**Ngonidzashe: "I heard that this test could save lives"**

"I live in Mahachi village with my husband, who's an electrician. We have three children, a small field with tomatoes and a few hens. Both my husband and I are HIV-positive, but thankfully our children aren't.

Despite being HIV positive, I was in good health. When I heard about the test to screen for cervical cancer at Gutu rural hospital, I volunteered, even though I wasn't feeling any pain. I was excited when I heard that this test could save lives.

I listened to all the information before the test and the nurse explained every step during the screening. When they finished they showed me the cervical lesions which they said were more than 75% in my womb.

They said I was supposed to go to Harare, the capital, to get treatment and have LEEP [to cauterise the lesions] because it wasn't possible to have it done in Gutu.

We didn't have the money to go and I was very scared.

In February 2016, I got a call from MSF, who offered to cover all the costs. The MSF car picked me up and took me to Newlands clinic in Harare, where I had the procedure done. I was home by the evening.

They told me I didn't have cancer and I was just so happy. In February this year, I went for a repeat screening and it was negative, meaning I have no lesions anymore. I will now go every year for the screening."

**Ngonidzashe, aged 28, Gutu, Zimbabwe, March 2017**



*Ngonidzashe at home in Gutu, Zimbabwe, June 2016 © Mélanie Wenger*



*Ngonidzashe and her husband at their home in Gutu, Zimbabwe, June 2016 © Mélanie Wenger*