PZ
PANGAEA
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NEWSLETTER

Issue 02: April to June 2026



PARTNER INVOLVEMENT

Strengthens HIV Prevention Conversations

EMBRACING COMMUNITY STRENGTH

Amid Global Challenges on World AIDS Day

The Countdown Is On:

Excitement Builds for AIDS Conference 2026

Your quarterly update on our programmes, achievements and the people driving change across Zimbabwe and beyond.

WHAT TO EXPECT



Building climate-resilient communities

In the face of increasing climate challenges, strengthening community resilience through sustainable farming has never been more important.



Embracing Community Strength Amid Global Challenges

In a time of shifting global funding priorities, it remains crucial to keep our local communities at the heart of the HIV response.



NEWS

1. Reaffirming Commitment to Sustainable Environments
2. Strengthening Student Health & Wellbeing at MSU
3. The Countdown Is On: Excitement Builds for AIDS 2026

And Many More....



www.pangaeazw.org info@pangaeazw.org +263 8677175026

Embracing Community Strength Amid Global Challenges on World AIDS Day



PZ's PrEP Champion at the PZ booth during the World AIDS Day commemoration

In a time of shifting global funding priorities, it remains crucial to keep our local communities at the heart of the HIV response. This year, in the spirit of resilience and transformation, we commemorated the Provincial World AIDS Day in Mabvuku, Harare. This commemoration day was hosted by the National AIDS Council, and we collaborated with different community stakeholders to serve the community of Mabvuku.

The event was hosted as a way of reaffirming the nation's commitment to overcoming disruption and transforming the AIDS response, even as the global landscape has been shifting. The event was held under the theme, *"Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response*," highlighting the need for innovative and community-driven approaches to ending HIV as a public health threat particularly in unpredictable times.

The commemorations provided an important platform to raise awareness and strengthen access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care services within the communities that Pangaea Zimbabwe serves. At our Pangaea Zimbabwe stand, community members got access to health services which include HIV testing services (self-test kits and provided assisted testing), lubricants, blood pressure and blood sugar testing and PrEP initiation.

Representatives from the National AIDS Council, including Harare Provincial Manager, Mr Adonijah Muzondiona visited the Pangaea Zimbabwe exhibition stand and interacted with staff, volunteers, and community champions to learn more about ongoing HIV prevention and community engagement initiatives.

PZ's PrEP Champion, Primrose, shared how PZ is working with city council clinics to deliver HIV prevention, treatment, and care services across Harare districts through our Care and Treatment program.


Mr A. Muzondiona at the PZ booth with PrEP champion explaining PZ's work in communities

The event was also enriched by performances from the Theatre for A Change's Young African Leaders Academy (YALA) Champions. These champions are individual, who are trained to use theatre, storytelling, dance, and drama to engage community members on sexual and reproductive health issues. Through these creative approaches, the champions sparked conversations on HIV prevention, challenged harmful misconceptions, and promoted informed decision-making among young people and community members. The YALA program empowers young leaders with knowledge, leadership, and facilitation skills, particularly in advocating for sexual and reproductive health (SRHR).

The Provincial World AIDS Day commemorations demonstrated the power of community engagement in strengthening the HIV response. The event created opportunities for meaningful dialogue on HIV prevention and treatment services. As Zimbabwe continues its efforts to end AIDS, PZ remains committed to working alongside communities, government, and partners to ensure that people have access to the information, services, and support they need to lead healthy and productive lives.



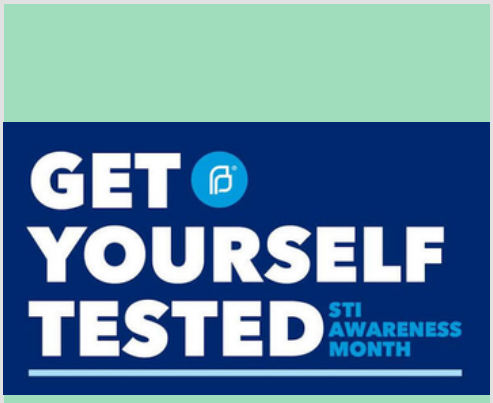
PZ YALA Champions perfomance during the event highlighting SRH issues through drama



Other organizations' teams learning more about PZ's work in communities.

