

Zimbabwe

CAIPHAS CHIMHETE

Community Working Group on
Health (CWGH)



Community Monitoring and Public Accountability for HIV/AIDS Resources



Community members at community campaign on access to HIV/AIDS services and male involvement

The Community Monitoring and Public Accountability for HIV/AIDS project aims to strengthen community monitoring mechanisms for health, particularly for HIV/AIDS Resources and Services, thus creating demand for improvements in quality of services and better/more equitable allocation of resources. The project is being implemented in two CWGH districts of Kwekwe and Chiwundura in the Midlands province. Evidence from community monitoring supports community roles in oversight in the public resources management framework at their level. Advocacy efforts driven by communities and geared towards improved public accountability and responsiveness of the health system to the health needs to PLWH have been carried out to date.

The actions are split into three domains namely, evidence collation, engagement with duty bearers as well as advocacy and capacity building.

Two rounds of community monitoring are done each year to gather community perceptions on HIV/AIDS resources and service availability, accessibility and quality of care at local level. Advocacy issues gathered include shortage of health staff at facilities resulting in long waiting time and staff burnout, poor access to diagnostic equipment such as CD4 count machines, long distance to facility, and weakening structures for community participation.

Already existing platforms have been identified for engagement with duty-bearers. Health Centre Committee (HCC) meetings serve as platforms for engagement with government/local authority representatives at local level. Further, community views are channeled to the national level through the various platforms that CWGH occupies. The annual national conference and pre- and post budget meetings jointly organized with parliament present advocacy spaces for pressing health needs.

Communities report improved health worker-patient relations. However, gains remain fragile in a resource constrained environment where nurses are prone to burnout due to staff shortages resulting in poor attitudes. St Patricks clinic is now stocking ARV medicines previously supplied through mobile outreach. Communities through HCCs have also lobbied for CD4 count machines in their clinics. In early 2011, all municipal clinics in Kwekwe started providing CD4 count testing on site.

Photo stories help in taking community monitoring forward in that the community can re-live the even again and again and share it with the important people in their lives. It is a way of recording events that keeps interest in the communities that are involved.



Community monitors share experiences and lessons learnt in social accountability monitoring during district exchange visit



Community monitors disseminate information to community members



Some of the project beneficiaries: Support group members



CWGH district vice chair facilitates discussion at project review meeting



Local authority and MoHCC officials listen to concerns raised by community at community

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Project officer addresses the gathering at community campaign