



PZ
PANGAEA
ZIMBABWE

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 01 JAN 2025

Connecting Communities, Transforming Lives



**FROM CHAMPION TO CHANGEMAKER-
KHOLI'S STORY**

PG 04

Editor's Note

Welcome to
our 1st 2025

Newsletter
Edition



We pause to reflect on the strides we have made and the possibilities that lie ahead. At Pangaea Zimbabwe, our commitment remains unwavering: every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserves the opportunity to live a healthy, productive, and fulfilling life. This year is more than just the turning of a calendar page—it is a renewed call to action.

Progress is only possible through collaboration. By working alongside communities, policymakers, healthcare providers, and advocates, we can drive transformative change. Each initiative we undertake reaffirms our purpose and strengthens our resolve to create a world where equitable access to quality healthcare empowers individuals to lead meaningful and dignified lives.

As we step into this new year, we remain dedicated to delivering client-centered, evidence-based, and responsive health services. With your trust and support, we will continue to adapt, innovate, and implement solutions that make a tangible difference.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, let's forge a future defined by resilience, progress, and shared purpose.

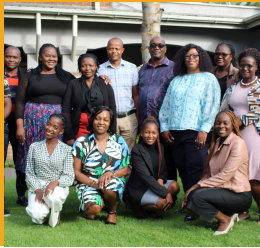
With appreciation and commitment,

*The Editorial
Team*

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Wild4Life Program Charts a Course for Continued Impact



Wild4Life project team during the review meeting

"Evaluate, Align, and Elevate."- Pangaea Zimbabwe's Executive Director, Imelda Mahaka

Pangaea Zimbabwe recently hosted a pivotal strategic review meeting for the Wild4Life program. Wild4Life is a key initiative aimed at improving the health and well-being of underserved communities in Binga. The meeting marked a critical moment for the program, where the team gathered to align efforts, assess performance, and explore new growth opportunities to ensure the ongoing success and sustainability of their interventions.

The Wild4Life project has long been driven by a commitment to delivering responsive and comprehensive health services to underserved populations. The strategic review provided a reflective opportunity to look back on the progress made, evaluate successes, and acknowledge challenges faced along the way. Through collaborative discussions, the team was able to identify areas for improvement and devise strategies to address existing gaps while building on previous accomplishments.

Central to the review was a focus on empowering the team members by recognizing their expertise and encouraging innovative ideas. This approach reinforced their sense of ownership over the project's goals and objectives. By investing in capacity building and providing robust support systems, the organization sought to equip team members with the necessary tools and resources to excel in their roles. In doing so, Pangaea Zimbabwe reinforced a growth-oriented mindset, ensuring that the team remains committed to delivering high-quality outcomes.

PZ's Executive Director, Imelda Mahaka, emphasized the importance of the meeting, stating that, *"Evaluate, align, and elevate. We are here to develop a clear roadmap, ensure team alignment, track performance, and uncover growth opportunities."* Her words underscored the critical nature of the review process in guiding the Wild4Life project toward even greater achievements.

Adding to this, Latelang Ndlovu, Wild4Life Program Director, explained the broader strategic context of the review: *“The reason for the W4L strategy was to map out a new chapter in the programming for the W4L program. Coming from an external evaluation of the model, which showed positives and areas needing more attention, it was imperative that we map out a strategic direction for the next three years. Factoring in recommendations from the external evaluation, we aim to strengthen the model to be more robust and responsive to the needs of its intended beneficiaries. This meeting was, in fact, the beginning of the design for scaling up the rural service delivery model for health in resource-limited settings.”*

Enock Musungwini, Wild4Life’ Program Manager, highlighted the collaborative spirit of the workshop, stating, *“The strategic review gave us a platform to brainstorm innovative solutions and refine our focus areas. We are determined to ensure that the program remains impactful by aligning our priorities with the needs of the communities we serve. This approach ensures that every intervention is meaningful and sustainable.”*

In parallel, Maedwa Mudimba, PZ’s Wild4Life Clinical M&E Officer, highlighted the vital role of data in the success of the program. During the review, Mudimba noted that,

“Accurate, reliable, and complete data is essential to track performance, improve interventions...”

