



OPHID
Organization for Public Health
Interventions & Development

**April – June
2024**



OPHID NEWSLETTER

OPHID is a Zimbabwean non-governmental organization (NGO) that seeks to innovate, lead and implement public health programs and services locally, across the African region and beyond. OPHID is committed to improving the lives of individuals, families and communities through our unique model of generating evidence and innovation on cutting-edge public health and development interventions and bringing them to scale to improve HIV, TB, nutrition, mental health, and maternal and child health outcomes.

Q3 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



330 979 ART care recipients were receiving treatment



3545 clients linked to treatment (antiretroviral therapy).



19961 women were screened for Cervical Cancer



1 223 877 Clients screened for TB



117 165 clients screened for Hypertension and Diabetes

TOP STORIES

1. OPHID Zim bags USAID digital award
2. Breaking barriers in Cervical Cancer screening
3. Zim-Eswathini collaborative efforts in Paediatric HIV Care

IMPACTING MILLIONS

Over 23 years, through promotion and implementation of lifesaving services



ForeWord

by OPHID Executive Director

As we reflect on the past quarter, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our team.

Our collective efforts continue to make a significant impact in the communities we serve, particularly in the realm of public health.

This newsletter highlights the innovative strategies and insights from various departments, showcasing our commitment to collaboration and excellence. Each contribution is a testament to our shared mission of improving public health outcomes in Zimbabwe.

Let us continue to support one another and strive for excellence in all that we do. Together, we can create a healthier future for all.



Dr. Tinashe. T. Chinyanga
OPHID Executive Director

OPHID Bags USAID Digital Development Awards

In recognition of our excellence, **OPHID through the Target, Accelerate, Sustain, Quality Care for HIV Epidemic Control (TASQC)** program received the USAID 2023 Digital Development Award for the "Innovative data management tool to improve community-based HIV prevention and treatment services." The data management tool is used to scale access to HIV care, treatment, and prevention services in hard-to-reach rural areas of Zimbabwe.

The USAID Digital Development Awards recognize innovative projects and activities that utilize digital technology to improve development and humanitarian assistance outcomes. Some of the winners in this category came from Cambodia, India, Moldova and Eastern Europe. The following trailblazing projects and activities were also Digi Award winners:

- **USAID/Cambodia: Digital Workforce Development Activity**, implemented by the University of California at Berkeley, for employing a comprehensive strategy to empower youth with ICT skills and resources to bolster the digital ecosystem in Cambodia and create new employment opportunities through partnerships with local higher education institutions and the private sector.
- **USAID/Bureau for Europe and Eurasia: Critical Infrastructure Digitalization and Resilience Program**, implemented by DAI, for strengthening cybersecurity ecosystems in countries throughout Eastern Europe and building the capacity of key stakeholders in the region to protect critical infrastructure and become more resilient in the face of cyber attacks.
- **USAID/Global Health/Office of Population and Reproductive Health: Game of Choice, Not Chance Initiative**, implemented by women-owned small business Howard Delafield International, for developing a mobile phone game for girls in India to practice making informed choices and find products, services, and resources to support their sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing.
- **USAID/Moldova: Future Technologies Activity**, implemented by Chemonics, for supporting a Moldovan-founded community digital bank called Fagura to accelerate access to non-traditional banking services and loans, empowering small and medium enterprises across the country to transform their ideas into business opportunities.



2023 DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR A DIGITAL AGE

#DigiAwards





Danile- (Community Health Worker) using T-MIS

Danile wakes up bright and early during the rainy season in her village in Gwanda District, Zimbabwe to check on her crops and go fishing for her family. Her commitment to the well-being of others extends to the rest of her village, as well.

For several years, Danile has worked to prevent the spread of HIV in her village. As a community health worker, she goes door to door providing her neighbors with peer support, health education, resources for self-testing, and health facility referrals for HIV treatment services.

She is employed by the Organization for Public Health Interventions and Development (OPHID) under USAID's Target, Accelerate, and Sustain Quality Care for HIV Epidemic Control Project (TASQC).



As an individual living with HIV, Danile is especially passionate about the role. HIV is one of the leading causes of death in Zimbabwe, and addressing the epidemic in more rural areas of the country has been an ongoing challenge.

