

PVO 1/86

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**JF KAPNEK
ZIMBABWE**

Issue 04

WHO WE ARE:

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe, formerly JF Kapnek Trust was founded in 1966, when James Kapnek left his fortune to a trust dedicated to the causes that concerned him most, thus furthering his dream to build a better Zimbabwe through education and his commitment to essential medical research. The Trust was registered as a PVO in 1986 and the organization pivoted into a grant seeking implementer of programs to benefit Zimbabwe's most vulnerable children.

OUR MISSION:

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe works to improve family health, reduce child mortality, provide a protective environment and create educational opportunity for the children of Zimbabwe through the implementation of scalable, sustainable programs.

OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS:

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- TASQC - Target Accelerate Sustain Quality Care Program for HIV Care & Treatment

ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN DEPARTMENT

- Early Childhood Development Health & Nutrition Program
- MAPP / CBR Inclusive Development
- Enhancing Pathways to Possibilities (P2P)



- 01 Empowering Caregivers Through Internal Savings & Lending Schemes
- 02 Strengthening Early Childhood Development Through Nutrition
- 03 Health Assessments
- 04 ECD Classroom Renovations
- 05 ECD Boreholes Drilling Project
- 06 Multi - Annual Program Plan / Community Based Rehabilitation (MAPP CBR)
- 07 Enhancing Pathways to Possibilities (P2P)
- 08 Target Accelerate Sustain Quality Care Program for HIV Care & Treatment
- 09 Education -SSW Scholarships



EMPOWERING CAREGIVERS THROUGH INTERNAL SAVINGS AND LENDING SCHEMES (ISALS)

In Mhondoro Ngezi, Internal Savings and Lending Schemes (ISALs) have been adopted as an effective tool to support caregivers of children with disabilities and those with children enrolled in ECD at supported schools, while also strengthening community resilience. These community-based financial systems enable members to save collectively and access small loans to meet personal and household needs, thereby fostering self-reliance and shared responsibility.

Currently, 20 schools across the district are implementing ISALs, with the active involvement of approximately 2,500 caregivers. These caregivers—parents and guardians of school-going children—use the schemes to improve household livelihoods, cover school-related expenses, and invest in income-generating projects that sustain their families.



A member proudly counts her proceeds from the Internal Savings and Lending (ISALs) scheme

Objectives of ISALs

- Promote financial inclusion for caregivers.
- Provide access to small, low-interest loans for household and educational needs.
- Cultivate a culture of saving and collective accountability.
- Strengthen the connection between schools and the wider community.



ISALs group members share proceeds, celebrating the rewards of collective saving

Implementation Approach

The ISALs operate through regular savings meetings held at each participating school. Members contribute agreed amounts at set intervals, with loans disbursed transparently according to established rules. Alongside this, caregivers receive guidance on budgeting and loan repayment, ensuring financial literacy and accountability remain central to the scheme.

The Mhondoro Ngezi ISALs showcase the remarkable value of community-driven financial initiatives in promoting sustainable livelihoods and empowering caregivers. With its success across 20 schools and 2,500 caregivers, the model holds great promise for replication in other districts, ensuring more families and children benefit from this impactful approach.

Impact

The benefits of ISALs are already visible within the community:

- Caregivers are now able to meet school fees and household obligations.
- Participation in income-generating activities has increased.
- Community solidarity and mutual support have grown stronger.
- Engagement between families and schools has been enhanced, directly contributing to the overall welfare of children.

STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH NUTRITION

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of young learners by providing nutritional support for Early Childhood Development (ECD) children in Zvimba, Chegutu, and Mhondoro Ngezi. This initiative, implemented under the Early Childhood Nutrition, Health, and Education Program and supported by the Herz Foundation, OAK Foundation, JF Kapnek Trust USA and the Government of Zimbabwe, goes beyond feeding. It also includes the renovation and furnishing of ECD classrooms in rural primary schools. By doing so, children—including those with disabilities—are assured equitable access to health monitoring, protection, and early learning services that meet their developmental needs.



A child receives a warm serving of corn soya blend porridge at school.

Each school term, supplementary feeding is provided to ECD children in 152 schools across three districts: Mhondoro Ngezi (54 schools), Zvimba (50 schools), and Chegutu (48 schools). Through this effort, over 10,000 children are reached every term, ensuring they receive the nourishment needed to thrive in their early years. A total of 10,870 children were successfully reached during the 2nd term, with enrolment rates recorded at 90% and an impressive retention rate of 96%, reflecting strong participation and sustained engagement in the programme.

