

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Zimbabwe Network for Health (ZimHealth)-Europe





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Foreword

It is our pleasure to present the ZimHealth Europe Annual Report for 2025; a year defined by focus, resilience, and purposeful impact.

In a global context marked by shrinking health funding and increasing pressure on vulnerable health systems, ZimHealth made a conscious strategic choice: to prioritise depth over breadth, concentrating our efforts on interventions where we could achieve meaningful, measurable change. The results from our work in maternal and child health stand as clear evidence that even in constrained environments, well-targeted, community-driven interventions can save lives and strengthen health systems.

Our work continues to be made possible by an extraordinary network of individuals and partners who contribute not only financially, but also through their time, expertise, and unwavering belief in our mission. As a fully volunteer-led organisation, this commitment is both our strength and distinguishing feature.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our corporate and institutional partners, whose support enables us to translate plans into action; to our members and individual donors, whose consistent contributions sustain our work; and to our volunteers, whose dedication remains the driving force behind every achievement.

As we look ahead, we do so with both humility and ambition. The health challenges facing Zimbabwe remain significant but they are not insurmountable. ZimHealth is uniquely positioned to bridge gaps between global expertise and local needs, and to scale solutions that are practical, sustainable, and community-owned.

Our task remains to build on the momentum of 2025, strengthen partnerships, and to mobilise the resources necessary to expand our impact. We therefore call on all our stakeholders, existing and prospective, to join us in this journey. The progress we celebrate today is only the beginning. The real work lies ahead, and it is work we must do together.

Rutendo Kuwana

Chairperson, ZimHealth Europe



Introduction

Founded in 2008 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, ZimHealth Europe—the Zimbabwe Network for Health—is a diaspora-led non-profit organization committed to transforming healthcare delivery in Zimbabwe. Our membership shares a united vision: to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare for all Zimbabweans, especially vulnerable mothers, children, and the elderly.

ZimHealth is guided by five core values: service, integrity, passion, equity and impact.

Mission: To support and collaborate with strategic partners and institutions working with and in Zimbabwe to ensure a minimum package of quality health care services in disadvantaged communities.

Overarching Goal and Guiding Principles

Support and sustain the health service delivery in Zimbabwe for the vulnerable mothers and children by pursuing the following objectives and strategies

Inform, educate, and communicate the status and the needs of the Zimbabwe public health delivery system to all Zimbabweans in Switzerland and the rest of Europe and to the European public

Raise funds and other support from individuals and organisations in Switzerland and the rest of Europe and from private corporations and international, multilateral and bilateral agencies

Equitably distribute funds and materials to health services in all provinces and districts of Zimbabwe

Foster relationships with the communities, for an impactful participatory approach to maintain and sustain the facilities supported

ZimHealth relies significantly on the beneficence of its dedicated core membership and partners old & new with a collective call for action and responsibility. The activities of ZimHealth are coordinated by a fully voluntary Executive Committee which is elected yearly at an Annual General Meeting.



Status of Health and Health Services in Zimbabwe

Health services in Zimbabwe continue to be delivered through a network of government, faith-based, and private health facilities, including hospitals, rural health centres, and primary care clinics. The majority of the population continues to rely on public sector facilities for their healthcare needs, though these remain under-resourced.

During 2025, Zimbabwe's health system was characterised by:

Meaningful Progress in Maternal and Child Health

The 2023–24 Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS), whose full findings were released in 2025, points to significant gains in maternal health. The Maternal Mortality Ratio has been reduced to 212 deaths per 100,000 live births, down from 651 per 100,000 in the last ZDHS conducted in 2015. While this decline reflects real progress, maternal mortality remains unacceptably high and demands sustained investment. Antenatal care coverage from a skilled provider increased slightly to 92%, and at least 71% of pregnant women made the recommended four or more antenatal visits. Institutional deliveries stood at 84%, up from 81% in 2015.¹

In child health, gains have been uneven. While the under-five mortality rate declined slightly from 73 to 69 deaths per 1,000 live births, neonatal mortality increased from 31 to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births, and infant mortality rose from 53 to 56 per 1,000 live births. Malnutrition continues to affect a significant proportion of children, with 26.2% of under-fives experiencing stunted growth.²

HIV/AIDS — Notable Achievements Under Threat

Zimbabwe has made remarkable strides in the fight against HIV. HIV prevalence among adults aged 15–49 has decreased from 12.69% in 2019 to 10.49% in 2023. In December 2024, Zimbabwe reached the 95–95–95 UNAIDS Fast-Track targets for adults, meaning that 95% of people living with HIV know their status, 95% of those diagnosed are receiving treatment, and 95% of those on treatment have achieved viral load suppression.

