COVID-19 IMPACT
MAY 2020

The Impact of Covid-19 on youth and their families in South Africa.
Zlto in partnership with R Labs conducted a survey to understand the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on youth and their families across South Africa.

A total of **402 respondents** completed the survey between the **1 to 8 May 2020** via Zlto.
Most of the respondents (63.2%) were female and aged 18 to 25 years (66%). There were responses from youth from all 9 provinces with most of the responses coming from the Western Cape, Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal.

It was also reported that most of the household income is through the government’s **Social Grant support (29%)** with 43 households reporting NO Income. Only 32% of the youth respondents were employed of which only 12% were currently in full-time employment. Households currently having access to full-time income were 29% of all households as per the responses. This further highlights the challenges of youth and broader unemployment in South Africa.
The biggest fear for most of the respondents (52%) were either themselves or a family member testing positive for the Coronavirus. Majority of the respondents (90%) indicated that they are able to implement safety measures at their homes. **Eighty-three percent** of respondents highlighted that people in their community is at risk of contracting the coronavirus whereas 43% of respondents believed that their communities are not well informed about COVID-19.

Staying home (28%) and going to the shops (26%) were the most difficult safety measures to implement according to the respondents. It was therefore evident that majority of the respondents (69%) had negative sentiments towards the coronavirus measures that were put in place by government.
What is your biggest fear about the Coronavirus?

- Testing positive with the virus: 32%
- A family member testing positive with the virus: 27%
- Not having food: 12%
- Loneliness: 3%
- Having no income in our family: 23%
- Nothing: 3%
Are you able to implement safety measures at your home?

- Yes: 90.2%
- No: 9.8%
Do you believe that people in your community is at risk of contracting COVID19?

- Yes: 83.1%
- No: 16.9%
Do you believe that people in your community is well informed about COVID-19?

57.5% Yes

42.5% No
Which public health and safety measures are the most difficult to implement?

- Parent or family member employed full-time: 18.9%
- Parent or family member employed part-time: 11.7%
- Parent or family member owns a business: 6.7%
- I am employed full-time: 10.7%
- I am employed part-time: 20.1%
- Social grant: 1.5%
- Donations: 1%
- No income: 0.1%
How do you feel most of the time since the coronavirus measures were implemented?

- Joy: 4
- Hope: 121
- Not sure: 73
- Surprised: 8
- Sadness: 28
- Loneliness: 22
- Hopelessness: 54
- Fear: 81
- Disgust: 2
- Anger: 9
COVID-19 Impact

Majority of the respondents (78%) indicated there are disturbances in their communities due to the lockdown and lack of access to food supply. More than 85% of respondents indicated that the lockdown will have a negative impact on their household income. This was evident when only 21% of respondents stated that they agree and strongly agree that their family will be able to survive financially after lockdown.

Although the South African government made available a number of interventions to support families during the COVID-19 pandemic, only 35% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that they know how to access government support. Almost 60% of respondents indicated that they require support with food or finances during the lockdown. The other need that was highlighted by respondents were access to masks.
Does your community have disturbances because of the challenges of food and other concerns due to the lockdown?

- Yes: 78.1%
- No: 21.9%
Will your household income be negatively impacted due to lockdown?
Our family will be able to survive financially after lockdown
I know how to access the government support and relief programmes due to COVID-19.
What support do you need, to help you and your family cope with COVID-19 and lockdown?

- **39.1%** - Advice on how to keep safe
- **20.4%** - Nothing
- **9.5%** - Data or Airtime
- **4.0%** - Masks
- **5.0%** - Food
- **4.5%** - Money
- **3.0%** - Safety
- **1.5%** - Sanitizers
- **6.0%** - Someone to talk to
Thank you for reading our report. As part of the continuous support to our young people and communities, RLabs have launched the COVID-19 Relief Fund. The fund will provide vulnerable families with access to food, electricity and masks. You can support by using Snapscan, EFT details below or online via GivenGain.

Account Name: RLabs  
Bank: FNB  
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ  
Account Number: 62271817185  
Branch Number: 250655  
Reference: C19 + Your Name