



CIDRZ
for a healthy Zambia

20
years

OCT 2022

Vol. 18



**INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF
QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL**

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Dear CIDRZ family,

Editors Note

We are excited to present this edition which covers the last quarter of our financial year 2021-2022. The end of the financial year also signifies the end of our CIDRZ @20 celebrations. Thank you to everyone who participated and shared this momentous achievement!

This edition brings you the CIDRZ@20 Documentary and highlights some significant milestones for CIDRZ, including the groundbreaking of the construction of our headquarters offices in Ibex, and the expansion of our central laboratory which opened in the Copperbelt.

As we look to the new financial year, I would like to encourage all the departments to continue familiarizing themselves with the Communications Policy, Guidelines, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) so that we may serve you better. The communications team will be reaching out to projects in the next quarter to review key branding guidelines and required timelines.

Enjoy Reading..!!!

Editorial Team

Chileshe C Mwansa – Content Editor

Mwenge J Mulenga – Layout and Content Editor

Ngao Nakanyika – Contributor

Jill Morse
Editor in Chief

FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE



This past year was a busy year celebrating CIDRZ 20th anniversary! We are thrilled to have celebrated and engaged with CIDRZ staff past and present to honour this milestone.

Click the picture above to watch the full CIDRZ @20 documentary.

This documentary covers the foundation of CIDRZ, highlighting how far we have come in the fight against

HIV/AIDS, CIDRZ mission to build Zambian capacity, and our current work to date.

Enjoy watching this exciting video and remember to share it with your friends and family!

Dr Izukanji Sikazwe
CEO - CIDRZ

HR Corner



Ms. Mwansa Nancy Lombe

Director Human Resources

NEW APPOINTMENT The Director Human Resources

The CIDRZ Family welcomes Ms. Mwansa Nancy Lombe, as the new Human Resources Director for our organization.

Ms. Mwansa is joining us from ZESCO, where she was serving as a Manager - Learning and Performance Management.

She comes to CIDRZ with 17 years of valuable experience in various levels of Management from both the private and parastatal sectors where she has managed a staffing complement of over 7,000 employees. She is strong in various sectors of the Human Resources functions, such as Change Management, Design, and Implementation strategies, Certified Balance Score Card

professional. Strategic Planning, implementation, and Managing Performance.

Professionally she has a Master of Science in Human Resources Management from the United Kingdom, as well as a Double Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Resources Management, Communication and Culture, and various other relevant qualifications.

Ms. Mwansa reported for work on the 1st of September 2022 and has since joined the HR Team, as well as the CIDRZ Leadership Team.

Welcome to the CIDRZ family Ms. Mwansa..



CIDRZ Breaks Ground on New Head Office

CIDRZ has commenced the construction of the new head offices in Ibex Hill, Lusaka.

Speaking in a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Board Chairperson Ms. Kondwa Sakala-Chibiya, CIDRZ Board Chairperson Mr. Bradford Machila said, “for over 20 years of providing quality health care in Zambia, CIDRZ is witnessing the commencement of yet another milestone in its history.”

“Today marks the beginning of a journey to

build a permanent home for the CIDRZ head office,” he added.

Mr. Machila noted that the construction of the CIDRZ head office is at an estimated cost of 7.9 million dollars funded internally by CIDRZ Limited through VenYou Zambia, with external support from a renowned bank.

He urged the contractors to exert their utmost efforts on the project as this will remain the permanent home for CIDRZ.

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OFFICE BLOCK - 3D PERSPECTIVES





CIDRZ CENTRAL LAB NDOLA BRANCH COMMISSIONED

CIDRZ successfully commissioned the CIDRZ Central Laboratory in Ndola on the 26th of August 2022. The Ndola Central Laboratory will help with accurate clinical and laboratory test results for clients on the Copperbelt province.

Speaking during the commissioning, Copperbelt Minister Honourable Elisha Matambo said the coming of CIDRZ Laboratory to the Copperbelt province will have a positive impact and help to reduce the time required for patients to receive their test results, diagnosis, and needed treatment.

CIDRZ Laboratory will extend beyond the Copperbelt and benefit the people in neighbouring districts and provinces. He added that the new Ndola CIDRZ Laboratory supports the government's effort to improve quality health delivery in the province and will relieve the burden experienced in government health facilities.

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CIDRZ Central Laboratory Upgrades Gene Sequencing Capabilities

CIDRZ Central Laboratory is transitioning gene sequencing from the Sanger method to the Illumina MiSeq and the Oxford Nanopore MinION technology – Next Generation Sequencing (NGS), with expanded capabilities for infectious disease surveillance.

