

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



OPHID SHINES AT AIDS 2024 CONFERENCE IN GERMANY

In this issue:

- ▶ **Zimbabwe on course towards managing infodemics**
- ▶ **OPHID offers free healthcare services at ZAS2024**
- ▶ **OPHID adopts BOOST Project**

Munich, Germany - The 25th International AIDS 2024 (AIDS 2024), which is the largest global conference on HIV/AIDS took place from the 20th to the 26th of July in Munich, Germany. The conference brought together over 18 000 participants from across the world. OPHID in collaboration with partners JF Kapnek and Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) were proud conference participants who delivered a total of seven abstracts.

OPHID showcased its success in driving digital health innovations, including an oral presentation on the link between poverty and HIV viral load non-suppression among people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Zimbabwe. The study, supported by UCSF, highlighted the critical need for targeted social protection interventions to improve health outcomes for PLHIV facing multidimensional poverty and food insecurity.



Foreword

As we welcome another quarter, I am excited to share our latest newsletter, which captures the essence of our journey over the past few months. This edition is not only a reflection of our achievements but also a celebration of the vibrant community that continues to support and inspire us.

In this issue, you will find highlights of our recent projects, insights into our ongoing initiatives, and stories that showcase the impact we are making together. Each section is designed to keep you informed and engaged, offering a glimpse into the hard work and dedication of our team and members.

I encourage you to take a moment to explore the articles, participate in upcoming events, and contribute your own stories. Your involvement is what drives us forward and helps us create a meaningful impact.

Thank you for being a vital part of our journey. Together, let's continue to build a brighter future.

Regards



Dr. Karen Webb

**OPHID Deputy Executive
Director**

Q4 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



331 434 ART care recipients were receiving treatment



3 398 clients linked to treatment (antiretroviral therapy).



14 850 women were screened for Cervical Cancer



1 352 775 Clients screened for TB



96 779 clients screened for Hypertension and Diabetes

During the BOOST Partners Meeting, OPHID shared insights into the impact of the Boost digital screening tool in improving the identification and referral of clients for HIV, STI, and mental health services. Supported by Avert, the initiative has strengthened the effectiveness of community health workers (CHWs), with plans to scale Boost in Zimbabwe and the region.

OPHID also presented its work integrating non-communicable disease (NCD) screening into HIV care. This study, supported by Sanofi, demonstrated how digital tools can enhance CHW efficiency in diagnosing and referring patients, improving overall healthcare delivery.

These initiatives, backed by PEPFAR and USAID, emphasize OPHID’s commitment to using innovative digital solutions to strengthen healthcare systems and improve patient outcomes.

The 25th International AIDS Conference calls on the global HIV response to unite behind a simple principle: **Put people first!**



OPHID Project Coordinator (Social Protection Implementation) Rutendo Mukondwa delivers an oral presentation at the AIDS 2024 Conference in Munich, Germany.



OPHID Kettie Choga interacts with a participant during the poster exhibition at the AIDS 2024 Conference in Munich, Germany.



OPHID SIE Director Dr Efison Dhodho and JF Kapnek Technical Director Dr Kudzai Masunda at the AIDS 2024 Conference in Munich, Germany.



Need a Health Information Toolkit?

Introducing Boost! Our app provides community health workers with up-to-date information on HIV, SRH, family planning, FGS, mental health, malaria, TB, and more.

OPHID adopts **BOOST** App

OPHID is excited to continue expanding its reach to even more communities, incorporating additional health topics through a new intervention, the Boost Project! The Boost project is a digital health initiative in Zimbabwe, providing HIV, SRH, family planning, FGS, mental health, malaria, and TB information to community health workers, adolescents, and young people.

Through its user-friendly mobile application, Boost has empowered individuals to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. OPHID in collaboration with Avert has successfully piloted, implemented and monitored the Boost project in Zimbabwe.

The first phase of the project was focused on the 9 OPHID districts leveraging on existing

community health networks - TASQC Community Outreach Agents (COAs) and Coordinators and Avert Boost Community Outreach Agents (BCOAs).