“Accurate, reliable, and complete data is essential to track performance, improve interventions, and upscale services. Monitoring and evaluation of data ensures that programs remain evidence-based and responsive to the needs of the communities served. It also provides critical insights into decision-making, enabling efficient resource allocation and continuous improvement of service delivery.”

The strategic review meeting wasn’t just about looking back; it was about energizing the team and creating actionable solutions for the future. By fostering a culture of development and collaboration, Pangaea Zimbabwe aims to continue delivering impactful health services that truly transform lives. The insights gathered from the meeting will serve as a guided compass for the Wild4Life project, ensuring that it remains aligned with the organization’s broader strategic vision and objectives.

As Pangaea Zimbabwe moves forward, the organization remains committed to ensuring that the Wild4Life program remains evidence-based, responsive, and impactful. Through strategic alignment, continuous evaluation, and a focus on growth, the program will continue to create lasting, positive changes in the communities it serves.



CHIP Champions: Leading the Charge for Youth Health

Combination HIV Prevention (CHIP) champions play a pivotal role in promoting Adolescent and Young People's access to comprehensive Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV services at Pangaea Zimbabwe's SHAZ! Hubs under the CHIP project. As trained peer leaders, they provide information, support, and mobilize their peers for services like PrEP. By fostering trust and reducing stigma, they help young people make informed health choices in a safe, supportive environment.



The CHIP project time during one of their roadshows in Mazowe

"From Knowledge to Impact: Transforming Life and the Community"- Tariro's Testimony

"Becoming a CHIP Champion has been one of the most life-changing experiences of my life. It is not just about the knowledge I have gained—it is about how that knowledge has empowered me to uplift others and create meaningful change in my community. Through the program, I have learned how to share accurate and reliable health information, especially with adolescents. I have had conversations about HIV prevention, STI screening, and treatment with girls and boys who otherwise might not have known how to protect themselves or access the care they need. Seeing their confidence grow as they understand these topics is one of the most rewarding parts of this journey."

*I have also become a **Youth Friendship Bench Buddy**, which is something I am truly proud of. I provide a safe space for people, especially young ones, to talk about their challenges, whether it is about mental health, stress, or personal struggles. When someone's at risk of harming themselves or others, I step in and connect them to the right support systems. It is humbling to know that just listening and offering guidance can save lives and give hope where it is needed most."*



Tariro learning how to make liquid soap

The CHIP Project has empowered me both economically and personally. I've learned hands-on skills like making pine gel and dishwashing liquid, helping me earn extra income and gain financial independence. The best part is sharing these skills with others, especially young girls and boys, to help them become self-reliant. This journey has shown me that true empowerment is about uplifting others. Through health education, confidence-building, and economic skills, I've grown stronger. I'm proud to be part of a movement creating a healthier, happier, and more resilient community."

"From Champion to Changemaker: How Being an HIV Prevention Advocate Transformed My Life and Community"- Kholi's Journey



Kholi learning how to make liquid soap

Not only did I gain knowledge, but I also earned a counseling certificate, equipping me to provide much-needed mental health support in my community. Working as part of a team also taught me that collaboration is key—one person's weakness is another's strength, and together, we can achieve so much more.

Beyond health, I witnessed the power of economic strengthening. I learnt how to make dishwashing liquid, toilet cleaner, and pine gel—skills that opened doors for self-employment and an additional source of income. Seeing others in my community embrace these skills to improve their livelihoods was incredibly fulfilling.

This journey has sharpened my way of thinking and exposed me to new opportunities. Through meetings and workshops, I visited places I never thought I could afford to see, expanding my worldview and deepening my commitment to this work.

Being a Combination HIV Prevention Champion isn't just a role; it's a calling. It has allowed me to transform my life while bringing hope and empowerment to others. And for that, I will always be grateful."

"When I first became a Combination HIV Prevention Champion, I had no idea how much this role would shape my life or positively impact the young people in my community. What started as an opportunity to share knowledge became a journey of self-discovery, personal growth, and empowerment for others.

