

Action for Youth Foundation Trust

2026 First Quarter Report



Period Under Review	1 Jan-31 March 2026
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Province(s):	Harare Metropolitan
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Foreword

This report presents the progress and key achievements of Action for Youth Foundation Trust during the first quarter of 2026 (Jan-March) , highlighting efforts to improve the health and well-being of young people in Harare South Western District. The organization remains committed to delivering integrated and youth friendly interventions that address HIV, STIs, TB and Sexual Reproductive Health challenges. Through a combination of community based approaches, capacity building and strategic partnerships, the programs have continued to reach and positively impact the lives of many young people.

The reporting period has demonstrated the value of collaboration with government ministries, development partners, health facilities, tertiary institutions and community structures. These partnerships have strengthened service delivery, enhanced coordination and supported the implementation of targeted interventions that respond to the needs of young people. Increased uptake of HIV testing, improved linkage to care and the expansion of digital health platforms reflect the organization's commitment to innovation and responsiveness.

While notable progress has been made, the report also highlights areas that require continued attention including access to comprehensive HIV/STI prevention services, inclusivity and sustained engagement of beneficiaries. The organization remains dedicated to addressing these gaps through strengthened strategies, resource mobilization and continuous learning.

The report serves as a reflection of the collective efforts of our staff, partners and beneficiaries who have contributed to the outcomes achieved. It also reaffirms the organization's commitment to advancing youth health and development through impactful and sustainable programming.

Marvin Musekiwa

Executive Director

Our Background

Action for Youth Foundation Trust is a registered community-based, youth-led, non-profit organization improves the life standard of youth in Zimbabwe through enhanced health access, climate resilience, and civic engagement. Our organization was formed in November 2019 and was officially registered in June 2021 as a Trust, responding to the growing needs of young people, particularly those living with or affected by HIV and other socioeconomic challenges.

The organization is currently pursuing to register as a Private Voluntary Organization complying with the rules and regulations of the Government of Zimbabwe. Over the years, the organization has developed programs focusing on Youth Empowerment, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Life Skills, Education and Psycho-Social Support.

Our Vision: Every young person is healthy, economically resilient and empowered.

Our Mission: To support and uplift young people through inclusive programs that promote health, education, economic resilience and civic participation.

Our Projects

During the period under review, Action for Youth Foundation Trust implemented HIV & Psycho-Social Support (HIV&PSS) Project, Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project, Sexual Health & Reproductive Education for Youth in Tertiary Education and HIV/STI hot-spot areas (SHARE4YTE) Project and the Youth2Youth Digital Health Model. These projects contributed to the health and well-being, economic empowerment and education of young people we serve.

Our Partners



Program Overview

Project	Q1 Target	Q1 Reach	Variance	Q1 % Reach
HIV & PSS	100	68	32	68.00
ESP4Y+	52	49	3	94.23
SHARE4YTE	414	218	196	52.66
Youth2Youth Digital Health Model	1000	1800	-800	180.00
BFCP	-	-	-	-

Fig 1 shows the overall insights per each project implemented within the quarter

During the period under review, Action for Youth Foundation Trust implemented four out of five of its planned projects in partnership with various stakeholders, including Saving African Families Enterprise, the Ministry of Health and Child Care, Harare City Health, the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe, Speciss College, St Peter's Industrial Technical College, Stop TB Partnership, and Y+ Global. The partnership supported coordinated service delivery and strengthened the overall impact of interventions.

The organization reached a total of 2135 young people aged between 10 and 29 across all projects. Services provided included advocacy information, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Education, HIV/STI and TB Prevention, Treatment and Care. This reflects a broad approach that integrates health services with awareness and empowerment initiatives.

Performance across projects varied during the quarter. The HIV & Psycho-Social Support Project reached 68 out of a target of 100, indicating a gap in planned coverage. The Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project performed strongly and reached 49 out of 52 targeted participants. Sexual Health & Reproductive Education for Youth in Tertiary Education and HIV/STI Hot-spot areas (SHARE4YTE) Project recorded 218 participants reached against a target of 414 showing need for improved outreach.

The Youth2Youth Digital Health Model exceeded expectations and reached 1800 participants against the target of 1000. This achievement suggest strong engagement with Youth2Youth Digital Health Platforms and highlights their effectiveness in reaching young people. This quarter there were no activities under the Brighter Future Child Protection Project.

Implemented activities included Group Safe Space Meetings for Youth Living with HIV, Community Dialogues with Youth in Tertiary Education on HIV Prevention, Treatment & Care. These interventions focused on improving knowledge, strengthening support system and prevention services among young people.

HIV & Psycho-Social Support Project

HIV & PSS Project Insights				
Health Facility	Target	Reach	Variance	% Reach
Highfields Polyclinic	20	12	-8	60
Rutsanana Polyclinic	20	0	-20	0
Glen Norah Satellite Clinic	20	14	-6	70
Western Triangle Satellite Clinic	20	0	-20	0
Sally Mugabe Hospital	20	39	19	195
Grand Total	100	65	35	65

fig 1.1 shows the overall insights for the HIV&PSS Project during the quarter

Action for Youth Foundation Trust, in partnership with the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe, Harare City Health, and the Ministry of Health and Child Care, conducted a total of three Group Safe Space Meetings at three supported health facilities. The meetings were implemented in collaboration with Community Adolescent Treatment Supporters (CATS) and health care workers. The topics covered included ART adherence, TB prevention, hygiene, and practical partner disclosure. A total of 65 young people living with HIV were reached across the three health facilities where the Group Safe Space Meetings were conducted.

Dissagregation by gender

From a total of 65 participants attended the Group Safe Space Meetings during the period under review, 43 were females and 22 were males.

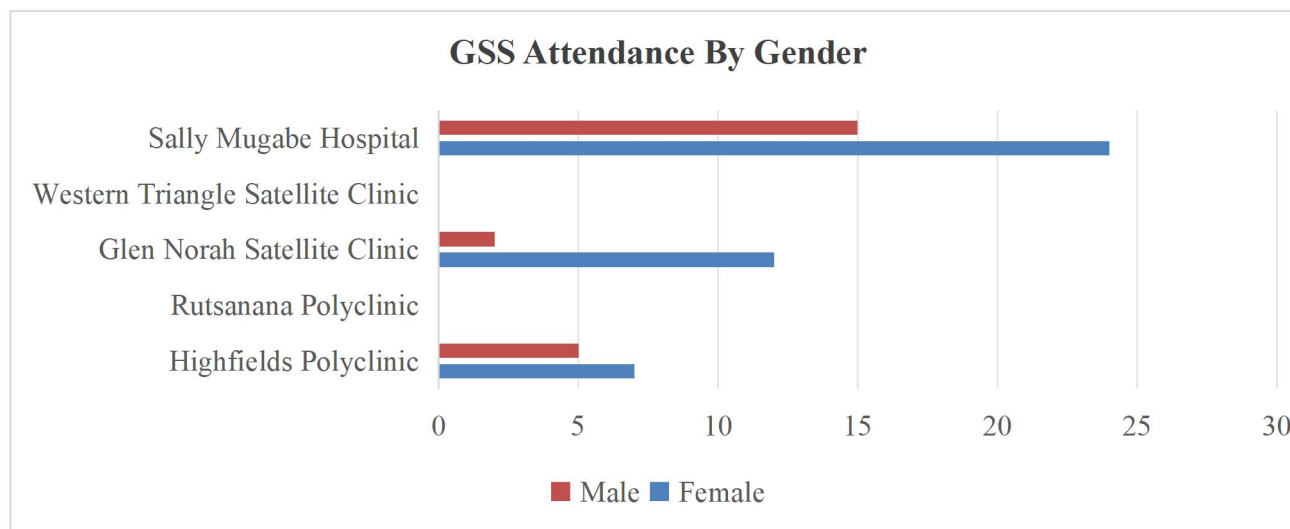


FiG 1.3 shows the attributes of the attendance by gender

The graph above shows the attendance by gender, and the data shows that Females have a huge turn-out compared to males.

