
NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATIONL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

JOINT 69TH LGAZ ANNUAL AND 22ND AMICAALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council participated in the Joint 69th Local Government Association of Zambia (LGAZ) and 22nd AMICALL General Assembly conference, held at the Ciela Resort under the theme “Innovative Municipal Financing and Service Delivery: Pathways for Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Development,”. President Hakainde Hichilema officially opened the conference and emphasized the importance of innovation, decentralization, and efficient service delivery.

The conference brought together civic leaders, council officials and development partners. Key topics included municipal financing, urban planning, transparency, reproductive health leadership and addressing the challenges of teenage pregnancies and new HIV infections. The conference concluded with an awards gala and the adoption of the 2025 Conference Declaration, reaffirming the collective commitment to improved and inclusive local governance and strengthening the multi-sectoral coordination of HIV and AIDS local response through the District AIDS Coordinating Advisors (DACAs).



VALIDATION MEETING FOR MEDICATED ASSISTED THERAPY SBC IEC MATERIALS

The National AIDS Council in partnership with Ministry of Health and Drug Enforcement Commission with support from CIDRZ convened a Validation Meeting at Legacy Resort in Chongwe District to validate Social and Behavior Change (SBC) materials targeting people who inject drugs (PWID). 13 Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials were validated, having incorporated feedback from the pre-test. The meeting brought together a diverse group of key stakeholders, including government officials, health experts, and development partners.



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

LAUNCH OF INFORMAL ECONOMY GUIDELINES AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, working with employers and workers' organizations, officially launched the HIV and AIDS Guidelines for the Informal Economy and the Private Sector Engagement Strategy (2025–2027) with support from the International Labor Organization (ILO)

The launch marked a significant step towards formalizing Zambia's informal sector, which accounts for a large portion of the country's workforce. The guidelines aim to promote decent work, enhance social protection, and improve working conditions for informal workers.

The Labor Commissioner Givens Muntengwa graced the event. In attendance were representatives from the private sector, labour unions, civil society, and international partners all affirming their commitment to inclusive economic development and sustainable livelihood



VALIDATION MEETING FOR THE NATIONAL SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council with support from WHO convened a meeting to validate and update the STI Guidelines and Operational Plan at the National AIDS Council. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from government, civil society, health institutions, and other partners.

The meeting focused on aligning the guidelines with current global standards, strengthening prevention and treatment strategies, and ensuring effective integration of STI services within broader sexual and reproductive health programs.

The finalised guidelines and operational plan are expected to provide a clear roadmap for improving STI response, enhancing coordination among stakeholders, and contributing to the national goal of reducing the burden of sexually transmitted infections.



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMAL ECONOMY GUIDELINES AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council held dissemination meetings in Copperbelt, Southern, and Lusaka Provinces to promote the Informal Economy Guidelines and Private Sector Engagement Strategy. These meetings aimed to inform and engage private sector stakeholders, highlight strategic priorities, and encourage support for HIV workplace and community programs.

Key goals included fostering corporate commitment to HIV integration in workplace policies, supporting domestic resource mobilization, and exploring public-private partnerships. Stakeholder feedback was also gathered to guide effective implementation.



The meetings led to greater awareness of the strategy among stakeholders, with private institutions pledging to incorporate HIV initiatives into workplace wellness programs. Plans were proposed for company-level HIV response strategies addressing gender and mental health. Additionally, participants urged the National AIDS Council to provide technical support and user-friendly materials for business leaders.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

The National AIDS Council organized the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Annual Review Meeting at Aninas Lodge in Chilanga. The meeting brought together CSO representatives, development partners, and stakeholders to reflect on achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from the past year. Key discussions centered on strengthening governance, enhancing advocacy strategies, mobilizing resources, and improving coordination to ensure effective delivery of community-based programs.

The meeting also assessed progress in policy engagement, capacity building, and programmatic interventions, with particular focus on HIV response and sustainability amidst the withdrawal of United States Government financial support, as well as initiatives in skills development and social protection. The meeting concluded with the adoption of an action plan that prioritizes accountability, partnership building, and long-term sustainability of CSO efforts in advancing national development goals.



