

COMPASS AFRICA END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER 2022

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- 5 END OF YEAR SPARC STORIES
- 8 TOPLINE FINDINGS FROM THE COALITION HEALTH SCORE-CARD
- IN-COUNTRY STRATEGY LABS
- ALL COMPASS STRATEGY LAB

**“A PEEK INTO OUR ADVOCACY JOURNEY;
WINS, SETBACKS AND LESSONS”**



A light moment during the Tanzania Strategy lab. Team Tanzania takes time to celebrate the birthday of a colleague!

COMPASS Profile: Coalition to build Momentum, Power, Activism, Strategy & Solidarity in Africa (COMPASS Africa) is an innovative, data-informed, and audacious North-South collaboration of civil society organizations working in the global North and East and Southern Africa. The project is anchored by civil society-led coalitions in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The Africa-based coalitions work with partners in the region and in the global North to gather, analyze and use evidence and data to shape strategic activist and advocacy campaigns focused on strengthening the HIV and AIDS response in the 3 countries.

WELCOME to the COMPASS End of Year Newsletter where we showcase some of the remarkable results that have been realized in 2022 by partners in Tanzania, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. As we start the year, it is essential to reflect on the successes and outstanding work to draw inspiration, celebrate critical wins and share how our fellow partners are innovating and utilizing strategic advocacy approaches to strengthen the HIV and AIDS response in the 3 countries.

Tanzania



Benjamin Mkapa Foundation wins commitment from the President of Tanzania towards addressing Human Resources for Health gap.

The Government of Tanzania publicly affirmed commitment to introduce Human Resources for Health (HRH) solutions to address the current 52% HRH shortage in both Mainland and Zanzibar. At the forefront of these solutions is a pledge by Government to develop and finalize frameworks that provide clear guidelines and procedures for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSI) in health programs with the goal being to increase domestic investment on HRH.

This comes following a BMF led forum (The 2nd Mkapa Legacy Symposium) that was held on 13th and 14th July 2022, preceded by two panel session discussions attended by H.E. Othman Masoud (the 1st Vice President of Zanzibar), Hon. Ummu Mwalimu (Minister for Health Tanzania Mainland), and Hon. Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (Minister for Health Zanzibar) among other invited high-level delegates. During the panel sessions, discussions were centered around strengthening utilization of innovative Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approaches, and strategies to increase domestic investment in Health. There was consensus that the response to TB, HIV and AIDS, Maternal Care for Health service delivery among others have been severely affected by the shortages of Health Care Workers (HCWs). Health facilities continue to experience inefficiencies in conducting index case HIV testing, timely HIV viral load testing and the turnaround time for clients visiting facilities including in emergency situations is longer than expected.

H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan during her speech echoed that the Government is aware of the HRH gap in the country and the need for further investment on HRH at both facility and community levels.

She therefore directed for the key ministries in-charge of HRH to prioritize and expedite implementation of innovative strategies that are already in place such as the National Health Workforce Volunteering Guidelines towards curbing this HRH gap. She called for strengthened collaboration with development and implementing partners, BMF included and the private sector going forward to address challenges in accessing quality healthcare with the aim to attain both national and global targets by 2030.

H.E. President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi during his remarks stated that his government has taken on board the recommendations and key take aways from the panel discussions and commits to implement them working closely with both Public and Private Sectors to improve quality delivery of health services for everyone in the country. BMF will continue working closely with both the Ministries of Health in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar to ensure implementation of the key take aways from the symposium from both Governments. This will improve access to quality Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services and strengthen the response to HIV, TB and other emerging public health concerns in the Country.

Links to the speeches conducted:

[Hotuba ya Mhe. Samia Suluhu Hassan Raisi wa Tanzania. - Mkapa Foundation](#)

[Hotuba ya Mhe. Hussein Ali Mwinyi - Rais wa Zanzibar. - Mkapa Foundation](#)



H.E President Samia Suluhu Hassan during her Speech on the 2nd Day of the Mkapa Legacy Symposium on 14th July



H.E Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, during his speech at the 2nd Day of the Mkapa Legacy Symposium on 14th July 2022

Community Led Monitoring adopted into Tanzania’s Health Sector HIV Strategic plan V (2021-2026); and the National Multisectoral Strategic Framework V 2021-2026

The Government of Tanzania has successfully integrated Community Led Monitoring (CLM) into Tanzania’s 5-year Health Sector HIV Strategic plan V (2021-2026); and the National Multisectoral Strategic Framework V 2021-2026.