The first year of the project was a success with over 200,000 adolescents and young people being screened by the project, exceeding the initial target of 180,000.

Avert has started carrying out a handover process of the Project to OPHID, to make OPHID the primary administrator of the application. The transition period is currently ongoing and exploring new ways to enhance user engagement - with My Age, PZAT, Zvandiri, and ZNNP+ already trained in the first phase of rollout.



OPHID Senior Technical Advisor Dr Tafadzwa Bepe interacted with the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency Regional Bureau for Southern Africa Director Ms Chansa Ruth Kapaya during her visit and tour of Tongogara Refugee Camp.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Director Chansa Ruth Kapaya tours Tongogara Refugee Settlement



On August 21st, OPHID Senior Technical Advisor Dr. Bepe met with UNHCR Regional Bureau for Southern Africa Director Ms. Chanda Ruth Kapaya at Tongogara Refugee Settlement. This meeting highlighted the crucial importance of enhancing healthcare services for refugees, a cause OPHID and World Vision Zimbabwe have been championing through their partnership.

Dr. Bepe emphasized, "Refugees face significant health disparities, and it's our collective responsibility to address these gaps." He showcased OPHID's efforts in providing clinical care services at the Tongogara Refugee Settlement clinic, made possible through their collaboration with World Vision Zimbabwe.

This partnership aims to bridge the health divide faced by refugees, ensuring they receive quality medical attention and care. The meeting concluded with a resounding call to action: 'strengthening access to healthcare for refugees requires sustained collaboration and commitment.'



First lady of Zimbabwe Dr Auxillia Mnangagwa dialogues with OPHID cervical cancer Program Manager Muchaneta Mandara at OPHID's cervical cancer screening stand ZAS 2024

OPHID offers free health services at the Zimbabwe Agricultural show (ZAS) 2024

Harare - The 114th edition of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show kicked off from the 26th to the 31st of August 2024 with a buzz of energy, and we were proud to take part in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through USAID Zimbabwe and Sanofi, OPHID provided free health checks including cervical cancer screening, HIV testing, treatment, prevention and care services, NCDs screening (Hypertension, diabetes mellitus and mental health), tuberculosis screening and health dialogues.

OPHID Executive Director Dr Tinashe Chinyanga who visited the exhibition stand which was housed within the Ministry of Health and Child Care bigger stand, took a proactive step for his health by getting his blood pressure and sugar levels checked, as a great reminder for everyone to prioritize their well-being amidst the hustle and bustle of the event.

OPHID HIV and Cervical Cancer Integration Manager Muchaneta Mandara said over 2000 people received free health services during the entire duration of the agricultural show, with NCDs and TB screening services recording the highest numbers at 808 respectively.

‘All clients who recorded out of normal range readings for hypertension and diabetes mellitus were linked to the doctors on site and managed accordingly, while all clients who had HIV reactive results were referred to Wilkins hospital for ART initiation. On the other hand, all women between the ages of 25 and 45years had VIAC done and all mental health clients with red flags were given psychotherapy by the mental health mhGAP trained nurse on site,’ said Ms Mandara. The exhibition stand was visited by high ranking officials namely His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa, First Lady Mrs Auxillia Mnangagwa, Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi, and senior government officials from the Ministry of Health and Child Care. ZAS 2024 ran under the theme, “Cultivating Prosperity. Growing Business. Innovating for Change. Nurturing our future.”



OPHID Executive Director Dr Tinashe Chinyanga gets his blood pressure checked



OPHID team and MoHCC executives at the MoHCC cervical cancer screening point ZAS 2024



Zimbabwe on course towards managing infodemics



Kadoma - As the world contends with a rise in public health emergencies, the Ministry of Health and Child Care in with technical support from OPHID through the RISE Project funded by USAID, conducted a three-day Infodemic Management workshop aimed at developing a Zimbabwean contextualized infodemic management toolkit to support pandemic planning, preparedness and effective information dissemination.



