



**PZAT**  
PANGAEA ZIMBABWE  
AIDS TRUST

# Newsletter

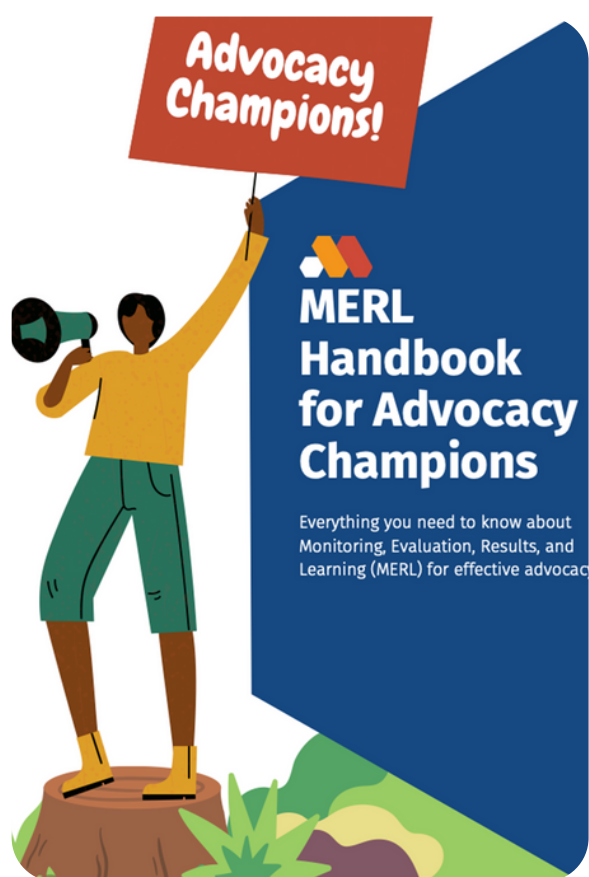


## The COMPASS MERL ROADSHOW: What it's all about!!!

The first 2022 COMPASS Monitoring, Evaluation, Results, and Learning (MERL) Roadshow was held in Kadoma from the 18th to the 19th of May 2022. 24 participants from the COMPASS partner organizations attended the roadshow. The MERL Roadshows are in-person MERL capacity strengthening workshops held annually across the 3 COMPASS

countries i.e. Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Malawi to ensure a shared understanding of applying MERL concepts to advocacy work.

Moreover, the roadshow was aimed at strengthening partners on how to improve the outcomes/results of their advocacy campaigns.



*OMPASS Pangaea Zimbabwe Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning (MERL) Team launched the MERL Handbook for Advocacy Champions.*

*This is a simple guide to understand advocacy MERL! This handbook was co-created by members of the COMPASS Africa MERL team; Barbra Ncube, Hilda Zenda, Megan Dunbar, Roberta Sutton, Jules Dasmarinus and Victoria Ndudzo. The content has been put together using insights from COMPASS Africa partners in Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe; who have participated in MERL trainings, webinars and face to face engagements.*

# MERL ROADSHOW

## *in Pictures*



*Participants showcasing their certificates and MERL Handbook for Advocacy Champions*







## Economic Strengthening Interventions Key to Reducing Reliance on Transactional Sex

PZAT DREAMS girls showcased outcomes of the Economic Strengthening intervention in Nkayi, Matabeleland North while hosting a mentorship visit from the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Ministry of Health and Child Care, and the National AIDS Council.

The Economic Strengthening is part of the DREAMS secondary package intervention that seeks to build PZAT Young Women's Safe Spaces' (YWSS) skills and resources

to create profitable microenterprises or find wage employment.

The intervention also seeks to improve the economic well-being of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) so that they reduce their reliance on transactional sex and improve their decision-making power. PZAT conducts the Bantwana Siyakha Foundational Skills training to capacitate YWSS. The training comprises of financial literacy, marketable skills, soft skills, and an entrepreneurial mindset.



# In Pictures



*Nkayi District AIDS Coordinator and District Chairperson of the ZimPAAC Consortium giving an overview of the PZAT DREAMS Girls program*



*PZAT DREAMS girls showcasing outcomes of the Economic Strengthening intervention in Nkayi*

# Menstruation is not a taboo!!!

## Pad a Girl Up

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in both rural and urban settings lack and require accurate information to guide them during their monthly cycle. The widespread perception that menstruation is disgraceful fuels discrimination and harmful cultural practices.

Many girls endure stigma in schools and communities during their menstruation periods because society views menstruation as shameful and the lack of sanitary wear during these times worsens the situation.

The Expo aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills to promote Menstrual Health and Hygiene among adolescent girls, young women, and communities at large. The community needs to be taught how to invest in menstrual health issues. The Expo sought to educate the community that menstrual health issues are not a taboo but a process that is natural and essential in what defines who a woman is.

Officiating the Menstrual Health and Hygiene Expo which was held from the 26th to the 28th of May in commemoration of the International Menstrual Hygiene day, Mr. Chimboza from the Ministry of Women



Affairs, Gender and Community Development said it was important to invest in menstrual hygiene and health issues.

“It is important to create a platform for advocacy that raise awareness of menstrual hygiene issues, through the promotion of open dialogue to enhance access to menstrual products and education”.

He emphasized the need to strengthen the integration of menstrual health management into Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, public health, and gender matters.



Sokostina from Star FM, one of the guest speakers at the Expo, highlighted that it is vital that AGYW are taught how to take care of themselves during their periods, which sanitary wear to use, and how to use the different sanitary wear.



*Sokostina, Star FM radio presenter*

*“I had an accident in 2019 and whilst I was in the hospital, going to my periods was one of the reasons that made me realise I was alive and still had a chance to live.”*

Pangaea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust was part of the exhibitors. The representing team showcased what the organization focused on in general, that is, HIV prevention and COVID-19 vaccination.

The team managed to engage with the community members and had discussions about what the community understood about Oral PrEP and COVID-19 vaccination and managed to disseminate correct information and shared fliers with the community.

Being part of the Expo and a partner of the organizing committee was in alignment with the organization's Strategic Pillar number three: to form and formalize strategic and sustainable alliances. One of the goals is to network with strategic organizations and to increase partnerships and visibility of the organization.



*PZAT team explaining what is Oral PrEP to two women from Mabvuku*





*PZAT team explaining the work of PZAT to other exhibitors.*



*Exhibitors at the Expo*



*PZAT team explaining what is HIV prevention to a young lady*



# Celebrating Africa





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**Pangaea envisions an environment in which  
all human beings live healthy, productive,  
and quality lives**