Through support from COMPASS, the National Council of People Living with HIV and AIDS (NACOPHA) managed to showcase how effective CLM has been as an approach using evidence from 34 district councils of Tanzania Mainland in March 2022. Findings from CLM initiatives held in the various districts were presented before the Ministry of Health and PEPFAR during April, August, and September 2022 engagements respectively. The strategic meetings included policy review and validation meetings of two policy documents, the 5th Health Sector HIV Strategic Plan (HSHSP V) and the 5th National Multisectoral Strategic Framework (NMSF V) led by the National AIDS Control Program, and Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS). The evidence provided facilitated government recognition of the role played by PLHIV in service provision through CLM efforts.

NACOPHA managed to demonstrate how valuable CLM as an approach has been in the HIV response for the 34 Districts. The consequence of this, is the inclusion of CLM as one of the guiding principles for the implementation of NMSF V and HSHSP V guidelines.

The HSHSP V and NMSF V are the two major documents guiding planning and implementation of the country’s HIV service delivery in Tanzania. Inclusion of CLM in the 2 mentioned national guidelines brings a policy and systemic change that has a direct link to NACOPHA’s strategic campaign objectives. This is a significant change that sets the benchmark for a five-year sustained engagement of beneficiaries in the implementation and monitoring of community-based interventions in Tanzania. Our role now is to ensure social accountability in the implementation of the CLM provisions in the guidelines.

Page 9 of the Health Sector HIV Strategic plan V Guideline under Section 2.3 titled “Key Guiding principles”

“Community-led response: Stakeholder engagement during the designing, planning, and monitoring and evaluation of the response will ensure active participation and involvement of communities. This principle encourages affected communities, including KVP and PLHIV, to become more actively involved in programmes that affect their lives. As part of the quality improvement measure, community participation will also include the provision of feedback through community-led monitoring”

CLM is one of the priority strategies to address the risk of HIV infection among KVP. It is mentioned in Page 29 under Intervention Area 5 of National Multisectoral Strategic Framework V:

“Key and Vulnerable Populations Strategic Outcome 3.1: Ninety-five percent (95%) of Key & Vulnerable Populations saturated with a minimum package of vulnerability-tailored and client-centered combination prevention interventions by 2025”

Malawi



Additional financial resources availed to address Drug Stock-Outs in Malawi

COMPASS partners and the Civil Society Advocacy Forum (CSAF) have witnessed the Ministry of Finance allocate 7.5 billion Malawi Kwacha towards the recapitalization of the Central Medical Stores Trust (CMST) in 2022/2023 financial year budget. Additionally, the National Local Government Finance Committee devolved 10% of the drug budget to enable district hospitals in Malawi to procure drugs from private pharmacies during intervals when CMST experiences drug stock outs. This is a result of continued engagements between CSAF, COMPASS partners, and CMST. In 2020 CMST realized that inadequate funding affects procurement of drugs resulting in inadequate supply of medicines in district hospitals. Also, when the CMST experiences drug stock outs, district hospitals are not able to procure drugs from private pharmacies because they are not mandated to do so. The recapitalization of CMST reduces yearly budget deficits for procuring drugs as it was noted through engagements that CMST usually starts on a deficit; hence the recorded stock outs in health facilities across the country. For example, in the 2020/21 financial year CMST budget was at MK40 billion, but only received MK19 billion.

The 10% drug budget devolvement has managed to reduce death rates caused by shortage of drugs, as shared by Mulanje- Director of Health and Social Services (DHSS). Further to this, district hospitals are able to save resources like time and fuel since hospitals can now purchase and distribute drugs to health centers instead of always having healthcare recipients from the health center referred to the district hospital for treatment when certain essential drugs are out of stock in local clinics.

Achievement of the progress towards reducing drug stock outs is a result of strengthened collaboration by local CSOs in Malawi. In other spaces COMPASS partners and CSAF led by Network of Journalists Living with HIV (JONEHA). Whilst in other spaces, other local CSOs such as Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN), and the Universal Health Coverage Coalition have led the engagements and invited CSAF for building power and momentum. All these engagements have been done in unison with allies such as CMST, District Health Management Teams and Parliamentary committees for Health and Budgets.



