

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Chipo Vandirai, Health and Nutrition Officer leading a parenting session



Building Futures: ISALs spark Entrepreneurial Growth and Financial Independence

Internal savings and lending schemes (ISALS) stand as a powerful catalyst for fostering community empowerment and driving socioeconomic progress. These tightly knit groups pool their resources through regular contributions, enabling members to access funds for investments in income-generating ventures.

Under the benevolent support of the esteemed OAK Foundation, Liliane Foundation, Kapnek Trust USA and Herz Foundation, JF Kapnek Zimbabwe has spearheaded transformative ISALS initiatives in locales like Mhondoro Ngezi, ushering in profound positive changes within these communities. JF Kapnek Zimbabwe aides' groups with financial start up and business ideas for their economic growth.

The Takashinga group in Mhondoro, which commenced its journey in December 2022, has yielded remarkable outcomes through the practice of "mukando," deftly managing fund disbursements within a six-month timeframe. JF Kapnek aided the group with a start-up fund of 250 US dollars. Through monthly contributions of \$10 per member, participants could access loans and diligently repay them with agreed-upon interest rates. In a bid to ensure equitable benefits for all, every member was encouraged to leverage the fund through borrowing. This steadfast group of 10 dedicated individuals utilized their pooled savings to acquire goats, marking a significant stride since the program's inception. Presently, the group takes pride in nurturing a flourishing herd of 15 goats, fetching a starting price of USD 20 per sale.

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While the success of the goat project stands as a crowning achievement, the group harbours aspirations to procure cattle, thereby fortifying and expanding their burgeoning enterprise.

One member expressed this sentiment, remarking, “We are profoundly grateful for the ISALS program; we only wish it had graced our community earlier”. Tatenda Mukori (35) once grappled with the challenge of securing steady employment, but his fortunes took a significant turn for the better upon joining the Mhondoro Savings group.

With an initial pay-out of \$100 in hand, Tatenda embarked on a journey that saw him establish a small grocery buying and selling enterprise, subsequently venturing into the lucrative market of baby clothing retail. Today, Tatenda stands as the proud owner of a thriving clothing store, a testament to his remarkable progress in the realm of entrepreneurship. For Tatenda, the ISALS program has served as the cornerstone in the realization of his dreams, offering him a pathway to success that once seemed beyond his reach. Transitioning from past struggles with income instability, Tatenda regards the program as a beacon of hope that has ushered in a new era of possibilities in his life. Reflecting on his transformative journey, Tatenda expressed, “This is a dream come true as I never imagined I would be a shop owner. The ISALS programme has given me a new lease of life.”

In a noteworthy development this year, JF Kapnek Zimbabwe has expanded its ISALS outreach by introducing 48 new groups, each commencing with a generous support of US \$250. Anchored on the principles of a revolving fund, these groups are tasked with repaying the amount within a specified timeframe, paving the way for subsequent groups to receive similar support.

This expansion heralds a myriad of benefits for families, including heightened economic empowerment, augmented household income, increased engagement in economic endeavours, amplified expenditure on essential social services, enhanced access to liquid assets and disposable income, widened avenues for business capital infusion into rural micro-enterprises, and fortified household resilience against external shocks such as food scarcity.

In its discerning selection process for group support, JF Kapnek places a premium on including parents of children with disabilities, underscoring the program’s commitment to fostering inclusivity and addressing societal challenges.

The profound impact of Internal Savings and Lending Schemes (ISALS) reverberates throughout communities, effectively combating issues like unemployment and catalysing the genesis of small-scale enterprises among members. Through the implementation of ISALS, household incomes have witnessed a substantial upsurge, thereby enhanced family well-being and ensuring the adequate fulfilment of basic needs for all.

“This is a dream come true as I never imagined I would be a shop owner. The ISALS programme has given me a new lease of life.”

TATENDA MUKORI



Tatenda standing in his store.

Transforming lives through differentiated services delivery -:Going against all odds in HIV Care and treatment through OFCAD.



