



Zimbabwe Network for Health (ZimHealth)-Europe

**Annual Report
2024**



Foreword

The year 2024 was a subdued yet promising chapter in ZimHealth Europe's journey. While activities remained limited, the organization entered a period of strategic transition—reassessing its priorities, strengthening internal systems, and laying the groundwork for renewed impact.

We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of new members who joined us during this time. Your enthusiasm and commitment have injected fresh energy into our mission, and we warmly welcome you to the ZimHealth community. To those considering joining, we extend an open invitation—your voice, skills, and support are vital to our collective success.

As we move forward, collaboration with local actors in Zimbabwe will be central to our approach. The lessons learned during the past 3 years underscore the importance of visibility, accountability, and shared ownership. We are committed to deepening these partnerships and ensuring that our interventions are responsive to community needs.

2024 may not have been marked by high-profile events, but it was a year of reflection, recalibration, and quiet progress. With renewed focus and a growing network of supporters, ZimHealth is poised to re-emerge stronger and more impactful in the years ahead.

Rutendo Kuwana,

Chairperson – ZimHealth, 2025



Introduction

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

ZimHealth operates at the intersection of compassion, strategy, and impact. We believe that health is a human right, and that every Zimbabwean—regardless of background—deserves access to dignified, high-quality care. Our work is guided by four strategic pillars:

- *Advocacy & Awareness*
We inform and educate the diaspora and broader European public about the needs and realities of Zimbabwe's public health system, amplifying the voices of underserved communities.
- *Resource Mobilization*
Through strategic fundraising and partnerships, we mobilize financial and material support from individuals, corporations, and international agencies to strengthen health infrastructure and services.
- *Equitable Distribution*
We ensure that resources are fairly allocated across all provinces and districts in Zimbabwe, prioritizing transparency, accountability, and impact.
- *Community Engagement*
We foster deep relationships with local communities, empowering them to take ownership of supported health facilities and sustain improvements over time.

ZimHealth is more than an organization—it is a movement. We invite you to join us as a member, donor, or partner. Your engagement fuels our mission and brings us closer to a healthier, more resilient Zimbabwe.

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 coordinated by a dedicated and fully voluntary Executive Committee, elected annually during our Annual General Meeting.

Status of Health and Health Services in Zimbabwe

In 2024, Zimbabwe's health sector continued to face significant challenges, yet also demonstrated resilience and progress in key areas. The public health system, which serves the majority of the population, remains under pressure due to persistent resource constraints, infrastructure gaps, and workforce shortages. Coordinated efforts between the Government of Zimbabwe, international partners, and civil society have led to notable improvements in service delivery and emergency response.

Key Challenges

- **Resource Constraints and Underfunding**
Despite increased donor support, Zimbabwe's health system remained underfunded. Shortages of essential medicines, medical equipment, and supplies continued particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- **Human Resources for Health**
The public sector faced a high turnover of healthcare workers, driven by migration and limited incentives. This strained service provision and reduced access to skilled care. In response, the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC), with WHO support, developed a Health Workforce Investment Case (2024–2026) to address sustainability and retention.
- **Infrastructure and Service Delivery Gaps**
Many health facilities required urgent rehabilitation. Systemic infrastructure challenges persisted.
- **Disease Burden and Outbreaks**
Zimbabwe continues to grapple with a high burden of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and cholera. In 2023–2024, outbreaks of Wild Polio Virus, anthrax, and cholera prompted emergency responses involving vaccination campaigns, water and sanitation interventions, and community engagement.



- **Maternal and Child Health**

Maternal mortality was high, with 363 deaths per 100,000 live births. While routine immunization coverage was strong, access to comprehensive maternal care is uneven.

- **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**

The prevalence of NCDs such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer were rising. Some strategies to improve early detection and management were initiated, but service integration was still limited.

This evolving landscape underscores the importance of sustained investment, strategic partnerships, and community engagement. ZimHealth remains committed to supporting Zimbabwe's health sector through targeted interventions, advocacy, and resource mobilization ensuring that no one is left behind.

Building on insights from recent evaluations and stakeholder engagements, ZimHealth's 2024-2025 strategy prioritizes maternal and child health, while expanding its scope to address broader systemic gaps. Our interventions are designed to:

- Strengthen frontline health facilities through targeted support for equipment, infrastructure, and staffing.
- Promote health equity by focusing on underserved communities, especially in rural and peri-urban areas.
- Advance public health advocacy, amplifying the voices of affected populations and influencing policy through evidence-based dialogue.
- Improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in health facilities to reduce disease outbreaks and improve care quality.

These priorities reflect ZimHealth's evolving role as a catalyst for change mobilizing diaspora resources, fostering strategic partnerships, and ensuring that every intervention is aligned with national health goals and community needs.

Key achievements against the strategic plan

Relative to the previous reports, in 2024 ZimHealth made significantly less progress in essentially all strategic areas. Activities and membership remained subdued since the COVID-19 pandemic-induced slump.



