

The Social Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Migration in South Africa: (WAVE 3 ONLINE SURVEY)

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Background information

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact worldwide. The pandemic reached South Africa later than most of the world, but despite the delay, it still had a wide-reaching impact in the population.
- The president declared a state of national disaster on 23 March 2020. The first lockdown was then implemented on 26 March 2020 to prevent new infections.
- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) then embarked on a series of three online surveys to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals in the country.

The purpose of the online surveys:

- To provide information that could be used by government and other service providers, to better understand the impact of the pandemic and to develop interventions.

Presentation: based on the third wave (Wave 3), which focused on education, mobility and migration.



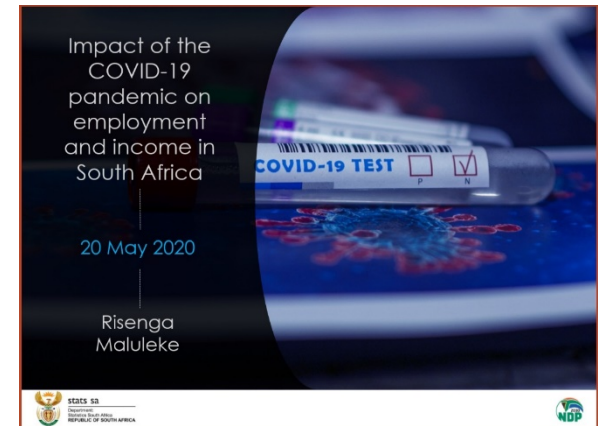
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Background information

WAVES	FOCUS	COLLECTION PERIOD	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	SELECTION CRITERIA
WAVE 1	Health behaviour and perceptions.	13 to 26 April 2020	3 591	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-probability convenience sample Any person aged 18 years and older and who was present in South Africa during the national lockdown was able to participate and complete the survey.
WAVE 2	Employment and income related issues, including hunger.	29 April to 6 May 2020	2 688	
WAVE 3	Mobility, Migration, Education, and time use.	17 June to 4 July 2020	1 323	



Study Limitations:

- This survey used a non-probability convenience sample and respondents who chose to respond to this survey are not representative of the entire South African population.
- N.B The results can not be generalised to the entire South African population.**
- Despite the limitations, convenience sampling was selected since it provides a quick, convenient and affordable way to gather data, particularly during a period where face-to-face visits were not possible.



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COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens

- During the pandemic, livelihoods were affected and income generating activities were reduced.
- In the first quarter of 2020, South Africa reported an unemployment rate of 30,1%, indicating an increase in the competition for resources.
- Migrants are already classified as a vulnerable group, and a situation such as Covid-19 as well as a nationwide lockdown, sets back an already vulnerable group.
- This impact is far reaching and goes beyond simply affecting the migrant. The family left behind in the country of origin may rely on remittances, which may be cut off if the migrants earning potential is disrupted.

Percentage distribution of respondents who are migrant

	Number of respondents	Percentage
Non-migrant	1 129	85,3
Migrant	115	8,7
Unspecified	79	6,0
Total	1 323	100,0

- About eighty-five per cent of the respondents in the sample were non-migrants (born in South Africa).
- Almost nine per cent were migrants (born outside South Africa)

