



# CIDRZ

*for a healthy Zambia*

DEC 2021

Vol. 15



**TOGETHER  
WE CAN CONQUER COVID-19,  
GET VACCINATED!!**

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## Editors Note

Dear CIDRZ Family,

I am excited to welcome you to our first FY 2021-2022 Quarterly Newsletter. Our communications team has worked hard to put together an excellent overview of all our achievements in the past 3 months and I am so excited to share this with you. I hope you are proud of all the work we as a community have accomplished!

I am so proud to be a part of such a dynamic team of incredibly talented people that enable us to carry out our mission to enhance access to high-quality healthcare in Zambia through innovative capacity building, world-class implementation science and research, and effective and long-term public health programs.

We can all agree that 2021 has been a long and challenging year. We've lost many dear colleagues and friends and I encourage all of us over this holiday season to spend some time to pause, reflect and celebrate their memories.

Please stay safe over this holiday break.

**Jill Morse**  
***Editor in Chief***





**Dr. Izukanji Sikazwe**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

# **CEO's Message**

## **Protect yourself and get vaccinated**

I trust that you are well and rejuvenated with the onset of the rains as we head into the final weeks of this year.

I am requesting you all to provide the HR department through your project or departmental head, your COVID-19 vaccination status. I do appreciate that many among us continue to have reservations and real concerns about the safety, particularly long term effects of the vaccines available and perhaps a misplaced belief that natural immunity is best for this pathogen. I also recognize that the majority of our staff are not amongst those classified as being at high risk for poor outcomes – severe disease and even death, but we do know that one's course or how severe one's symptoms will be at an individual level remains unknown.

It is for this reason, especially as we are an organization working in the health sector, with significant funding currently to address this epidemic, that I ask those that have not been vaccinated to immediately get vaccinated. Please do reach out to colleagues, the medical team, peers and friends to discuss concerns about the vaccine. We have managed to support staff members who had concerns around safety,

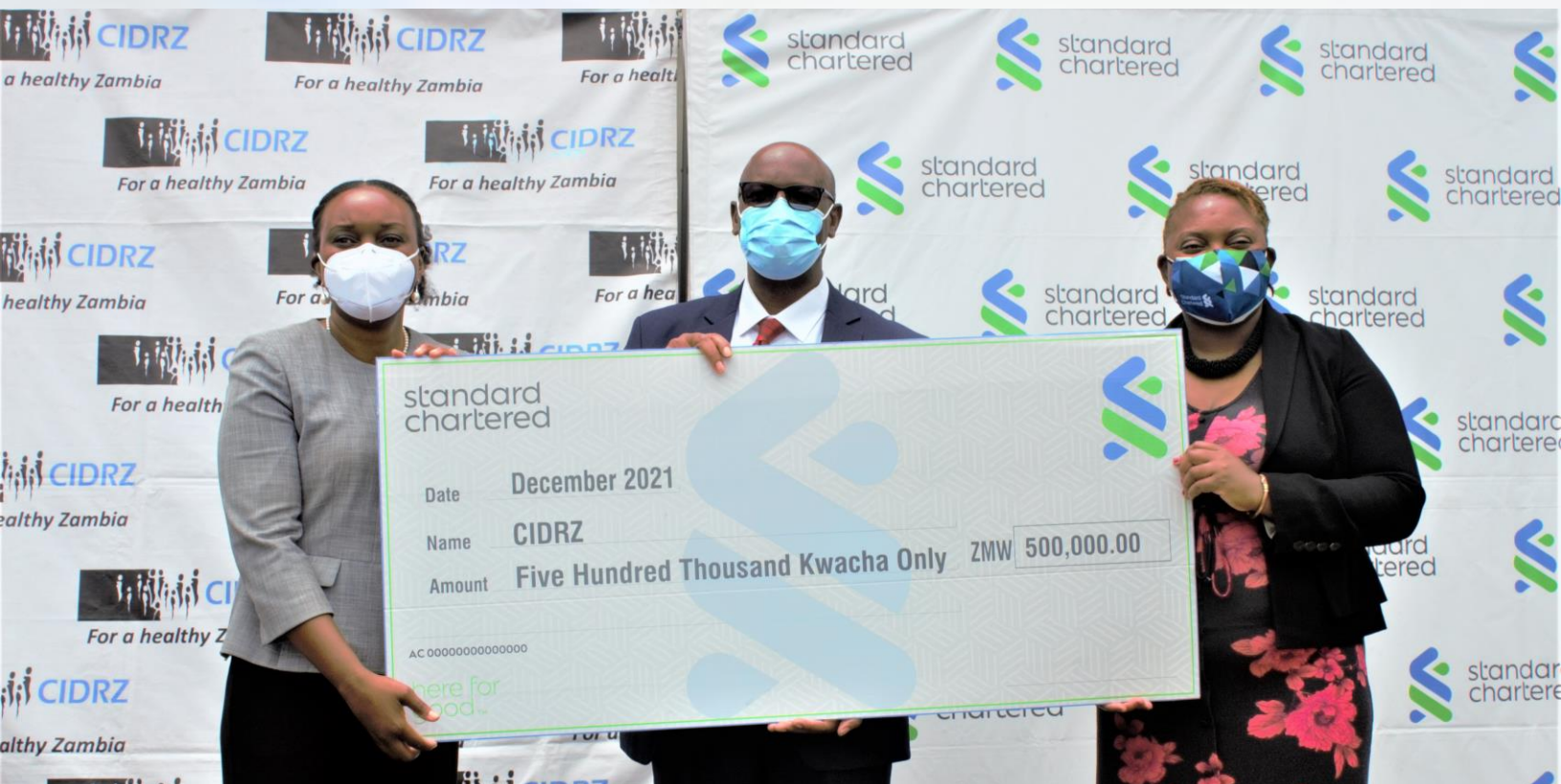
allergic reactions and so on through the process and got them successfully vaccinated. For those vaccinated, please be champions and get your extended family members and friends vaccinated in the coming few weeks prior to the onset of the anticipated 4th wave. Please remember that the vaccines prevent severe disease and not the risk of COVID-19 infection. It's therefore critical that we continue to adhere to all prevention measures.

