ACTION FOR YOUTH FOUNDATION TRUST
GIVING HOPE TO THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Action for Youth Foundation Trust

2026 3RD QUARTER

NEWSLETTER

Districts: Harare South Western, Harare Southern, Harare West South West & Harare Western

Reporting Period: 1 July-30 September 2026

Projects: HIV & PSS, SHARE4YTE, ESP4Y+, BFCP & Youth2Youth Digital Health Model

Introduction

Action for Youth Foundation Trust is a youth-led, community-based, not-for-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life of young people in Zimbabwe through access to health services, climate resilience and civic engagement. The organization is registered as a Trust under Deed Number MA1056/2021 and is currently awaiting Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) compliance status from the Department of Social Development.

Action for Youth Foundation Trust implements its Reach, Link & Empower Model, which places young people at the centre of its programmes and promotes youth-led implementation. Projects implemented through the model include SHARE4YTE, HIV & PSS, the Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives, Brighter Future Child Protection and the Youth2Youth Digital Health Model.







Our Staff Coverage

Action for Youth Foundation Trust is led by young professionals who occupy various positions from district to national level. The organization also provides internship opportunities to students from various universities. The organization's governance and secretariat structure consists of 7 Board members and 32 secretariat staff. Women make up 68% of the team.

Our Partners:

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE – HEALTHY NATION – HEALTH AND CHILDCARE ZIMBABWE

NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL ZIMBABWE

HARARE CITY COUNCIL

RL EST.2016 Real Link PRINTERS

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HIV & PSS Project

During this reporting period, Action for Youth Foundation Trust, in partnership with the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Health and Child Care and Harare City Health, conducted six Group Safe Space (GSS) sessions for Young People Living with HIV across six health facilities in Harare South Western and West South West Districts. The GSS sessions brought together young people living with HIV to discuss HIV partner disclosure, build self-confidence and strengthen understanding of U=U as part of efforts to promote treatment adherence and reduce HIV-related stigma.

A total of 164 participants were reached during the quarter through the Group Safe Space meetings. Of these, 74 (46%) confirmed that they had received Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy (TPT), while the remaining 90 (54%) were referred for TPT access. However, the health facilities were unable to provide TPT due to stock-outs.



Group Safe Spaces

HIV Primary Disclosure



Of the 164 participants reached during the quarter through the Group Safe Space meetings, 147 (91%) were aware of their HIV status. This represents a positive outcome and demonstrates a high level of HIV status awareness among young people reached through the programme.

The high level of awareness is particularly commendable considering that, during the first quarter, Action for Youth Foundation Trust and partners conducted Parents and Caregivers Meetings focused on strengthening their knowledge and skills in conducting HIV primary disclosure.

These sessions equipped parents and caregivers with practical information on supporting young people through the HIV disclosure process and creating a safe and supportive environment for young people to understand and manage their HIV status. The results during this reporting period demonstrate the importance of continued engagement with parents and caregivers as part of efforts to promote HIV status awareness, treatment adherence and overall well-being among young people living with HIV.

Action for Youth Foundation Trust will continue to engage parents and caregivers in supporting HIV primary disclosure and strengthening their capacity to provide appropriate support to young people throughout the disclosure process. These engagements will help parents and caregivers create safe, supportive environments where young people can openly discuss their HIV status and access the support they need.

The organisation will also strengthen engagement with parents and caregivers on supporting young people with HIV partner disclosure as part of efforts to promote U=U among young people and reduce the risk of HIV transmission and reinfection. Continued education and support will contribute to improved confidence, treatment adherence and informed decision-making among young people living with HIV.

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Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project

About ESP4Y+ Project

Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project is an initiative implemented by Action for Youth Foundation Trust. The project aims to empower out-of-school, unemployed young people living with HIV through economic strengthening initiatives that promote self-reliance and financial independence.

The project is funded by Saving African Families Enterprise (SAFE) and currently implemented in Harare South Western and West South West Districts.







Project Insights

During the reporting period under review, 132 young people living with HIV were trained in business management for community-based joint ventures, detergent making, product packaging and business sustainability. The training was delivered to 14 groups with the aim of strengthening participants' skills in managing income-generating activities and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Cumulatively, a total of 194 beneficiaries are currently benefiting from the Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project. The continued participation of young people living with HIV demonstrates the project's contribution towards strengthening economic resilience and promoting self-reliance among its beneficiaries.

