



**Better Health, Brighter Future:
Access, Quality, and You**





Here's what has happened in the last month!

Welcome to our October newsletter!

As we reflect on another impactful month at Pangaea Zimbabwe, we're reminded of the dedication and resilience of our teams, partners, and community champions. This issue brings you stories of progress, resilience, and collaboration in advancing health and social equity across Zimbabwe.

From our HIVE model—a peer-led initiative empowering young women with the knowledge and resources to make informed choices about HIV prevention—to our work supporting girls' rights and futures in line with the

International Day of the Girl Child, each story highlights the strides we are making together. We continue to break down barriers, address critical health challenges, and promote inclusive development for all.

As we move forward, Pangaea Zimbabwe remains focused on fostering resilient, informed communities equipped to face the future. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership, which makes this mission possible.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Enjoy the stories, insights, and updates in this month's newsletter!

The Editorial Team

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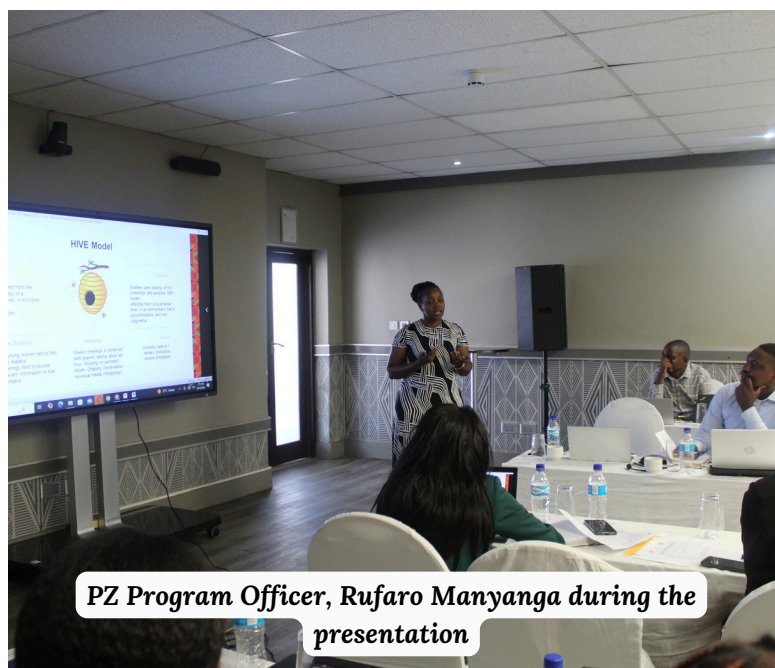
And many more...



HIVE Talks: Young Women Rewriting HIV Prevention Stories

In a huge step towards enhancing HIV prevention among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), Pangaea Zimbabwe, CASPR project's innovative HIVE model is making waves. Derived from the analogy of a beehive, this peer-led initiative is creating safe, judgment-free spaces in tertiary institutions, where young women gather to discuss sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues and HIV prevention. Through this model, knowledge is shared openly, thereby fostering informed choices.

PZ's Program Officer, Rufaro Manyanga, recently highlighted the impact of this approach during the National Technical Working Group for Adolescents and Young People's Health and Wellbeing meeting, hosted by the National AIDS Council. Manyanga emphasized that the HIVE model has not only facilitated peer-to-peer education but also accelerated the uptake of biomedical HIV prevention efforts under the CASPR project, which aims to bring the HIV epidemic control within reach.



PZ Program Officer, Rufaro Manyanga during the presentation

"The HIVE model is more than just a platform for information sharing—it's a support network," said Manyanga. "It's helping young women take control of their health by making informed decisions, which is key to sustaining prevention efforts."

Informed decision-making is a cornerstone of effective HIV prevention because it equips individuals with the knowledge and confidence necessary to choose the best prevention methods for their unique circumstances. When young women are provided with accurate, evidence-based information about their sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV prevention, they can better understand the risks, benefits, and available options, among these PrEP, condoms, and other biomedical interventions.

