



# **SADC REGIONAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

With focus on Global Vaccines Initiatives,  
Law Enforcement and Security, Standards  
and Quality as well as post-COVID-19  
recovery initiatives

Bulletin No. 13

**#COVID19SADC**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 13th Bulletin provides an update of the Global Vaccine Initiative and how Member States could position themselves for vaccine roll-out in the very near future. The report provides a case study of Mauritius’ response to COVID-19 and how the country has dealt with the pandemic in a successful manner.

The report further provides information on the Africa Medical

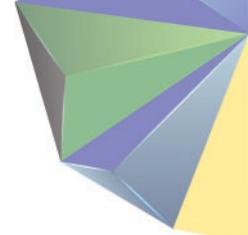
Supplies Platform (AMSP) which is an Africa wide platform that is accessible to Member States, which enables efficient, innovative and cutting edge solutions to the procurement of medical supplies and equipment.

Given the negative impact of COVID-19 on the economies of the world, International Financial Institutions and International Cooperating partners have availed

resources to Member States to support economic recovery programmes, the report details information on the Member States who have benefitted from this programme. In this edition, we have also documented and profiled, in greater detail the impact of COVID-19 on the Law Enforcement and Security Sector.

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES

- Position themselves for the anticipated roll out of vaccines and also explore partnerships for resourcing their vaccine needs.
- Enroll and utilize the AMSP in order to benefit from the efficient and innovative procurement platform.
- Share information and learn from global, regional and national best practices in an effort to enhance their COVID response.
- Build well-resourced and resilient health systems to mitigate the risk the pandemic poses to economic recovery. There can be no economic recovery until the health crisis has been brought to an end or the virus has been contained.
- Ensure extensive screening, testing, tracing and treatment and contribute to enforce public health guidelines as economies open up.
- Continue with the relief measures and safety nets to protect the vulnerable, provide liquidity to prevent unnecessary bankruptcies, and maintain links between workers and their firms to ensure a quick restart when the time comes.
- Given the change in the recent patterns in crime, Invest more resources to the police and other law enforcement agencies to strengthen their law enforcement capacity
- Member States and the Regional Early Warning Centre (REWEC), as the components of the Regional Early Warning System should continue to share information/intelligence and generate early warning reports with decision makers in order to ensure early actions and prevent situations from developing into conflicts.



# 1. GLOBAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON COVID-19 VACCINES

Cumulatively, nearly **27 million** COVID-19 cases and **900 000** related deaths have been reported globally. Over **1.8 million** new cases and **37 000** new deaths were reported for the week ending 6 September, a **5%** increase in the number of cases and a **2%** decrease in the number of deaths compared to the previous week (24 to 30 August)

## 1.1 Updates on global COVID-19 vaccine initiatives

The global pandemic has already caused the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives and disrupted the lives of billions more. As well as reducing the tragic loss of life and helping to get the pandemic under control, the introduction of a vaccine will prevent the loss of **US\$ 375 billion** to the global economy every month. Global equitable access to a vaccine, particularly protecting health care workers and those most-at-risk is the only way to mitigate the public health and economic impact of the pandemic (IMF;2020).

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear that to end this global crisis we do not just need COVID-19 vaccines, we also need to ensure that everyone in the world has access to them.

This triggered global leaders to call for a solution that would accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as diagnostics and treatment, and guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to them for people in all countries.

## 1.2 COVAX- a global effort for access to COVID-19 vaccines

COVAX is a global collaboration, with 170 countries now involved and collectively representing **70%** of the global population. It has the world's largest and most diverse portfolio of COVID-19 vaccines, and as such represents the world's best hope of bringing the acute phase of this pandemic to a swift end. COVAX brings together governments, global health organisations, manufacturers, scientists, private sector, civil society and philanthropy, with the aim of providing innovative and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines. It is the only effort to ensure that people in all corners of the world will get access to COVID-19 vaccines once they are available, regardless of their wealth. More information on COVAX can be found in the following link:<https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/covax-explained>

## 1.3 Vaccine solidarity trials and participation of SADC Member States

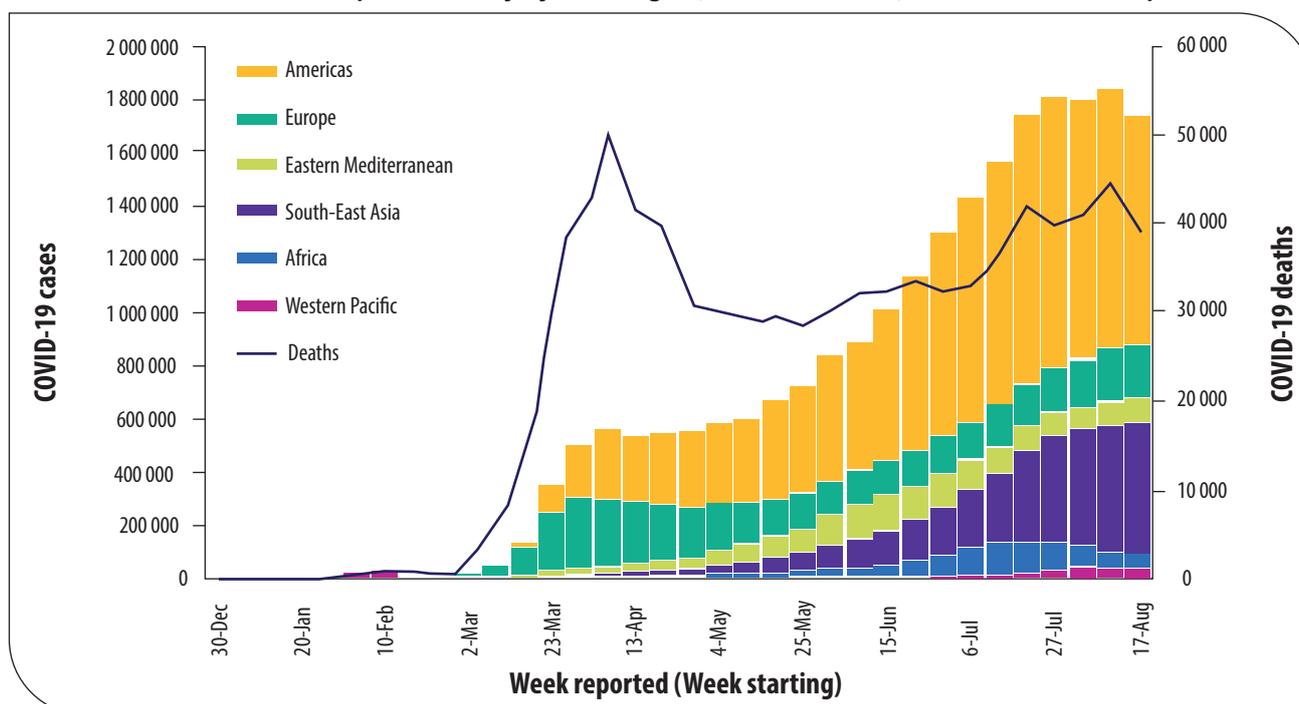
As countries globally are positioning themselves for a vaccine, there has been progress that has been made by scientists, governments and the international community as a whole to expedite the development of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine in a reasonably short time. Currently there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. However, trials are being conducted all over the world and researchers are working as quickly as possible to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. Historically, vaccines have taken **2 to 5**