Paper-based data management systems complicate community health workers' ability to record and access data remotely, which causes inefficiencies in service delivery.



For Danile, who used to regularly travel by bicycle up to 30 kilometers in each direction to the nearest clinic, spending nearly an entire day in transit limited her ability to meet with patients and file the necessary paper reports. To solve this problem, USAID and OPHID partnered with the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health to develop and launch a location-based, real-time data management system in four provinces. Built on a web-based, open-source platform, the TASQC Management Information System (T-MIS) tracks which services are being delivered and where, enabling the health system to address unmet needs for testing services in hard-to-reach areas.



Social Innovations and Knowledge Exchange

OPHID is committed to developing locally relevant innovations and program solutions that improve health and wellbeing of the communities and households where we work. Our Social Innovations and Knowledge Exchange initiatives seek to foster and build collaborative communities of practice, improve operational efficiencies, share lessons and improve the impact of our own work and that of other local organizations.



OPHID Executive Director Dr Tinashe Chinyanga

To cascade on local knowledge-based practice, OPHID conceptualized and initiated the Ilima/Jakwara: Health and Development Knowledge Exchange fora. The practice promotes knowledge sharing, peer learning, and emphasizes practical application of skills.



OPHID employees follow proceedings at the Innovation and Knowledge Exchange workshop held in Harare.

OPHID supports joint congress for the College of Primary Healthcare Physicians of Zimbabwe (CPCPZ) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Zimbabwe (PSZ)

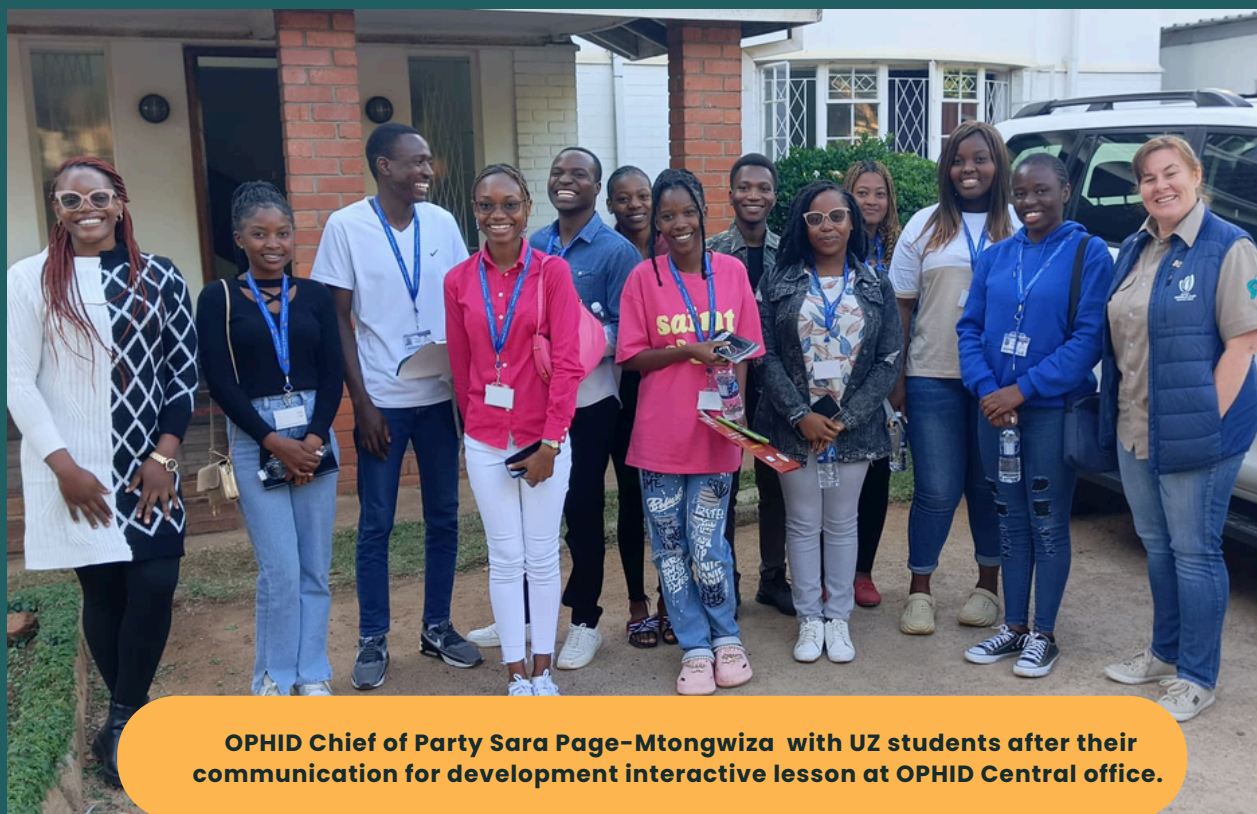


Ministry of Health and Child Care Deputy Minister Sleiman Kwidini is flanked by OPHID employees at the CPCPZ and PSZ joint congress held in Bulawayo.

OPHID supported the joint congress for the College of Primary Healthcare Physicians of Zimbabwe (CPCPZ) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Zimbabwe (PSZ) in Bulawayo. Honourable Sleiman Timios Kwidini, Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care, visited the OPHID stand and appreciated the great work that OPHID is doing to complement MoHCC work.

Inspiring future generations through capacity strengthening.

OPHID recently supported a group of talented social innovation UZ students on their project on Communications for Development. We were thrilled to capacitate the next generation of innovators to harness the power of communication to drive positive impact.



OPHID Chief of Party Sara Page-Mtongwiza with UZ students after their communication for development interactive lesson at OPHID Central office.

Zimbabwe - Eswatini Collaborative Efforts in Paediatric HIV Care and Knowledge Exchange

OPHID participated in a Paediatric HIV look and learn visit in Eswatini together with the Ministry of Health and Child Care and Zimbabwe Health Interventions from 19-21 June 2024. The goal was to strengthen national strategies to improve the quality of care and support services for children living with HIV in Zimbabwe. The visit also sought to facilitate knowledge exchange, enhance technical skills, improve prevention strategies, and promote the sharing of best practices in managing paediatric HIV towards epidemic control for children. The visit established a collaborative and supportive relationship between healthcare professionals specialized in paediatric HIV prevention, care, and treatment in Zimbabwe and eSwatini



Delegates from Zimbabwe and Eswatini during the Paediatric HIV look and learn visit in Eswatini.



OPHID Technical Director Dr Pugie T. Chimberengwa and ZHI representative inspecting the modern electronic system.



Part of the 19 Mental Health Focal Persons who were honored with certificates of excellence.

Certificates of excellence for Mental Health Focal Persons

The USAID supported OPHID RISE Caring for the Carer project has significantly improved the importance of quality mental selfcare by healthcare workers in Zimbabwe, thanks to its successful implementation.



In honour of this outstanding work, a total of 19 trained mental health focal persons from across 15 districts were awarded with certificates of excellence from OPHID, in collaboration with Friendship Bench, led by the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

The 19 graduates consisted of 15 District Medical Health Officers and 4 Provincial Medical Health Officers. The graduation ceremony coincided with the Care for the Carer Close-out and Sustainability meeting and the RISE Data Review Meeting. The project reached 3 913 healthcare workers.

Regional Conferences



Participants including Dr P.T Chimberengwa at CQUIN Integrating non-HIV services into HIV Programs Conference-Kenya



Lekani Sansole & Norbert Muleya at Africa Regional Workshop on Strengthening TB M & E Systems Conference-Tanzania



Advancing TB Monitoring & Evaluation Systems: Africa Regional Workshop – Tanzania.

OPHID participated in the Africa Regional Workshop on Strengthening TB Monitoring & Evaluation Systems in Tanzania through the TASQC TB TAP project. The workshop, facilitated by the TB Data, Impact Assessment, and Communications Hub (TB DIAH), a USAID funded initiative, showcased an array of resources aimed at enhancing TB Monitoring & Evaluation. Notably, the Performance-based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PBMEF), a collaborative effort between TB DIAH and USAID, took centre stage.



Dr Tafadzwa Bepe and Kenneth Masiye INTEREST 2024-Benin

OPHID took part at the annual INTEREST Conference in Benin! The conference was showcasing cutting-edge knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and the prevention of HIV. OPHID presented posters on:

- Understanding Community Led Monitoring for increased Community Engagement in Differentiated Service Delivery decision making and programming in Zimbabwe.
- Boosting access of young people to HIV services through community based digital screening and referral.