Tendai (right) standing with Wadzanai (CHSN) at her OFCAD ART refill trunk

Community Outreach Coordinator Tendai Chokuda, a 46-year-old woman, is a beacon of hope and support for people living with HIV in her community. Her dedication to connecting individuals with HIV to essential care services has earned her praises from the clients she serves, with some even attributing their survival to her unwavering commitment.

Leading an Out of Facility community ART distribution point, Tendai utilizes a client-centred approach that simplifies and customizes HIV services to meet individual needs, thereby reducing the burden on the health system and cutting costs associated with clients' travel to health facilities. Her OFCAD initiative serves 91 clients in three groups, ensuring that everyone receives the necessary care and support. Tendai diligently maintains a register of OFCAD members, detailing names, and dates for ART refills, while also providing essential support to clients residing in areas with limited access to transportation. Recognizing that clients facing challenges related to time and cost of travel are more prone to treatment default, thereby jeopardizing their health, Tendai offers a comprehensive package of health services that includes Adherence Tracking for ART clients. Moreover, the OFCAD model not only alleviates the burden of ART refills but also facilitates the delivery of crucial services like VIAC screening through HPV DNA self-screening, Viral load collection, TB screening, and TB preventive therapy to reach a wider client base. Tendai's journey to becoming a Community Outreach Agent (COA) began when her own experience as an HIV-positive individual inspired her to help others achieve an undetectable viral load status and access vital services. Despite testing positive for HIV in 2005 and starting ART in 2012 when such treatments were not readily available, Tendai's personal struggles fuelled her passion to assist those in similar situations.

Recruited as a COA in September 2022, Tendai's exceptional mobilization skills and dedication to her community impressed the local health services team, including Community Health Services Nurse Wadzanai Zhuwaki. Tragically, Tendai experienced the loss of her only son in 2023, who had been born HIV positive and suffered from chronic health issues.

Despite this devastating loss, Tendai continued her vital work, offering comfort, care, and support to those in need. One of her clients, who was once gravely ill and without hope, credits Tendai for their recovery, emphasizing her role in delivering life-saving medications, providing emotional support, and inspiring them to persevere through difficult times.



Tendai (middle) standing with staff from OPHID & JF Kapnek Zimbabwe

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe cultivating Hope and Resilience in the Face of Drought



Zimbabwe, like many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, is currently facing the challenges of the 2023/24 El Niño-induced drought. This severe weather event has led to significant crop failures, depletion of water resources, and diminished pastures. Rural families are particularly impacted by these conditions. In response, JF Kapnek Zimbabwe is implementing a supplementary feeding program for Early Childhood Development (ECD) children. We are providing Corn Soya Blend porridge to over 50 schools in the Mhondoro Ngezi district during break time.



This initiative is vital in alleviating hunger among students and ensuring they have the nourishment necessary for their growth and learning. An impressive 11,827 children benefited from the supplementary feeding initiative, highlighting our commitment to enhancing student well-being. We purchased 30 metric tons of corn-soya blend to support 152 schools across three districts. Notably, enrolment has seen a significant increase: in Mhondoro Ngezi, it rose from 3,780 to 4,120 across 54 schools; in Chegutu, from 3,670 to 3,747 in 48 schools; and in Zvimba, from 3,800 to 3,960 in 50 schools.

Our attendance rate stands at an impressive 96%, with retention and progression rates both at 100%. These high rates in the supported districts can be attributed to the positive impact of the corn-soya blend, which serves as a crucial pull factor for ECD children, along with our ongoing health initiatives. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the OAK Foundation, Herz Foundation, and the Government of Zimbabwe for their invaluable support in making this program possible.

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION- NAKAI'S STORY

Liliane
Fonds

open the world
for a child
with a disability

STORIES OF HOPE

Nakai Gabriela Mamina was born on January 8, 2024, and resides in Mamina village, Chief Benhura, Mhondoro Ngezi District. Nakai was diagnosed with microcephaly and cerebral palsy. Since September 2020, Nakai has been an indirect beneficiary of the Child Empowerment Programme, transitioning to direct beneficiary status in January 2024. Throughout this time, she has received rehabilitation therapy at home, even before becoming a direct beneficiary. JF Kapnek Zimbabwe leads the Community Based Rehabilitation programme in Zimbabwe.

