



Zimbabwe AIDS Network

Annual Report

2018

ACRONYMS

CBO	Community Based Organizations
CCM	Country Coordination Mechanism
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
COP	Country Operating Plan
EANNASO	East Africa Network of National Aids Service Organizations
DHE	District Health Executive
GF	Global Fund
HCC	Health Centre Communities
KPs	Key Populations
MOs	Member Organizations
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
NANGO	National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
PEPFAR	President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PHE	Provincial Health Executive
PWDs	Persons with Disability
NAC	National Aids Council
NGB	National Governance Board
NIP	National Indicative Program
RBF	Results Based Financing
NRMEAG	National Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TB	Tuberculosis
TWG	Technical Working Group
ZAN	Zimbabwe Aids Network
ZDHS	Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey
ZIMPHIA	Zimbabwe Population Based HIV Impact Assessment
ZNASP 111 2018	Extended Zimbabwe National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan 2016- 2018
ZNNP+	Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV

FOREWORD

The year 2018 witnessed the rebranding of Zimbabwe AIDS Network (ZAN); gaining further momentum in CSO coordination to include organizations that are responding to HIV/AIDS, SRHR, NSDs and Health in Zimbabwe. Premised on civil society success stories in the HIV response and understanding that civil society plays a critical role in health delivery system Ensuring continuum of care from the health institution to the community for disease burdens like Tuberculosis and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) had to see CSOs play a role in programming in broader health initiatives for the realization positive community health outcomes.

The new conditions for health service delivery requires rethinking of how to sustain the multiplicity of health initiatives in the context of the reduced global support for categorising the AIDS pandemic as an 'exceptional' disease; the failure of the national fiscal allocations to the health portfolio to meet the 15% Abuja threshold; the global refocus on promoting gender equality as key to achieving the SDGs; as well as the changing health service needs of the Key populations (KPs) and people living with HIV (i.e. psycho-social and economic support alongside access to, and regular provision of ART) and the changing burden of disease in Africa (i.e. rising incidence of NCDs and chronic diseases which are both HIV-related and a function of changing lifestyles).

Understanding the above; ZAN can only be as good as its members and to achieve this, the network has started focusing on the following roles;

- Identification of operational challenges of CSOs/CBOs and enable informed support, be it capacity building, preferably through South to South- utilizing other CSOs in-country wealth of experience.
- Networking and Information exchange- Facilitate communication of information, upwards, downwards and laterally, in ways that promotes collaboration between and among CSOs.
- Steering and or supporting advocacy initiatives at provincial and national levels.
- Coordination - Make informed decisions on matters ranging from mutual collaboration, to co-ordinating smaller and sector driven national networks, to sourcing of support in different forms from other resource systems.
- Resource Mobilization – Identify and organize like-minded organizations to form consortia that will demonstrate their value addition in health programming.
- Enhancing accountability - Ensure that there is more push for accountability in various elements with the goal of achieving the maximum efficiencies and quality of life

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF ZAN

Realizing that Zimbabwe Aids Network (ZAN) and CSOs have institutional limitations that weaken the ability to effectively mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the national response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, TB and other Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in communities. ZAN had to undergo a rebranding process in order to cope with ever changing developments in the HIV and AIDS such as dynamics of the epidemic; TB and other NCDs which has to be contextualized into the SDGs and changes in the funding environment. This was also necessary to maintain smooth and effective operations amidst faulty institutional governance and management framework and staff turnover that was creating crucial vacuum and knowledge gaps.

To address these limitations in 2018 ZAN adopted game changing strategies to achieve adequate coordination, advocacy and representation cascades that can link community groups and CSOs to the national and regional networks. One of the key steps in the rebranding was the constitutional review, which commenced in earnest in 2017. Post-the chapter consultations, a Special AGM was convened on the 23rd and 24th of May at Cresta Jameson Hotel in Harare to formally adopt the new ZAN constitution. The SAGM was special in that it marked the culmination of the membership-driven exercise and it brought together 86 organization from all the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe and other stakeholders who include UNAIDS, NANGO, MoPSLW etc. At the end of the 2 days, members unanimously adopted a new ZAN constitution which also captures the organization's aspirations to contribute to social development beyond the 2030 Agenda. In terms of some the outstanding new changes include trimming board size from 19 to 9. Nonetheless despite the reduced board size, the constitution strengthens social inclusion in the governance of ZAN through creating seats for KPs, PWD etc.

