

**ZIMBABWE NETWORK
FOR HEALTH
(ZIMHEALTH)-EUROPE
ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



FOREWORD

As we move forward into 2023 and beyond, let us all join hands in realizing these strategic objectives. It's time for collective action and investment in our nation's future. Our summons is to our collective responsibility.

At the forefront of our aspirations lies the imperative to fortify our healthcare system, transforming it into a resilient one that is capable of withstanding the challenges that lay ahead. The well-being of our citizens hinges on the strength of our healthcare infrastructure, and through collaborative efforts, we can ensure that every Zimbabwean has access to quality medical care when they need it most.

Simultaneously, the essence of life itself, clean water, and sanitation must not remain elusive aspirations. We therefore aim to improve access to these fundamental elements, fostering a healthier and more sustainable living environment for our people. The provision of clean water is not merely a matter of convenience; it is a fundamental right that underpins the very fabric of a thriving society.

Central to this vision is the empowerment of our healthcare workforce, the unsung heroes who stand at the frontlines of our nation's well-being. Through targeted investments in training, resources, and support systems, we can equip these dedicated professionals to meet the evolving challenges of the future. By investing in our healthcare workforce, we are investing in the vitality of our nation.

Your support is the catalyst for change towards a more self-reliant Zimbabwe. We appreciate the trust that our members and benefactors have in our collective vision. Rest assured, transparent financial and activity performance processes are firmly in place. These mechanisms not only safeguard the integrity of your contributions but also ensure that every resource is meticulously accounted for, with the aim of maximizing its impact.

For both our new supporters and those who have stood with us through the years, we extend a warm invitation to update your registration. By doing so, you enable us to keep you seamlessly connected with our progress, initiatives, and impact stories. Your involvement is not a passive gesture; it is an active participation in the narrative of Zimbabwe's renewal.

Every investment, whether big or small, tangible or intangible, contributes to the realization of our shared vision. Join hands with us in this noble endeavour, and let's forge a path towards a healthier, more self-sufficient Zimbabwe where every citizen receives the care and support they rightfully deserve. Every investment counts—because every Zimbabwean counts!

Patience Musanhu

Chairperson – ZimHealth, 2022



INTRODUCTION

The Zimbabwe Network for Health (ZimHealth) is a dedicated non-profit organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, established in 2008 by a group of compassionate Zimbabweans and friends of Zimbabwe. Our membership primarily spans across mainland Europe and the United Kingdom.

At the heart of our mission lies a profound commitment to enhancing the health service delivery in Zimbabwe, with a particular focus on vulnerable mothers and children. To achieve this noble goal, ZimHealth pursues a multifaceted strategy that encompasses the following key objectives:

- 1. Inform, Educate, and Advocate:** We are dedicated to spreading awareness about the status and urgent needs of Zimbabwe's public health delivery system among Zimbabweans residing in Switzerland, Europe, and the broader European public.
- 2. Resource Mobilization:** ZimHealth actively engages in fundraising efforts, sourcing both financial support and essential materials from individuals in Switzerland, Europe, private corporations, as well as international, multi-lateral, and bilateral agencies.
- 3. Equitable Distribution:** We ensure the fair allocation of funds and materials to health services across all provinces and districts in Zimbabwe, striving to reach every corner of the nation.
- 4. Community Engagement:** ZimHealth places a strong emphasis on building meaningful relationships with local communities, fostering a participatory approach that empowers them to maintain and sustain the health facilities we support.

Vision:

Our vision is to become a leading organization that inspires hope and significantly contributes to the health and well-being of mothers, children, and the elderly in Zimbabwe through the provision of integrated, high-quality healthcare services.

Mission:

Our mission is to collaborate closely with strategic partners and institutions working within Zimbabwe to ensure the delivery of a minimum package of top-tier healthcare services to disadvantaged communities.

