



N Bi-Annual Newsletter



SANOFI, MoHCC & OPHID tackle NCDs through BBC documentary

Gwanda – Launched on the 6th of May 2025, the documentary produced for Sanofi in collaboration with OPHID and the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) by BBC Story Works Commercial Production titled 'Caring with Courage' – is an innovative partnership that brings essential non-communicable disease (NCD) care directly to remote Zimbabwean villages through dedicated Community Outreach Agents (COAs). The incredible journey of COAs, some who travel up to 60km weekly by bicycle to reach patients, is bringing essential healthcare services directly to people's homes from monitoring blood pressure to conducting diabetes screenings.

The partnership integrates HIV and NCDs aiming to provide the comprehensive health service to at-risk individuals aged from 18 years and people living with HIV through integrated screening of NCDs with subsequent linkage to care and treatment.

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-  HIV+ HUSBAND, HIV- Wife, One Big Happy Family!
-  Zimbabwe earmarked for rollout of twice-yearly 'lenacapavir' HIV drug
-  Calls for Climate Adaptation in HIV Programs at IAS2025 Grow Louder



Foreword

Welcome to this edition of our Bi-Annual Newsletter. We are delighted to share updates, success stories, and insights that reflect our continued commitment to improving health and wellbeing across our communities.

Over the past months, we have witnessed inspiring achievements — dedicated healthcare workers reaching underserved populations. These stories remind us that every milestone, no matter how small, brings us closer to our goal of accessible, equitable, and quality healthcare for all.

As we move forward, we remain grateful for the support and engagement of our partners and readers. Together, we can continue to promote healthier lifestyles, build stronger communities, and create lasting impact.

We hope you find this issue both informative and inspiring!

Regards



Dr Tinashe T. Chinyanga
OPHID Chief of Party

Non-Communicable Diseases April-September Performance Highlights



79662
screened
for
Hypertension

10 035
diagnosed,
8 231
managed



53839
screened
for
Diabetes

565
diagnosed,
717
managed



79662
screened
for
Mental Health



OPHID Community Outreach Agent Danile going about her usual business during the shooting of the documentary in Gwanda.



“ I have 67 clients in total. When they are far away, I cycle to them. In a week, I can cycle a distance of up to 60km. ”

A successful regional HIV prevention and care program in 2020 saw members of the community being permitted to train as Community Outreach Agents (COAs) to identify and monitor patients at risk for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and refer them to nurses or doctors for further care. In Zimbabwe, Sanofi and OPHID is empowering COAs to tackle NCDs in remote villages—bringing care straight to patients’ doorsteps. Through its Global Health Unit, Sanofi is co-creating sustainable care models in 40 vulnerable countries.

Gwanda based COA Danile who is featured in the documentary said, “I have 67 clients in total. When my patients are far away, I cycle to them. I can cycle a distance of up to 60km in a week.” Her dedication and courage has transformed NCDs healthcare in her community, giving sustainable access to treatment and support. Ministry of Health and Child Care Bulawayo provincial medical director Dr Andrew Muza said this partnership has bridged the community versus facility gap, thereby contributing towards successful NCDs management efforts in the country. The Sanofi-OPHID partnership in Zimbabwe has enabled nearly 500 healthcare workers to be trained including 250+ COAs and 190+ registered nurses. Since the start of the program, over 21 000 patients have been screened for diabetes and hypertension. The documentary can be accessed here: [Caring with Courage: Breaking Barriers to NCD Care in Rural Zimbabwe.](#)





OPHID BOOST, LVCT Health foster mutual learning

Nairobi, Kenya - As part of strengthening South-South collaboration, an OPHID team recently visited LVCT Health, an established Kenyan NGO that is renowned for the implementation of health programs, for a learning exchange focused on digital health innovations for adolescents and young people (AYP). The visit provided valuable insights into how LVCT has successfully integrated digital health solutions into HIV prevention, mental health, and youth empowerment initiatives, while serving as an opportunity for LVCT to learn from OPHID's experience implementing the Youth Boost project in Zimbabwe.



