



OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA TO RWANDA

23rd June - 01st July 2017

Summary Report of the Official Visit of
**WHO Regional Director for Africa,
Dr Matshidiso Moeti to Rwanda**

Introduction

WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti undertook her first official visit to Rwanda on Monday 26th to Friday 30th June 2017.

Rwanda has demonstrated that good leadership, governance and commitment can transform into stability, meaningful economic growth, development, peace and hope in Africa. The country has made great strides in the health and social welfare of its people and has become a model for other African countries.

The official visit also included presiding over the first WHO Africa Health Forum which was co-hosted by WHO and the Government of Rwanda on 27th and 28th June 2017.

This report is a summary of the official engagements undertaken by the RD during her official visit to Rwanda.

The objectives of the visit included:

- To extend her solidarity to the Government and people of Rwanda on the commendable achievements made by the country.
- To reaffirm WHO support and commitment to improving the health and welfare of the people of Rwanda.
- To better understand the success factors, challenges, social and public health context of the country in order to better tailor WHO support.
- To explore new areas of collaboration and partnership with the Government, Academia, Private sector and Development Partners in order to fast track the SDG domestication efforts.
- To explore opportunities for showcasing Rwanda's achievements to other African countries on how to tackle the key contextual realities and opportunities for Africa in delivering Universal Health Coverage to its citizens.
- To advocate for the Development Partners to sustain and increase funding to Rwanda and WHO.

Friday 23rd
June 2017

Arrival

Dr Matshidiso Moeti arrived on the evening of Friday 23rd June 2017. She was received by the Hon. Minister of Health Dr. Diane Gashumba, accompanied by Dr. Olushayo Olu, WR Rwanda and Mr. Lamine Manneh, UN Resident Coordinator. The Hon. Minister and the WR updated RD on the preparations of the WHO Africa Health.

Monday 26th
June 2017

Visit to Rwanda Genocide Memorial Site



Dr. Moeti being welcomed to the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center.

On Monday 26th June 2017 at 11.00 am, Dr. Moeti visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre which is a resting place for more than 250,000 bodies of victims of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Inaugurated in April 2004, it is the largest memorial site based on the number of victims buried there. The bodies were brought at the site from various places around Kigali City.

Dr. Moeti was accompanied by the Hon. Minister of Health, Dr. Diane Gashumba, the Director General of Rwanda Biomedical Center, Prof. Jeanine Condo, Dr. Olu WR/Rwanda, Dr. Delanyo Dovlo HSS/AFRO, other WHO members and senior staff from the Ministry of Health .

The visit around the Memorial Centre consisted of a guided tour and a projection of short video clips.



Dr. Moeti expressing solidarity with the people of Rwanda.

The RD was shown the final resting place of the victims where she laid a wreath and a moment of silence was observed.

She was also guided through the Museum that illustrated the historical background and governance of the country Pre-and Post-independence, the events surrounding the genocide and the country's recovery since.

The RD left a personal message in the visitor's book and made a contribution to maintaining the Museum.

After the visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre, the RD attended lunch that was hosted by the Hon. Minister and State Minister for Health.

Rwanda Genocide Memorial Site



Dr. Moeti laying a wreath and observing a moment of silence.



Dr. Moeti being guided through the Genocide Memorial Center.

Tuesday 27th -
Wednesday 28th
June 2017

First Africa Health Forum



Open discussions with delegates from different countries who attended the Africa Health Forum.

From 27th to 28th of June, WHO and the Government of Rwanda co-hosted the first WHO Africa Health Forum at the Kigali Convention Centre in Kigali, Rwanda.

The theme of the Forum was: *“Putting People First: The Road to Universal Health Coverage”*.

The aim of the Forum was to provide a platform to discuss innovative strategies for persistent public health challenges in the African Region, promote country ownership and governance for health as well as exploring partnerships for reforming the work of WHO in the African Region.

The WHO Africa Health Forum brought together people from a wide spectrum of stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities for effective health service delivery and policy priorities in the Region.

Furthermore, in line with its reform agenda, WHO Regional Office for Africa is engaged in strategic partnerships with stakeholders particularly the youth, to strengthen their role in the future of health service delivery in Africa.

