

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

2025

Jointed Hands Welfare Organisation



Welcome to the October JHWO Newsletter!

This month, we celebrate the strength of community voices and the impact of collaborative action. From empowering families through HIV/TB education and active TB case finding to improving treatment adherence for children and adolescents living with HIV, JHWO's work reflects resilience and shared responsibility. JHWO also highlights the role of community-led monitoring in shaping responsive health systems, the power of dialogues with cultural and faith leaders to protect girls, and the importance of NCD awareness in fostering healthier lifestyles. Each initiative underscores our belief that communities are not just project beneficiaries, they are partners driving the impact and resilience within the communities we serve.

JHWO appreciates its partners for standing with it as it works toward healthier, more resilient and empowered communities. Happy reading!



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Empowering Communities Against HIV & TB

"I never knew that TB services can start in the community. Today I was screened for TB and the process was so simple," shared a Mrs Chivande in Shurugwi after her first community TB screening.

In October, JHWO strengthened its commitment to community-driven health education and service delivery, focusing on HIV, TB, and malaria. Through the dedicated efforts of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Mangwe, Umzingwane, and Shurugwi districts, JHWO engaged 2,285 community members on health education, screening and referrals.

"Now I know I can frequently get screened for TB. I will refer my neighbors and family members for screening too."

From these sessions, 26 people were referred for essential health services, and 19 accessed health services such as HIV testing, STI screening, TB screening, and family planning.

The community outreaches didn't stop with education, screening, and referral, JHWO also facilitated 174 peer-to-peer sessions across five districts (Kwekwe, Shurugwi, Bulilima, Zvishavane, and Chirumhanzu), reaching 1,093 community members. From these, 27 were referred to their nearest clinic for comprehensive health services, and 18 accessed care.

These initiatives are part of JHWO's efforts to build health literacy, strengthen resilience, and promote positive health outcomes. By equipping communities with knowledge and support, JHWO is making significant strides toward healthier, resilient, and empowered communities.



Bringing Care Closer to Communities

Early detection saves lives! In October, JHWO made efforts to make TB screening accessible where it matters most: in the community.

Through targeted outreach across six districts, 748 community members were screened for TB (Umzingwane: 552, Shurugwi: 127, Chirumhanzu: 27, Kwekwe: 24, Mangwe: 15, and Zvishavane: 3)

From these screenings, 25 people were identified as presumptive TB cases and referred to health facilities for further diagnosis. One person in Mangwe received a confirmed TB diagnosis and was immediately initiated on treatment. This is an important reminder that every screening counts.

"I didn't realize my cough could be TB," shared a community member after referral. "I'm grateful for the chance to get tested early."

Community TB screening goes beyond detecting TB, it is a platform to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage proactive health-seeking behavior especially among high-risk and vulnerable groups.

Keeping Hope Alive

"I felt scared,"

When Tariro, a 14-year-old living with HIV in Bulilima, missed doses because of school and household chores, her viral load spiked. "I felt scared," she shared. "But with support from community cadres and joining a peer group, I'm back on track." Today, Tariro is enrolled in Enhanced Adherence Counseling and is determined to stay suppressed.

Her story reflects the reality for many Children and Adolescents Living with HIV (CALHIV). In October, JHWO worked with CALHIV like Tariro, to ensure they adhere to their treatment and have better health outcomes. This was done through viral load monitoring and home visits.

Within the month, 31 home visits were conducted and 129 CALHIV were monitored. Of these, 71 were virally suppressed.

From the home visits, JHWO noted that food insecurity, caregiver gaps, stigma, and migration often disrupt ART adherence. To address this, JHWO introduced Directly Observed Treatment (DOT), strengthened peer support groups, and encouraged carrying medication during travel. These steps are helping children like Tariro stay healthy and hopeful.



Protecting the Next Generation

When Rudo, a young mother in Gweru, learned her baby was HIV-exposed, she worried about the future. "I prayed every day for my child to stay healthy," she said. With support from JHWO and Community Health Workers (CHWs), Rudo received guidance on safe weaning and regular testing. Today, her baby is HIV-negative and thriving.