LVCT Health young adults browse through the Boost Application when OPHID Management Support Officer Kettie Choga visited the Kenya based organisation.

A key highlight was LVCT's Research-Policy-Practice model, which generates evidence from digital innovations to inform both program development and national policy. Their meaningful youth engagement strategies—ranging from involving young people in design and implementation to building the capacity of over 25 youth-led organizations - stood out as best practices.

At the same time, LVCT drew lessons from OPHID's Youth Boost project, particularly in youth-led programming, digital engagement strategies, and high-volume screening approaches.

For OPHID, the exchange underscored opportunities to establish a dedicated digital health unit, create integrated multi-platform ecosystems, and explore partnerships with philanthropic entities, technical institutions, and UN agencies. This collaboration marks an important step in applying lessons from East Africa to Zimbabwe's context while fostering mutual learning. By sharing experiences, both OPHID and LVCT strengthen their ability to scale digital health solutions and empower young people in high HIV-burden settings.

HIV+ wife, HIV- husband...

Success Story

One BIG happy Family!



OPHID Care and Treatment Nurse Sister Maria Thuso speaks to a recipient of care during her routine home visits in Masvingo.

Mwenezi, Masvingo – In 2022, during a routine Provider Initiative Checking and Counselling (PITC) group session for family planning clients at Neshuro District Hospital, 33-year-old Rudo (not real name) chose to take an HIV test. She tested positive and, after disclosure counseling, she returned with her 5-year-old son Kuda, who also tested positive and was promptly initiated on ART following TB investigations.

After adjusting his regimen due to nevirapine reaction, Kuda stabilized on pediatric dolutegravir (pDTG). Rudo's two older children later tested HIV negative, and her husband—based in South Africa—also tested negative and continues annual testing.

"I got married to my husband in 2010. When I told him that I had tested HIV positive, he was initially unsettled and quickly got tested for HIV as well – only to find that he was HIV negative. He was advised to come back after three months but when he did, he still tested negative. Since he is based in South Africa, he gets tested regularly since 2022 and up to this day he is still HIV negative," Rudo explained.

"Upon testing HIV positive, my son and I were immediately initiated on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and we take our drugs consistently and we have our viral load closely monitored. I live a normal married life with my husband and children. I clean the house, I do gardening and I sell wares that my husband brings from South Africa to boost our livelihood," narrated Rudo.

Today, both Rudo and Kuda are thriving with Target Not Detected (TND) viral loads, while the rest of the family remains HIV-free. This case demonstrates the transformative impact of PITC under the TASQC program, turning a single-family planning visit into a lifesaving intervention for an entire family.

Winning the Fight Against HIV



Image courtesy of US Embassy Zimbabwe Facebook Page



Zimbabwe earmarked for rollout of twice-yearly 'lenacapavir' HIV drug

Harare - In a groundbreaking development in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Zimbabwe has been selected as one of ten countries globally, set to roll out lenacapavir, a new antiretroviral injectable drug used to treat and prevent HIV/AIDS.

Confirming the development on their Facebook social media handle this September, The United States Embassy in Zimbabwe wrote: "For decades, we've fought to turn the tide against this epidemic, and each day we get closer. Through a partnership with U.S.-based pharmaceutical giant Gilead Sciences and Global Fund, we're delivering lenacapavir, the first twice-yearly HIV prevention medicine. In a large-scale clinical trial more than 99% of people on lenacapavir remained HIV negative. While this has the potential to save millions of lives, here in Zimbabwe it represents a major step toward ending new infections."

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Lenacapavir is the first twice-yearly injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) option for HIV prevention offering a highly effective, long-acting alternative to daily oral pills and other shorter-acting options. With just two doses per year, the new drug is a transformative step forward in protecting people at risk of HIV – particularly those who face challenges with daily adherence, stigma, or access to health care.