years to develop but with global effort researchers could potentially develop a vaccine in a shorter space of time with the collaboration of several players and stakeholders. Similar to pharmaceutical products, vaccine development also follows a rigorous preclinical and clinical phases of trials. Of the **148** potential vaccines that researchers are working on, 17 are now in the human clinical trial phase in the US, China, Brazil and Germany, among others. One vaccine trial is taking place in South Africa, it is the first African trial of a COVID-19 vaccine. The South African Vaccine Trial is testing the vaccine that was developed by Oxford University's Jenner Institute, which is also being tested in the UK and Brazil.

The trial in South Africa will involve 2,000 volunteers aged 18-65 years old, including some HIV positive patients to assess the safety of the vaccine and how well it protects people. Developing a vaccine is very important to ending the pandemic, it is one of the most powerful tools in public health and it would provide long-term protection from COVID-19. However, even though there are some vaccines in the final phase of clinical trials there are still many challenges that are faced during the testing stages which could delay how quickly a vaccine is determined safe and ultimately approved for human use.

It is also observed that some countries may not be in a position to procure vaccines due to exclusions associated with income status, hence the call for solidarity and a coordinated effort for Member States to position themselves to benefit from the vaccine roll-out in the near future.

Number of COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO region, and total deaths, 30 December to 6 September 2020



## 2. SADC REGION OUTLOOK

The table 1 below highlights the COVID-19 Situation in the SADC region as at 13 September 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Total deaths	Recoveries	Active Cases	Cases per 1M
Angola	3335	132	1289	1914	101
Botswana	2252	10	597	546	954
Comoros	456	7	415	34	522
DRC	10390	264	9756	370	115
Eswatini	5050	98	4188	739	4344
Lesotho	1245	33	528	684	580
Madagascar	15737	210	14349	1178	568
Malawi	5678	177	3724	1777	295
Mauritius	361	10	335	16	284
Mozambique	5040	35	2905	2100	160
Namibia	9604	96	5811	3695	3767
Seychelles	138	0	136	2	1401
South Africa	6E+05	15427	6E+05	56364	10903
Tanzania	509	21	183	305	9
Zambia	13466	312	12007	1147	729
Zimbabwe	7508	224	5675	1609	504
<b>Total SADC</b>	<b>728983</b>	<b>17056</b>	<b>638321</b>	<b>72480</b>	<b>2228</b>

The table shows a steady decline in cases in most Member States, as most Member States have reached the

peak. Despite this downward trend in infections, Member States should continue to implement the health

measures as defined by health authorities.

### 2.1 Case Study on Mauritius - Mauritius' timely and decisive response curbs COVID-19

WHO reports that Mauritius reported the initial COVID-19 cases on 18 March, it took just five weeks to bring down the infections from a cluster of local cases to zero cases, becoming the first in Africa to contain the spread of COVID-19. The achievement is largely credited to quick action in enforcing a raft of stringent preventive and control measures.

The national response was timely and decisive. Soon after the first cases were detected, Mauritius imposed a nationwide lockdown, stepped up screening, contact tracing and public awareness on preventive measures. The country also enhanced testing and invested more resources in the response, procuring medicines and equipment. Rapid response teams were set up and posted at each regional hospital, and all health workers involved in COVID-19 prevention and control equipped with personal protective equipment. The government also ensured the

*"The national task force on COVID-19, which met daily and chaired by Prime Minister Jugnauth, made contact tracing, testing and treatment the cornerstones of the response. "Meticulous contact tracing helped the country to save many lives". -*

**Mauritius Health Minister Dr Kailash Kumar Jagatpal reported at the WHO Africa Regional Committee 2020**

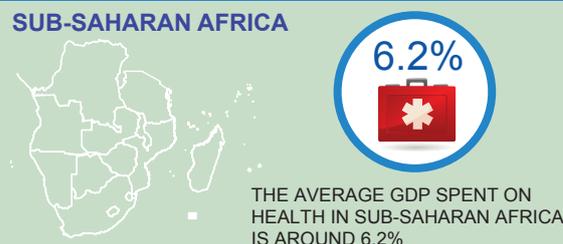
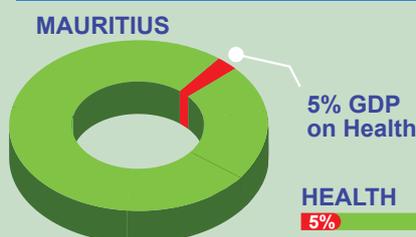
wellbeing of health personnel. All those working in quarantine or treatment centres were given 10 days off after each week of work, they would then be tested twice, and allowed to resume work if both tests were negative. The island nation's experiences in managing malaria, chikungunya and dengue outbreaks and its well-established surveillance

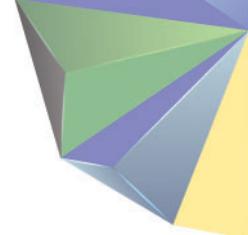
system was a boon to COVID-19 detection and response. This success is attributed to the high political commitment, strong preparedness and response coordination, in which WHO played a key role.

