



## BREAD, BUNS, AND BUSINESS

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# Editor's Note


Welcome to  
our Feb 2025

Newsletter  
Edition



In this edition, we take a moment to reflect on the progress made and the ongoing work that drives us forward. At Pangaea Zimbabwe, our commitment to ensuring equitable access to quality, client-centered healthcare remains steadfast.

Through collaboration with communities, partners, and advocates, we continue to deliver responsive, evidence-based services that empower individuals to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Thank you for walking this journey with us—together, we are creating lasting impact.

*The Editorial Team* 

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## Bread, Buns, and Business

In the rural communities of Binga, Hwange, and Lupane, a quiet but powerful transformation is taking place. Thanks to a livelihood skills training program led by Wild4Life Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Small to Medium Enterprises Development, adolescents and their caregivers are not just learning new skills—they are putting them into practice to improve their lives.

The program, which trained 91 adolescents and caregivers from 30 health facilities, was designed to equip children living with HIV with practical skills to help them integrate into their communities and support their well-being. What started as a simple training session has quickly turned into a promising source of income and self-reliance.

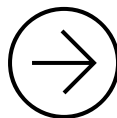
Take Siasundu, for example, two determined adolescents and their caregivers, inspired by what they had learned, took the initiative to share their knowledge with fellow adolescents, caregivers, and even health workers. They didn't just talk about their new skills—they demonstrated them, showcasing their baking techniques and motivating others to follow suit.

With an initial contribution of just \$1 each, the group raised \$18 to buy baking ingredients. The community stepped in to support the initiative, donating baking trays,

while Wild4Life Health provided beads for making keyholders as part of the training. With these resources, the adolescents and caregivers began baking bread and buns, selling them to generate income. For many, this was the first time they had ever earned their own money.



Team showcasing the bread made from the training program



*"Due to poverty in my community, I had never dreamt of having my own money in my pocket. I have started to bake and sell and use profits to buy basic commodities,"*  
shared Shyline, an adolescent from Siansundu.





Beyond the financial benefits, the project has boosted confidence and self-sufficiency among the participants. What seemed like a small initiative is now fostering resilience and economic empowerment in marginalized communities.

The success of this training program demonstrates the profound impact of investing in livelihood skills for young people. By equipping adolescents with practical tools to generate income, Wild4Life Health and the Ministry of Women Affairs are paving the way for a future where communities can support themselves and thrive.

As more adolescents and caregivers embrace these skills, the ripple effect of this initiative will continue to grow—proving that with the right opportunities, small actions can lead to meaningful change.





# Empowerments For Young Adults in Mazowe

Mazowe, Zimbabwe – The Shaz! Hub in Mazowe is making a difference in the lives of young adults by providing access to essential health services and empowering them with valuable life skills. In a recent interview by Charlotte Makoshori who works at the SHAZ! Hub with Rebecca Marambanhaka, a 23-year-old woman, who is a mother of two and a resident of Glendale, shared her positive experiences at the Hub.

The Shaz! Hub is a youth-friendly health centre that offers a range of services, including family planning, PrEP, and HIV testing. The young mother, who chose to remain anonymous, spoke about how the friendly staff at the Hub made her feel comfortable seeking these services.

"When I first came here, the staff treated me well," she said. "At first, I was shy to access some of the services and also consult the nurse, but because of their friendliness, I was able to access services like PrEP."

PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is a medication that can help prevent HIV. The young mother said she had many questions about PrEP, and the staff at the Hub took the time to answer all of them and clear up any doubts she had. She was tested and initiated on PrEP, and she now takes her PrEP pills every day because she understands the importance of doing so, thanks to the knowledge she gained at the Hub.

"I have no complaint," she said. "I feel comfortable coming to this clinic."

In addition to providing health services, the Shaz! Hub also teaches young adults valuable life skills. The young mother said she recently learned how to make pine gel, a type of cleaning product, at the Hub.

"We were taught how to make pine gel, which shows their interest in empowering our lives," she said. "And the fact that this clinic caters to young people is an advantage for us because we are not afraid of being judged by older people and our parents."

The young mother is now able to make pine gel and sell it in her community, which has helped her to earn a living.

"I am thankful for the Hub, especially for teaching us life skills like pine gel making," she said. "I can now make pine gel and sell it in my community."

