



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**CeSHHAR ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2018-2019**

## Vision:

- Good health for all in southern Africa through research, innovation, programming and capacity strengthening

## Mission:

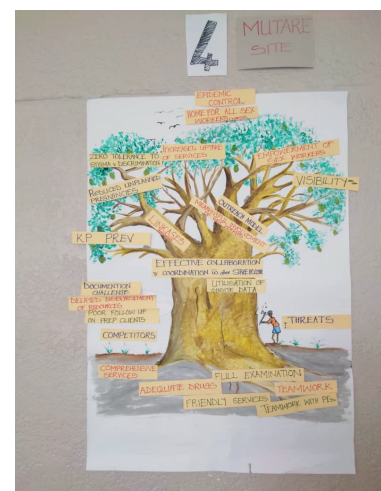
- To conduct research, deliver programmes, and strengthen capacity to inform health policy and programming in Zimbabwe and beyond

## Values and Principles:

- Locally-appropriate, culturally relevant, public health research.
- Scientific excellence and innovation
- Spirit of partnership and engagement
- Ethical, transparent organisational ethos
- Cost effectiveness and efficiency
- Inclusivity and respect for all regardless of gender, culture, sexuality and economic status

## Thematic areas:

- Key Populations
- Masculinities Research
- Integration of Sexual & Reproductive Health and HIV
- Children and Adolescence



## Strategy and Leadership

The past two years have been an exciting time for CeSHHAR Zimbabwe, running research projects both in urban and rural Zimbabwe. CeSHHAR staff have authored and contributed to 35 publications over this reporting period, as well as presenting seventeen conference abstracts to highlight, demonstrate and promote our work.

CeSHHAR continues to work closely with Ministry of Health and Child Care and is supported by a number of funders and donor agencies, to conduct high quality implementation research to optimise and evaluate a range of HIV prevention and care interventions. Important projects came to a close in 2019, while new and exciting research is beginning.

CeSHHAR senior management have been taking stock of what has worked well, thinking strategically about how to move forward to ensure long-term sustainability.

The CeSHHAR Strategic Plan for 2019-2021 has been drawn up setting CeSHHAR on a new and exciting course.

## Finance and Operations

- The total budget portfolio increased from \$11.2m to \$15.2m – an increase of 7%
- Global Fund AIDS TB and Malaria and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation were the largest donors
- 67% of grants income is on direct programme implementation and 33% of grants are on research programmes
- On average CeSHHAR had between 150 and 220 staff members



## Programme Highlights - Key Populations

CeSHHAR focuses on the sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention and care needs and the empowerment of sex workers in Zimbabwe. In 2018-2019 CeSHHAR raised funding to significantly expand the scope, reach and visibility of the national sex work programme 'Sisters with a Voice' which CeSHHAR runs on behalf of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Care and National AIDS Council. Implementation projects include:

- Community outreach and mobilisation, peer led with sex workers taking the lead in delivery of HIV prevention programmes. Peer educators and Microplanners identify sex workers in the community, offer ongoing health education, including condom distribution and demonstration and create demand for programmes.
- Clinical services provision at 10 static and 23 highway and 24 local mobile sites, offering comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services including HIV testing and counselling, linkage to ART, initiation on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), family planning services, condom promotion and provision and STI diagnosis and treatment.
- Drop-in Centres in Harare and Bulawayo provide safe spaces for the sex worker community whilst peer-led self-help groups, Education Assistance Programmes and a pilot of the Friendship Bench Project to provide 15 lay mental health counsellors form a comprehensive system of support for sex workers in Zimbabwe.
- Specialised projects looking at issues faced by mobile sex workers in accessing services across borders through the KPIF Cross Border Collaboration and sexual and gender-based violence through the Spotlight Initiative.



## Programme Highlights - Key Populations (cont.)

In addition, CeSHHAR has ongoing research projects exploring various aspects of female sex workers' lives and vulnerabilities:

- The AMETHIST (Adapted Microplanning: Eliminating Transmissible HIV In Sex Transactions) study, is developing and evaluating micro-planning interventions and collecting data on people's transitions in and out of sex work, demographics, sexual behaviour and clinical information to help inform health care policy in Africa.
- Studies to improve access to HIV services and better model HIV infection rates for sex workers in Zimbabwe.
- An impact evaluation of the multi-country DREAMS (Determined Resilient Empowered AIDS-free Mentored and Safe) study in Zimbabwe, to help provide government and key stakeholders with information that can be used to advocate and plan for targeted delivery of HIV prevention services.