“We are putting people first and ensuring that no one is left behind”.

Africa Health Forum

The Forum was opened by His Excellency Anastase Murekezi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda.

In his remarks, he mentioned:

“Being healthy is the basis for all socio-economic development, and without it nothing will work. For this reason, African Countries must work together in sharing experiences which will translate the AU 2063 vision of health and wellbeing into reality. I call upon our African Countries to set up strategies to help them implement the resolutions from this Forum”.

He urged the vibrant private sector in Africa to invest more in the health sector and appealed to other stakeholders to support Africa’s efforts ensuring that it is aligned with AFRO priorities.

With an increasing youth population, the urgent need for concrete actions to address the health of youth and adolescents was central to the discussions at the two-day forum.

At the opening ceremony, the Minister of Health, Dr Diane Gashumba and WHO Regional Director, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, delivered their speeches and urged members states and partners to commit to working together to attain the highest possible level of health for Africa’s people by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Universal Health Coverage for all.



The First Lady, Mrs Jeannette Kagame was the Guest of Honour at the special event on adolescent health.



Youth attending the Africa Health Forum.

The 1st WHO Africa Health Forum concluded with a resounding call to action that all stakeholders in Africa must work together to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as the overarching approach to attain SDG3. Experts from a wide range of backgrounds including: Ministers of Health, Intergovernmental Agencies, Academics, Civil Society, Philanthropic Foundations, Private Sector and Youth Organizations attended the two-day landmark event. *“We recognize that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an opportunity to reposition primary prevention in health service delivery and also provides an ideal platform for catalysing inter-sectoral engagement and action. It also calls for stronger collaboration and engagement among all stakeholders behind the goal of*

achieving UHC, while leaving no one behind,” stated Dr Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa in her opening remarks.

The Forum was divided into six main sessions:

1. Health Financing
2. Global health security
3. Health research and innovation
4. Private sector contribution to Universal Health Coverage
5. Old Enemies (HIV, TB, Malaria) and New Threats (NCDs, Urbanization, Climate change)
6. Putting people first

A special event on adolescent health and side events on e-health, youth and universal health coverage were also organized.

Thursday 29th
June 2017

Meeting with UN Resident Coordinator and UNCT



Dr. Moeti courtesy call to the UN Resident Coordinator.

As part of her official visit to Rwanda, the WHO Regional Director, Dr Matshidiso Moeti paid a courtesy call on the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Lamin Manneh, followed by a meeting with the UN Country Team. She was accompanied by the WHO Representative in Rwanda, Dr Olu Olushayo and the Director for Health Systems in AFRO, Dr Dovlo Delanyo.

During the meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator, they discussed issues related to the UN in Rwanda.

The meeting with UNCT was attended by representatives of different UN agencies in Rwanda, such as: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, WFP, UN WOMEN, UNHCR, FAO, ILO, UNESCO, IFAD, the RC office team members and WCO technical staff.



Dr. Moeti with UN The Resident Coordinator, Mr. Lamin Manneh.

In his introductory remarks the RC congratulated the RD on the successful Africa Health Forum, then made a presentation on the UN Delivering as One (DAO) experience in Rwanda, its challenges and perspectives in line with the country's efforts to domesticate the SDGs. The RC added that the UN did a great job in mobilizing resources and great leadership was demonstrated in dealing with challenges observed in some areas.

The RD commended on the successes of the DAO in Rwanda and great achievements in respect of Paris principles, particularly in health systems strengthening, UHC and in fighting malnutrition.

She also expressed the need for close collaboration for innovative solutions to deal with challenges, for instance the community based health insurance financial sustainability.

The RD highlighted the current and emerging health threats such as the NCDs, existing inefficiencies in the health systems and encouraged efforts for more integration, more investments and stronger partnership among key stakeholders. She commended Rwanda's strong leadership and the country's efforts towards greater expansion of basic health care and effective accountability systems.



A group photograph with the UN Country team in Rwanda.

Conclusion and Way forward

Participants at the meeting agreed on the importance of collaborating in a holistic manner to take forward health development with focus on UHC, innovative investment in health, effective and efficient use of resources and strategic approaches in dealing with emerging issues on the continent, such as the NCDs. The UNCT requested the RD to discuss the issue of the One UN building project in her meeting with H.E the President of Rwanda.