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Strengthening CSOs Engagement with Development Partners and Strategic Processes

Under our strategic focus on networking ZAN facilitated engagement platforms for the broader civil society to engage with PEPFAR and other stakeholders to input in the development of the Country Operation Plan. CSOs convened in the 3 ZAN regions to collate input CSO priorities for COP 19. Such platforms enable CSOs to strengthen linkages and input different perspectives in the HIV response. Following these CSO engagements 2 CSOs representatives from the LGBTIQ and Disability sectors had a chance to attend the regional PEPFAR retreat to push civil society priorities for the HIV response in Zimbabwe.



ZAN with support from EANNASO facilitated platforms for CSOs to engage with Global Fund processes. The CSO consultations were to assess and analyse the reason behind the limited response to CSO priorities in the previous global fund concept note. Some of the notable reasons for limited communities priorities in the current Global Fund include; Zimbabwe employed slightly different methods of selecting priority categories and failure to stick to the UNAIDS Investment Framework. The current Global fund on treatment and VMMC leaves a lot for the government as CSOs has less expertise in these areas. It was recommended that for the next GF concept civil society should lobby for the inclusion of programmes that have relative competence in delivering a service; such as, behavioural interventions and community systems strengthening and not biased to bio-medical interventions. However the year 2018 also saw our ZAN National Coordinator being nominated to become a substantive member of the country coordinating mechanism (CCM) for Global Fund. This platform enables civil society's to have in the shape of the HIV response in strategic spaces. Our ZAN resolution is focused on resource mobilizing for improved civil society participation in GF processes.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Through robust evidence-based advocacy, we have managed to place greater emphasis on increased investment in community health systems strengthening and comprehensive reproductive health services for women and KPs including policy and budgeting reforms.

Representing Civil Society priorities in the CCM

ZAN continues to amplify the voice of CSO in the CCM by maintaining presence in the HIV and TB committees. Our National Coordinator also chairs the civil society committee within the CMM; a platform that ensures meaningful engagement of civil society in influencing how government budgets address health; enhancing

the civil society role of holding government accountable. ZAN's presence in the CCM will continue to advocate for a rights based and gender equitable response to the three diseases.

Lobbying for Improved Health Service Delivery at grassroots levels



ZAN has made a strategic commitment to work in collaboration with local communities' structures and actors to push their health advocacy agendas based on their felt needs. We have supported driven structures such as health centre committees in Bulawayo, Gweru, Mutare; advocating for improved health services at local clinics. For challenges that could not be solved at facility level; ZAN continued to utilize advocacy platforms with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) through the District Health Executive (DHE) and Provincial Health Executives (PHE). 75% of the problems presented to DHEs and PHEs have been successfully resolved; of mention is the restoration of reliable water supply to Mutare Farm prison, improved STI screening at local clinics in Mutare, Gweru and Bulawayo, as well as improved nurse' attitudes towards KPs in Masvingo council clinics.

Zimbabwe International Trade Fair

ZAN facilitated a platform for Sex Workers and Former Prison Inmates to exhibit at the ZITF and ran under the theme “ZAN Amplifying CSOs Voice: Advocating for KP friendly Health Services”. The aim of the exhibition was to empower KPs with information, skills and referral to services for them to bring the theme to reality. The exhibition had an information desk with a wealth of IEC materials for distribution and explanation and also offered a platform for group discussion as well as condom demo. The team managed to reach a total number of 2600 across the period of 5 days. Through the activities and IEC materials offered across the period, the team managed to improve SWs and KPs visibility across all age ranges as well as strengthening network linkages with other KP led movements. Policy makers and the press are now openly discussing sex work and MPI issues Sex Workers are now demanding their health rights

Media sensitization on right-based reporting for improved healthcare in Zimbabwe

In a bid to fulfil our information sharing mandate, ZAN has for the year 2018 been working with 30 journalists from different media houses; including community radio stations, bloggers, radio personalities and online publicists. The media practitioners have been trained on rights-based reporting on HIV, SRHR, TB, KP issues, and other pertinent issues in health including the National Health budget. In a bid to sensitize and raise awareness on community experiences and health; ZAN has been taking journalists on media tours and this has seen an improved media reporting of health issues that were formally regarded as taboo including health concerns of Sex workers and the LGBTIQ community.

Social Media and Online Presence

ZAN website and social media platforms were periodically uploaded and updated to keep the public informed about the current issues in the civil society and HIV response. ZAN also joined twitter in 2018 and this platform has proved to be quite interactive as evidenced by the comments, likes, retweets and interactions from the public. Our Facebook page likes are also growing and have reached over 300 followers.

