

GRASSROOT SOCCER ZIMBABWE

annual report

2017 OVERVIEW

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OUR APPROACH

OUR MISSION

Grassroot Soccer (GRS) is an adolescent health organisation that leverages the power of soccer to Educate, Inspire, and Mobilize adolescents in developing countries to overcome their greatest health challenges, live healthier, more productive lives, and be agents for change in their communities.

EDUCATE

GRS uses soccer-based activities and lively discussions to educate participants on HIV, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-related issues that affect them and their communities.

INSPIRE

GRS trains young community mentors and leaders, including local professional soccer players, to be health educators and GRS Coaches. Coaches connect personally with participants and become trusted mentors.

MOBILIZE

GRS provides referrals to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and social support for participants who access these services. High-volume community events are used to offer comprehensive health services.





IMPACT

ASSETS Increased health knowledge - and the confidence to use it

ACCESS Increased uptake of high quality health services

ADHERENCE Adherence to medical treatment, therapy, and healthy behaviors



MODEL

CURRICULUM SKILLZ soccer-based health curriculum

COACHES Caring adults and mentors

CULTURE Vital conversations, safe spaces, inspiration, and fun



Director's Note



2017 was a landmark year for Grassroot Soccer (GRS) as we celebrated 15 years of impacting adolescents lives in Zimbabwe. Since inception we have reached over 150,000 adolescents in and out of school through various SKILLZ interventions. It is our desire to have every adolescent in Zimbabwe go through our exciting programs, and in 2017 we scaled our programs to new provinces: Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South, where our programs were well-received by leadership, the broader community, and adolescents. Over 23,000 young people graduated from our SKILLZ programs in 2017. This achievement was made possible by our Caring Coaches, partners and staff. I salute all of you and would like to express my gratitude for all the support and the work you have done. Thank you so much – you deserve a thank you Kilo!

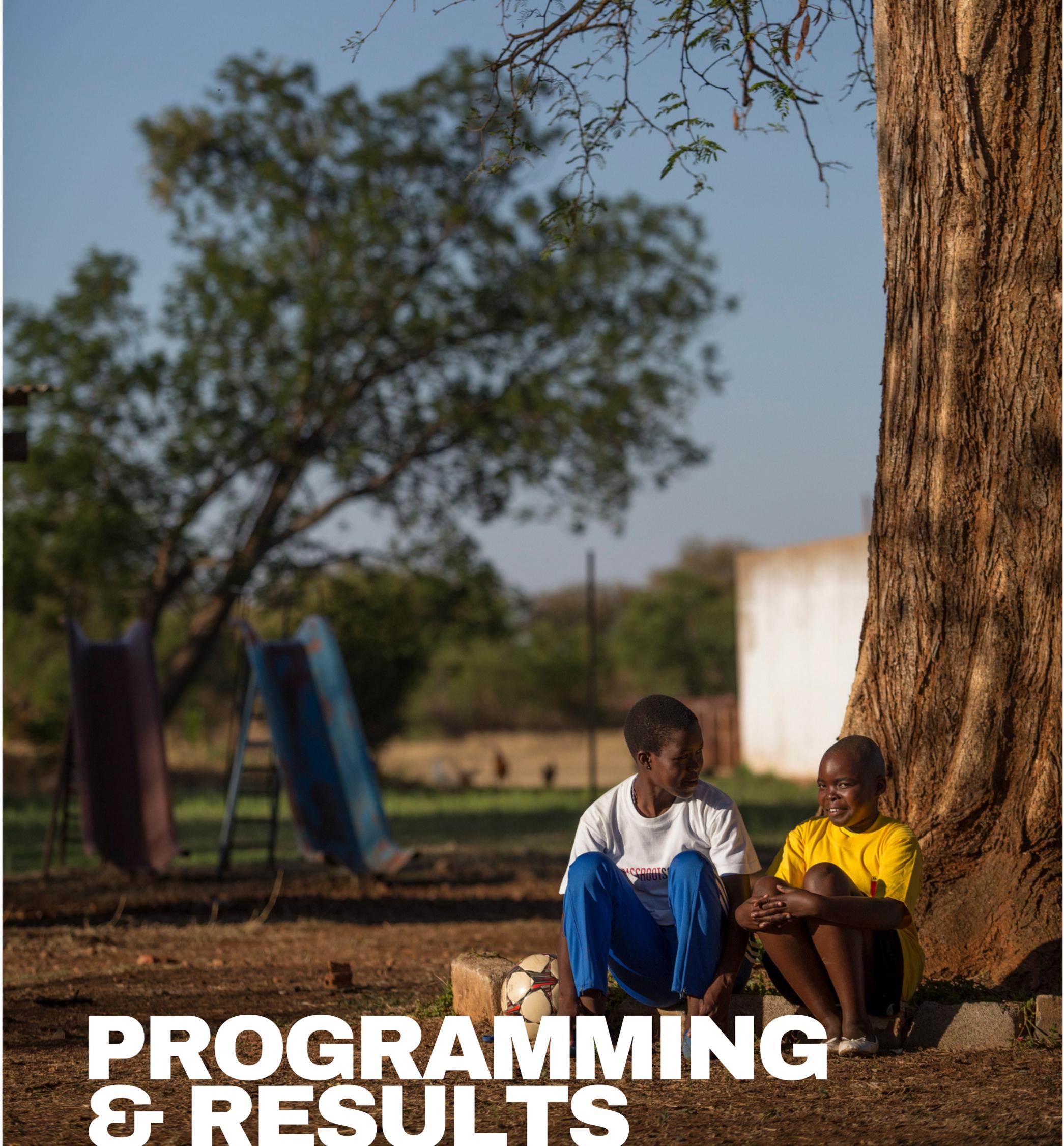
Adolescents are the future, and investing in their health today means a brighter future for the entire world. Investing in the sexual and reproductive health of young people also increases returns on other investments such as health, education, and economic growth. Investing in young people's sexual and reproductive health will enable them to stay healthy so they can grow and transition into adulthood. Healthy, competent adolescents who enter the workforce can raise the economic productivity of a country. With the right programs to protect this generation of young people, GRS can support them as they become driving forces for great prosperity and support Zimbabwe in pursuit of higher levels of economic and social development.