However, these gains are now at serious risk due to reduced international aid funding, including for HIV programmes, which threatens to undermine these achievements. The funding gap has also led to widespread job losses in the health sector, with many NGOs that depend on external aid forced to lay off healthcare workers or suspend operations entirely.³

¹ [UNFPA Zimbabwe & https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-pr160-preliminary-reports-key-indicators-reports.cfm](https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-pr160-preliminary-reports-key-indicators-reports.cfm)

² <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/every-child-survives-and-thrives>

³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12130410/>



Chronic Underfunding of the Health Sector

Zimbabwe's health system continues to be severely underfunded relative to need. According to the National Health Strategy 2021–2025, Zimbabwe requires between US\$5.2 billion and US\$7.8 billion over five years to address the funding gap. The 2024 health budget allocation represented approximately 10.2% of the national budget, falling far short of the 15% target set by the Abuja Declaration.

Healthcare Workforce Shortages

A decline in health financing, outdated or insufficient medical equipment, frequent stockouts, and critical shortages in the health workforce have all contributed to poor service delivery. Brain drain continues to undermine the system, with healthcare professionals seeking better opportunities abroad. To address severe gaps in human resources, Village Health Workers were trained in integrated community case management and interpersonal communication in 2024. While such community-level investments are welcome, they are unlikely to substitute for adequately remunerated, formally trained clinical staff.⁴

Infrastructure and Equipment Deficits

Healthcare infrastructure across public facilities continues to face challenges. Hospitals and clinics may still experience shortages of medicines, medical equipment, and reliable utilities. Rural, including farming communities, and marginalised populations remain the most affected, with geographic distance and cost acting as compounding barriers to access.

Climate and Disease Outbreak Risks

Zimbabwe remains highly vulnerable to climate-related health emergencies, including cyclones, floods, and droughts that trigger outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, and malaria. These recurring crises place additional strain on an already stretched health system and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable communities.

Despite notable progress, particularly in HIV outcomes, maternal mortality reduction, and health system digitisation, Zimbabwe's health system remains fragile and increasingly exposed to both domestic underfunding and the withdrawal of international donor support. Greater domestic resource mobilisation and sustained partnerships are essential to protect and build upon the gains made. It is against this backdrop that ZimHealth continues to commit to support frontline public health facilities, with a particular focus on maternal and child health, essential equipment, and the most underserved communities.

⁴ <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/every-child-survives-and-thrives>



Projects

Mt Selinda Mission Hospital Project

Enhancing Maternal and Child Health

In 2025, Zimhealth focused its efforts on a single project: strengthening maternal and child health services in the Mt Selinda Mission Hospital catchment area. This targeted approach enabled deeper engagement and stronger results across 30 rural villages.

Implemented in partnership with the United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG), the project combined community outreach, health worker training, and the provision of essential medical equipment to address preventable maternal and newborn risks.

We gratefully acknowledge the vital support of UNWG, whose contribution enabled the procurement of critical maternal and neonatal equipment. Equally commendable was the leadership shown by hospital management, as well as the strong engagement of community, traditional, and religious leaders. These partnerships were key to the project's success and sustainability.

Key Results

- 36 Village Health Workers trained, exceeding targets, with high competency levels (92% average score)
- 24 community outreach programmes reaching over 38,000 people
- Antenatal care uptake increased significantly (63 to 365 bookings)
- Perinatal mortality reduced to 1%
- All essential equipment delivered and in use, improving emergency obstetric care.

Impact

The project demonstrated measurable improvements in both service delivery and community health-seeking behaviour. Increased awareness, strengthened referral systems, and improved hospital readiness contributed to safer pregnancies and better newborn outcomes.

Importantly, strong community ownership and continuous training of Village Health Workers have laid a solid foundation for long-term sustainability. The Mt Selinda initiative illustrates the impact of focused investment, strong partnerships, and community-driven approaches in achieving sustainable health outcomes.



