

COVID-19

Resource Tracker

16.03.22

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.

This is important as Zimbabwe continues to mobilise resources internally and externally to respond to the devastating socioeconomic effects of COVID-19. On 18 February 2021, the Government through the Ministry of Health and Child Care launched the COVID-19 vaccination program which has run since then and as at 15 March 2022, a total of 4 401 450 Zimbabweans had been inoculated. The tracker is updated fortnightly.



TOTAL PLEDGES



US\$1,017,799,157.00

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$727,086,503.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$643,367,028.00



This Week
15.03.2022

TOTAL PLEDGES



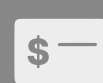
US\$6,680,000.00

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$-

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$-

Major Concerns & Recommendations

Vaccines

ZIMCodd notes with concern the surge in covid-19 cases driven by stealth omicron variant which is now dominant in China and UK carries a threat of a 5th wave. While Zimbabwe has lifted boarder restrictions for vaccinated travellers, there is a greater risk of the spread of the variant into the communities

- ◆ There is an urgent need for Zimbabwe to tighten its restrictions particularly to travellers to curb the widespread of the virus especially to marginalised and vulnerable communities. The government should do more to encourage its citizens to get vaccinated.
- ◆ The government should upscale its vaccination strategy by increasing its awareness raising efforts and provide more vaccination sites and mobile vaccination in order to attain herd immunity.

COVID-19 Funds

Zimbabwe continues to mobilize resources to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic aftermath. To this end, Zimbabwe has received a US\$6,68million grant from the World Bank for Zimbabwe's response measures in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic under the Zimbabwe COVID-19 Emergency Response Project. However, worrisome to note is the lack of a comprehensive accountability mechanism for COVID-19 funds and other COVID-19 resources

- ◆ It should be worthy to appreciate that the success of the National COVID-19 Response Strategy is anchored on transparent, accountable and prudent mobilization and use of COVID-19 resources in the face of mutating waves of the pandemic.

Major Concerns & Recommendations

As such, all agreements, grants, loans, pledges and other COVID-19 earmarked resources should be subjected to regular Parliamentary scrutiny and made publicly available through an online database. Regular feedback and reporting from Government around COVID-19 expenditure is key to increase public confidence and to insulate pandemic management from the scourge of endemic corruption.

ZIMCODD is concerned about the lack of transparency when it comes to procurement of vaccines. While treasury stated in the 2022 budget presentation that it would set aside 10 percent of the national budget to mitigate COVID-19 and other related interventions, it remains unclear as to how much has been expended.

The government must provide comprehensive information with regards to vaccine procurements as these are public resources. It is ZIMCODD's clarion call that transparency and accountability form the bedrock of Zimbabwe's disaster management in general and COVID-19 pandemic management in particular.

The deplorable state of the health service delivery in Zimbabwe remains a cause for concern in the COVID-19 context. The post cabinet briefing meeting of 8 March 2022 reported that the number of people in need of hospitalization for COVID-19 increased and the bed occupancy rate increased from 2% in the previous week to 3.2% this week. Citizens are therefore concerned about how the health sector continues to be incapacitated given the resources that has been directed towards revamping the sector since the onset of the pandemic in 2020.

ZIMCODD recommends that the government allocates and disburses requisite resources to the health sector so as to address the capacity, equipment and infrastructure gaps in the health sector. The government must also prioritize effective public service delivery as it plays a greater role in protecting citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic.