



transaid



CASE STUDY:

## Chitambo District Health Office Partnering with MAM at Scale MAM at Scale - Zambia

MAM@SCALE Team meet Dr Phiri

**"MAM@Scale has done a great service to Chitambo, in July 2020 two riders transported a maternal emergency from Kamanga Community to Reuben Health Facility, which is a very long distance of about 30 kilometres. They did that while observing all procedures in preventing any possible spread of COVID-19, such as wearing masks, keeping a social distance, wearing of gloves when carrying the patient and regular washing of hands with soap"**

**Dr Phiri – Chitambo District Health Office**

### **Chitambo District Health Office (DHO) partnering with MAM@Scale in the COVID-19 response**

Chitambo District is one of the twelve districts in the Central Province of Zambia with a population of about 63,879. It is located 295 km north of Kabwe, the Provincial headquarters along the Great North road. It shares borders with four other districts and a country; Serenje in the south, Lavushi Manda in the North, Milenge and Samfya in the North West and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the West. The collaboration between Chitambo District Health Office (DHO) and MAM@Scale has been very effective, not only in the treatment of severe malaria at community level using rectal artesunate, a pre-referral drug, but also developing strong preventative measures against COVID-19 in this transit town.

Dr Phiri, District Health Director:

"Our grants [from the Zambian government] are usually inadequate to cater for all medical conditions. We are reliant on other partners such as MAM@Scale so that we could join hands and to put up measures in fighting COVID-19. MAM@Scale has not only supported Chitambo DHO staff to

facilitate focus group discussions on COVID-19 in the markets and other public places, but supported the staff to do COVID-19 screenings at entry and exit points of the district. MAMaZ also organised phone in radio programs on COVID-19 and GBV (Gender Based Violence) twice a week in the district. Tip taps, facemasks, hand sanitisers, soap and COVID-19 posters translated in local language were distributed in all health facilities. CHVs (Community Health Volunteers) have also been trained to create awareness on COVID-19 within their communities. It is important to say that MAM@Scale was first to offer help to the district in putting up preventative measures against COVID-19”.

MAM@Scale uses a strong community engagement approach by establishing and strengthening community systems to uplift health standards at community level. It is an inclusive approach that engages people at all levels, from traditional leadership to members of the community. People who volunteer to work for the community are trained in health education and become the providers of basic health services at community level. Food banks and savings schemes are formed in the communities to fight affordability barriers. This has not only raised demand for health services in the facilities that MAM@Scale is supporting in Chitambo district, but it made it much easier to put up preventative measures against COVID-19.

Is evident that the whisper of a solution can be found in the resurgence of community participation. Programmes such as MAM@Scale with a strong history of community engagement are able to effectively respond to pandemics such as COVID-19 using tried and tested approaches. This teaches us that collaboration is for life and not just for times of crisis.



CHVs displaying COVID-19 Posters

In an effort to remove distance barriers in accessing health services, MAM@Scale has supplied bicycle ambulances to communities in Chitambo District for transporting malarial and maternal emergencies. “MAM@Scale has done a great service to Chitambo, in July 2020 two riders transported a maternal emergency from Kamanga Community to Reuben Health Facility, which is a very long distance of about 30 kilometres. They did that while observing all procedures in preventing any possible spread of COVID-19, such as wearing masks, keeping a social distance, wearing of gloves when carrying the patient and regular washing of hands with soap. The level of volunteerism in these communities is excellent and community ownership of these assets is so good. We could never achieve all this without the interventions from MAM@Scale,” Dr Phiri said.



Newly installed handwashing facilities (tip taps)