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS HIV SENSITIZATION BREAKFAST MEETING

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council alongside the Public Private Dialogue Forum with support from Coalition Health Zambia, convened the Chief Executive Officers HIV sensitization Breakfast meeting at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka. The meeting was graced by the honorable Minister of Commerce Trade and Industry who was represented by Professor Lackson Kasonka Permanent Secretary in charge of special duties, he highlighted the critical role business leaders play in safeguarding progress made in the HIV response and ensuring sustainability of the gains made.

The meeting focused on financing programmes for HIV and AIDS, with discussions on the need for sustainable healthcare funding and the role of both public and private sectors in supporting these efforts. The NAC Director General Dr. Kebby Musokotwane clarified the council's mandate and its importance in coordinating

the multi-sectoral HIV response, while also noting the need for legal framework updates. Mr Isaac Ahemesah Country Director UNAIDS highlighted the critical role of business leaders in safe guarding progress and ensuring sustainability in the HIV response and the PPDF Director General Mr Andrew Chipwende stressed the need for a united public private response to fill the widening HIV gap



ZAMBIA COMMEMORATES WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council in collaboration with Ministry of Health Commemorated World Hepatitis Day at Government Complex under the theme "No Time to Waste, Act Now!" The theme underscored the critical urgency required to address the viral hepatitis epidemic. It called for immediate and decisive actions from individuals, communities, healthcare providers, and policymakers to accelerate efforts in prevention, testing, and treatment.

The guest of honour was the Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical services who was represented by Professor Lloyd Mulenga, Director Infectious Diseases from the Ministry of Health. In his statement Professor Mulenga stated that globally, over 1.1 million people die from Hepatitis related complications and that there was need to raise awareness, share knowledge and strengthen collective commitment to combat Hepatitis and its effect in all its forms.

Dr. Lastone Chitembo HIV/STI/TB Programme Officer from WorldHealth Organization reported that WHO had pre-qualified the first rapid test called "Determine Ante-Natal Care panel" that detects HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis at once. He further indicated that the test is being rolled out in several countries, including Zambia, to reach more people, especially in rural areas.



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS ENGAGE THE UNAIDS ESA REGIONAL DIRECTOR AMID THE HIV FUNDING CUTS

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council convened Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at Radisson Blu Hotel for an engagement with UNAIDS ESA Regional Director Dr Anne Muthoni Githuku-Shongwe, UNAIDS Deputy Regional Director, Dr. Medhin Tsehau, NAC Director General, Dr. Kebby Musokotwane, UNAIDS Zambia Country Director, Mr. Isaac Ahemesah and Dr. Chimika Phiri, MoH HIV Prevention Lead, to discuss Zambia's HIV response in the face of reduced U.S. Government funding.



The discussions focused on Zambia's HIV response amid reduced US Government funding. The meeting underscored the critical role CSOs play in service delivery, community mobilization, and accountability, while emphasizing the challenges posed by funding cuts to interventions, Community Led Monitoring (CLM), and organizational stability. Participants emphasized need for stronger partnerships, innovative resource mobilization, and practical strategies to safeguard community-led HIV programs.

They also recommended the need to implement the HIV fund in a more effective manner in order to make it more actionable. The session concluded with actionable recommendations to guide advocacy, policy engagement, and sustainability planning.

NAC EXHIBITS AT THE 75TH WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA MEETINGS

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council was proud to have been part of the organization's exhibiting at the 75th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Lusaka, showcasing Zambia's progress made in the HIV/AIDS/STI/TB response, adoption of new interventions, and public health innovation. The WHO Regional Committee for Africa Assembly was officially opened on 25 August, 2025 by H.E the Republican President of Zambia Mr. Hakainde Hichilema. The meeting attracted delegates from over 47 countries. The 2025 Regional Committee session deliberated on strategies to advance universal health coverage, strengthen health security and emergency preparedness, and address key priorities such as Maternal and Child health, malaria, and non-communicable diseases.



