**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ZAMBIA**

**1. Please elaborate on measures taken by national, federal, provincial or local governments to ensure persons are protected from the virus at their home or place of living:**

1. **Has your country declared a prohibition on evictions? If a prohibition was declared, indicate its legal basis and how long it will last. Please specify if it is a general prohibition and if it also applies to persons living in informality or in informal settlements. Is the prohibition of evictions restricted to tenants or mortgage payers who have been able to pay their rent or serve their mortgages, or broader?**

There have been declarations by government, through the Chief Government Spokesperson, appealing to landlords to waiver rentals during this COVID-19 period due to fluctuating incomes on the part of tenants, and such they should not be evicted. <https://www.zambianobserver.com/were-considering-asking-landlords-to-forego-rentals-amid-covid-19-dora-siliya/>

Some landlords in both formal and informal settlements have been complaint with the government declaration: <https://www.lusakatimes.com/2020/04/30/281547/>

There is no legal basis for this declaration, although there have been calls to come up with a Statutory Instrument to back this up.

1. **Have any measures been taken to ensure that households are not cut-off from water, heat or other utility provision when they are unable to pay their bills?**

In March, the Minister of Water Development Sanitation and Environmental Protection, directed Commercial Utilities in the country not to disconnect water services for clients who have not settled their bills to ensure people continue to access water during this difficult time. Even some households that were cut off prior to the pandemic were reconnected.

<https://www.mwdsep.gov.zm/?p=6192>

**2. Please provide any information about other legal or financial measures aimed to ensure that households do not lose their home if they cannot pay their rent or mortgage payments? Have any other tenant protection measures been adopted in response to the pandemic?**

The Bank of Zambia introduced a Targeted Medium-Term Refinancing Facility to the tune of K10 billion to enable Financial Service Providers (FSPs) to support businesses and households that are being impacted by COVID-19.

The facility is largely applicable to households that meet the formal requirements to access finance, and as such, systematically sidelines many slum dwellers that engage in informal business and do not have collateral such as security of tenure documentation.

 <https://www.boz.zm/FAQs_Stimulus_Package.pdf>

**3. What measures have been taken to protect persons living in informal settlements, refugee or IDP camps, or in situation of overcrowding from COVID-19?**

The government has exerted much efforts to ensure that there is uninterrupted water flow in the informal settlements. Load shedding has significantly reduced during the pandemic period, because the water system is power by electric motors. Additionally, local municipalities have been using fire trucks to sanitize markets and bus stations within informal settlements.

To a greater extent, most of the support towards informal settlements has been through civil society organizations and well-wishers that have been donating face masks, handwashing stations, liquid soap, sanitizers and food rations.

<http://www.cidrz.org/cidrz-donates-various-items-towards-the-fight-against-covid-19/>

**4. What measures have been taken by authorities to ensure that migrant and domestic workers housed by their employers continue to have access to secure housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath? If migrant workers left their place of work to return to their place of origin, what measures were taken to ensure their right to housing?**

To a greater extent, the government through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security has appealed to employers to observe the labour laws in the event that employees are rendered redundant during this difficult period.

In instances where employees have been retained, employers have guaranteed both the jobs and housing of their employees and have also be tasked to raise awareness on COVID-19 among their staff. <https://www.mlss.gov.zm/?p=5313>

**5. Have any measures been taken to provide safe accommodation for persons in situation of homelessness? If yes, how many persons were housed, in what form, where and for how long? How will it be ensured that persons provided with temporary accommodation will have access to housing after the crisis?**

The government through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services have child care facilities, old people’s homes and safe shelters for GBV victims.

During the pandemic, apparently the Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development embarked on an exercise to relocate street children and took them to various orphanages in an effort to reduce their susceptibility to COVID-19 and the risk of infecting the general public. The government set aside K1.9 million to purchase basic commodities such as food and clothes for the street children once they are relocated.

<https://www.znbc.co.zm/news/over-50-street-children-removed-from-streets/>

**6. Can you provide examples of any other measures taken or planned by national, federal, provincial or local Governments in your country to protect the right to adequate housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath?**

The provision of housing continues to be a mammoth challenge in Zambia with or without the pandemic owing to limited budgetary allocations. The 2020 budget provides a paltry allocation of 3.3%, that is also shared between water and sanitation supply as well as communities amenities such as markets and bus stations.

In the slums, in situ upgrading of housing units and green field developments are largely the preserve of households with minimum to no government involvement. Due to the advent of the pandemic, much efforts have been exerted towards the health and WASH sectors, thus overshadowing and undermining the housing sector, despite it being a fundamental frontline defence.

As such, whilst anecdotal, it seems funding and prioritization of the housing sector will be a peripheral issue seeing that governments actions are more aligned towards resuscitation of the economy and keeping the nation healthy through WASH and health sectors.