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Brighter Future Child Protection Project

Every August, Action for Youth Foundation Trust joins its implementing partner, Angels Palace Organization, in conducting the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Mentorship Camp. The program brings together OVCs and Community Childcare Workers (CCWs) for mentorship sessions on life skills, children's rights and responsibilities and child safeguarding. These sessions also incorporate choto chevana and bonfire activities to encourage participation, interaction and peer learning. The program has been conducted annually since 2019.

The 2026 edition will conclude with the handover of donations to the selected beneficiaries and Community Childcare Workers to support their needs and strengthen ongoing community-based support for OVCs.



Donations Handover

2026 Project Insights



This quarter, the 2026 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Mentorship Camp was conducted in Mhondoro-Mubaira, reaching 55 OVCs and 10 Community Childcare Workers (CCWs). The program commenced with a mentorship session around a bonfire, also known as choto chevana, providing a platform for participants to interact, share experiences and learn about issues affecting their well-being.

The session included a Drug and Substance Abuse Awareness discussion, highlighting how substance use can contribute to negative life choices and expose young people to various risks. Action for Youth Foundation Trust provided technical support and mentorship, guiding participants on making informed decisions and adopting positive life choices. Particular emphasis was placed on the links between drug and substance abuse, child marriages and unwanted pregnancies, highlighting the importance of awareness, prevention and responsible decision-making.

The mentorship program concluded with the handover of donations to the 55 OVCs to support their educational and basic needs. The donations included blankets, clothes, school shoes, books and assistance with school fees. This intervention complemented the mentorship activities by addressing some of the practical challenges faced by vulnerable children and reaffirming the commitment of AYFT and its partners to promoting child well-being, protection and continued access to education.

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SHARE4YTE Project

Sexual Health & Reproductive Education for Youth in Tertiary Education and HIV/STI Hotspot Areas (SHARE4YTE) Project is a two-year initiative that commenced in January 2025. Financial support from Saving African Families Enterprise (SAFE) commenced in January 2026, with support provided in the form of HIV self-testing kits, HIV blood-based test kits and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Additional support was subsequently received from Red Dot Distribution Pvt Ltd through the provision of condoms.

Implementation is taking place across all four supported districts, with the project working primarily in partnership with the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe and Harare City Health. These partnerships support the delivery of integrated HIV and sexual and reproductive health interventions for young people in tertiary institutions and HIV/STI hotspot areas.





Project Insights

During the quarter, the SHARE4YTE Project reached 691 participants through tertiary institutions and outreach programs. Participants received sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV prevention information, including education on the correct and consistent use of condoms for the triple prevention of HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unplanned pregnancies.

A total of 571 HIV self-testing kits were distributed during the reporting period. Of the 543 test results received, 35 reactive results were recorded and the individuals were referred to their nearest health facilities for confirmatory testing and appropriate follow-up care. Cumulatively, 1,131 HIV self-testing kits have been distributed through the project this year.

To further strengthen triple prevention efforts, 940 Fantasy Condoms were distributed to young people reached through the project during the quarter. Condom distribution was complemented by prevention information to promote correct and consistent use among beneficiaries. Cumulatively, 7,140 male condoms have been distributed through the project this year.



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Youth2Youth Digital Health Model

The Youth2Youth Digital Health Model is an innovative initiative designed to provide young people with an interactive digital learning space where they can develop skills in advocacy, employability, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and other areas relevant to their personal and professional development. The model has expanded to two Youth2Youth Digital Health Platforms, led by trained and mentored young professionals serving as Digital Health Platform Coordinators and Assistants, in collaboration with partners.

Each month, young people participate in at least one practical training session designed to strengthen their knowledge and equip them with relevant skills. Participants receive certificates of participation in recognition of their engagement and learning. Unlike platforms that require formal applications for participation, the Youth2Youth Digital Health Model removes access barriers by providing an inclusive learning environment where every young person can participate, learn and develop their potential.



