



**World Health
Organization**
Botswana

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Foreword



Dear Partners, Colleagues, and Friends of Public Health in Botswana,

I am pleased to present the Quarterly Newsletter for July–September 2025, a period that truly tested our resilience but also showcased the unwavering support and commitment of Botswana’s health sector.

Our collective response this quarter was immediately framed by the National Health Emergency declared to address the critical shortages of medicines and health commodities. This event galvanized all partners, requiring us to rally a regional and global support and implement immediate, coordinated strategies to ensure patient care continuity. Our unified action reinforced the principle that health service delivery demands a whole-of-society approach.

Amidst this challenge, our strategic development continued with significant strides. We boosted our national capacity to tackle emerging threats, highlighted by the integration of new Field Epidemiologists to boost Botswana’s capacity for disease detection and response, and the crucial Border Capacity Assessment to intensify health security. Furthermore, the momentous step for the One Health initiative signaled a new era of cross-sectoral collaboration to address zoonotic and environmental health risks.

This quarter also saw major investments in our health systems’ performance and equity:

- Botswana hosted the 8th International African Palliative Care Conference and the 5th African Ministers of Health Session on Palliative Care. This landmark event underscored the essential role of comprehensive chronic and palliative care in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- We strengthened the backbone of safe patient care with WHO delivering a key assessment report on Blood Transfusion Services and subsequent collaborative efforts to strengthen blood safety.
- The Family Medicine and Primary Health Care Conference 2025 provided a critical platform for discussing sustainable foundational care.
- We celebrated advancements in regulatory excellence as BoMRA took a major step towards WHO Maturity Level 3 through assisted self-benchmarking.
- Finally, we reaffirmed our commitment to equity, with WHO calling for Disability-Inclusive Health Systems, and drove key elimination goals, notably the accelerated efforts to Eliminate Malaria and NTDs, supported by frontline worker training on Mass Drug Administration.

The achievements of this quarter, from emergency response to hosting a continental Palliative Care forum and investing in digital innovation (HELINA 2025 and the Technology Summit and Expo), reflect a collective dedication to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and a commitment to Botswana’s vision for a resilient, digitally empowered health future.

Dr. Fabian Ndenzako
WHO Country Representative

INSIDE THIS BULLETIN

Foreword.....	[2]
WHO and the Ministry of Health train Health Workers on Mass Drug Administration.....	[4]
First Health National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) to Combat Climate Risks.....	[4]
Strengthening Blood Safety in Botswana.....	[5]
WHO Delivers Key Assessment Report on Blood Transfusion Services.....	[5]
New Field Epidemiologists Boost Botswana's Capacity for Disease Detection and Response.....	[6]
Global Adolescent Health Indicators Review Workshop	[6]
BoMRA Takes Major Step Towards WHO Maturity Level 3 with Assisted Self-Benchmarking.....	[7]
HELINA 2025 Scientific Conference held in Botswana.....	[7]
Botswana Rallies Global Support to Address Medicine Shortage.....	[8]
Health Partners Unite to Tackle Non-Communicable Diseases in Botswana.....	[9]
Family Medicine and Primary Health Care Conference 2025.....	[9]
Botswana Intensifies Health Security with Crucial Border Capacity Assessment.....	[10]
Momentous step for One Health initiative in Botswana.....	[10]
Botswana Bets on the Digital Future: Health Transformation at the Core of Economic Diversification.....	[11]
Botswana Accelerates Efforts to Eliminate Malaria and NTDs.....	[11]
ELPIDA Foundation Visits WHO Botswana to Bolster Child Health Partnership.....	[12]
Botswana Strengthens TB Response with Updated Management Guidelines.....	[12]
8th International African Palliative Care and Allied Services Conference	[13]
Rebuilding Primary Health Care: Stakeholders Discuss Innovative Pathways for Community Health & Policy Reform...	[13]
WHO Convenes Health Partners to Strengthen Sector Coordination.....	[14]
Universal Health Coverage Partnership briefing.....	[14]
Unity in Action: Botswana UN Team Competes at the United Nations Africa Games.....	[15]
Partners Appreciation.....	[16]

WHO and Ministry of Health Train Health Workers on Mass Drug Administration

WHO in partnership with the Ministry of Health, conducted a weeklong Training of Trainers Workshop on Mass Drug Administration (MDA) for Schistosomiasis and Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH) in the first week of July in Palapye. The workshop builds on the capacity of health workers on key areas including:

- The epidemiology and clinical aspects of the diseases;
- Effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of MDA;
- Adverse events related to MDA interventions and the mitigation.
- Community engagement for education and outreach;
- Data collection and reporting for monitoring impact; and
- Strategies to overcome barriers and ensure sustainable MDA programmes.

Participants took part in a simulation exercise practising community mobilization, drug administration, and proper documentation. The exercise prepares them to roll out similar training and MDA activities in their respective communities. This effort reinforces Botswana's commitment to eliminating schistosomiasis and STH as public health concerns.



