



# Pathways

## COMMUNITIES LEADING THE WAY TO ZERO NEW HIV INFECTIONS

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Pathways aims to revitalize Zimbabwe’s HIV and child protection systems so that vulnerable children can become healthy, stable, safe, and schooled.<sup>1</sup> Pathways supports HIV-affected people to sustainably mitigate the impact of the virus on themselves and their communities by 2022.

### THE PATHWAYS APPROACH

As the Shona proverb says—*Muzivi wenzira yeparuware ndomufambi wayo*—the one who knows the road is he who has travelled on it before. Pathways recognizes that communities know the challenges they face and, therefore, hold the solutions to their development. Pathways works with communities to identify the options that enhance their existing capabilities and support them in upholding the wellbeing of vulnerable children in their care.

### IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC OPTIONS

Depending on interest and capacity, project participants join internal savings and lending groups, entrepreneurship training, and individual and cooperative micro-enterprises. Project participants choose the appropriate value chains or micro-enterprises to participate in.

### GENDER TRANSFORMATION AND INCLUSION

The HIV epidemic is driven by gender and socioeconomic inequality. Pathways uses a social behavior change strategy that supports communities to recognize and change harmful gender norms, stigma, and discrimination related to HIV status, intellectual and physical ability, socioeconomic status, and mental health.

| QUICK FACTS               |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Type</b>       | Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)  |
| <b>Funder/funding</b>     | USAID/\$35 million   |
| <b>Project location</b>   | Bulawayo, Guruve, Gweru, Harare, Insiza, Lupane, Matobo, Mazowe, and Nkayi Districts in Zimbabwe |
| <b># of people served</b> | 250,000 OVC and families   |
| <b>Timeframe</b>          | 2018-2022  |
| <b>Partners</b>           | International Youth Foundation, Maestral International Musasa Project                            |

### INTEGRATED AND ENHANCED HIV AND CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Pathways leverages CRS’ extensive experience to roll out an HIV-sensitive child protection case management system and clinic-community bi-directional referral system in close partnership with government ministries. This ensures that at-risk and vulnerable children and adolescents can access integrated and comprehensive services. Through client-driven case management, individuals and households commit to and invest in timebound care plans that intentionally move them through services and into resilience. Community and ward-level Child Protection Committees collect, analyze, and use strategic information to continuously improve services.

<sup>1</sup> Healthy: reduced risk of undiagnosed HIV infection; increased adherence to HIV treatment; reduced risk of HIV infection; improved household dietary diversity. Stable: increased household ability to access money to meet important family needs; decreased food insecurity. Safe: reduced risk of physical, emotional and psychological injury due to exposure to violence at home/school; caregivers have healthy parenting approaches. Schooled: increased educational participation; adolescents, especially girls and young women, have increased life skills.

## INVESTMENT IN CRITICAL SERVICES

HIV-affected communities may establish critical services within their wards. These include emergency shelters for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, mental health counseling, safe spaces for adolescent girls, non-formal education, inclusive early childhood development centers, positive parenting classes, support groups, and gender transformation dialogue and activist groups for boys and men.

## SPECIALIZED SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Pathways strengthens the capacity of small, community-based organizations to conduct supportive outreach to children living with HIV, children living on the streets and outside of family care, children in penal institutions and residential care, children living with disabilities, and child survivors of trauma and abuse.

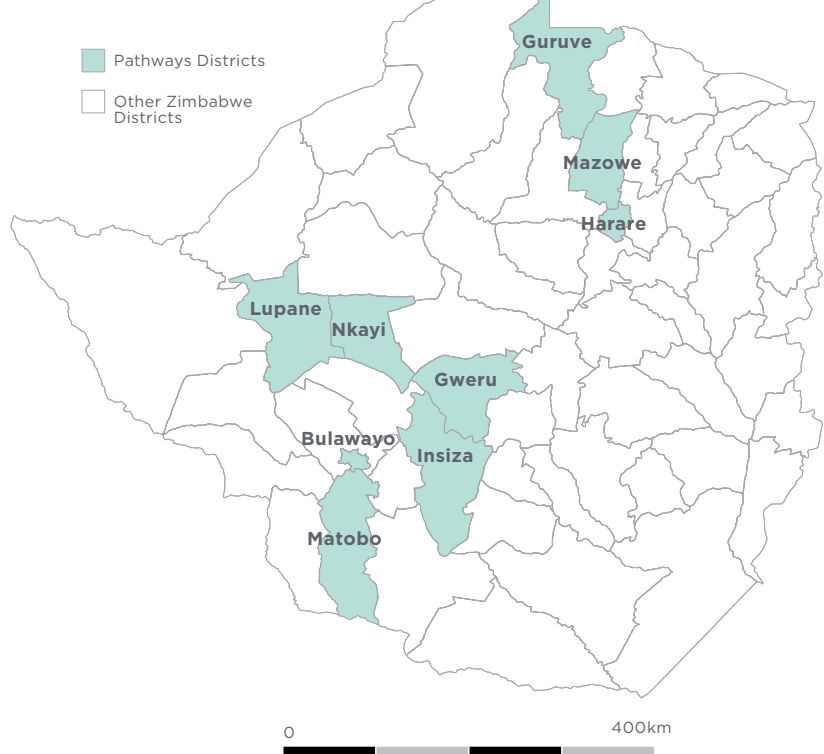
Results-based financing and an innovative Collaborating, Learning and Adapting agenda help Pathways invest in the organizations and interventions that have the best potential to reach and have the greatest impact on these high-priority populations and contribute towards district 90-90-90 targets.

## KEY RESULTS

By the end of 2022, Pathways will have achieved the following:

- 250,000 people who have benefitted from client-driven case management and livelihoods coaching
- 118 wards with resourced and timebound plans for supporting HIV-affected children long-term
- 59,500 economically-resilient households
- 15,000 youth with livelihoods options and skills
- Nine districts with integrated, data-driven HIV and child protection systems

CRS Zimbabwe—Pathway Districts



- Nine districts with active, effective, and multi-sectoral referral systems
- 118 wards with community-level mental health focal points certified in delivering cognitive behavioral therapy
- More than one million people with access to emergency shelters and integrated services for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual and gender-based violence, including community dialogues on gender and gender transformation

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Would you like to contribute to the Pathways movement? We are in continual search of mentors for young people and opportunities for public-private collaborations. For more information please contact the project's Chief of Party, Roselyn Were, at [roselyn.were@crs.org](mailto:roselyn.were@crs.org).

