



## Together in-Care: Healthcare Champions for Children Who Are Ready to End AIDS by 2030

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**PATA 2024 SUMMIT**

# Experiences in implementing the Zvandiri Young Mentor Mother and Dad peer programme

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**HIV**  
**disproportionately**  
**affects adolescent**  
**girls and young**  
**women living (AGYW)**  
**in Sub-Saharan Africa**  
**(SSA).**

**AGYW accounted for**  
**77% of all new HIV**  
**infections in 2023**  
**live in SSA**

## **Zvandiri peer led intervention: WHY**

- **AGYW living with HIV experience multiple poorer HIV-related health outcomes compared to older women, as a result of poorer**
  - \*adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART),
  - \*retention in care,
  - \*clinic attendance
  - \*and viral suppression.
- **AGYW living with HIV experience higher rates of perinatal HIV transmission**
- **Prevalence of any common mental disorder was found to be highest amongst adolescent mothers living with HIV (23.0%).**

**There is an urgent need for targeted health promotion and public health programming to improve the health of young mothers living with HIV.**

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child care ( MoHCC)

Zvandiri, supports the

- Triple elimination of Mother to Child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B and
- Global Alliance to end paediatric AIDS by 2030

## Who are we?

- Zvandiri, a local non-profit organization, developed the Young Mentor Mother (YMM) and Young mentor dads (YMD) interventions in partnership with MoHCC.
- The evidence-based peer-led interventions are aim to optimize HIV testing, treatment, counseling, psychosocial support, and service access for other young mothers living with HIV, their infants and partners
- The YMMs and YMDs (trained and mentored peer counselors living with HIV, 18–24 years) are at the fore front of service to their peers with support from MoHCC and Zvandiri staff.

# What We do



**GA Pillar 2: Literacy; case management (counselling, care and support); referrals to services as needed and follow up on the outcomes and monitoring (adherence to ART and other medications, viral Load, general Health, mental health and well-being)**

Zvandiri is closing the treatment gap for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV and optimizing continuity of treatment towards the goal of elimination of vertical transmission through:

- **Case Management:** YMMs support their peers for early antenatal care allowing sufficient time for viral load monitoring as recommended, support treatment adherence to achieve and sustain VL suppression.
- **Support newly diagnosed adolescents and young women** - peer to peer counselling, information sharing and lived experiences to commence ART and continue treatment to achieve and sustain VL suppression.
- **Information sharing** to make safe and informed decisions on disclosure to partners for treatment support in the family.
- Participate in **advocacy and awareness initiatives** to reduce social and structural barriers that hinder optimal uptake of treatment and continuity e.g. stigma and discrimination and gender-based violence.

# Our Impact, 2023



198 sites



18 districts



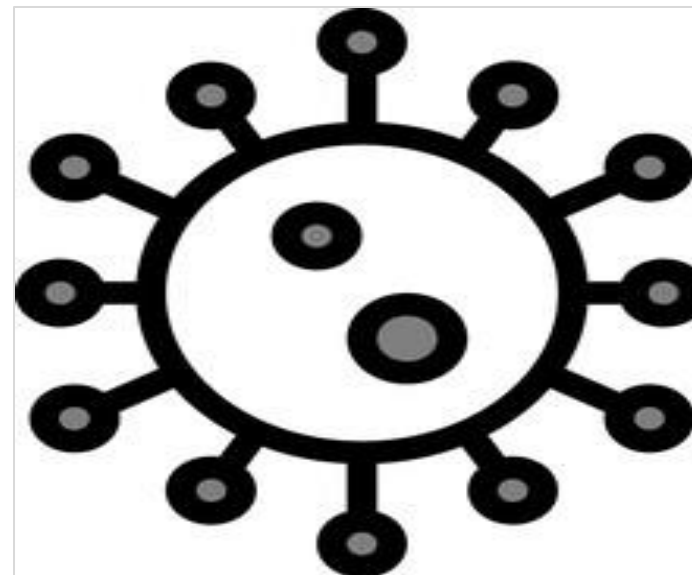
156 Young mentor mothers



1,383 Adolescent and young Mothers living with HIV reached



49 098 contacts (home/health facility visits, support groups and digital)

