**Interview with: Community Leader**

**Name of Interviewee: Amon Edmund Musanganise (Chief Gutu)**

**Job title: Gutu Chief**

**Age: 71 years**

MSF did not just come to Gutu, we called MSF to help us, and I spearheaded that process. MSF had initiated an HIV project in the district of Buhera, about 60 km from Gutu in eastern Zimbabwe. Our people had been severely affected by HIV and many were travelling to Buhera for ART treatment. People were dying on their way to seek treatment, from sickness or were washed away as they tried to cross Nyazvidzi River on their way to Buhera. Seeing the dire situation our district was in due to the ravaging HIV, sometime between 2008 and 2009 I, as leader of Gutu District, approached MSF for assistance. I asked for MSF to initiate a similar intervention as the one in Buhera. We spoke to the then HoM, who agreed to start a similar project. In 2011, an HIV Project was initiated, initially in six health facilities in Gutu.

Through the years, the project has remarkably reduced the number of deaths due to HIV and related complications. MSF also constructed many hospital facilities such as toilet blocks, incinerators and a modern pharmacy at Gutu Rural Hospital, which is still operational. MSF bought a very big generator and provided a mobile clinic, which moved from place to place providing health services in our communities.

I was part of a team nominated to visit Mozambique and learn how the country was implementing their DSD programme. We learnt the value of placing HIV clients into groups, where a group leader travels to a health facility on behalf of group members to get medication. We learnt the importance of strong collaboration between communities and health centres, and the importance of trust, all important elements that ensure the success of the groups approach. This way of managing ART saved people time and money, and saved people from making long trips on foot, sometimes walking distances of more than 100 kms to get to the nearest health centre.

MSF has been part of us through and through. I could write a whole book about what MSF has done for us. It has been so essential, it has saved our lives, it has improved our district and we are much better off that what we were before MSF came.

We are saddened with the fact that MSF is leaving, but it is our hope that we do not go back to where we were a decade ago. We would want to have MSF until doomsday!