



# CIDRZ

*for a healthy Zambia*

## Newsletter

Quarter 1 FY 2025

VOL. 27



**FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION:  
STRENGTHENING ZAMBIAN HEALTH  
POLICY**

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## Editor's Note

### Dear Esteemed Readers,

On behalf of the Communications team, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and the incredible stories you share with us. Your project updates, photos, and videos are the heart and soul of our social media presence.

These powerful narratives not only connect with our audience but also inspire and educate them about the impactful work we do across the organisation. By showcasing your achievements, we amplify our reach and demonstrate the positive change we are driving in the community.

To further enhance our storytelling and maximise our impact, we encourage all projects to actively collaborate with the Communications team. Whether it is planning an event, implementing a new programme, or conducting fieldwork, we are here to support you.

We believe that by working together, we can create even more powerful and impactful stories that inspire and motivate both our internal and external stakeholders.

Thank you once again for your dedication and commitment. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership and achieving even greater success together.

Warm regards,

**Editorial Team:** Moses Nsunge, Ginah Mudenda, Jill Morse, Saboi Songiso and Michael Chisha



# A message from CEO

**Dear CIDRZ Team,**

Welcome to 2025! As we enter the new year, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the incredible strides we made in 2024 and the impact of our collective efforts. Together, we have continued to lead in addressing public health challenges, exemplifying innovation, dedication, and excellence in all we do.

In the first quarter of 2025, we achieved remarkable milestones across various projects. Your contributions to improving access to quality healthcare in Zambia through innovative capacity building, impactful research, and sustainable public health programmes have been invaluable. One standout achievement was the DREAMS initiative, implemented through the Controlling HIV Epidemic for Key and Underserved Populations (CHEKUP I) Project, which marked a decade of transformative impact. By providing HIV prevention, treatment, and care services for key and priority populations, DREAMS has positively shaped the lives of countless adolescent boys and young men. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone!

We also strengthened our research footprint, participating in significant platforms like the 16th Annual National HIV/TB/STI/Viral Hepatitis Conference and the 11th Zambia Health Research Conference. These events allowed us to share best practices, showcase our innovative studies, and reinforce our commitment to improving health systems. Notably, our research continues to address critical public health challenges, paving the way for sustainable solutions.

Our efforts in the last quarter of FY24 extended to meaningful commemorations such as World AIDS Day, commemorated under the theme "Take the Rights Path". Through projects like the USAID Zambia Empowered Children and Adolescents Program (ECAP III), DHAPP, PROUD-Z, and CHEKUP I, we participated and demonstrated our support for the Ministry of Health combating HIV/AIDS. The progress speaks for itself: Over 1.3 million Zambians are now on antiretroviral therapy, contributing to a significant decline in new HIV infections and a more than 60% reduction in AIDS-related deaths over the past decade.



I would also like to commend the Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme (DHAPP) for successfully implementing the Green Energy Solar Projects, which provided critical back-up power across all health facilities under the Department of Defence. This initiative demonstrates how innovation and collaboration can drive impactful changes.

Beyond these milestones, we made significant progress in addressing adolescent health, maternal care, and hygiene practices. The Pregnant and Parenting Girls (P2G) programme has empowered young mothers living with HIV on how to lead positive lives. Additionally, hosting the inaugural Person-Centred Care Advocacy Academy underscored our commitment to advancing integrated healthcare approaches across Africa.

As we move forward, I encourage us to remain inspired by CIDRZ's core values of accountability, equality, honesty, productivity, respect, and transparency. These principles are the foundation of our success, fostering a culture of integrity, collaboration, and excellence.

Thank you for your dedication. Let us continue to innovate, inspire, and deliver transformative healthcare solutions for the communities we serve.

Best regards,  
**Dr Izukanji Sikazwe**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

# HUMAN RESOURCE CORNER

## Unity, Diversity, Innovation and a Stronger Culture

**Dear CIDRZ family,**

I extend a warm welcome and wish you all a prosperous and fulfilling 2025. Reflecting on the past quarter, I sincerely thank each of you for your invaluable contributions. Your dedication has been the cornerstone of our successes, and as we embark on this new chapter, let us continue to foster a culture of excellence, collaboration, and innovation.