## Programme Highlights - Masculinities Research

- Formerly the 'HIV in Men' portfolio, the Masculinities Research portfolio conducts research to inform evidence-based interventions to promote positive masculinity in relation to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and health agency more broadly.
- In 2018-2019, our research focused mainly on evaluating the demand creation and service delivery models developed and deployed for the VMMC "catch-up" and "sustainability" phases. Key to this project was determining the relative cost-effectiveness of various VMMC models (including models for demand creation) and their likely population-level impact.
- The Masculinities Research portfolio is currently being broadened to focus beyond HIV and SRH to include non-communicable diseases (where poor engagement of men in care is also of critical importance) and other themes (e.g. men's engagement in maternal and child health).

## Programme Highlights - Integration of Sexual & Reproductive Health and HIV

- The programme has included projects promoting HIV self-testing in Zimbabwe, partnered with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, PSI Zimbabwe and RTI.
- Our largest body of work on HIV self-testing is through the STAR Initiative, funded by Unitaaid and led by PSI working in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and University College London, with local research partners in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Lesotho and the Kingdom of eSwatini. The Star Initiative has evaluated different models of distributing self-testing kits, promoting community distribution and examining cost effectiveness.
- Other projects on self-testing include analysing the impact of pricing on test demand, determining the feasibility and acceptability of blood-based self-testing and exploring promotion of self-testing amongst key demographics, such as younger women and tertiary education students.

## Programme Highlights - Evaluation of Zimbabwe's National Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT)

- Zimbabwe has made remarkable progress increasing coverage of PMTCT services and reducing MTCT (Mother to Child Transmission); since 2014 we have been conducting cross sectional surveys to evaluate the national PMTCT program and the data shows that MTCT has decreased across the survey - these data is useful for informing practice.
- In 2019 we investigated data integration as a means to strengthen implementation and documentation of the PMTCT program going forward.



## Programme Highlights - Childhood and Adolescence

- The programme included projects focusing on improving adherence to HIV treatment in younger HIV infected mothers, such as the Zvandiri programme (run by Africaid) - a holistic model of differentiated service delivery for people 0—24 years living with HIV in Zimbabwe. This model uses peer-led counselling, home visits, daily SMS contact, referrals and integration into adolescent friendly support groups to provide enhanced care and support to vulnerable mother-baby pairs.
- The Study on the Burden of Diseases Potentially Preventable by Maternal Immunization in Sub-Saharan Africa is a European Commission funded study in Zimbabwe and Ghana, aiming to quantify the burden of group B streptococcus, respiratory syncytial virus disease influenza, and pertussis among pregnant women and their infants and evaluate how this is affected by co-morbidities such as HIV or TB infection.



## FUNDERS

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- CDC Zimbabwe
- Children's Investment Fund Foundation
- EDCTP
- Health Development Fund (DfID, SIDA, IrishAID)
- National Institutes of Health
- Positive Action for Adolescents, ViiV Healthcare
- UK Medical Research Council
- UNFPA Zimbabwe
- UNICEF Zimbabwe
- UNITAID
- USAID
- Wellcome Trust



## PARTNERS

- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- National AIDS Council
- City Health Departments across Zimbabwe
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- Population Services International - Zimbabwe
- University of Zimbabwe
- Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme
- University College London
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- University of California Berkeley
- University of North Carolina
- Burnett Institute
- AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
- Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human rights
- Zimbabwe Republic Police
- RTI International
- World Education
- Africaid
- UZ-Clinical Research Centre
- Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp
- Wellcome Trust Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies



CeSHHAR Zimbabwe is a non-profit Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) registered in Zimbabwe as a local Charitable Trust as per notarial deed of donation and trust with the Master of the High Court Harare, Zimbabwe.

4 BATH ROAD BELGRAVIA, HARARE, Zimbabwe

+263 (242) 332 074

[admin@ceshhar.co.zw](mailto:admin@ceshhar.co.zw) | [www.ceshhar.org](http://www.ceshhar.org)