



COVID-19 and HIV: Adapting community-based HIV services during a pandemic



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Adapting community-based HIV services during a pandemic

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THE PROBLEM: COVID-19 threatens to reverse the gains made in HIV testing, treatment, care and support for children, adolescents and young people living with HIV

OUR RESPONSE: ADAPTATION OF THE Community Adolescent Treatment Supporter (CATS) MODEL



Home Visits



Virtual Case Management



Joint Home Visits



Conducted by Zvandiri Mentors



Clinic-based Support



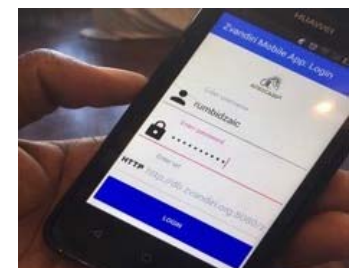
Virtual Case Management



Support Groups



e-Support Groups



MHealth



Continued



INFORMATION SHARING

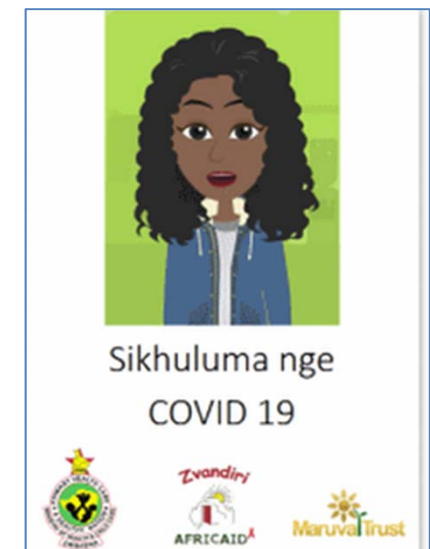


GOAL: CAYPLHIV have access to peer-led, evidence-based, developmentally appropriate information which:

- Supports them to make informed, safe decisions about their health and well-being
- Supports positive mental health



- Also targeting caregivers, health care workers and faith leaders
- Developed in variety of formats and languages (film, comic strip, fact sheets) and disability-sensitive
- Disseminated by WhatsApp / SMS, radio and TV
- Issues covered include COVID-19, HIV and ART, mental health
 - Coming up: Testing, SRHR, TB, SGBV, Child Protection and PMTCT.





VIRTUAL CASE MANAGEMENT



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GOAL:

- CAYPLHIV continue to be engaged, monitored and supported with adherence, retention and positive mental health.
- Red flags are identified early and managed appropriately



CATS are assisted by Zvandiri Mentors to manage their individual caseloads through WhatsApp/SMS:

- Updates on when and how to collect ART from clinics
- ART and adherence monitoring and support, including enhanced adherence counselling
- Active screening for signs and symptoms of possible COVID-19
- Psychosocial support and mental health 'check ins'
- Screening, identification of red flags and referral (.e.g. lack of ART or other medication, ill health, psychological distress, SGBV, abuse, PMTCT)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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GOAL:

- CAYPLHIV have continued access to ART and other essential services
- Cessation of home visits by CATS
- Remote, joint planning and response with health facilities and other community cadres for:
 - Tracking and tracing of CAYPLHIV not attending ART refill
 - EAC for CAYPLHIV with high viral load
 - Community ART delivery for those unable to access clinic
 - High risk cases – ill health, protection, mental health cases
 - Targeted community HIV self testing kit distribution
 - Support for caregivers
- Led by Zvandiri Mentors, with remote support from CATS





E-SUPPORT GROUPS



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GOAL:

- Continued opportunities for CAYPLHIV to engage with peers, and to continue learning, sharing and supporting each other
 - Reduce social isolation and promote positive mental health
- **Physical support groups have been adapted to run as virtual support groups**
 - Facilitated by the Zvandiri Mentor
 - Topics informed by group members and include COVID-19, HIV, ART and adherence, mental health to date
 - Coming up: SGBV, SRHR, Disclosure and PMTCT.
 - Support group sessions are held twice a month
 - Also adapted for caregivers

E Support Group: Session 1

Understanding COVID-19

This session will focus on supporting young people to understand COVID-19, how to protect themselves and how to support others.

This session is based on the short animation and pdf comic strip developed by Zvandiri and MutCC - Fatima talks about COVID-19.

Prior to the Session:

- Share the animation and pdf comic strip with all participants (the content is the same so the facilitator can share whichever is most accessible for the support group members)



- Ensure the correct language versions are shared with the group depending on their needs. (English, Shona and Ndebele are available for the comic strips)
- Confirm everyone has been able to read or view the material prior to starting the session.

Group Session:

- Be sure to start the group on time as agreed with the group members
- Once everyone has joined the group, welcome people to the session
- Start with a game or warm exercise
- Remind everyone of the group rules around confidentiality, respect and privacy
- Introduce the topic and ask the group to share what they know about COVID-19
- Check people have had a chance to watch or read about Fatima and COVID-19
- Explain that the discussion today will focus on the information shared by Fatima about COVID-19. Guide the group through a series of discussion points as follows:





KEY LESSONS LEARNED



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- Zvandiri - a multi-component, differentiated service delivery model is adaptable and relevant during an emergency
- Flexibility of donors for realignment of funds and re-programming enabled rapid response
- Continued engagement with MoHCC for leadership and coordination is critical
- Collaboration with health facilities and other partners is essential for a coordinated response
- Different community cadre engagement is key to reaching CAYPLHIV.
- Virtual services cannot reach all CAYPLHIV – those without phones, power, connectivity
- An electronic case management tool enables virtual case management, tracking, monitoring and evaluation
- We continue to learn!



Thank you Funding Partners



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