The Shaz! Hub is a valuable resource for young adults in Mazowe. It provides access to essential health services and empowers young people with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. The young mother said she would recommend the Hub to her friends and colleagues.

"The nurse is really friendly, and the environment is welcoming," she said. "There is also free counselling, and when you come to this clinic, you get assisted. I would definitely recommend my family and friends."

The Shaz! Hub is making a real difference in the lives of young adults in Mazowe. It is a place where young people can go to get the help, they need to stay healthy and empowered.



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## From Training to Transformation: Masvingo's Inclusive Health Leadership Takes Center Stage



Rudo. S. Mutyasira (PZ) presenting on documentation and reporting.

In a significant stride towards bolstering community health, the ZIMACE project, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care Masvingo DHE and Masvingo City Council, recently held a dynamic training session for newly elected Health Centre Committee (HCC) members. This initiative reflects a commitment to inclusive representation, ensuring that the voices of youth, people with disabilities, and traditional and religious leaders are integral to local health decision-making.

The training, held on Friday, January 31, 2025, brought together a diverse group of individuals from across Masvingo's health facilities, including Gurajena, Nyikavanhu, Musvovi, Mushandike, Nyajena, Rucors, Bere, Mapanzure, Morgenster, Chatikobo, and Chisase. These newly elected members, selected through a transparent process guided by ZIMACE's HCC formation guidelines, represent a new wave of community health leadership.

The training was expertly facilitated by staff from the Pangaea Zimbabwe ZIMACE project, alongside representatives from the Masvingo City Health and the Ministry of Health and Child Care Masvingo District Health Executive. Their combined expertise created a rich and engaging learning environment.

The training equipped these dedicated individuals with essential skills and knowledge to excel in their roles. Participants explored crucial topics, including the roles and responsibilities of HCC members, empowering them to effectively advocate for their communities and drive impactful health programs. They also learned resource mobilization strategies vital for the sustainability of local health initiatives. Financial management training covered budgeting, expense tracking, and transparent financial reporting to ensure accountability and responsible resource allocation. Furthermore, participants mastered documentation practices crucial for



project continuity and demonstrating impact, and honed their communication skills for effective reporting, enabling them to clearly convey progress and outcomes to stakeholders, fostering collaboration and alignment with project goals.

These newly empowered HCC members are now poised to make a real difference in their communities. This training marks a vital step towards strengthening local health systems and empowering community leaders to champion better health outcomes for all. We are excited to witness the positive impact of their dedication and hard work in the months and years to come. Together, we are building a healthier future for Masvingo!



Mr Mukwati (MoHCC) presenting on resource mobilisation and financial management at Bethany's sisters during the HCC new members training,



Enock Musungwini (PZ) presenting about Pangaea Zimbabwe and the ZIMACE project.



# *Shaz! Hub : A Beacon of Hope and Opportunity for Young Adults*

**By Charlotte Makoshori from the Mazowe SHAZ! Hub**

Mazowe, Zimbabwe – For many young people in Mazowe, access to healthcare and economic opportunities remains a challenge. However, the Shaz! Hub is changing that narrative, offering a lifeline of support, knowledge, and empowerment.

One such individual is a 24-year-old woman from Glendale who discovered the Hub when she sought treatment for a sexually transmitted infection (STI). She was introduced to the facility by a CHIP Champion—a peer educator dedicated to raising awareness about sexual and reproductive health in the community.

*"I was treated well," she recalled. "Not only did I receive STI treatment, but I also attended literacy sessions and economic empowerment training. Now, I can make and sell pine gel in my community."*

At the heart of the Shaz! Hub's impact is its dual focus on health and economic self-sufficiency. In addition to offering crucial services such as STI treatment, HIV prevention, and PrEP education, the Hub provides young people with income-generating skills like pine gel making.

*"Young people here can learn about STIs, PrEP, and HIV while also being empowered with practical skills," she explained. "This knowledge is essential for our future."*

Despite the Hub's success, access remains a major challenge. Many young people, particularly those in hard-to-reach areas, struggle to visit due to distance constraints.

*"The Hub is really far from where we stay," she noted. "It would be helpful if the nurses could visit more remote areas so that everyone can benefit."*

For many, the Shaz! Hub is more than just a health facility—it is a space of empowerment and hope. The young woman interviewed strongly recommends it to her peers, emphasizing how its programs are equipping young people with essential life skills.

