

COVID-19

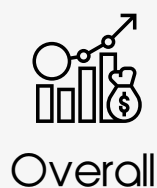
Resource Tracker

19.01.22

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 17 January 2021, a total of 4 209 724 Zimbabweans had been inoculated.



TOTAL PLEDGES



US\$1, 006, 619, 157.00

HONOURED PLEDGES



US\$722,586,503.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$643,117,028.00



This Week
18.01.2022

TOTAL PLEDGES



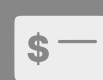
US\$50,040,000.00

HONOURED PLEDGES



US\$40,000.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$40,000.00

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 commends the government for its accountability in sharing the expended resources under the social protection support during 2021. The government reported that it spent \$5 billion towards the cushioning of vulnerable households from the effects of the covid-19 pandemic. Under the cash transfer programme, it was reported that \$740 million was released by treasury. The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

- ◆ The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, should put in place checks and balances to ensure that the intended beneficiaries receive the funds. During the same period, there were allegations on misappropriation and abuse of the funds which were availed as safety nets by government officials, members of parliament and civil servants who were receiving the money ahead of the intended beneficiaries.

It is commendable that government has decided to start making the USD75 COVID 19 allowance for civil servants and 30USD for pensioners. This way the allowances will not be eroded given the instability of the macroeconomic environment.

- ◆ The government through the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare should consider reviewing the allowance upwards to ensure that civil servants are sufficiently cushioned from the socio-economic shocks that the pandemic continue to pose.

Vaccines

Vaccine uptake remains low in Zimbabwe. As at 17 January 2022, there were 13 729 active cases of COVID-19 in the country while the country has only vaccinated 4 209 724 against a 15million population.

- ◆ Vaccination remains the only reliable solution as more than 80% of COVID-19 hospitalisations and deaths are being recorded among the unvaccinated. Government should upscale its vaccination strategy by providing more vaccination sites that are easily accessible to vulnerable groups. Furthermore, government needs to continue to avail information regarding vaccines 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.

Major Concerns & Recommendations

COVID-19 and Education

Business as usual continues in Zimbabwe however schools remain closed with no clear indication when classes resume. While some private schools have been able to resume activities online, government schools have not, furthering the educational and digital divide between the rich and poor in Zimbabwe.

- ◆ School closures run the risk of increasing child marriages, drug abuse, school dropouts due to pregnancy and/or economic challenges. Governments' goal should not merely be the return to school of students, it should protect its education budget and ensure public education systems are adequately resourced, both to ensure that they can adequately respond to existing and emerging needs such as the need for e-learning, and to resource their vision for inclusive education in order to reduce the inequality gap which widens further as children from private schools are able to continue learning, while those in public schools have no resources.

The inequality gap continues to widen particularly in the education sector. Children from poor backgrounds are being further left behind in 2022 as they are still idle while children from private schools have resumed online lessons. This comes after the announcement by the Acting President, Hon General (Retd) Dr C.G.D.N Chiwenga announced that schools should be given at least one week after the next two weeks lock down extension to put preventive public health measures in place before the commencement of the general school calendar.

- ◆ It is imperative that the government keeps its promise of implementing the approved e-learning strategy so as to close the widening digital divide between the rich and the poor.