The Value of Corn Soya Blend (CSB)

At the heart of this program is Corn Soya Blend porridge (CSB)—a highly nutritious food product designed to support child growth and wellbeing, especially in communities vulnerable to malnutrition.

- **Rich in protein:** Combining the benefits of corn and soya, CSB provides essential proteins needed for growth, tissue repair, and healthy development.
- **Balanced nutrients:** With essential amino acids, fortified vitamins, and minerals such as iron, zinc, and folate, CSB supports strong immunity, energy production, and cognitive development.
- **Energy for growth:** Its high calorie content helps meet the energy demands of growing children.
- **Easy to prepare:** Available in powdered form, CSB porridge is simple to prepare with water or milk—making it suitable for schools and communities with limited resources.

This cost-effective yet nutrient-rich option plays a vital role in addressing nutritional gaps, while complementing efforts to promote a varied and balanced diet for children. Together, we are ensuring that every child, regardless of background or ability, has the foundation for a healthier and brighter future.



Learners enjoy a nutritious porridge meal at school.



Learners undergo health assessments conducted by nurses at school.

HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

As part of our efforts to improve educational outcomes for all ECD children in Mashonaland West Province, JF Kapnek Zimbabwe conducts comprehensive health assessments in schools under our ECD program. These assessments are designed for early detection of health problems, helping to identify conditions such as malnutrition, vision or hearing difficulties, developmental delays, disabilities, and minor illnesses before they become severe.

During the assessments, children are screened for growth and nutrition (including height, weight, and Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) for malnutrition), signs of stunting or wasting, dietary habits, skin conditions, and common childhood illnesses such as cough, fever, and infections.

To ensure no child is left behind, in Mhondoro-Ngezi JF Kapnek Zimbabwe introduced on-spot treatment, where nurses immediately provide care for conditions such as worm infestations, vitamin A deficiency, malnutrition (mild to moderate), skin infections (ringworm, scabies, impetigo), eye and ear infections, coughs, colds, mild fevers, and minor wounds.

Thanks to the generous support of the Herz Foundation, this initiative is helping children stay healthy, thrive in their education, and reach their full potential.

ECD CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS

Through the generous support of OAK Foundation, four schools in Zvimba District had their ECD classrooms renovated. JF Kapnek Zimbabwe supplied the renovation materials, while the schools contributed labour—demonstrating strong collaboration and commitment to improving early learning environments.

Renovating ECD classrooms provide young children with safe, bright, and stimulating spaces essential for play-based learning and early literacy. They also reduce health and safety risks, enhance children's confidence and participation, and make teaching more effective. Communities, in turn, are motivated to support schools that offer quality facilities.

These renovations strengthen the foundation of early childhood education by creating environments that nurture learning, protection, and holistic development.



Current stage of the ongoing classroom renovations at Mareverwa Primary School.



A newly installed borehole providing clean water to the school and community.

ECD BOREHOLES DRILLING PROJECT

Borehole drilling was successfully completed at Chikambi, Masvitsi Mareverwa, and Tafira Schools in Zvimba District.

Access to clean and reliable water is essential in schools as it supports learning and child well-being. Water is needed for drinking, handwashing, food preparation, and maintaining hygiene in classrooms and toilets. Without it, children are exposed to diseases, poor nutrition, and absenteeism.

The provision of boreholes has created a healthier, safer, and more supportive environment for children to learn and thrive. Boreholes in schools align with Zimbabwe's Vision 2030, promoting education, health, and community development—all key pillars toward achieving an upper middle-income economy by 2030.

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe has received support to drill boreholes across Zvimba, Mhondoro, and Chegutu Districts. Special thanks to Herz Foundation, Tammy Moody, and Neil Foundation for making this possible.



Herz Foundation

MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAM PLAN/ COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (MAPP CBR)

TARISAI'S CHILD STORY - GLENVIEW, HARARE

Tarisai Moyo, born on August 9, 2006, resides in Glenview, Harare, Zimbabwe. Tarisai was diagnosed with spina bifida, which has required her to use a wheelchair since birth. Her mobility challenges have significantly impacted on her daily life, often limiting her access to education and social engagement.

