Faceme: "I was the very first patient to be screened"

"When my husband died in 2001, he left no pension. I own three goats and I'm lucky that a nearby family asked me to work for them as a housekeeper, which helps me pay for [my two children's] school fees and upkeep.

In September 2015, I had malaria and went to Chimombe hospital to get treatment. It was the very same day that the [cervical cancer] screenings started there. When I heard the nurses giving education about it, I decided to have the screening. I was the very first patient in the hospital to be screened.

I was told that I didn't have any lesions but, because I have HIV, I had to come back the following year. I had my second screening in September 2016 and am still negative.

I stay healthy by eating well, sticking to my antiretroviral treatment [for HIV] and not overworking. I want to continue having cervical cancer screenings every year."

Faceme, aged 43, Gutu, Zimbabwe, March 2017



Faceme in her home in Gutu district, Zimbabwe, June 2016 © Mélanie Wenger



Faceme discusses her medical report with MSF nurse mentor Sister Tendai Chigura in Gutu, Zimbabwe, June 2016 © Mélanie Wenger