A huge congratulations to our football team on their outstanding performance at the Zed Corporate Soccer League national finals! We're also grateful to the dedicated supporters and technical teams who rallied behind them. This incredible display of CIDRZ team spirit is truly commendable and something we should continue to foster. Well done!

At CIDRZ, we take immense pride in nurturing an organisational culture that reflects our commitment to inclusivity, equity, and respect. As an equal opportunity employer, we are dedicated to providing every individual with equal access to employment and advancement opportunities. Your unique skills, experiences, and perspectives make us stronger and more innovative.

Our hiring and promotion decisions are guided by policy and based solely on qualifications, experience, and fit for the role. We are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that no one faces discrimination or unfair treatment based on HIV status, race, sex, marital status, religion, political beliefs, tribe, age, disability, or any other characteristic unrelated to job performance.

We believe that a diverse and inclusive workplace is a moral imperative and a driver of creativity and excellence. By fostering a culture where every voice is heard and valued, we aim to create an environment where everyone can thrive, contribute, and grow.

Let us continue to uphold these values, ensuring that CIDRZ remains a place where respect, fairness, and opportunity are at the heart of everything we do. As we forge ahead, it is crucial to reaffirm the mission and values that shape our work and culture.



Our vision is a Zambia—and a broader region—where everyone has access to quality healthcare and can achieve the best possible health outcomes. This vision fuels our commitment to making a tangible difference in people's lives.

Our mission is to enhance access to quality healthcare across Zambia through innovative capacity development, exceptional implementation science, groundbreaking research, and impactful public health programs. Each initiative we undertake is designed to push the boundaries of what is possible in healthcare, ensuring that our efforts translate into real-world improvements. At the core of our endeavours are our values (how we do things around here): These are Accountability, Equality, Honesty, Productivity, Respect and Transparency:

Together, these values guide our journey to transform healthcare, ensuring our vision of a healthier Zambia becomes a reality.

Best regards,

**Mwansa Lombe**

**Director Human Resource**



# CIDRZ Submits Recommendations on the Proposed National Health Research and Training Institute Bill 2024

As Zambia repeals its “Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDRC) Act of 1982,” to replace it with the “National Health Research and Training Institute Bill of 2024,” the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) is proud to have made an oral submission to the Parliamentary Committee on Health, Community Development and Social Services today.

This follows a request from the Clerk of the Zambia National Assembly for CIDRZ to review the proposed bill and suggest amendments.

The CIDRZ delegation was led by Mr Michelo Simuyandi, a researcher in Enteric Disease and Vaccine, who was accompanied by Mr Stephen Makasa, the Risk and Compliance Manager, and Dr David Singini, a clinical Researcher in the TB Department. [Read More...](#)



L- r: CIDRZ Staff Mr Stephen Makasa, Mr Michelo Simuyandi and Dr David Singini during an oral submission to the Parliamentary Committee recently



CIDRZ with Parliamentary Health Committee after the oral submission



# CIDRZ Commemorates World AIDS Day 2024

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) joined other partners at Lusaka's Nkoloma Stadium to commemorate World AIDS Day 2024 under the theme "Take the Rights Path."

CIDRZ participated in the commemoration through its various projects, including the USAID Zambia Empowered Children and Adolescents Program (ECAP) III, the United States Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme, the CDC Zambia-supported Provincial Ownership to Uplift Delivery of HIV Services in Zambia (PROUD-Z) Project, and USAID's Controlling HIV Epidemic for Key and Underserved Populations (CHEKUP) I Project, showcasing its transformative works in the health sector. [Read More...](#)



CIDRZ's Dr Monica Chibesakunda interacts with the Acting Minister of Health, Mr Elias Mubanga, during his tour of the exhibition stands at the 2024 World AIDS Day commemorations

## Zambia Surpasses UNAIDS 95-95-95 Target



Zambia has made significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, surpassing the UNAIDS 95-95-95 target.

Speaking at the 16th Annual HIV/TB/STI/Viral Hepatitis Conference in Lusaka, Minister of Health Dr Elijah Muchima celebrated this achievement, noting that over 1.3 million Zambians are on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), new HIV infections have reduced in eight years, and AIDS-related deaths have dropped by over 60% in the last decade. [Read More...](#)





Dr Guy Muula briefs stakeholders on CIDRZ's new three-year project to prevent Rheumatic Heart Disease in endemic regions

## CIDRZ, University of Bern Launch Three-Year Project to Combat Rheumatic Heart Disease in Endemic Regions

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), in partnership with the University of Bern, Switzerland, held an Information and Sensitisation Meeting with various key stakeholders for its new three-year project focused on preventing Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) in endemic regions.