We continue redesigning and improving our programs and curriculum to ensure they are tailored to the needs of adolescents. Our foundation model calls upon The Three C's: Curriculum, Coaches, and Culture. The model provides mentors, called Caring Coaches, as community change agents who deliver age-appropriate and gender-sensitive Curricula that combine soccer metaphors with a Culture that allows young people to open up and discuss matters that affect them. Our impact model, The Three A's, demonstrates our programs' ability to build adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and life skills Assets, facilitate Access to health and social services, and support Adherence to medical treatment and positive protective behaviors. I look forward to 2018 as we continue implementing our programs in new districts and piloting new programs.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to say thank you to our board for your continued support. We appreciate your guidance and wise words.

With gratitude,

Bhekimpilo Moyo
Country Managing Director
Grassroot Soccer Zimbabwe



PROGRAMMING & RESULTS

GRASSROOT SOCCER ZIMBABWE REACHED A TOTAL OF 69 SCHOOLS IN 2017 WITH LIFE-CHANGING SKILLZ INTERVENTIONS, EMPOWERING YOUTH WITH ESSENTIAL HEALTH SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE.

SKILLZ Co-ed

Equips participants with knowledge to help them develop better 'skillz' and make healthy decisions.

Through the program, participants are provided with information that gives the basis to change their attitude, improve communication whilst empowering them with lifesaving education.



SKILLZ Girl

Designed to empower girls with sexual and reproductive health education.

The curriculum empowers adolescent girls to understand the importance of being tested for HIV. This is coupled with information on gender-based violence (GBV), providing a safe space for girls to freely discuss related issues.



SKILLZ Plus Club

The SKILLZ Plus program is an intervention for HIV-positive adolescents, led by coaches who also have a positive HIV status.

Participants are identified through home visits, while some disclose their status to Grassroot Soccer Coaches during SKILLZ Holiday Camps and in-school interventions.

The aim of the club is to tackle the challenges of stigma and discrimination and build healthy attitudes among participants through proven strategies, while developing positive behaviours to assist HIV-positive youth. There is an ongoing need to equip HIV-positive adolescents with healthy life skills to help them access necessary support and adhere to medication.



SKILLZ Holiday Camps

Four SKILLZ Holiday Camps were implemented in the year 2017 under generous grants from the Arsenal Foundation, the Black Heart Foundation and BancABC.

Some SKILLZ Holiday Camps were held outside Bulawayo in Umzingwane District.

Grassroot Soccer provided technical support, while local volunteers helped facilitate the program to their peers.

In 2017...

A total of 69 schools were reached across all SKILLZ-based interventions. Additionally, we reached adolescents at **two health centres** and **12 community outreach events**.

What is the impact of that outreach?

- **5,945 SKILLZ Co-ed graduates** (6,208 reached)
- **12,047 SKILLZ Girl graduates** (12,427 reached)
- **1,025 SKILLZ Holiday Camp graduates** (1,025 reached)
- **161 SKILLZ Plus graduates** (194 reached)



"Grassroot Soccer taught me the importance of listening to my parents. This has helped me understand life through their eyes. The interventions made it easy for me to understand that there is a lot I need to learn in life in order to achieve my goals."

- GRS Participant

COMMUNITY OUTREACH RESULTS

Grassroot Soccer facilitated a total of five Health and Wellness Soccer Tournaments in the year 2017. The Health and Wellness Soccer Tournaments included both SKILLZ Holiday Camp and non-SKILLZ Holiday Camp tournaments. GRS worked with testing partners including Population Services Zimbabwe (PSZ), Matabeleland AIDS Council (MAC), Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC) and Richabites. Community Mobilisation and home visits were facilitated in the various communities where GRS delivers interventions.