First Health National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) to Combat Climate Risks

Botswana faces growing health risks associated with climate change, which necessitate urgent and systematic action. The country's semi-arid environment, coupled with increased temperatures, decreased and variable rainfall, and more frequent extreme weather events like droughts, heatwaves, and floods, compounds its vulnerability. These climate shifts impact health through multiple pathways.

- **Extreme Weather Events:** Direct injuries, heat-related illnesses (like heatstroke), and mental health conditions resulting from droughts and floods.
- **Air Pollution:** Increased prevalence of respiratory diseases due to environmental factors, including dust storms exacerbated by drought.
- **Food Insecurity and Malnutrition:** Climate impacts on agriculture and water scarcity leading to reduced crop yields and animal health, threatening national food security and nutritional outcomes.

Spread of Climate-Sensitive Diseases: Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns alter the geographical range and transmission seasons of vector- and waterborne diseases.

Historically, the health sector has been underrepresented in the country's **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**, which has limited its ability to systematically address these challenges. Without a dedicated health adaptation plan, the health system remains vulnerable to climate shocks and lacks targeted resilience-building measures.

To bridge this gap, a **Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A)** assessment was conducted using a WHO tool, laying the groundwork for the H-NAP. The Ministry of Health with support from WHO and partners organized a workshop to develop Botswana's first Health National Adaptation Plan. The development of both the V&A assessment and the H-NAP is funded by the **Wellcome Trust**.



Strengthening Blood Safety in Botswana: National Stakeholder Meeting Highlights Collaborative Efforts and WHO Support



Participants at the national stakeholder meeting on blood safety

MoH in collaboration with WHO hosted a national stakeholder meeting at the **National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS)** in Gaborone. The meeting was part of a week-long WHO technical support mission aimed at strengthening Botswana's national blood transfusion system and achieving self-sufficiency in the provision of safe and quality-assured blood products.

Presentations by NBTS and the **National Health Laboratory** provided an overview of the current state of blood transfusion services in the country. These presentations highlighted both notable achievements and persistent challenges, including issues related to infrastructure, blood collection and supply, quality assurance, and human resource capacity. The WHO team conducted a situational analysis and shared preliminary findings. Their observations were structured around five thematic areas: system coordination and sustainable resourcing; regulatory frameworks and standards; operational efficiency of blood services; patient blood management; and data systems for haemovigilance and pharmacovigilance.

The meeting concluded with a unified call for strengthened collaboration, increased policy support, and sustainable resource mobilization to enhance blood safety and ensure consistent availability of blood products across the country.

WHO Delivers Key Assessment Report on Blood Transfusion Services



The NBTS assessment presented to the Senior Leadership of the Ministry of Health - PS Professor Nkomazana and HE Dr Stephen Modise (centre)

WHO Botswana has presented a crucial report to the Minister of Health, Dr. Stephen Modise, following the assessment of the country's **National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS)**. The mission's primary goal was to identify strategic gaps and recommend actions to enhance the safety, coordination, and long-term sustainability of blood services across Botswana.

WHO commended Botswana for two major strengths: its strong reliance on voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations (reaching 96% in 2023) and effective partnerships with organizations like **Pledge 25** and the **Botswana Red Cross Society**.

The assessment identified several critical challenges that impact the resilience of the NBTS:

- A National Blood Policy drafted in 2018 remains pending.
- Fragmented coordination and unclear reporting structures.
- Inadequate infrastructure and outdated equipment across the system.
- Lack of a national haemovigilance system and hospital transfusion committees.

[Read More](#)

New Field Epidemiologists Boost Botswana's Capacity for Disease Detection and Response



On August 15, WHO joined the **Botswana Public Health Institute (BPHI)** and partners in celebrating the graduation of 15 health workers from the fourth cohort of the **Frontline Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)**. This milestone marks a significant contribution to Botswana's priority of developing a skilled health workforce for health emergencies.

Epidemiologists play a vital role in strengthening the country's core capacities under the **International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)**, particularly in early warning surveillance. Their expertise enhances Botswana's ability to detect, prevent, and respond promptly to public health threats, thereby reinforcing national health security.

In his keynote address, the **Assistant Minister of Health, Hon. Lawrence Ookeditse**, congratulated the graduates for their hard work and dedication, describing them as the "unsung soldiers" who stand between communities and the threat of disease outbreaks. He underscored the critical role of epidemiology in health security, stressing that prevention is more effective and less costly than treatment. He further reaffirmed the Ministry of Health's commitment to building a resilient health system through investment in skilled professionals, robust data systems, and evidence-based decision-making.

WHO remains committed to supporting Botswana in strengthening national capacity for health security and building resilient health systems.

Global Adolescent Health Indicators Review Workshop

In a collaborative effort to strengthen the integration of health and wellbeing into education systems, **UNESCO** partnered with the Ministry of Basic Education and the Ministry of Health to convene a workshop between 9th and 11th September to review the **Global Core Indicators** embedded within the **Education Management Information System**. The workshop provided a platform for stakeholders to assess the continued relevance of these indicators in light of evolving educational and health priorities. It also explored the potential inclusion of new, critical indicators that reflect current challenges and commitments—particularly in the areas of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), mental health, and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE).