Thursday 29th
June 2017

Courtesy call on H.E President of Rwanda



Dr. Moeti pays a courtesy call to H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

In her remarks, the RD thanked H.E Paul Kagame for successfully hosting the first WHO Africa Health Forum. She called upon him to advocate to his fellow Heads of State to provide political support which is required for the implementation of the outcome of the meeting: [The Kigali Call to Action](#).

She also thanked him for his continuous support to the One UN in general and WHO in particular. Furthermore, the RD congratulated him on the great strides which Rwanda has made in its socio-economic development and specifically highlighted the commendable efforts of the country in the attainment of the health related MDGs.

H.E President of Rwanda

She emphasized on the need for concerted action towards attainment of the SDGs. The RD also highlighted a few key areas where WHO could further support the country such as: The elaboration of the EDPRS III, Vision 2050 and establishment of an essential medicine regulatory authority.

Finally she called on him to assist the UNCT in the actualization of the One UN building project through tax and duty exemptions.

In his remarks, H.E. Paul Kagame thanked the RD for bringing the first Africa Health Forum to Rwanda. Concerning the One UN building project, H.E. Paul Kagame added that

the Government of Rwanda has already provided the land for the building and is willing to provide further support including tax exemptions. He however, emphasized the importance of using local contents as much as possible to reduce the cost of the project and also promote made in Rwanda products.

H.E. Paul Kagame expressed his delight with the SDG which he said has reduced the disparities between developed and developing countries. He emphasized the need for all stakeholders to play their role in the domestication of the SDGs hence the need for more private sector engagement and involvement.



A group Photograph with H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.



Meeting between Dr. Moeti and H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

Furthermore, H.E Paul Kagame stressed that climate change is another issue which has levelled the playing ground between rich and poor countries. He further called for a change in the mindset of Africans and the need for Africa to negotiate aid on its own terms.

This, he said, sometimes calls for “stubbornness” in order for African countries to be able to stick to their national vision and development goals.

H.E. Paul Kagame further stressed the need for ownership of national

development programmes by beneficiaries using the example of the Rwandan community-based health insurance scheme where people who are considered to be very poor pay premiums which are then subsidized by Government.

The RD presented H.E. Paul Kagame with a small token as a sign of her appreciation for his support to the organization.

Conclusion and Way Forward

UNCT to follow-up with the Government of Rwanda on the One UN building project where H.E. Paul Kagame expressed willingness to exempt some taxes while emphasizing the use of local contents as much as possible to reduce the cost of the project and also promote made in Rwanda products.

Thursday 29th
June 2017

Meeting WHO Rwanda Staff



A group photograph with WHO Rwanda Staff.

The RD accompanied by the Director of HSS cluster/AFRO; Dr Delanyo Dovlo, met with WHO Rwanda Staff on Thursday, 29th June 2017 at WCO Rwanda. The WCO team welcomed the RD and pledged their commitment to the AFRO transformation agenda and the work of WHO in general. Two concerns were brought to the attention of the RD.

The first was related to the ongoing functional review and what the management team is doing for staff

readiness to changes that will result from the review.

The second was about WHO staff health insurance. The team proposed to bring the staff health insurance closer to the staff members so that access to outpatient services becomes easier through insurance cards.

This would only be made possible by either partnering with local insurers or through other models that can be explored if the principle is adopted.

WHO Rwanda Staff

In her remarks, the RD commended WHO Rwanda for taking on interns within the office and supporting development of young health leaders. RD also commended the work of the WCO team and the teamwork demonstrated during the organization of the 1st WHO Africa Health Forum held in Kigali.

She promised that the ongoing functional review will be dynamic and it will consider needs of each country office. The Regional Director requested staff to keep their momentum and engage in working with the WCO management to define needs and priorities. On the second concern of

staff, the Regional Director revealed that the issue of staff health insurance was a global concern.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- The functional review process will be transparent and staff members will be informed of every step of the process.
- RD to communicate to the UN Staff Health Insurance management committee about the issues raised by the staff members.



