



# 2016 NEWSLETTER

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## Editor's note

I would like to welcome you all to this foundational issue of Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT) Zimbabwe Quarterly Newsletter for the April to June 2016 period. The newsletter seeks out to deliver an update of what is transpiring within FACT family at two levels, that is, community and organizational. It acts as a forum of learning, sharing experiences and forging way forward on our approaches. We currently intend to publish this Newsletter on a quarterly basis. This is just the beginning! In this issue, we read about few of the many projects and programs FACT is implementing in Manicaland Province.

Send comments or suggestions to: [mande@fact.org.zw](mailto:mande@fact.org.zw) or [pzambezi@fact.org.zw](mailto:pzambezi@fact.org.zw)

Compiled by: C. Swikepi

Editor: P. Zambezi

## 1. FACT Mutare ART Clinic

The ART program in Mutare focuses on provision of HIV treatment and care services specifically targeting sex workers, and other vulnerable populations with limited access to health care as well as TB patients. The major goal of the program is to prevent mortality and morbidity. With support from PSI Zimbabwe, the ART clinic was opened on 29 September in 2013. A total of 904 patients have been initiated on ART since the beginning of the program. With a compliment of 3 staff members, the site has shown remarkable progress in this quarter under review. The table below shows highlights of FACT Mutare ART Clinic's progress from April to June 2016 quarter.

	<b>Mutare</b>
Sex Workers on ART Static site	305
MSM on ART Static site	21
Transgender, etc.	0
Transactional Sex on ART Static site	21
Sex workers on ART (outreach)	27
Unsuppressed Viral Load, etc.	55
Stable clients to be transferred	0
Family members	17
Staff members	3
<b>TX_CURR</b>	<b>449</b>