TB Prevention Therapy Uptake

During the Group Safe Space Meetings, the participants were assessed if they were initiated on Tuberculosis Preventative Therapy their lifetime. A total of 65 youths living with HIV was assessed.

TPT UPTAKE BY ATTENDANCE				
Health Facility	Attendance	Been on TPT	Never Been on TPT	% TPT Uptake
Highfields Polyclinic	12	5	7	41.67
Rutsanana Polyclinic	0	0	0	-
Glen Norah Satellite Clinic	14	1	13	7.14
Western Triangle Satellite Clinic	0	0	0	-
Sally Mugabe Hospital	39	22	17	56.41
Grand Total	65	28	37	43.08

Fig 1.4 shows a table with TPT uptake by attendance

The data shows that only 27 (43%) of participants have received TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) at some point in their lives, while 37 (57%) have never been on TPT. People living with HIV are highly vulnerable to opportunistic infections, particularly tuberculosis. This translates to an overall uptake of 43%, indicating that more than half of the participants have not accessed the life-saving TPT despite the increased vulnerability to tuberculosis.

Uptake levels varied across health facilities. Sally Mugabe Hospital recorded the highest number of participants on TPT with 22 out of 39, reflecting relatively strong performance. Highfields Polyclinic showed moderate uptake with 5 out of 12 participants initiated on the preventative therapy. Glen Norah Satellite Clinic recorded low uptake with only 1 out of 14 participants having accessed TPT.

Participants turnout was reduced due to the unavailability of snacks which discouraged some facilities from mobilizing beneficiaries. Male participation remained lower compared to females which limited inclusive engagement. Partner disclosure remains a challenge in young people living with HIV as they fear stigma and discrimination. Communication barriers were also identified as a challenge during the Group Safe Space Meetings. Three participants who have hearing impairment attended the meetings but there was no facilitator trained in sign language to support effective communication. This limited their ability to fully participate in discussions and access critical health information shared during the sessions.

There is need to strengthen the existing TB programs that improves the TPT uptake among eligible participants. Provision of refreshments is a better intervention to increase attendance and engagement. Young people should be educated on opportunistic infections, including tuberculosis, and the importance of adhering consistently to TB Preventive Therapy (TPT). CATS to conduct a targeted mobilization mainly focusing on male involvement and address gender disparities. Adolescent ART Refill Days should be utilized as an opportunity to reach and engage more young people. Capacity-building training on partner disclosure techniques should be conducted, and informational booklets should be developed and distributed to participants. There is need to strengthen inclusivity within program delivery. Training facilitators in basic sign language will improve accessibility for participants with hearing impairments. This will ensure equal participation and enable all beneficiaries to benefit from the services provided.

HIV Primary Disclosure Support

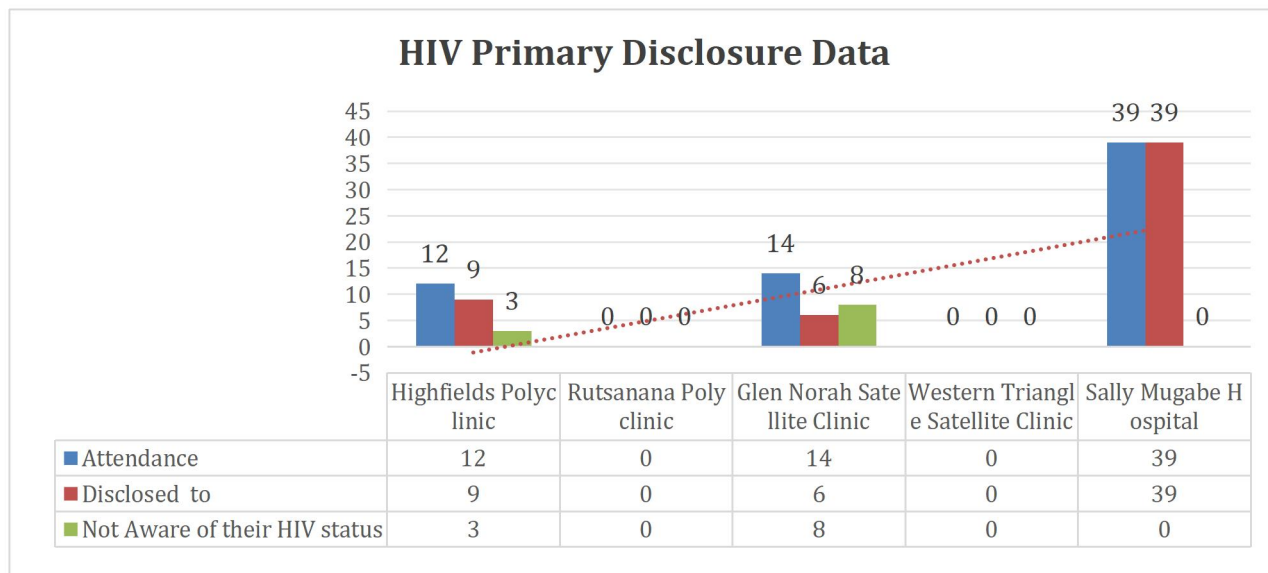


Fig 1.5 shows the primary disclosure data per each facility by attendance.

During the reporting period, a total of 65 participants attended Group Safe Space Meetings. From the total 54(83%) of participants had received HIV primary disclosure from their parents and caregivers. This indicates a notable level of progress in ensuring that young people are informed about their HIV status. Disclosure remains an essential step in supporting treatment adherence and psychosocial well-being among young people living with HIV.

A total of 11(17%) of participants were not yet aware of their HIV status at the time of reporting. This highlights a remaining gap in the disclosure process that requires continued attention. Lack of awareness can affect treatment outcomes and limit the ability of young people to make informed health decisions. Addressing this gaps remains a priority to the organization for improving overall program outcomes.

During the previous quarter, the team conducted Parents & Caregivers Meetings building their capacity on HIV Primary Disclosure. These sessions focused on practical techniques for communicating with children using the World Health Organization approved guidelines. Caregivers were supported to approach disclosure in a sensitive and age appropriate manner. The training aimed to reduce fear and build confidence among parents & caregivers.

Positive changes have been observed following the Parents & Caregivers Meetings. An increasing number of parents and caregivers are now taking steps to inform children of their HIV status. This shift reflects growing confidence and understanding of the importance of disclosure. It also demonstrates the effectiveness of structured guidance and continuous engagement with caregivers.