WHO Rwanda staff presents a gift to Dr. Moeti.

Thursday 29th
June 2017

Meeting with Health Development Partners



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Dr Matshidiso Moeti met with the Health Development Partners (HDPs) in Rwanda at the WHO Rwanda Office. She was accompanied by Dr. Delanyo Dovlo HSS/AFRO and Dr. Olu WR/Rwanda. The HDPs were led by the Chair of HDPs and Co-Chair to the Health Sector Working Group, Ms Lisa Godwin, Director of the Health Office, USAID/Rwanda.

Also in attendance were representatives from UNICEF, UNFPA, BTC, MSH, JICA, KOICA and senior WHO Rwanda Staff. The HDP is a diverse group of partners that provide both budget and programme support and actively participates in the Health Sector Working Group as well as joint field visits.

In her opening remarks, the RD noted that Rwanda has made spectacular progress with clear leadership, a focus on results and various strategies towards the attainment of UHC including pooling of funds and increasing access to a basic package. She highlighted a few issues related to sustainability of mutuelle, quality of care, referral system, human resources for health and the problem of stunting.

The RD added that there are already some strategies in place to address these challenges but more needs to be done.

The partners highlighted some priority focus areas including maternal and child health, family planning and

nutrition.

They also added that many of the indicators have reached a plateau and more effort is required not only to sustain the gains but to go beyond and achieve more. External financing will decrease in the future and domestic financing is not increasing to fill the gap. More needs to be done to mobilize domestic resources especially from the private sector.

Future financing for family planning commodities is uncertain. There is an ongoing dialogue at country level to nurture new partnerships and more discussions will be held at the FP 2020 summit.

WHO will continue to advocate for increasing domestic resources and has convened the H6+ to discuss possibility of accessing the Global Financing Facility. The need to support the country to have disaggregated data was highlighted in order to better understand those who are excluded from accessing health services. This is in line with the SDG principle of leaving no one behind.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- WHO is available to provide technical support to the HDP and the Government of Rwanda. WHO will continue to advocate for increasing domestic resources for health through convening partners. High on the agenda is financing for family planning commodities.

Friday 30th
June 2017

Visit to Rwanda Military Hospital



Meeting the Commandant & Staff of Rwanda Military Hospital.

Commandant of Rwanda Military Hospital (RMH) welcomed the RD accompanied by the senior doctors of the hospital. In his remarks, he thanked the RD for having accepted to visit RMH. Two brief presentations were given on the health service activities that are provided in the hospital.

These include future research perspectives and outreach program

during the yearly army week activities. He expressed the need for collaboration with WHO and outlined four areas of support:

1. A five year research strategic plan to establish a research center of excellence
2. To document the impact of the army week programme
3. To support the second symposium on malaria
4. Capacity building on research

Rwanda Military Hospital

In her remarks, the RD commended the good work being performed by the RMH in the UN peacekeeping missions, army week health outreach activities and the health care services provided to the army and to the general population.

She agreed to support the Rwanda Military Hospital in documenting best practices especially the impact of outreach health services provided during the yearly Army Week where the military provides medical and surgical services free of charge to the general population.

She suggested that the RMH and WHO AFRO teams should explore possibilities of cooperation on proposed research agenda.

She also revealed the availability of funding for identified joint proposals and stressed out that the funds should be used by the end of December 2017.

She was escorted around the hospital and was shown the newly acquired laboratory which is expected to increase the quality of health care services at the hospital.

Conclusion and Way Forward

WHO to explore the means to support Rwanda Military Hospital in the following areas:

- Documenting best practices especially the activities of the Army Week.
- Support to build capacity in health research.



Dr. Moeti being conducted around Rwanda Military Hospital.

Friday 30th
June 2017

Public Health Lecture



Dr. Moeti being welcomed to the University of Rwanda by Mr. Charles Murigande in charge of University cooperation and Dr. Jeanne Kagwiza, Acting Principal of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The RD visited the School of Public Health of the University of Rwanda where she presented a public health lecture.

She was welcomed by the Head of Cooperation at University of Rwanda and the Acting Principal in charge of Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

In her remarks, the principal thanked the WHO RD for the visit. The Director of School of Public Health made a presentation which focused on the

background, achievements and way forward of the school. Furthermore, she expressed the willingness to partner with WHO.

