



NATIONAL HIV/AIDS/STI/TB COUNCIL



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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**PROVIDING NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR A COORDINATED MULTI-SECTORAL
HIV/AIDS/STI/TB RESPONSE**



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YouTube

NAC AND CIDRZ JOIN FORCES TO STRENGTHEN HIV PREVENTION FOR YOUNG MEN

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Discussions focused on enhancing collaboration under the Anchoring Young Men through Strengthened Community-Driven HIV and SRHR Integration Programme for Adolescent Boys and Young Men (A-Men SHIP) in Zambia. The A-Men SHIP programme addresses persistent gaps in HIV prevention among young men who remain underserved by many traditional HIV and SRHR programmes. The project is being implemented by CIDRZ in partnership with Ministry of Health, with funding from ViiV Healthcare through its Positive Action initiative.



CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP IN HEPATITIS B PREVENTION



The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council Director General (DG) Dr. Kebby Musokotwane was honoured with the Hepatitis Elimination Champion Award by the Hep Initiative, in recognition of his exceptional leadership and commitment to advancing Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) efforts.

This prestigious award underscores the DG's unwavering dedication to strengthening health systems that safeguard mothers and their children from Hepatitis B infection. Under his stewardship, notable progress has been achieved in integrating Hepatitis B services into maternal and child health programmes, enhancing early screening initiatives and expanding access to timely treatment and preventive interventions.

His visionary leadership has not only elevated the national PMTCT response but has also reinforced the critical importance of protecting future generations through comprehensive and effective prevention strategies. This recognition serves as a powerful inspiration to all stakeholders to continue working collaboratively toward the elimination of Hepatitis B transmission and the promotion of healthier, more resilient communities.

NAC DELIVERS HEALTH SERVICES AT THE 2026 KUOMBOKA CEREMONY

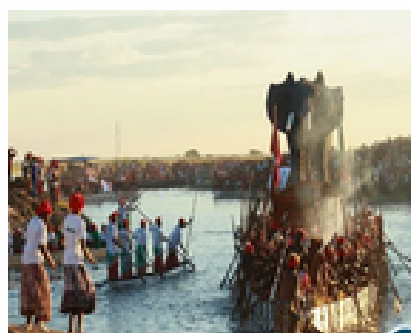
The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council (NAC) participated in the 2026 Kuomboka Ceremony, a major cultural celebration of the Lozi people held annually in Western Province. The ceremony, which draws thousands of attendees from across Zambia and beyond, continues to serve as a strategic platform for integrating cultural heritage with public health interventions.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, cooperating partners, and local authorities, NAC implemented a robust integrated health mainstreaming package aimed at safeguarding the health gains attained in the province. Given the scale of the event and the significant movement of people it generates, interventions commenced two weeks prior to the ceremony and covered a wide range of public health priorities.

Key activities included HIV and STI screening, emergency trauma response services, health inspections of lodges, bars, and restaurants, commodity distribution, disease surveillance against cholera, mpox, polio, and COVID-19, as well as point-of-entry health monitoring.

In a concerted effort to avert new HIV infections, more than one million condoms were distributed across Mongu, Kalabo, and Limulunga Districts. During the event, at least 14 trauma cases were recorded and successfully managed. A total of 253 premises were inspected, and handwashing points were established at key entry points, including Nalumino.

NAC reaffirms its commitment to leveraging high-attendance national and cultural events as opportunities to bring essential health services closer to communities, while reinforcing the message that HIV prevention remains a shared responsibility





WOMEN'S DAY COMMEMORATION

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BREAKING BARRIERS: NAC MARKS INTERNATIONAL CONDOM DAY IN SOLWEZI

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council (NAC), in collaboration with its partners, commemorated International Condom Day in Solwezi through a series of activities aimed at promoting HIV and STI prevention through increased condom use.

Key activities included sensitization workshops with students and young people, equipping them with essential information on safe sexual practices. In addition, a high-level breakfast meeting was convened with traditional leaders, chief executive officers and contractors to discuss condom accessibility and the strengthening of workplace HIV and STI policies.

The commemoration focused on breaking stigma, enhancing knowledge and promoting safer, responsible choices. Through these efforts, NAC continues to advocate for increased condom use as a critical strategy to reduce sexually transmitted infections, HIV transmission and unintended pregnancies in the country.