Participants who remain unaware of their HIV status were identified and prioritized for follow up while parents and caregivers were mobilized to attend upcoming training sessions scheduled for next quarter. This approach ensures that no one is left behind in the disclosure process and strengthens support for parents & caregivers to complete disclosure in a supportive environment. Continued engagement through Group Safe Space meetings and targeted follow ups will improve disclosure rates and contribute to better treatment adherence and overall well-being among young people.

Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project

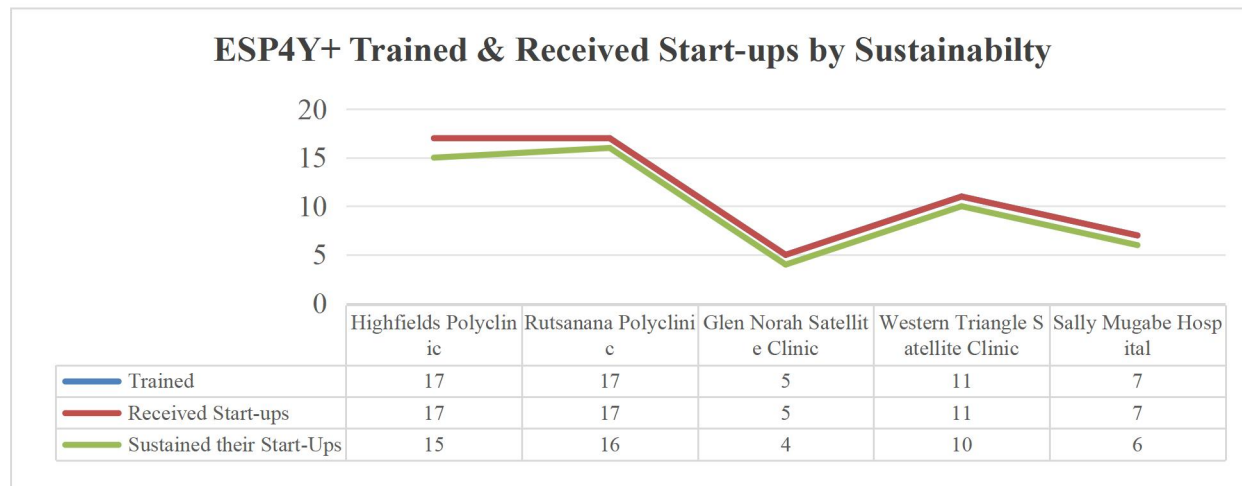


Fig 2.0 shows the attributes of the ESP4Y+ Project

The Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project continued to support young people living with HIV through skills development and income generating initiatives. With funding support from Saving African Families Enterprise (SAFE), Action for Youth Foundation Trust trained 57 youths from 5 supported health facilities in Harare South Western District. The training focused on basic financial literacy and dishwasher production to equip participants with practical and marketable skills.

Participants gained knowledge on product formulation, costing, pricing and basic marketing strategies. These skills enabled them to produce quality dishwasher products and manage small scale businesses. The project aimed to improve financial independence and reduce economic vulnerability among young people living with HIV. Upon completion of the training, participants received start-up kits ranging from 10-22 bottles of 750 ml finished dishwasher products. Allocation was based on participant turn out and available resources. Each bottle was sold at one united states dollar which provided an entry point for income generation and business growth.

Sustainability outcomes were encouraging as 52 out of 57 participants managed to maintain their small-scale businesses. Some beneficiaries continued with dishwasher production while others diversified into different detergent products or started new ventures. These efforts reflect the adaptability and resilience of the participants in applying the skilled gain. During the quarter, 49 participants were successfully tracked and received ongoing mentorship support. Regular follow ups helped address challenges, strengthen business management skills and ensure continued income generation. The mentorship component played a key role in reinforcing sustainability and supporting long-term economic empowerment.

Participants are facing significant market challenges which have limited their ability to expand their businesses. Many are generating only small profits that are mainly used for daily survival rather than reinvestment and growth. Limited access, competition and low purchasing power within communities have further constrained business performance. The lack of back-up funding has also affected the scale and reach of the project. Resource constraints reduced the number of beneficiaries reached by the project.

There is a need to strengthen financial support mechanisms, improve market linkages and explore additional funding opportunities to enhance sustainability and enable participants to transition from subsistence to growth-oriented enterprises.

ESP4Y+ Project Success Stories

Benita's Story



Benita Mabhiza, a determined young woman and beneficiary of the Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives #ESP4Y+ Project Phase 1. She took part in both Business Management and Dishwasher Making trainings delivered by **Action for Youth Foundation-Trust** with funding support from **Saving African Families Enterprise (SAFE)**. These trainings equipped her with practical skills and knowledge to start and manage a small business.

After completing the trainings, she received 15 bottles of dishwasher liquid as her initial start-up stock which she sold at \$1 each. The income she generated became the foundation for her next steps as she reinvested her earnings and began exploring opportunities for growth. Her journey reflects how small beginnings can create meaningful change when supported with the right skills

and resources.

She later formed a joint venture with other young mothers who also benefited from the project and together they expanded their production to include toilet cleaner, domestos and other household detergents. This collaboration allowed them to share knowledge, increase production and reach more customers within their community.

Today she is sustaining her business making a steady income and supporting her family. Her story highlights the power of collective effort among young women and shows that working together can strengthen resilience and improve long term sustainability.

Vanessa's Story

Vanessa Nyakabau, a young mother and a proud beneficiary of the Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project Phase 1 funded by Saving African Families Enterprise (SAFE). Her journey reflects resilience, determination and the power of opportunity when young people are supported with the right skills and resources.

Vanessa received her training at Glen Norah Satellite Clinic where she was equipped with practical skills in dish-washing liquid production and basic business management. The training, facilitated by Action for Youth Foundation Trust, aimed to empower young people with sustainable income generating skills that can transform their daily lives.

After completing the training, Vanessa received a start-up kit consisting of 15 bottles of high-quality dish-washing liquid. She began selling each bottle for \$1 which allowed her to generate her first income. With determination and smart financial decisions, she reinvested her earnings into purchasing more materials to continue growing her business.

Today, Vanessa continues to manufacture and sell her dish-washing liquid, steadily building a reliable source of income. Her commitment to consistency and growth demonstrates how small beginnings can lead to meaningful progress when supported with knowledge and opportunity.

“This project helped me to make a living and supported me as a young mother to sustain our lives with my child,” she shared. Vanessa’s story stands as a powerful reminder of the impact of economic empowerment programs in creating sustainable livelihoods and improving the well-being of young people and their families.



Sexual Health & Reproductive Education for Youth in Tertiary Education and HIV/STI hot-spot areas (SHARE4YTE) Project

SHARE4YTE Project Insights				
District	Target	Reach	Variance	% Reach
Harare South Western	414	218	196	52.66

Table 3.0 shows the overall target vs reach

During the period under review, Action for Youth Foundation Trust in collaboration with the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe and Harare City Health Department, managed to conduct HIV Prevention, Treatment & Care training sessions with youths in tertiary education targeting three technical colleges within Harare South Western District and managed to reach two. This project mainly targeted to improve the health seeking behaviour among men and contributes to the first 95 Global target of HIV “95% of people living with HIV should know their HIV status by 2030” We managed to reach 218 young people in tertiary institutions with different services including condom distribution, HIV testing and referrals. With support from the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe, our organization managed to penetrate in these tertiary institutions.