APRIL: STI Awareness Month

April marked STI Awareness Month, a reminder of the importance of early testing, timely treatment, and open conversations to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections. Raising awareness helps reduce stigma, encourages healthy behaviours, and improves access to essential sexual and reproductive health services. Read more here.



The Countdown Is On: Excitement Builds for AIDS 2026



Excitement is building as the global HIV community prepares for AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference, taking place from 26-31 July 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with opportunities for virtual participation. Under the inspiring theme "Rethink. Rebuild. Rise.", the conference will bring together thousands of researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers, community leaders, advocates and people living with HIV from around the world to shape the future of the HIV response.

AIDS 2026 comes at a pivotal moment as the global HIV response faces significant funding challenges while scientific innovation continues to accelerate. The conference will showcase the latest advances in HIV prevention, treatment, care and cure research, while creating a platform for sharing best practices, strengthening partnerships and advocating for sustainable, people-centred HIV programmes.

For Pangaea Zimbabwe, the conference represents an exciting opportunity to engage with cutting-edge science, exchange implementation experiences, and learn from global innovations that can strengthen HIV programmes and improve health outcomes in our communities. We are proud to be participating in AIDS 2026, joining the global HIV community in advancing dialogue on the future of HIV prevention, treatment, care and health systems strengthening. Our presence at the conference reflects our commitment to ensuring that Zimbabwe's experiences and innovations contribute to global learning while embracing new evidence and approaches that can strengthen our work.

Throughout the conference, the Pangaea Zimbabwe team will engage with researchers, policymakers, implementing partners, donors and community representatives from around the world to share lessons from our programmes, build strategic partnerships and explore emerging best practices. We look forward to bringing back new knowledge, innovative solutions and valuable collaborations that will enhance our programmes, inform research and advocacy, and ultimately improve the quality and impact of the services we provide to the communities we serve.

Co-Creating Hope: The Story Behind the Zyoonse Community Mental Health Manual



At PZ, we recognize that mental health is not just a part of life, it is woven into the very fabric of our communities. That understanding is what led us to co-create the Zyoonse Community Mental Health Manual under the Wild4Life Program, with support from ViiV Healthcare, as a resource to strengthen community-based mental health services.

By rooting its guidance in local realities, the Zyoonse Manual was designed to close critical gaps in community mental health care by providing community cadres [BN1] with practical tools for early screening, counselling, and psychosocial support. It focuses on empowering adolescents and their families to recognize and respond to mental health challenges, while also addressing stigma and limited access to professional services in rural areas to strengthen resilience and livelihoods across the community.



Manual pretest with Mental health focal persons , adolescents and VHWs

The name Zyoonse comes from the Tonga word for "Everything," echoing our belief that mental health touches every aspect of life; from family and education to livelihoods and community relationships.

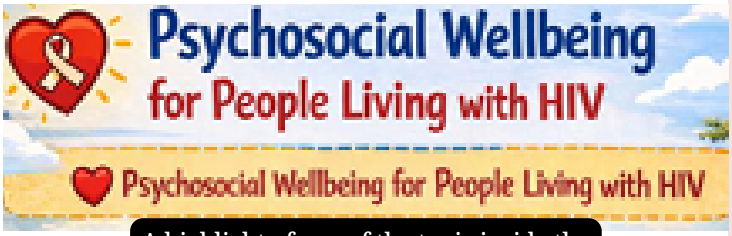
This manual is not just a document. It is a testament to a collaborative journey. Developed through stakeholder consultations, pre-testing, and validation, it brought together mental health experts from the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) and partners at every level (national, provincial, and district). The process also included strong representation from communities in Matabeleland North Province, particularly Binga, Hwange, and Lupane districts. As one facilitator noted:

"Zyoonse reflects our belief that mental health is truly everything. By co-creating this tool, we're building a foundation for stronger, more resilient communities."

What makes Zyoonse truly special is the active involvement of community cadres and adolescents. Their contributions ensured that the manual speaks the language of the community making it accessible, practical, and truly reflective of local realities.

Following the manual's validation, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was held to equip district mental health experts to train community cadres ensuring that the manual is not just a guide, but a living resource for expanding access to mental health support.

The Zyoonse Manual is a testament to the power of co-creation. A resource that will shape mental health care in ways that resonate deeply within the communities it serves.