Philosophy and Values:

At the core of our beliefs, we recognize that life and health are precious gifts, and every Zimbabwean, regardless of gender, socio-economic status, religious affiliation, or political standing, deserves access to high-quality healthcare services. ZimHealth Europe operates as a non-political, non-partisan organization, guided by five fundamental values: service, integrity, passion, equity, and impact.

Leadership:

The activities of ZimHealth are meticulously coordinated by a dedicated and fully voluntary Executive Committee, elected annually during our Annual General Meeting.

STATUS OF HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES IN ZIMBABWE

Health delivery service in Zimbabwe was severely strained especially at hospitals and primary health care facilities that are mainly owned and run by government, faith-based organisations and private organisations including insurance providers provide health services in Zimbabwe. Most of the population accessed health services through the public sector health facilities.

During the year 2022 the health system in Zimbabwe was characterised by:

- 1. Underfunding and Resource Shortages:** Zimbabwe's healthcare system has been severely underfunded for many years, leading to shortages of essential medical supplies, medications, and equipment. This has compromised the ability of healthcare facilities to provide adequate care.
- 2. Healthcare Worker Shortages:** The country has also experienced a shortage of healthcare professionals, including doctors and nurses. Many healthcare workers have left the country in search of better opportunities abroad, leading to a strained workforce.
- 3. Infrastructure Challenges:** Healthcare infrastructure, including hospitals and clinics, has deteriorated in some areas. Reduced maintenance and renovations have affected the quality of healthcare services.
- 4. Disease Outbreaks:** Zimbabwe has faced occasional outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and typhoid due to issues with water and sanitation infrastructure. These outbreaks have placed additional stress on the healthcare system.
- 5. Economic Challenges:** The country's economic difficulties have had a significant impact on healthcare. Historically hyperinflation, currency instability, and economic uncertainty have made it challenging to procure necessary medical supplies and remunerate healthcare workers competitively.
- 6. Access to Care:** Access to healthcare services has been a concern, particularly for rural and marginalized populations who may have limited access to medical facilities. High healthcare costs in the private sector especially have also hindered access for many.
- 7. HIV/AIDS Epidemic:** Zimbabwe has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world. The government and international organizations have worked to provide antiretroviral treatment and support, but the epidemic remains a significant health challenge.
- 8. COVID-19 Pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic added further strain to the healthcare system, particularly in terms of testing, treatment, and vaccination efforts. Zimbabwe, like many other countries, faced challenges in managing the pandemic.
- 9. Government Initiatives:** The Zimbabwean government has launched various healthcare initiatives and reforms to address these challenges. However, the effectiveness and impact of these efforts have been varied.

While external development partner support has played a crucial role in Zimbabwe's progress, the sustainability of vital services like healthcare demands a shift towards greater domestic resource mobilization. Overreliance on declining donor support poses significant risks to the well-being of our nation.

ZimHealth recognizes this pressing need and is committed to making a lasting impact. Our mission to support health facilities providing maternal health services, among other key areas, aims to ensure access to quality healthcare for the most vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe. Our expanded focus, as outlined in the ZimHealth Strategy 2016-2020, encompasses advocacy for the public health system, improvements in water and sanitation, and the development of a skilled health workforce.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Relative to the previous reports, in 2022 ZimHealth made less progress in the strategic areas of advocacy and communications, and replacement of medical equipment, as summarized below:

Advocacy, communication and catalysing support for in public health system in Zimbabwe

While we observed only marginal growth in our membership numbers and regrettably had to forgo community events, it's important to note that our community is still active. Currently, we proudly boast 362 registered members of ZimHealth and 955 loyal Facebook page followers.

Our engagement with critical stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health and local authorities has not wavered. We continue to serve as a vital bridge of communication, providing updates on the state of public health services in Zimbabwe and identifying crucial areas requiring support. Through advocacy efforts, we champion key public health interventions that can make a tangible difference in the lives of our fellow citizens.

On the 20th of May 2023 we held a meeting with The Honourable Constantine Chiwenga, the Vice President of Zimbabwe and, at the time, Minister of Health who was in Geneva for the World Health Assembly.