Link for the online report is provided below

<https://jonehamw.org/capitalisation-of-cmst/>

Zimbabwe



The Domino Effect- PEPFAR develops and adopts disability inclusive indicators!

For the first time, PEPFAR has developed and adopted disability inclusive indicators in programs targeting girls and young women in Zimbabwe. Prior to this, the data captured and produced by PEPFAR DREAMS programs did not further disaggregate evidence based on disability. Consequently, there is limited knowledge and understanding of the situation for persons with disabilities regarding HIV and AIDS. The lack of evidence continues to undermine intentional targeting of persons with disabilities with resources and interventions in the response.

My Age Zimbabwe was nominated to be the Community Representatives for adolescents and young people during the PEPFAR Country Operational Plan development process 2022. The platform allowed My Age to not only champion priorities for adolescents and young people in the HIV response but also shine a light on long standing gaps and priorities for adolescents and young people with disabilities.

At the center of My Age's contributions in the COP process was disability inclusive monitoring and evaluation systems, budgeting and targeting with interventions. The support and guidance from the Advocacy Core Team in this process was invaluable as they facilitated My Age's participation in the process. The move by PEPFAR to include disability indicators for programs targeting AGYW in Zimbabwe will have a significant ripple effect. Firstly, implementing partners will be obligated to ensure their interventions directly reach and benefit AGYW with disabilities. Secondly, we can begin to learn more about the experiences of persons with disabilities regarding HIV and AIDS resulting in equitable distribution of resources and interventions in future HIV response initiatives.

Young People select PEPFAR Youth Key Representative.

For the first time, local Youth led and youth serving organizations selected Youth Community Representatives for the PEPFAR COP23 process. Previously, youth representatives were selected through a head-hunting process facilitated by Civil Society Organizations. The challenge with this approach was the Youth Representative being accountable to the CSO network/organization who had nominated them in that capacity, with no meaningful link to youth organizations during the PEPFAR COP development process.

Youth Engage conducted a series of engagements starting with a capacity building on grant development processes in preparation for PEPFAR COP23 and the Global Fund Cycle 7 grant application processes for 2023. The capacity building process was followed up with a consensus building meeting on youth priorities for COP 23 and selection of the Youth Community representatives. The engagements were essential in identifying barriers affecting young people's meaningful participation in PEPFAR and Global Fund operational plans development processes-

-and establishing a youth constituency that is deliberately focusing on Global Fund and PEPFAR processes. Furthermore, the organizations agreed that there is need to continue identifying and mobilizing like-minded organizations beyond the 16 involved at this moment. 2 youth representatives and 2 alternates were elected to represent adolescents and young people in the upcoming PePFAR and Global fund processes. A technical working group composed of previous youth representatives, strategic networks and identified civil society actors was set up to provide technical support for the youth reps to effectively engage in the COP 23 process. Despite opposition for meaningful youth participation in GF and PePFAR processes still existent, there is growing realization that youth CSO led platform/ constituency is

essential in strengthening the HIV response especially if you consider progress for adolescents and young people in reaching the 90-90-90 targets in comparison to other demographics. Ineffective representation not only undercuts the abilities of communities to inform tailor made strategies to resolve challenges that they continuously face but also increases the disease burden to the various communities. Going forward, Youth Engage will continue ensuring young people form meaningful youth-adult partnerships and are involved in decision making processes.



National youth-led and youth-focused round-table meeting on advocacy and capacity building for PEPFAR and Global Fund processes

8 Topline findings from the COMPASS

Coalition Health Score-card.

The overarching aim of the COMPASS Coalition Health Scorecard is to create a common understanding of the coalition's wellbeing from the perspective of its members. As a form of participatory assessment, it was designed to provide rapid feedback, used for improving the quality of experience, processes, performance, and results of the entire coalition in the last 3 years. When conducted well, it promotes positive dialogue and strategic relationships- key ingredients for a healthy coalition. The 2022 score-card builds on two previous editions conducted in August 2020 and September 2021 respectively. Some of the findings include:

1. COMPASS has managed to continue ensuring advocacy campaigns implemented by partners are responsive to country priorities and context.
2. 5 years on, there is a strong sense of a shared vision for transnational activism as reported by the majority of respondents. Cumulatively, more than two thirds of the entire coalition agree with and understand the vision of COMPASS Africa. It is however important to- ensure that this position is sustained as the coalition continues to evolve and transition.
3. Decision making in country coalitions has steadily improved over the last 3 years; with more effective consultative processes taking place between Global partners especially AVAC, coalition leadership and country partners. However, there is significant decrease in the perceived capacity of coalitions' ability to address conflict over the years; 54% in 2020 to 12% in 2022. On the other hand, Country partners also perceive COMPASS decision making processes in general as transparent and fostering accountability.
4. Country partners strongly agree that the technical support provided by Global partners has added great value in the quality of their advocacy campaigns and their ability to achieve results. While Global partners have provided valuable support to Country partners, strengthening partnerships amongst themselves is key in improving their contribution to COMPASS and TA provided across board.
5. South to south platforms for reflection remain inadequate; more could be done to prioritize and strengthen linkages between country coalitions so as to facilitate sharing of strategies and tactics. There is need to intentionally create more opportunities for inter-country engagement.
6. The technical assistance provided to partners needs to be more intentionally structured based on the country partner's campaigns. Thematic groups based on campaign focus could be useful in strengthening North-South and South-South partnerships in-country and regionally.
7. When Country partners realize advocacy wins it is essential to promptly identify support needs and provide the backing needed for the campaign to transition effectively into the next phase.
8. COMPASS should create platforms to meaningfully discuss coalition values with the aim of increasing understanding and how COMPASS values influence our efforts in realizing the coalition's mandate and vision.

Key takeaways from the In-country strategy lab

One of the ways COMPASS has continued to ensure campaigns are designed based on the country's context and priorities with technical support from Global partners is the annual In-country strategy labs. On that note, some of the key takeaways from the strategy labs that could prove beneficial to the coalition as we go from strength to strength include:

- COMPASS needs to be intentional in strengthening understanding among partners of the relationship and link between partner level expected outcomes as informed by their campaigns and country coalition outcomes.
- Partners within COMPASS have campaigns that are related to one another. This creates an opportunity to strengthen linking and learning regionally within COMPASS based on the thematic focus of the campaigns.
- In response to staff attrition and onboarding of new partners, there is a need to develop a standard procedure for orientating new partners, inclusive of an information package a partner should receive to support the transition process.



Group work during the in-country strategy lab in Tanzania.



Group work during the in-country strategy lab in Zimbabwe.



Presentation during the in-country Strategy lab in Malawi

Key takeaways from the All-COMPASS strategy lab

Subsequently, an All-COMPASS Strategy lab was held post the In-country strategy lab and it provided a unique opportunity for all COMPASS partners to come together, reflect and plan for the year. Some of the key points raised on the flow are as follows:

- COMPASS needs to consider taking on combined regional advocacy campaigns through identifying strategic regional platforms that can influence partner outcomes at country level.
- There is a shift of power to the South from the Global North beyond COMPASS, considering initiatives like Community-led Monitoring. As the responsibility given to the Global South increases, there is need to ensure the Global South is equal to the task and the region delivers.
- COMPASS and other like-minded coalitions can benefit from a 'Communication Strategy' that allows sharing of innovations utilized in the different advocacy campaigns internally and externally to promote wider awareness of COMPASS and the work the coalition is doing.

So What's Next?

COMPASS continues to gain meaningful ground in improving SRHR, HIV and AIDS response strategies in Tanzania, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. As partners start their 2023 campaigns, the Monitoring, Evaluation, Results and Learning hub hopes the newsletter has managed to inform and most importantly motivate everyone to achieve more and break new ground. Our work should continue to contribute towards positive health outcomes for the respective constituencies we represent and advocate on behalf. The deliberations during the In-country and All-COMPASS Strategy labs indicate that:

- Everyone is looking forward to more robust advocacy campaigns that address barriers to policy, implementation and resource commitments required for a sustained reduction in HIV incidence and AIDS deaths.
- Secondly, application of the COMPASS standard for transnational coalition-based, Africa-led activism via a milestone-driven, partner-led transition to African leadership, management and grant making; as stipulated in the governance manual recently finalized in 2023.
- Thirdly, ongoing documentation of best practices and results tracking with embedded real-time support from country-based MERL champions.
- Last but not list, strengthening of North-South and South-South partnerships aimed at amplifying COMPASS's advocacy at regional level.

Wishing everyone the very best in their respective campaigns as each piece adds tremendous value to the COMPASS vision. As ever, thank you so much for the wonderful work you are all doing and your support in documenting advocacy innovations, results and lessons across COMPASS Africa.