Rufaro Manyanga emphasized that making informed decisions empowers adolescent girls and young women to navigate complex health challenges with confidence. Without access to accurate information and peer support, these young women might face barriers, such as stigma, misinformation, or fear, which can prevent them from seeking help or choosing appropriate prevention methods.



PZ CASPR HIV Prevention Champions

Moreover, informed decisions encourage a sense of ownership over their health. When young women understand the importance of HIV prevention, they become active participants in protecting themselves and their communities. This not only helps reduce new infections, but also strengthens prevention efforts as more individuals advocate for and spread knowledge within their peer networks.

Through the HIVE model, Pangaea Zimbabwe is creating a ripple effect, where informed young women are not just protecting themselves, but

also guiding their peers toward safer health practices in environments where open dialogue and support are encouraged.

With over 35 trained HIV Prevention Champions across five provinces, PZ continues to advocate for expanded access to biomedical HIV prevention products, such as PrEP, through these peer-led engagements. The future of HIV prevention is looking brighter, thanks to these resilient young women leading the charge in their communities.





COMPASS Africa Tanzania Strategy Lab

A significant aspect of the workshops was the Landscape Analysis, a process through which participants employed a strategic lens to pinpoint areas where advocacy could make a substantial difference in improving HIV and health outcomes for underserved populations in their countries across the three nations.

This analysis was not just an academic exercise; it underscored the urgent need for targeted advocacy efforts that address the specific health challenges faced by these communities. The Strategy Labs also focused on advocacy strategy development and tactical planning.

Through a collaborative approach, participants co-created strategies aimed at addressing not only HIV but also other emerging health priorities. The discussions revealed a growing recognition of the interconnectedness of health issues on the continent. Participants highlighted the need to prioritize pandemic preparedness, tackle antimicrobial resistance, address HIV-related co-morbidities, and confront the rising prevalence of

South - South Advocacy for Improved HIV and Health Outcomes - The COMPASS Way

In a remarkable demonstration of solidarity and strategic foresight, the Coalition to build Momentum, Power, Activism, Strategy, and Solidarity in Africa (COMPASS Africa) brought together partners for a series of Strategy Lab workshops across Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Malawi from September 16th to October 5th. These workshops served as a platform for reflection and action, focusing on COMPASS Africa's achievements in shaping policies, legislation, resource allocation, and regional healthcare interventions, while laying the groundwork for advocacy campaigns leading into 2025.

One of the key components of the Strategy Labs was the concept of outcome harvesting. Participants engaged in refresher trainings on this approach, enabling them to assess and reflect on the results achieved in 2024. This exercise emphasized how the principles of outcome harvesting are seamlessly integrated into the COMPASS Monitoring, Evaluation Results, and Learning framework for advocacy, providing a robust foundation for future efforts.



COMPASS Africa Malawi Strategy Lab



PZ Program Quality Coordinator, Barbra Ncube, during the COMPASS Africa Tanzania Strategy Lab

non-communicable diseases, mental health issues, and sexually transmitted infections.

A notable takeaway from the workshops was the emphasis on data-driven advocacy. Participants acknowledged the critical role of improved coordination and utilization of data collected through community-based monitoring (CLM) programs. By harmonizing this data, advocacy organizations can enhance their influence over policy decisions and drive more impactful health interventions.

Furthermore, the importance of learning from past advocacy campaigns was a recurring theme throughout the discussions. Participants recognized that analysing previous efforts could uncover valuable insights into best practices and challenges, providing essential guidance for future campaigns. This commitment to continuous learning reflects a broader

understanding of the dynamic nature of health advocacy and the necessity of adapting strategies based on past experiences.

As COMPASS Africa looks to the future, there is a renewed commitment to strengthening healthcare systems and policies across Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Tanzania. The strategies developed during the Strategy Labs will play a pivotal role in shaping policy decisions and resource allocation for health interventions. With a sharpened focus on emerging health threats and a dedication to evidence-informed advocacy,



COMPASS Africa Zimbabwe Strategy Lab



Partner presentation during the Tanzania strategy lab

COMPASS Africa is poised to make a significant impact in the ongoing fight for better health outcomes for all. The collaborative efforts and innovative strategies born from these workshops underscore the power of community-led advocacy in addressing the complex health challenges that persist across the African continent.