An infodemic is an excessive amount of information (both correct and false) including misleading rumors circulating through both digital and the physical environments particularly during health emergencies. The rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation is not entirely a new phenomenon globally, but its far-reaching negative impact became grave at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.



In July 2022, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) encouraged countries to use the experience gained from the COVID-19 vaccine rollout as an opportunity to build more resilient immunization programs and strengthen primary health care systems in preparation for future pandemics. In response to the call, OPHID through the RISE Vaccine Delivery project organized the Infodemic Management workshop, with the view to build resilience against health misinformation and facilitate the development of a national Infodemic Management Toolkit.

The workshop held in Kadoma brought together health communication stakeholders from the Ministry of Health and Child Care, OPHID, WHO, UNICEF, ZNNP+, Zim-TTECH, JF Kapnek, and media representatives from ZBC-TV, the Herald, Health Times, Newsday, Star FM, and Radio Zimbabwe.



RISE Technical Lead Dr Kudzai Machingauta delivering welcome remarks at the Microplanning and Data Tools Workshop in Masvingo.

Their participation created a practical knowledge exchange platform where they designed a comprehensive Infodemic Management toolkit that is expected to foster healthy information sharing, trust in government sources, guide and effectively counter misinformation and disinformation in Zimbabwe.

Addressing stakeholders during the workshop, OPHID Technical Director Dr Pugie Tawanda Chimberengwa emphasized the importance of availing health information in real time.

During the workshop, participants were divided into groups to identify COVID-19 misinformation sources, evaluate strategies for addressing misinformation, design communication materials for priority groups, identify modern communication technologies, and co-design IEC materials for Mpox and strategies for managing information gaps, all within the Zimbabwean context.



RISE Technical Team pose for a group photo at the Microplanning and Data Tools Workshop in Masvingo.

At the end of the workshop subsequent collaboration by workshop participants on the final toolkit continued and produced a document aligned with standards prescribed by the World Health Organization. The toolkit describes the state of the infodemic in Zimbabwe before designing a strategic framework for Infodemic Management in Zimbabwe which encompasses activities such as social listening, crisis communication plans, methods of digital monitoring, infodemic management for people with disabilities, deciding when to respond and how to respond during a public health emergency. More activities such as designing effective information communication materials, building community feedback mechanism models, continuous monitoring evaluation and empowerment of communities to take positive action were also aspects included in the toolkit.

Adoption of this Infodemic Management toolkit in Zimbabwe is expected to develop skills to identify and distinguish between misinformation, disinformation, and rumors as well as build capacity to verify the authenticity of health information and visual content online.



MoHCC National EPI Officer Clara Mashirigo delivering a presentation at the Microplanning and Data Tools Workshop in Masvingo.

It will equally enhance digital literacy, and foster confidence in public health interventions in Zimbabwe.

The Infodemic Management workshop was succeeded by another two-day Validation workshop which sought to review, refine and validate the Infodemic Management toolkit developed by health communication specialists and the Microplanning and Data tools template designed by health research experts. These tools are meant to work hand in hand towards strengthening Zimbabwe's health system preparedness for future pandemics, tapping from lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the documents await finalization and submission to senior government officials before official adoption.



OPHID Chief of Party Sara Page-Mtongwizo delivering opening remarks on Day 1 of the COP23 Y2 Planning meeting in Bulawayo.

OPHID COP23 Y2 Planning Meeting Bulawayo in pictures



OPHID management team members follow proceedings at the COP23 Y2 Planning meeting in Bulawayo.

