



People Living with HIV Statement on World AIDS Day 2022

Marondera; 1 December 2022

The Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) join the rest of the world in commemorating the 2022 International World AIDS Day running under the theme “Equalize”. We remember those who passed on due to AIDS but also take stock of what has been done as we plan for the 1.3 million Zimbabwean living with HIV. We thank the government and other stakeholders that have ensured PLHIV live a quality and productive life through provision of life saving ARVs, and psycho-social support.

This year’s World AIDS Day comes at a time when we are coming out of COVID-19 pandemic which over the last 2 years has impacted on access to critical services by people living with HIV and communities in general. COVID-19 has taught us that now more than any time there is need to redouble our efforts to ensure that we reach epidemic control and guarantee quality HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people living with HIV in Zimbabwe. We can only achieve our desired 95, 95, 95 targets if we address the structural and social barriers that militate against people living with HIV accessing HIV testing, treatment, and diagnostic services. New HIV infections are occurring at an alarming rate largely among our young people, especially adolescent girls and young women while more men are dying most due to AIDS related causes. We can only address the inequalities that sponsor the surge in the new HIV infections and AIDS related deaths as expressed in the UNAIDS Ending Inequalities. End AIDS. Global AIDS Strategy for 2021 to 2026, if there is concerted effort and investment from all stakeholders.

As PLHIV, we have and will continue to play an important role in reaching out to our peers and supporting those in care and treatment. This year, we call upon all government, donors, partners, and people living with HIV to work together to address the following:

1. Rolling out comprehensive community led stigma reduction initiatives as outlined in the 2022 Stigma Index. The 2022 Stigma Index showed that 69.7% of surveyed people living with HIV experienced stigma and discrimination which is an increase from the 2014 study (65%).

Press Release



2. Increasing domestic financing of the healthcare sector in line with the Abuja Declaration target of 15% of the total national budget. This will ensure sustainability and guaranteed access to HIV, TB treatment, care and support services for people living with HIV.
3. Increasing HRH support at facility level, staff establishment at most facilities is below 50%.
4. Increasing access to Advanced HIV Disease management services, given the increase in the number of people living with HIV being diagnosed with Advanced HIV Disease.
5. Removal of user fees by their various names and functions which continue to promote unequal access to services by people living with HIV.
6. Ensure the provision of ART for people living with HIV up to 6 months for those stable on treatment. This will ensure reduced pressure on the already strained healthcare facilities.
7. Roll out more efficacious and long-acting HIV treatment for people living with HIV including the dolutegravir and the long acting injectable cabotegravir recommended by WHO. This will ensure greater adherence and treatment outcomes.
8. Integration of management non-communicable diseases like mental health, diabetes, high blood pressure with ART programs, since these conditions are on the increase among older PLHIV as we live longer and age with the disease.

In conclusion, we have an opportunity to successfully end AIDS by 2030. This can be achieved through the contribution of people living with HIV in the national response. Although progress has been made, there is need for collective effort in addressing key social and structural barriers that have the potential of putting the national HIV off-track.

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For More Information

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