

# COVID-19, DEBT AND HEALTHCARE



In 2019:



64 low-income countries **spent more** on **SOVEREIGN DEBT REPAYMENTS**

than on **HEALTHCARE**.



The 121 low-income and middle-income countries spent an average of

# 10.7%

of government revenue on **PUBLIC HEALTH** systems in 2019, compared with



# 12.2%

on repaying **FOREIGN DEBTS**.



## ZAMBIA



Over the last five years, **public healthcare expenditure** has averaged

# 9.1%

of the government's budget.



In the meantime, during this same period, **debt servicing alone** accounted for

# 70.3%

of government revenues.



From 2014 to 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic hit Zambia, Zambia's **external debt payments** increased substantially from

# 4%

of **government total income** (revenue) in 2014 to an estimated



# 33%

in 2020.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Zambia was spending

# 4 x TIMES MORE ON REPAYING DEBTS

than on **healthcare**.



# 49%

of Zambia's external debt is owed to **private lenders**, who have **not agreed to suspend these debts during covid-19**



Due to **high interest rates**, some companies could be making up to

# 250% PROFIT

**from these loans** if paid back in full.

### Sources:

Thanks to Eurodad and Jubilee Debt Campaign for this information.  
[https://www.eurodad.org/zambia\\_the\\_canary\\_in\\_the\\_debt\\_crises](https://www.eurodad.org/zambia_the_canary_in_the_debt_crises)  
[https://www.eurodad.org/zambia\\_debt\\_and\\_covid\\_19](https://www.eurodad.org/zambia_debt_and_covid_19)  
<https://jubileedebt.org.uk/countries/zambia>



This project has been undertaken with funding from Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools. Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools is the national programme for Global Citizenship Education for post primary schools in Ireland. The ideas, opinions and comments in this resource are entirely the responsibility of its authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect WorldWide Global Schools and/or Irish Aid policy.