In addition, the country's advanced public health system has played a significant role in this success. Mauritius spends about 5% of its GDP on health. The sub-Saharan Africa average is around 6.2%.

Mauritius scores as well as high-income countries in many health indicators such as life expectancy, infant or maternal mortality rates. According to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, "it is crucial to have an efficient health system at a time when we are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic, the government continues to invest significantly in the health sector for both present and future generations."

**Source: WHO-AFRO; 2020**





### 3. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON COVID-19 RISK PERCEPTION FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF LOCKDOWN MEASURES

As countries continue to open their borders to movements of people and goods, there is need to scale up risk communication in order to mitigate fears, misconceptions, stigma and discrimination. This section of the report documents the main trends in community feedback reported by nine agencies responding to COVID-19 across Southern Africa including; CARE, International Federation of Red

Cross, Internews, Novetta/Africa CDC, Oxfam, Save the Children, Shujaaz Inc., UNICEF and WHO for the month of July/August 2020.

Responses from 9 partners' organizations that are supporting Member States in the COVID-19 response feedback trends have been reported.

The trends below from Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe were observed through community feedback channels that included face-to-face discussions during social mobilisation activities, interactive radio shows, community meetings, focus group discussions and other channels.

ISSUE	PERCEPTION	RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES
Low and decreasing risk perception	To address the perception that the outbreak has ended, isn't a serious issue or does not exist.	<p>Intensify Community engagement and design ways to explain that the lifting of lockdown measures does not mean that the outbreak has ended.</p> <p>Intensify media engagement and keep gauging people's perception of the prevailing epidemiological situation and level of risk facing them and their community.</p>
	To address the perception that the disease only affects affluent communities.	<p>Find ways to share the stories of local people who have recovered from COVID-19 through the media and in communities to show that the disease is real and can affect anyone. For example, ask health care workers, social mobilizers, and trusted and respected community figures who have been ill from the virus to share their stories in the media or through community activities.</p> <p>Design community awareness sessions that will demonstrate that anyone can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender or age.</p> <p>Enlist the support of local and national media to address mistrust and denial through their reporting, for example hold media webinars on the topic or facilitate visits to COVID-19 treatment facilities</p>
	To address the perception that children can resist COVID-19	Develop a factsheet which explains children are also at risk of being infected with COVID-19 and that they can be carriers of the disease, even if the symptoms can be milder (depending on whether they have an existing condition or not).
Non-compliance and challenges with preventive measures	To address challenges to practice physical distancing	<p>Monitor the enforcement of social distancing in public places including adequate spacing between individuals, defining the limit of number of people to allow in a given closed space depending on its size</p> <p>Hand washing and sanitization prior to entering a shared space must be made mandatory.</p> <p>Consider other measures that will compel every person to abide by the public health protocols.</p>
Misconceptions and concerns about face masks	To address concerns about face masks	<p>Public awareness campaign for using face masks should include influential persons such as celebrities, religious leaders and others to advocate for the use of face masks</p> <p>This campaign should also target important figures such as politicians, uniformed personnel and others to highlight their responsibility as role models</p>



United Nations  
Economic Commission  
for Africa

# WEBINAR

## African Medicine Supply Platform

### 4. JOINT SADC – UNECA – AFCD WEBINAR ON THE AFRICAN MEDICINE SUPPLY PLATFORM

On the 4th of September the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African CDC organized a webinar to showcase the African Medicine Supply Platform (AMSP). The Webinar was attended by 10 countries including; Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, South Africa, Eswatini, Mozambique, Mauritius and Zimbabwe.

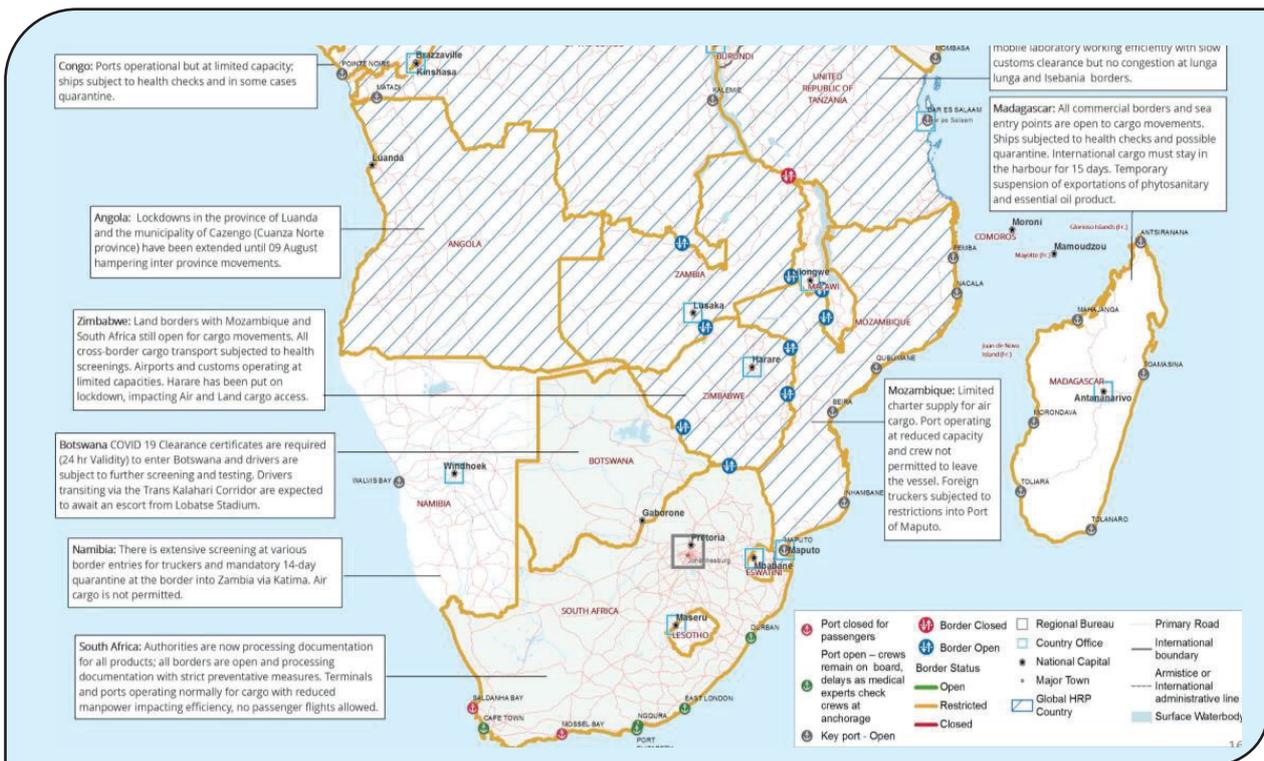
The African Medicine Supply Platform (AMSP) is a joint initiative of UNECA, African Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Afrexim bank and AU Special Envoy, Strive Masiyiwa. It was created to address the challenges as a result of COVID-19, with a view to promote access to safe and affordable quality medicines in Africa, through pooled procurement, as well as capacitating local production for improved health outcomes, in line with the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade

Area (AfCFTA). The platform also places a strong emphasis on showcasing products made in Africa. In addition to actively sourcing and showcasing local and international certification, a first right of refusal is given to African manufacturers and African carriers whenever possible. Member States are encouraged to make use of the platform to facilitate smooth procurement of health commodities and supplies.

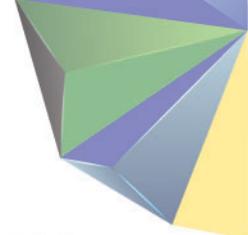
### 5. BORDER SITUATION UPDATES IN THE SADC REGION

SADC Member States have continued to ease economic measures and are progressively opening national and international air, maritime and land traffic to push for post-COVID economic recoveries.

The figure below depicts some of the border points that have been opened in Member States and some key considerations for travelers and business. (See table above)



(Source WFP-RBJ)



## 6. COVID-19 SUPPORT FROM MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATING PARTNERS

The SADC Council of Ministers during its meeting on the 18 August 2020 directed Secretariat to share Bi-weekly updates on available resources from Multilateral Financial Institutions and International Cooperating Partners supporting the fight against COVID-19. The status on the support by IMF and World Bank has not changed from the previous report. Therefore, the focus for this report is on the support provided by African Development Bank Group and African Export-Import Bank.

### 6.1 African Development Bank Group

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has introduced measures aimed at supporting African countries to curb the spread of COVID-19 and cushion its negative impacts on economies and livelihoods. The African Development Bank Group has mobilized **\$10 billion** to create the COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility. The **\$10 billion** facility will benefit governments and the private sector; **\$3 billion** social bond has reached the entire continent and **\$2 million** grant for the World Health Organization. The overarching goal is to lessen the economic and social impact of the pandemic. Specific country provisions under this facility have not yet been made public. This intervention is also aimed at supporting efforts on containing the spread of the virus, increasing public resources allocated to the health sector; and boosting the resilience of the most vulnerable communities, as well as to maintain livelihoods and shore up domestic business and industry in order to maintain the production system and pave the way for rapid recovery. The ADF SADC Member States such as Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe received financial support for reinforcing capacity to coordinate pandemic response measures, including surveillance and sensitization in the six beneficiary countries. Other recently approved financial packages are summarized below:

#### Angola

On 15 April 2020, AfDB approved a **\$40 million** financial package to Support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises during COVID-19 consisting of a **\$32 million** line of credit from the African Development Bank and an additional \$8 million in parallel financing from the Africa Growing Together Fund (AGTF) from the African Development Bank

and an additional **\$8 million** in parallel financing from the Africa Growing Together Fund, a co-financing fund sponsored by the People's Bank of China and administered by the African Development Bank.

**\$10 BILLION**  
THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP HAS MOBILIZED \$10 BILLION TO CREATE THE COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE FACILITY. THIS WILL BENEFIT GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

**\$3 BILLION**  
\$3 BILLION SOCIAL BOND HAS REACHED THE ENTIRE CONTINENT

**\$2 BILLION**  
\$2 MILLION GRANT FOR THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

The facility provides a long-term financing required by BMA, one of the largest commercial banks in Angola and a leading financier of domestic firms, especially SMEs. This loan will support the expansion needs of growth-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating mostly in agriculture, agro-industry and domestic manufacturing. The package will also help to create direct and indirect jobs, contribute critically needed foreign exchange savings through import substitution; and lay a foundation to boost exports to neighbouring countries. The support is also aimed to stimulating job creation through a diversified pipeline of projects, which will contribute towards Angola's efforts to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth as well as economic diversification in a country heavily reliant on oil export revenues.

#### Mauritius

The African Development Bank has approved a **€188 million euro loan** to the Republic of Mauritius to finance a national budget support programme to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility (CRF), established by

the Mauritian Government, is to support the national response fighting the ongoing outbreak, and to mitigate the adverse economic and social effects of the disease.

The response entails three pillars: to consolidate health systems; to protect livelihoods, income security and access to essential goods and services; and to build a resilient private sector as a prelude to the recovery of the economy. The CRF aims to bolster preparedness and support for vulnerable groups and the informal sector, while also funding social protection schemes, reducing job losses and strengthening the resilience of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). While the most vulnerable will be the main beneficiaries of this programme, it also covers workers in the informal sector, especially citizens facing layoffs due to COVID-19 impact.

