



Choosing treatment, is choosing life!



Hellen Manda

Over 66,000 linked to HIV prevention treatment [PrEP] within a year...

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Second-hand clothes trader grows capital 30 times more

Sombo Sakamezhi started reselling clothes from DAPP with a capital of K300 in 2019. All she wanted was a means to support her family.

"My husband and I are taking care of three children whose parents died, one with special needs. So we needed to find something that could help improve our income home. I decided to use the K300 I had and bought some clothes from DAPP shop to resell," she recalled.

About five years later, Sombo's resilience and discipline is now paying off as her business thrives.

"My capital has now increased to K9,000. Through this business, I have been able to buy a plot in Nampundwe worth K3,500. This makes me happy because I have an inheritance to leave to my children."

"I have now bought a TV and good beddings for my children and life is better now than before. I am grateful to DAPP for making it easier for people without big capital to start from somewhere," she added.

When Hellen Manda's schoolmate spread the news of her HIV positive status at Petauke Secondary about five years ago, all she ever wanted was to "disappear forever."

Hellen lost both parents within a single month at the age of five months. Her mother's younger sister took her in, but she did not disclose that the drugs Hellen took daily were actually ARVs.

"I was taking my treatment on my bunk bed when my friend recognised the medicine I was taking as ARVs and started spreading my HIV status around the school. I was angry and I even stopped taking my treatment," she recalled.

At just 16, the stigma was heavy on Hellen's shoulders. She dropped out of school for a whole term when her health condition worsened.

"I was vulnerable to various diseases... For example, I developed sores

all over my body. Even my eyes were affected, I couldn't see clearly, even during the day. My viral load rose to 100,000 copies in my body. All those things were as a result of me stopping taking ARVs," added Hellen

Hellen was enrolled in the TCE Case Management Program and was assigned a Case Worker who visited her monthly for counselling and other support. She was further supported to form a treatment adherence support group called a trio.

"...I accepted my status and I said no one will contract the virus from me. I had to adhere to my medication so that I may have a suppressed viral load to untransmittable stage where I don't have to transmit to my partner or to my unborn children," she said.

Today, Hellen travels the world encouraging people about the power of accepting their status and adhering to treatment.



Sombo Sakamezhi

BRIDGING THE GAP, TEACHING WITH PURPOSE



Grace Mukutoolo with her pupils at Busa Primary

Bulanda farmer connects fellow farmers to markets within his community

"Before DAPP and WFP trained us to take farming as a business, we practiced conventional farming as a means for survival. We grew maize for household consumption and only a few bags were left for sale. We used to travel long distances to the market and our profit was not enough," explained Kennedy Hamatowe, a crop aggregator of Pemba's Bulanda area.

The 38-year-old farmer explains how farming has now become a profitable business for him and the community.

"I was trained as an aggregator by WFP and DAPP after my community selected me. Using money that I borrowed from my savings group and the loans

from lending institutions, I was able to start aggregating crops from farmers.

During the best season, I bought more than 13,000 by 50kgs bags [650 tonnes] of maize," explained Kennedy.

He added, "I have also built three buildings. In one of the buildings, I opened a hammer-mill to add value to the maize. In the other one, I sell groceries, while I am using the third one to store maize that I buy from farmers. I am happy to be providing a market for my fellow farmers for both inputs and crops within my community, cutting down on the long distances to markets."



Kennedy Hamatowe (right) weighs crop from farmers at his maize depot.

Grace Mukutoolo, teaches 97 Grade 2 pupils at Busa Primary School in Luano District.

Fishing and farming is central to the survival of communities in the valley.

"Many of my pupils miss school to help their parents with farming or fishing. They travel long distances to the fields or the dam. This makes it difficult for them to follow lessons, and when they come back, they struggle to catch up," Grace explained.

"I realised this was affecting the performance of my pupils in class. So, I began visiting their homes after school to talk to parents about the importance of consistent class attendance and how education can strengthen their families in the long run. I encouraged them to support simple reading and homework activities at home."

This approach, Grace says, comes from her training at DAPP Mkushi College of Education, where she learnt community involvement and engagement to support the delivery of quality education to the child. "Since I started these visits,

more learners are attending classes regularly and participating more actively in class," she added.

Inside the classroom, Grace practices the learner-centred, participatory methods she learned at the college.

"Teaching pupils in a large Grade 2 class requires careful planning. I put pupils in small teams where they help each other with reading and writing tasks. Group work ensures that every child takes part. Many of my pupils can now read and write confidently. Watching them stand and read on their own gives me hope. Some even support their classmates during group activities, and this teamwork inspires others."

For Grace, the training she received remains a daily guide. The skills she gained—parent engagement, problem-solving and learner-focused teaching—have helped her bridge the gap between school and community. And with each small victory in her classroom, she is reminded of her purpose: ensuring that every child has the chance to learn and grow.



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Over 66,000 people linked to HIV prevention [PrEP] within a year

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DAPP Zambia's Total Control of the HIV and TB Epidemics (TCE) has linked more than 66,500 people at high risk of HIV infection to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) between October 2024 and August 2025, significantly contributing to Zambia's national HIV prevention response.

Implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health with funding from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) up until September 2025, the programme used people-centred approaches

to provide HIV testing, treatment, prevention and care within communities in Southern, Lusaka, Eastern and Western provinces of Zambia.

"In all our health projects, people come first and not the disease. Our Field Officers worked in communities linked to 1,369 health facilities in 51 districts of the four provinces. Using tried and tested approaches, we were able to link 66,592 to PrEP. Further, we tested 15,619 people with HIV and immediately linked to them treatment at nearby health facilities," said DAPP Senior Partnership Director, Anne Dorte Hoejrup.