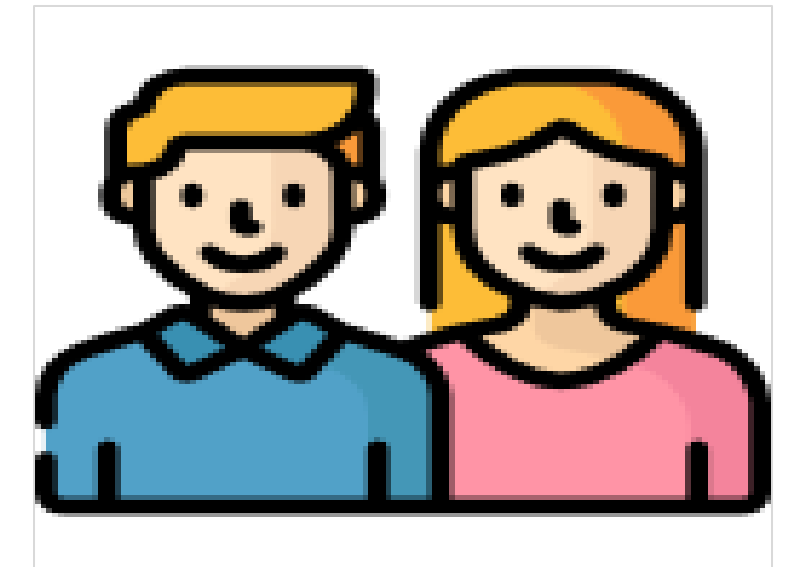


98% of the mothers virally suppressed



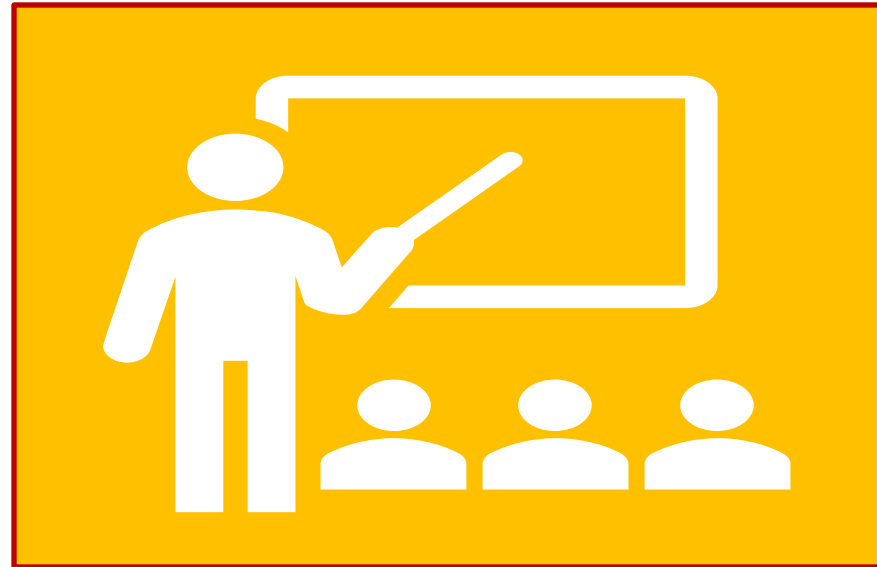
99% (998/1004) accessed EID

99% (996/998) of infants tested negative at cessations of breastfeeding



- 11% (12/112) partners tested HIV positive
- 100% initiated on ART
- 58% (149/258) of HIV negative initiated on PrEP

# Lessons Learnt



Young Mentor Mothers are an effective, acceptable cadre in the provision of PMTCT services for AGYW.



Home Visits by YMMs for young mothers, their partners and infants

- AGYW living with HIV, regardless of mode of transmission, confront several clinical and psychosocial challenges which affect their health and well-being and that of their infants.
- Integration of YMMs within the national EMTCT programme has closed gaps in the PMTCT cascade and improved outcomes for AGYW and their infants.
- **Peer-led, community and facility-based** support services ensure a **differentiated response** for AGYW's needs and experiences.
- YMMs are supporting their peers to make safe and informed **decisions on disclosure to partners** and subsequent uptake of HIV testing, prevention, treatment, and care services by the partners, including HIV self-testing, PrEP and ART.
- **Integration of gender-based violence interventions** within HIV and YMM services promotes :
  - \*well-being and safety of young mothers and their infants
  - \*ART adherence, retention and
  - \*disclosure by young mothers and the uptake of HIV services by partners.

# Thank you

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## Contact

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