Girls' Dreams - Blueprint for Future World

On October 11, the world celebrates the International Day of the Girl Child, a day dedicated to acknowledging the rights and potential of girls everywhere. This year's theme, "Girls' Vision for the Future," ignited a global conversation about the dreams, aspirations, and vital contributions of girls to building a better tomorrow. As the day unfolded, it became impossible to overlook the persistent challenges girls face—gender-based violence, limited access to education and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, and entrenched stereotypes. Yet, girls are rising above these barriers with remarkable resilience and a vision for an inclusive, equal, and sustainable future.

Around the world, young girls are at the forefront of social change. Kupakwashe Kanyemba, Pangaea Zimbabwe's CASPR Project HIV Prevention Champion under the, shared her reflections on the significance of this day.

"International Day of the Girl means so much to me as a young woman; it's a moment to reflect on the world I want for myself and girls everywhere. It's a celebration of our strength, dreams, and progress, while acknowledging the challenges we still face. This year's theme, 'Vision for the Future,' inspires me to imagine a world where girls live free from conflict and violence, where we have the same opportunities as everyone else to thrive and succeed. My vision is a future where no girl must face forced marriage, bias, or discrimination, but instead is encouraged and valued for her unique potential and dreams rather than anyone's expectations."

Kupakwashe's vision is a world where girls have a voice in shaping their communities and lives. She believes that when girls are given a platform to share their perspectives, they can drive positive change, break down barriers, and inspire inclusive communities,

"In an ideal world, every girl would receive a quality education without barriers. Because educating a girl doesn't just benefit her; it strengthens communities and fuels growth for everyone," she expressed. For Kupakwashe, achieving this vision means raising awareness about the importance of girls, celebrating their achievements, supporting girl-led initiatives, and dismantling biases and stereotypes. "This day reminds us that a brighter future is within reach. By supporting each other, we can create a world where every girl's dreams are possible."



ESO, Terence T. Matandirotya facilitating a SAVIX training in Tsholotsho

Terence Matandirotya, the Economic Strengthening Officer (ESO) for the DREAMS program, at Pangaea Zimbabwe, also shared his reflections on his role in helping adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) realize their dreams.

"I am proud to share the strides we're making in alignment with this year's theme, 'Girls' Vision for the Future.' Through DREAMS, we are committed to reducing new HIV infections among AGYW by addressing the financial vulnerability that can increase their risk. This project goes beyond HIV prevention; it is about equipping young women with the tools they need to envision—and achieve—a future where they are strong, self-sufficient, and economically secure."

Terrence explained that the DREAMS program adopts a holistic approach, focusing on practical skills that empower young women. By



ESO during the support and monitoring visit in Daluka in Lupane where young sisters are running a broiler project

offering a comprehensive support system, the program aims to create a safe and enabling environment, empowering young women to make informed decisions, build resilience, and pursue a path toward self-sufficiency and long-term success.

"We are providing training on income-generating activities, financial literacy, essential life skills, and job preparedness. Our goal is to equip AGYW with the knowledge and resources to build resilience and create sustainable livelihoods. We support projects like broiler and layer poultry production, goat rearing, and small-scale enterprises such as freezit-making. Not only do these initiatives offer hands-on business experience, but they also reduce vulnerability by providing AGYW with reliable sources of income."

As Terrence reflected on the significance of the International Day of the Girl Child, he was reminded of the importance of nurturing each young woman's potential. By fostering a strong community of support and encouragement, it helps participants grow in confidence, develop leadership abilities, and actively contribute to their communities, creating lasting positive change.