NGS is a high throughput technology used to determine the order of nucleotides in entire genomes or targeted regions of DNA or RNA. It is a faster and scalable sequencing technology for various organisms, including faster whole genome sequencing of the SARS COV-2 and identification of mutations and new variants.

The technology is more sensitive in detection of minority variants which cannot be detected by traditional methods of sequencing. For

instance, in HIV genotyping the NGS is more sensitive than traditional Sanger method as it can detect drug resistance minority variants which have been shown to contribute to ART failure.

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CDC TB DELEGATES VISIT CIDRZ

Representatives from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta paid a supportive visit to the Telemedicine in Tuberculosis (TB) project under CIDRZ.

followed up every week in the community outreach programs and not only at the facility.

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Among the delegates that visited the project site at Kalingalinga clinic were CDC TB focal point persons Ms. Brittany Moore and MS. Jennifer Harris, CDC Zambia Senior Medical Advisors Dr. Dalila Zachary and Dr. Linos Mwiinga, Dr. Mwape from Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) and Dr. Patrick Lungu Director National TB and Leprosy Program.



During the visit, CDC Atlanta representative Ms. Brittany Moore congratulated the Telemed project for the commendable job they were doing at Kalingalinga health facility in Lusaka to ensure that patients receive quality TB treatment, prevention and care services.

Ms. Brittany Moore noted that she was impressed with the effort and sacrifice made by the team in making sure that people are



41 Peers from 12 Health Facilities Trained Under the CIDRZ Adolescent Training Program



With funding from ViiV Health Care through the Pregnant Parenting Girls (P2G) project, CIDRZ held a 4-day economic empowerment training at the Golden Zambezi Hotel in Lusaka.

41 peers from 12 district health facilities across Lusaka were successfully trained under the CIDRZ Adolescents health program. The health facilities represented include; George, Matero, Kanyama Main, Chawama, Kamwala, Chilenje, Chainda Main, Bauleni, Mtendere, Chaise, Chipata and Mandau.

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CIDRZ participates in the HIV/AIDS Youth Dialogue

CIDRZ participated in the HIV/AIDS youth dialogue hosted by the Centre for Health Action and Research in Zambia (CHARZ) at the University of Zambia (UNZA).

The dialogue was aimed at raising awareness of issues surrounding HIV/AIDS prevention, stigma, and control and a platform for young people to identify their responsibilities towards the eradication of HIV/AIDS in society through knowledge and

skill acquisition.

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USAID CHEKUP I Empowers Over 2900 Girls from January 2022.

CIDRZ USAID CHEKUP I Project has provided educational support to 2,909 girls through the provision of uniforms and school shoes since January 2022.

USAID CHEKUP I Chief of Party Dr. Maurice Musheke said as part of the School-Based Prevention Intervention (SBPI) under DREAMS Initiative, the focus is not only on retaining vulnerable adolescent girls in schools through the provision of educational support, but extends to reducing the risk of HIV infection arising from transactional sex to meet their educational needs.

Dr. Musheke said the project targets to support about 7,803 girls this year in all DREAMS Districts. The dreams district includes Livingstone, Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe, Luanshya, Mufulira, and Chingola.

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CIDRZ holds stakeholder meeting with Health Facility In-Charges in Lusaka District

CIDRZ through the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded PROUD-Z project, held a stakeholder meeting with health facility In-Charges from eighteen (18) government health centers in Lusaka district.

The objective of the meeting was to look at Viral Load (VL) coverage among people living with HIV on ART, across health facilities in Lusaka Urban in order to identify challenges and brainstorm on possible

solutions. Viral load coverage remains one of the indicators lagging in the fight against HIV, therefore preventing the achievement of epidemic control.

The meeting also served as an opportunity to revamp the Viral Load championship program and learn best practices from each facility. [Click to Read More.....](#)



Absa Bank Zambia Plc partners with CIDRZ in the fight against Covid-19

Absa Bank Zambia Plc has partnered with CIDRZ to fight against Covid-19 by donating assorted items towards Covid-19 prevention.

The items estimated at K100,550.00 will assist beneficiaries of the CIDRZ Pregnant and Parenting Girls (P2G) project funded by ViiV Health Care.

The project which aims to train 500 adolescent mothers in leadership through the Girls 4 Girls (G4G) mentorship programme, also focuses on ensuring 95%

treatment, adherence, and viral load suppression of HIV positive adolescents by the year 2024.

The assorted items namely; hand sanitizers, medical masks, disinfectants, and aprons, will be distributed in youth friendly spaces and all P2G project implementation sites.

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CIDRZ participates in the National HTCT Day

CIDRZ has continued supporting the Government of Zambia through the Ministry of Health (MoH) towards achieving one of the targets under the United Nations (UN) Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) number 3 – to end HIV/AIDS by 2030.

