

COVID-19 RESOURCE TRACKER

OVERVIEW

The second wave of COVID-19 is hitting hard in the country with a spike in infection and death cases. Zimbabwe like other countries, has continued to put in place measures to curtail the spread of COVID-19 and to avert the effects of the pandemic on the economy and its citizens. Zimbabwe continues to mobilise resources internally and externally to respond to the devastating socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 in the best way possible. Among other efforts, the government has set aside USD100million for the COVID-19 vaccination program and has to date received 200 000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccines from the People's Republic of China. The COVID-19 resources tracker is a ZIMCODD initiative to keep track of all resources pledged, received and utilised by the Government of Zimbabwe in response to the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 to date. The aim of the COVID-19 resources Tracker is 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 utilisation of COVID-19 resources. The tracker is updated on a weekly basis to show pledges honoured, resources received and resources expended.



THIS WEEK

PLEDGES



US\$1, 000,000.00

HONOURED PLEDGES



US\$1, 000,000.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$0.00

TOTALS

PLEDGES



US\$767,475,257.00

HONOURED PLEDGES

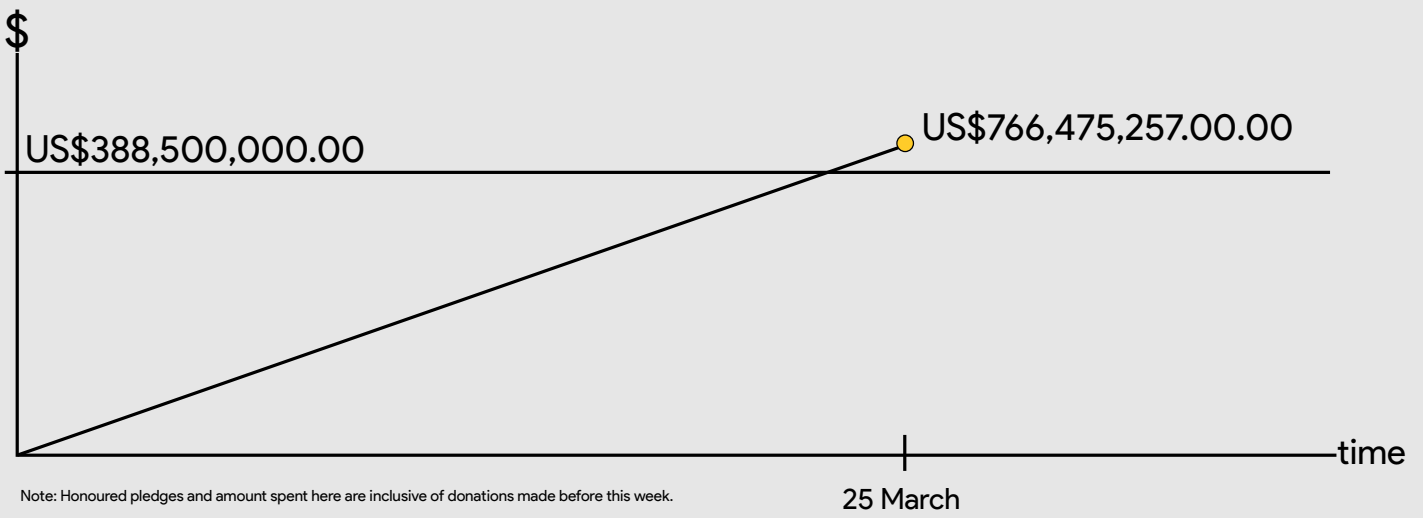


\$563,228,071.00

AMOUNT SPENT



\$304,881,082.00



Illustrated below are sources of the resources pledged, honoured and utilised, All other forms of contributions have been converted into monetary value. All currencies were converted to USD at Government of Zimbabwe interbank rate. Percentage (%) indicates resources utilized

GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE

TREASURY	US\$100,000,000.00	43.5%
SOCIAL SAFETY FUND	US\$24,000,000.00	37%
MIN. OF SOCIAL WELFARE	US\$42,792,51.00	

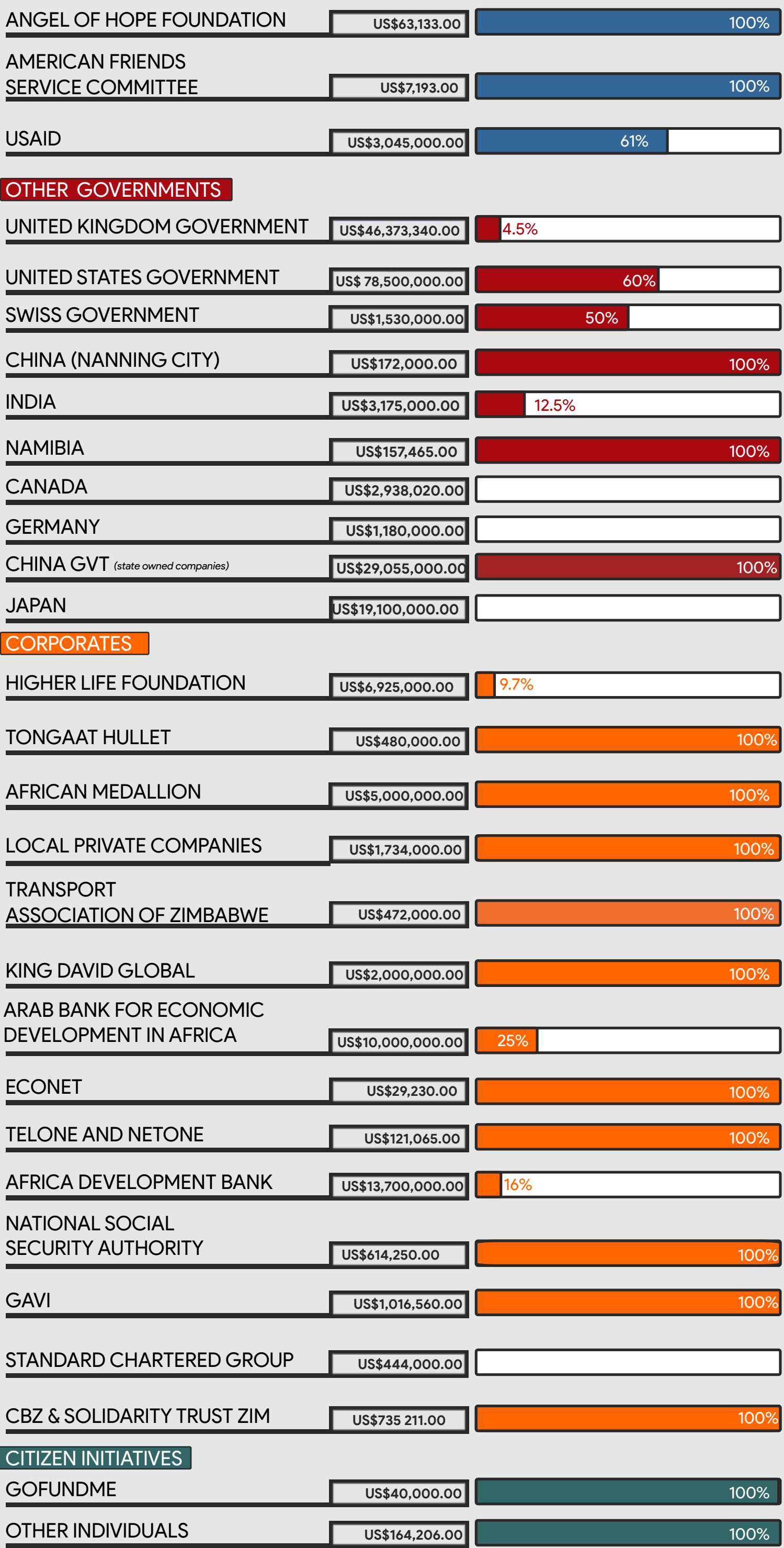
EMBASSIES

SOUTH KOREA EMBASSY	US\$300,000.00	100%
INDIAN EMBASSY	US\$350 000.00	100%
CHINESE EMBASSY	US\$500,000.00	100%
SWEDISH EMBASSY	US\$25,000.00	100%

DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

GLOBAL FUND	US\$49,000,000.00	92%
EUROPEAN UNION	US\$45,000,000.00	88%
FAO	US\$1,000,000.00	
THE US PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF	US\$150,000.00	100%
UNITED NATIONS	US\$17,789,611.00	77.5%
ILO	US\$20,000.00	
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME	US\$5,250,000.00	100%
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF RED CROSS	US\$200,000.00	90%
WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION	US\$40,000.00	100%
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	US\$4,153,940.00	100%
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION	US\$7,000,000.00	
WORLD BANK	US\$7,400,000.00	32.4%
CHINESE FOUNDATION	US\$5,000,000.00	100%

Note: Projected Need was calculated using ZIMCODD financial modelling
Find the projection at: <http://imcodd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Response-Mechanism.pdf>



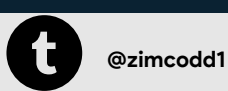
MAJOR CONCERNS

The president this week launched the second phase of the COVID-19 national vaccination programme in Victoria Falls. The second phase is targeting school teachers, religious leaders, security forces, the elderly and people with chronic illnesses. Zimbabwe should be alive to the fact that COVID-19 vaccination is becoming the key to all social and economic activities worldwide. As such, ZIMCODD calls upon the government of Zimbabwe to prioritize a people vaccine that is equitably and effectively distributed to achieve the herd immunity. The following are the issues of concern:

- The uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines remains significantly low. As at 24 March 2021, a total of 49 404 people had been vaccinated in spite of the receipt of the 400 000 SINOPHARM vaccine doses and 200 000 SINOVAC vaccine doses. This constitutes 0,33% of the population who have been vaccinated thus far. At this slow-paced rate Zimbabwe will need about 17 years and 5 months to vaccinate 60% of the population and reach herd immunity. The low uptake of vaccines is attributed to the deplorable public health system; lack of access to information resulting in skepticism and resistance; lack of clarity on the roll-out strategy; limited scope and reach of Government's vaccination programme; and lack of public education on vaccines efficacy and side-effects among others.
- While having the President publicly inoculated might inspire citizen confidence in the vaccine, an increase in human traffic results in a spike in infections. The million-dollar question for citizens is whether this was necessary given how financially hamstrung Zimbabwe currently is. Although the aim was to promote tourism, the general concern is that it would have been prudent to redirect the resources used for the launch to bolster the COVID-19 vaccination program which the country is grappling with.
- As the stages and phases of the vaccine rollout continue to unfold, the budgetary processes are still opaque as the Ministry of Finance has not reported on how much has been expended on the procurement of the vaccines and the rollout programme. While the budget from the roll out plan for the first phase amounted to US\$ 1.3 million to cover logistical costs as reported by the media it is worrying that citizens have not received any information on whether the budget met its intended goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

- There is need for Zimbabwe to speed up its procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and increase its daily inoculation rate. Taking into consideration that Health Information Systems is one of the WHO building blocks for a strong health system, a broad-based public information programme is recommended to eliminate misinformation and disinformation around COVID-19 vaccines, speed up the rollout and to increase acceptance and uptake. The establishment of vaccination points and Information Centers on all primary healthcare settings is critical to kickstart a massive vaccine roll-out campaign.
- Resources mobilised for the COVID-19 response and in particular the COVID-19 vaccines moneys should be prudently expended to ensure all and sundry are vaccinated.
- There is need for the Ministry of Finance to ensure that it provides citizens with timely, credible and accessible information on COVID-19 resource expenditures. Such expenditure reports can be distributed via the Ministry's website for citizens to access them.
- A public debt reform is necessary for Zimbabwe to wean itself from unsanctioned borrowing and spending. Critical to this effect is parliament's oversight on approving debt acquisition and ensuring fiscal scrutiny.
- All funds and resources secured for COVID-19 intervention must be accounted for and a clear distribution matrix is recommended to inculcate a spirit of transparency and accountability in the mobilization and utilization of COVID-19 resources. The Office of the Auditor General must release the COVID-19 funds audit report.



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