



## SUCCESS STORY

# Kids Have Fun with Data

### **Making data collection fun for kids gives more consistent results**



Photo: Tendai Mupfami, CRS Zimbabwe

Children share stories with staff on station days in Norton, Zimbabwe.

***The children's response to station days has been overwhelmingly positive.***

Collecting data from children is usually a one-way street: they give us information, but they don't gain anything in return. But now Tsungirirai, a local children's organization supported by USAID, has begun conducting "station days" — an effort in

Norton, Zimbabwe that collects accurate data on children's health and psychosocial issues in a way they enjoy.

At the entrance to a station day event, each child receives a ticket. They then pass through various "stations" that vary with the type of information to be collected or given — height and weight measurements, medical check-ups, home life counseling or information on personal hygiene and HIV/AIDS. Once the children have gone around to all the stations and had their tickets stamped, they can move to the final station, where they play a game or receive small items such as school supplies.

Encouraging community members to assist with the activities is an important part of the initiative, to help communities realize the importance of listening to children. The evaluation also identifies special cases and trends among the children so that follow-ups, referrals and program changes can be made.

The children's response to station days has been overwhelmingly positive. Community members who help with the activities become more sensitive to the importance of listening to children, which has helped to identify special cases and trends. The data compiled has been accurate, consistent, reliable and simple to collect.

Most importantly, station days are fun, and the children get to learn important facts about themselves. Recently children were asked to describe what a station day is. Their response? "It is a day when Tsungirirai makes sure we are healthy and happy!"

#### **Telling Our Story**

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