The Embassy went on to confirm that this breakthrough development was more than just medicine but also an advanced pathway to a safer, stronger and healthier future. It further explained the associated benefits owing to this intervention saying, "By focusing on pregnant and breastfeeding women, we're protecting the next generation. By strengthening healthcare systems, we're empowering Zimbabwe to lead its own fight against HIV and by making lenacapavir more affordable and accessible, no one is left behind."

Zimbabwe has made significant strides in the fight against HIV in the past few years and introduction of lenacapavir is expected to fast pace the attainment of HIV epidemic control in the country.

Calls for climate adaptation in HIV programs at IAS 2025 grow louder



L to R: Dr Tarisai Bere, OPHID representatives Rutendo Mukondwa, Dr Karen Webb and JF Kapnek Technical Director Dr Kudzai Masunda pose for a group photo at the IAS 2025 in Kigali Rwanda.

Kigali, Rwanda – The 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS2025), held from 13–17 July 2025 in Kigali drew almost 4000 participants, including global health leaders, researchers and civil society members to explore the latest breakthroughs in HIV science, share innovative solutions and best practices and learn from impactful, community-driven approaches.

Despite challenges created by funding cuts earlier this year, the experts came together both physically and virtually, showing the resilience that defines the HIV response and a commitment to protecting gains made in over 40 years of this pandemic. OPHID presented evidence on impact of extreme weather events on access and adherence to HIV care and treatment.

The oral presentation titled: “The Perfect Storm? Impact of Climate on HIV Treatment Access and Adherence in Zimbabwe” served as a clarion call towards mobilising support for climate adaptive differentiated strategies for people living with HIV, for sustained access to life saving HIV services.

This study, supported by UCSF, underscored the urgent need to integrate climate

adaptation strategies within HIV programs to address food insecurity, water scarcity, and economic vulnerability, thereby improving treatment adherence and health outcomes for PLHIV in climate-affected settings.

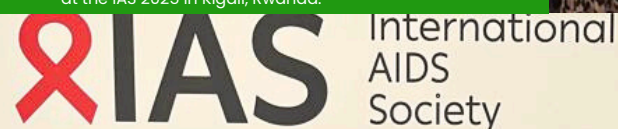


OPHID Project Coordinator (Social Protection Implementation) Rutendo Mukondwa delivering a presentation at the IAS 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda.





OPHID's Dr Karen Webb poses for a group photo with fellow conference participants at the IAS 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda.



During the week-long conference, the OPHID team had fruitful interactions at the Africa Health Business (AHB) aimed at exploring innovative approaches to public-private partnerships to optimize OPHID's public health impact, the Indela Behavioural Insight aimed at collaborating on forward-looking strategies to enhance the quality of life-saving HIV services in Zimbabwe and the King's College London which focused on advancing the integration of mental health and HIV services to strengthen holistic care.

IAS 2025 featured over 142 oral abstract presentations and over 1,400 posters, with about 600 in person, sharing discoveries, innovations and insights from the continent of Africa and beyond that are shaping the response. The next 26th International AIDS Conference is scheduled for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



OPHID's Rutendo Mukondwa poses with a fellow conference participant at the IAS 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda.



OPHID takes COP25 Review and Planning meeting to Beitbridge



OPHID Team (senior management, middle management and officers) follow proceedings during the COP25 Review and Planning Meeting.





**...as TEAMBUILDING session
concluded the annual event in
*Style!***



OPHID Team members participating in various team building activities at the COP25 Review and Planning Meeting held in Beitbridge.



