

Q2 Newsletter



Jan to March 2024



ADOLESCENTS GROUP MEETINGS

Masvingo District shines in Viral Load Suppression for Adolescents

Masvingo District has emerged as a beacon of success in the fight against HIV and AIDS among adolescents. The district's unwavering commitment and innovative strategies have led to an extraordinary achievement - a staggering 99 percent viral load suppression rate among adolescents in care. After a study in 2018 viral load suppression remained a challenge among adolescents (10-19 years) in Zimbabwe, with a viral load suppression of 48% among adolescent females and 40.2 percent among adolescent males*. According to 2020 studies on Avert - aidsfocus.ch, Zimbabwe has reached 48.6 % viral load suppression among adolescent females and 40.2 percent among adolescent males.

At the heart of this success story lies Nemanwa Rural Health Center (RHC), a bustling facility that serves as a cornerstone of HIV care in the district. With a substantial clientele of 1359 individuals on antiretroviral therapy (ART) as of March 2024.

Notably, during the recent meeting, it was observed that some adolescents, particularly grade 7 students, were absent due to their preparations for examinations, so these will have their clinics after the examinations in December.

Their facility nurses are however checking on them individually when they come for their services. Additionally, four adolescents transferred out of the program - three participating in the Africaid Skills program in Harare and one relocating to Gutu. Despite these transitions, the support group remains dedicated to providing ongoing care and support for all adolescents under their purview.

Mucheke Clinic, like Nemanwa RHC, provides exceptional care for adolescents living with HIV. The facility's commitment to personalized support and education was evident during at the March 2024 adolescent support group meeting, where treatment adherence, good nutrition, mental health substance abuse and personal challenges were discussed.

Despite 85 adolescents being booked, an impressive turnout of 80 adolescents attended the support group session at Mucheke Clinic. The team successfully collected 72 viral load samples, a substantial achievement made possible by the dedicated efforts of the hospital staff and the support of the Masvingo laboratory team.

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At a district level, support has been extended to facilities to establish and sustain adolescent clinics, providing a dedicated space for adolescents to access ART refills and viral load collection services. These clinics are thoughtfully scheduled during weekends and holidays to minimize disruptions to adolescents' schooling, ensuring that they can prioritize their education while also managing their health effectively.

“During these clinics, our Health Services Quality Officers (HSQOs) and community health services personnel are present to support Ministry of Health and Childcare (MOHCC) staff in sample collection and other essential tasks. Collaboration with partners who support adolescent clinics has been strengthened, with contributions such as refreshments (from Zvandiri), enhancing the overall experience for adolescents and promoting a welcoming environment for care. The seamless coordination between facilities, district support services, laboratory staff, and partners demonstrates a collaborative approach to adolescent care that prioritizes the well-being and empowerment of young individuals living with HIV” said Julita Magura, District Manager for Masvingo District- TASQC Program.

In the last quarter Masvingo district had 92 % viral load coverage for adolescents. The district has a total number of 1411 adolescents in care. Out of the 1274 documented Viral load samples collected, 1262 adolescents had a suppressed viral load. Some reasons for the unsuppressed viral load in some of the few adolescents include poor adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) due to fear of stigma and discrimination, unstable living conditions, food insecurity, mental health issues, and substance abuse.

The TASQC program works to bridge that gap where children may have inadequate social support from family and peers, to cope with their HIV diagnosis and adhere to treatment. JF Kapnek Zimbabwe is implementing the TASQC program in partnership with OPHID and ZNNP+. The program which complements the MoHCC, is made possible by PEPFAR through USAID.

**BMC Infectious Diseases ,2018 PMID 30227831*

Volunteer Spotlight

Sten Makonese (68) is a Clinical Referral Facilitator (CRF) at Gutu Rural Hospital. He is a volunteer, and he leads the Clubs DSD model in Gutu. Sten plays an active role in the mobilization of women for VIAC screening for cervical cancer, dissemination of HIV care and support services.

After being diagnosed of HIV in 2006, he has been on ART for 18 years and due to continued adherence to treatment, his viral load is always suppressed and has managed to achieve a target not detected (TND) status for many years.

As a CRF volunteer, Sten’s contribution is crucial to Gutu Hospital as it is a high-volume site and his role in mobilising clients for viral load tests and health checks ensures that no one is left behind in HIV Care and treatment.