OPHID AND PSZ employees on the soccer field during the friendly match in Harare.



Team Unity: OPHID's Friendly Soccer Match with Population Solutions for Health

On April 12th, OPHID employees and Population Solutions for Health joined forces for a friendly soccer match, bringing together teams for a day of fun and fitness. The event was a great opportunity for everyone to bond, promote health and wellness, and strengthen connections beyond the office.

The match was more than just a game; it showcased teamwork, physical activity, and the importance of a balanced lifestyle. It was a lively display of camaraderie and a reminder of the value of work-life balance and team unity. The teams embodied the spirit of , #healthandwellness, #teambuilding, and #worklifebalance. Through this event, OPHID and Population Solutions for Health reaffirmed their commitment to holistic well-being and the nurturing of lasting connections, both within and beyond the workplace.



OPHID Bulawayo employees undergo physical exercises during the Wellness Day commemoration.



“ OPHID Bulawayo Team Wraps Up Mental Health Awareness Month with a Special Wellness Day ”

In May 2024, the OPHID team in Bulawayo concluded Mental Health Awareness Month with a resounding commitment to staff wellness through a special wellness day under the theme “**Move for mental health**”. The event was a powerful reminder that prioritizing mental health is not confined to a single month but is a continuous endeavor.

Integrated Community Health outreaches

Bridging the gap between communities and health facilities



In Quarter 3, OPHID made strides in connecting healthcare facilities with communities through integrated community health outreaches. These outreaches brought essential healthcare services directly to the people in need. A key focus of these outreaches was to provide health education and promote preventive measures within the community. The success of these outreaches highlights the importance of community-based healthcare initiatives in improving access to quality services. Looking ahead, OPHID remains committed to sustaining this approach to create a healthcare system that is responsive to the diverse needs of the populations it serves.

Members of the public attending various community health outreaches in Bulawayo .



Left- Soccer teams at an Integrated Health Outreach
Right- Sandra Ndebele performing at the outreach in Bulawayo



Mental Health Outreaches

...a transformative initiative for HCWs

OPHID, through the RISE/USAID Caring for Carers program held a total of 13 outreach activities in Bulawayo, Masvingo, Matabeleland South and Chitungwiza between April and June 2024 – at respective health facilities where the healthcare workers are based. The program is being implemented in collaboration with Friendship Bench.

Participants engaged in discussions about mental health, shared personal experiences related to mental health, and self-screened using questionnaires. They also received training in problem-solving techniques and learned relaxation skills and grounding techniques. A total of 100 group sessions were conducted leading to the participation of 2,948 healthcare workers, with the highest attendance recorded in Masvingo Province.

The Caring for Carers program aims to reduce the stigma around mental health issues and improve access to mental health services for healthcare workers through various activities like group sessions, screening, referrals, and a confidential support line.



RISE Mental Health Team Lead Dr Kudzai Murembwe leads HCWs mental health group sessions and outreaches in Chitungwiza, Bulawayo and Masvingo.



**OPHID values Inclusivity:
Leave no one behind**

Our programs strive to achieve equity in access to high quality health care and development. We actively seek to identify and engage with the most vulnerable members of society in the design and reach of our programs.



Reaching men through Integrated moonlight outreaches

OPHID, through the TASQC program is prioritizing strategies to engage and support men and boys to prevent HIV and TB. Through initiatives such as moonlight outreaches, OPHID aims to engage men who may not be able to access services during the day due to work or other commitments. This approach leverages the quiet hours of the night to provide discreet screening for HIV, TB, Diabetes and Hypertension. At the outreaches, services such as PrEP and ART initiation, distribution of condoms and HIV self-test kits, and provision of health education are available. In June, Chitungwiza District reached 384 men and 114 females with health services at moonlight sites alone. The initiative represents a significant step towards inclusive healthcare delivery.



Some of the men who received health services at moonlight outreaches in Chitungwiza.

Breaking barriers in cervical cancer screening!



OPHID HIV and Cervical Cancer Integration Manger Muchaneta Mandara illustrates HPV DNA testing procedure as participating men look on during the sessions.

