

Accountability Monitoring COVID-19 RESOURCE TRACKER

John Maketo

Programmes Manager

Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD)

About the Resource Tracker • Context:

Like many other countries in the global south, Zimbabwe has been trying to mobilise resources to respond in the best way possible to the devastating social and economic effects of COVID-19

Motivation: ZIMCDD is concerned that the stewardship over resources mobilised is not taken as equally important as the resources themselves.

Objective: The aim is to improve transparency and accountability by the Zimbabwean government on all the resources that have been mobilised and will be channelled towards the strengthening of the COVID-19 response.

What is the Zimbabwe COVID-19 resource tracker?

- ▶ It is a civil society initiative coordinated by ZIMCODD to keep track of all resources pledged, received and utilised by the government of Zimbabwe in the COVID-19 response. The tool tracks resources (cash and in-kind) mobilised domestically and from external sources which resources are directly or indirectly received by the government.
- ▶ The resource tracker is also an advocacy tool ZIMCODD uses to raise citizens' concerns around administration of the COVID-19 funds and proffer recommendations to the government on a weekly basis.
- ▶ The resource tracker is updated on a weekly basis to show pledges honoured, resources received and resources expended and is in the process of transitioning to an online web-based application.

Use

- ▶ Social accountability Monitoring tool
- ▶ Creates a platform for citizen participation in public finance management

Success of the Tracker

- ▶ COVID-19 resource tracker is not a means in itself but a ground upon which advocacy for transparency and accountability is built upon.
- ▶ The analytical reports derived from the tracker will be used as supporting evidence in the engagement with responsible government departments and line ministries in quest for accountability.
- ▶ the analytical reports will be implored to inform recommendations that will be made to responsible authorities pertaining the handling of public funds in times of crisis.
- ▶ Information provided in the resource tracker will be used to empower citizens to clamour for transparency and accountability from an informed position.
- ▶ Disclosure/publication of COVID-19 donations in the media, although not enough
- ▶ Commitment by the President to audit COVID-19 funds
- ▶ Public interest and awareness increase in public accountability issues
- ▶ Scrutiny of Covid-19 resources led to whistleblowing by media- Minister of Health was dismissed for abuse of office/corruption charges. COVIDGATE scandal
- ▶ Unintended outcomes - arrests of anti-corruption activists - Hopewell Ching'ono

Challenges

- Information deficit has been the major challenge for the tracker. Improved access to information in a timely manner will improve results
- Credibility questions associated with shadow reporting

Resources and capacity:

- ▶ Minimal Financial resources
- ▶ Research and analysis
- ▶ Information sharing - digital platforms - Website, facebook, twitter, whatsapp

Advice to other CSOs

- ▶ Invest in Social capital, networks
- ▶ Identify individual champions within and among targeted stakeholders
- ▶ Commitment and dedication
- ▶ Building citizen agency in public resource monitoring

Next Steps

- ▶ ZIMCODD envisions broadening scope of the COVID-19 resource tracker to be an all-encompassing tool to track public resources of various nature.
- ▶ Resource tracker set to inform budgeting process - as we advocate for disaster risk reduction - ZIMCODD is advocating for forward planning and allocating resources towards the eventuality of a disaster. The tracker is a useful tool for cost calculation/allocation