A highlight of one of the topic inside the manual



Reaffirming Commitment to Sustainable Water and Sanitation

Africa Day 2026 was commemorated under the theme “Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063,” emphasizing the vital role of clean water and safe sanitation in advancing health and sustainable development across the continent.

At PZ, the commemoration served as a reminder that access to safe water and sanitation is more than a basic need. It is the foundation for good health, dignity, education, and economic growth. Communities cannot survive when preventable diseases linked to unsafe water and poor sanitation continue to affect lives, particularly among women, children, and vulnerable populations.

Working alongside local leaders, health workers, and community members, PZ supports efforts to strengthen health systems, prevent disease, and promote healthy behaviours. Through community engagement and integrated health approaches, the organization contributes to environments where people can live healthier and more productive lives.

The Africa Day theme also highlighted the importance of collective action. Sustainable water management and improved sanitation systems are essential for building resilient communities, protecting public health, and addressing challenges posed by climate change and population growth.

“*As we celebrate Africa Day, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting initiatives that improve health outcomes, strengthen community resilience, and promote equitable access to essential services. Together, we can help build a future where every person has access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and the opportunity to thrive.*”- PZ Communications Assistant, Fortune Marangwanda.

Africa Day 2026 was not just about celebration but also a call to action by reminding stakeholders that achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063 depends on sustainable solutions that safeguard health and dignity for generations to come.

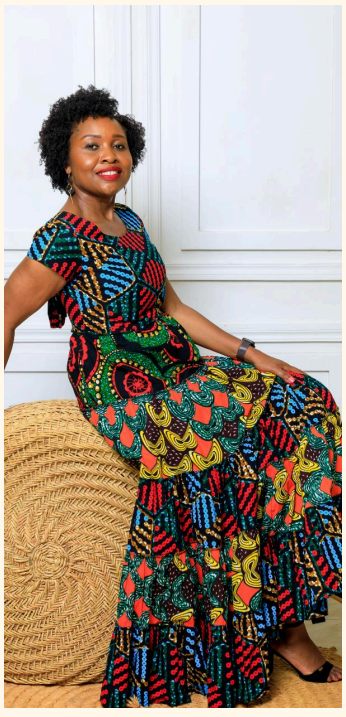
Watch our Africa Day Celebration Video.

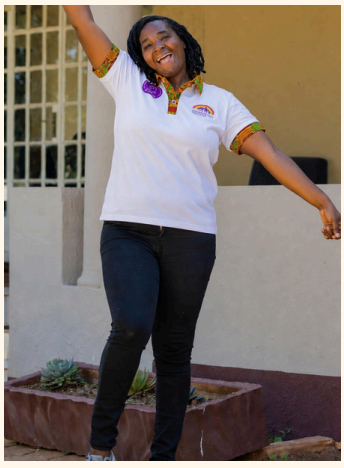











OUR AFRICA DAY GALLERY

25 MAY
2026



Farmers gather during field day to learnbest farming practices- Lupane district

Building climate-resilient communities through knowledge and innovation

In the face of increasing climate challenges, strengthening community resilience through sustainable farming has never been more important. PZ under the Wild4Life program supported by Foundation Sanofi is conducting the Climate Change and Health Program. In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture Extension Services (AGRITEX), two Field Days in Binga and Lupane districts were hosted, bringing together 182 participants to share knowledge and skills in climate-smart agriculture.

The Field Days provided a platform to demonstrate practical approaches that improve productivity and resilience in drought-prone areas. Farmers engaged in hands-on sessions covering:

- Conservation farming to retain soil moisture and improve water use efficiency.
- Organic soil amendments using livestock manure to boost fertility and crop yields.
- Certified seed adoption for stronger resistance to pests and diseases and higher yield potential.

Beyond technical training, the events encouraged farmer-to-farmer learning and collaboration, reinforcing the importance of peer exchange in adopting climate-smart practices. These approaches not only enhance crop performance but also contribute significantly to household food security and sustainable livelihoods.

By equipping farmers with tools and insights, the program is helping to build climate-resilient communities in Binga and Lupane ensuring stronger livelihoods and improved food security for households facing the realities of climate change.

"When farmers see these practices in action, they gain confidence to adopt them. It's about building resilience step by step, field by field."



Sorghum field in Lupane district

Breaking the Silence: Why Men's Mental Health Matters More Than Ever

Men's Mental Health Awareness Month is not just another entry on the calendar. The awareness is celebrated every year in the month of June, is a call to confront the stigma faced by men regarding mental health issues. The notion has always been strength means silence and emotional detachment. This has resulted in depression, drug and substance abuse and suicide. An indicator that indeed #MentalHealthMatters.



PZ works with community champions who help create safe spaces for people to talk openly about their mental health, seek support, and challenge harmful norms around silence and self-reliance. This increases community demand for mental health services as well as ensuring mental health support is not only available but also accessible and acceptable. The truth is that mental health challenges do not discriminate. Men need help too. Cultural norms have defined what being a man is and wrongly have stamped the idea that discourage men from seeking help or being vulnerable about the challenges they face.

This June as we raise awareness on this matter, we need to take the opportunity to reframe the conversation. Encouraging men to speak openly, access counselling, and to support one another is not about diminishing masculinity but redefining it in the positive direction.

"Are you okay?" Four simple words. Real change starts with a conversation.



Partner Involvement Strengthens HIV Prevention Conversations

PZ under the Comprehensive Adherence Resource and Empowerment Support (CARES)Study, hosted an awareness meeting at the SAYWHAT Cranborne Drop-In Centre to promote the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring (PrEP Ring) as an HIV prevention option. The CARES Study is an evidence-informed program that aims to support consistent and effective use of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) methods among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW).

The session brought together 18 participants; nine adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) who use and inject drugs, along with their partners. During the discussions, the meeting highlighted how partner involvement can support HIV prevention awareness, build trust and encourage open dialogue around sexual and reproductive health among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW).

PZ facilitators shared practical information on how the ring works, addressed myths and misconceptions, and created space for participants to ask questions. Couples engaged in conversations about confidentiality, mutual support, and voluntary prevention choices, demonstrating how shared learning can strengthen prevention efforts.

Organizers noted that these interactions revealed the value of partner-inclusive approaches in reducing stigma and empowering young women to make informed decisions. Lessons from the meeting will guide future activities, including the use of visual educational materials and tailored sessions for both mixed groups and AGYW-only discussions.

This session is part of PZ's ongoing efforts to expand community awareness and referral pathways for HIV prevention services; demonstrating that supportive relationships are a powerful driver of healthier futures for adolescent girls and young women.



Participants posing for a picture holding the Dapivirine Ring after the session

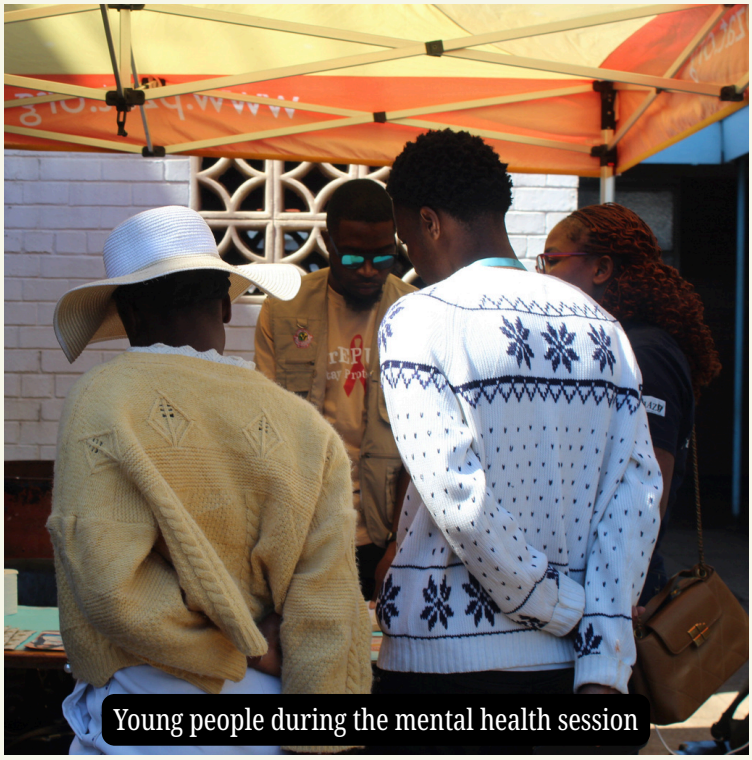


Participants observing the Dapivirine Ring during the session

One AGYW participant reflected:



Strengthening Student Health and Wellbeing at Midlands State University



Young people during the mental health session

As global conversations on adolescent and youth health continue to evolve, it remains vital to ensure that young people in Zimbabwe's universities have access to accurate, youth-friendly health information and services. We joined the Midlands State University School of Social Work who hosted a Student Health Expo at the university's Harare Campus, creating an important platform to connect young people with youth-friendly health information and services.