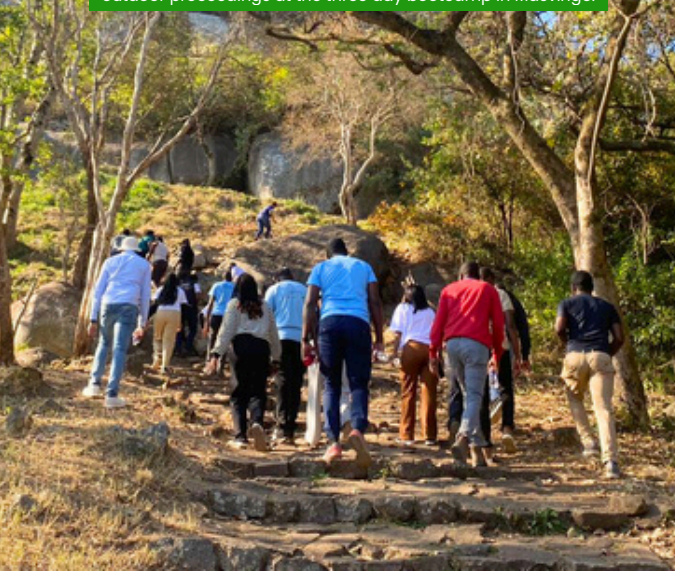
SIE Bootcamp drives continuous systems strengthening



Strategic Information and Evaluation Director Dr Efishon Dhadho (far right) poses for a photo with members from the winning group after an assigned task during the SIE Bootcamp in Masvingo.



Strategic Information and Evaluation Teams follow inhouse and outdoor proceedings at the three day bootcamp in Masvingo.



Masvingo - The recent FY25 Strategic Information and Evaluation (SIE) Bootcamp, held from the 18th - 20th of August 2025, was a major step in realigning the SIE department with key organizational and donor priorities for the upcoming year. The three-day event was designed to reflect on the department's progress since 2020 and equip staff with the advanced skills needed to lead in the final stages of epidemic control.

A key focus of the bootcamp was the transformation of the SIE Department from a decentralized, paper-based system to a digitally enabled and highly trusted team. This effort has already restored donor confidence, with OPHID being commended by USAID and winning a global Digital Health Award.

Sessions throughout the event covered a range of topics, including strategic realignment, advanced analytics, and professional development. Participants engaged in scenario-based exercises to build leadership and decision-making skills, emphasizing the importance of data-driven change. The bootcamp also prioritized strengthening data collection, especially from the community level, to ensure our efforts are both evidence-based and equitable.

The bootcamp successfully positioned SIE staff as "futuristic officers," who are not only technically proficient but also strategic thinkers capable of leading the charge in a rapidly evolving health landscape.

Male CRF

inspires fellow men to step up HIV fight in Mat South

Success Story

Gwanda - For Trust Shereni, a Gwanda Matabeleland South based Clinical Referral Facilitator (CRF), the male artisanal miners constituted his primary target audience for HIV education and awareness, as they were at higher risk.

"The high level of antiretroviral therapy (ART) defaulting among men in this area was alarming, so I used the 'lead by example full disclosure' tactic first, to allow them to freely discuss the issue with me. They quickly gained confidence as I educated and managed them with a high regard for their privacy.

"Secondly, I would frequently share my HIV journey with them and show evidence of how important it is to adhere to treatment once one initiates ART.

"During my 5 years as a male CRF, I have assisted over 5 000 people consisting at least 2 500 men with viral load monitoring and adherence to treatment. Through the U.S Department of State funded TASQC program we successfully bridged the community versus facility gap," said Trust Shereni.

He added that the presence of Community Art Refill Groups (CARGS) and Family Art Refill Groups (FARGS) assisted with ART collection and subsequent treatment adherence.

The Gwanda artisanal miners also received education on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) to boost partner support and avoid reinfection.

Trust Shereni's 5-year dedication and commitment to HIV education and awareness targeting his male counterparts, bridging the community versus facility gap, strengthened success of the U.S Department of State funded TASQC program.

Today, over 5000 people consisting of men, women and children have been supported with HIV testing services, ART initiation, viral load monitoring, treatment adherence and PMTCT effectively contributing to the ongoing national HIV response efforts.



Trust Shereni during an interview about his life story.



Celebrating World Refugee Day

...and Empowering Communities at TRS

Chipinge – On the 20th of June 2025, OPHID joined the World Refugee Day commemorations at Tongogara Refugee Settlement, under the theme "Solidarity with Refugees". The event aimed to stand in unwavering solidarity with those who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or human rights violations, while also raising awareness and inspiring empathy for improved living conditions and inclusive communities. Dignitaries, including the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Hon. M. Mugadza, and the Guest of Honor, Hon. Edgar Moyo, delivered addresses that emphasized the importance of protecting refugee rights and promoting inclusivity.