Resource Mobilisation & Finance

During 2025, Zimhealth continued to prioritise resource mobilisation efforts aligned with its core mandate of strengthening primary healthcare systems and reducing inequalities in underserved communities. Key efforts focused on advancing two strategic initiatives: a project to improve access to essential diagnostic services at primary care level, and a broader programme addressing healthcare access challenges in farming communities. Both initiatives were supported through the development and submission of detailed advocacy and funding proposals aimed at mobilising resources and building long-term partnerships for sustainable health system strengthening

While no direct funding was secured during the reporting period, these efforts played an important strategic role in positioning Zimhealth within key global health and development networks. Engagement around the proposed projects helped to clearly articulate critical gaps in primary healthcare delivery, including shortages of equipment, limited access to services, and the need for sustainable financing models to support community-level interventions.

Importantly, the outreach undertaken opened new avenues for engagement with potential funding partners. In particular, discussions around the community-based health systems initiative highlighted strong interest in scalable, partnership-driven approaches that combine community engagement, capacity building, and targeted investment in essential health services. These engagements have laid the groundwork for more direct donor relationships and future funding opportunities.

Zimhealth's diaspora network continued to be a key strength in this process, providing technical input, advocacy, and visibility, while reinforcing the organisation's long-standing commitment to transparency, accountability, and sustainable impact.

Looking ahead, Zimhealth will build on these engagements to strengthen its financing pipeline, deepen partnerships, and ensure that well-developed project concepts can be translated into funded interventions that deliver measurable health outcomes.



Monitoring & Evaluation

Building on lessons from current projects, Zimhealth worked on strengthening its approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) to better understand and demonstrate the long-term impact of its interventions. In 2025, initial steps were taken to transition from primarily output-focused reporting towards a more structured assessment of outcomes, impact, and sustainability.

Zimhealth commenced a member-led initiative to undertake a formal evaluation of its work, drawing on emerging evidence around diaspora-driven health interventions. This approach recognises the growing importance of diversified and sustainable funding models, and the need to better understand how diaspora contributions influence health system performance and outcomes.

Experience from ongoing projects has also demonstrated the feasibility of remote monitoring and continuous engagement with implementing partners. Regular communication, routine data sharing, and structured follow-up will be further strengthened to support timely decision-making and adaptive management.

To support this evolution, Terms of Reference have been developed for the engagement of a locally based Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. This role, funds permitting, will focus on developing practical tools and guidance for tracking progress, measuring impact, and supporting data-informed decision-making, while ensuring minimal administrative burden on implementing partners.

Together, these actions will position Zimhealth to better capture impact, enhance accountability, and contribute to learning on effective diaspora-supported health interventions, while reinforcing sustainability and community engagement across its programmes.



Publicity, Membership and Communication

Annual Fundraising Event

For the first time in five years, ZimHealth Europe hosted a formal fundraising event in Geneva, Switzerland on the 27th of September 2025. Featuring Gemma Griffiths, Dereck Mpofu and supported by DJ Ropa and DJ Marlon on the stage. The event also featured several local designers, including Norman Slinger, Masego Madzwamuse, and the House of Don, who together with fashion models on the runway brought to life a celebration of Zimbabwean arts and culture to create an event to strengthen community amongst our members and friends of the organisation.

The venue was filled with Zimbabweans and friends of Zimbabwe who all enjoyed not only the music, the fashion and arts of the country but were also served a delicious buffet dinner whose ingredients were donated and prepared by ZimHealth members and friends of the organization.

In addition to the show, an auction and raffle was held with prizes including art works, sculptures, books, paintings and a stay at Cresta Hotel in Zimbabwe. None of this would have been possible without the support from an army of volunteers and well wishers including Cresta Hotels, Avacash Zimbabwe, Casha Dezigns Zimbabwe, Kenteco SA Geneva, DJ Ropa, and an army of volunteers who worked late into the night both before and after the event.

Even though almost a hundred tickets were sold this still unfortunately fell short of the projected estimate when planning the event and led to a slight shortfall in the budget. This shortfall reiterated the need for future events to either have separate internally funded budgets, separate from the ZimHealth budget, and to try and source local talent and minimise travel expenses.