Through the Isheanesu Multipurpose Centre for the Disabled (IMCD), Tarisai was enrolled in the Skills Development Programme under MAPP's Livelihood initiatives. As part of this intervention, she received mentoring in hairdressing and make-up artistry, which revealed her natural creative talents. The support package included comprehensive training materials and tools for beauty therapy such as a facial steamer, towels, makeup brushes and sponges, skincare products, and a manicure and pedicure set, among others. She also received one-on-one coaching from professionals, including a local salon owner in Harare's CBD and another based at Glen View 1 Makomva Shopping Centre. The total estimated cost of the intervention was approximately USD \$350.00, covering the beauty therapy kit, hairdressing kit, training manuals, and demonstration products. This initiative is part of a broader disability inclusion programme implemented by MAPP -CBR and funded by the Liliane Foundation, aimed at promoting economic independence through vocational and livelihood skills development for youth with disabilities.



Tarisai expertly applies makeup to one of her clients.

At IMCD, Tarisai is nurtured in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment that fosters her growth beyond academics. Surrounded by encouraging mentors and peers who appreciate her abilities, she continues to thrive with increased confidence and self-esteem. Tarisai comes from a financially unstable family of five. Her father is self-employed, and her mother serves as a volunteer caregiver. She is the only girl in a family of five. While she receives strong love and support at home, the family's limited financial means previously hindered her access to alternative education and skills development opportunities. Despite facing economic hardship and limited knowledge, Tarisai's family has remained resilient and deeply concerned for her well-being. Their ability to explore opportunities for her was previously constrained, but witnessing her transformation at IMCD has inspired renewed hope and strengthened their support. Tarisai attended primary school but struggled academically, particularly with reading and traditional subjects that failed to capture her interest. As a kinaesthetic learner, she thrives through observation and hands-on activities. Practical training in beauty therapy and hairdressing has displayed her true potential. Despite her determination, the conventional school system did not align with her strengths, and due to financial challenges and poor academic performance, she was unable to continue to secondary education. Tarisai actively engages with peers, particularly during beauty and grooming sessions where she hones her skills. She finds fulfillment in enhancing others' appearances and has become a source of confidence and inspiration among her peers.



Tarisai contributes to grooming and personal care responsibilities at home. Her growing expertise in hairdressing and makeup has positioned her as a valued member of the household and a contributor in her community. Previously limited in community participation, Tarisai is now actively involved in local community gatherings and informal beauty sessions. Her talent and creativity have earned her recognition, helping to challenge societal perceptions of disability. On 25 June 2025, she performed alongside renowned Zimbabwean artist Chipo Muchegwa also a wheelchair user at the Inclusive Arts, Recreation, and Sport Awareness Concert at Isheanesu Centre. The event marked a significant milestone in Tarisai's artistic development. The skills development programme supporting Tarisai is part of the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) initiative, with technical support from JF Kapnek Zimbabwe and financial backing from the Liliane Foundation.

Tarisai dreams of opening an inclusive, fully accessible beauty salon that embraces diversity. Her goal is to create a welcoming space where individuals of all backgrounds and abilities feel valued.

"One day, I will open my own salon where everyone feels seen, where beauty knows no barriers."

-Tarisai

Not her real name

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe, is at the forefront of implementing the Community-Based Rehabilitation Program in partnership with 13 disability services organizations across Zimbabwe. The program which is supported by the Government of Zimbabwe is made possible through the generous support of the Liliane Foundation, whose dedication to improving the lives of children with disabilities has been instrumental in fostering inclusive communities.

PROJECT TITLE

Enhancing Pathways to Possibilities project (P2P)

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Mount Darwin District
Harare District
Mutoko District
Zvimba District
Maphisa District
Mhondoro-Ngezi District