INTEGRATING KP PROGRAMMING

Despite the positive gains we have made in the HIV response; people living with HIV(PLHIV), People with Disabilities (PWDs), Sex workers (SWs)and members of the LBTIQ community; continue to experience stigma, which makes it difficult for these populations to access HIV, SRHR and health services that respect their human rights and dignity. As ZAN our 2018 focus was to strengthen and promote social inclusion and diversity in HIV and Health programming in Zimbabwe. With a strong focus on advocacy for prevention, care, support and community health systems that are KP friendly.



ZAN Facilitated 10 sex workers community campaigns in 4 provinces, through SWs campaign meetings SWs have started to share safety tips on how to deal with rape and GBV. ZAN also coordinated the very first National Sex Workers Conference in commemoration of the international sex workers day; a platform where SWs got to meet health service providers for, legal advisors, GBV organizations as well as the Victim Friendly Unit of the Zimbabwe Republic Police. Our discussions at SW campaign meetings brought to light the knowledge of health service providers SWs can engage for SW friendly health services and more than Providing platforms for sex workers to engage with other SWs has helped reduces issues of self-stigma, a number of SWs can now publicly stand to advocate for SW rights e.g. the SWs we took to ZITF

NATIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAM

The National Indicative Program contributes towards improved public accountability, transparency and effective development outcomes of the European

Union supported National Indicative Program in Zimbabwe by strengthening Civil Society Organization's watchdog role. The NIP program focuses on governance and institution building, health, agriculture-based economic development. ZAN is part of a consortium that include NANGO, Southern African Parliamentary Support Trust (SAPST), Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS), Zimbabwe AIDS Network (ZAN) and the Zimbabwe Community Health Intervention Research (ZiCHIRe). ZAN is leading the health sector; focusing on enhancing the capacity of CSOs to participate, monitor, and report on the implementation and results on the European Union (EU) support health initiatives which include maternal health and child care, sexual reproductive health.

Though HIV/AIDS direct interventions are not a major focus of the program; the project however focuses on initiatives that are inextricably linked to HIV, for instance; maternal and child health. Improving maternal, neonatal and child health overall will also strengthen the continuum of HIV prevention, care and treatment for women and children. ZAN has also been paying specific attention to Gender: Barriers (including fees) to health care in pregnancy are a critical factor in women's vulnerability and inequality in society. The action includes specific activities aimed at improving the governance of the health systems. Providing specific support to develop management and organizational capacities; especially at MOHCC provincial and district levels, and also facilitating community participation in the governance of health structures.

HIV AND TB TREATMENT LITERACY MANUAL REVIEW

ZAN successfully coordinated 2 regional workshops in Bulawayo and Mutare where 53 representatives from CSOs, PLHIV, KPs and religious groups had a chance to input into the national HIV and TB Treatment Literacy Manual review. In the toolkit, various topics are covered, with each meant to improve knowledge levels and competence area on the theme under focus. The reviewed national HIV treatment guidelines (and this toolkit) embrace new treatment regimens. The revised manual is premised on rights based approaches which entail: **Participation and inclusion** – this means that people living with and affected by HIV should be at the centre of the response. **Non-discrimination and equality** –key populations, people with disabilities, adolescents and young people as well as people infected and affected by HIV should also not discriminate. **Accountability and transparency** – making important information easily available and respect the rights of freedom of expression and association, in order to obtain and share important information.

2018 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

NIP

- ✓ Under CSOs capacity strengthening; ZAN facilitated the training of 364 election observers drawn from civil society covering all the 10 provinces in a bid to build the capacity and skills of of CSOs in election observation.



- ✓ 61 CSOs were trained in facilitating community training in NIP monitoring, reporting and advocacy; an initiative that resulted in 360 cadres (65% female) from all the 10 provinces being trained in Results based management, social accountability, monitoring and evaluation and advocacy towards improved public accountability and effective development in health, agriculture and governance.

ZITF



ZITF provided high level and public advocacy platform to engage and hold relevant public and private institutions accountable for their role in upholding commitments to addressing HIV/AIDS and related health issues.



HIV & TB Treatment Literacy Manual Review



✓

ZAN coordinated regional workshops that saw 53 representatives from CSOs, PLHIV, KPs and religious groups contribute and input into the national HIV and TB Treatment Literacy Manual review.

- ✓ Rebranding the organization name to “Zimbabwe AIDS Network: Civil Society Coordinating Platform on HIV/AIDS, SRHR and Health” to encompass broader health issues.
- ✓ Adopted a 9 member NGB which constitutes of three elected at the AGM from the 10 chapter chairpersons; three representatives from special interest/key populations/thematic sector groups of the constituency of LGBTI, PLWHIV, Youth and Persons with Disabilities; three independent specialists in the areas of Public Health and or Epidemiology; Human Resources, Finance and Administration, Audit and Risk Management; Legal.

THE END