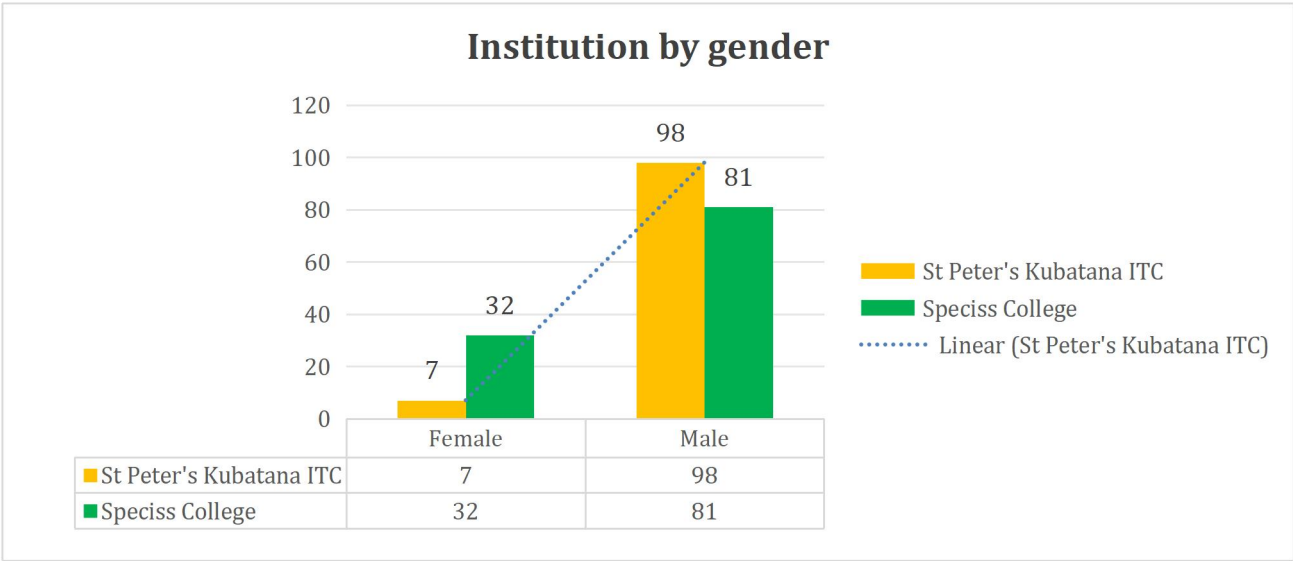


Fig 3.1 shows attendance by gender

The number of male participants in this project is higher than that of females showing 82% of total participants constituting males. In Harare South Western District, male involvement in health programs is very low, therefore, this project is targets institutions with a high population of men. This improves the uptake of health services among men in HIV/STI hot-spot areas.

Attendance by HIV Testing History

During the sessions, facilitators accessed each individual’s HIV testing history through the SHARE4YTE Participant Register. Participants were asked whether they had previously undergone HIV testing and if so, when their most recent test occurred. This information enabled the team to determine how many young people had accessed HIV testing services and to identify gaps in testing coverage.

The data also helped in assessing patterns of testing behaviour, including frequency and recency which informed targeted follow-ups interventions. Additionally, it supported efforts to encourage first-time testers and promote regular HIV testing among those at high risk, ultimately contributing to improved access to and uptake of HIV testing services among young people.

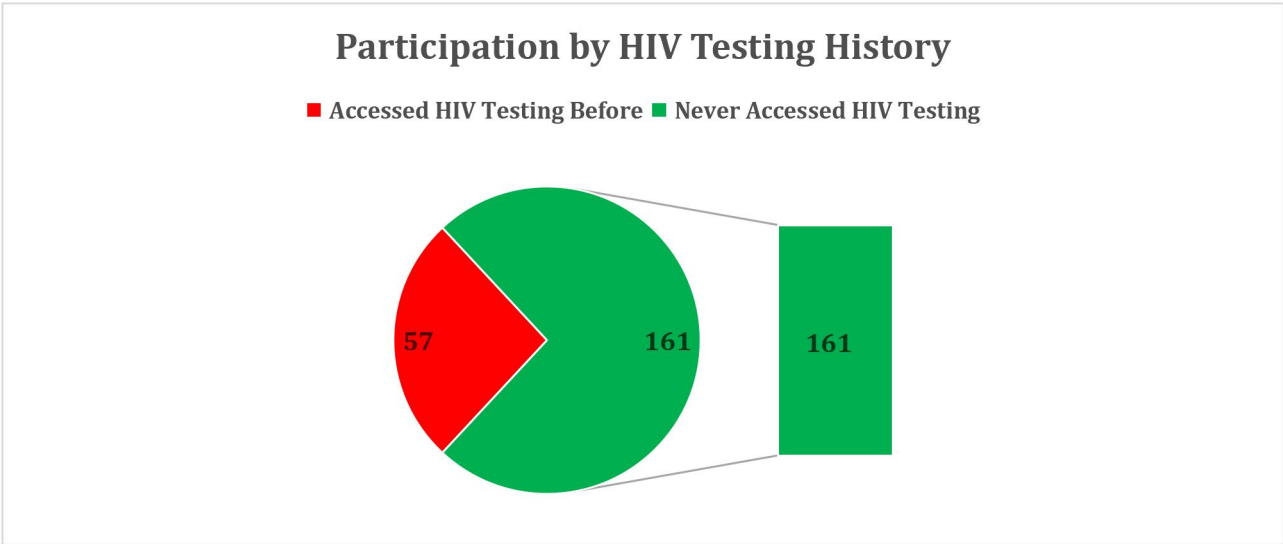


Fig 3.2 shows participation by HIV testing history

Out of a total of 218 participants, only 57 (26%) had previously accessed HIV testing services. This indicates that a significant proportion of participants had never been tested highlighting a critical gap in HIV testing coverage among young people. The findings suggest the need for increased awareness, improved accessibility of HIV testing services and continued community engagement to encourage more young people to know their HIV status.

The results also provide a baseline for measuring progress in future interventions while guiding the design of targeted strategies aimed at increasing HIV testing uptake, particularly among first-time testers and those at higher risk.

HIV Testing Services

After each session, facilitators conducted practical demonstrations on the correct use of OraQuick HIV self-test kits to ensure accurate results and support early detection of HIV. A total of 171 self-test kits were distributed to participants.

The demonstrations provided step-by-step guidance on sample collection, test administration and interpretation of results. Participants were also informed about the importance of confirmatory testing at the health facility following a reactive result as well as available support services. This approach helped build confidence in HIV self-testing and encouraged greater uptake of HIV testing among participants.