Nakai is supported by the Liliane Foundation through the CBR programme - under ST Michaels Mission Hospital, which provides comprehensive rehabilitation therapy, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, counselling, and speech and language therapy. The program also emphasizes community education on disability rights and has facilitated Nakai's enrolment in Early Childhood Development at an integrated primary school. Her family has received counselling and has embraced Nakai's disability positively. Nakai's father is a general worker at a local school, while her mother focuses on looking after Nakai. The family is dedicated to Nakai's home therapy program, which was developed by Rehabilitation Technicians from St. Michael's Mission Hospital.



Nakai and her mother at home

'IT IS AS IF AM DREAMING THAT WHEN I NOW HOLD ONE HAND OF MY CHILD, SHE GETS UP TO STAND AND TAKES A FEW STEPS WALKING. AM HAPPY THAT GOD DIRECTED ME TO THE VERY PEOPLE WHO COULD HELP MY CHILD IMPROVE SO MUCH.....' NAKAI'S MOTHER SAID

Thanks to this support, Nakai has made significant progress, transitioning from being unable to roll over to shuffling for mobility and standing with assistance. Her parents are thrilled with her remarkable improvement.

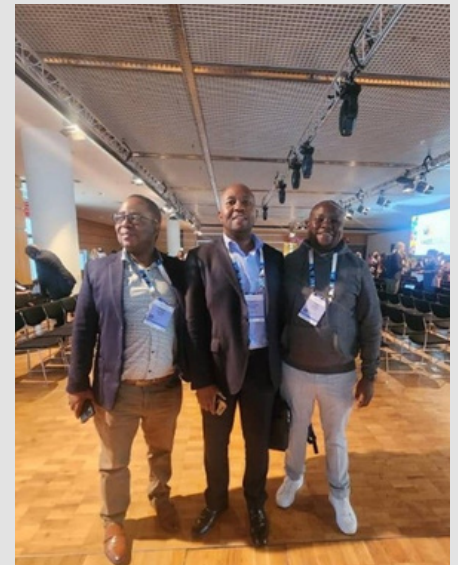
Despite facing community misconceptions, including beliefs that Nakai's challenges stem from witchcraft or tongue tie, her mother sought medical advice, leading to referral to the rehabilitation department. She has been encouraged to create a gait trainer for Nakai to enhance her mobility and independence. As Nakai grows heavier, her mother hopes to acquire a wheelchair to ease transportation to and from school, which currently takes 30 minutes daily.

Nakai attends a special class at school, where her mother carries her each day. She enjoys playing with other children both at school and at home, engaging with dolls and toys. Although she does not have a specific friend, she finds joy in playing with whoever is nearby. Nakai's excitement is palpable when she sees her friends, and her mother has begun teaching her to carry her own plate. She is also now potty trained and signals when she needs to use the bathroom.

Nakai participates in church activities with her family and can stretch out her hand to greet others and clap along during songs. Importantly, there have been no reports of bullying, allowing Nakai to thrive in her community.

EVENTS IN THE QUARTER

25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024)- Munich, Germany



Our Technical Director, Dr. Kudzai Masunda, attended the International AIDS Society Conference (IAS) 2024, held from July 20 to July 26 in Munich, Germany. The visit focused on gaining insights into the current and future landscape of HIV care, as well as fostering valuable networking opportunities. This year's conference theme was "Put People First!" and featured an extensive program that included over 40 oral abstract sessions, 50 invited speaker sessions, 20 workshops, 17 pre-conferences, 30 symposia, 100 satellite sessions, and 2,200 posters. Notably, research emerging from Africa and the Global South tends to emphasize implementation sciences, while studies from the Global North often focus on the development of new products such as medicines and vaccines.

