

Lesson learnt from COVID-19 and the prerequisite  
from the perspective of SME identified to respond to  
public health emergency

*ZANZIBAR PERSPECTIVE*

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*Did you see any decreases in outpatient department OPD. If yes, what did you do to mitigate this?*

- During the first wave of COVID 19 in Zanzibar between March-May 2020.
  - The OPD declined from 209,653 in February to 142,357 in May 2020
  - Number of patients tested for malaria decreased from 65,149 in February to 39,018 in May 2020

## *Mitigation to rescue the situation*

- Health education on COVID 19 and malaria provided to health care workers and community
- Distribution of PPE to health care workers and community
- Re-distribution of essential commodities to health facilities such as mRDT and ACTs

*Did COVID 19 increase malaria mortality?*

- No any increase of malaria mortality observed during the COVID19 though the country reported more malaria cases in 2020 (20) compared to 2019 (13)

*Do we have any clear steps that can help mitigate measurement challenges any future public health emergency?*

- There is a guideline for health care workers and council Malaria Surveillance Officers on provision of Malaria Case Management Services in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Zanzibar.
- Multi sectoral task force established to ensure that they deal with existing sectoral issues during pandemic
- Establishment of patient triage in health facilities
- Setting of sentinel sites for COVID-19 sample collection for community
- Strengthening case management for COVID patients