



PRESS STATEMENT

PLHIV Statement on the 2025 World AIDS Day

Theme: “Overcoming Disruptions, Transforming the AIDS Response.”

Umzingwane | 1 December 2025

The Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) joins the nation and the global community in commemorating **National World AIDS Day 2025**, being held today at **Mzingwane High School**. This year’s theme, “**Overcoming Disruptions, Transforming the Response**,” speaks directly to the realities faced by people living with HIV (PLHIV) across the country.

Over the past years, Zimbabwe has experienced multiple disruptions from constrained financing to economic shocks, emerging public health challenges, and social inequalities. Despite these obstacles, communities of PLHIV continue to demonstrate extraordinary resilience, leadership, and unity. Today is a moment to recognize these efforts and reaffirm our collective commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in the HIV response.

Zimbabwe’s HIV response has made remarkable progress, but significant challenges remain. Funding reductions from international partners have intensified pressure on community programmes, prevention services, and treatment support systems. Stigma and discrimination continue to affect uptake of services and the quality of care received by PLHIV. Socio-economic hardships and disruptions in service delivery threaten continuity of care, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities of PLHIV. Youth, women, and key populations continue to face barriers in accessing comprehensive prevention and treatment services. These disruptions make it crucial to safeguard the gains Zimbabwe has achieved – and to protect the lives and dignity of all PLHIV.

ZNNP+ welcomes the ongoing national efforts to integrate community systems strengthening, improve service quality, and expand social protection mechanisms for PLHIV. Ending AIDS by 2030 requires bold decisions, new investments, and strong community leadership at every level of the national HIV response. We also welcome the recent approval for use in Zimbabwe of Lenacapavir (LEN), a twice-yearly HIV prevention prophylaxis and we continue to urge greater innovations in ART regimens to ensure retention in care.

As we commemorate World AIDS Day 2025, ZNNP+ highlights the following **key priorities** for PLHIV:

- 1. Sustainable and Increased Domestic Financing:** To counter donor reductions, Zimbabwe must expand domestic financing for HIV, ensuring uninterrupted access to treatment, prevention commodities, and community-led interventions.
- 2. Strengthening Community-Led Response Mechanisms:** Communities remain the backbone of the HIV response. ZNNP+ prioritizes expanded support for community-led monitoring, peer support, treatment literacy, and social contracting.

3. Ending Stigma, Discrimination, and Rights Violations: PLHIV continue to face stigma in families, communities, and some health settings. A transformed response must promote dignity, confidentiality, and rights-based service delivery.

4. Ensuring Continuity and Quality of Treatment: Uninterrupted access to ART, viral load testing, and differentiated service delivery models is essential. Supply chain stability and patient-centered care remain top priorities.

5. Focus on Children, Adolescents, and Young People: Zimbabwe must accelerate efforts to close treatment gaps among children, enhance psychosocial support for adolescents, and expand youth-friendly prevention and SRH services.

6. Gender Equality and Protection of Women and Girls: Women and girls remain disproportionately affected by HIV. Addressing gender-based violence, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and cultural barriers is critical.

7. Integration of HIV with Broader Health and Social Services: Strengthening linkages between HIV, TB, mental health, SRHR, and social protection systems ensures holistic care and reduces service disruption.

8. Meaningful Engagement of PLHIV in Strategy and Decision-Making: Nothing about us, without us. PLHIV must be recognized and supported as leaders at every level of strategy development, implementation, and monitoring.

As we mark World AIDS Day 2025, ZNNP+ calls upon government, development partners, civil society, and communities to renew their commitment to ending AIDS by 2030. The journey ahead requires collective responsibility, sustained investment, evidence-based policies, stronger community systems and the protection of the rights and dignity of all PLHIV

Let us unite to overcome disruptions and transform the HIV response into one that is resilient, inclusive, and equitable.

For more information contact:

Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+)

Facebook: Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV;

X: @znnpinfo

Website: www.znnp.org

Press Contact:

Faith Muperi phone +263(0)777 553 090



HIV prevention and treatment
Psycho-social support services
Key population and youth friendly services
Impact mitigation of COVID-19 and HIV SRHR services