I have stayed away from undertaking vaccination drives at our offices as it pulls scarce resources from the public sector to our community that is really a privileged community able to access these services from the current points of service. I'm willing to reconsider it should we have significant members of staff sign up for this, so please let HR know.

I will be sharing a vaccination dash board per department and salary scale for the institution once we have these put together through HR dept. I'm hopeful that we will get close to 100% vaccination status by the close of the year.

Do get in touch with me, should the need arise.





## CIDRZ and StanChart backs GRZ in the fight against COVID-19 amidst new Omicron variant

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) in partnership with Standard Chartered Bank Zambia (Stanchart) has handed over COVID-19 test kits and Oxygen Cylinders worth about half a million kwacha to government through Ministry of Health (MOH).

and Stanchart for pioneering this important gesture at the time when the government was doing its best to vaccinate more people to protect them from the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more.....](#)

Speaking when he received the items, MOH Permanent Secretary- Technical Services Professor Lackson Kasonka, thanked CIDRZ



[Click to Watch .....](#)





## MCDSS, USAID, CIDRZ and three other stakeholders sign MOU

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with four major stake holders including the Centre for Infectious Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) to mitigate the impact of HIV and improve the health and wellbeing of Vulnerable Children and Adolescents (VCAs).

The MoU is aimed at seeing CIDRZ, the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) and Project Concern Zambia (PCZ) join forces with GRZ on the USAID Empowered children and Adolescent Program (ECAP), through the

delivery of high-impact, evidence-based and age-appropriate interventions using a child focused and family centred approach.

And ACHIEVE Zambia Project Director Ms. Nang'andu Joan Kamwale, expressed happiness on the significant milestone attained on the ongoing collaboration on strengthening social welfare systems to improve health and well-being of vulnerable children, adolescents, and their families.

[Read more.....](#)







## AIRTEL ZAMBIA BOOSTS CIDRZ'S FIGHT AGAINST TB WITH A DONATION OF INTERNET ROUTERS

CIDRZ received a donation of internet routers from Airtel Zambia, a subsidiary of Airtel Africa, that will help in ensuring accurate and timely reporting of TB data in the USAID TBLON supported centers.

She emphasized that as Zambia strives to End TB by 2030, the role of the private sector like Airtel Zambia cannot be overemphasized.

[Read more.....](#)

Speaking at the event held at CIDRZ head quarters in Lusaka, CIDRZ CEO Dr Izukanji Sikazwe said gesture exhibited by Airtel Networks Zambia limited in donating routers at an estimated value of ZMW 53,000 to CIDRZ's USAID Tuberculosis Local Organizations Network Project, also called the TBLON project, shall go a long way in supplementing accurate and timely reporting of data and contribute to the National Goal of Ending Tuberculosis (TB) by the year 2030.