TARGET POPULATION

5000 Children with Disabilities (CYWD)
8000 Caregivers/ Parents

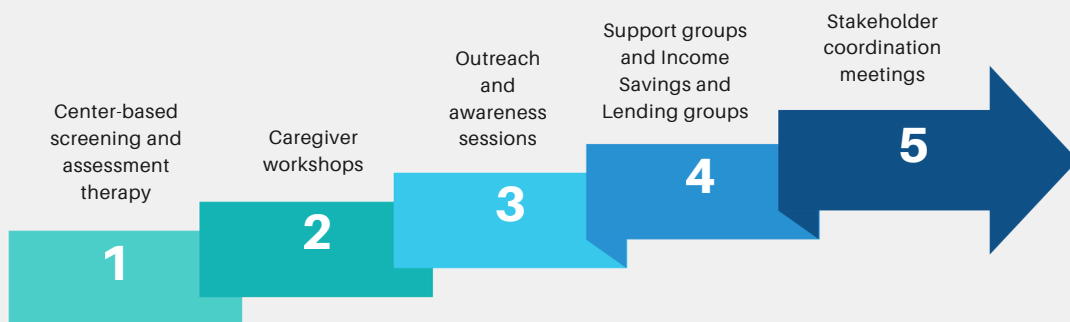
 **TOTAL BUDGET: USD \$716 368**

PROJECT PERIOD: 2024 – 2026

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project enhances access to rehabilitation and developmental support services for children with disabilities while empowering caregivers and strengthening coordination among key stakeholders. The project is being implemented across 6 hospitals, with a strong focus on early identification and early intervention for children with disabilities. The project also delivers direct services to children, including assessments, and provides ongoing support to caregivers to strengthen positive parenting practices. Additionally, the project supports outreach activities and awareness sessions to increase community understanding of disability and the importance of early intervention. It also promotes joint economic strengthening initiatives for caregivers through Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) groups. At the district level, the project facilitates coordination through outreach activities, workshops, awareness-raising campaigns, and regular stakeholder engagement to ensure a more coordinated and effective response to the needs of children with disabilities.

KEY ACTIVITIES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

CHALLENGES

LESSONS LEARNT

- 1. 2 249 children with disability (CWDs) reached with screening, therapy sessions and health services
- 3 249 parents/caregivers provided with parenting skills, at home basic therapy and on income generating activities
- 42 Stakeholder meetings conducted with (MoHCC, DSD, MWASMED)
- 456 caregivers participating in ISAL groups
- 96 outreach sessions conducted to reach CWDs within the district of implementation.

- 1. Lack of Assistive Technology for CWDs affects service access.
- Unavailability of specialist services within the districts for children with disabilities. (CWDs)
- High levels of poverty amongst caregivers limiting service-seeking behaviour.

- Effective coordination mechanisms improve programme efficiency and outcomes.
- Intensifying screening and early identification increases the programme's reach and effectiveness.
- Outreach to hard-to-reach areas is critical for inclusion of children with disabilities.
- Improving access and coverage.
- Improved defaulter tracking systems help retain participants, especially when supported by outreach efforts.

TARGET ACCELERATE SUSTAIN QUALITY CARE PROGRAM FOR HIV CARE & TREATMENT

BRIDGING BORDERS IN HIV CARE: CHILONGA CLINIC'S STRATEGIC APPROACH TO SERVING MOBILE AND DIASPORA POPULATIONS (ART DSD MODEL)

Chilonga Rural Health Centre, is a tier 2 facility serving 751 recipients of care as of September 2024 is located 30 km from Chiredzi town, across the Runde River from the Hippo Valley sugarcane estates. The clinic serves a mobile population, including seasonal sugar estate workers and a significant diaspora cohort, with about 15% of clients residing in South Africa. Some clients travel over 10 km from surrounding villages. These factors had previously hindered viral load (VL) coverage. In FY23Q2, coverage was recorded at 49%, and only 5% of diaspora clients (110) had a valid VL result within the previous year.



Chilonga Clinic staff dedicated to providing quality healthcare services

A key challenge was that diaspora clients often sent relatives to collect medicines, missing VL testing opportunities. No system existed for VL testing during clients' short visits home. To address this, JF Kapnek's Chiredzi District team and Chilonga Clinic staff introduced targeted interventions. Diaspora client booklets were separated for quick access, relatives were engaged to gather contact details, and the facility received airtime support to directly coordinate with clients, particularly during Easter, Heroes, and Christmas holidays. Clients were encouraged to test in host countries and share results. An HIV Services Quality Officer (HSQO), an experienced registered nurse, was seconded to assist with staffing gaps in the Opportunistic Infections department.

