Zimbabwe has been trying to mobilize resources to respond in the best way possible to the devastating social and economic effects of coronavirus. The Zimbabwe COVID-19 Resource Tracker is a civil society initiative by ZIMCODD to keep track of all resources pledged, received and utilized by the government of Zimbabwe in the COVID-19 response. ZIMCODD notes with concern that accountability for these resources is equally important as the resources themselves.

This tracker has been developed to strengthen transparency and accountability by the government on COVID-19 resources while empowering citizens with information to hold the government to account on allocation and utilization of COVID-19 resources. The tracker is updated on a weekly basis to show pledges honoured, resources received and resources expended.
In spite of the inflow of COVID-19 earmarked resources, the health sector has remained underfunded with limited testing capacity, shortage of PPEs, under resourced quarantine centres, underpaid and demotivated health professionals. Frontline workers and the majority of the citizens remain exposed to the risk of contracting the novel virus.

Another issue of concern is the failure by the government to adequately cushion vulnerable households in the face of rising food insecurity levels due to the COVID-19 induced poverty.

The lack of transparency and accountability in COVID-19 resource allocation and expenditure at both central and local government level is very worrying as it is intricately linked to systemic corruption which seem to thrive in disaster contexts.

Criminalisation of anti-corruption activists is still a major issue of concern which interfere with citizens' role of safeguarding public resources including COVID-19 funds.

Decisively deal with corruption, go beyond the rhetoric and enact the various commitment pledges the Executive has made towards a zero tolerance to corruption environment.

The lack of transparency and accountability in COVID-19 resource allocation and expenditure in the recent 2020 Mid-Term Budget and Economic Review. While the Finance Ministry is commended for publishing COVID-19 donations with no action and commitment from the government to stop the rot and hold those responsible accountable.

In the context of a failing health system, limited COVID-19 testing capacity against surging cases, prolonged industrial action by nurses and doctors, rising food insecurity levels and absence of social safety nets, citizens bemoan the systematic looting of PPEs, under resourced quarantine centres, underpaid and demotivated health professionals. Frontline workers and the majority of the citizens remain exposed to the risk of contracting the novel virus.

A recurring issue outlined by the Auditor General and emerging scandals, has exacerbated the plight of citizens who shoulder the burden of taxation and public resource leakages and looting by political elites who abuse public office for personal gain.

The health sector remains underfunded with limited testing capacity, shortage of PPEs, under resourced quarantine centres, underpaid and demotivated health professionals. Frontline workers and the majority of the citizens remain exposed to the risk of contracting the novel virus.

Recommends the following to the Government:

- Reassess and reform the health sector by disbursing COVID-19 funds to address the capacity and infrastructure gaps in the health service delivery system.
- Urgently expedite the disbursement of COVID-19 cash relief funds to cushion the marginalised and vulnerable citizens who are hard hit by the devastating economic effects of COVID-19.
- Decisively deal with corruption, go beyond the rhetoric and enact the various commitment pledges the Executive has made towards a zero tolerance to corruption environment.
- Regularly publish online and in print media the COVID-19 funds received from all sources including a clear breakdown of allocations and disbursements.
- Urgently enact a fit for purpose whistle-blowers' protection legislation as a mechanism to enhance and promote reporting of economic related crimes.

Note: Projected Need was calculated using ZIMCODD financial modelling.