Project Insights



A total of 1,483 young people were reached through weekly sessions and digital advocacy messages during the reporting period. These engagements provided opportunities for young people to access relevant information, participate in discussions and strengthen their knowledge of health, personal development and social well-being.

A total of 542 young people participated in Youth Skills Training, HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care Awareness Training and Suicide Prevention Awareness Training. Participants received certificates of participation in recognition of their involvement and completion of the respective training sessions.

Following the Suicide Prevention Awareness Training, the organisation received 10 cases involving young people experiencing suicidal thoughts, anxiety and depression. These young people received support from our social workers, while other cases were referred to partner organisations for further assistance. This demonstrated the importance of accessible digital learning platforms in raising awareness and connecting young people experiencing psychosocial challenges with appropriate support services.

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Stakeholders, Partnerships & Capacity Building Meetings.

Stakeholder Meetings

During the quarter, Action for Youth Foundation Trust participated in District Stakeholder Meetings, Taskforce Meetings and District AIDS Action Committee (DAAC) Meetings convened by the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe (NAC). These engagements provided a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, share experiences and identify collaborative strategies to contribute meaningfully towards ending AIDS by 2030. The meetings were conducted across all four supported districts, strengthening coordination, reporting and collaboration among local HIV response stakeholders.

In addition to district-level engagements, AYFT participated in the Provincial Stakeholder Meeting convened by NAC during the quarter. This engagement provided an opportunity to contribute to broader discussions on HIV programming priorities, strengthen relationships with key stakeholders and explore collaborative approaches to advancing HIV prevention, treatment and care interventions across Harare Province.





Civic Engagement



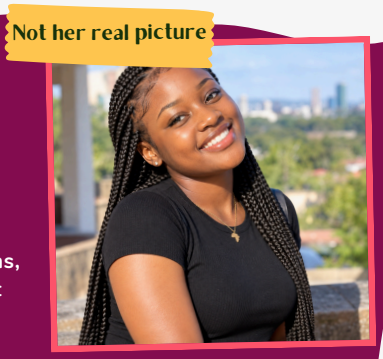
Across all districts, our team participated in the Social Protection Policy formulation meetings held by the Harare City Council Social Services Department to understand the social protection issues affecting communities and how existing services are responding to their needs.

The discussions provided an important platform for community members and stakeholders to share their experiences, identify gaps in social protection and reflect on how different stakeholders are supporting vulnerable households and individuals. They also created an opportunity to listen directly to community members and better understand the challenges affecting access to essential social protection services.

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Our Success Story

Building Confidence in HIV Status Disclosure and Healthy Relationships



Chantel (pseudonym) is a young woman who was born with HIV and has faced challenges in establishing and maintaining romantic relationships due to the fear and stigma associated with disclosing her HIV status. In previous relationships, disclosure had resulted in relationship breakdowns, leaving her struggling to build trust and confidence in future relationships. These experiences made it difficult for her to navigate relationships while managing her HIV status and protecting her health.

Chantel struggled with fear of rejection and uncertainty about how to disclose her HIV status to a new partner. Her previous experiences had affected her confidence in forming lasting relationships. She also needed accurate information on HIV reinfection, viral suppression and available HIV prevention options to help her make informed decisions about relationships with partners of different HIV statuses. Overcoming the fear of disclosure while ensuring that her partner understood HIV prevention and the benefits of treatment was a significant challenge.

Through her participation in monthly Group Safe Space Meetings at Glen Norah Satellite Clinic, conducted in partnership with NAC, Harare City Health and AYFT, Chantel accessed a supportive environment where young people living with HIV could share experiences, learn and build confidence.

The sessions provided information on HIV reinfection, the importance of maintaining viral suppression and the role of prevention options in relationships involving partners of different HIV statuses. Practical partner disclosure sessions equipped Chantel with communication techniques to help her disclose her status confidently and address potential concerns. She also learnt about Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U), which explains that a person living with HIV who maintains an undetectable viral load does not sexually transmit HIV, and the importance of condoms and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as available prevention options.

As a young woman who is virally suppressed, Chantel gained the confidence to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the sessions. After a long period of uncertainty, she disclosed her HIV status to her boyfriend, explained U=U and discussed the available prevention options. Following their discussion, her boyfriend agreed to use PrEP as an additional HIV prevention measure.