World TB Day Commemorations



JF Kapnek, along with other organizations, joined the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) at the World TB Day Commemorations held at Inyathi Centre in Bubi District on March 24, 2024. Our involvement in the event significantly contributed to bridging knowledge gaps and enhancing the attitudes of individuals who visited our booth seeking more information on Tuberculosis. The festivities also served as a platform to promote infection prevention practices and enhance treatment adherence. In collaboration with the Organization for Public Health Interventions and Development (OPHID), JF Kapnek Zimbabwe is currently implementing the TASQC TB Treatment Access Prevention (TAP) program.

TB Blitz



After the world TB day commemorations our teams conducted a TB Blitz in 10 supported districts: Chiredzi, Chivi, Gutu, Masvingo, Mwenezi, Zaka, Gokwe, Gweru, Kwekwe, and Mberengwa. Objectives of the Blitz include identifying presumptive cases, initiating treatment for diagnosed cases, screening contacts, and evaluating TB Preventive Treatment eligibility. The District TB and HIV Integration Officers engaged with miners to educate them on TB risks in high-risk environments. The TB Blitz included TB case finding (sputum collection and screening), diagnosis, treatment, and infection control. Some of the districts are also had integrated outreach services during the blitz and these included HIV Testing and counselling as well as family planning services. The TB TAP program is supported by PEPFAR through USAID Zimbabwe.

During the weeks 12 and 13 Blitz (21-28 March 2024), Masvingo and Midlands Province Blitz screened a total of 28402 people, and 1637 cases were presumed cases. 99 TB cases were diagnosed with TB and 101 people were initiated on treatment. JF Kapnek Zimbabwe is implementing the TB TAP Program in Masvingo Province (Masvingo, Chivi, Gutu, Chiredzi, Zaka and Mwenezi) and Midlands Province (Gokwe South, Gweru, Mberengwa and Kwekwe).





CHILD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM :OUR TEAM IS GROWING.

Tawanda Nhamburo, has joined JF Kapnek Zimbabwe as the CBR Capacity Development Officer. Tawanda brings a wealth of experience and expertise in community-based rehabilitation, and we are excited to have him on board to the benefit of JF Kapnek staff, our partners, and children with disabilities at large. The Child Empowerment Program which is supported by Liliane Foundation aims to improve access to health and rehabilitation services, social participation, equalisation of opportunities and empowerment of persons with disability, their families and the community as whole using the Community Based Rehabilitation holistic strategy.

The program is targeting children and adolescents with disabilities, their caregivers and the community so that they can have access to disability services as well as equal opportunities in life. JF Kapnek Zimbabwe work with 25 Partner Organisations in disability programming to ensure that children and youths with disabilities (CYWDs) and their caregivers have improved understanding and expertise to collectively remove attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers hindering full participation of children and youths with disability for an inclusive society.

The Community Based Rehabilitation program is based on the social rights-based model as enshrined in the UNCRPD (2006). For a CBR program to produce a desired outcome of disability inclusion, interventions or activities should be designed across the 5 CBR Matrix components (Health, Education, Social, Livelihood, Empowerment) that impact the lives of CYWDs. These are not limited to: improving care outcomes, overcome stereotypes and negative social norms surrounding people with disabilities, -

provide comprehensive child protection services for children with disabilities, decrease the incidence of preventable disabilities, and provide support and assistive devices to children and youths with disabilities to improve their daily lives.

The Child Empowerment program has a particular focus the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) approach. The CBR approach emphasizes the improvement of the quality of life of people with disabilities and their families to overcome physical and sociological barriers within their communities in the field of: Health, Education, Livelihood, Social inclusion, and Empowerment. This will enable them to participate meaningfully in community development programs. Influenced by the principles of equality, social justice, solidarity, integration, and dignity, the CBR approach aims to ensure that humanitarian response is inclusive of people with disabilities; and to link them, together with their family members, local service providers and assistance provided through stakeholders in disability programming.

**Liliane
Fonds**

open the world
for a child
with a disability



Celebrating Women's Month - March 2024

International Women's Month is a significant celebration that honours the remarkable contributions of women to history, culture, and society that is observed annually.