The event showcased cultural diversity through captivating performances, including Burundian dances, Mozambican muchongoyo dance troupe, as well as poetry recitations by students. Various partners exhibited their work, with OPHID providing essential health services through a mobile clinic, highlighting the organization's commitment to promoting health and well-being among refugees. In the last quarter, OPHID has been working tirelessly to provide comprehensive healthcare services, including eye, dental, and rehabilitation care through dedicated locum nurses. OPHID has also been conducting immunization campaigns for children under 5 and in-school and out-of-school sexual reproductive health (SRH) campaigns targeting adolescents aged 14-24 years. Daily programs at the health facility include health services, HIV testing and counseling, cervical cancer and mental health screenings, as well as support services for refugees.

OPHID's work in Tongogara Refugee Settlement demonstrates its commitment to promoting health and well-being among refugees, with a focus on enhancing the quality of life for vulnerable groups such as children and adolescents.



Members of the public receive various health services from the Tongogara Refugee Clinic set at World Refugee Day commemorations.



L to R: OPHID Procurement and Logistics Manager Gladman Magumise, Snr Technical Adviser Dr Tafadzwa Bepe and Human Resources Manager Denis Mumbire at the World Refugee Day Commemorations at Tongogara Refugee Settlement, Chipinge.

OPHID Supports MoHCC during 2nd Joint External Evaluation (JEE) National Exercise



Stakeholders from the Health sector who participated in the Joint External Evaluation Workshop held in Kadoma pose for a group photo.

Kadoma - OPHID supported the Ministry of Health and Child Care by participating at the 2nd Joint External Evaluation (JEE) workshop final session aimed at evaluating the country's capacity to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to public health emergencies, in line with International Health Regulations. A team of 10 external experts were leading the external evaluation after the successful completion of an internal evaluation in July.

Officially opening the workshop in Kadoma, on the 8th of September 2025, MoHCC Minister Dr Douglas Mombeshora represented by Permanent Secretary Dr Aspect Maunganidze urged stakeholders to approach the exercise with openness, honesty and determination as its results will feed directly into the National Development Strategy 2. The assessment brought together experts from public health technical areas including immunization, biosafety, biosecurity, port health, food safety, antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic diseases, national laboratory systems, risk communication and community



Ministry of Health and Child Care Permanent Secretary Dr Aspect Maunganidze officially opening the 2nd JEE Workshop in Kadoma.

engagement, surveillance and health emergency management among others. The JEE process is carried out to identify critical gaps within human and animal health systems to identify opportunities for enhanced preparedness and response. It is carried out every 4-5 years and Zimbabwe held its first one in 2018.