Her story mirrors the hope of many families we serve. In October, JHWO intensified Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) monitoring to reinforce Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) efforts.

Within the month, JHWO monitored 32 HIV-exposed infants and provided safe weaning support to 32 families. All 32 infants monitored tested HIV negative.

Early monitoring ensures timely intervention, better survival rates, and healthy growth for infants. Every negative test result is a victory for families and communities. With support and guidance, the next generation can be protected and helped to thrive!

Community Feedback in Action

When Mr. Geza, a community member in Mangwe, spoke up about drug stock-outs during a feedback meeting, his concerns were taken seriously and acted on. “We need medicines on time,” he said. That simple statement sparked serious conversations on how to solve artificial shortages which are sometimes caused by distribution bottlenecks.

In October, JHWO conducted 711 Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) surveys across Mangwe, Umzingwane, Shurugwi, and Chirumanzu. These surveys captured real experiences and guided meaningful improvements. Quarterly review meetings brought together health facilities, ministries, community cadres, and stakeholders to address issues like accessibility for persons with disabilities, staff shortages, and delays in viral load results.

The 711 CLM Surveys were conducted across four districts (Mangwe: 107, Umzingwane: 247, Shurugwi: 212, and Chirumanzu: 145). These surveys facilitated direct conversations with community members, yielding valuable insights into their experiences, needs, and perceptions regarding health services. The feedback gathered through these CLM activities has been essential for guiding program adjustments, identifying service delivery gaps, and highlighting priority areas for improvement.

Through CLM, JHWO is empowering communities to be involved and have a voice regarding the services they receive while creating a culture of listening and acting on the issues raised. This is building trust and improving healthcare delivery for everyone.



Building Resilience: Caregivers Leading the Way

Mrs. Sibanda, a caregiver from Mangwe, never imagined being able to pay school fees for the children she takes care of. This changed when she joined an Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) group in her village. “Now I can save for my children’s school fees and even dream of starting a small business,” she said.

Her story reflects the power of community-driven financial resilience. JHWO is working with vulnerable households and caregivers to help their families withstand economic shocks, reduce vulnerability, and foster self-reliance. Through this initiative, **424** people actively participated in ISAL groups across four districts (Bulilima: **320**, Shurugwi: **75**, Mangwe: **26**, and Umzingwane: **3**) in October.

Beyond savings, **5** caregivers launched income-generating activities (IGAs) like poultry and pig farming as strategies for growing their income.



Fighting Silent Killers



Mrs. Chikore, a 47-year-old Umzingwane community member, used to worry about money for breast cancer screening. "I didn't know that I could examine myself for breast cancer. Now I'll teach my daughters too," she said after attending a breast cancer awareness session in Umzingwane. Her words reflect the power of knowledge.

In October, JHWO joined hands with Howmine Clinic and MoHCC to raise awareness on breast cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This included practical lessons on breast cancer self-examination.

During this process, 322 people were mobilized for breast cancer screening, and thankfully, no cases were detected. Additionally, 101 people were screened for diabetes (1 person was referred for high blood sugar), and 250 people were screened for blood pressure (14 people were referred for hypertension).

These screenings promote early detection, prevention, and empower communities to take charge of their health because NCDs often go unnoticed until it's too late.

Strengthening Programs Through Field Monitoring

"Sometimes we struggle with data tools, but these visits help us learn and improve," said Nomsa, a community cadre in Bulilima, after a monitoring visit.

In October, JHWO conducted physical Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) visits in Bulilima and Gweru, supporting program teams in tracking the October Cohort of CALHIV with High, Pending, and Expired Viral Loads. These visits focused on:

- Data verification and capturing to ensure accuracy.

By working side-by-side with community cadres, these visits improved service delivery and reinforced accountability.

