

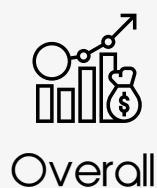
# COVID-19 Resource Tracker

02.02.2022

## 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 February 2022, a total of 4 274 377 Zimbabweans had been inoculated.



TOTAL PLEDGES



US\$1,011,119,157.00

HONoured PLEDGES



US\$727,086,503.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$643,117,028.00



This Week  
02.02.2022

TOTAL PLEDGES



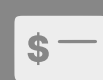
US\$4 500 000.00

HONoured PLEDGES



\$4 500 000.00

AMOUNT SPENT



US\$4 500 000.00

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

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## COVID-19 Procurement

- As the country prepares for schools opening on the 7th of February as announced by the Minister of Health and Child Care, it is important for government to put up mechanisms towards minimizing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic particularly in the context of a highly transmissible variant. Schools have been considered as hotspots for spreading COVID-19 pandemic and it is imperative that measures such as safe spaces for learning and enough PPEs has been procured.

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## Vaccines

- As the omicron variant continues to sweep across the globe, the head of the World Health Organisation expressed concern over countries with low vaccination rates, as unvaccinated people are many times more at risk of severe illness & death. Zimbabwe's vaccination rates remain low as only 4,270,483 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 as at 31 January 2022.
- ZIMCODD continues to reiterate that effective health communication and intensive community engagement are needed to convey accurate information and facilitate informed and voluntary optimal vaccine uptake.
- Citizens bemoan the lack of comprehensive and adequate information by the Ministry of Health and Child Care on COVID-19 vaccines. Information dissemination regarding vaccinations has dwindled. As a result, despite procurement of more vaccines by the Government, there has been low vaccine uptake by citizens. The information that is disseminated by the government remains incomplete, uninformative and inadequate.
- 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. 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.

## Major Concerns & Recommendations

- ZIMCODD commends the Bulawayo City Council for stepping up its efforts to get citizens vaccinated against covid-19 through the door-to-door vaccination campaign. This has also afforded citizens to get information about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines in fighting the pandemic as the country works to reach herd immunity. However, shortage of storage space as stated by media reports, remains a cause of concern which is an indication of the low uptake of the vaccine.
- There is an urgent need for the government to revamp its efforts of raising awareness about the effectiveness of vaccines. It is also imperative that the door-to-door approach is adopted in the rural areas where citizens have to walk long distances to access the vaccines.

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### COVID-19 Funds

- It is worrisome that financial prejudice, misappropriation of public funds and corruption in COVID-19 funds remain as the government lack political will to curb corruption. ZIMCODD notes with concern, the failure of the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission to arrest the Deputy Health Minister John Mangwiro after he allegedly coerced state owned medical supplies entity, Nat Pharm to award an inflated US\$5.6 million COVID-19 tender to a Chinese Company in which he had a personal interest in 2020.
- In order to combat corruption, the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission should act independently to further investigate and arrest any perpetrator involved in the abuse of public funds without fear or favour.