The expo created a safe and interactive platform where students could connect directly with healthcare providers and community champions. Through the PZ booth, students accessed information on HIV prevention and treatment, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), mental health, and family planning, [BN1] options. They also learned about the SHAZ! Hub and the range of sexual and reproductive health services available to them. A key highlight was the provision of HIV testing services, which several students voluntarily accessed during the fair. This engagement encouraged open dialogue, allowing young people to ask questions and discuss health concerns affecting their daily lives.

Discussions revealed ongoing challenges faced by students, including misinformation around HIV prevention methods, PrEP, and STIs, as well as stigma and limited confidence in approaching healthcare providers. Mental health emerged as a growing concern, with many students expressing interest in psychosocial support and wellbeing services.

At the same time, the expo highlighted opportunities to strengthen youth health programming within tertiary institutions. Students responded positively to peer-led approaches and expressed interest in more accessible, youth-friendly health information. Organizers emphasized the importance of campus-based outreach, digital health education, and integrated services that address both physical and mental health needs.

"As Pangaea Zimbabwe continues to advance adolescent and youth health, partnerships with educational institutions remain critical. By bringing health services closer to young people and creating



Young men inquiring about HIV testing

opportunities for meaningful engagement, we can contribute to healthier futures," said Artwell Manyemba, Program Assistant (Care and Treatment program).

The Midlands State University Health Expo demonstrated the value of collaboration in promoting youth health and wellbeing, showing that safe spaces, accurate information, and supportive environments are key to empowering students to make informed decisions about their health.



Periods are normal. Shame should never be.

"Breaking the silence around menstruation starts with honest conversations. When communities listen and support, young women feel valued and included."

As global efforts continue to advance sexual and reproductive health, menstrual health remains a critical part of the conversation. This year, Pangaea Zimbabwe joined the world in commemorating Menstrual Hygiene Day under the theme "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld" on the 28th of May 2026. The focus was on breaking the silence, challenging stigma, and reminding communities that menstruation is a normal part of life.

At PZ, we believe menstrual health is not a side issue but central to how we promote access to health services, facilitate community dialogues, and support vulnerable young women to afford basic menstrual hygiene products. Addressing myths and misconceptions, while strengthening economic opportunities, ensures that menstrual health is integrated into broader health and wellbeing initiatives.

Through our youth-friendly drop-in centres such as the SHAZ! Hub, we continue to create safe spaces for conversations around sexual and reproductive health, including menstrual hygiene. These platforms provide young people with accurate information, free from fear, stigma, or discrimination; reinforcing that no health dialogue should leave out the important conversation on menstrual health.

As Sister Mupakati, clinic nurse at SHAZ! Hub emphasized: "Menstrual health is about dignity. When we talk openly and provide support, we empower young women to feel confident, safe, and respected."

And Sibusisiwe Sibanda, PZ Research Assistant, reinforced the broader vision:

"A Period Friendly World is one where no girl misses school, no woman feels ashamed, and every community recognizes menstrual health as part of overall wellbeing."

By amplifying voices like these, Pangaea Zimbabwe remains committed to building a #PeriodFriendlyWorld where dignity, access, and understanding are at the center of menstrual health.





Compass Quarter 2 (April–June 2026) Newsletter is here! This edition showcases key achievements, partnerships, and advocacy milestones that have strengthened HIV prevention and health systems across the region, including progress in Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 (GC8) advocacy, transition planning, community-led prevention initiatives, media engagement, and youth participation in national decision-making processes. Readers will also find updates on efforts to strengthen HIV prevention financing, influence national HIV guidelines, and build strategic partnerships that place communities at the centre of the HIV response. Read more here.

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We envision an environment in which all human beings live healthy, productive, and quality lives.

We strive to transform the lives of underserved populations by working to increase access to quality, responsive, evidence based, client-centered comprehensive health services through facility and community engagement and policy advocacy

Equity

Intergrity

Inclusivity

Stewardship