In her remarks, the RD commended the University of Rwanda for the remarkable work including efforts towards the attainment of all the health-related MDGs.

The RD delivered a lecture on: *“Evidence, data and intellectual bases for achieving SDGs”*.

Public Health Lecture

Over 250 participants attended the lecture which revolved around four aspects: Overview of the SDG 2030 Agenda, Implications of SDGs on health, roles of WHO and countries in schools of public health and thoughts on areas of joint collaboration.

After her lecture, she responded to questions from participants related to health and climate change, strengthening collaboration and research with WHO.

A Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. Charles Murigande, of the University of Rwanda.

Conclusion and Way Forward

WHO will support the School of Public Health in the application to become a WHO Centre of Excellence in Health Systems Strengthening according to the set guidelines.



A group photograph with University of Rwanda faculty members.

Meeting with Rwanda Medical Association



Meeting with Rwanda Medical Association Staff.

The WHO Country Representative, Dr Olushayo Olu introduced the Rwanda Medical Association (RMA) executive board led by Dr Kayitesi Kayitankole, President of the RMA. She was accompanied by the Vice President, the treasurer and the secretary of the association. The RD explained the purpose of her mission to the country which is aiming at:

“improving Universal Health Coverage in Africa”.

She expressed that it was very useful to have a discussion with RMA, to understand what the association does in order to find out about areas of cooperation.

The president of the association explained the background of the association which was established in 1997 by few doctors. The association has now more than a thousand members.

Its main role is to promote both professional excellence and welfare of

Rwanda Medical Association

medical doctors, capacity building, partnership development with the MOH and other national associations together with foreign associations mostly in Eastern Africa.

The RMA explained to the RD the innovation called '*Umuganda-Umuganga*' which is one of the homegrown solutions in bringing together all Rwandans to work for a common interest at end of each month.

This approach serves to deliver comprehensive health services across the country by all doctors.

The RMA expressed the need for support in the procurement of equipment used for screening.

Another innovative approach that was shared was the Evening Family Meetings at Cell level (*Umugoroba*

w'ababyeyi) where health issues such as nutrition, family planning, and gender based violence are discussed. The RD commended the good initiative to address key health challenges such as malnutrition, GBV, maternal mortality among Rwandan population.

She further emphasized that adolescent health was one of the key discussion during the special session at the AHF where it was observed that parents particularly struggle in engaging on this particular issue.

It was highlighted that there was a need for this topic to be included in such good initiatives including non-communicable diseases.

The RD congratulated the team and encouraged them to build partnership with other associations in the region and



A group photograph with Rwanda Medical Association Staff.

beyond.

The role of the private sector was also raised and the issue of research agenda was discussed.

The RD stressed that in order to reach UHC, there was a need for more research. She expressed that few countries are holding annual research prioritization meetings and explained that what is important is to link research with the development of strategic plans.

The issue related to research proposal review fees for the National Research Ethic Committee was highlighted as a

limitation to conduct research in the country.

However the RMA emphasized that the proposed fee was established to ensure the smooth running of the committee.

The RD advised on the importance of leveraging the system for better service delivery.

The RMA ended by requesting WHO support to implement effectively their planned initiative *Umuganda-Umuganga* and informed WHO team of the forthcoming RMA conference in September 2017 to which WHO would be invited.

Conclusion and Way Forward

Rwanda Medical Association was advised to submit a detailed proposal to WHO for review and guidance on the identified areas of collaboration.

Friday 30th
June 2017

Cocktail/Reception Hosted by WHO



Dr. Moeti with development partners at the cocktail.

At the end of her visit, the RD hosted a cocktail for the diplomatic community, Ministry of Health officials and partners. The event was attended by Ambassadors, Heads of UN Agencies, Development Partners, Academia, Implementing Partners and senior Officials.

In her remarks at the reception, she expressed her appreciation for all the events of the week including the WHO Africa Health Forum that was successfully concluded and in particular, she extended her thanks to the Minister for Health and her team.

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Attendees dancing at the cocktail event.



**World Health
Organization**

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