



Loyce Maturu (Zimbabwe)

Perspectives: person living with HIV (PLHIV); tuberculosis; youth; vertical transmission; Africa

Loyce is 25 years old and was born with HIV. Before the age of 10, she lost both her parents and her brother. Loyce had a difficult time growing up with HIV and accepting her status: she faced stigma and verbal abuse from some of her relatives, nearly committed suicide and missed school often due to ill health. She didn't start receiving anti-retroviral treatment (ART) until she contracted tuberculosis (TB) when she was 12 years old; during that time Loyce had to manage both TB and HIV treatment for the first time.

In 2004, Loyce joined [Africaid](#) Zvandiri Programme as a beneficiary where she had the opportunity to meet her peers with the same status. She began to gain confidence and realized she had a life ahead of her. In 2009, she began working with Africaid as a peer counsellor. She is now the advocacy officer for issues around treatment, care and support and is involved in national and global policy, strategy and programmes development with a special focus on children, adolescents and young people living with HIV.

As a member of the Young People's Network hosted by the National AIDS Council, Loyce contributed to a variety of national policies, guidelines and training curriculum. Loyce is also a member of the Communities Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund and she was the Y+ co-Chair for the Y+ Global Network of Young People Living with HIV from 2014-2015.

Currently, of the 1.4 million people living with HIV in Zimbabwe, 880,000 of these people are on ART through Global Fund-financed programmes; Global Fund programmes have also treated and detected 68,700 cases of TB.