Chantel's participation in the Group Safe Space Meetings helped her overcome the fear of disclosure and approach her relationship with greater confidence. She successfully disclosed her HIV status to her partner, facilitated an informed discussion about HIV prevention and supported her partner in making a decision about PrEP. Her experience demonstrates how accurate information, practical skills and peer support can empower young people living with HIV to make informed decisions about their relationships.

Today, Chantel reports feeling happier in her relationship and more confident in navigating her future. Her journey highlights the value of Group Safe Spaces in addressing HIV-related stigma, strengthening disclosure skills and promoting informed, supportive relationships among young people living with HIV.

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Our 4th Quarter Plans.

HIV & PSS Project

Continuing Group Safe Space Meetings to reach more young people living with HIV with practical information, psychosocial support and mentorship.

Continuing integrated HIV/TB programmes.

ESP4Y+ Project

Continuous mentorship of groups and market formation for sustainability.

SHARE4YTE Project

Continuing to reach young people in tertiary institutions and hotspot areas through outreach and moonlight programmes.
Reshaping the project to target every youth.

Youth2Youth Digital Health Model

Continuing to build young people's capacity by combining weekly sessions with monthly awareness-raising trainings.
Continuous partner engagement for sustainable implementation.

Youth Desk Program

Piloting the Youth Desk Program to support Harare City Council Social Services by providing training and mentorship to young people in communities and strengthening access to services at community centres.
Recruiting 20 community cadres to champion Economic Strengthening, Civic Engagement and Health Programmes for young people in Glen View, Highfields, Mbare and Warren Park.

Brighter Future Child Protection Project

Continuous resource mobilization.
Handing over donations to a selected orphanage.

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Our Gratitude.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Action for Youth Foundation Trust (AYFT) staff, volunteers and interns whose dedication, commitment and collective efforts continue to drive the implementation of our programs. Their willingness to contribute their time, skills and expertise has enabled us to extend our reach, strengthen community engagement and deliver interventions that respond to the needs of young people. We deeply appreciate every contribution towards advancing our mission of creating a safe, inclusive and enabling environment for young people in Zimbabwe.

We extend our appreciation to the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe, particularly the District AIDS Coordinators, for their continued technical support, coordination and collaboration in strengthening our HIV prevention, treatment and care interventions. We are equally grateful to Saving African Families Enterprise (SAFE) for providing financial support towards the Economic Strengthening Program for Young Positives (ESP4Y+) Project and for supporting the Sexual Health and Reproductive Education for Youth in Tertiary Education and HIV/STI Hotspot Areas (SHARE4YTE) Project through the provision of HIV self-testing commodities. This support has strengthened our capacity to promote economic resilience and expand access to essential HIV prevention services.

Our sincere thanks go to CAREX Zimbabwe for supporting the SHARE4YTE Project through the provision of HIV prevention commodities. This contribution has strengthened our outreach efforts and improved our capacity to engage young people in tertiary institutions, HIV/STI hotspot areas and surrounding communities with essential prevention information and services. We value this partnership and its contribution towards expanding access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

We are grateful to the Harare City Council Department of Social Services for providing office accommodation that supports our operations and community-based programming. We also acknowledge Harare City Health and its clinics for serving as important referral centers, facilitating linkages to health services and supporting continuity of care for program participants. These partnerships demonstrate the importance of collaboration between civil society organizations and public institutions in responding to the health and social needs of young people and vulnerable communities.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our beneficiaries, whose participation, trust and willingness to engage make our work meaningful, and to the anonymous donors who have contributed resources towards our programs. Every donation, referral, shared experience and act of support plays a role in sustaining our interventions and creating opportunities for positive change. To everyone who has walked alongside AYFT, supported our vision and contributed to our progress, we remain deeply grateful. Your collective support continues to inspire our commitment to reaching more young people, strengthening communities and building a healthier, safer and more empowered generation.

With sincere appreciation,



Marvin Musekiwa
Executive Director
Action for Youth Foundation Trust (AYFT)
On behalf of Action for Youth Foundation Trust

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Please note: Our District offices are only open during Wednesdays from 9 am to 4pm.

Our Social Media Handles:
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