



Zim-TTECH

Zimbabwe Technical Assistance,
Training & Education Center for Health

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NEWSLETTER



Foreword



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Zim-TTECH
Executive Director

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024! Since the beginning of the year, we have been fully engaged in impactful initiatives that are shaping the future of healthcare in Zimbabwe. Our commitment to improve the health and well-being for all through provision of technical assistance and direct service to the health sector, as well as strengthening healthcare worker skills to support sustainability of health systems, remains stronger than ever.

From our groundbreaking Impilo Electronic Health Record/Case Based Surveillance (EHR/CBS) project to our DREAMS project, the HIV and TB care and treatment project, and our Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) project – we are supporting the health sector in making a real difference in HIV prevention, care, and treatment. In this newsletter, we will share the inspiring stories behind these initiatives. You will meet the dedicated healthcare workers embracing new technologies, the communities benefiting from improved services, and the partners who make it all possible.

At Zim-TTECH, we understand that our work is about more than just numbers – it is about people. Every life transformed drives us further, inspires us to dream bigger. Let this newsletter be a reminder of our shared journey and a source of motivation for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We want to take a moment of reflection. It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing on of our beloved colleagues, Patience Dewa OI/ART Nurse Avondale Clinic, who was involved in a car accident this April, and Pauline Khomba a Community Linkages Facilitator (CLF) in Nkayi who has not been feeling well for some time. Both Patience and Pauline were passionate about their work. Their loss is deeply felt, but we honor their memory as we continue our important work.

Happy reading!



World TB day commemorations

Each year on March 24th, World Tuberculosis Day raises awareness about the devastating consequences of this disease and strengthens the global commitment to ending the TB epidemic. This year, Zim-TTECH joined partners in Bubi, Matabeleland North to amplify the message "YES, we can END TB." Commemorative events and exhibitions serve as powerful reminders of our collective mission. They allow us to showcase our work, connect with stakeholders, learn from others, and build critical relationships within the communities we serve.



As part of our ongoing commitment to combating TB, Zim-TTECH seized this opportunity to increase the organization's visibility and impact.

Our team was actively involved in several key areas at the World TB Day event, showcasing Zim-TTECH's work in TB/HIV collaborative activities across the provinces we support. We provided essential services like HIV Testing Services including HIVST distribution, Family Planning Services, and Cervical Cancer screening. Our senior leadership joined ministers and high-level officials in advocating for ending TB, while our communications team documented the event to create lasting memories and resources for future awareness campaigns.

To maximize our impact, we strategically utilized branded materials, including informative fact sheets, banners, flags, and branded tents carrying key TB messages and the "YES, we can END TB" theme, building team spirit and organizational visibility. We further extended our reach through real-time social media coverage.

World TB Day served as a powerful recommitment of Zim-TTECH's unwavering dedication to ending TB in Zimbabwe. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative service delivery, and tireless advocacy, we move one step closer to a TB-free future.

From top to bottom: Zim-TTECH Senior Programs Manager, Dr Mlilo in a khaki jacket, on his left is Hon Sleiman Timios Kwidini, the Deputy minister of Health and Child and Care, on the far left is Hon Richard Moyo, the Minister for Provincial Affairs, Matebeleland, North.

On the bottom picture is the Zim-TTECH exhibition team and to the right is the Zim-TTECH team offering HST services to clients during the TB commemorations.



Mbire goes paperless as paper registers are decommissioned

In a major milestone for healthcare digitalization, 14 paper-based health registers at Chidodo Clinic and 12 at Chikafa Clinic were decommissioned; both these sites are Zim-TTECH supported sites in Mbire District in Mashonaland Central Province. This transition to a digital record-keeping [CM1] system, under the Impilo Electronic Health Record (E-HR) translates to improved data quality, completeness, and accuracy, saves healthcare workers valuable time, enables real-time data analysis for informed decision-making, and ultimately enhances overall patient care and significantly improves patient outcomes in the district.

"This transition is key to disease surveillance, improved patient care, through the Impilo program, we empower our healthcare workers to dedicate more time to patients and make better use of vital health data"

- Dr. Chidziva, Mbire District Medical Officer.

Zim-TTECH's commitment to strengthening epidemiology and strategic information drives this initiative.

Working with key stakeholders, Zim-TTECH is dedicated to furthering this vision across Zimbabwe. The success at Chikafa and Chidodo Clinic marks a crucial step towards a paperless digital healthcare system in Zimbabwe.



Mbire District, DMO Dr Chidziva (in an orange shirt and a black cap) with his team together with the Zim-TTECH team at Chikafa Clinic during the decommissioning of paper registers.



