

Hub has had effect on youths

Susan Chibwana is the facility-in-charge for Tsoyo Health Center in Dedza.

The Tiyanjane Hub, which was established in 2021 and has close to 40 members, is the only hub being supported by the health centre. By offering them ART, providing them with the best guidance on how to take the meds, and monitoring the results of their viral load tests, we provide them with assistance.

Since the hub was established, many things have changed in the catchment area of the facility, such as the fact that many young adults, both male and female, are now having their HIV statuses checked. Before this intervention, some of them would travel to Nkhoma Mission Hospital to get tested or access ART services as they were reluctant to use these services in their own community.

But through discussions and knowledge exchange between Manerela+ and the community, there has been significant change. I can confirm that many youths are also visiting the facility for testing. In addition, some youths who had previously refused to get ART treatment from the facility due to traditional and religious beliefs are now included on the roster of clients.

With the favorable effect the hub has had on young adults, this is a fantastic development for our community. We are on track to eradicating discrimination and stigma. For this, I am grateful to Manerela+ for supporting the hub.