Through the provision of HIV testing facilities, family planning, TB screening and referrals for VMMC, drug and substance abuse awareness programmes, our partners played a crucial role during the course of the year.

2017 HIV TESTING REACH

1,646	Community members
1,811	GRS Participants
26	GRS Coaches
5	GRS staff





HIGHLIGHTS AND SUPPORTERS

2017 Showcasing Events

Usher High School Exhibition: Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (Bulawayo)

Education Expo (Harare)

World Play Day (Mberengwa)

Ministry of Youth Tournament (Filabusi)

World AIDS Day Commemoration (Bulawayo)

Thought Leadership & Capacity Building

Visits from Grassroot Soccer Global staff

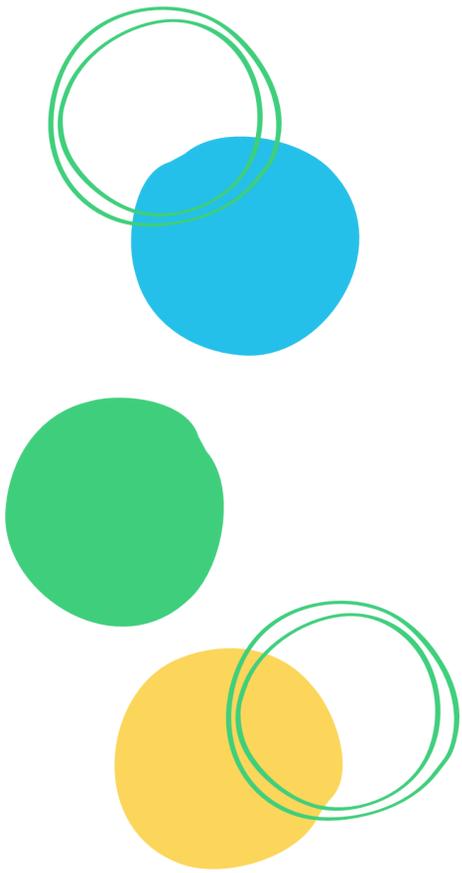
Stakeholders meeting

Participation in inaugural Adolescent Health Partnership Forum (Johannesburg)

Organizational Mapping Tool workshop

Profiled as Best Practise by the National AIDS Council (NAC)

Featured interview appearances on Skyz Metro Radio and in noteworthy digital features by the Chronicle, B-Metro, and the National AIDS Council (NAC)



Grassroot Soccer programming and its significant impact on adolescent health across Zimbabwe would not be possible without the support of our local partners:

Rechabites Trust
Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council
United Bulawayo Hospitals
Population Services International - Zimbabwe
Matabeleland AIDS Council

The work we do is powered and uplifted by generous financial support from the following organisations and foundations. Thank you!



2018 Outlook

Building on the successes of 2017, Grassroot Soccer Zimbabwe continues to strengthen our programs in pursuit of becoming the most sought-after adolescent health organization in Zimbabwe in 2018.

Programming

GRS will be implementing a 3-year Total Health Project that seeks to improve sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes for adolescents in Zimbabwe by building their Assets, promoting Access to high-impact health services, and empowering them toward healthy behaviours while Adhering to treatment and/or medication. Total Health will improve uptake of targeted and high-impact SRH services, including contraception, HIV testing and treatment, multipurpose biomedical prevention, STI screening, and HPV vaccination.

GRS will be scaling out programs to Manicaland and will work in the districts of Makoni, Chipinge and Mutare. In Matabeleland South, GRS will scale programs to Bulilima and Gwanda and in Mat North in the Districts of Lupane and Umguza.

GRS will also implement new programs, including boys-only curriculum and the young adolescents program for 10-14 year olds, using adapted lessons from SKILLZ Boy and SKILLZ Core. The curricula will be designed by the adolescents themselves in conjunction with organisational partners.

GRS will also be piloting SKILLZ Teen Clubs for adolescent girls and boys. Based on learnings from the SKILLZ Plus program, teen clubs are designed to support long-term adherence and repeat uptake of contraceptive services and FP counseling to reduce unmet needs. Through SKILLZ Teen Club programs, adolescent girls and boys will gain knowledge of and trust in the health system that reinforces healthy behaviors into adulthood.

Research

We look forward to sharing the results of the outcomes evaluation that was carried out by NUST in 2017. We intend to share the results across government structures, Technical Working Groups, academia, media houses and NGOs. A formative assessment of rural programming and SKILLZ Plus program by GRS will be carried out during the course of the year.

Operations

As part of our scale strategy, we will be opening up an office in Harare for networking purposes. This is an exciting development for us and we are looking forward to having a presence in the capital city.

We are thrilled to have you on this journey with us and cannot wait to share more advancements in adolescent health across Zimbabwe!



**Contact us: (09)-203324/5 | www.grassrootsoccer.org | Find us on Facebook and Twitter!
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