The meeting, facilitated by the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in Geneva, served as a platform for discussing various issues, providing an update on ZimHealth's work as well as expressing gratitude for the Minister's and the Ministry's invaluable support over the past fourteen years. Several issues discussed included the rollout of mobile clinics by the Ministry of Health, a concerning prevalence of neonatal cancers and the need for research on this topic, as well as legal developments within the Zimbabwe Medicines Control Authority.

The Honourable Chiwenga lauded the ZimHealth's dedication to working on the betterment of public health in Zimbabwe stating, "If we are to develop economically it can only be done by healthy people." The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties expressing a strong commitment to strengthening their collaboration in the future.

Annual Fundraising Events

For the second year, due to uncertainties in public events, no annual fundraising event was organized in 2022.

Replacement of essential medical and other equipment in public health facilities

Activities mainly focused on advocacy for membership and bringing the health situation in Zimbabwe into perspective.

At the 2022 Annual General meeting held on Saturday 2 July 2022, 10 projects were proposed for support.

1. *Binga Hospital, Matabeleland North Province.*
2. *Chinengundu Clinic, Chegutu, Mashonaland West Province.*
3. *Esigodini Government District Hospital, Umzingwane District, Matabeleland South Province.*
4. *Mabvazuwa Clinic, Rusape Town Council, Rusape, Makoni district, Manicaland Province*
5. *Mataga Clinic, Mberengwa District, Midlands Province (Phase 2)*
6. *Mt. Selinda Mission Hospital, Chimanimani District, Manicaland Province.*
7. *Mufakose Polyclinic, Harare City Health department, South Western District, Harare Province.*
8. *Rutsanana Polyclinic, Harare City Health department, Harare Southwestern district, Harare Metropolitan Province.*
9. *St. Anne's Brunapeg Mission Hospital, Mangwa district, Matabeleland South Province.*
10. *Wanezi Rural Health Centre, Mberengwa District, Midlands Province.*

Renovation, rehabilitation and expansion of public health infrastructure

No activities were conducted for this area. Confirmation of needs from the target health facilities were however conducted.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of projects remained vital to Zimhealth's endeavour to remain accountable to both donors and the target population. 2018 saw the operationalization of our evaluations tools. This was a milestone in ensuring Zimhealth maintained unquestionable transparency, accountability and to build capacity to continuously and efficiently assess intended outcomes. This will be consciously pursued in 2019 and information resulting from these efforts will be shared with all stakeholders. This will not only enable Zimhealth to maintain the desired ethical practices but also serve to inform a healthy decision-making process.

Members made visits to conduct physical assessments of some prospective projects and those that had received support. Some projects that were visited and assessed in 2018 are Mpilo General Hospital (Bulawayo City, Mbizo Clinic (Kwekwe), Matedzi Clinic in Mberengwa district (Midlands Province), Makonde Christian Hospital, Makonde, Mashonaland West. Many projects, new and old, still need to be visited and efforts will be made, in earnest, to visit projects in order to evaluate the impact of the support provided.

Resource mobilization and finance

No new funding requests were realized in 2018, and no fundraiser event was held. Direct contributions from members totalled USD5,905, averaging USD492 per month. This is a slight increase from 2017, where monthly contributions from members averaged USD423.

Income totalled **USD23,114**, and total expenditure was **USD69,838**. As of 31 December 2018, ZimHealth held a total balance of **USD60,292**. The detailed financial report is presented as Annex 1.

The year ahead

In 2023, Zimhealth is embarking on a strategic shift, one that underscores our commitment to advancing healthcare in Zimbabwe in a more comprehensive and forward-looking manner. Rather than solely concentrating on initiating new projects, our focus will be on augmenting our existing endeavours, optimizing fundraising efforts, and fostering deeper collaborations with the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

Our approach will be twofold: First, we aim to strengthen and expand the impact of our ongoing initiatives. By directing our resources and expertise towards enhancing the sustainability and effectiveness of current projects, we can maximize their benefits for the communities we serve.