Mr Amos Mavunduke (Dispensary assistant) at FACT Mutare ART Clinic

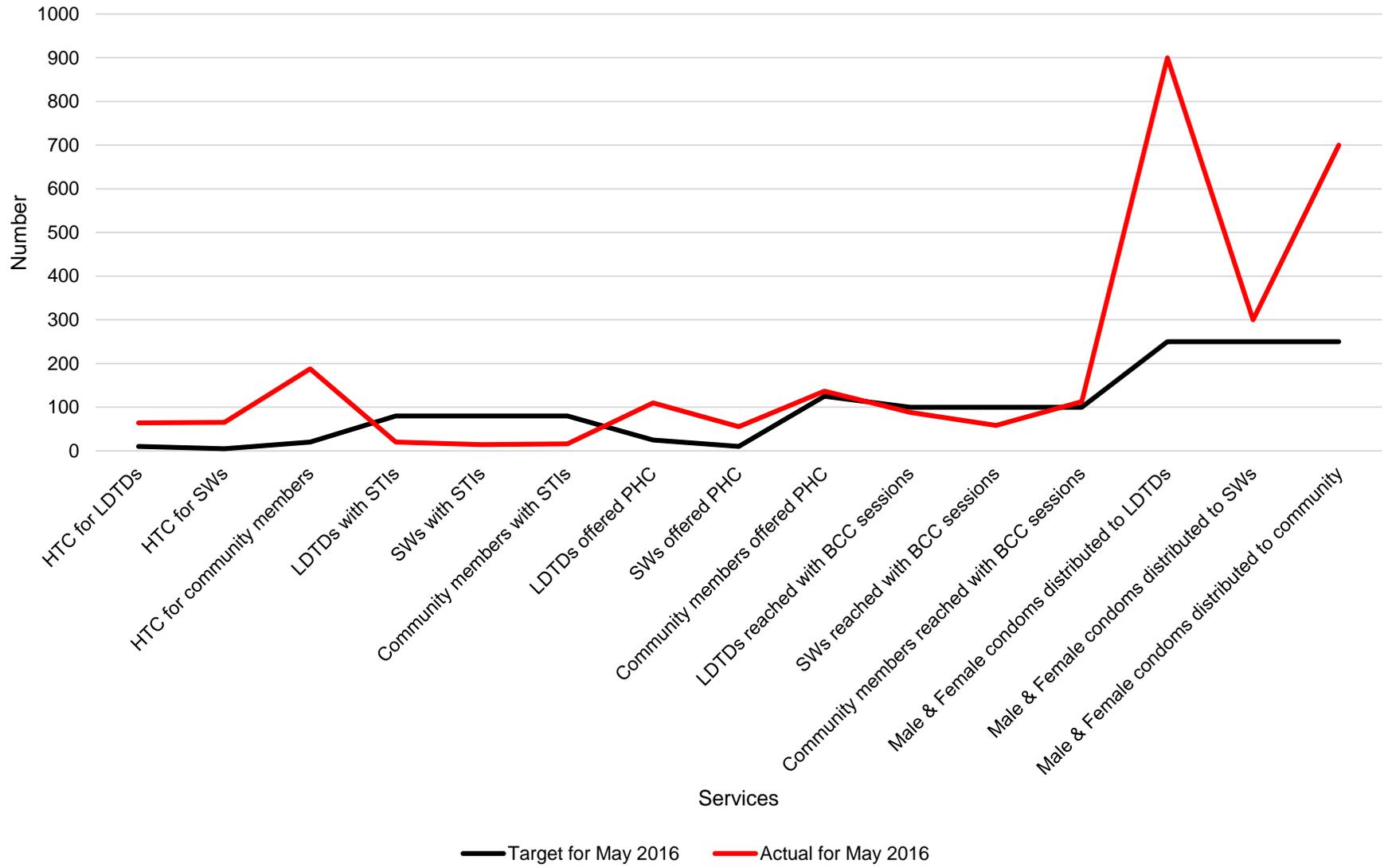


Mr Masimba Mapanda  
(FACT Mutare ART Clinic has smart, competent drivers who are computer literate)

## **2. Forbes Border Wellness: SADC HIV & AIDS Cross Border Initiative Project**

The FACT border wellness clinic was officially opened in 2011 after receiving support from Global Fund through North Star Alliance. The broader goal of the project under the SADC HIV and AIDS Cross Border Initiative is to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the regional response to HIV and AIDS to the mobile populations in order to reduce HIV infections in the SADC region and mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on mobile populations and affected communities across member states. The FACT border clinic continues to offer HTC, Primary Health Care and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections services to LDTDs, CSWs and the community within 50km radius. The border team progressed so well to meet their monthly targets especially in the month of May as shown in the graph below.

May 2016 progress towards achieving monthly targets for the Border wellnes project



## 2.1 The Border Wellness Team



From left to right: Nicola Chipangura (*Nurse counselor*); Rachael Bhila – (*Nurse counselor*) & Memory Mapungwana (*Clinician*)

## 3. SRH and HIV service uptake by Youth in Zimbabwe

Funded by UKAID, the project conducted 5 Join in Circuit (JIC) runs in May, support visited community facilitators in 4 wards, facilitated testing and counselling, distributed Youth Friendly Corner refurbishment materials and distributed information education and communication materials in the form of T-shirts. The JIC runs were conducted in 4 Primary and 1 Secondary school. The JIC runs were conducted at Chitakatira, Burma valley, Mt Zuma, and Clare schools. HIV Testing Services were conducted for 56 clients at the primary schools and secondary school in Burma Valley. Refurbishment materials were delivered to Chitakatira, Burma valley and Leekul clinics.



Secondary school students sitting for a pre-test before participating in JIC runs in Mutare District



A peer educator conducting a JIC run session on ways of HIV transmission at one of the secondary schools in Mutare District



Primary school children participating in a JIC run in Mutare District



A body language jig-saw picture created by primary school kids who participated in a JIC run in Mutare District



Primary school children learning HIV & sexuality issues at various JIC run stations

#### **4. FACT Manicaland Integrated Support Program**

The three districts implementing the Integrated Support Programme namely Mutare, Mutasa and Nyanga continue to raise awareness and create demand on the uptake of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), HIV and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services. The demand is being created through trained BCFs who are conducting home visits, Sista2Sista mentors reaching young girls for increased national capacity to provide information and services that prevent teenage pregnancy. In addition trained community leaders conduct dialogues on integrated HIV, SRHR and GBV services. Even though ISP encompasses both men and women, it has bias towards women and young girls due to their vulnerability.

The following table shows households visited according to districts.

District	Quarterly Target	Actual and % Achievement for the Quarter	
		Quarterly Achievement	% Achievement
Mutare	6 336	4 397	69
Mutasa	3 571	3 349	94
Nyanga	3 571	3 100	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 478</b>	<b>10 846</b>	<b>80</b>
Annual target			<b>44 928</b>
% of Annual target achieved			<b>50</b>

#### 4.1 Sista2Sista Exposures

Sista2Sista mentors are reaching young girls through girls only clubs to provide information and services that build self-esteem, confidence and skills to prevent teenage pregnancy. Within this context **3 539** Sista2Sista exposures were attained against a target of **3 375** which translates to a **105%** achievement. This achievement is attributed to the **5** mentors who still have 3 groups each instead of the recommended 2. It should however be noted that this intervention is now being implemented in Mutare district only as Mutasa and Nyanga are now being funded by the Global Fund under the Incentive funding.



Above: Conducting an in session S2S support visit to a group of young mothers in Mutare District.



Above: ISP Manager in black attire (Mrs P.U. Ndebele supporting S2S session completion in Nyanga District

#### **4.2 Partnership with other key stakeholders**

Mutare district supported the **Jibilika Dance Festival** in partnership with the DREAMS Initiative, Children Tariro, PSI, Diamond FM, New Start Centre, Child Probation Services and Ministry of Labour and Social Services. The theme was **'To Promote a Healthy Community'** by empowering youth with adequate knowledge on issues of HIV prevention, care and support. The FACT Executive Director gave an overview of services provided by FACT under the demand generation programme. She also encouraged improved uptake of mobile HIV testing and counselling services, cervical cancer and STI screening through integrating with other implementing partners.