Notably, research emerging from Africa and the Global South tends to emphasize implementation sciences, while studies from the Global North often focus on the development of new products such as medicines and vaccines. Africa's response to HIV appears to be maturing, while Eastern Europe and Asia continue to face growing epidemics characterized by inconsistent management and significant human rights challenges.

PEPFAR is prioritizing sustainability and resilience in the HIV response, with a particular focus over the next few years on behavioral science, addressing gaps in youth care, supporting adolescent girls and young women, and improving services for pregnant and lactating women, as well as men who are dropping out of care. Many presentations highlighted issues of stigma and human rights, especially within the contexts of Eastern Europe and the Americas. It was noted that there will be no funding for condom programming in the coming year. UNAIDS provided updated global HIV data, revealing significant progress: new HIV infections have decreased by 39% globally since 2010, and by 56% in Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western Africa.

However, there are serious concerns regarding the world's ability to meet the UNAIDS 2030 targets of 95-95-95. As of 2023, approximately 39.9 million people are living with HIV, a slight increase from 39 million in 2022.



Dr. Kudzai P.E Masunda, alongside Dr. Mugurungi from the Ministry of Health and Childcare (MOHCC) and Dr. Mhangara from USAID

EVENTS IN THE QUARTER

NATIONAL DISABILITY EXPO IN BINDURA



National Disability Expo (10 - 12 July 2024).-Running under the theme “Holistic empowerment of youth and children with disabilities towards the attainment of Vision 2030 – A better and brighter future for everyone,” which resonates with the Vision 2030 mantra: "Leaving no one and no place behind in sustainable inclusive development," emphasizes the importance of equal access to justice for persons with disabilities.

Our Programmes Manager for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Mr. Albert Pasipanodya, provided insights on our current programs and services, including our newest initiative, the CBR program.

This program is being carried out in collaboration with more than 22 partners in Zimbabwe, with the generous support of the Government of Zimbabwe ministries and the Liliane Foundation.

MIDLANDS AGRICULTURAL SHOW- GWERU (22-25AUG 2024)



Running under the theme "Strategic Innovation for Economic Growth," we are glad to have participated in the Midlands Agricultural Show in Gweru, which took place from August 22-25, 2024. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, we concentrated on "Innovative Health Solutions for Economic Growth." It has been a great experience at our stand, sharing awareness messages and providing on-the-spot testing for diabetes, blood pressure, HIV, tuberculosis, and X-ray scans to screen for silicosis, a condition that can lead to susceptibility to tuberculosis infection.

The TB TAP program which is supported by the Ministry of Health and Childcare, is a collaboration between JF Kapnek Zimbabwe and OPHID. The program is made possible through the support of USAID. Together, we are making a difference in promoting a safe and healthy environment for all by offering quality health services to stop the spread and effects of illnesses within communities.



KEEPING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AT JF KAPNEK ZIMBABWE



Wellness Friday

JF Kapnek is implementing psychosocial engagements with staff to promote employee engagement, productivity, and overall well-being in their ongoing efforts to create a thriving work environment. The Winning Team prioritizes staff wellness programs to improve health and safety, boost morale, and significantly impact mental, health behaviour, and physical health.

Recently, we hosted a bouncing class powered by Cimas iGo to promote staff wellbeing. The session included trampoline exercises and stretches for cardiovascular health and endurance. Key areas highlighted included a balanced diet, consistent exercise, mindful eating, hydration, and nutrient-rich foods.





Celebrating Achievements: Dr. Adam Mukushi's Inspiring Journey

We proudly celebrate the personal achievements of our dedicated team at JF Kapnek Zimbabwe. Our supportive environment encourages employees to pursue their goals and dreams, and one shining example of this is Senior Social Worker Adam Mukushi, who recently earned his PhD in Social Work.

Having joined JF Kapnek in 2013, Adam developed a passion for disability programming, culminating in a doctoral specialization focused on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and their impact on disability management. His research led to the proposal of an Afrocentric Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program, addressing critical issues within the African context.