Secondly, we recognize that successful implementation of healthcare projects requires adequate funding. To this end, we are committing to an intensified fundraising strategy. By exploring innovative funding avenues, diversifying our donor base, and optimizing our financial management, we aspire to secure the necessary resources to not only sustain our existing projects but also to embark on new ones that align closely with the evolving healthcare needs of Zimbabwe.

We recognize the indispensable role played by the Ministry of Health and Child Care in shaping the healthcare landscape of the nation. In 2023, we will actively engage in meaningful dialogues and collaborations with the Ministry to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current healthcare needs and priorities in Zimbabwe. This deeper partnership will enable us to align our efforts with government initiatives, facilitate knowledge exchange, and ensure that our major projects are harmoniously integrated into the national healthcare framework.

In summary, 2023 marks a pivotal year for Zimhealth, where our unwavering commitment to healthcare improvement takes on a more holistic and sustainable dimension. By fortifying our existing initiatives, revitalizing our fundraising strategies, and forging stronger ties with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, we are determined to make a lasting impact on the healthcare landscape of Zimbabwe, propelling it towards a brighter and healthier future.

Acknowledgements

ZimHealth acknowledges the contributions of the following in 2022

- Individual members for financial and in-kind support
- Oak Foundation

ANNEX 1: 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT ZIMBABWE NETWORK FOR HEALTH (ZIMHEALTH) EUROPE TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2022

This report summarizes the financial activities of the Zimbabwe Network for Health (ZimHealth) Europe for the period 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022.

OVERVIEW

Since its inception in 2008, ZimHealth has maintained two bank accounts, in Swiss Francs (CHF) and United States Dollars (USD), as well as a PayPal account.

As of 31 December 2022, ZimHealth held a total balance of **USD22,278** (Table 1).

Table 1: ZimHealth current assets as at 31 December 2022

	CHF	USD	Total (USD)
ZimHealth CHF account	14,299	15,455	15,455
ZimHealth USD account	0	703	703
ZimHealth PayPal account	0	4,852	4,852
Health Conversations USD account	0	-237	-237
Crafts and equipment ¹	1,392.50	1505	1,505
Total balances			22,278

*Based on USD to CHF rate of 1:0.925, as of 31 Dec 2022

¹ Chaffing dishes (15), Carpet (1)

INCOME

Table 2: ZimHealth income sources, 2022¹

Income source	USD	CHF	Total USD ¹	Proportion of total income
Membership	3,133	0	3,133	100%
Private donations	0	0	0	
COVID-19 donations	0	0	0	
Project Fundraising	0	0	0	
Fundraising events	0	0	0	
Re-imbursements*	0	0	0	
Total			3,133	

¹Total income, combining USD and CHF, at rate of 1:0.925, as of 31 Dec 2022

*Payments returned due to banking restrictions; subsequently debited after follow up

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure in 2022 totalled **USD1,309**

Table 3: ZimHealth expenditures, 2022

Expenditure	USD	CHF	Total USD ¹	Proportion of total expenditure
Project support/financing	0	0	0	0
Account transfers	0	0	0	0
Administrative costs	956	0	956	73%
Bank charges	353	0	353	27%
Total			1,309	

¹Total expenditure, combining USD and CHF, at rate of 1 : 0.925, as of 31 Dec 2022

Overhead and administration expenses remained minimal with no office space expenses, a volunteer Secretariat and low miscellaneous expenses such as hosting of the web domain, and financial audit fees.

ANNEX 2: ZIMHEALTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2022

CHAIRPERSON	Patience Musanhu
SECRETARY-GENERAL:	Victoria Zambe-Makoni
TREASURER:	Batsirai Majuru

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lorraine Mangwiro Snr	Lois Kuwana
Vonai Muyambo	Bongani Ncube-Zikhali
Ngonidzashe Hove	Ian Menzies
Simbarashe Mabaya	Paradzai Nematadzira
Ngonidzashe Hove	Rodwell Mkhwananzi
Rutendo Kuwana	

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