

# BULAWAYO CITY COUNCIL RAPID ASSESSMENT OF ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (ASRHR)



JANUARY 2022

This fact sheet is a summary of the findings of the ASRHR Rapid Assessment undertaken in Bulawayo City Council as part of an eight-country study¹ from November 2019 to December 2020. The research aims to strengthen youth-led and focused efforts to promote ASRHR through gender and youth responsive local governance. Gender Links Zimbabwe conducted the study in thirteen Centers of Excellence for Gender in Local Government.² In Bulawayo, the study covered 20 clinics; 401 respondents: 50% young women and 50% young men (see table overleaf). This fact sheet should be read together with the Zimbabwe, and the Southern Africa ASRHR Rapid Assessment research pamphlets. Key findings include:

# **Accessibility**

- Eighty-five percent of respondents reported being within 10 km of a clinic.
- Responses to whether the clinics open after school were on the high side, an indication of youths' knowledge of the operating hours of clinics.
- Over seventy percent of respondents (71%), said that clinics open during weekends. Magwegwe (40%), E.F Watson (43%) and Pelandaba (48%) clinics had a low response rate.
- The average service fee for ASRHR services in Bulawayo's clinics is USD\$4.

### Quality of care

- Most young people said they were treated with respect (85%).
- Seventy percent of young people indicated that there was privacy at the clinic. This, however, varied from 45% at Khami Road to 100% at Cowdray Park and Lobengula clinics.
- Less than half of respondents (49%) said that clinics did not require their parents to be present.
   Negative responses came from Cowdray Park and Tshabalala clinics at 30%.

- Two thirds (66%) indicated that health workers spent sufficient time with them. This varied from 38% in Magwaewe to 100% in Lobengula.
- A moderately high percentage of respondents (61%) said they received appropriate information with the lowest response rate in Magwegwe (33%). Access to information is important to assist young people to make better ASRHR choices.

## Sexual and reproductive health services

- A low proportion of young people (32%) requested contraceptives. These requests ranged from 8% at Pelandaba clinic to 60% at Entumbane clinic. Over three quarters (79%) of those who requested contraceptives received them.
- 11% of young women requested a pregnancy test. No tests were requested at Khami Road, Lobengula, Njube, Nkulumane, Pelandaba and Princess Margaret Rose clinics. Above half (57%) of those who requested, received the service. At the time of the study, 14% of young women were pregnant.
- Only 27% of young women requested sanitary pads and 64% of those who requested received them.
- Demand for male circumcision which has been shown to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS is relatively low in Bulawayo at 35%, overall. This varied from no requests in Cowdray Park, Emakhandeni and Mahatsula to 67% at Entumbane clinic.
- Less than a quarter (23%) of respondents requested an HIV test. 98% of those who requested the service received it. This is evidence of Zimbabwe's commitment to zero HIV infections.
- Six percent of respondents requested an STI test and 82% of those who requested STI tests received them
- Over half of respondents (53% overall) said health workers asked about their mental health. This shows efforts towards raising awareness on the issue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION go to:

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https://genderlinks.org.za/what-we-do/governance/local-action-for-voice-and-choice/

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Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Zimbabwe <sup>2</sup> Bindura RDC, Bulawayo City, Gweru City, Harare City, Kadoma City, Makoni RDC, Masvingo City, Murehwa RDC, Mutare City, Mvurwi Town, Umguza RDC, Zibagwe RDC and Zvimba RDC

# KEY DATA FROM THE RAPID ASSESSMENT OF ASRHR SERVICES IN BULAWAYO CITY COUNCIL ZIMBABWE

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