Through my work, I learned about HIV prevention, STI screening, and treatment for minor ailments—skills that helped me contribute to the health and well-being of young people in my community. Each interaction reinforced the pride I feel in being part of something bigger than myself. Sharing life-saving information with young people gave me a sense of purpose and helped me uncover my own strengths.

One pivotal moment came when I enrolled in mental health lessons through the Friendship Bench program.



Kholi during a group discussion during on of the CHIP review meetings

Key to Success: Adolescents in Rural Zimbabwe Turn Skills into Livelihoods



In the quiet districts of Binga, Lupane, and Hwange, a remarkable transformation is taking place. Adolescents and their caregivers are rewriting their futures, one handcrafted keyholder at a time. Through a skills training initiative aimed at fostering sustainable livelihoods, these young people are learning to create opportunities for themselves and their communities.

Wild4Life program in partnership with Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development and Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training embarked on Livelihood training program to empower adolescents with essential life skills enabling them to earn a living, develop self-efficacy and resilience and to also improve their overall wellbeing.

The program, which brought together participants from 30 facilities across the three districts, equipped adolescents and caregivers with essential skills in baking, beading, and detergent making. But for one group of inspired adolescents, the journey didn't end with training. It began there.

During an adolescent support group meeting, the trained youth demonstrated their newfound talent

During an adolescent support group meeting, the trained youth demonstrated their newfound talents by crafting 40 vibrant keyholders. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as caregivers and facility staff not only applauded their creativity but also committed to raising startup capital to support the venture. Adolescents themselves pledged to contribute monthly funds to sustain and grow their budding business.

"We wanted to do something that shows what we've learned," said 19-year-old Rejoice. "These keyholders represent more than income—they're testimony that we can build something valuable together. We thought such materials can only be bought from shops, not knowing that we can also be manufacturers"

The response from the community was swift and encouraging. Priced at \$1 each, the keyholders were bought quickly, leaving only 14 in stock after the first day. The success of this small project is already having a big impact.

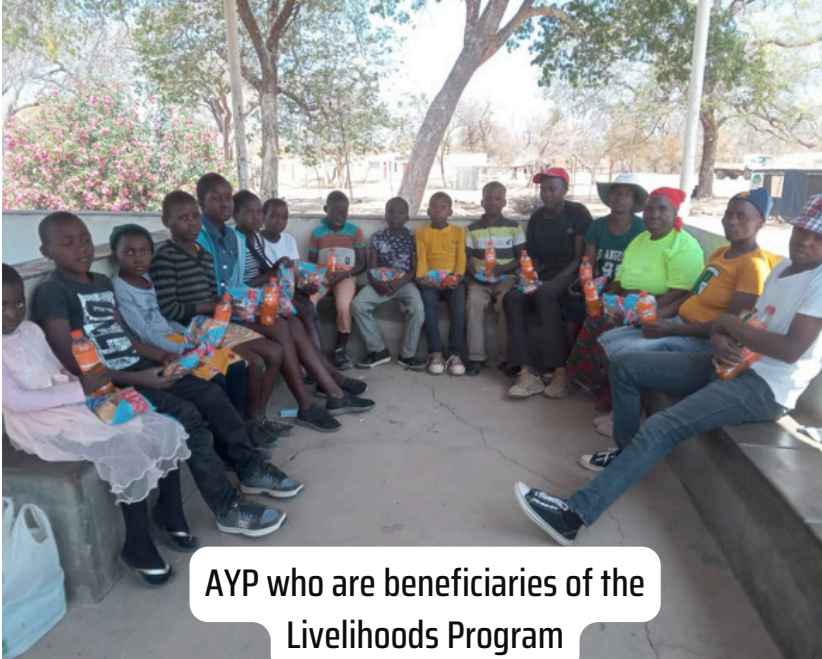
This initiative is about more than just making and selling keyholders. It is about building confidence, resilience, and a sense of possibility. Adolescents who once faced limited opportunities are now not only generating income but also acquiring

entrepreneurial skills and learning the value of teamwork.