#### Seychelles

In June 2020, Seychelles was granted a **\$10 million** loan to support the government's COVID-19 response program. The loan will be used for macroeconomic stabilization, strengthening national health responses to the COVID-19 pandemic; and safeguarding livelihoods and social safety nets. This is on the backdrop of a sharp decline in revenues. The support will also help the Seychelles government to effectively respond to immense financial burden as it works to enhance the country's health systems, mitigate job losses and redress lost business and household incomes.

The economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have been more devastating than the disease itself in Seychelles. Tourism is one of the worst hit-industries globally, yet it is the main source of income for Seychelles, accounting for 25 percent of its GDP. The Bank's support augments the government's efforts aimed at cushioning the country against the impacts of the pandemic.

The crisis response program is aligned with the Bank Group Ten-Year Strategy-TYS (2013-2022) and the Hi5s priorities, specifically "improve the quality of life of the people of Africa". The operation is also aligned with the Bank's Seychelles' Country Strategy Paper (2016-2020), which aims at stimulating private sector activity in support of economic diversification through policy reforms.



## Zimbabwe

In May 2020, the AfDB under African Development Fund (ADF) **14 Transition** Support Facility approved a grant to the tune of **\$13.7 million** to strengthen health system, boost anti-COVID-19 efforts in Zimbabwe. The fund was granted to support lifeline for targeted frontline responders and health personnel and boost the country's Global Health Security Index in the wake of the novel coronavirus pandemic. This will support **15 high-density** urban suburbs in Harare, satellite townships and targeted health facilities in other areas of the country.

Activities under the project include boosting capacity in COVID-19 prevention and management protocols for healthcare personnel and populations in targeted regions and increasing access to COVID-19 hand washing facilities in Harare, satellite townships and other affected regions. The project will also supply COVID-19 medical equipment and laboratory test kits, personal protective equipment (PPEs); set up handwashing facilities through rehabilitation/construction of boreholes; and training of healthcare personnel and laboratory technicians at community level on COVID-19 prevention and case management protocols.

Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care is implementing the project in collaboration with World Health Organization. The project is expected to directly benefit over **680,000 people**. It enhances the on-going planned activities to contribute to strengthening the resilience of the health system, while protecting the livelihoods of the vulnerable population in Zimbabwe beyond the end of the pandemic.

### 6.2 African Export-Import Bank

The African Export-Import Bank has pledged **\$3 billion** in resources to assist member countries, including its private sector, respond to the crisis. The set of tools includes lines of credit, guarantees, or swaps, among others. Its focus is to relieve most of the indirect effects of the pandemic including high risks of debt distress and countries severely affected by the decline in oil and gas and mining sectors.

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) PATIMFA facility will help African countries deal with the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. PATIMFA provides financing to assist Afreximbank

member countries to adjust in an orderly manner to the financial, economic and health services shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### The focus is to assist its Member States to:

- meet trade debt payments;
- support and stabilize the foreign exchange reserves of central banks of member countries;
- manage any sudden fiscal revenue declines as a result of reduced export earnings; and
- trade finance facilities for import of urgent needs to combat the pandemic.

*Economic performance in the third quarter of 2020 is expected to improve compared to the previous quarter as countries have partially or wholly eased restrictions depending on a country's preparedness for a surge in infections.*

In terms of recipients, governments of member states are taking the lead to apply for the support. The majority of funds are channelled to the health, social, and economic ministries on the frontline of the national response. Most countries have set up special COVID-19 programs that are receiving technical health support from bilateral development agencies such as Enabel, AFD, and DFID.

### 6.3 Post COVID-19 Recovery Measures

The extreme social distancing/lockdowns introduced across the world in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a more severe economic downturn than initially anticipated. The COVID-19 induced economic crisis, which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called "The Great Lockdown", has turned out to be the greatest economic calamity since the Great Depression. The severity and speed of the declines in economic output, employment, and consumption during the Great Lockdown were far greater than at the onset of the Great Depression. The degree of the economic disruption is, however, varied across countries depending on factors than include a country's

pre-pandemic economic wellbeing; economic structure in terms of diversification; preparedness and robustness of response mechanism; fiscal headroom; health system development; technological advancement; and infrastructure adequacy.

Impact of the COVID-19 resulted in a contraction in economic performance in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter except for China which recorded a growth. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and European Union economies contracted by 9.8 percent and **11.7%** respectively. In the second quarter of 2020, South Africa recorded a 16 percent decline in gross domestic product (GDP) between the first and second quarters of 2020, giving an annualised economic contraction of **51%**. The significant economic contraction of the biggest economy in the SADC region shed light on how the regional economy was decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The varying degrees of responsiveness and scale of supportive policies by the central banks and governments will result in uneven fragile economic recovery. The pandemic disrupted both the demand and supply side of global value chains, resultantly spending will fall, owing to households' and firms' weakened balance sheets and strong precautionary behaviour induced by uncertainty about the course of the pandemic and the policy responses to it. Additionally, firm bankruptcies will destroy organizational and informational capital.

The post-COVID economy will transform the structure of the economy as upholding social distancing and health protocols will affect economic activities that involve close human contact thus changing consumption and production patterns. Resultantly, the expanding sectors are much less labour-intensive and more skill-intensive leveraging on new technologies which distort the labour market. Even as economic activities improve, employment rates will not return to pre-crisis levels because not all companies will reopen nor retain the pre-pandemic staffing levels resulting in redundancy and structural unemployment. Consequently, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that about 400 million full-time jobs globally were lost in the second quarter of 2020 and World Bank estimated that more than 100 million people will be driven into extreme poverty by the coronavirus pandemic.

