

# COVID-19

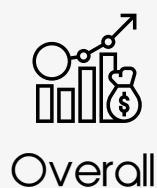
## Resource Tracker

02.03.22

### 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 1 March 2022, a total of 4 361 564 Zimbabweans had been inoculated.



TOTAL PLEDGES



US\$1,011,119,157.00

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$727,086,503.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$643,367,028.00



This Week  
02.03.2022

TOTAL PLEDGES



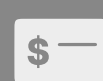
US\$-

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$-

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$250,000.00

As Zimbabwe gears up for by-elections on 26 March 2020, it is important to continue to call for adherence to physical distancing, wearing of face masks and regular temperature checks especially at mass gatherings as vaccinations are not a substitution for infection control.

## Major Concerns & Recommendations

### Vaccines

According to health experts, a 5th wave of COVID-19 is brewing, following a spike in new cases in schools since the beginning of the 1st term on 7 February 2022. Statistics from the Ministry of Health and Childcare have revealed that schools in Matabeleland North and Masvingo provinces contributed 131 of 350 new COVID-19 cases recorded on Wednesday, 16th February 2022.

In an effort to target the younger population, government should upscale its vaccination strategy by undertaking school visits to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccines and provide more vaccination sites in and around schools.

As we continue to go through waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating economic effects, there has been a plunge in employment and income and an increase in food insecurity. The recent teachers strike serves as an example.

Reversing setbacks to poverty reduction requires the government and its ministries to work together for resilient recovery. It is imperative that government addresses immediate poverty and hunger by deepening investments in job and food security as well as cash assistance where necessary.

The fact that European countries continue to refuse to waive vaccine patents to allow jabs developed by its companies to be produced elsewhere at lower costs militate against African countries to attain herd immunity. This perpetuates Africa's dependence on the rest of the world for vaccines. The economic impact of low vaccination rates and the inability of African governments to provide the same level of financial help to struggling citizens as their European counterparts has pushed up to 40 million people into extreme poverty.

## Major Concerns & Recommendations

It is recommended that intellectual property rights related to vaccines be waived to enable wider production of vaccines. While a waiver would not compel companies to share their knowledge of vaccine production, it would protect manufacturers from potential patent infringement claims if they wanted to produce a vaccine on their own. Furthermore, it is important to take into account best practices as well as immediate and long-term effects of COVID-19 on social, financial and economic recovery. This information is critical in informing continued decision-making about the pandemic and the post-pandemic recovery of the economy.

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### COVID-19 Funds

Zimbabwe donated 50 000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine and medical oxygen to Botswana as part of the country's regional efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. While this is commendable, Zimbabwe's own vaccination program is lagging behind. Information regarding vaccinations has become less available, the number of daily vaccinations has dwindled and the country has only managed to vaccinate 40% of its population.

The government should continue to give comprehensive updates on the COVID-19 pandemic, including access to vaccinations in order to encourage continued vaccinations in an effort to reach herd immunity. The information disseminated must be accurate and sufficient in order to safeguard the lives of people as well as to observe the right to information that is enshrined in the Constitution.

The government should also provide comprehensive information with regards to vaccine procurements and donations to other countries as these are public resources. As such, transparency and accountability should be at the core of COVID-19 pandemic management.