It serves as a call to action to honour the resilience, achievements, and impact of women across various fields and reminds us that the fight for gender equality continues.

At JF Kapnek Zimbabwe, we honour the achievements of women and their work towards a more equitable world and continue to celebrate the progress which inspires change and an end to violence against women.

This March we celebrated through inclusion messages from some of our staff

Celebrating Women's Month

"Inclusion is about empowering women and girls by creating environments where they are valued and respected"

Talent Manana
Strategic Information & Evaluation Assistant




Celebrating Women's Month

"As women let's build ourselves ensuring inclusion in different aspects of life. This involves breaking barriers and socio-cultural norms that devalue, disrespect and hinder the progress of women"


Kudzanayi Shoniwa
HIV Services Quality Officer




Celebrating Women's Month

"Promoting economic empowerment for disadvantaged women fosters inclusivity for children as well. Every child deserves education, health, and a chance at a stable life through proper nutrition. As a mother, I support holistic education for all children"

Chipo Vandirai
ECD Health & Nutrition Officer

Celebrating Women's Month

"To me, inclusion means actively involving women in various aspects by providing them with equal opportunities and access to resources .It also involves respecting and valuing women regardless of their , race , social status, religion and other factors"

Alen Murenza
Community Health Services Nurse - Chiredzi






Early Childhood Development Activities

School Feeding-To address high rates of malnutrition in Zimbabwe JF Kapnek Zimbabwe provides daily hot porridge made of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) to Early Childhood Development (ECD) children. The program is made possible through the the support of the Herz Foundation. During the quarter (Jan- March 2024), 28.125 tonnes of CSB were distributed to 152 schools in Chegutu, Zvimba, and Mhondoro Ngezi districts. CSB is essential for the holistic development of children and prevention of malnutrition. Caregivers rotate in cooking the CSB porridge daily in schools. CSB feeding is serving as a motivator for ECD students to attend school. Although absenteeism has decreased and school attendance and enrolment percentages have improved, we still need need more funding to that we can increase Corn Soya Blend (CSB) rations in schools, as the price for CSB is continually increasing.

Health Assessments - During the quarter, 86% of enrolled ECD children were assessed, with lower reach in Mhondoro Ngezi mainly attributed to absenteeism on assessment days. Feedback indicated that reasons for absenteeism included certain religious groups that did not believe in medical services and healthcare ,non-attendance due to unpaid school fees. In Chegutu and some caregivers prevented children from attending school, leading to significant variances in assessment coverage. During health assessments in schools, ringworm was identified as the most common health issue affecting children in all the districts. Ringworm is a contagious fungal infection that spreads through direct skin contact with an infected person, highlighting the need for treatment and control measures. Other observed health conditions with a low prevalence included ear, nose, and throat issues, dental problems, and eye conditions, amounting to an average of 3.1%.

ISALs-During the quarter (Jan- March 2024), JF Kapnek Zimbabwe, with the assistance of the Oak Foundation, conducted various activities in Mhondoro-Ngezi. They piloted parenting activities combined with Internal Savings and Lending Schemes (ISALs) in five schools. This pilot project led to the expansion of the program to 20 additional schools, where parenting and ISALs are now being implemented. ISALs aim to enhance the economic status of parents with Early Childhood Development (ECD) children in the selected schools, enabling them to use a self-managed savings-based financial service without external donations or borrowing. By increasing household income, ISALs help families better afford their children's education expenses.



SCHOOL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS



INTERNAL SAVINGS AND LENDING GROUPS BUSINESS STAND



PARENTING SESSION



PORRIDGE TIME AT SCHOOL-CSB SCHOOL FEEDING



Call to Action – Get tested early-get treated early-live a long healthy life!

Early detection in managing diseases is a vital component in improving the effectiveness of treatment and reducing the consequences of diseases on individuals and society.

When diseases are detected at an early stage, it allows for more timely interventions like appropriate treatment, which amplifies both the chances of cure and efforts to prevent their spread in the communities.

However, lack of awareness and understanding of the importance of early detection of infectious diseases such as HIV,

Tuberculosis, and Cervical cancer may also hinder involvement in screening programs or diagnostic tests.

Early diagnosis and treatment of such diseases, therefore, plays an instrumental role in disease management by reducing further spread and mortality rate.



Contact Us

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