These measures boosted diaspora VL coverage from 5% in June 2023 to 89% (95/110) by FY24Q4, with overall facility coverage steadily improving from 49% in FY23Q2 to 75% by FY24Q4. In one case, a client with an initial VL of 1,212 c/ml achieved suppression to <20 c/ml within three months through targeted tele-counselling—an approach where adherence counselling sessions are done on the phone—demonstrating its value in managing viremia. Key lessons include the power of locally tailored solutions, collaboration among staff, expert clients, and families, maintaining up-to-date contacts, and engaging relatives for rapid outreach. Continuous follow-up, diaspora engagement, and data-driven quality improvement are vital.



Staff diligently updating records to ensure accurate and up-to-date information

Chilonga Clinic's success proves that with strategic interventions, committed staff, and community collaboration, even highly mobile populations can achieve high VL coverage. Linking ART refills to annual VL testing and aligning supplies with clients' travel schedules can sustain this progress.

This achievement reflects the facility's commitment to leaving no one behind, ensuring quality HIV care for all—wherever they are.

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe is implementing the TASQC program in Masvingo, in collaboration with OPHID and ZNNP+, to complement the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC). This program is made possible due to the generous support of the American People through the Department of State.



U.S. Embassy Harare



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The Goal of the TASQC Program is to contribute to the achievement and sustainability of HIV epidemic control in Zimbabwe through the provision of technical, financial, and material support towards the management, coordination and provision of comprehensive clinical care services within the national HIV program.

QUARTERLY EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

13TH IAS CONFERENCE

**I WILL BE
PRESENTING  IAS 2025**
AT THE 13TH IAS CONFERENCE ON HIV SCIENCE



Track D: Social and behavioural sciences

E-Poster

Title: HIV prevention, testing and treatment through the eyes of Zimbabwean social media influencers: a digital ethnography study of content posted between 2020 and 2023

Dr. K.P.E Masunda
Technical Director



**I WILL BE
PRESENTING  IAS 2025**
AT THE 13TH IAS CONFERENCE ON HIV SCIENCE



Track E: Implementation science, economics, systems and synergies

E-Poster

Title: Sustaining adolescent viral suppression through collaborative approaches during adolescent clinic days in Zimbabwe

Dr. G. Katsamba
Program Manager



**I WILL BE
PRESENTING  IAS 2025**
AT THE 13TH IAS CONFERENCE ON HIV SCIENCE



Track E: Implementation science, economics, systems and synergies

Poster Exhibition

Title: Community based cervical cancer screening bridging the access gap for women from hard-to-reach areas: the case of Masvingo province, Zimbabwe

Dr. V. Guvava
SSE Manager



We were proud to be represented at the International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Science! in Kigali, Rwanda, 13–17 July 2025.

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe was proud to be part of this global platform, showcasing innovative approaches driving impact in HIV response.

Our team presented on:

- ◆ Sustaining adolescent viral suppression through collaborative approaches during adolescent clinic days in Zimbabwe
- ◆ Community-based cervical cancer screening reaching women in hard-to-reach areas (Masvingo Province)
- ◆ HIV prevention, testing and treatment through the eyes of Zimbabwean social media influencers: a digital ethnography study of content posted between 2020 and 2023.


We were honoured to share our experiences and gain valuable insights in advancing the Global HIV science agenda.




TASQC PROGRAM REVIEW MEETING

We hosted the TASQC Program Review Meeting at the Great Zimbabwe Hotel in Masvingo from July 22–25. This was a key opportunity to evaluate program performance covering the period from October 2024 to July 2025.



 The objective: identify gaps, strengthen accelerated service delivery, and sharpen our focus through to September 2025.

 With all supported districts represented, the meeting was anchored on reflections of what has worked, addressing key challenges, and mapping out a robust plan to drive results.

WHO AFRO REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

We are grateful to have been represented by our Technical Director, Dr. Kudzai P.E Masunda, who connected with global health professionals and colleagues from across the world at the 75th Session of the WHO Afro Regional Committee Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia (25 – 27 August 2025).





MIVA CONTENT TRIP

We were honoured to host a team from MiVA Communications, including Eefe Bauwens and Ronnie Dankelman, during their recent content trip. The visit aimed to document how means of transport (vehicles & bicycles) and communication (smartphones) can enhance access to care, reach communities more effectively, and support the overall MAPP/ CBR program.

EXERCISE BOOKS DONATION

We are grateful to Round Table 1 and Rank Zimbabwe for the invaluable donation of 2 400 exercise books. After the official handover, the books were distributed to selected primary schools in rural Zvimba, directly supporting learners with the resources they need.