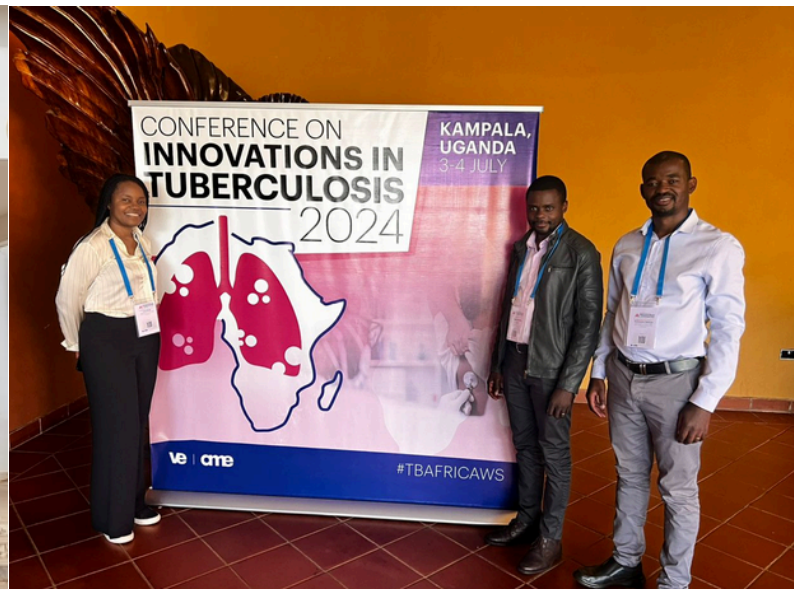


OPHID Finance and Operations Manager Tafadzwa Chirigo delivering a presentation at the COP23 Y2 Planning meeting in Bulawayo.

Conferences and Workshops of the Quarter



OPHID Chitungwiza District Manager Nyaradzo Mushonga with fellow participants at a cross-country Caregiver Assisted Pediatric/ Adolescent HIV Self-Test Conference in Abuja, Nigeria.



OPHID Senior Technical Advisor Trudy Mhlanga, JF Kapnek TASQC Program Manager Dr Gerald Katsamba and OPHID SIE and Learning Manager Dr Kudakwashe Takarinda at the Conference on Innovations in Tuberculosis held in Kampala, Uganda.



OPHID hosted another C-Suite Knowledge Exchange Workshop under the themes: Role of C-Suite in Audit Readiness, Common Audit Findings and Solutions and Audit experiences.



OPHID Project Coordinator (Social Protection Implementation) Rutendo Mukondwa and a fellow participant at the 7th Annual Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference that took place in Johannesburg, South Africa.



OPHID and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine shared findings from our KnowM study exploring health system readiness to provide 'whole person' care for Zimbabweans living with multimorbidities.



OPHID Technical Director Dr. P.T Chimberengwa presented on the topic "From Siloed Disease Control to Multimorbidity: An Opportunity for Person-Centered Health Systems." at the Zimbabwe Medical Association Annual Scientific Conference.

OPHID interaction with the media



OPHID Technical Director Dr Pugie T. Chimberengwa being interviewed by the media (Healthtimes, Herald, Newsday, ZBCTV, Radio Zimbabwe and Starfm) on the importance of disseminating health information during emergencies at the RISE Infodemic Management Workshop in Kadoma.



OPHID Senior Technical Advisor Dr Tafadzwa Bepe being interviewed by NRTV during the Breastfeeding Week at the OPHID central office in Harare.



OPHID Data and Programs Analytics Manager Kenneth Masiye being interviewed by Heart & Soul TV on leveraging AI for enhanced healthcare at the OPHID central office in Harare.



OPHID, MoHCC and WHO with members of the media who covered the RISE Infodemic Management Workshop in Kadoma.

Which new App has been adopted by OPHID?

Send your answer by **15 November 2024** to the link below and stand a chance to win a T-shirt

Congratulations to Ketty Choga- (Management Support Officer) for winning last quarter's Quiz!

[Competition link](#)

Copyright © 2024 OPHID.
Organisation for Public Health Interventions and Development
Harare, Zimbabwe
Open Access Document
All photos are courtesy of OPHID. All photographs taken with participants' involvement on a voluntary and consent basis.

Designed and Compiled by Bessie Siyado (Health Communications and Promotion Specialist) and Gwendoline Mugauri (Health Communications and Programs Officer)
Editor- Dr. P.T Chimberengwa (Technical Director)



Scan the code to access our newsletters

Thank you for reading!

CONTACT US

20 Cork Road, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe

info@ophid.co.zw

Phone:+263-242-703848/252772/252791/700607