Nevertheless we owe a depth of gratitude to the small army of volunteers who worked hard to ensure that the event was a social success and helped start putting back in place the building blocks of face to face community engagement that ZimHealth was known for before the Covid-19 pandemic.









Website, Social Media & Publicity



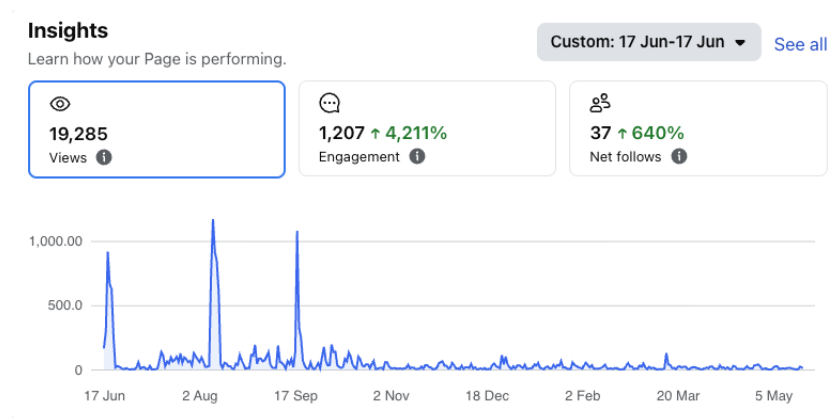
ZimHealth maintained a strong presence on social media thanks to the support of Nomonde Sixolo and Lucy Magwojo who both took over the administration of the Facebook and newly created Instagram accounts of the organisation.

Facebook:

Views: 19k total views with over 100% increase in 3 second views and more than 1 minute views

Engagement: 382 reactions, 9 comments and 67 shares, 4000% increase from previous 366 days

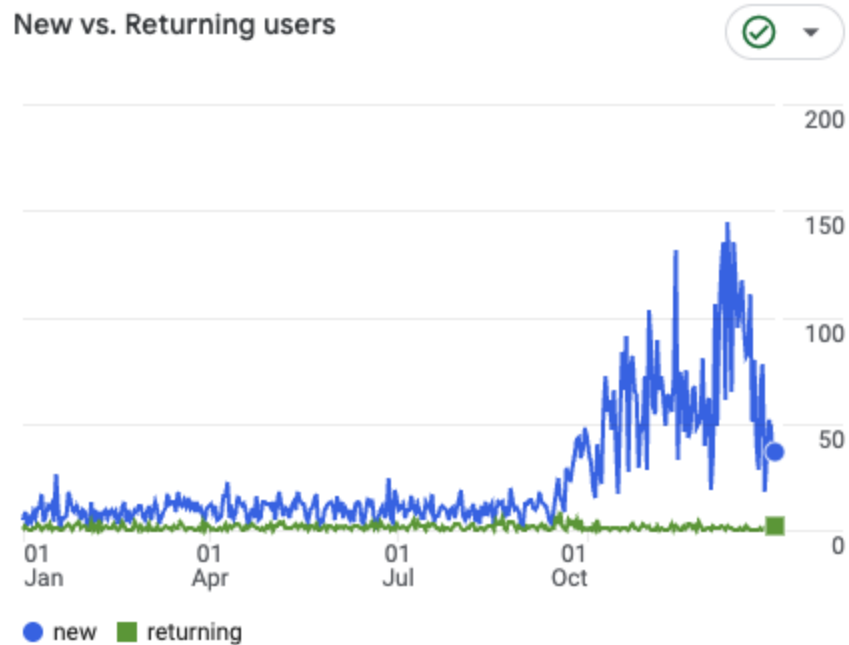
1047 Total followers, 3.4 increase from previous 366 days





Website:

42k Event count with 8.7k new and active users. As usual the ZimHealth Annual Fundraising drove a peak of activity onto the site in the weeks after the event was hosted.



The challenge, as always, for the coming year remains to convert this increased online engagement into real world actions and conversion into consistent membership contributions.

ZimHealth maintained its partnership with Google who provided IT and backend support through their non-profit programme which helped streamline the operations of the organisation.

Media Exposure

The primary media exposure of the organization revolved around the Annual Gala Event featuring in two Zimbabwean journals, the Daily News⁵ and the Zimbabwe Independent⁶. Both articles appeared both online and in print.

ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENT NOVEMBER 7 TO 13, 2025 X1

ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENT **IndependentXtra**

Gemma headlines annual Zim Health gala in Geneva

KHUMBULANI MULEYA

ON September 27, Zimbabwean music sensation Gemma Griffiths (pictured) headlined the Zim Health annual gala in Geneva, Switzerland. The event was marked not only by its philanthropic cause, but by an on-stage reunion with long-time friend, saxophonist and singer Vee Mukarati.

The performance, which took place at the Salle communale d'Onex festival hall, served as a bridge between Zimbabwe and its diaspora, all in support of improving healthcare services back home.

Zim Health hosts a gala every year to raise funds for work that they do in Zimbabwe where they buy hospital equipment and build hospitals in Zimbabwe's rural areas. Every year they invite artists to Switzerland. This year they invited Gemma, Dereck Mpofu and DJ Ropa.

The non-governmental, non-profit association, is registered in Geneva and was established by Zimbabweans living in Europe to mobilise financial, material and human resources to support health services in Zimbabwe.

"The support we have received has directly funded critical medical equipment deliveries to Mount Selinda Mission Hospital and the expansion of Mabvuku Polyclinic, which has been our biggest project to date," read a post on the association's social media platform Instagram. "We witnessed pure musical excellence! From the first note to the final song, the energy was absolutely electric!"

Gemma, whose self-titled debut album continues to gain momentum, was the headline act for the prestigious event, performing with guitarist Matthew Ngorima alongside musicians from Mukarati's band.

For the artists, the gala was as much about the music as it was about rekindling personal and professional bonds that span over a decade.

Reflecting on the performance, Mukarati shared his enthusiasm with *IndependentXtra*, stating, "The audience was great, it was a really good show. We had a great show and a good time, it was cool to play together again, I hadn't played with her in 10 years or so."

He added that it was particularly meaningful to reconnect with guitarist Ngorima who played in his band when he was in Zimbabwe, noting, "It was cool for them (Mukarati's band mates) to meet the genius behind some of the guitar lines, riffs and stuff that is in my music which was played by him. It was great seeing Dereck too, hadn't seen him in a long time."

"Sharing the stage with Gemma was amazing, she is an incredible performer. Playing with her was easy because we have known each other for so long, it's kind of like playing with your homies, even from when we started playing together about 15 years ago when she was young and coming up."

"It is really great to see that she is living up to her full talent and that she keeps growing, she is an incredibly talented songwriter and singer so it's good to have friends like that and get the chance to work together and to have a connection between Zimbabwe and Europe and be able to hopefully do that again in the future."

This charitable context gave profound meaning to the musical reunions, highlighting Griffiths' commitment to using her artistry for positive impact in her homeland. This performance is one of several highlights in a breakthrough year for the artist.

Meanwhile, her artistic momentum continues with the recent release of the visually stunning music video for her hit single *Holy*, featuring Nigerian superstar Peruzzi, which was shot on location in Hareare and Lagos and premiered on TruTV.

She co-directed the video alongside Emil Zendera. It celebrates cross-continental collaboration, much like her live performances, and is lifted from her acclaimed self-titled debut album that is now approaching one million global streams.

Her fanbase is growing across Zimbabwe, South Africa, the UK and the US followed closely by Kenya. The songstress was recently named as a Future of Music cover star by *Rolling Stone Africa* and featured on the cover of *She Glows Africa*, making her stand out as a powerful example of an artist successfully bridging continents while remaining deeply connected to her roots and the collaborative spirit that first nurtured her talent.

According to a statement released by her management, the video was produced by Zimbabwean producer Manuchie.

"*Holy* marks another bold step in her cross-continental journey, a celebration of creativity, and collaboration between Zimbabwe and Nigeria," read the statement in part.



⁵ <https://dailynews.co.zw/gemma-to-grace-zimhealth-annual-gala/>

⁶

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/theindependent/lifestyle-amp-arts/article/200048172/gemma-headlines-annual-zimbabwe-health-gala-in-geneva>



Acknowledgements

ZimHealth acknowledges the support and contributions of the following in 2025/2026

- Individual members for financial and in-kind support
- Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
- City of Harare Health Department
- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe in Geneva
- United Nations Women's Guild, Geneva
- Gemma Griffiths and Management Team
- Dereck Mpofu and Management Team
- Bola Nangabe
- Norman Slinger
- House of Don
- Kenteco SAS Geneva
- Cresta Hotels Zimbabwe
- Casha Dezigns Zimbabwe
- Avacash Zimbabwe
- Google LLC.