VANESSA MUTAMBARA



JF KAPNEK SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

STRENGTHENING SCIENCES FOR WOMEN PROGRAM

JF Kapnek Zimbabwe's Strengthening Sciences for Women (SSW) programme provides support girls and young women through scholarships which take them from Ordinary Level to Advanced Level. Several of the young women also receive University grants.

-My Story

I am proud to be an SSW alumnus having recently completed my BSc Honours degree in Biomedical Engineering with a specialization in medical devices. This accomplishment was made possible through the generous support of the JF Kapnek Trust. I discovered the SSW Scholarship Program through my former high school, St. Augustine's, where I was honoured as one of the top female students in my O Level studies, achieving the highest number of As.

The scholarship covered my tuition fees from my A Level studies, where I studied Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry, and continued to support me from my third year to my fifth year at university.

It has been a positive experience with the SSW program. The fees for tertiary education were high, and the scholarship catered for most of the expenses, and I am grateful that I graduated with no balance of fees payments left. Throughout the years I had no financial strains and stress, and this allowed me to focus and excel on my studies.

As I look towards the future, I am determined to leverage my education to develop affordable, cutting-edge technologies in healthcare for Zimbabwe. I aspire to open my own hospital and a company focused on designing healthcare solutions that integrate the latest technologies, ultimately improving patient care

I aim to create low-cost medical devices that are accessible to underserved communities. I believe that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, regardless of their financial situation. I strive to develop solutions that are not only effective but also sustainable.

My family life

I am not married yet, but I am committed to growing both personally and professionally, with an eye towards building a balanced life that includes relationships and family in the future.

My advice to young women

As you chase your dreams, remember to be fearless and passionate. Surround yourself with people who inspire and motivate you to push beyond boundaries. Don't shy away from taking risks and stepping out of your comfort zone. Every experience good or bad teaches you something valuable. And through it all, stay grounded and prayerful.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

Disability
Employment
Awareness
Month



October

Down
Syndrome
Awareness
Month



October 10

World Mental
Health Day



October 11

International
Day of the
Girl Child



October 16

World Food
Day



October 29

International
Day of Care
and Support



November

Epilepsy
Awareness
Month



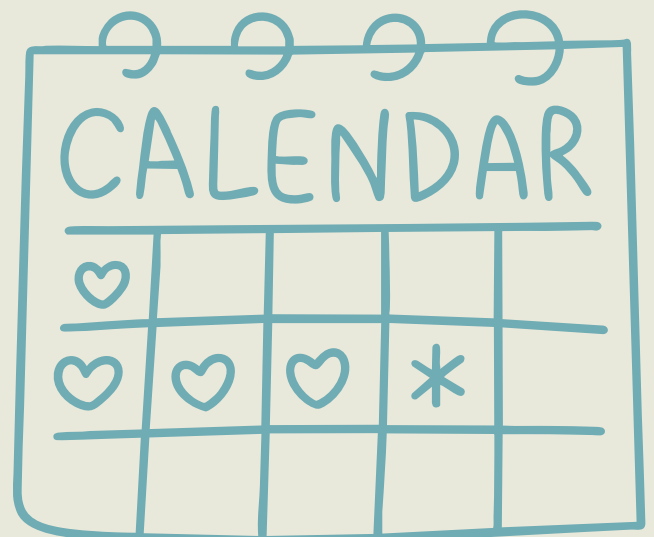
November 14

World
Diabetes Day



November 18

World Day for
the
Prevention of
and Healing
from Child
Sexual
Exploitation,
Abuse and
Violence





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our deepest appreciation to our esteemed donors and stakeholders for their steadfast support and partnership. Your trust and confidence in our work have been pivotal in transforming our shared vision into meaningful impact. It is through your commitment that we can advance our mission, strengthen communities, and create opportunities for a brighter future. We remain profoundly grateful for your continued dedication and collaboration.

The TASQC Program is supported by the U.S. Government and implemented by JF Kapnek in collaboration with OPHID and ZNNP+



PARTNER WITH US

Are you interested in supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) initiatives or Public Health Programs in Zimbabwe? We welcome collaborations and partnerships that help us extend our impact.

For OVC Programs

📞 Contact: Programs Manager
Albert Pasipanodya

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For Public Health Programs

📞 Contact: Technical Director
Dr. Kudzai Pisirai Elliot Masunda

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