Though the world has learned to live with the virus, a robust sustainable economic recovery is unlikely without a permanent medical solution such as a vaccine, or therapies with proven success in treating COVID-19 virus. Lingering uncertainty about the virus and the fear of recurring outbreaks are weighing on mobility and the confidence of consumers and businesses. Notwithstanding the downside risk of the second round of surge in infections which can undermine the economic recovery prospects, the following recommendations can assist in ensuring a sustained and stronger economic recovery:

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINED AND STRONGER ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- Building well-resourced and resilient health systems to mitigate the risk the pandemic poses to economic recovery. There can be no economic recovery until the health crisis has been brought to an end or the virus has been contained.
- As economies open up, authorities are urged to ensure extensive screening, testing, tracing and treatment. Additionally, authorities should continue encouraging people to continue complying with health protocols as well as upholding high hygiene standards and social distancing.

- Most relief measures to individuals and corporates have ceased or are about to cease because no one envisaged that the pandemic will be on-going for this long and will have such severe impact. Member States are encouraged to continue with the relief measures and safety nets to protect the vulnerable, provide liquidity to prevent unnecessary bankruptcies, and maintain links between workers and their firms to ensure a quick restart when the time comes. However, this will have financial implication which will further worsen Member States fiscal positions and debt level.

As Member States focused their efforts to prioritize the prevention and combating of COVID-19, the fight against transnational organised crime has been negatively impacted, as a significant proportion of the available policing capacity has been re-directed to focus on the COVID-19 response. Consequently, criminals have seized the opportunity to exploit the resultant vacuum. The pandemic fuelled a high demand for certain goods such as drugs, personal protective equipment, pharmaceutical products and other medical equipment, which organised criminal elements were willing to provide illegally.

The COVID-19 situation has also resulted in an increase in cybercrime which already was a major problem not just in the region but also across the globe. The restrictions which Member States have imposed on movements of people have led citizens to resort to digital platforms to do financial transactions. The use of digital platforms has also been encouraged by financial institutions as a way of reducing face to face contact to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. However, this provided an opportunity for an escalation of cyber threats, ranging from malicious emails, malware, ransomware and an increase in data being stolen from users and breaches within the video conferencing platforms as recently reported by the South African Council for Scientific Industrial Research.

## 7. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY

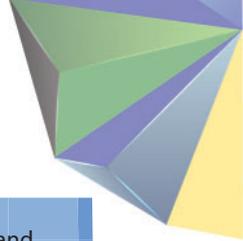
### 7.1 COVID-19 impact of the sector

Law enforcement and security have been affected directly and indirectly and in a variety of ways. With most Member States enforcing lockdown regulations, the rate of conventional crimes such as drug trafficking, motor vehicle theft, house robbery, etc substantially reduced due to restricted movement of people and increased police visibility on the streets.



**Member States' measures, actions and processes for prisons to access to health care, reduce overcrowding, contact with outside world**

Member State	Measures
 <b>Angola</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New prisoners were placed in self-isolation for two weeks before integrated into the prison system.</li> <li>● A section was converted for purpose of self-isolation</li> <li>● Released of inmates being held in pre-trial detention as a condition to avoid overcrowding while not suspending legal proceedings</li> <li>● Prison visits were suspended including food delivery for inmates.</li> <li>● Initiated a de-confinement process for prison establishments, with segregation according to prisons class of which visits will be in groups on resumption.</li> </ul>
 <b>Botswana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The country pardoned and released prisoners to ease overcrowding</li> <li>● Conditions such as extramural, incarcerated and foreign nationals were applied during the pardoning process.</li> </ul>
 <b>Comoros</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prisons visits were suspended</li> <li>● An awareness campaign with the Ministry of Health on COVID-19 in all prisons was conducted.</li> <li>● A pre-release process was also adopted.</li> <li>● Plans to test all prisoners were adopted and to restore and expand the Moroni prisons.</li> </ul>
 <b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pardoned prisoners (eg children, and those prosecuted for minor crimes)</li> <li>● Pardoned prisoners under the military justice system</li> <li>● Cancelled plans to transfer prisoners from one facility to the next when there are cases reported at the receiving facility</li> <li>● Worked closely with WHO and received various assistance such as installed 50 additional beds, hand-washing stations and latrine, tents to quarantine sick detainees, educational programmes among others</li> <li>● Partnered with NGO and other organisations such as Doctors Without Borders in the testing process and received resources such as masks.</li> <li>● Also worked closely with UN, IFRC and conducted awareness campaign on preventative measures.</li> <li>● The country disinfected various prisons country wide</li> </ul>
 <b>Eswatini</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There was a collaboration between correctional services and UNICEF and received a three-month basic sanitary supply to 100 girls, 456 boys, 198 women and 12 young children detained in the kingdom's prisons.</li> <li>● The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided toiletries and sanitary products to protect prisoners.</li> <li>● A telephone fund was set up to allow the prisoners to communicate with their relatives due to visits being suspended.</li> <li>● Prison visits were suspended.</li> </ul>
 <b>Lesotho</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Urged prison officials to relieve overcrowding in prisons.</li> <li>● Called for a decrease in new admissions.</li> <li>● New inmates were subjected to a temperature check upon their arrival.</li> </ul>
 <b>Madagascar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trials have been suspended</li> <li>● Disinfected Prisons measures are being implemented</li> <li>● Prisoners not allowed to go outside, (Chaplaincies suspended their activities in detention, external transfers to court or hospital were cancelled)</li> <li>● Received funding from international partners</li> <li>● Received various supplies from UNDP such as masks, rubber gloves, hydroalcoholic solutions,</li> <li>● Pardoned imprisoned journalists</li> <li>● Conduct systematic screening and isolation of new arrivals</li> </ul>
 <b>Malawi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pardoned prisoners, (prisoners who were nearing the end of their sentence or who had been sentenced for minor offences)</li> <li>● Maula prison in Lilongwe transferred all female inmates at the facility to other prisons to create space for an isolation centre</li> <li>● All facility visits were suspended</li> <li>● Partnered with RED Cross on information dissemination</li> </ul>
 <b>Mauritius</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Released prisoners who had been incarcerated for minor offences to relieve overcrowding</li> <li>● Extended the allowable length of telephone calls and encouraged the use of video calling.</li> <li>● It also organised prison labour to produce masks and bread.</li> <li>● New inmates to be placed in solitary confinement for three weeks upon arrival in detention.</li> </ul>
 <b>Mozambique</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Suspended all visits to inmates in the country's jails as a social distancing measure</li> <li>● Food parcels are left at the counters.</li> <li>● Relatives are still allowed to bring food to prisoners but no contact allowed</li> <li>● The crockery and cutlery used must be meticulously disinfected after the inmate has eaten his meal.</li> <li>● Pardoned seriously ill prisoners</li> </ul>