The project, titled “Effectiveness of an Integrated Program for the Prevention of Rheumatic Heart Disease in Endemic Regions,” aims to assess the efficiency of an integrated, school-based programme for preventing RHD in areas with a high prevalence of the disease. [Read More...](#)





## CIDRZ's PROUDZ Paediatric Team supports MOH to host an Adolescent Weekend Test Drive at Kanyama

The Ministry of Health Zambia, through the Lusaka Provincial Health Office and supported by CIDRZ's PROUDZ Paediatric team, recently hosted an Adolescent Weekend Test Drive event at Kanyama Level 1 Hospital's community grounds. [Read More...](#)



Mainza Buumba, a Public Health Nurse at Kanyama Level 1 Hospital, administers an HPV vaccine during the Adolescent Weekend Test Drive event

## CIDRZ Hosts Inaugural Person-Centred Care Advocacy Academy in Lusaka



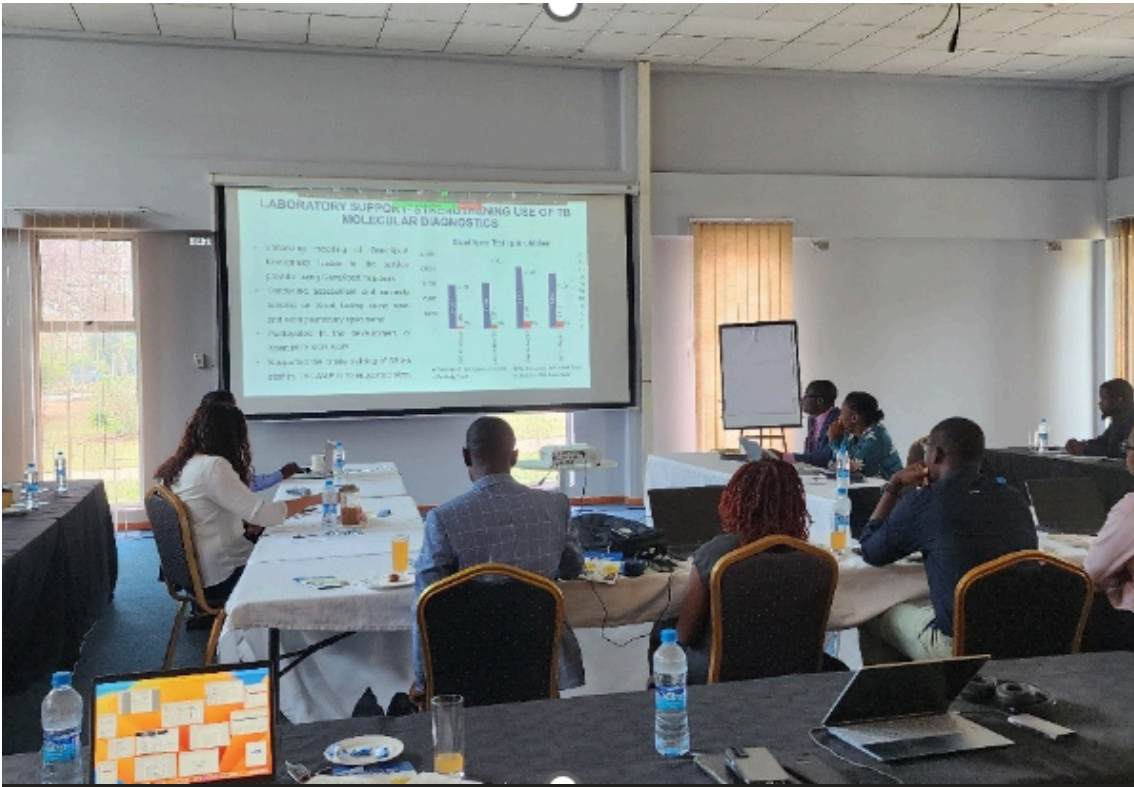
CIDRZ's Njekwa Mukamba during the inaugural Person-Centred Care Advocacy Academy at Lusaka Legacy Lodge

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), in partnership with the International AIDS Society (IAS) and Gilead Sciences, recently hosted an inaugural Person-Centred Care Advocacy Academy (PCC Advocacy Academy).

