



Updates and Achievements in 2021

ZIMBABWE

Considerable progress has been made in Zimbabwe during the 2021 year. Key achievements have included:

- Sensitisation of Provincial Health Executive on the Special Initiative for Mental Health
- Commenced Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) training for healthcare workers in response to COVID-19 in all 10 provinces;
- Submission of a successful grant application Grand Challenges Canada for scale up of the Friendship Bench, as part of wider mhGAP capacity building for primary health care facilities and community staff;
- Establishment of the National Mental Health Technical Working Group for national coordination of mental health work, oversight of Special Initiative for Mental Health activities and to commission seven thematic mental health advisory groups;
- Commencement of eLearning for WHO Quality Rights; completed Quality Rights Initiative planning meeting, Face-to-Face Trainer of Trainers and the training of the Quality Rights Assessors as the first steps to transform mental health services
- Commencement of an Economic Investment Case Study for Mental Health in Zimbabwe, including key interviews and data collection;
- Completion of an addendum to update the Essential Drug List for Zimbabwe (EDLIZ);
- Commencement of consultations to upgrade mental health electronic records; and

In the year 2022, Zimbabwe will continue to focus on implementation, including:

- Technical support to Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health to complete a draft Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) response plan for COVID-19;
- Continued capacity building of leaders to plan and budget for mental health services from provincial to district to national levels;
- Complete and launch the Mental Health Investment Case, and use the results for advocacy
- Scaling up of programmes, including: mhGAP in primary health care facilities; the Friendship Bench; improved processes for referral and reference to packages of services for people living with NCDs; Collaborative care alongside HIV and AIDS services; child and adolescent mental healthcare; support for persons living with substance abuse disorders; as well as psychosocial and mental health support for persons interacting with the justice system; and,
- Carry out assessments and launch a series of transformation plans through the QualityRights initiative.