



### FHI 360 IN ZIMBABWE

FHI 360 was awarded a five-year USAID-funded grant in September 2015 to implement an HIV care and treatment project to support service provision in **22 districts** across Zimbabwe. With support from sub-awardee Plan International, FHI 360 serves pregnant and breastfeeding women, children, adolescents and young women, men, and stable and unstable patients on anti-retroviral therapy.



## Zimbabwe HIV Care and Treatment (ZHCT)

### OVERVIEW

Zimbabwe HIV Care and Treatment (ZHCT) is a five-year, USAID-funded project which complements the Government of Zimbabwe's efforts to strengthen community-level HIV care and treatment service provision as well as health systems to monitor, track and retain people living with HIV (PLHIV) in care. The ZHCT project contributes toward Zimbabwe's attainment of the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets, particularly the first and third targets which focus on knowledge of HIV status and viral load suppression. FHI 360 and sub-awardee Plan International are implementing the ZHCT project in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, National AIDS Council, and other key stakeholders.

### OBJECTIVES

ZHCT's goal is to increase the availability and quality of care and treatment services for PLHIV, primarily through community-based interventions that complement the public sector as part of the multi-sectoral response led by the Government of Zimbabwe. To achieve this goal, the project has two specific objectives:

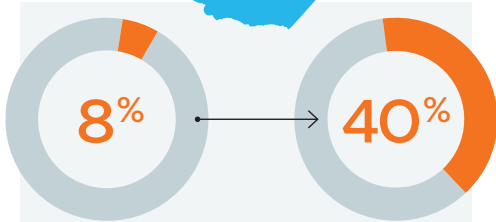
- 1 To increase the availability of high-quality comprehensive care and treatment services for PLHIV at community level
- 2 To strengthen community-level health systems to monitor, track and maintain PLHIV in care

### ZHCT PROJECT TECHNICAL APPROACH

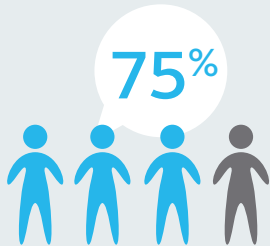
The ZHCT project implementation strategy is based on the provision of differentiated care at community level. ZHCT's differentiated care is client-specific, simplifying and adapting HIV services across the cascade to reflect the preferences and expectations of various groups of PLHIV while reducing unnecessary burdens on the health system. Targeted groups include men, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and their children, adolescents and young women, and both stable and unstable patients on anti-retroviral therapy (ART).



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improvement in the yield rate following sexual network notification.



the people newly identified as living with HIV were linked to care.



In Zimbabwe, it is estimated that only **74.2%** percent of people living with HIV know their status. Only **8** percent of those tested with the index-case approach were found to be positive for HIV. That figure jumped to **40** percent after sexual network notification was added. **Seventy-five** percent of the people newly identified as living with HIV were linked to care. This is important progress toward bringing HIV treatment to all who need it.

The ZHCT project applies a home-based index case testing model to increase identification of PLHIV, with linkage to care for ART initiation. Nurse testers, who are qualified nurses, conduct household visits to people diagnosed with HIV or tuberculosis and offer rapid HIV testing services to their sexual partners and other immediate family members, particularly children. Following identification of additional PLHIV, the ZHCT project works to strengthen community-health facility linkages to ensure that people access and are retained in care and treatment.

The ZHCT project strengthens community health structures through its nurse testers who support the effective delivery of HIV and other health services. ZHCT also works through a network of expert patients who are resident in the various communities and complement the community-based health workers who are an integral part of Zimbabwe's community health structure, premised on the primary health care approach.

Additional ZHCT project activities within the treatment cascade include integrated symptom screening for PLHIV, linkage to care for those who are symptomatic and ensuring that those on ART are retained in care. The ZHCT project prepares newly-diagnosed PLHIV for enrolment into care, actively linking all those identified in the community to a health facility for treatment, and supporting them to adhere to ART through nurse testers and outreach workers (expert patients). The project also actively tracks ART defaulters and links them back to care, while supporting drug refills at community level through the formation of Community ART Refill Groups.

### GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

ZHCT's geographic coverage is expanding, and the project ultimately plans to cover 22 priority districts in Zimbabwe. The project is currently active in 10 districts in three provinces: Manicaland, Masvingo and Midlands.

### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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