"DREAMS is here to open doors; to give them the resources and training they need to make empowered choices and lead the lives they envision. Together, we are building a generation of young women who are resilient, informed, and economically self-sufficient, embodying every bit of hope and promise reflected in 'Girls' Vision for the Future.'"

One of the DREAMS program beneficiaries, a Young Sister Mentor, Michelle Ncube, from Lupane District, shared why this day resonates with her.

“This year’s theme for the International Day of the Girl Child is a celebration of every dream and all the potential the girl child holds. I envision a future where girls from rural areas like Lupane can break the cycle of poverty and truly thrive. Through my work as a mentor with the DREAMS project, I’ve seen firsthand how girls rise above their challenges when given the right support. Together with my fellow young sisters, we’ve started a poultry project with support from Pangaea Zimbabwe. This project is empowering us with financial independence and valuable skills for our future. It’s not just about survival—it’s about leading, growing, and creating a lasting impact within our communities.”

As the world celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child, these voices underscored the dreams, aspirations and resilience of girls who are shaping a brighter future for themselves and generations to come. By supporting their visions, the world takes one step closer to achieving a future where every girl’s dreams are within reach.



The Program Director Shamiso Nyakukwa and the ESO Terence T. Matandirotya during a support visit at St. Paul's in Lupane



The ESO during the Record Keeping session with Young Sisters which was facilitated by Program Officer Judith Ncube during the support and mentorship visit in Nkayi for the broiler projects



Beneficiaries showcasing their products during the Income Generating Project training for the Wild4Life program in Binga. This was supported by Terence Matandirotya the ESO

Collaboration For Strong Health Advocacy in Masvingo



In an impressive stride towards promoting cross partners learning, engagement and collaboration, a Zimbabwe Accountability and Citizen Engagement (ZIMACE) project implementing partners meeting was held in Masvingo. The event was mooted and coordinated by Pangaea Zimbabwe (PZ) ZIMACE Project team. The meeting was attended by four NGOs implementing projects in different thematic areas in Masvingo under the ZIMACE funding grant.

Among the four organisations were: ZIMCCOD, the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe, the Legal Resources Foundation and Pangaea Zimbabwe who initiated the idea, coordinated and hosted the meeting. The meeting received significant boost, as it was graced by the presence of senior officials from the British Embassy Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and DAI Team leader and staff who are the ZIMACE grant fund manager. The ZIMACE implementing partners present shared critical reports and updates, discussed areas of collaboration and potential joint programming and joint advocacy efforts especially working with parliamentarians.

As part of the program, the Senior officials from the FCDO and DAI were accompanied by the PZ team for a visit to Mucheke Clinic, where they engaged with local health officials, including the Masvingo City Health Matron and the Nurse in Charge. They also had the opportunity to meet the four Community Health Rights Champions (volunteers) working under the PZ ZIMACE program. These champions play a vital role in educating the women and girls about their health rights and advocating for access to quality health services.

Collaboration for Impact

The meeting underscored the importance of collaboration between civil society organizations, local government, and international donors in tackling health issues in Zimbabwe. Discussions focused on strengthening accountability mechanisms within health service delivery, promoting citizen engagement, and ensuring that marginalized communities are not left behind.

One senior official from the British embassy appreciated the efforts from partners and emphasized the importance of working with government and aligning the programs and activities with priorities of the government so that they add value.

The official was happy with close collaboration between the Ministry of Health District Health Executive team through the District Medical Officer and PZ ZIMACE project team. He was also excited to see the active participation of the community health rights champions and some notable changes they have achieved.

Addressing Health Challenges through Advocacy

The Mucheke Clinic visit highlighted both the successes and challenges faced by health facilities in the district. The clinic has made strides in providing essential health services, yet issues such as resource shortages, limited access to specialized care, and community awareness remain areas requiring sustained attention.

The PZ ZIMACE Program Manager, Enock Musungwini highlighted the importance of having community (women and girls) involvement with health facility governance including having representation so their concerns on health rights and access will be addressed in time. The PZ ZIMACE project team is excited as it managed to successfully lobby for the inclusion of the community health rights champions to be part of the local clinic Health Centre Committee (HCC).



