security measure to prevent and minimise the spreading of the COVID-19 virus, the (GoZ) implemented travel restrictions and nationwide lockdown modalities which has seen all POEs in the country being closed with only cargo trucks and returning residents being facilitated at specific entry points. The map below shows the status of the Points of Entry into Zimbabwe.

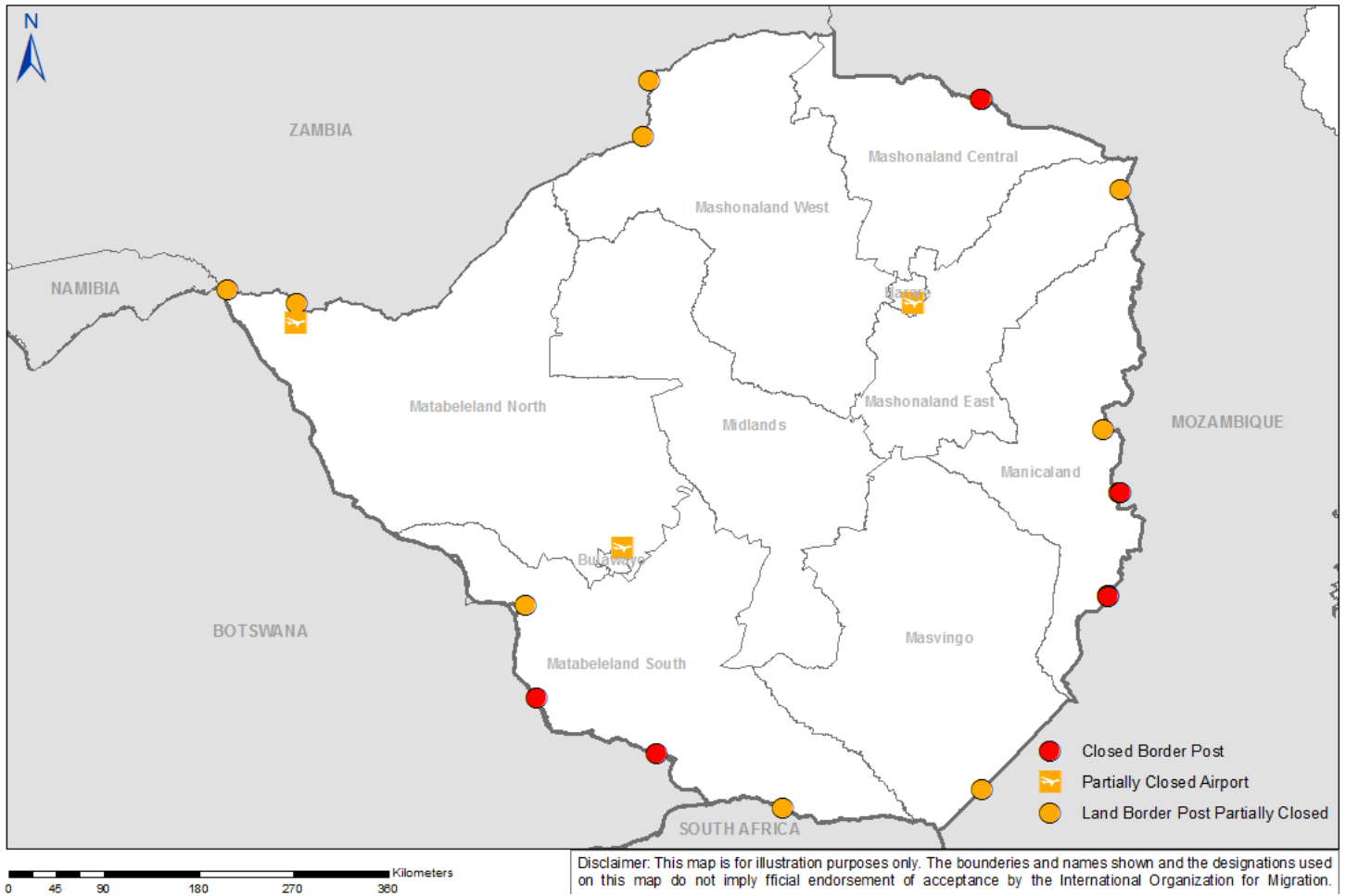


Fig 11 – Current status of the entry and exit points into Zimbabwe, imposed as a measure to prevent and minimise the spread of COVID-19 .

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