 <p><b>Namibia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Through its already existing Soap production facility under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, that was lunched by UNODC started producing hand sanitizer liquid solutions to bolster prevention measures.</li><li>● Hand-washing points were provided at the entrances to units.</li><li>● Visitation to prisons has been suspended</li><li>● Visitors' temperatures are taken routinely.</li><li>● Mandatory wearing of masks for prisoners</li><li>● A group cell had been converted into a solitary confinement block in case the disease began to spread.</li><li>● Prisoners at Windhoek Prison started making washable masks.</li><li>● Screening of staff as they begin duty</li><li>● Inmates have been given call cards to communicate with the outside world under supervised conditions.</li><li>● Educational sessions conducted by the prison's healthcare providers, and information about COVID-19 is presented on a daily basis to staff.</li><li>● Isolation rooms have also been organized for inmates presenting signs of infection, to provide for the necessary medical care immediately.</li><li>● Pardoned prisoners convicted for petty offences on the occasion of the national holiday. People aged over 60 were released first, while those who had committed crimes, sexual assault, theft and break-ins under aggravating circumstances, as well as offences linked to drugs, poaching and arms smuggling, were excluded.</li><li>● Visits to police stations, where remand prisoners await trial, were suspended.</li><li>● The government called for the decongestion of police station cells.</li><li>● Visits to prisons, with the exception of visits by lawyers and deliveries of food parcels, were suspended.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Seychelles</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● A hand washing station was installed and supervisors were made responsible for taking the temperature of visitors at the entrance to the establishment.</li><li>● Visits to the prison were suspended</li><li>● The prison administration organised the reception and delivery of parcels intended for detained persons to preserve the link with relatives.</li><li>● A rum manufacturer donated hydroalcoholic gel to the prison administration.</li></ul>
 <p><b>South Africa</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Partnered with International Committee of the Red Cross, UNDP and received sanitary and healthcare donations.</li><li>● Pardoned prisoners (children, foreign prisoners)</li><li>● Build a hospital for COVID-19 patients and recruited nurses and acquire equipment's for the specific hospital.</li><li>● Placement on parole of selected categories of sentenced offenders which are considered high-risk areas for infection.</li><li>● Visits to prisons were suspended</li><li>● Random disinfection of prisons was conducted</li><li>● The parole dispensation will apply to low-risk inmates who have passed their minimum detention period or will approach this period in the coming five years.</li><li>● This dispensation excludes inmates sentenced to life imprisonment or serving terms for specified other serious crimes, including sexual offences, murder and attempted murder, gender based violence and child abuse.</li><li>● Established and isolation centre within the prison</li><li>● New prisoners are quarantined on arrival for two weeks before joining others.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Tanzania</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Partnered with American NGO Water Mission and received sanitary and healthcare donations.</li><li>● Prison authorities banned all visits to the country's prisons indefinitely, the ban includes prisoners' lawyers,</li><li>● Pardoned prisoners including foreigners</li><li>● Use of mobile phone is encouraged to keep contact with lawyers and family</li></ul>
 <p><b>Zambia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Pardoned prisoners</li><li>● Restriction of movements and visits to prison</li><li>● Limiting the imprisonment of new people, especially those in an irregular situation</li><li>● Received sanitary and healthcare donations from partners EU, German Federal Government.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Zimbabwe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Prisoners were released under an amnesty, (detained minors, bedridden, disabled prisoners, women, prisoners aged 60 or over and those who served more than 20 years of the sentence were considered first)</li><li>● Juvenile prisons did not take new inmates and converted imprisonment to community service</li><li>● Those who tested positive were isolated immediately and all new inmates are now first isolated before joining the others.</li><li>● Prison officers go for screening when reporting for work after leaving the prison complex.</li><li>● No visitors are allowed to visit prisoners</li><li>● Health teams are moving around educating the inmates and officers on preventive measures.</li><li>● Every prison has sanitisers and foot baths at all points of entry.</li><li>● All new inmates and prisoners coming from other prisons were put on a mandatory 14-day self-isolation before they are introduced to the rest of the</li><li>● Fumigation exercise at the prison was conducted</li><li>● Inmates also wash their blankets using hot water to improve hygiene.</li></ul>

Source: <https://www.prison-insider.com/en/articles/afrique-coronavirus-la-fievre-des-prisons>

## 7.2 Decontamination of Service Stations

Temporary closures of some police stations for decontamination also continued in the region as some police officers tested positive for COVID-19, with deaths being recorded in some cases. Consequently, this has impacted on service delivery to the respective communities where these officers were located. On the other hand, the number of positive cases increased amongst soldiers and prison officers as well as inmates throughout the region with fatalities reported in some instances.

The region also noted an escalation of violent attacks on innocent civilians in certain parts resulting in people being internally displaced. This has further complicated the humanitarian situation that is already under strain from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Security situation in some Member States continues to be compromised in the wake of accusations and counter-accusations mainly between opposition and leadership. On the one hand the political opposition are seen as taking advantage of the economic hardships brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown restrictions, and the alleged corruption in the handling of COVID-19 supply contracts and cash disbursements, to mobilize people to agitate for change. Conversely, Governments are being seen as using the COVID-19 pandemic as a disguise to constrain the political space especially for opposing views. There are also increasing calls for Governments to decisively deal with corruption following allegations of misappropriation of COVID-19 funds by senior government officials and senior politicians.

