

COVID-19

Resource Tracker

01.12.2021

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 30 November 2021, a total of 3 794 549 Zimbabweans had been inoculated.



TOTAL PLEDGES



US\$921,179, 157

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$687,546,503

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$618,077,028



TOTAL PLEDGES



US\$600 000

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$600 000

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$600 000

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

COVID-19 Funds

ZIMCODD applauds the government of Zimbabwe for disclosing information around the utilization of resources set aside for fighting COVID 19 pandemic. The update that was given by the Minister responsible for finance and economic development during the presentation of the 2022 Annual Budget Statement is a step in the right direction. For the vaccination programme, The Minister highlighted that Government has so far utilised budget savings of US\$100 million and as at the end of September 2021, the government had spent about US\$204 million on procurement of 17 million vaccines and syringes. In addition, the minister also highlighted that the government utilised ZWL\$30 billion towards non vaccine COVID-19 related expenditures and these refer to human resource costs, social protection among other costs. Furthermore, to date, the country has received US\$150 million and 3 million vaccines from the Development Partners. Given the contextual background which lacks a culture of accountability, this is worth recognising.

It is true that the issue at hand goes beyond just reporting figures but rather those figures should also tally with the level of intervention that citizens have on the ground particularly looking at resources allocated towards social protection mechanisms during the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of citizens did not benefit from the ZWL30 billion that was set aside for cushioning the citizens from the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Although this is commendable, the government could do more through furnishing the citizens with this information and a more detailed breakdown in a timely manner through producing update quarterly reports and ensure that the information is released in a timely manner.

Vaccines

Zimbabwe on Saturday 27 November reported its highest total of daily infections (143) since October 14 after 115 tested positive and 1 died and 16 people are currently hospitalised. This comes at a time where a new COVID-19 variant has been detected in South Africa and Botswana calling on the need by the government to upscale its vaccination strategy. With the festive season, it is important that the Government prioritises safeguarding the lives of citizens by giving comprehensive information to citizens regarding vaccines and the various vaccination sites. With the new strain, Omicron, it is important to take into account best practices to safeguard the lives of citizens beyond quarantine and PCR testing measures given to travellers. This information is critical in informing

Major Concerns & Recommendations

continued decision-making about the pandemic and recovery efforts during a time where many will be holding mass gatherings and celebrations.

ZIMCODD notes with concern the continued proliferation of fake COVID-19 certificates, as unscrupulous individuals in the health fraternity continue to exploit loopholes in the issuance of vaccination cards. According to reports some health professionals continue to issue fake vaccination cards, despite the great danger of passing off people that are not inoculated as vaccinated. This is an issue that authorities need to look into, as people using fake vaccination cards while they have not been jabbed with any Covid-19 vaccine pose a threat to themselves and society at large. Such manoeuvres also fly in the face of efforts to attain herd immunity as a fourth wave looms. Of further concern is that months after the first cases of fake vaccination cards were unearthed, authorities do not seem to have a firm grip on how to confront a human engineered but potentially costly public health hazard.