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

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 27 May 2024, ZimHealth Europe met with the Zimbabwe Minister of Health, Dr Mombeshora and his entourage, on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly. The meeting provided an opportunity to present ZimHealth's vision, mission, and ongoing projects, including the evaluation of the Mabvuku Polyclinic. The Minister expressed interest in ZimHealth's work and acknowledged the importance of collaborative efforts to improve public health in Zimbabwe. Key outcomes included a commitment to visit the Mabvuku facility, support for legislation to make health care free for vulnerable groups, and recognition of ZimHealth's role in mobilizing diaspora support. The meeting underscored the need for increased visibility and dialogue with stakeholders to ensure ZimHealth's contributions are recognized and integrated into national health strategies.

Annual Fundraising Events

For the fourth consecutive year, ZimHealth Europe did not host a formal annual fundraising event due to uncertainties surrounding public gatherings. However, a Social Event held on the sidelines of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 1 June 2024 at Webster University in Geneva provided a valuable platform to showcase ZimHealth's work, engage with supporters, and encourage new membership particularly among Zimbabweans recently relocated to Europe.

The AGM itself served as a strategic forum to reflect on ZimHealth's impact and chart the course for future fundraising and operational priorities. Key discussions included:

- The evaluation of the Mabvuku Polyclinic project, highlighting its role in improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes.
- The need for enhanced visibility and marketing, to better communicate ZimHealth's achievements and attract donor interest.
- A proposal to share evaluation findings with donors and stakeholders, reinforcing transparency and accountability.
- The development of a ZimHealth calendar and fundraising database, aimed at streamlining donor engagement and improving planning across future campaigns.



These discussions reaffirmed ZimHealth's commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery in Zimbabwe and laid the groundwork for more targeted and effective fundraising initiatives in the coming year.

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 (M&E) remain central to ZimHealth's commitment to transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making. In 2024, the evaluation of the Mabvuku Polyclinic project marked a significant milestone in our efforts to assess impact and improve program effectiveness. The findings not only validated the outcomes of ZimHealth's support but also provided actionable insights that will inform future interventions across other facilities.

This evaluation demonstrated the value of leveraging technical expertise within our membership, including professionals in public health, monitoring and evaluation, and clinical care. These contributions were made at no additional cost to ZimHealth, underscoring the strength and sustainability of our volunteer-driven model. Going forward, this approach will be formalized as part of our M&E strategy.

In addition, locally based M&E professionals in Zimbabwe were identified in 2024, and will be engaged to support on-the-ground assessments, data collection, and reporting. This blended model, combining diaspora expertise with local capacity, will enhance the quality, relevance, and responsiveness of our evaluations.

ZimHealth will continue to prioritize regular project assessments, including site visits and stakeholder consultations, to ensure that supported facilities deliver meaningful improvements in health outcomes. Evaluation findings will be shared with donors, partners, and the broader community to foster learning, accountability, and strategic alignment.

Resource mobilization and finance

Resource mobilization remains central to ZimHealth's mission to strengthen equitable healthcare in Zimbabwe. In 2024, ZimHealth sustained its work through member contributions, strategic partnerships, and co-funding arrangements.

A key highlight was the Mt Selinda Maternity Clinic project, implemented in collaboration with local stakeholders and supported by the United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG-Geneva). Targeting 30 villages in Chipinge District, the initiative reached over 30,000 people, aiming to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality through outreach, education, and provision of essential equipment. Over 50% of the project budget was



covered by ZimHealth's reserves, with implementation led by volunteer experts in project management, M&E, and technical advisory.

Building on this model, ZimHealth developed a grant proposal in partnership with Africa University, Manicaland Province. The project will evaluate the impact of deploying diagnostic tools across three rural clinics in Mutasa District, targeting 750 households to improve early detection and referral for communicable and non-communicable diseases.

These initiatives reflect ZimHealth's commitment to sustainable, community-driven development and demonstrate the power of diaspora-led collaboration. Going forward, ZimHealth will continue to pursue multi-source funding, deepen engagement with institutional donors, and harness member expertise to deliver high-impact interventions.

Direct contributions from members totaled USD1,233.79, averaging USD103 per month. Reflecting no change from the previous year.

Income totaled USD7,992 relatively higher than for 2023 (USD2,789, and total expenditure was USD15,152. As of 31 December 2024, ZimHealth held balances of USD5,145.37 and CHF5,804.70 in the USD and CHF accounts respectively. The detailed financial report is presented as Annex 1.

The year ahead

In 2025, 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 local actors.

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 Child Care, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and local authorities in shaping the healthcare landscape of the nation. In 2025, we will actively engage in meaningful dialogues and collaborations 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, 2025 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 partners 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 2024

- Individual members for financial and in-kind support
- United Nations Womens Guild
- Zimbabwe Association of Church related Hospitals

ZimHealth Executive Committee, 2024

Chairperson: Patience Musanhu

Secretary-General: Rutendo Kuwana

Treasurer: Batsirai Majuru

Executive Committee

- Ngonidzashe Hove
- Rodwell Mkhwananzi
- Erica Kufa
- Bongani Ncube-Zikhali
- Vonai Muyambo
- Ian Menzies
- Liz Mason
- Nomonde Sixolo

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