Dr Sikazwe said the routers will bring about efficiency in the monitoring and diagnostic process of TB testing leading to improved patient management linkage to treatment.





# LAUNCH OF THE USAID SERVICE DELIVERY FOR HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM ON THE COPPERBELT



The USAID Zambia Service Delivery for HIV Prevention Program which is being implemented by the CIDRZ has finally been launched on the Copperbelt province. The program is a follow-on to the USAID Zambia Community HIV Prevention Project (Z-CHPP), which was being implemented by Pact Inc., and the USAID Open Doors Project (OPD), implemented by FHI360.

Speaking at the launch held at the Protea hotel in Ndola, Ministry of Health Copperbelt Provincial Health Director Dr Robert Zulu said Zambia can only effectively control the HIV epidemic, and achieve the 95:95:95 UNAIDS targets, when sub-population groups like the ones being targeted by this program are reached with HIV prevention services and referred to high impact HIV services.

In a speech read on his behalf by Ndola District Health Director Dr Charles Mwimuna, he said that the Ministry of Health is grateful to the United States of America Government for their continued support in the fight against HIV in Zambia.

“The Government through the relevant government ministries remains committed to work with the U.S Government and other stakeholders in the quest to address and improve the health of all Zambians.” Said Dr Robert Zulu

He further thanked CIDRZ who for the past 20 years have been working with the Government to improve the health of Zambians. Dr Robert Zulu assured CIDRZ of government’s support and collaboration as they implement this new program.





Meanwhile the USAID Zambia HIV Prevention Advisor – Ms Arlene Phiri expressed happiness at the continued support the government continues to accord the USAID Zambia partners. She said without it, serving the people of Zambia would be difficult as USAID exists to support the government and therefore close collaboration is key.

She noted the number of stakeholders that were present during the launch as a clear indication that the project had been accepted in the province and that partners were eager to collaborate during its implementation.

“As you know USAID Z-CHPP was only serving priority populations and the USAID Open Doors Project was serving key populations. The new Service Delivery for HIV Prevention Program for CIDRZ combines the work of these two projects as the populations they serve are all in the same community so we thought it would be easier to have one partner instead of two.” Said Ms Phiri [Click to Read more.....](#)





# **CIDRZ partners with MOH to train over 300 Health Facility Staff in Southern province in LOGISTIMO, an electronic vaccine supply chain system**



The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) have combined efforts to ensure efficient vaccine stock management by rolling out the supply chain management system called LOGISTIMO.

CIDRZ working in collaboration with MoH Child Health Unit through the Expanded Programmes on Immunisations, has supported LOGISTIMO rollout to health facility level in Southern and Western province side-by-side the last mile distribution of vaccines in Southern province. This support is a major program deliverable meant to achieve an optimised immunisation supply chain system under the Global Alliance for Vaccines and

Immunisation (Gavi). LOGISTIMO was initially utilised at the national, provincial and district level before being rolled out to health facility level. The project also supported the health facilities with tablets to support Logistimo use.

[Click to Read more.....](#)







## CIDRZ – MoH holds PCC Transition Meeting

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) held a Person-Centred Public Health for HIV Treatment in Zambia (PCPH) transition meeting at CIDRZ Main Campus in Ibex Hill, Lusaka on 25th November 2021.

The objectives of the meeting were (i) to share PCPH progress update and preliminary results with Health Care Workers (HCWs), (ii) to receive feedback on PCPH intervention and get insights from HCWs on sustainability of PCPH intervention and (iii) to give awards to all the participating health facilities.

Speaking during the meeting, CIDRZ Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Izukanji Sikazwe said “PCPH intervention was developed based on a previous research study conducted by CIDRZ in which lessons were learnt on why

people living with HIV (PLHIV) disengage from HIV care”.

[Click to Read More.....](#)





# 46 lay counsellors trained in Common Elements Treatment Approach



The Centre for Infectious Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) has trained 46 lay counsellors in Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) in Lusaka.

The approaches used in CETA provides the basis for feasible scale-up through the use of a single therapy to treat multiple common mental disorders with varying severities.

As provided for in the mission, this training reflects CIDRZ commitment to improve access to quality healthcare in Zambia through innovative capacity development, exceptional implementation science and research, and impactful and sustainable public health programmes.

CETA is more cost-effective than implementing multiple single-disorder

focused psychotherapy treatments in Low Medium Income Countries.