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATONAL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

NAC COMMEMORATES HIV TESTING, COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT DAY

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council commemorated HIV Testing, Counselling, and Treatment Day on 12th September 2025 at Muchinga Grounds under the theme “Invest in a sustainable future #GetTestedForHIV #HIVPrevention.” The Health Minister Dr. Elijah Muchima, represented by Public Health Director Dr. Matilda Kakungu Simpungwe. In his keynote speech, reaffirmed the government’s commitment to accessible HIV prevention, treatment, and care. He stressed the importance of collective action and expanding testing so everyone knows their status and access

UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Beatrice Mutali, through UN representative Seth Broekman, noted that Zambia recorded 30,000 new HIV infection in 2024 of which 11,000 were young people aged between 15 and 24, and only 76 percent of children living with HIV are on treatment. That means thousands of young lives remain at risk.

Ms Munthali said the joint United Nations Programs on HIV/AIDS(UNAIDS) had warned that without restoring the US Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR) funding the world could face six million new infections and four million AIDS related deaths by 2030. During the event the National HIV Testing Services Implementation Plan was officially launched.



SOUTH-TO-SOUTH LEARNING NETWORK (SSLN)

On 22 September 2025, the South-to-South Learning Network (SSLN) for HIV Prevention, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council (NAC), convened the Zambia Country Champions Meeting in Lusaka. The meeting brought together champions representing NAC, MoH, Line Ministries, Community networks, civil society and Implementing partners.

The objective of the meeting was to share updates on the SSLN planning grant, provide updates on Zambia’s national HIV prevention programme, updating and developing HIV prevention plans in line with the current funding situation Prevention Programme Planning(3PT) and gather experiences and insights for a reimagined HIV prevention response (Reimagined HIV)

The meeting reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to partnership, collective action, and innovation in driving and scaling bold solutions to end HIV.

#SSLN #HIVPrevention #ReimaginedHIV #Zambia #NAC #MoH



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATONAL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

ELIMINATION OF VERTICAL TRANSMISSION OF HIV

A combined team of National AIDS Council and Ministry of Health staff visited selected facilities across the Country to provide Technical Support Services for eliminating vertical transmission of HIV. The findings showed that most HIV-exposed infants are followed up to 24 months, and the majority remain HIV-free. This shows that Zambia's PMTCT programme is working, however challenges still remain with some children becoming infected because their mothers struggle to accept their HIV status or miss treatment. Others are missed at clinics, where HIV testing is not always done for children without valid results.

In the community, mentor mothers play a vital role, walking long distances, keeping records by hand, and encouraging mothers to stay in care. With bicycles, mobile phones, and proper tools, they could do even more. Eliminating HIV in children is possible. Together, with families, communities, and health workers, we can make it a reality.



NACMIS DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT MEETING.

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council conducted a NACMIS data quality assessment workshop on HIV programme data. The aim of the assessment was to improve quality of data that will be used in the HIV programming. The meeting was officially opened by the NAC Director General Dr. Kebby Musokotwane, he echoed in his statement the importance of data for decision making. The Participants included the Provincial AIDS Coordination Advisors, Selected District AIDS Coordination Advisors from provincial Districts in the Local Authority, Ministry of Health and implementing partners.



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATONAL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

STRENGTHENING GIRLS RIGHTS PROJECT

The Strengthening Girls' Rights (SGR) Project held its 2025 Operational Planning Retreat at the Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka. The meeting brought together stakeholders from various government ministries and agencies to review progress on the 2025 Operational Plan and set priorities for the year's final quarter. Key focus areas included improving coordination, expanding adolescent-focused Join-in-Circuit activities, supporting youth-led research, enhancing school programs, and involving traditional and religious leaders in promoting adolescent health and rights.

Dr. Kebby Musokotwane, Director General of the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, opened the retreat and shared data on the country's HIV response. Since 2010, new infections have dropped by 52%, AIDS-related deaths by 40%, and treatment coverage has reached 94%. While mother-to-child transmission has decreased, it remains above global targets. The SGR project will continue through 2029 with a new €6 million grant from the German government, boosting youth engagement in health and development.