CIDRZ this year joined MoH and other stakeholders in commemorating the National HIV Testing Counselling and Treatment Day (HTCT) under the theme “Let’s Stop HIV Together #Get Tested Today!”.

Minister of Health – Hon. Sylvia Masebo, expressed concern on the high rate of new HIV infections in adolescents and young people aged between 15-24, with about 11,000 of new infections in adolescents’ girls and young women.

Ms Masebo congratulated CIDRZ for the commendable job and services being offered to the community through testing, counselling and treatment of HIV and their focus towards achieving the UNAIDS vision 95,95,95. [Read more.....](#)

Speaking during the commemoration held at





CIDRZ welcomes this partnership as the qXR solution will contribute immensely to Zambia’s stride to ending TB by the year 2030. With use of the qXR solution for Chest X-rays, we anticipate an increase of TB detection and monitoring in the various health facilities in the country



Dr. Izukanji Sikazwe

*Chief Executive Officer,
Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)*



CIDRZ Partners with Qure.ai for TB Screening

CIDRZ announced its partnership with Qure.ai, a leading health-tech firm that builds artificial intelligence (AI) powered medical imaging diagnostics solutions, to implement comprehensive tuberculosis (TB) screening in Zambia. The project will have Qure.ai’s AI-enabled computer-assisted detection software, along with its lung health management platform, to evaluate chest X-rays and identify presumptive TB patients.

Supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through a cooperative agreement with CRDF Global, Qure.ai working with CIDRZ, will integrate its lung health suite – qXR, AI-enabled chest x-ray solution along with qTrack, a comprehensive case management platform to help optimize radiology workflows in 7 hospitals in Zambia.

“CIDRZ welcomes this partnership as the qXR solution will contribute immensely to Zambia’s stride to ending TB by the year 2030. With use of the qXR solution for Chest X-rays, we anticipate an increase of TB detection and monitoring in the various health facilities in the country”.

The sites include Kanyama, Chawama, Matero, Choma, and Kafue General Hospitals, Monze Mission Hospital, and Livingstone University Teaching Hospital. The project will launch across these seven sites, with a mix of analogue and digital X-rays used to screen for TB presumptive cases.

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

CIDRZ CEO, Dr. Izukanji Sikazwe said

PICTURE FOCUS



PICTURE FOCUS





Over 65 Circumcised in Chirundu during a Soccer Gala

With support from the U.S. CDC Proud-Z project, CIDRZ – Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) program partnered with the Lusaka Province Health Office (LPHO) to host a soccer gala in Chirundu.

The event aimed at increasing awareness of VMMC services for the ShangRing and surgical methods among the key age groups (15-29 years). The theme for the gala was “A man who cares, gets Circumcised and Vaccinated to prevent HIV and Covid-19”.

A total of sixty-seven (67) males were circumcised during the soccer gala, out of those who benefited from this health hygiene

activity, 10 were circumcised using the Shang Ring method which enables one to quickly return to their normal routine duties without any serious interruptions.

The soccer gala attracted four teams namely Red Cross FC, Chirundu Council FC, Chirundu Sunflower FC, and Welcome FC out of which two teams emerged as winners walking away with a new soccer jersey Kit and a Soccer ball each.

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





CIDRZ continues to create awareness on the benefits of Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision

CIDRZ through its HIV prevention program PROUD Z project, funded by the U.S. CDC has continued to ensure that it provides support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) through its Provincial Health Offices in offering quality healthcare and services to the community.

Recently, the CIDRZ Male Circumcision program worked with the Western Province Health Office (WPHO) to sponsor the Kazanga traditional ceremony of the Nkoya People under the leadership of His Royal Highness Chief Mudondo.

During the ceremony, CIDRZ donated one hundred (100) T-shirts and provided the

Public Address (PA) system for use during ceremony which run for two days.

The CIDRZ team along with the WPHO team used the invitation to the ceremony as an opportunity to engage with traditional leaders and discuss health issues that affect their people.

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I have learnt to deal with situations as they come, building relationships with different individuals which is great capital that I have used in my journey to get my work done.

**Theresa Kasonde
Bweupe**
Data Associate



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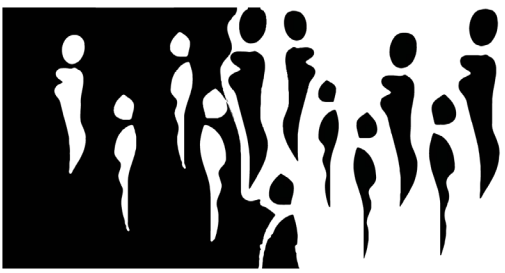
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20

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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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