The provision of CETA training has been encompassed in the study titled 'Evaluating implementation strategies to scale up transdiagnostic evidence-based mental health care in Zambia' whose overall objectives to evaluate implementation strategies that can reduce the gap between science and practice of evidence-based treatments (EBT) for mental health in Zambia.

[Click to Read more....](#)





# ***Congratulations***

**Mrs. Kondwa Sakala - Chibiya**



The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) wishes to congratulate its Board member, Mrs. Kondwa Sakala Chibiya on her appointment as a member of the Judicial Service Commission by President Hakainde Hichilema.

Mrs. Sakala Chibiya has been serving on the CIDRZ Board since 2014. Her input has been pivotal in the setting of strategic direction and provision of oversight to management of the institution.



# CIDRZ VMMC TEAM TOURS EASTERN PROVINCE

The Male Circumcision team lead by their leader Mr Lane-Lee Lyabola took a four day tour on the eastern province to conduct quarterly technical support and familiarisation of the MC Program with Eastern Provincial Health Office (EPHO) and VMMC sites.

The team which covered Chipata, Petauke, Katete, Sinda and Nyimba districts described the tour as productive as they were a lot of areas which could be easily

improved in quality provision with CIDRZ & EPHO teams working together.

Some of the areas for improvement which were identified include LiB combination, documentation, client segmentation, certification of trained ShangRing MC providers, resumption of ShangRing services once CIDRZ distributes the Supplies TA (including ShangRing) by early December 2021, HCD training & EPHO purchase of additional ShangRing supplies by end of Q2FY22.



With MC provider at Chibolya RHC in Katete - MC room 28 Oct'21



At Kapata hospital, Chipata, with Mr P Simwanza on 27 Oct'21



:Nyimba district hospital MC room on 29 Oct'21



Posing for a photo with the MC team at Petauke District Hospital on 28 Oct'21



# CELEBRATING OUR FALLEN HEROES

Ms. Raelly has been part of our team for close to 10 years and drove the transformation of our HR department towards a more client-centred /outward facing unit.

The Board, Management and Staff of the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)

conveys its heartfelt condolences to her family including her CIDRZ family whom she loved and supported through the wins and the challenging times.



## Thank You

For all the *love, kindness and support* you have shown us during this difficult time. We are so thankful and it will always be remembered.

From the family of

**MS. ROSELYNE LAUREEN RAEILY**

25/02/1960 - 09/12/2021

Lyco Group Limited and  
Centre for Infectious Disease Research  
in Zambia (CIDRZ) Management and staff.



NEWYORK | DELAWARE | INDIANAPOLIS | THE HAGUE | LONDON | DUBAI | LUSAKA | HARARE | BLANTYRE | JOHANNESBURG



# PICTURE FOCUS





# PICTURE FOCUS





# ICT CONNER

## STOP!!!

### Auto connecting

**Ms. Angela Nkole Phiri**

Planning resource management  
analyst/Technical support specialist

For Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, Many mobile devices will automatically seek and connect to available wireless networks.

Also, Bluetooth enables your device to connect wirelessly with other devices, such as headphones or automobile infotainment systems.

Deactivate these features so that you only join to wireless and Bluetooth networks that you are aware of.

[Read more...](#)





Republic of Zambia

Ministry of Health



# GET THE **COVID-19 VACCINE** TODAY

People Living with HIV Can get vaccinated with COVID-19 Vaccine



- ☐ If infected with the COVID- 19 virus, people living with HIV are at a higher risk of becoming severely ill and may result into death.
- ☐ All **COVID-19 vaccines** offered by the Ministry of Health are safe for people living with HIV.
- ☐ People Living with HIV can get any COVID-19 vaccine offered by the Ministry of Health without fear.
- ☐ The **COVID-19 Vaccines** do not affect the HIV viral load.
- ☐ The **COVID-19 vaccines** do not disturb ARVs and any other medication.
- ☐ Continue taking ARV's and all other prescribed medicines after receiving the **COVID-19 vaccine**.
- ☐ Continue masking up, observing physical distance, washing hand or sanitizing, avoiding crowded places and seeking medical attention early.

**Roll up your sleeve, Fight COVID-19, Get vaccinated.**

*For more information go to the nearest health facility*







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# CIDRZ

*for a healthy Zambia*

## Our Vision

A Zambia, and a region, in which all people have access to quality healthcare and enjoy the best possible health.

## Our Mission

To improve access to quality healthcare in Zambia through innovative capacity development, exceptional implementation science and research, and impactful and sustainable public health programmes

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