

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\$140,000.00

HONOURED PLEDGES



US\$500,000.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$1,000,000.00

TOTALS

PLEDGES



US\$767,615,257.00

HONOURED PLEDGES

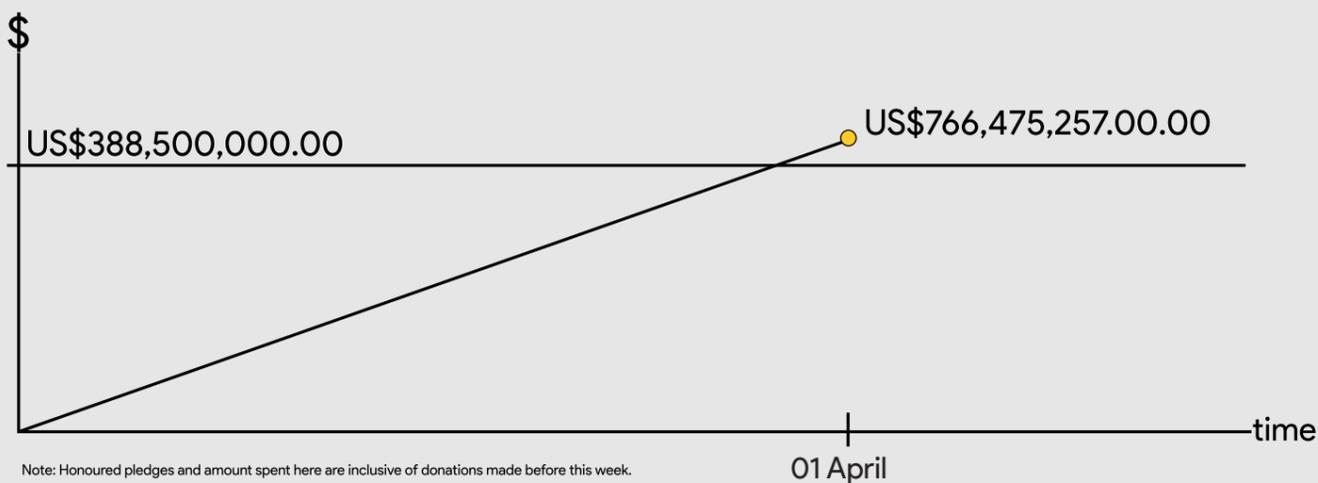


US\$563,728,071.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$305,881,082.00



