



When HIV collided with COVID-19 in Zimbabwe: Some emerging lessons to inform pragmatic actions to protect HIV prevention gains

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Strategic positioning and actions (1)

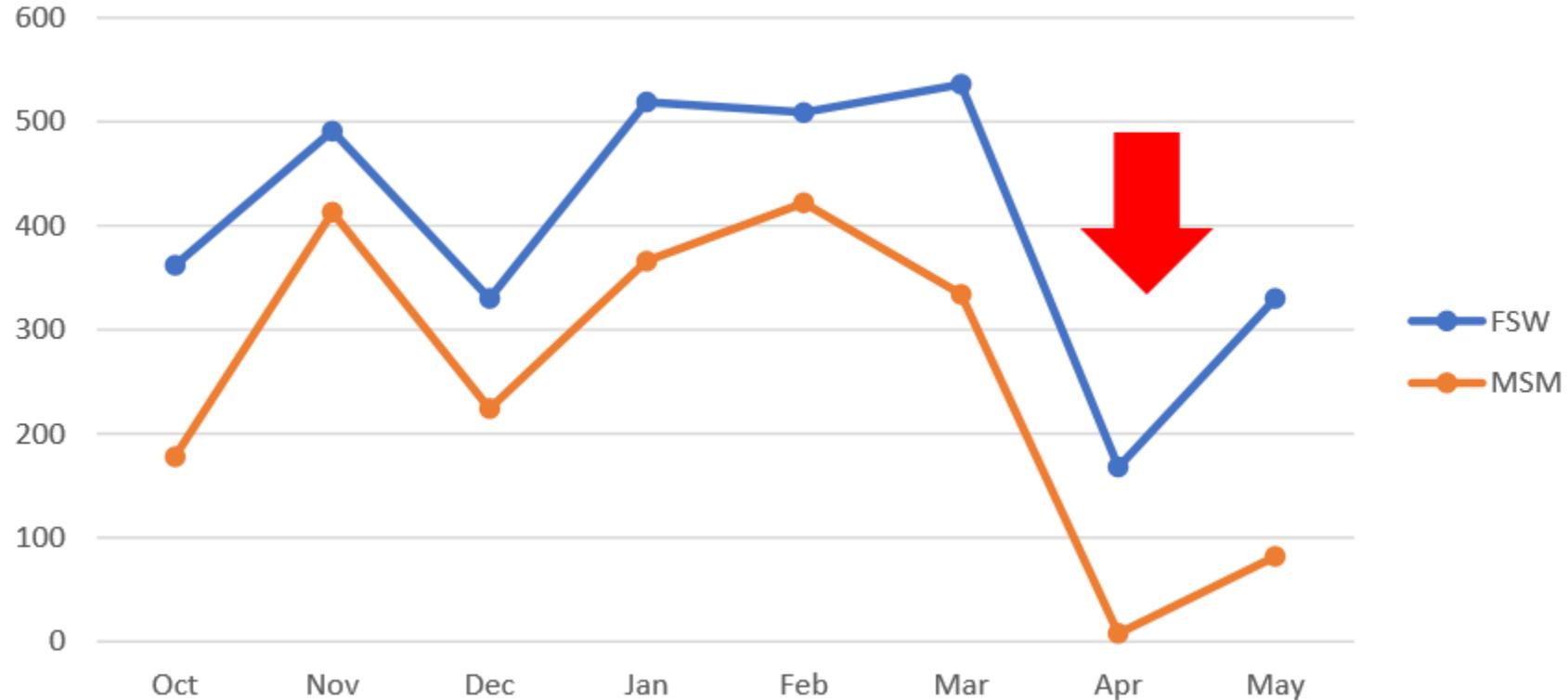
- Recognise precious (yet fragile) HIV prevention gains in need of protection
 - Even with a 44% decline in new HIV infections between 2010 and 2019, country off course to achieve the 75% Fast-Track target by 2020.
 - COVID-19 risked
- HIV strategically positioned in the national Covid-19 preparedness and response plan
 - HIV as a core part of the national COVID-19 strategy
 - Heightened vulnerability of PLHIV
 - Deleterious impacts of service disruptions
- Rapid adaptation: Same purpose, adapted program
 - GoZ issued “Rapid guidance on HIV service delivery in COVID-19 context”

Strategic positioning and actions (2)

- Rapidly pivoting: Repurpose HIV investments
 - Leveraged domestic resources ZWL 20 million for information education and communication as well as PPE for communities and health workers
 - Mobilize transportation of ARVs to local areas to ensure easy access by PLHIV
 - Incorporated CoVID into all community HIV prevention programmes
- Keeping the tabs on
 - A rapid community survey of impacts
 - MoHCC led a rapid assessment of impacts on HIV programs
 - NAC as member of core modelling group
 - Spotlight on risks and effects of service disruptions on national HIV response
 - A HIV sub-pillar of the COVID-19 response
 - A 24-hour call center, in partnership with ZNNP+ and UNAIDS, to address structural issues

COVID-19 impact on HIV prevention services provision

- Monthly PrEP new initiations



Strategic positioning and actions (3)

- High-level advocacy makes a difference

- The First Lady as a Champion

- Also, Champions for HIV from within matter:

- VP is Minister of Health & Child Care
- Minister of Finance, formerly HIV researcher (RethinkHIV), championed safety nets
 - Placed social protection high on agenda