INTRODUCING THE KISS CONDOM

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council participated in the official launch of the KISS condom at the Urban Hotel. The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with DKT International, introduced the socially marketed condom brand as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen access to essential prevention commodities.

The launch of the KISS condom comes at a critical time, helping to address gaps created by reduced condom supplies previously supported by USAID. The KISS condom offers three key value propositions to communities nationwide: affordability, accessibility, and quality assurance.

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council remains committed to advancing sexual and reproductive health, promoting safe practices and ensuring sustained access to prevention commodities across the country.



ENDLINE EVALUATION: MENTOR MOTHER PROGRAMME SHOWS PROMISE

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council participated in the endline evaluation of a programme implemented by a multi-institutional team comprising representatives from the National AIDS Council, the Copperbelt Provincial Health Office, UNICEF, the Masaiti District Health Office, and Coalition Health Zambia. The programme, which ran from February 2025 to January 2026, aimed to reduce new HIV infections by at least 25% among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and Adolescent and Young Mothers (AYM). This was achieved through a peer-led Mentor Mother approach implemented across 19 high HIV-burden facilities, nine of which were purposively selected for the endline evaluation.

Data collection employed a mixed-methods approach, including structured interviews with 175 adolescents against a target of 174, three Key Informant Interviews, and two Focus Group Discussions. Preliminary findings indicated strong programme ownership and engagement at both facility and community levels, suggesting the Mentor Mother model has significant potential for long-term sustainability, pending confirmation through a comprehensive analytical report.



NAC REVIEW REVEALS CRITICAL GAPS IN DISTRICT HIV COORDINATION REPORTING



A comprehensive analysis of NACMIS reporting compliance across all districts was conducted in the first quarter, producing the first national-level diagnostic of the multisectoral reporting architecture. The assessment reviewed each district's reporting history against NACMIS records to establish the extent to which districts have submitted coordination data through the system.

The findings revealed significant gaps: only 42% of districts had ever been captured in the NACMIS database. This highlights a substantial disconnect between the intended national coverage of the coordination reporting system and its actual implementation at district level. The results further indicate that more than half of Zambia's districts have no verifiable record of multisectoral HIV coordination activities within the official reporting system, indicating the urgent need to strengthen reporting compliance and system utilization nationwide.

MID-TERM REVIEW OF NATIONAL AIDS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK COMPLETED

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) function contributed to the development of the National AIDS Strategic Framework (NASF) 2023–2027 Mid-Term Review, a comprehensive analytical report that triangulates national HIV response performance across multiple data sources. These included UNAIDS Spectrum estimates, the Zambia Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (ZAMPHIA) 2021, the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) 2024, PEPFAR Country Operational Plan (COP) data and Global Fund GC7 documentation.

The review assessed progress across key programme areas, including prevention, treatment, Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), key population programming and health systems strengthening. While treatment scale-up was identified as an area of sustained progress, the analysis also highlighted several persistent gaps requiring attention in the successor framework. These include a plateau in HIV testing uptake, declining awareness of mother-to-child transmission prevention methods, and consistently low condom use among non-cohabiting partners.



NAC LAUNCHES NEW PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR PROVINCIAL HIV COORDINATORS

Building on the NACMIS diagnostic, the first quarter saw the design and deployment of a new performance review and target-setting system for Provincial HIV/AIDS Coordination Advisors (PACAs). This initiative marks a transition from activity-based reporting to a structured, performance-based accountability model.

The system is anchored in a three-category target-setting workbook: Category 1 covers NASF-apportioned national indicators distributed using population-weighted formulas; Category 2 allows provinces to define context-specific coordination indicators; and Category 3 addresses key population coverage gaps using John Hopkins University COP22 estimates to calculate prevention coverage for FSW, MSM, transgender persons, and PWID.

During Q1, the workbook was refined through iterative improvements, including the inclusion of PWID as a fourth key population using an urbanisation-weighted proxy method and the removal of condom and lubricant coverage from Category 3 for methodological consistency. Supporting materials were also developed for national rollout, including a facilitator guide, narration document, and target reference matrix.