Strengthening Last-Mile Condom Distribution Through Subnational Structures

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council held a National Condom Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting in Lusaka to improve last-mile condom distribution using existing local structures. The meeting brought together Provincial and District AIDS Coordination Advisors, who help manage distribution hubs, community pick-up points, and stock accountability.

Discussions focused on management of stockouts, transport delays, and poor storage at the community level. Partners like UNFPA, ZAMMSA, AHF, and ZHECT pledged support, including transport for DACAs, establishing community storage, and boosting demand especially for female condoms through creative branding and peer outreach. The TWG emphasized community engagement through collaboration with local partners, aiming to make condom distribution more sustainable, impactful, and locally driven.



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

● NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL ●

QUARTER THREE

ZAMBIA TAKES MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN COMBATING HEPATITIS B

The Ministry of Health in partnership with the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, has made major progress in public health by developing Zambia's first National Hepatitis B Guidelines. A key milestone was a workshop held in Chilanga District, bringing together clinicians, researchers, public health experts, and government officials to create standardized, evidence-based guidelines for preventing, diagnosing, and managing Hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B remains a serious health issue in Zambia, leading to chronic illness, liver cirrhosis, and cancer. In response, the workshop focused on practical strategies aligned with the WHO's Global Health Sector Strategy (2022–2030), emphasizing integration into existing healthcare systems and data-driven approaches.

Key outcomes included drafting the National Hepatitis B Guidelines, integrating hepatitis care into antenatal and primary care, and reinforcing public health resilience and demonstrating Zambia's commitment to evidence-based health policy and system strengthening.



STAKEHOLDERS CONVERGE TO REVIEW AND UPDATE ZAMBIA'S HIV POLICY

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council successfully convened a high-level stakeholder meeting to review and update Zambia's 2005 National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Policy.

The four-day workshop brought together key representatives from government ministries, civil society, the private sector, youth networks, and cooperating partners. The consultations focused on aligning the policy with current scientific evidence, emerging best practices, and Zambia's evolving national health priorities.

The meeting culminated in the drafting of a revised HIV Policy that reflects a renewed multisectoral commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat. The final draft is now ready for submission to the Ministry of Health for onward processing and approval.



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER, 2025

NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL

QUARTER THREE

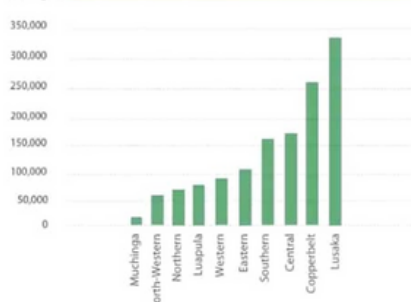
2025 HIV ESTIMATES DISSEMINATED

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council (NAC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), continues to lead a coordinated, data-driven HIV response. Each year, Zambia's Spectrum files are updated using the latest data to guide evidence-based decision-making and resource allocation.

Copperbelt Province recorded the highest number of new HIV infections in 2024, while Lusaka had the most people living with HIV. These figures were shared during the 2025 HIV Estimates Dissemination Meeting in Lusaka, attended by Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi on behalf of the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Elijah Muchima. The Minister noted a significant drop in new HIV infections from 67,585 in 2005 to 29,782 in 2025. Alarming, 37% of new infections were among adolescents, highlighting the need for youth focused interventions. Mother to child transmission also declined from 30% in 2005 to 5.9%. The Minister reaffirmed government support for evidence-based HIV efforts but warned against complacency, especially amid reduced external funding.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV: PROVINCES

All ages

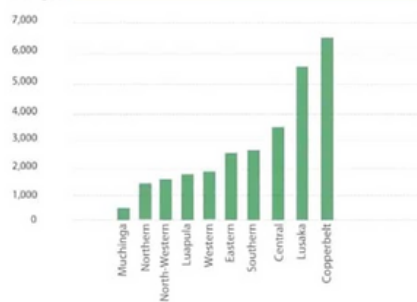


Province with the highest number of PLHIV:

Lusaka

NEW HIV INFECTIONS: PROVINCES

All ages



Province with the highest number of new HIV infections:

Copperbelt