The aim of the academy was to support the expansion of person-centred care approaches in designing and delivering integrated healthcare services, including HIV prevention and treatment, across the African continent. The PCC Advocacy Academy, which was hosted from 25th to 28th November 2024 at Lusaka Legacy Lodge, attracted 20 fellows from 12 African countries, including three Zambians, selected through an open and rigorous application process. [Read More...](#)



# CIDRZ's USAID TBLON supports the roll-out of a shorter Tuberculosis treatment regimen



USAID-TBLON Staff During the Annual Performance Review Meeting for the 2024 Financial Year Held in Lusaka

The United States Agency for International Development Tuberculosis Local Organisations Network (USAID-TBLON) Chief of Party, Dr Mary Kagujje, has said that Drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) patients could now be placed on a shorter treatment regimen called BPaL/M with fewer tablets in 2024.

The regimen, which requires only seven (7) tablets daily, replaces the previous MDR-TB regimen, which required 21 tablets daily. [Read More...](#)

## CIFF, PSI Delegation Visits Zambia to Monitor HIVST M&E Strengthening Project

A joint delegation from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Population Services International (PSI) recently visited Zambia to monitor the activities implemented under the CIFF HIVST Funds.

The HIVST M&E Strengthening Project, supported by CIFF through the Global Fund and implemented in partnership with the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), aims to address longstanding gaps in the HIVST M&E Cascade and ensure the effective tracking of HIV self-testing (HIVST) outcomes. [Read More...](#)



CIDRZ Staff with representatives from CIFF and PSI during a courtesy call on the Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Donor Coordination, Dr George Sinyangwe





Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services, Dr Kennedy Lishimpi (c), during the launch of the National Strategic Plan for Infection Prevention and Control (2022-2032)

## Zambian Government Launches National Strategic Plan for Infection Prevention and Control (2022-2032)

The Zambian government, with support from, WHO and CIDRZ's CDC supported PROUD Z project, recently launched the National Strategic Plan for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) 2022-2032, a comprehensive initiative to equip healthcare providers, caregivers and patients with knowledge to implement and adhere to effective infection prevention measures.

The plan, launched by Minister of Health Dr Elijah Muchima, emphasised the government's commitment to enhancing Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services within health institutions.



In a speech delivered on his behalf by Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary for Technical Services, Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi, the Minister of Health highlighted that in 2022, President Hakainde Hichilema mandated that no new health facility would be built without basic WASH services, adding that since then, all newly constructed health facilities have been equipped with boreholes to provide running water and flushable toilets. [Read More...](#)



# CIDRZ highlights Critical Gaps in Maternal HIV Retesting

CIDRZ's PMTCT Medical Mentor, Dr Chimwemwe Zulu, presented crucial findings on maternal HIV retesting in Lusaka Province at the 16th Annual HIV/TB/STI/Viral Hepatitis Conference held in Lusaka recently.

Her presentation, titled "HIV Retesting of Breastfeeding Mothers in Lusaka Province," shed light on significant gaps in maternal retesting practices that hinder early diagnosis and prevention efforts.

[Read More...](#)



CIDRZ's PMTCT Medical mentor Dr Chimwemwe Zulu makes a presentation at the 16th Annual HIV/TB/STI/Viral Hepatitis Conference

## CIDRZ Hosts Meeting to Strengthen PMTCT Programme

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), through its CDC Zambia-sponsored PROUD Z project, recently held a one-day meeting with Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) under the Ministry of Health Zambia and district stakeholders to enhance the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme. [Read More...](#)



CIDRZ staff with Lusaka Provincial Health Office staff PMTCT planning meeting





**CIDRZ CEO Dr Izukanji Sikazwe celebrates with the fans during the Zed Corporate Soccer League National Finals**



## **CIDRZ Declared Team of the Season in Zed Corporate Soccer League**

The 2024 Zed Corporate Soccer League reached a thrilling conclusion on 21st December 2024, with Dangote clinching the National League finals.