FACT Officer in white T-shirt exhibiting during the Jibilika Dance Festival in Mutare

#### **4.3 Provincial International Families Day Commemorations**

The International Families Day coordinated by MWAGCD was held in Mutasa district. FACT Executive Director was the Guest of Honour at this function. The theme was 'Healthy Communities for a Healthy Nation'. Some of the highlights of the event were that women empowerment has proved to be a tool for family sustainability, survival and reduction of gender based violence. Furthermore, empowering the girl child through education reduces incidence of early child marriages while at the same time promoting community development.



FACT Executive Director giving a speech during the International Families Day Commemorations in Mutasa

### **Inadequate Service Provision for GBV Client in Mutare**

The ISP Home Visits for Demand Generation provide sessions aimed at improving knowledge and skills in SRHR; and provide services for HIV and GBV prevention. Clients who would have been exposed to these sessions are expected to seek the preferred and referred services. Some GBV clients however, feel that service providers need to do more to protect them against the perpetrators of abuse. GBV continues to take a toll on many couples who are supposed to be in loving relationships. At the same time the lives of children in such relationships are also disrupted. Such is the case with Mavis (46) who has been in an abusive marriage for as long as she remembers.

“The abuse started long ago during the early years of my marriage. I recall the time I had my second child. My husband beat me so severely that he nearly broke my arm,” Mavis recalled. Now with a family of seven children and a son-in-law, her husband, Earnest, has not relented on beating her.

BCF Elizabeth also recounts how she got acquainted with Mavis because she was often called to intervene during the times that Mavis was beaten by her husband.

“Because people in my village know me as a FACT volunteer who facilitates on issues of HIV, SRHR and GBV, I was called to intervene in a case where a husband was beating up his wife,” said Elizabeth. Mavis confirmed that Elizabeth has often come to her assistance, “I know this woman because she has rescued me from my abusive husband many times. She has conducted sessions with me and my children to help us with building and improving our relationship. The latest incident of abuse happened because I had taken the initiative to procure birth certificates for our three youngest children. One of them is in Grade 7 and the school had indicated that she needed a birth certificate for her to register for her final examinations. My husband, who is of the opinion that the children should not go to school because it is too expensive, not only beat me, but also bite my cheek. I was bruised and hurt and had to be ferried to Mutare Provincial Hospital for treatment. After I was discharged from hospital my son-in-law sheltered me at his home nearby, but when my husband heard about this he followed me and threatened to beat me and my son-in-law. It was at this point that BCF Elizabeth counselled me and referred me to Musasa Women’s Shelter. At Musasa I reported the abuse and processed the legal documents for my husband to be charged with abuse. The process was long and at times my husband did not turn up at court. Finally the matter was brought before the criminal court and he was asked to pay only \$50, which he demanded from our eldest son. I felt the fine was too lenient for someone who nearly crippled me. I was no longer willing to go back to our home because I knew he would continue to abuse me and so I sought for protection order and maintenance while I was still at Musasa. Still the process took long and more than once I had to go to court alone because the police at Bezel Bridge Police Post failed to serve him with the summons. The officers at FACT and Musasa worked together to make sure that the summons were served.

Finally, on 10 June I was granted the protection order and maintenance. The story of my abuse also appeared in the Friday 17 June 2016 edition of the Manica Post titled ‘Vampire Hubby Bites Wife.’ I then left Musasa Women’s Shelter and went to my maternal home where I am staying with four of my children. Whilst I was at my maternal home my husband visited the homestead on 20 June 2016 threatening me with a knife. He said he wanted to kill me so that I would not be able to claim any maintenance from him. On the same day I informed BCF Elizabeth who also informed FACT officers about the threats. FACT officers in turn called the Police Post at Bezel Bridge and informed them that Earnest was violating his wife’s protection order. Of late he has not been visiting my home but he has been to the children’s school where the Head denied him access to the children. Although the matter has been through the law courts, my husband has not paid maintenance for the month of May and my son who is supposed to be in form three is no longer going to school. I still fear for my life and my children’s lives. I wish I could get a place far from here where I can start a new life with my children.”

## 5. Nyanga Local Rights Program

Funded by Action Aid International Zimbabwe (AAIZ), the Nyanga Local Rights Program is being implemented in wards 4, 6, 7, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23, 27 and 29 with a strategic objective of ensuring that 300,000 women and girls in Zimbabwe break the cycle of violence and claim control over their bodies.

In the month of May, as a follow up to the Training of trainers workshop conducted by Action Aid International Zimbabwe where FACT project staff were trained, Nyanga local rights program staff did a Reflect action training workshop. A total of 32 community facilitators (*27 females and 5 males*) were trained and made action points to form Reflect Action circles and to strengthen existing ones so that Reflect action members reflect on challenges girls and women are facing in the face of GBV, child marriages and teenage pregnancies and come up with action points to end the challenges. Among the participants were members of Rural Women Assemblies, 4 Young mother support group members from our 4 established groups, 3 members of out of school Comprehensive Sexuality Education clubs and 10 Ward development coordinators from Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development.



*A group of participants giving feedback after group discussion on Reflect action tools*



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