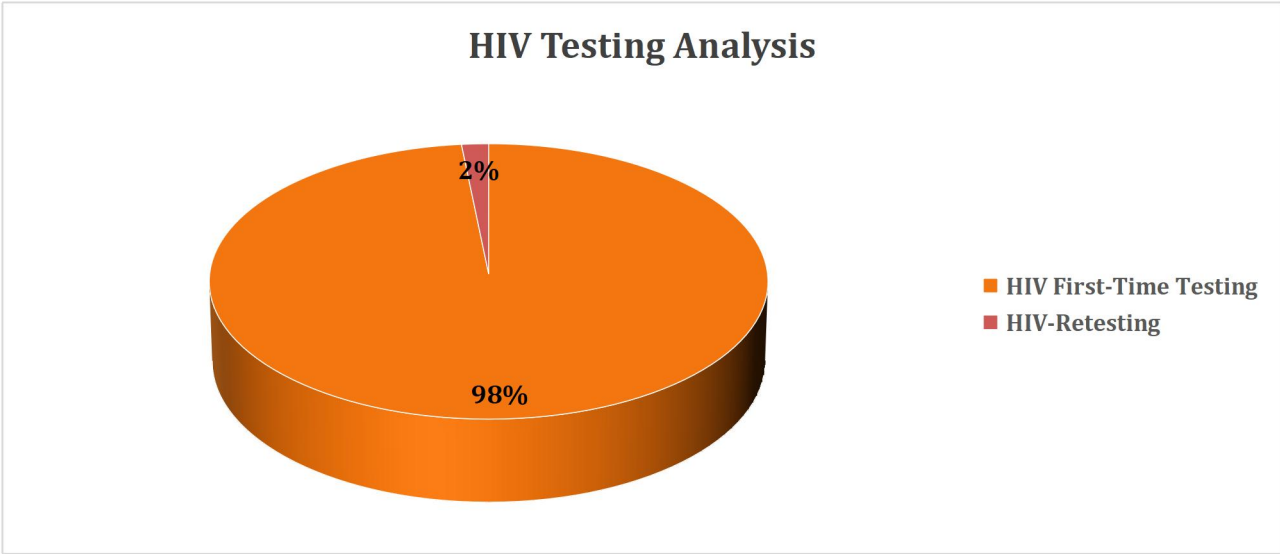


Fig 3.3 shows the HIV testing conducted by testing history

Of the 171 HIV self-test kits distributed, only 3(2%) were taken by participants for retesting while the majority were used by first time testers. This reflects a strong reach to individuals who had not previously accessed HIV testing services, highlighting the effectiveness of the project in engaging new testers.

The high proportion of first time testers highlights existing gaps in awareness, accessibility or willingness to utilize conventional testing services. It also demonstrates the effectiveness of community-based approaches and HIV self-testing in reducing barriers such as stigma and inconvenience.

Furthermore, the uptake of HIV self-test kits among first-time users suggests increased trust in the method following the practical demonstrations. This approach not only promotes early detection of HIV but also creates an opportunity to link young people to confirmatory testing and appropriate care services where necessary.

HIV SELF-TESTING RESULTS DISTRIBUTION VS RESULTS RECEIVED

Following the distribution of HIV self-testing kits, participants' results were tracked through follow-up phone calls. Out of the 171 kits distributed, 149 participants were successfully reached and provided their results. This reflects a strong level of engagement and willingness among participants to report their outcomes after using the self-test kits.

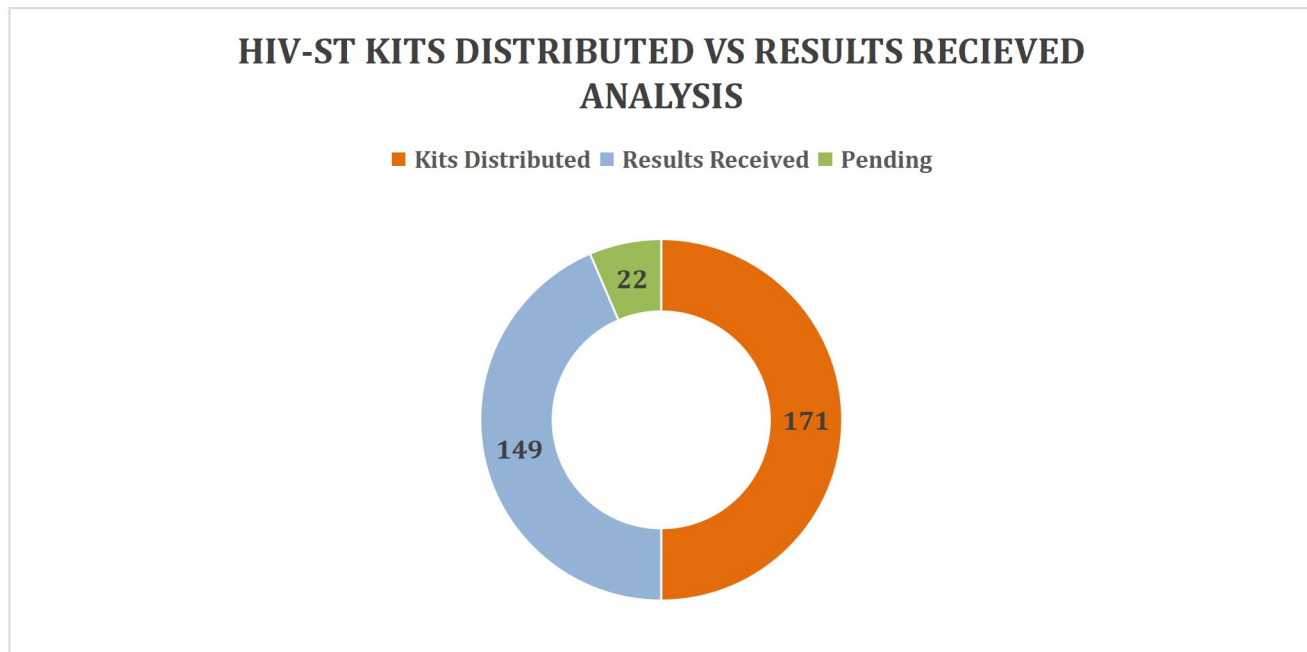


Fig 3.4 shows the total distribution vs results received

A proportion of 22(15%) participants could not be reached. Some had provided incorrect phone numbers, while others were unavailable or unreachable during the follow-up attempts. In addition, a few participants indicated that they had not yet used the test kits, despite three weeks having passed since distribution. These challenges highlight gaps in follow-up mechanisms and participant readiness.

The findings emphasize the need to strengthen communication strategies during distribution, including verifying contact details and reinforcing the importance of timely testing and result reporting. Enhancing follow-up approaches and providing additional support or reminders may improve response rates and ensure that more participants are effectively linked to further services where needed.

