Charles Kunda

Charles Kunda
Community Facilitator and Community Health Worker

Charles Kunda is a Community Facilitator and Community Health Worker in his village of Nchimishi in Serenje District, Zambia. Charles has worked with the Mobilizing Access to Maternal Health Services in Zambia (MAMaZ) programmes for two years; part of his role is to give pre-referral treatment to children suffering from suspected severe malaria. In his community, they have ten bicycle ambulances.

Charles became a Community Facilitator on recommendation from a friend because he likes working with people and understands the importance of improving health outcomes in his community.

"Before the MAMaZ programme, the community was not very aware of severe malaria, but now they recognise the symptoms. In the past, many people died in the community. When this programme came in, we saved many lives. Now, there are fewer children dying from severe malaria."

As part of his role, Charles logs referrals, including the name of the patient and where they have come from. When a patient arrives at the health facility, he records their reason for transportation in another logbook. Charles writes a summary from these logbooks every month, and using this data and data from the health facility, he can track the number of deaths from malaria each month in Nchimishi. On average, thirty people use the bicycle ambulances to access treatment every month.

"The community is very appreciative, very much so. But we also need more support to continue the work."

Charles points out that the roads often damage the bicycle ambulances, especially the trailers where the patient rests. "With more investment, we can use stronger materials to construct the bicycle ambulances and even take them to areas which lack accessible transport to health facilities."

the MAMaZ programme partners include: Transaid, the Zambian National Malaria Elimination Centre, District Health Management Teams, DAI Global Health Limited, Development Data, and Disacare.