

# NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER, 2025

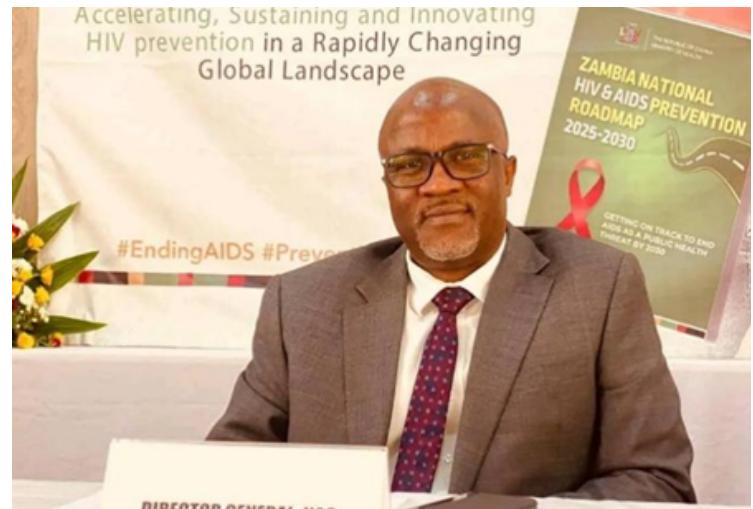
NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL

QUARTER FOUR

## HIV PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, UNAIDS, and UNFPA, launched a two-day HIV Prevention Symposium in Lusaka aimed at accelerating, sustaining, and innovating HIV prevention efforts in Zambia. Held under the theme "Accelerating, Sustaining, and Innovating HIV Prevention in a Rapidly Changing Global Landscape," the symposium brought together a wide range of stakeholders to share and discuss current emerging HIV prevention strategies.

The symposium sought to strengthen community-led models, promote digital and data-driven approaches, and expand equitable access to combination prevention services. It also placed strong emphasis on the financing and sustainability of HIV prevention programmes. Stakeholders noted that health financing was a domestic responsibility that needed to be actualised through the establishment of the AIDS fund. The symposium further resolved that leveraging local labour, local materials, local partnerships and local influence is key to achieving and sustaining health and wellbeing for the people of Zambia..



## POLLING BOOTH SURVEY ON ADOLESCENT SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

The National AIDS Council (NAC) is supporting an ongoing study that applies the Polling Booth Survey methodology to better understand sexual behaviours among adolescents and young people. This approach enhances anonymity and minimizes social desirability bias, enabling more accurate capture of sensitive behaviours. The findings are expected to generate actionable evidence to inform adolescent HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health programming, and related policy decisions under NAC's coordination framework.



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## LENACAPAVIR- A LONG ACTING HIV PREVENTION INJECTION LAUNCHED ON WORLD AIDS DAY

The Health Minister Dr. Elijah Muchima officially launched the long-acting HIV prevention injection, Lenacapavir, during the 2025 World AIDS Day commemoration in Chawama. He described Lenacapavir as a reflection of Zambia's innovative approach to HIV prevention and a source of renewed hope for young people and other vulnerable populations. To guide the rollout of Lenacapavir, alongside other prevention methods such as condoms, VMMC, and additional PrEP options, the minister also launched the HIV Prevention Roadmap 2025–2030.,

The UN family represented by UNAIDS Country Director Dr. Isaac Ahemesah joined partners in urging renewed action to protect the AIDS response especially in its most challenging time over a decade, and when HIV prevention services and communities had been hit the hardest CCM Chairperson Bishop Professor Joshua Banda underscored the importance of strengthening the coordination role of the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council and announced plans to enhance domestic financing for the HIV response.



## PMTCT DATA DEEP DIVE

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council facilitated a provincial PMTCT Data Deep Dive in Kasama, convening staff from all districts in Northern Province. The exercise focused on strengthening data quality, cohort monitoring, and the interpretation of EMTCT indicators. By linking DHIS2 outputs with facility-level realities, the Deep Dive reinforced the centrality of high-quality data to PMTCT outcomes. Agreed actions included data validation, the use of final infant outcomes, and strengthened feedback loops across the health system.