Caregivers, too, are playing a pivotal role. By attending the meetings and contributing to the capital-raising efforts, they are fostering a culture of support and collaboration that transcends generations. *“When we see our children taking steps towards independence, we feel proud and motivated to help them,”* said one caregiver from Lupane.

The program’s ripple effects are already visible. With the funds raised, the group plans to expand their product line, exploring other crafts and skills learned during training. Facility staff continue to provide mentorship, ensuring that the adolescents stay on course.

“What makes this initiative unique is the sense of ownership it gives to the adolescents. The Livelihood training has empowered youths in the community to realise their potential, they are now empowered with skills and knowledge that will enable them to function in the community”, said one facility Nurse in Charge Sister Mukuli.



AYP who are beneficiaries of the Livelihoods Program

“They’re not just recipients of aid; they’re active participants in shaping their futures.”

As the adolescents continue to sell their keyholders and expand their business, their story serves as an inspiring reminder of the power of community-driven initiatives. Small projects like these can unlock not only income but also ambition, laying the groundwork for long-term change.

For the youth of Binga, Lupane, and Hwange, the future now holds promise—one keyholder at a time.



Some of the keyholders being crafted by the AYPs

From Isolation to Empowerment

For Doctor and Wankie, life with HIV was once an endless cycle of isolation, stigma, and discrimination. Rejected by their community, they were labelled with cruel nicknames like "hot stoves" and "best before," a reflection of the widespread ignorance about HIV. Many believed the virus could be transmitted through simple acts like sitting next to an HIV+ person or sharing the same space.

"It was a dark time," Doctor recalls. *"No one wanted to associate with us. Every day felt like we were carrying a visible badge of shame."*

The emotional toll of stigma was compounded by their deteriorating health. Frequent hospital visits and severe health challenges made daily life an uphill task. But everything changed when they joined the **Community ART Refill Groups (CARGs)** under Sinakoma Clinic—a program supported by the Wild4Life initiative.

CARGs have been a game-changer for Melusi, Thembani, and many others in the community. These groups bring together people living with HIV to collectively manage their health, provide emotional support, and encourage adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART).

"For us, joining the CARGs was like therapy," Wankie shared. *"It gave us a place where we belonged. We could share advice, support each other, and find strength in knowing we weren't alone."*

The monthly meetings have become a cornerstone of their lives. Members share practical tips on managing side effects, navigating the healthcare system, and coping with the challenges of living with HIV.



The addition of income-generating projects has provided another layer of empowerment, enabling members to secure a sustainable livelihood while managing their health. Melusi and Thembani are now proud to say they have achieved viral load suppression through strict adherence to ART.

"We can do all household chores, and health challenges no longer hold us back," Doctor said with a smile.

Their journey reflects the broader success of Direct Service Delivery models (DSD) and awareness campaigns led by the Ministry of Health and Child Care and its partners. These initiatives have educated communities about HIV, dismantling myths and encouraging acceptance.

"CARGs have not only been a stress reliever and confidence booster but also a tool for resilience. They've given us hope and the strength to face adversity," Wankie says.

Community ART refill group (CARG group) are small groups of people taking ART medicines in groups instead of individually.



Wamkie Muleya

**Both men have a message for others living with HIV:
“Being HIV positive is not the end of the world. Through adherence to treatment, you can lead a healthy, productive life. Don’t let HIV define you!”**

Their stories serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of community-driven solutions in addressing health challenges. Programs like Wild4Life are proving that with the right support, people living with HIV can overcome stigma, regain their health, and thrive.

As Doctor and Wamkie continue to advocate for ART adherence and fight stigma, they stand as living proof that no one should face HIV alone—and that a brighter, and healthier future is possible for all.



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*We envision an environment in which
all human beings live healthy,
productive, and quality lives.*

*We strive to transform the lives of underserved
populations by working to increase access to quality,
responsive, evidence based, client-centered
comprehensive health services through facility and
community engagement and policy advocacy*

Equity

Integrity

Inclusivity

Stewardship