Conferences & Exhibitions



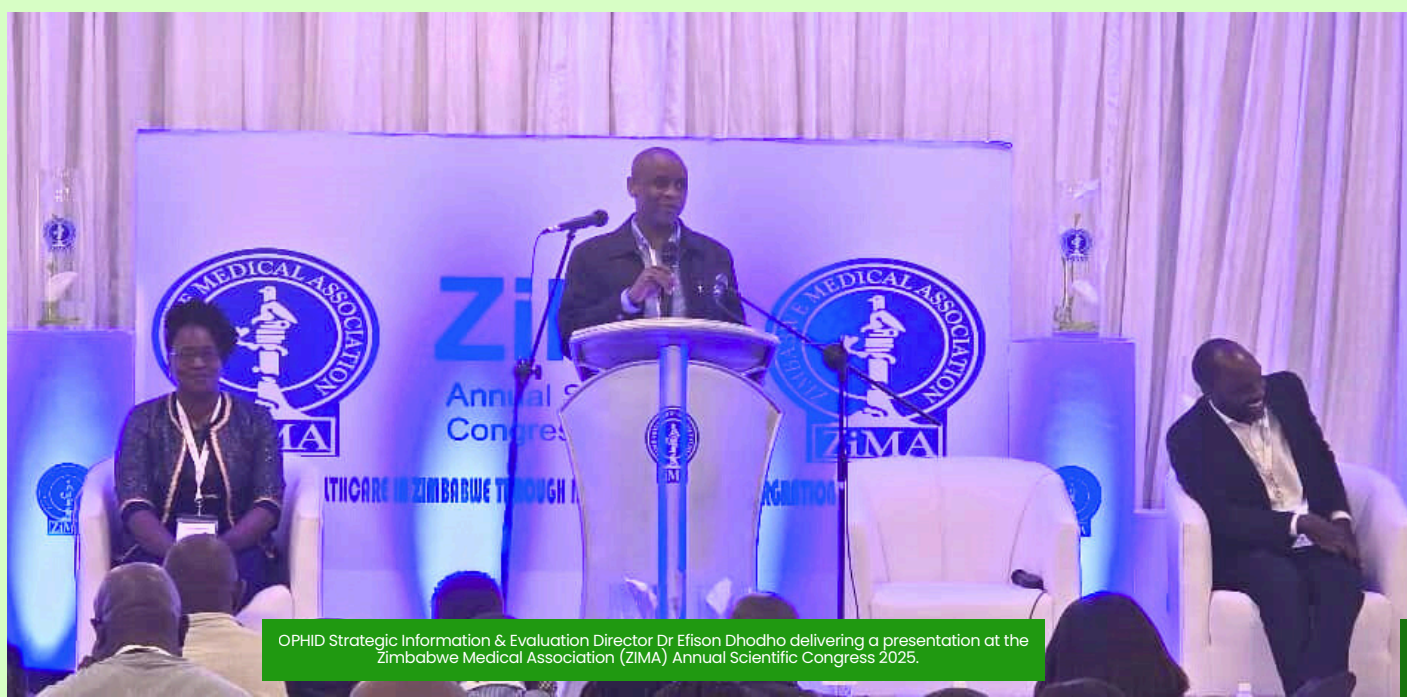
OPHID Deputy Chief of Party/ Technical Director Dr Pogie Chimberengwa delivering a presentation (right) and poses with fellow conference participants (left) at the Infectious Disease Summit 2025 (South East Africa) held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania supported by Abbott.



OPHID participated at the annual INTEREST 2025 Conference, presenting a total of 13 abstracts on cervical cancer, the BOOST project, pediatric HIV, climate change and HIV treatment access among other emerging issues.



OPHID was one of over 40 exhibitors at the joint 3rd Community Pharmacists Association (CPA) and Pharmaceuticals Wholesalers Association (PWA) Annual Conference 2025



OPHID Strategic Information & Evaluation Director Dr Efilson Dhodho delivering a presentation at the Zimbabwe Medical Association (ZIMA) Annual Scientific Congress 2025.

Congratulations!



OPHID's **Dr. Karen Webb**, received the Outstanding Woman Corporate Citizenship & Community Impact award at the Zimbabwe CEO Network Women's Leadership Awards.



OPHID Procurement and Logistics Manager **Gladman T. Magumise** scooped the Outstanding Manager of the Year award (Gold Winner) at the Zimbabwe CEO's Network Awards.



OPHID Impact in Pictures



Mental Health Awareness workshops at Tongogara Refugee Settlement.



Non-communicable diseases screening in Umzingwane, Matabeleland South.



Immunisation Services at Tongogara Refugee Clinic



Viral Load Monitoring in Beitbridge.



Antiretroviral Drug Adherence awareness in Insiza, Matabeleland South.



Prevention-of-mother-to-child-transmission of HIV in Masvingo

Hey there! Welcome to the Quiz Corner. Stand a chance to win a wide range of prizes by correctly answering the following question:

What does **LIFT** stand for, from the LIFT UP initiative?

Send your answer to ophidonline@gmail.com by 15 November 2025 including your full name, contact number and location.
Good Luck!!

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Harare, Zimbabwe
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Thank you for reading!

For inquiries, questions and contributions

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