OPHID is proud to involve men in advocating for women's health. Men play a crucial role in raising awareness about cervical cancer and the importance of screening among their female partners, family members and the broader community. Through our innovative approach, we're empowering males to champion cervical cancer screening, fostering a community of support and awareness. When men are involved and supportive, it increases the likelihood of women attending screening appointments and following through recommended follow-up care. Together, we can make a difference.

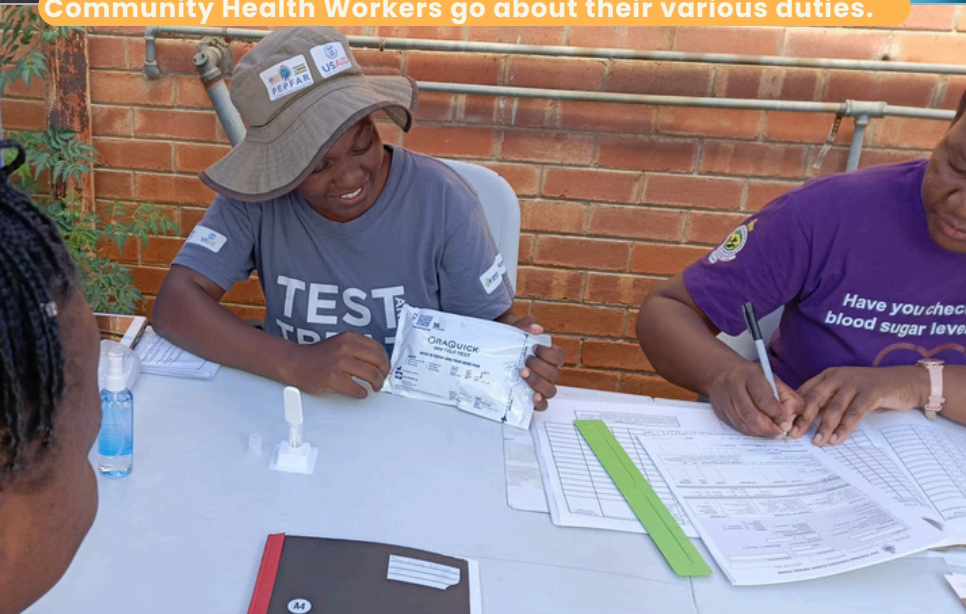


Letting Communities lead through Health Workers

As OPHID continues to champion the crucial role of Community Health Workers in bridging the gap between facilities and communities, their significant contribution in the improvement of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) adherence remains impactful. Community Health Workers are the unsung heroes of public health, working tirelessly to provide vital care and support to their communities. Their dedication and compassion make a real difference in the lives of so many. Let's stand together in recognizing and uplifting these champions of community well-being.



Community Health Workers go about their various duties.



International Days commemorated



Bulawayo team commemorating Africa Day in May



Knowledge Exchange: Tips from OPHID Departments

Strengthen Your Password Security-IT

In today's digital age, protecting your online accounts is more crucial than ever. Here are some tips to create and maintain strong passwords :

- a) Use a Passphrase: Instead of a single word, use a phrase that is easy to remember but hard to guess. For example, **"My\$ecureP@ssw0rd2024!"**
- b) Mix It Up: Include a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. This makes your password more difficult to crack.
- c) Avoid Common Words: Steer clear of easily guessable words like "password," **"123456,"** or **"qwerty."** Instead, use unique words or abbreviations.

Embrace change and be adaptable in an evolving workplace. The most successful employees are those who can pivot and learn quickly.



"Compliance is not just a department's job; it's everyone's responsibility!"



QUIZ

WHICH OPHID ORGANISATIONAL VALUE IS MENTIONED IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

To answer, scan the QR code below by **31 August 2024** and stand a chance to win the following:

1st Prize - T:Shirt, 2nd Prize- Cap, 3rd Prize- Bandana



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Sub Editor- Gwen Mugauri (Health Communications and Promotion Officer)

Congratulations!



Ntombizile Setheli - District Community Coordinator for graduating with a Master of Public Health degree.



Q2 newsletter 1st Prize Quiz Winner-Boitumelo K Madzipa-District Manager Mangwe

Thank you for reading!