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## ADAPTION OF LONG INJECTABLE PREP LENACAPAVIR SBC MATERIALS

The Ministry of Health, through the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, with support from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), convened a materials adaptation meeting for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) materials, including the new PrEP option, Lenacapavir. The materials adapted included a Let's Talk PrEP pocket book, a factsheet on All About Lenacapavir, a self-assessment brochure, and six posters on PrEP choices.

The meeting was officially opened by Professor Lloyd Mulenga, who emphasized the importance of developing materials that were inclusive and suitable for the general population. He noted that the adaptation process drew on lessons learned from challenges encountered during the introduction of CAB-LA.

The meeting was attended by members of the Social and Behavior Change Technical Working Group (SBC TWG), the Health Promotion Unit, technical staff from the Ministry of Health, and civil society organizations.



## ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH WITH COMMUNITY AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, in collaboration with UNAIDS and AMICAALL, facilitated community dialogues under the Reducing Adolescent Pregnancies and New HIV Infections in Zambia (RAPHIZ) Project in Katete and Monze. The dialogues brought together traditional, religious, and political leaders, Councillors, devolved departments, and young people to collectively address adolescent HIV, early pregnancies, and gender-based violence. Participants examined harmful social norms and structural barriers that limit adolescents' access to SRHR, HIV prevention, and GBV services. Through open discussions participants developed locally tailored action plans. The engagement strengthened community leadership, ensured adolescents received the necessary support and services, and demonstrated that locally driven solutions promoted lasting change.



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## ZAMBIA HOSTS THE SADC JOINT MEETING OF NAC DIRECTORS, HIV AND SRH PROGRAM MANAGERS

The SADC Secretariat, in partnership with UN partners (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women), convened a Joint Meeting of National AIDS Commission Directors, HIV and SRHR Managers, and Technical Experts in Lusaka to assess progress toward the 2025 HIV, TB, and SRHR integration targets. The meeting also focused on finalising outcome documents for submission to Ministers in November 2025.

Dr. Kebby Musokotwane, Director General of the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, underscored the timeliness of the engagement. He noted that while the region continues to face a high burden of HIV, sustained political will and strong community leadership have been central to the gains achieved so far.. Member States shared experiences and lessons on policy implementation, programming for vulnerable populations, and strategies to strengthen domestic financing. Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia, and Zimbabwe showcased innovative approaches including enhanced private sector engagement, social contracting with civil society, and improved coordination between finance and health ministries.



## MEETING WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH)

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, in collaboration with the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL), held an engagement meeting with the Parliamentary Caucus on SRH[RK1] to strengthen political leadership and accountability in the HIV response. The meeting aimed to enhance MP[RK2] leadership at the constituency level, reinforce decentralized coordination through local authorities, and align parliamentary action with the country's HIV priorities. In addition, the meeting addressed adolescents' and youth's needs, promoting evidence from the Reducing Adolescent Pregnancies and [RK1]SRH being mentioned for the first time, write in full [RK2]In full



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## MEDIA ORIENTATION MEETING ON PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PrEP)

A one-day media orientation meeting was held at Radisson Blu in Lusaka, bringing together key stakeholders from the health and media sectors. The meeting was convened by the National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council, in partnership with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia, with support from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and Ascend Futures Foundation. The objective of the meeting was to enhance media knowledge on HIV prevention options including long injectable PrEP Lenacapavir and to promote accurate, ethical, and responsible health reporting. Key presentations were delivered by MISA Board Chairperson, Ms. Lorraine Mwansa Chisanga, who addressed issues of disinformation and misinformation, story pitching, and the ethics of reporting on HIV and health-related issues. Dr. Phiri Chimika, Ministry of Health's HIV Technical Lead, presented an overview of Zambia's HIV landscape and the national epidemic response.

A total of 30 media houses, representing both electronic and print media, participated in the meeting.



## ORIENTATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN HIV DECENTRALIZED RESPONSE COORDINATION

The National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council conducted orientation meetings in Luapula, Eastern, and Southern Provinces targeting senior staff from Local Authorities, including Town Clerks, Council Secretaries, and Directors of Planning, Health Services, Engineering, and DACAs. The sessions sought to strengthen decentralized HIV response coordination, build capacity in planning and oversight, and integrate HIV and SRHR priorities into local governance. Participants discussed leadership, data-driven decision-making, and resource mobilization while sharing district experiences. The orientations reinforced the importance of political commitment, effective coordination, and multi-sectoral collaboration in advancing the HIV response at the district level.