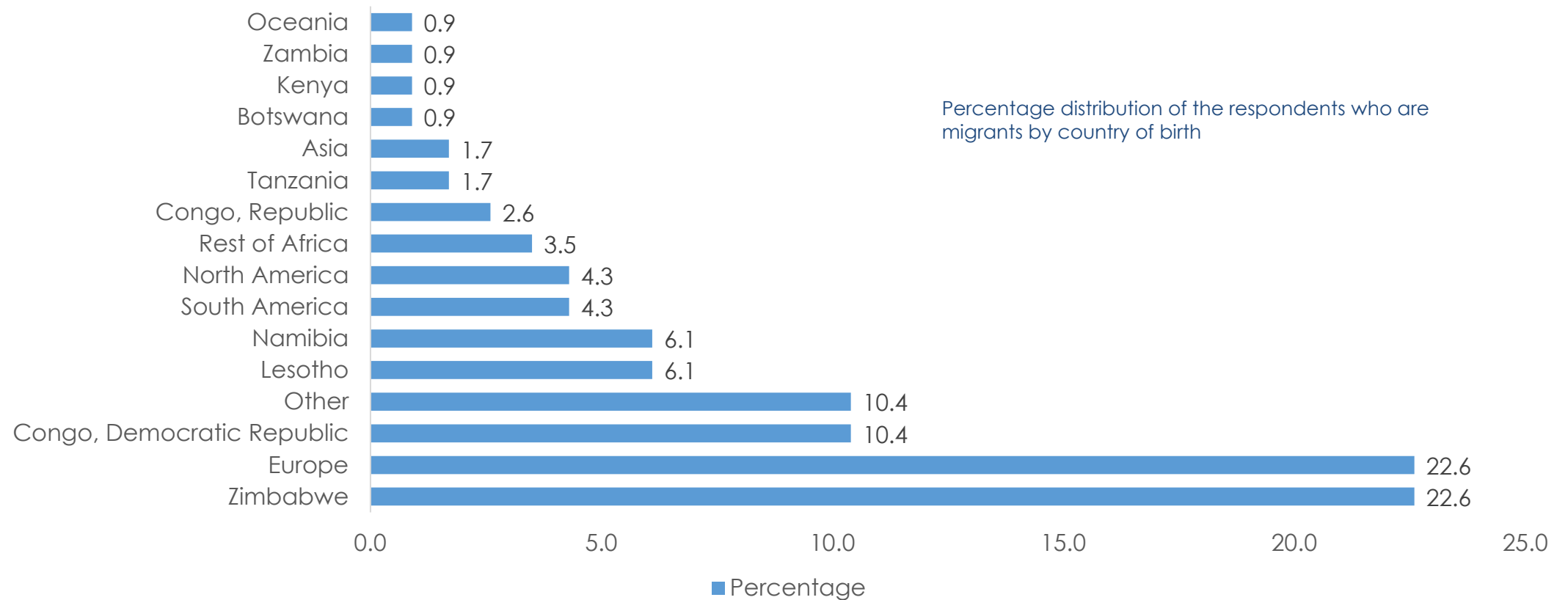


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- More than twenty per cent of respondents in the sample were born in Zimbabwe and in Europe.
- Most respondents were born in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

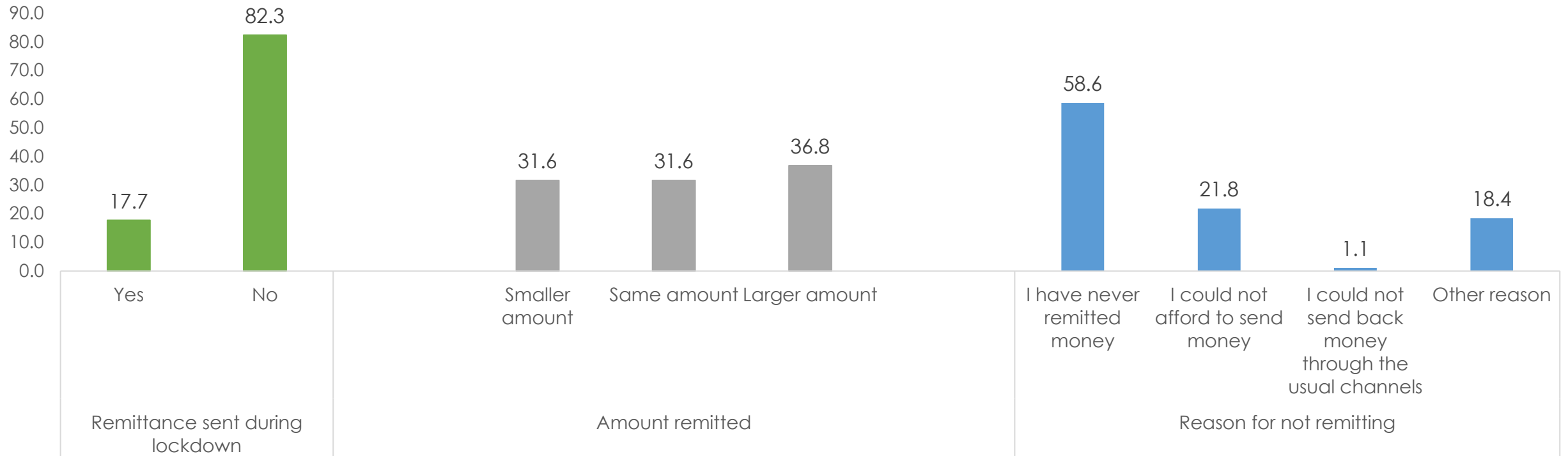


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- **Findings on remittances** shows that about 18% of migrant respondents remitted during lockdown.
- However, about one third of migrant respondents indicated that they remitted a smaller amount (31,6%) than they usually do.
- About 36,8% of migrant respondents remitted a higher amount, indicating the global reach of COVID-19, and that their families may be in more need during this time.
- More than twenty per cent of migrant respondents indicated that they did not remit during lock down because they could not afford to send money.



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- The questionnaire included six variables relevant to vulnerability and was used to consider a vulnerability framework for respondents in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. A higher proportion of migrant respondents were vulnerable in more areas than non-migrant respondents. **These four areas were age, issues related to employment such as being unemployed or participation in the informal sector as well as living in informal dwellings or shacks. Non-migrants were more vulnerable in two indicators (a household member had a chronic condition, and those who lived in crowded households).**

Vulnerability indicator	Non-migrant	Migrant
Population aged 60 and older	5,7	7,8
Unemployed	9,0	22,5
Employed in informal sector/ part time	2,6	7,2
Informal dwelling/ shack	3,0	4,5
Household member with chronic condition	47,4	28,9
Crowded household (6+)	16,1	15,2

Percentage distribution of respondents by migration status and vulnerability indicators



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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The report measures the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Mobility, and Migration

MIGRATION

- 18% of migrants remitted during lockdown. More than twenty per cent of migrant respondents indicated that they did not remit during lock down because they could not afford to send money.
- 22,5% of migrant respondents were unemployed as compared to non-migrants (9%).
- A higher proportion of migrant respondents were vulnerable in more areas than non-migrant respondents (four out of six indicators).



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The End
Thank you

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