Stakeholder presentation during the

By this strategic positioning, CHRCs representing women and girls from local communities are now able to receive feedback on health rights and access barriers

from the community and bring these to the attention of the clinic through the HCCs allowing these to be addressed with speed.

The ZIMACE program, through its Community Health Rights Champions, has been instrumental in raising awareness of health rights among residents and strengthening the relationship between communities and health service providers.

The Path Forward

Looking ahead, the meeting provided a platform for partners to explore areas of joint advocacy, such as improving access to health rights, addressing gender-based violence in health settings, engaging the parliamentarians and promoting accountability in public health financing allocations and expenditure tracking.

As the ZIMACE project continues to operate in Masvingo, it remains focused on building sustainable partnerships that will contribute to long-term health improvements. The collaboration between ZIMACE's implementing partners and the British Embassy FCDO demonstrates the potential for international cooperation to drive local progress in health and well-being. With a shared vision of advancing accountability and citizen engagement in health services,

the ZIMACE partners are committed to ensuring that the people of Masvingo Province receive the quality care and support they deserve.

Pangaea Zimbabwe Recognised For Work in Binga



PZ Wild4Life, Program Manager, Enock Musungwini at the PZ booth

Pangaea Zimbabwe's Wild4Life Health program was recently recognised at the "Local Campus Solutions for Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Health in Africa" event, hosted by the Sanofi Foundation in Dakar, Senegal. The event, held at the Museum of Black Civilisations, brought together NGOs and partners from across Africa to showcase promising local solutions in response to climate challenges, promote health resilience and multi-stakeholder collaborations across the continent.

Representing Pangaea Zimbabwe, Wild4Life Program Manager, Enock Musungwini, presented the program's efforts in Binga, particularly in combating malaria outbreaks intensified by climate change. The Wild4Life team's approach combines mentorship, training for village health workers, and supplying essential health kits. The Sanofi Foundation, inspired by Pangaea Zimbabwe's dedication and effectiveness, is keen to help PZ scale its efforts in climate-resilient health systems, empowering local health champions and strengthening village health workers' capacities to respond to climate-health challenges.



Mucheke Clinic staff



Masvingo PolyTechnic students



PZ, Program Officer, Rufaro Manyanga during the HIV Prevention session

Youth-Centred HIV Prevention Education for A Healthier Future

Pangaea Zimbabwe, through the CASPR project is actively collaborating with Strategic Resource Persons for the “Launch for Life” Mass Lectures at tertiary institutions across Zimbabwe. These events are aimed at empowering young people with the critical Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information they need to make informed health decisions. As part of the commitment to youth empowerment, PZ recently partnered with the National AIDS Council (NAC), SAYWHAT, Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC), and other key organizations for a pivotal awareness campaign at Masvingo Polytechnic.

The campaign addressed urgent issues related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), and the increasingly concerning problem of drug and substance abuse among youth. We understand the importance of engaging young people directly within their learning environments, where they can access essential information and support.

A significant highlight of this initiative was the mass lecture on biomedical HIV prevention, where the CASPR project team provided students with up-to-date insights on available prevention products,

explained referral pathways, and shared the latest developments in HIV prevention science. This lecture empowered students to consider various prevention options, understand their benefits, and know where to access these services. By bridging the gap between SRH information and youth access to services, Pangaea Zimbabwe aims to equip young people with knowledge that can positively impact their health choices and ultimately contribute to a drug-free and healthier future.

This partnership marks just the beginning of Pangaea’s broader mission to strengthen HIV prevention education, address SRH challenges, and create a supportive environment for young people in Zimbabwe. The CASPR project team is committed to continuously advocating for effective HIV prevention solutions and enhancing meaningful change within our communities.