The project also brought 94,465 people who had interrupted their treatment



Field Officer visits a trio in Chongwe district of Lusaka province

back to care within the same period. This is in addition to 82,772 people living with HIV linked to TB prevention therapy.

"The TCE model builds trust at the family and community level. Trios treatment adherence support groups were an important part of the success in our community HIV response. A trio is a group of three including the person living with HIV and

two buddies who support them on their treatment. It means transferring the responsibility of HIV treatment and care to the community from the health facility. We supported people living with HIV to create 17,551 trios," she added.

DAPP, using the TCE model is reaffirming commitment to supporting efforts to end HIV as a public health threat by 2030.

Community efforts in fighting lead pollution in Kabwe

Families in Kabwe district live with the daily reality of lead pollution—an invisible hazard left behind by decades of a mining legacy that still haunts the health and future of children.

Lead dust settles on household surfaces and places where children play, exposing them to the risk of growth delays, learning difficulties and long-term illness.

"My 10-year-old daughter loves school, but she is struggling to read and write. When I ask her what the teacher taught them, she cannot remember. When DAPP officers, working with Kasanda clinic came around mobilising for lead testing, they found three of my six children had elevated

lead levels in their blood," explained Monica Mwila of Kabwe's Magandanyama Compound.

The DAPP Child Aid Kabwe project has been working closely with communities to mobilise people to take action towards mitigating the effects of lead.

"We raise community awareness about the dangers of lead and share practical ways to reduce the risk at household level. In 2024, we raised over 22,000 tree seedlings that we gave to households to plant. This helps to improve vegetation that traps dust. We also encourage regular cleaning and pouring water when sweeping to bind contaminated soil. We keep

reminding parents to keep children away from lead contaminated dust," added Jane Kaputa, Project Leader.

As part of the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, DAPP Zambia in partnership with Environment Africa hosted an awareness roadshow in Kabwe's Makululu Compound, reiterating the health expert warnings that there is no safe level of lead

and encouraging families to take immediate steps to reduce the risks of lead exposure among children in the affected compounds of Kabwe district.



Pictures from the lead poisoning awareness road show in Kabwe on 31.10.2025

Youth in Action Sports Gala brings the heat to Mapalo grounds...

Ndola's Mapalo ground came alive on Friday, October 17, as sports lovers celebrated the 2025 Youth in Action Annual Sports Gala — a vibrant showcase of talent, teamwork and youth empowerment organised by DAPP Zambia.

The atmosphere was electric, with Mapalo Youth Club sweeping all three trophies in netball, as well as the boys' and girls' football. Each match revealed not only athletic skill but also the discipline, unity and determination that define Youth in Action.

The boys' final saw Mapalo edge past Nkwazi with a beautifully executed second-half free kick, sealing a 1-0 victory. On the girls' side, Mapalo delivered a spirited comeback to

defeat Kawama 2-1, while the netball team cemented the club's domination with a 15-7 win over Nkwazi.

Guest of Honour, Ndola District Commissioner, Precious Njekwa — represented by Senior Child Development Officer, Ethel Hansungule — applauded DAPP's commitment to youth development.

"Government remains

dedicated to empowering young people through skills, health and sports. This project aligns with our national development agenda — young people equipped to lead, work and thrive," she said.

Beyond the excitement on the field, these clubs serve as vital platforms for young people in Chipulukusu, Kawama and

Nkwazi to share knowledge on entrepreneurship, environmental protection, HIV prevention vocational skills and leadership.

The 2025 Gala was more than a sporting event — it was a celebration of potential, resilience and the transformative power of youth coming together with purpose.



Celebratory and action scenes at the Youth in Action Sports Gala in Ndola where Mapalo Youth Club swept all three trophies on 17 October 2025.



"I am happy that DAPP is making clothes and shoes accessible and affordable in our communities using a system of reducing prices every day for 14 days, making people from all walks of life to access decent, affordable clothes - Lyness Nambeye



"I must have been around 10 when my parents started bringing me to DAPP and now I come on my own with friends to shop for my clothes and shoes. I love DAPP because the clothes and shoes here are unique and affordable - Chonde Chola



Communities in the lead malaria in fighting against malaria

Malaria remains a major health threat in Zambia, claiming more than 1,060 lives from over five million cases reported in 2024, according to the Ministry of Health.

However, communities across Zambia are stepping forward as key drivers in the national response to fight against malaria through the Community-Led Malaria (CLM) project.

The CLM is built on the basic principle that the

people most affected by malaria should support malaria control and actively shape the decisions that affect their own health using informed CLM data.

"Community volunteer or data collectors are at the centre of the CLM malaria project. The project collects real-time information about malaria service delivery, find out challenges and barriers in accessing care such as testing and treatment at facility and community level, use of treated mosquito

nets, stock-outs of malaria commodities, time taken to access services or gaps in service quality and community practices that hinder effective malaria control," explained DAPP Community Engagement Officer, Sheilly Mutambara.

The project is funded by the Global Fund, through CHAZ. It works with seven local organisations across all 10 provinces in 51 districts, supporting 316 health facilities.

"Once these challenges

are identified, communities gather to discuss solutions on the action points from the CLM analysed data and hold the duty bearers responsible. Examples of improvements are more treatment services provided by Community Malaria Volunteers increasing early treatment, improved use of nets, increased demand for indoor spraying and increased vector control," she added.