*"The Hub is a good place," she said. "It's teaching us how to take care of our health while also giving us opportunities to earn a living."*

As the Shaz! Hub continues its mission, the stories of young people like her serve as a testament to its life-changing impact. With expanded outreach efforts, even more youth could benefit from its vital services.

## **About Shaz! Hub**

Shaz! Hub is a youth-friendly center dedicated to providing sexual and reproductive health services, economic empowerment programs, and safe spaces for young people in Zimbabwe.





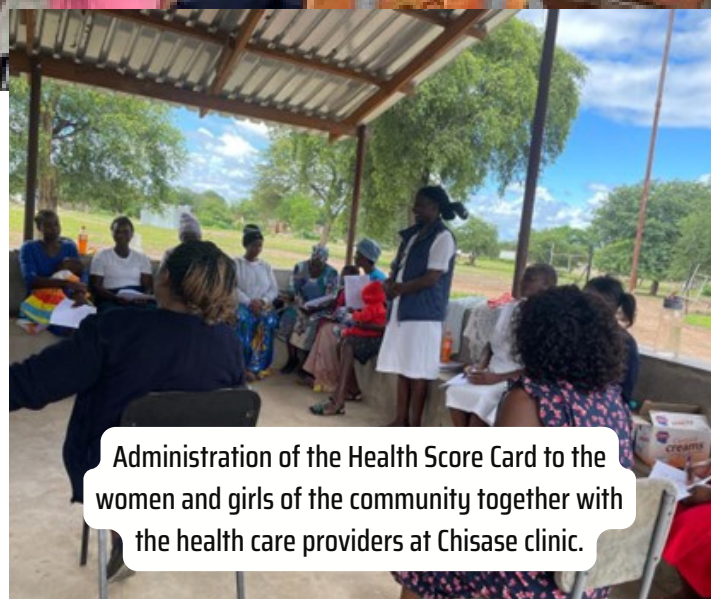
Administration of the Health Score Card to the women and girls of the community together with the health care providers at Summerton clinic.

## Collaboration to Enhance Health Services

A groundbreaking initiative by the Pangaea Zimbabwe's ZIMACE project is putting community feedback at the forefront of healthcare improvement across six health facilities in Zimbabwe. The project recently completed administered a Health Score Card exercise, empowering allowing both community members and healthcare providers to evaluate service provision by identifying areas for growth and collaboratively shape the future of local health services.

The initiative, implemented in four rural and two urban facilities, recognized that effective healthcare must be rooted in the lived experiences of the communities it serves. The process involved eight women and girls from the community assessing healthcare delivery in key areas including accessibility of facilities, effectiveness and efficiency of services, availability of health information, accountability and feedback mechanisms, and equity and respect in treatment.

These individuals administered the Health Score Card to fellow community members, gathering crucial insights into their experiences with local health services. This process not only provided valuable data but also raised awareness within the communities about their rights and empowered them to actively participate in shaping their healthcare. One local participant shared,



Administration of the Health Score Card to the women and girls of the community together with the health care providers at Chisase clinic.

*"For the first time, we felt like our concerns were truly heard. We are not just patients; we are partners in shaping healthcare."*

Simultaneously, healthcare providers at the participating facilities were also asked to complete the same Health Score Card, reflecting on their own perceptions of service delivery and identifying areas they felt could be improved. This dual approach allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing healthcare system from both the community and provider perspectives.

*"The dialogue was eye-opening," said one healthcare worker. "Hearing firsthand experiences from the community gave us a better understanding of where we need to improve."*

The most impactful element of the initiative was the collaborative sessions that followed.





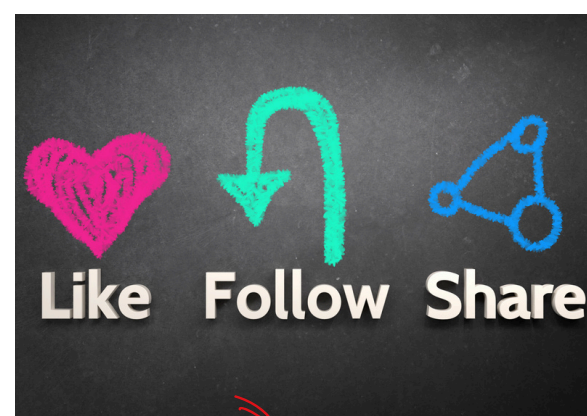
Community members and healthcare providers came together to share their scores and discuss the results in open forums.