HIV Self-testing Results

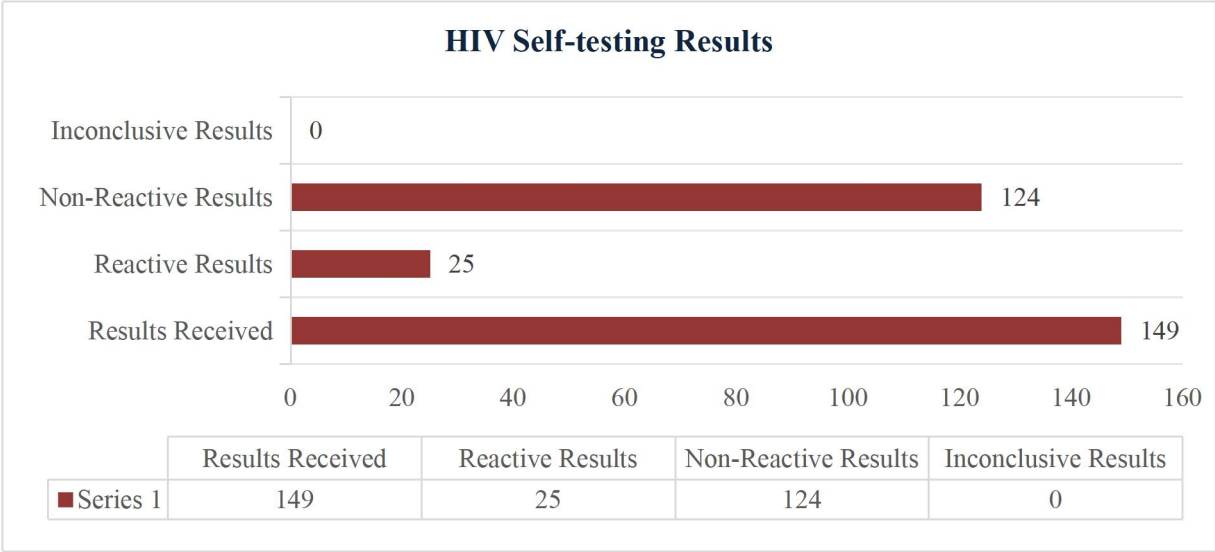


Fig 3.5 shows the HIV self-testing results received

Out of the 149 total results received, 25 were reactive, 124 were non-reactive and no inconclusive results were reported. This indicated that the majority of participants tested HIV negative while a notable proportion required further follow-up due to reactive outcomes.

The absence of inconclusive results suggested that participants were able to correctly use the HIV self-test kits likely supported by the practical demonstrations provided during the sessions. This reflects the effectiveness of the training in ensuring proper test administration and accurate interpretation of results.

The distribution of results highlights both progress and areas for continued focus. While high number of non-reactive results is encouraging, the reactive cases emphasize the on-going need for confirmatory testing and timely linkage to care. Continued efforts in awareness, testing and follow-ups will be essential in strengthening HIV prevention and treatment outcomes.

HIV Post-test linkages

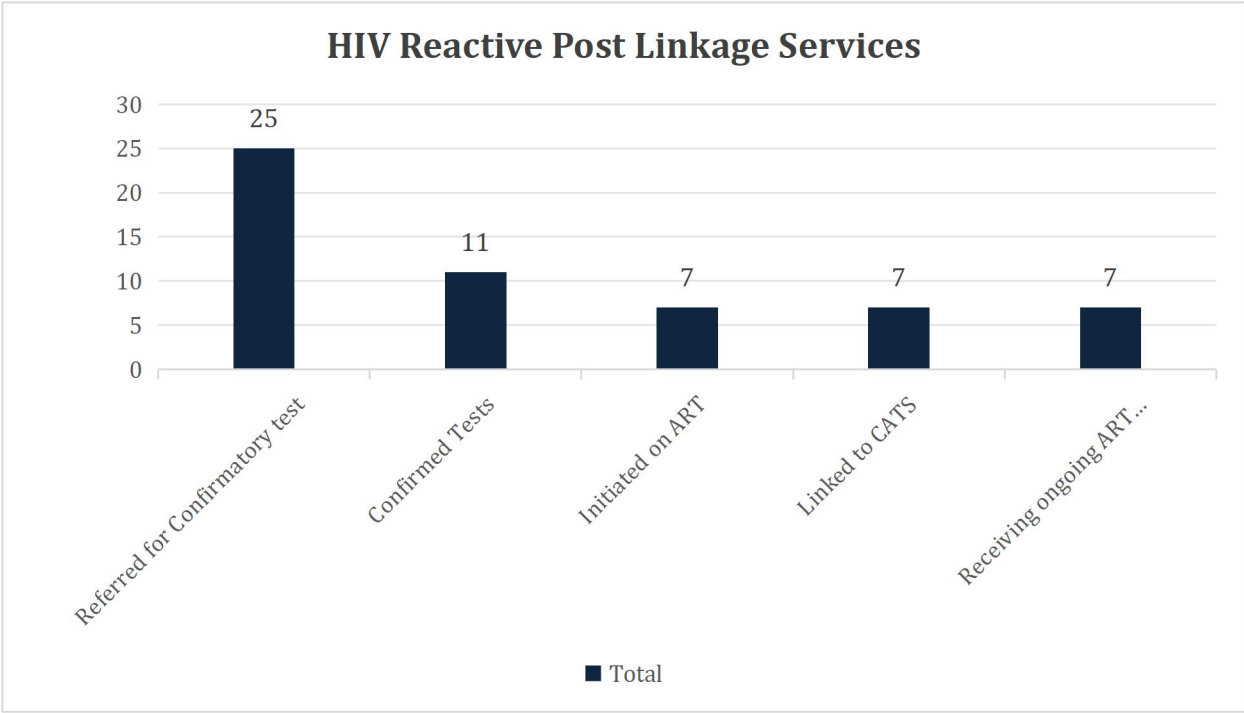


Fig 3.6 shows the HIV Post-test linkage analysis for confirmed positives.

All 25 participants with reactive results were referred to Rutsanana Polyclinic and Western Triangle Satellite Clinic for confirmatory testing. This step ensured that the participants received clinical evaluation following their self-test outcomes. Of those referred, 11 (44%) were confirmed HIV-Positive after undergoing confirmatory testing. This highlights the importance of follow-through after self-testing to establish accurate diagnosis and determine the appropriate course of care.

Among the confirmed cases, 7(64%) individuals were initiated on ART. They were linked to Community Adolescents Treatment Supporters where they are receiving ongoing support to strengthen adherence and remain engaged in care. The linkage of clients to both treatment and peer support structures reflects a critical step toward sustained health outcomes. Integrating medical care with community-based support not only improves adherence but also foster a supportive environment that encourages long-term retention in care and overall well-being.

Upon linked to CATS, they were also linked to facility-led Monthly Group Safe Space Meetings. These sessions provide a supportive platform for peer interaction, ongoing counseling, disclosure support and adherence reinforcement helping participants stay engaged in care while building confidence and resilience in managing their health.

HIV non-reactive post-test linkages

Non-Reactive Results	Referred for PrEP	Referred for Family Planning	Received PrEP	Received Family Planning
124	43	25	16	19

Fig 3.7 showing the HIV Post-test service linkages for non-reactive participants

Of the 124 participants with non-reactive results, 68 were identified as being at higher risk of getting HIV and experiencing unintended pregnancies. This highlights the importance of targeted prevention strategies even among those who tested HIV-negative.

Among those identified as high risk, 43 were referred for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services as a preventative measure against HIV infection. Of these, 16(36%) successfully accessed and initiated on PrEP, demonstrating progress in the uptake of biomedical prevention options.

In addition, 25 participants were referred for family planning services to address the risk of unintended pregnancies. Out of those referred, 19(76%) accessed the services indicating a relatively strong response to reproductive health interventions within the group.

These outcomes reflect the value of integrated service delivery, where HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health services are provided together. Strengthening referral pathways and follow-up support will further improve access and ensure that many young people benefit from the full range of available prevention services.