Building Stronger Partnerships for DR-TB Care

Tafadzwa, a DR-TB survivor and artisanal miner from Kwekwe, never thought that his experience with TB could be of any value or worse be used to identify and solve gaps in the national DR-TB response.

When the meeting started, he didn't understand what his role could be, but this soon changed when he heard Chiedza, another DR-TB survivor, sharing her experience with TB. This gave Tafadzwa the encouragement to share his experience during the DR-TB care consultation meeting; his words were powerful and full of realization:

"Starting treatment late almost cost me my life. We need faster action for others."

JHWO convened a meeting with the MOHCC and Community representatives to strengthen collaboration for an effective DR-TB response. This platform brought together community representatives, NTP staff, CSOs, and survivors to address persistent challenges (human resource shortages, delayed treatment initiation, and weak data-sharing systems) in the DR-TB care cascade. The meeting was part of the COMBAT DR-TB project supported by Unitaid through Kelin.



Key resolutions raised during this consultation meeting included updating DR-TB statistics for better planning, leveraging digital platforms like ECHO for virtual capacity building, using OnelImpact CLM Application for real-time reporting of drug supply issues, and enhancing community engagement through feedback and referral systems.

A follow-up meeting validated service gaps and reaffirmed the importance of patient-centred advocacy, with survivor testimonies grounding technical discussions in lived realities. Listening to communities and survivors is important in shaping a more equitable, patient-centred DR-TB response.

JHWO Joins National Clean-Up Campaign

Every first Friday of the month, JHWO teams roll up their sleeves and join communities across Zimbabwe for the National Clean-Up Campaign. Apart from picking up litter, this initiative is a culture of ownership, responsibility, and pride in our community.

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“When we keep our spaces clean, we protect our health and show respect for our environment,” shared a community volunteer during the recent campaign.

By participating, JHWO reinforces the message that a healthy environment is key to a healthy nation. Clean communities reduce disease risks and foster unity. Together with citizens, we’re creating cleaner, safer spaces for families and future generations.



JHWO at the National TB Conference

Zimbabwe hosted its 2nd edition of the National TB Conference from the 29 to the 31st of October 2025.

During this conference, JHWO, through the Stop TB Partnership Zimbabwe (STPZ), collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) and the National AIDS Council (NAC) to organize and coordinate this event.

Throughout the conference, JHWO stood alongside partners to champion the fight against TB.

JHWO’s support went beyond planning; it provided financial resources that supported mobile on-site TB screening and ensured the participation of MoHCC provincial representatives, making the conference inclusive and impactful.

As a recognition of its contribution, JHWO proudly received a Certificate of Appreciation, reaffirming its commitment to ending TB in Zimbabwe.



About Us



**ADVOCACY
AGAINST
HARMFUL
NORMS AND
MITIGATING THE
IMPACT
THEREOF.**

Jointed Hands Welfare Organization (JHWO) is a national Private Voluntary Organization (PVO23/2013) with over 20 years of experience advancing health and social well-being in Zimbabwe. Guided by WHO's holistic definition of health, JHWO works to eliminate harmful norms, practices, and behaviors while addressing critical public health challenges, including communicable diseases (TB, HIV), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), reproductive, maternal, newborn, adolescent, and child health (RMNACH), and pandemic preparedness.

As host of the Stop TB Partnership Zimbabwe and the Global TB Caucus, JHWO leads advocacy and coordination efforts such as the Multi-Sectoral Accountability Framework for TB (MAFTB), fostering collaboration among government, civil society, and communities. Its niche lies in evidence-based advocacy and community system strengthening through Health Centre Committees, Community Health Workers, TB Champions, and other grassroots structures.

JHWO combines advocacy with service delivery and innovative models like Leadership Training for Transformation (LTF), hybrid screening approaches, and gender equity analysis. These initiatives have driven impactful change, influencing policy and scaling up interventions such as waiting mothers' shelters, ECD play centers, and health facilities. Through inclusive, data-driven strategies, JHWO continues to champion sustainable health and socio-economic outcomes across Zimbabwe.

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