These discussions fostered communication, broke down barriers, and built trust between the two groups. The collaborative environment created a sense of shared ownership in the process of improving healthcare services.

*"This initiative underscores the vital role of community engagement in enhancing health services," said a representative from the ZIMACE project, Belinda Magarira, Project Officer. "By actively involving both community members and health providers in assessing and improving service delivery, we are setting a benchmark for future initiatives."*

The ZIMACE project has not only identified specific areas for improvement in the participating facilities but has also fostered a culture of ongoing dialogue and collaboration. This ensures that community voices will continue to play a central role in shaping the future of healthcare in Zimbabwe, leading to better health outcomes for all.

**The project serves as a model for how community engagement can be a powerful driver of positive change in the healthcare sector.**



# Leading the Fight for Women's Health Equity

Women and girls in Masvingo are set to benefit from a major health rights initiative following a crucial meeting held on January 30, 2025, at the Great Zimbabwe Hotel. The gathering marked another milestone for the ZIMACE project as it worked with key stakeholders to turn plans into action for better healthcare access.

The District Task Team (DTT) was established to bring together different sectors—health, education, law enforcement,



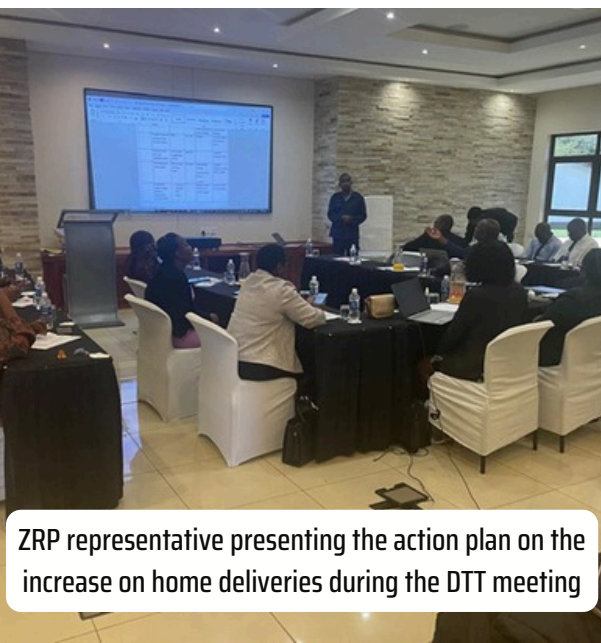
Program Manager, Enock Musungwini, presenting on the finalization of the DTT Action plan

and community organizations—to tackle health challenges that go beyond hospital walls. Issues such as income levels, education, and social support play a major role in health outcomes, and the DTT is designed to take all these into account.

Key partners in attendance included the Ministry of Health and Child Care, Masvingo City Health, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Masvingo Rural District Council, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, the Ministry of Youth, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), and Musasa Project, among others. Their collaboration ensures a wide-ranging approach to improving women's health services in the community.

Since its launch in October 2024, the DTT has made strides in shaping a more responsive healthcare system. This latest meeting was particularly significant as stakeholders finalized an action plan that addresses pressing issues, such as the rise in home births, delayed antenatal care (ANC) bookings, and increasing cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

*"Thank you, PZ team, for creating the platform for them to collaboratively work together with other stakeholders to address the key issues affecting women and girls in the district",* said Shumirai Mumhure, the District Nursing Officer for Masvingo.



ZRP representative presenting the action plan on the increase on home deliveries during the DTT meeting

With a clear plan in place, the focus now shifts to implementation. The goal is to create a healthcare environment where women and girls can access the services, they need without barriers. Education, community outreach, and strengthened health systems will be key to making this vision a reality.

The ZIMACE project team extends a heartfelt thank you to all the partners who took part in this important discussion. Their dedication is paving the way for a future where women and girls in Masvingo can take charge of their health with confidence.


As the action plan moves forward, the ZIMACE team encourages continued community engagement and support. Every voice counts in building a healthcare system that truly serves everyone.





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