Condom Distribution

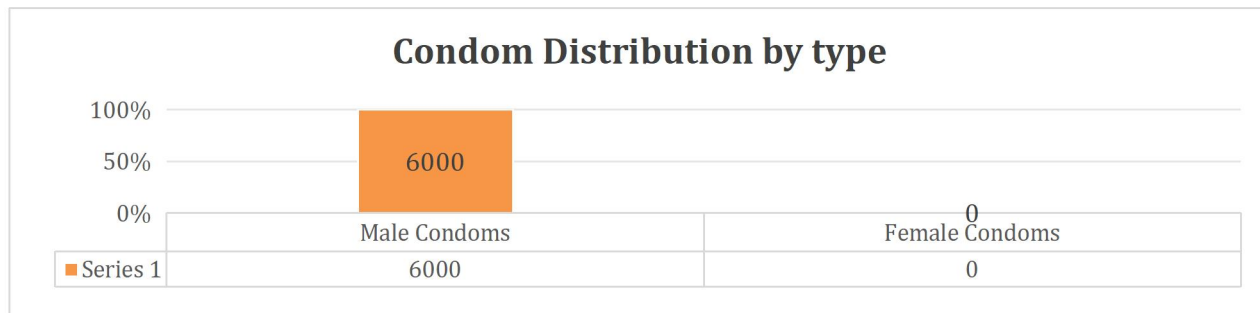


Fig 3.8 shows the condom distribution chart by type

During the sessions with youths in tertiary institutions, facilitators demonstrated the correct use of both male and female condoms, emphasizing the importance of consistent and correct use in preventing HIV transmission. The practical demonstrations aimed to build confidence and ensure that participants are equipped with the necessary skills to use condoms effectively. A total of 6000 male condoms were distributed to support safer sexual practices among youths.

However, no female condoms were distributed due to their unavailability in Harare South Western District. To ensure participants were still informed, facilitators used the expired condoms strictly for demonstration purposes. This highlights a gap in access to a full range of prevention options and underscores the need to improve the availability of female condoms in order to provide more inclusive and comprehensive HIV prevention services.

Youth2Youth Digital Health Model

During the reporting period, the Youth2Youth Digital Health Platform conducted a wide range of training sessions and discussions focusing on youth leadership, digital health, Human Papilloma Virus awareness, public health, social protection, social work impact training and youth development. Key areas covered included the importance of digital health and technology, ethics, privacy and confidentiality, as well as the role of caregivers and parents in supporting health and child well-being.

The training sessions conducted addressed critical health topics such as maternal, child and family health, HPV awareness, challenges in HIV treatment, occupational health and safety and strategies to reduce risky behaviors among adolescents. Mental health was a key focus area, with discussions centered on self-care, stress management, and reducing stigma, particularly within the youth context. In addition, sessions explored social issues affecting communities, including promoting equal opportunities for women in the workplace, the impact of gender inequality on families and communities, and the importance of creating safe spaces for children to speak up about abuse.

Child protection was further strengthened through discussions on social media safety, parental guidance on boundaries and collaboration among professionals. The program also emphasized the role of social work in community development, highlighting professional identity, values, and challenges, as well as the contribution of social workers in promoting women economic empowerment and advocating for policy changes that benefit vulnerable populations.

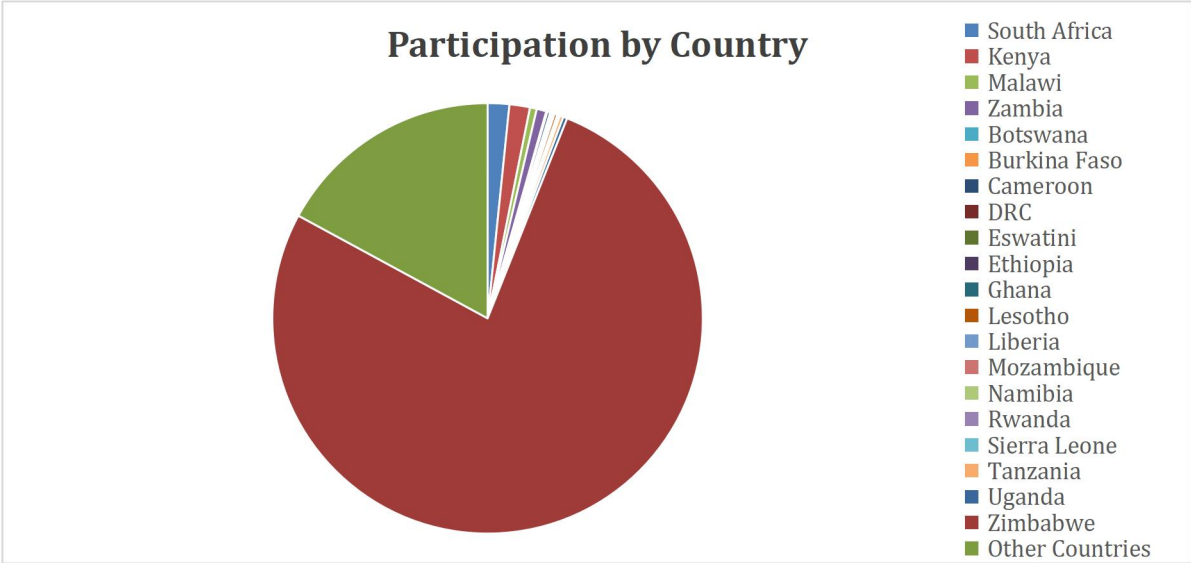


Fig 4.1 shows the number of people participated in the Youth2Youth Digital Health Platform Sessions by country of residence

The platform has proven to be an effective and inclusive space for learning, dialogue, and collaboration, reaching over 2,000 young people and equipping them with practical skills to address real-life challenges within their communities. The integration of youth leadership, advocacy, and social work principles has further positioned participants as key drivers of positive social change.

As the organization moves forward, there is a clear opportunity to deepen impact by strengthening engagement strategies, promoting inclusive participation, and ensuring that all activities remain relevant, action-oriented, and responsive to the local context. By building on the lessons learned and implementing the proposed recommendations, the Youth2Youth Digital Health Platform is well-positioned to expand its reach, enhance its effectiveness, and continue empowering young people to lead transformative change in their communities.

Stakeholder Engagement & Capacity Building

NAC Stakeholders, District AIDS Action Committee, Task-force Meetings.

During the first quarter, our team participated in District AIDS Action Committee, District Stakeholder's and District Task-force meetings led by National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe in Harare South Western District. These platforms created space for coordination and alignment among partners working in the HIV and STI response. Representatives from government ministries and various organizations attended and contributed to the discussions.

The meeting focused on reviewing district performance reports and assessing progress made in addressing HIV/STI challenges. Participants shared updates from their respective programs and identified priority areas that require strengthened interventions. The engagement promoted accountability and encouraged partners to work toward shared goals.

Concerns were raised regarding the increase in sexually transmitted infections and new HIV cases within the district. Participants explored practical approaches to reduce transmission including scaling up prevention services, strengthening awareness campaigns and improving access to treatment and care. These discussions supported the development of coordinated strategies to address emerging trends.