Annex 1

2025 Financial Report

Draft Treasurer's Annual Report 2025

As of 31 December 2024, ZimHealth held balances of USD5,145.37 and in the USD and CHF accounts respectively.

USD Account (Ends in 3460 T)

- **Opening Year Balance;** The USD ZimHealth account held a balance of **5,145.37 USD**
- **End of Year Balance:** The USD ZimHealth 31.12.2025 balance was **1,336.26 USD**.

CHF Account (Ends in 3440 E)

- **Opening Year Balance;** The CHF ZimHealth account held a balance of **5,804.70 CHF**
- **End of Year Balance:** The CHF ZimHealth 31.12.2025 balance was **1,700.95 CHF**

PayPal Account (ZimHealth Europe)

- **End of Year Balance:** The PayPal 31.12.2025 balance was **1788.61 USD**

Overview of Income and Expenditure

CHF Account (2025 Recorded Totals)

- **Total Recorded Income: +8,124.59 CHF**
 - *Major sources:* Income from the ZimHealth Gala (approx. 5,732 CHF), Cash Deposit (2,083 CHF), ZimHealth transfers (1,100 CHF), and steady membership contributions.
- **Total Recorded Expenditure: -12,391.09 CHF**
 - Major expenses were related to the ZimHealth Gala held in September



USD Account (2025 Recorded Totals)

- **Total Recorded Income: +984.00 USD**

- **Total Recorded Expenditure: -4,792.04 USD**
 - *Major expenses:* Reimbursements for air tickets for the artists at the Annual Gala, ZimHealth transfers (1,401.35 USD), and Freight/Customs clearance (913.39 USD) for goods delivered to Mt Selinda (see section Projects). .

Membership contributions totalled below 1000 CHF with very few members consistently paying their membership dues. We remind members that there is no minimum amount to maintain membership to ZimHealth and encourage them to donate so that ZimHealth can increase our internal funding and decrease our reliance on external donors.

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 rental of the Webster University Hall for the AGM of 2025.

The bank formally reports the 2025 banking fee totals as 132.93 USD for the USD account and 120.40 CHF (which includes 106.00 CHF for account keeping and 14.40 CHF for shipping costs) for the CHF account.

PayPal charged a total of 79.89 CHF in fees on over 20 transactions throughout the year.



Annex 2: ZimHealth Executive Committee, 2025/2026

Chairperson: Rutendo Kuwana
Secretary-General: Bongani Ncube-Zikhali
Treasurer: Patience Musanhu (interim)

Executive Committee

- Lois Kuwana
- Patience Musanhu
- Ngonidzashe Hove
- Rodwell Mkhwananzi
- Erica Kufa
- Vonai Muyambo
- Nomonde Sixolo
- Louise Daniels

The committee was also assisted in the various sub-committees by:

- Lucy Magwojo
- Rumbi Maruza
- Dorcas Mapondera



Contact Us

Website: www.zimhealth.org

Email: info@zimhealth.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Zimhealth>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/zimhealth.europe/>

Donations can be made to:

ZimHealth Swiss Franc Account

UBS Branch: UBS SA Geneva-OMS
Avenue Appia 20, 1202 Geneva

Beneficiary: **ZimHealth**
Account number: 0279-295834.40E
IBAN: CH900027927929583440E
Clearing: 0279
BIC: UBSWCHZH80A

ZimHealth US Dollar Account

UBS Branch: UBS, Geneva OMS
Avenue Appia 20, 1202 Geneva

Beneficiary: **ZimHealth**
Account number: 0279-295834.60T
IBAN: CH050027927929583460T
Clearing: 0279
BIC: UBSWCHZH80A



The Zimbabwe Network for Health - Europe (abbreviated ZimHealth) is a non-governmental and non-profit association governed by its constitution, and secondarily by article 60 et seq of the Swiss Civil Code. Zimhealth is politically neutral and non-denominational.

ZimHealth is headquartered in the Canton and Republic of Geneva, Switzerland.