Stories of Change

From desperation to empowerment: story of Tashinga



Tashinga during a DREAMS session

Meet Tashinga Chapwanya, a young woman from Bubi, Matabeleland North, whose eyes now radiate with ambition and determination. However, her journey to this point was not without its challenges. "I felt so alone," Tashinga recalls, reflecting on her past relationship with an older, married man during her school days. "He promised me gifts, made me feel cared for, and I was desperate for that."

Unfortunately, this relationship took a toll on Tashinga's academic performance, causing her grades to drop, and instilled a lingering fear of falling ill on the back of her mind, she did not know her boyfriend's HIV status.

Then, a friend mentioned the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) program being implemented by Zim-TTECH with funding support from The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Hesitantly, Tashinga went to her first DREAMS session.

"The DREAMS session was a turning point in my life," she says. The mentors spoke about healthy choices, how to protect herself from HIV, and most importantly, her dreams. "I realized I was worth more than promises of gifts from men twice my age," Tashinga made the difficult choice to breaking off with her boyfriend, finding support from her DREAMS mentors and peers.

To build something new, she needed opportunity. The DREAMS program, provided it. With business training, Tashinga launched her small stall selling brightly beads and crocheted bags. "The first time I counted my own profits...", she smiled, "I felt powerful."

Now, Tashinga is not just rebuilding, she is giving back. She speaks at DREAMS sessions, her voice strong and clear. "Girls listen because they see themselves in me. I tell them, 'Do not waste your future. Build your own dreams, and never let anyone steal them away.'"

Tashinga's story is proof of the impact the DREAMS program is having in Zimbabwe; it is about unlocking the strength and hope within every girl, turning a flicker of possibility into a bright and unstoppable future.



“Yes, we can end TB”, TPT champions leading end TB advocacy



The launch of a support group for TB survivors in Epworth.

In the heart of Zimbabwe, where the battle against tuberculosis (TB) rages on, a remarkable success story unfolds. The Zimbabwe National Network of TB Survivors emerged, fueled by passion, determination, and a shared commitment to end TB once and for all.

Zim-TTECH’s TPT coverage was low in a number of sites, in October 2021, the organisation engaged Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment Champions (TPT Champions) to create demand and promote TPT in high volume facilities across the 5 Zim-TTECH supported provinces. TPT (TB preventive treatment) consists of a course of one or more anti-tuberculosis medicines given with the intention of preventing the development of TB disease. It is recommended for persons at high risk of developing TB, including those living with HIV. TPT, when taken with antiretroviral treatment (ART), can reduce TB-attributable deaths among persons living with HIV. TPT champions were selected from clients who were on ART and had completed their IPT doses. These individuals were selected by the facility teams.

Collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zim-TTECH trained the TPT champions on TPT demand creation, index case tracing, and defaulter tracking as a sustainability measure, ensuring they could utilize this knowledge beyond the project's conclusion. As TPT coverage increased, the contracts of the TPT champions came to an end in 2022. However, given their training and enduring commitment to ending TB, they redirected their energy into a larger initiative—the formation of the Zimbabwe National Network of TB Survivors. This network has since established 14 support groups in Harare and Mashonaland East Provinces, dedicated to fostering hope, resilience, and collective knowledge in TB programming. Their responsibilities include defaulter tracking, index tracing, creating demand for TPT, raising awareness, and conducting health talks.

At the forefront of the formation of the network was Stanley Sibanda, a former TPT champion from Rujeko Polyclinic in Dzivarasekwa, whose unwavering dedication and resilience became the cornerstone of the network, inspiring others to join the cause and become an unstoppable force.

“When Zim-TTECH’s TPT program ended we had amassed enough knowledge and experience from the work we were doing, and we decided to continue that work by forming a network for TB survivors that can create demand for TPT and track defaulters” - Stanley Sibanda.

From the foundation laid by Zim-TTECH’s TPT champions, the Zimbabwe National Network of TB Survivors continues to expand its reach, with its success stories serving as a testament to the impactful work facilitated by Zim-TTECH in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, supported by funding from the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Zim-TTECH supported the Ministry of Health and Child Care to introduce the Injectable Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV (Long-Acting Cabotegravir, CAB-LA) at Tsungubvi Clinic in Mashonaland Central.

Zim-TTECH is a leading partner in supporting the MoHCC in its HIV prevention efforts. With funding support from PEPFAR through CDC, Zim-TTECH led the launch of the Cabotegravir-Long Acting (CAB-LA) injectable Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) at one of its supported sites in Mashonaland Central Province, Tsungubvi Clinic.

Prior to the launch Zim-TTECH trained health care workers to capacitate them on CAB-LA service provision and to map up implementation plans for the phased roll-out of CAB-LA in implementation research sites.



Dr Sola (left) and Dr Manyanga (right) conducting the training for the health care workers.



Zim-TTECH @ZITF 2024 in pictures



With funding from The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Through the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention, Zim-TTECH is supporting the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

Our Donors & Partners





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