

# COVID-19

## Resource Tracker

03.11.2021

### Overview

The COVID-19 Resource tracker is a ZIMCODD initiative to keep track of all resources pledged, received and expended 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 for the allocation and utilisation of COVID-19 resources. The tracker is updated on a weekly basis.

Zimbabwe continues to mobilise resources internally and externally to respond to the devastating socioeconomic effects of COVID-19. Among other efforts, the government in the 2021 national budget has set aside ZWL7 billion to recruit more health personnel, procure PPEs, testing kits and sundries required in fighting COVID-19. The government also budgeted ZWL3.5billion to cushion 500 000 vulnerable households whose beneficiaries comprise of members in the informal sector, returning residents and children living on the streets. On 18 February 2021, the Government through the Ministry of Health and Child Care launched the vaccination program and as at 2 November 2021, a total of 3 325 612 Zimbabweans had been inoculated.



#### TOTAL PLEDGES



US\$916,223, 157

#### HONoured PLEDGES



US\$683,590,503

#### AMOUNT SPENT



US\$613,121,028



#### TOTAL PLEDGES



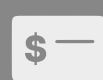
US\$0

#### HONoured PLEDGES



US\$0

#### AMOUNT SPENT



US\$0

The government of Zimbabwe is commended for approving and extending the vaccination program to 16–17-year age group based on the available scientific data in line with the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe. This is commendable and will go a long way in curbing the surging COVID-19 cases that are occurring in schools and ultimately reaching the herd immunity target

## Major Concerns & Recommendations

### Vaccines

Zimbabwe aims to achieve 60% herd immunity from COVID -19 by the end of 2021. Thus far, the programme has reached a national coverage of only 38% of the targeted population as at 31 October 2021. In view of the low vaccine uptake, government should upscale its vaccination strategy by providing more vaccination sites to alleviate congestion at the existing sites as this has been cited as a deterrent. Furthermore, government needs to continue to avail information regarding vaccines, information that is accessible and easily understandable to all groups of people in different languages in order to ensure that people are well informed and take up the vaccine freely and voluntarily.

### COVID-19 Funds

It is worrisome that access to information concerning COVID-19 resources remains a major cause of concern. The Government has not done any commitment towards promoting transparency and accountability in the use of public funds particularly COVID-19 funds. There is lack of granulated data on the procurement of vaccines, donations and distribution to provincial and local tiers of government. It is recommended that the government discloses all information concerning COVID-19 funds, what has been expended thus far clearly revealing the sources of the funds. This is critical in restoring lost public trust. There is also need to promote active citizen oversight and participation in monitoring of COVID-19 funds so as to promote accountability by public institutions.

### COVID-19 Procurement

ZIMCODD notes with concern, the growing irregularities and corruption in the COVID-19 procurement processes as revealed by PRAZ. It is reported that the compliance levels in most entities remains low, with 41% of the procuring entities which include government ministries, parastatals and commissions are failing to comply with the emergency procurement reporting guidelines for COVID-19. It was noted that some entities declared emergency procurements whose deliverables were not confirmed, delayed payments, with some suppliers used to procure COVID-19 emergency requirements not registered under PRAZ. In order to curb the leakages and irregularities noted in the COVID-19 procurement processes, there is an urgent need to enforce compliance and close monitoring by oversight and accountability institutions to curb public resource leakages by ensuring strict adherence to emergency procurement guidelines. Furthermore, contract awarded for COVID-19 procurement should be publicly declared.