Masvingo PolyTechnic students



Breaking Barriers: Integrated Outreach Brings HIV Prevention and Care to Mvurwi's KP Community

In a continued commitment to supporting key populations, Pangaea Zimbabwe (PZ), in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Technical Assistance Training & Education Center for Health (Zim-TTECH), recently conducted a vital Moonlight Outreach event at Joe's Beerhall in Mvurwi. This outreach provided HIV prevention, care, and treatment services to members of the Key Population (KP) community, who often face unique barriers to accessing essential healthcare.

The Moonlight Outreach, a community-centered initiative, was specially timed to meet people where they are—literally and figuratively. This proactive approach is in line with the national HIV and AIDS strategic plan to reach underserved populations, providing a safe and inclusive space for everyone.

“The DSD moonlight outreaches are a valuable initiative that provides KPs with access to vital prevention, care, treatment, and support services in safe spaces at times that suit them. The Mvurwi Moonlight Outreach occurred at a KP hotspot, where there is a touchline, and this allowed KPs to receive services while engaging in their business/sex work. This approach effectively addresses barriers related to distance and timing in service delivery”, said Elijah Chikambi, PZ's Care and Treatment Program Assistant indicated.

The services offered during the outreach ranged from HIV testing and counselling to treatment and prevention resources, with trained professionals on-site to answer questions and provide guidance. In a warm, welcoming environment, community members were encouraged to take advantage of services designed specifically to address their needs.

The work does not end here. PZ and our partners are committed to creating lasting health solutions, ensuring vulnerable communities are informed, supported, and empowered to make health choices confidently. Through collaborations like this, we are one step closer to realizing our shared vision of an HIV-free Zimbabwe, leaving no one behind.

Bridging the Gap: Community Engagement for Effective KP Programming

In a progressive step towards enhancing healthcare access for key populations (KP) in Mashonaland West, the Pangaea Zimbabwe (PZ) team, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) and the National AIDS Council (NAC), hosted a community dialogue at Mapinga Clinic. This event aimed at capturing valuable insights from community members regarding KP programming, fostering a sense of ownership and involvement among local stakeholders.

The dialogue attracted a diverse audience, including community leaders, health workers, and members of the key and vulnerable population. Participants shared their perspectives on the challenges and needs specific to KVPs, such as men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers (SW), and people who inject and use drugs (PUID). Through open discussions, attendees identified barriers to accessing healthcare services and proposed solutions that could be implemented to ensure that programs are tailored to the community's unique context.

The community dialogue provided invaluable insights into KVP community concerns, gaps in health service delivery, priority areas and recommendations. Key considerations were meaningful involvement of KVP community members on issues concerning their health, engagement of community leaders on culturally sensitive issues that hinder access to health services by the KVPs and integration of economic strengthening and livelihoods support to improve health outcomes of the KVPs.

The dialogues were crucial for understanding the needs of communities and ensuring that health services are responsive and inclusive. The insights gathered during the dialogue will directly inform the implementation of KVP programming, promoting a more effective and targeted approach to healthcare delivery.

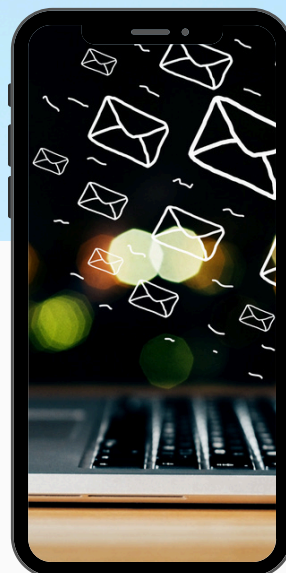


Mapinga Community members during the dialogue

The event concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards closing the gap in healthcare access for key & vulnerable populations. By prioritizing community engagement and feedback, improving community cohesion and social support, identifying barriers to service access such as stigma and discrimination, limited awareness and knowledge, limited-service availability and accessibility, the initiative aims to create a supportive environment that addresses the specific health needs of marginalized groups.

As PZ continues to break new ground in KVP programming, this community dialogue serves as a model for future initiatives, highlighting the importance of collaboration and local perspectives in shaping effective health policies.

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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

Integrity

Inclusivity

Stewardship