Despite the disappointment in the finals against Dangote, CIDRZ was declared the team of the season for their electrifying brand of football, which frequently had fans on their feet. [Read More...](#)



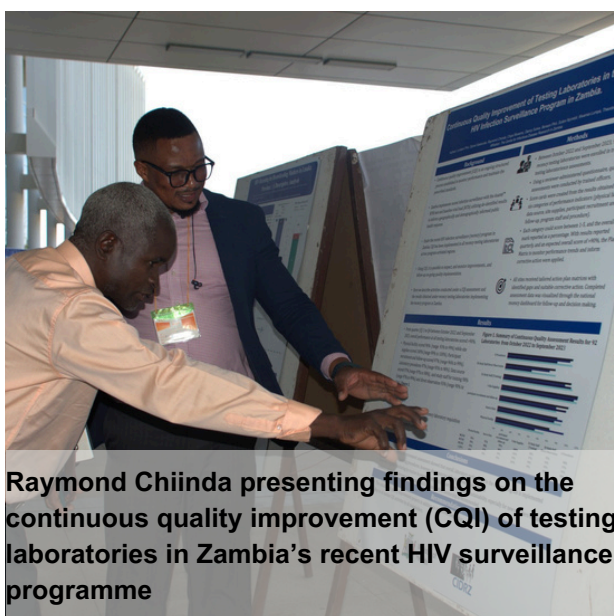
**CIDRZ Soccer team pays last respect to the late Human Resource Manager - Resourcing and Employee Relations Mr Gerald Muche**



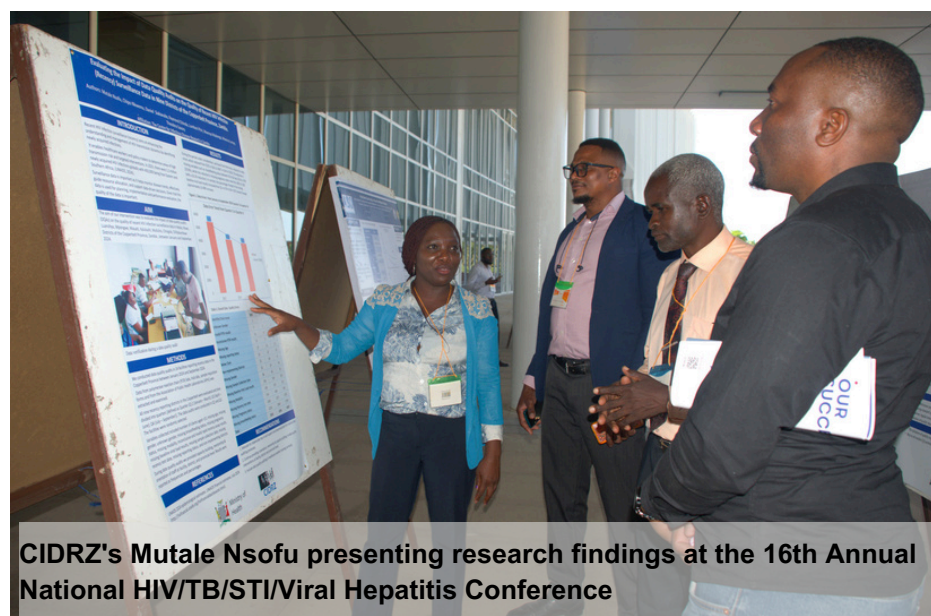
## Picture Focus: 16th Annual National HIV/TB/STI/Viral Hepatitis Conference



CIDRZ Staff during the 16th Annual National HIV/TB/STI/Viral Hepatitis Conference



Raymond Chiinda presenting findings on the continuous quality improvement (CQI) of testing laboratories in Zambia's recent HIV surveillance programme



CIDRZ's Mutale Nsofu presenting research findings at the 16th Annual National HIV/TB/STI/Viral Hepatitis Conference



CIDRZ's Makomo Hachintu presenting research findings at the 16th Annual National HIV/TB/STI/Viral Hepatitis Conference, recently



Chipo Nkwemu shared the study findings from "Characteristics of Men Diagnosed with Recent HIV in Zambia," conducted between January 2020 and September 2024





Republic of Zambia

Ministry of Health

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## **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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