## 7.3 Best Practices, Opportunities and Lessons Learnt

In order to ensure that law enforcement remains effective amidst the pandemic, Member States were compelled to fast track their technological measures to ensure that policing functions can still be conducted. This has included amongst others, advanced technology in police capacity development, crime intelligence and crime investigation, especially in the cyber environment.

Normal limitations on day to day policing operations/methods has demonstrated that Police cannot function in isolation; that there is need for continuous integrated methods and partnerships in the quest for the resolution of crime. Different key stakeholders across Government and inclusive of Non State Actors have been engaged to provide a whole of system approach to managing crime and criminality. On migration, cross-border restrictive measures are still in place. Only those transporting essential goods are allowed to cross borders and returning citizens and residents who will

be subjected to health protocols as prescribed by the different Member States. In order to manage COVID-19 in prison settings occasioned by amongst others overcrowding, Member States have initiated measures to address COVID-19 that include:

- suspension of visits;
- COVID-19 screening campaigns in prisons;
- awareness raising campaigns and other measures such as early release of prisoners

## 7.4 Challenges and Recommendations for Member States

The impact of COVID-19 in the region has also posed some challenges that are beyond just its management. Concerns have been raised about the increased exposure to COVID-19 amongst officers who are operating at the frontline to provide security and enforce regulations. These officers in some Member States are required among other things to escort the delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), enforcement of the lockdown measures, enforcing social distancing and contact tracing. The performance of these activities heighten the risk of exposure. There is need therefore for frontline officers to be adequately resourced with PPEs.

The region has also experienced a rise in some crimes and a change in trends and patterns of some. Gender based violence has been noted to increase. This change in pattern for crime calls for more resources to be allocated to the police and other law enforcement agencies to strengthen their law enforcement capacity. Member States and the Regional Early Warning Centre (REWC), as the components of the Regional Early Warning System should continue to share information/intelligence and generate early warning reports for decision makers in order to ensure early actions and prevent situations from developing into conflicts. In the same vein, the Regional Early Warning Architecture will continue using Insecurity and Conflict Indicators as guidelines on monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance cooperation with other sectors at regional, continental and global levels. This aids timely dissemination of information on peace and security and engenders timely responses to prevent conflict.

# 8. STANDARDS AND QUALITY

With the COVID-19 outbreak, most of the regional activities on quality infrastructure have been affected. However, since Quality infrastructure has an important role to play as an enabler of smooth cross border trade or

as support in the detection and treatment of COVID-19 patients, the principles of quality and standards have been applied by all the SADC Member States in the procurement and distribution of COVID-19 related commodities. Across the globe including in the African continent as well as SADC Member States, different initiatives were taken to contribute to lessening the impact of the pandemic on peoples' lives. Among other contributions, Standards for face masks, hand sanitizers, ventilators and component were developed. The International Organization for Standardizations availed, gratis, standards that are relevant to the pandemic and in that way contributed to the bid to save lives. In this regard, SADC Member States, like other countries of the world, benefitted from being members of the global standards community.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa had two countries with laboratory capabilities for testing, South Africa and Senegal. The Pan-African Quality stock-taking had indicated that as at 2017, only five countries in Africa had fairly advanced quality infrastructure with most of SADC Member States, categorized as reasonably or partially developed. In the SADC region, South Africa has a fairly advanced technical infrastructure and the COVID-19 outbreak in South Africa has put this technical infrastructure to the test. The level of resilience that the country has shown during the pandemic has proven the importance of having a robust national quality infrastructure. This would include such capabilities as the identifying and controlling the disease through testing and quarantine regimes.

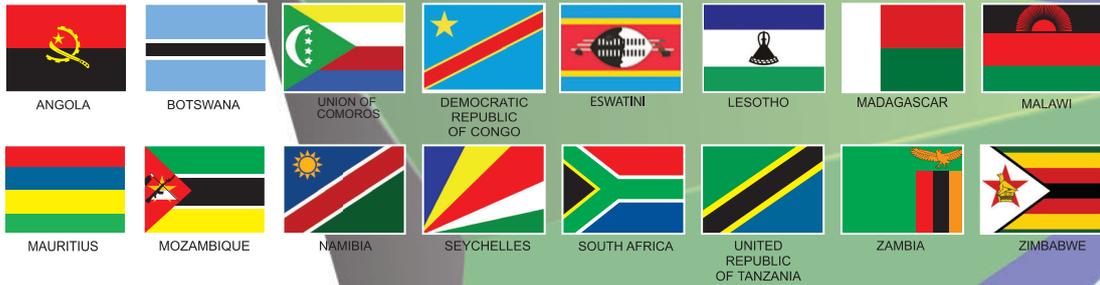
## RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES

- ensure that all personnel involved in sample collection, conservation and testing are well trained.
- monitor the standards of procurement under their public procurement systems and apply them, for all commodities to ensure that the quality infrastructure is able to protect the health workers and the general public from sub-standard commodities.
- strengthen testing laboratories to participate in regional inter laboratory comparison or proficiency testing schemes to assess their performance as part of their preparation for accreditation so as to ensure they meet acceptable standards.
- consider the quality infrastructure services, especially medical laboratories as essential services because of the crucial support they lend to the fight against pandemics such as COVID-19.



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

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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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Southern African Development Community (SADC), SADC House, Plot No. 54385  
Central Business District, Private Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana  
Tel: +267 395 1863, Fax: +267 397 2848/3181070, Website: [www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)  
Email: [prinfo@sadc.int](mailto:prinfo@sadc.int) or [registry@sadc.int](mailto:registry@sadc.int) or [webmaster@sadc.int](mailto:webmaster@sadc.int)

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