Adam shared his vision, stating, "I believe real change can only come from being informed. Knowing the real issues persons with disabilities face in an African setup helps create interventions that are appropriate. I wanted to understand this deeply and create a localized approach to disability management—one that considers contemporary evidence while respecting the traditional ways of life of African people."

At JF Kapnek Zimbabwe, we are proud to lead the Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme aimed at empowering children with disabilities. This initiative is implemented in collaboration with various disability service organizations supporting the Government of Zimbabwe and the generous support from the Liliane Foundation.

Congratulations, Dr. Mukushi! Your dedication and insights are truly inspiring.



Farewell to Owen Mpfu: A Dedicated Advocate for HIV Care

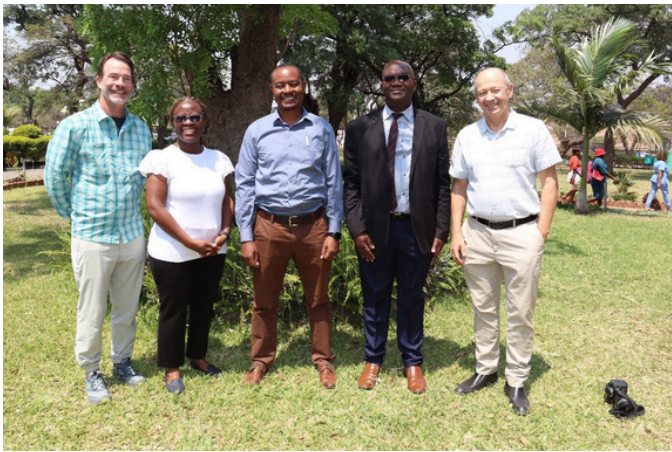
This quarter, we bid farewell to Owen Mpfu, our esteemed Strategic Information and Evaluation Manager at JF Kapnek Zimbabwe. For nearly three years, Owen has been a cornerstone of our efforts in the Target Accelerate Sustain Quality Care Programme for HIV care and treatment, driving impactful initiatives since November 2020.

Owen's commitment to the fight against AIDS has been nothing short of inspiring. At the recent ICASA 2023 conference, he showcased our innovative Tele Counselling Poster, which highlights a ground-breaking approach to High Viral Load Management. Through telephone-based enhanced adherence counselling sessions, this initiative aims to improve viral load outcomes and streamline patient support.

As Owen embarks on his next chapter, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable contributions. He will be greatly missed, but we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Thank you, Owen, for the sterling job!

Dr Robbins' visit to Zimbabwe-Sept 2024



JF Kapnek Zimbabwe Executive Director , Mr Hillary Tanyanyiwa (middle) pausing for a picture with Dr Daniel Robbins the Executive Director for Kapnek Trust USA and others during Dr Robbins recent visit to Zimbabwe.



The JF Kapnek Zimbabwe Executive Director, Hillary Tanyanyiwa, and the Country Operations Assistant, Gail Downey, accompanied Dr Daniel Robbins, the Executive Director of Kapnek Trust USA and his guests on a visit to the Children's Rehabilitation Unit and the Harare Children's Hospital Trust



Dr. Dan Robbins had the opportunity to meet with several current university students and alumni of the Strengthening Sciences for Women (SSW) initiative. He was accompanied by his wife and friends who also support JF Kapnek Zimbabwe's Orphans and Vulnerable Children Programs.

Upcoming Events

Brest Cancer Awareness Month - October Down Syndrome Awareness Month- October Disability Employment Awareness Month- October	16 Oct International Day of Care and Support
Epilepsy Awareness Month -November	29 Oct World Diabetes Day
01 Oct World Mental Health Day [WHO]	01 Dec World AIDS Day
10 Oct International Day of the Girl Child	11 Oct World Food Day [FAO]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to our valued donors, partners and stakeholders for their unwavering support and trust. We are extremely thankful for the confidence you have shown in us, which has been instrumental in making our shared vision into reality



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JF Kapnek Zimbabwe works to improve family health, reduce child mortality, and create educational opportunity for the children of Zimbabwe.

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