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	

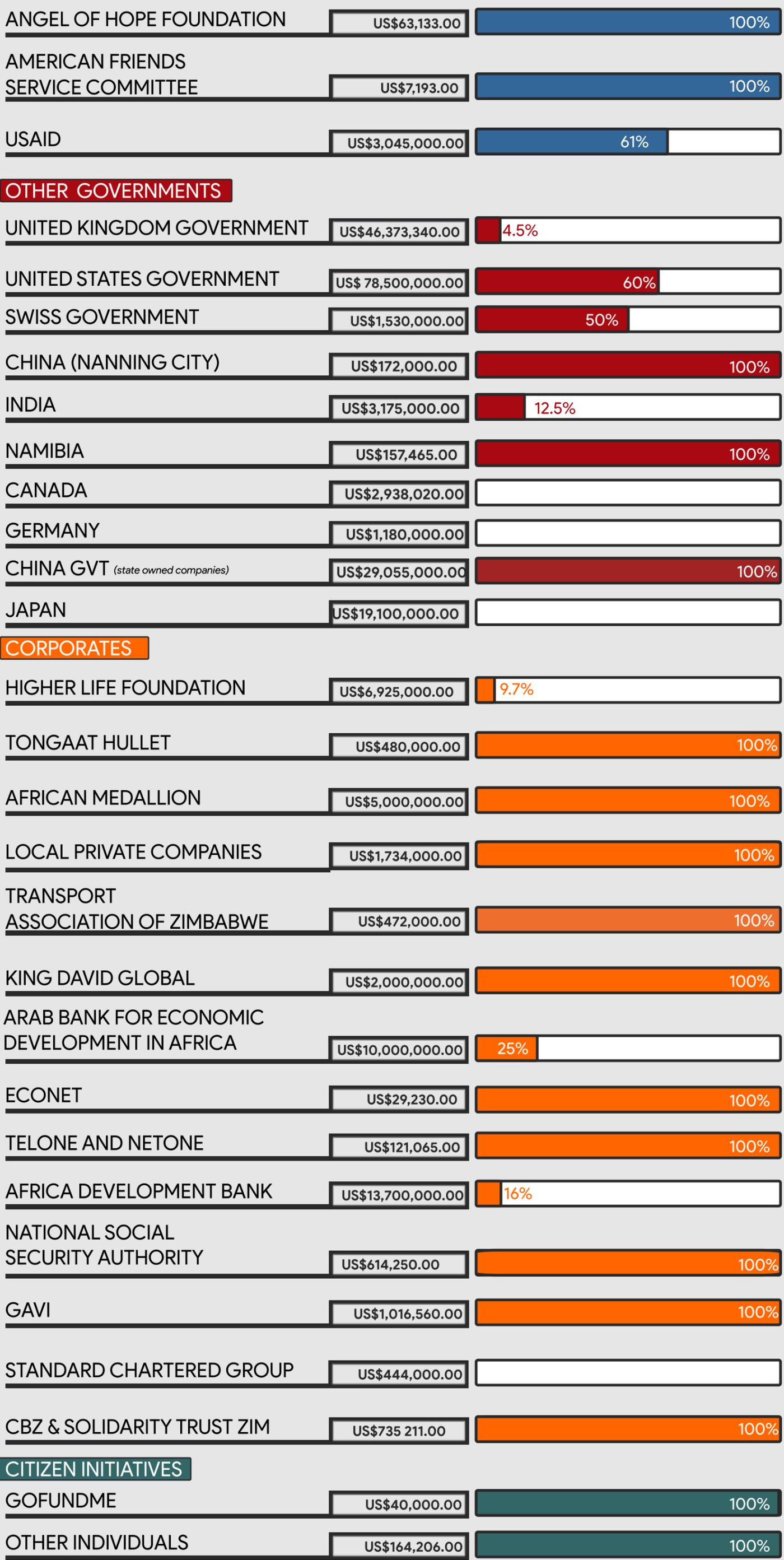
EMBASSIES

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>



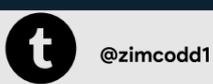
MAJOR CONCERNS

The government's effort to curb the spread of the pandemic in form of regulations and measures ahead of the Easter holidays is commendable as this will go a long way in mitigating the spread of the pandemic. It is commendable that the government, through the Ministry of Health and Child Care is making efforts to accelerate the national vaccination programme including extending vaccination points to rural areas. However, national statistics of vaccinated people have remains low illustrating that there is still a long way to go for Zimbabwe to achieve the 60 percent herd immunity. Consequently, the government should speed up the awareness raising campaign to ensure that more people get inoculated. Citizens decry the following issues:

- Over and above US\$100 million and an additional US\$7 million for logistics set aside to procure COVID-19 vaccines. There has been lack of transparency on how these funds are being expended.
- Worrisome to note is how the government continues to plunge the country into a debt trap as the treasury recently entered into a debt agreement with the Arab Economic Bank for US\$10 million to respond to COVID-19.
- As the government rolls out mass covid-19 vaccination, corruption remains a cause for concern. While Covid-19 certificates are meant for citizens who have undergone inoculation, betraying citizens trust' and robbing them of their hard-earned resources through the production and issuance of fake COVID-19 vaccination cards at a cost of between US\$25 and \$50 is detrimental.
- The rampant abuse and mismanagement of public funds particularly government's safety nets to cushion the vulnerable during the pandemic remains a major concern.
- It is purported that government officials, and members of parliament allegedly connived with officials from the department of Social Welfare to register as vulnerable people. While the cost of living continues to rise, as shown by the recent statistics by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat) the vulnerable continue being at the bottom of the food chain as the few that benefitted last received these funds in 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

- The government needs to refrain from unwarranted borrowing and spending of public resources as excessive amounts of foreign debt will hinder the country's capacity to invest in financial prospects, whether through education, infrastructure, or health care, as available resources are spent on repayment. Furthermore, parliament's oversight role in debt acquisition and fiscal scrutiny needs to be strengthened.
- On fake COVID-19 vaccination certificates, investigations should be carried out and law enforcers should ensure that both the practitioner and the buyer face the full wrath of law.
- With the recent announcement of issuing of COVID-19 vaccination certificates linked with passports and travel documents, it is prudent that the government ensures that informal traders who constitute the majority of the population, should be prioritized when it comes to vaccination before the opening up of borders.
- The Auditor General must urgently expedite its mandate, as codified in section 106 of the supreme constitution and read together with Chapter 22:18 of the Audit Office Act, to audit the accounts, financial systems and financial management of all departments, institutions and agencies of government. As such, the AG must release the detailed COVID-19 funds report on social protection funds and other COVID-19 earmarked resources.



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