



The Mozambique Story

The Zvandiri Model has been operational in Mozambique since 2017 under the READY+ Programme. REPSSI Mozambique has a memorandum of understanding with the MoH, which has assigned health facilities for the implementation of the programme.

Implementing Partner:

Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI), Mozambique

Started implementing Zvandiri: 2017—READY+ Programme

No of CAYALHIV living in Mozambique: 120,000

As of June 2022: 102 trained and mentored CATS are collaborating with health care workers in 25 health facilities to support 6,046 children, adolescents and young adults living with HIV.*

Viral suppression: Data not available

* Combined data from READY+ and R4AFF

Key highlights of the Zvandiri technical assistance plan

- CATS training
- E-mentorship with the implementing partners.

Positive change

- *“The implementation of the READY programme is supporting the response to the two main objectives of the National Strategic Plan for HIV.”* (reduction of the number of HIV infections among adolescents and young people, and reduction of the number of HIV and AIDS-related deaths).
- REPSSI is using its expertise in mental health and psychosocial support to enhance HIV outcomes.
- Adolescents and young people are advocating for their rights on different platforms.
- *“The results of the CATS interventions have shown that the peer-to-peer model is supporting young people’s adherence and retention in ART treatment... and the programme is contributing to their psychosocial well-being.”*

Our proudest moment:

A positive HIV test left Cristalina very upset — she hadn't suspected she had HIV and she had a young daughter under four years old. Soon after, Cristalina received counselling and support from a CATS. Initially, she was still not reassured and could not accept her status. The CATS was not put off, visiting her regularly at home, getting to know her and understand her life, and offering regular psychosocial care and support. These regular home visits and phone calls provided Cristalina with the information she needed and supported her to accept her status and begin ART.

One of Cristalina's biggest fears was disclosing her HIV status to her father as she was afraid of disappointing him. Through continued support from the CATS, she decided that the best thing was to reveal the truth to her father and she opened up and shared her story. Thankfully, he was supportive and she started treatment. Cristalina was very grateful to the CATS and began attending support groups, where she is continuously acquiring more information, enhancing her knowledge of HIV, and she feels really welcomed through the READY+ programme.

Factors for success:

- Collaboration with MoH
- Savings and credit groups for graduating CATS
- Implementation fidelity.

Hopes for the future:

- Scale-up—especially to high prevalence provinces.

Would you recommend Zvandiri?

“Surely, I would recommend the Model—it has proved to be effective among adolescents, especially in ensuring enrolment and adherence to treatment.”

Julio Mutemba, REPSSI Mozambique