Our organization remains an important partner in the district response. The organization continues to support prevention initiatives and collaborates with other stakeholders to reach vulnerable populations. Its involvement contributes to sustained efforts aimed at reducing HIV and STI prevalence and improving community health outcomes.

YCA4SOTRA Project

Our team attended and participated in the Youth Collective Action for Social Transformation Project led by SAYWHAT, where we received capacity building on stakeholder mapping skills. Participants gained practical skills to identify key stakeholders, understand their roles and engage them effectively in program implementation. This knowledge supports stronger co-ordination and improves the impact of youth-driven interventions.

Safe & Inclusive Cities Project

During this quarter, our team led by Youth Empowerment Transformation Trust under the Safe & Inclusive Cities Project submitted a position paper to the Parliament of Zimbabwe. The paper reviewed the National Drug and Substance Abuse Control and Enforcement Agency Bill and highlighted key concerns affecting young people. It emphasized the importance of meaningful youth involvement in policy development and decision making processes.

The team also attended a 3-day Youth Economic Advocacy and Climate Action Boot Camp led by YETT with funding support from Plan International Zimbabwe. The sessions focused on strengthening youth capacity to engage in advocacy and development processes. Discussions reinforced the value of peaceful and informed participation in shaping policies and promoting sustainable community development.

Staff Capacity Building

The organization conducted a comprehensive staff orientation that included a review of last year's program performance and key lesson learned. The process also introduced staff to the team and the Board of Trustees, strengthening understanding of organization's structure, roles and strategic direction. This created a shared vision and improved alignment across all levels of the organization.

Staff staff received capacity building training on effective facilitation of Group Safe Space Meetings and Community Dialogues. The training covered participatory approaches, communication skills and accurate demonstration of condom use to ensure quality service delivery. These sessions aimed to enhance staff confidence and improve the consistency of program implementation across different sites.

Newly recruited team members were oriented and provided with on-site induction into organizational programs and operations. They were introduced to key stakeholders including health care workers, CATS, college authorities, District AIDS Coordinators and other relevant partners. This engagement supported relationship building, improved coordination and ensured that new staff are well integrated into the existing service delivery systems.

Staff Retention

The organization maintained a strong staff retention rate of 89% during the reporting period. This reflects a stable workforce and a supportive working environment that encourages staff commitment and continuity in program implementation. High retention has contributed to consistency in service delivery and preservation of institutional knowledge.

The remaining 11% of positions were filled through targeted recruitment to ensure that all roles are adequately staffed. New team members were selected to complement existing capacity and strengthen program performance. This balance between retention and recruitment supports both stability and growth within the organization.

Out-going Staff Farewell

The organization conducted a farewell for two Program Interns who completed their attachment and returned to university. The event recognized their contributions to program implementation and their role in supporting organizational activities during their attachment period. It also provided an opportunity to reflect on their learning experience and growth.

Certificate of Appreciation were awarded to acknowledge their dedication and efforts. This gesture reinforced the organization's commitment to valuing contributions from all team members and maintaining positive relationships with interns as they transition back to their academic institutions.

Next Quarter Plans

HIV & PSS Project

The project will roll out a community-based TB screening tool to be used alongside the existing Community Based Referral Tool utilized by CATS. Beneficiaries will be screened during Group Safe Space Meetings to identify eligibility for Tuberculosis Preventative Therapy (TPT). Those who meet the criteria will be referred for TPT initiation while individuals presenting symptoms will be referred for further clinical TB investigations. This approach is expected to strengthen early identification and increase TPT uptake among young people living with HIV.

ESP4Y+ Project

During the next quarter, the organization will prepare for the second phase of the project with focus on sustainability. This will involve detailed planning, consultations and engagement with CATS, beneficiaries and key stakeholders including the health care workers. The process will ensure that lesson learned from the first phase are incorporated into future implementation. Strengthened coordination will support continuity and long term impact of economic strengthening activities.

SHARE4YTE Project

The project will focus on developing a new activity calendar that included a wider range of sessions to address diverse needs of participants. Efforts will be made to move beyond a single program focus and introduce more comprehensive content. The organization will also engage additional tertiary institutions to expand reach and increase participation. This strategy will enhance program visibility and improve access to services among young people.

Youth2Youth Digital Health Model

The initiative will continue implementing diverse awareness campaigns through digital platforms targeting young people. Plans are in place to establish at least three Youth2Youth Digital Health Platforms to widen engagement and information dissemination. These platforms will provide accessible and youth friendly health & advocacy information. Increased digital presence will support broader outreach and sustained interaction with beneficiaries.

Organizational Growth and Staff Capacity Building

The organization will conduct capacity building trainings focusing on OVC programming and the integration of HIV & mental health. These training sessions will equip staff with relevant knowledge and skills to enhance service delivery. Certificates will be awarded to participants upon completion to recognize their achievement. This effort will contribute to professional development and strengthen overall organizational performance.

Conclusion

The reporting period reflects meaningful progress across all program areas, with the organization reaching a significant number of young people through integrated HIV, STI, TB and sexual and reproductive health interventions. Increased uptake of HIV testing services, strong engagement with first time testers and improved linkage to care demonstrate the effectiveness of community based and youth friendly approaches. Capacity building efforts for both staff and caregivers have strengthened service delivery and contributed to improved outcomes such as HIV status disclosure and treatment adherence.

ESP4Y+ Project have empowered young people living with HIV with practical skills for income generation, although challenges related to market access and limited funding remain. The Youth2Youth Digital Health Platforms and expanded outreach in tertiary institutions have enhanced access to information and services, particularly among under served populations. Participation in district level coordination meetings and policy engagement processes has positioned the organization as a key stakeholder contributing to broader HIV and STI prevention efforts.

Despite the achievements recorded, gaps remain in areas such as linkage to services, TPT uptake, inclusivity for persons with disabilities and sustained engagement of beneficiaries. Addressing these challenges will require strengthened follow up mechanisms, increased resource mobilization and continued collaboration with partners.

Overall, the organization remains committed to improving the health and well being of young people through innovative, inclusive and sustainable interventions. Continued focus on quality service delivery, strategic partnerships and community engagement will be essential in advancing program impact and achieving long term outcomes.

Acknowledgements

Action for Youth Foundation Trust extends sincere appreciation to all partners and stakeholders who contributed to the successful implementation of programs during the reporting period. Recognition is given to the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Harare City Health and other government departments for their guidance, coordination and continued support. Appreciation is also extended to partner organizations including Saving African Families Enterprise, SAYWHAT, YETT, Plan International, Y+ Global and Stop TB Partnership for their collaboration and technical assistance.

Gratitude is expressed to health care workers, District AIDS Coordinators, school authorities, and community leaders for their commitment and cooperation in facilitating program activities. Special recognition is given to Community Adolescent Treatment Supporters whose dedication strengthened service delivery and ensured continued engagement with beneficiaries.

The organization acknowledges the efforts of its staff and volunteers whose professionalism and commitment made it possible to achieve the reported outcomes. Their contribution to program implementation, mentorship, and community engagement remains invaluable.

Lastly, appreciation is extended to all young people and community members who participated in the programs. Their willingness to engage, learn and take positive action continues to drive the impact of the organization work and reinforces the importance of sustained investment in youth focused interventions.

‘Giving Hope To The Most Vulnerable Populations’

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