WHO played a key technical and strategic role in the workshop, supporting the integration of adolescent health and wellbeing into the education systems. WHO provided guidance on aligning the Global Core Indicators with the **Global Action for Measurement of Adolescent Health (GAMA)** initiative to monitor adolescent health globally particularly in the areas of **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**, HIV prevention, mental health, and school health services.



BoMRA Takes Major Step Towards WHO Maturity Level 3 with Assisted Self-Benchmarking

From 11–15 August 2025, the **Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority** (BoMRA), with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), conducted a five-day assisted self-benchmarking exercise using the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT). The assessment reviewed all regulatory functions to guide BoMRA's progress toward WHO Maturity Level 3 (ML3), a key milestone for ensuring the safety, quality, and effectiveness of medicines in Botswana.



The exercise followed a WHO pre-visit in July 2024 and resulted in an Institutional Development Plan (IDP) to address identified gaps. Licensing Establishment (LI) was scored at ML3, while other functions remained at ML1 pending the enactment of the Medicine and Related Substances Bill, 2025.

Strengths included BoMRA's technical competence, regulatory oversight, and the development of the **Botswana Integrated Information Management System** (BRIMS). The Strategic Plan is already drafted, and political will to pass the Bill was noted.

To fast-track ML3, BoMRA must enact the Bill, address registration backlogs, implement BRIMS, and update its Quality Management System. CEO Dr. Seima Dijeng praised the team's dedication and emphasized the importance of closing gaps. The assessment marks strong progress for BoMRA, established only in 2018, toward aligning with global health standards.

[Read More on our website](#)

HELINA 2025 Scientific Conference held in Botswana

The HEealth INformatics in Africa (HELINA) 2025 Scientific Conference successfully took place on 28–29 August 2025 at the Royal Aria Convention Centre, Gaborone. Delegates from across Africa and beyond gathered for two days of knowledge exchange, networking, and discussions shaping the future of digital health and health informatics in Africa. In alignment with the conference theme - “**Building Sustainable and Resilient Client-Centred Health Informatics Systems for Health Equity in Africa**”, sustainability of health informatic systems requires enduring infrastructure, governance frameworks, financing strategies, and human capacity. HELINA 2025 as a catalyst for transforming emergent solutions into enduring, patient-centred systems—resilient, equitable, and prepared for the challenges of tomorrow. WHO stands ready to advance this vision together.” said Dr Fabian Ndenzako, WHO Country Representative participating at the conference.



Great attendance at the HELINA Scientific Conference, 28-29 August



WR Dr Fabian Ndenzako and Mr Lawrence Ookeditse, Assistant Minister of Health (centre) among the participants

National Emergency Declared: Botswana Rallies Global Support to Address Medicine Shortage

Botswana responds to a critical national crisis after His Excellency President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko declared a three-week **public health emergency** on 25th August 2025, due to a severe nationwide shortage of essential medicines and medical equipment. The declaration, triggered by reports of a "severely strained" health system, has galvanized an urgent, coordinated national and international response. The government acted swiftly, establishing robust command structures:

- A **National Task Force** was appointed on August 22, 2025, composed of experts focused on immediately addressing supply chain blockages and distribution issues.
- A high-level **National Steering Committee** was empowered to make all decisions pertaining to the state of emergency.
- An **Emergency Fund** of P250 million (approx. \$18 million USD) was made available to support the response.

The Task Force immediately analyzed the crisis, categorizing commodity needs into a tiered response strategy: Tier 1 (life-saving supplies), Tier 2 (chronic care), and Tier 3 (ideal state), to prioritize immediate resource allocation.



Recognizing the emergency, the United Nations in Botswana, led by UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Wenyan Yang and WHO Country Representative Dr. Fabian Ndenzako, hosted a crucial Development Partners Briefing on September 10, 2025. The meeting drew 50 representatives from government, UN agencies, diplomatic missions, and development partners, all committed to collective action. Ms. Yang emphasized the UN's commitment to "leverage our convening power for 'urgent action' to protect the health and future of everyone in Botswana." Dr. Ndenzako voiced concerns over the situation potential impact on achieving **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Professor Nkomazana, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health, reflected on the deep-seated issues driving the crisis, including infrastructure decay, lack of real-time data, and delayed supplier payments.

Beyond the emergency, the government and partners stressed the need for medium- and long-term reforms to ensure a resilient and equitable health system, including:

- **Legislative Reform:** Prioritizing the review of outdated guidelines and policies, including the Essential Medicines List and Treatment Guidelines.
- **Systemic Investment:** Recruiting critical staff (especially pharmacy and IT personnel) and investing in systems to ensure end-to-end supply chain visibility.
- **Health System Strengthening:** Commitment to Primary Healthcare transformation, establishing a National Health Insurance, and refurbishing existing hospital infrastructure.

Responding to the call for support from Botswana, the WHO Regional Office mobilized essential medicines worth \$93,525 from its warehouse. These will be delivered in two consignments during October and November. Constantly engaged with the national response structures in place, WHO Botswana team and UN Resident Coordinator's office continue to facilitate coordination and information sharing to ensure harmonized and efficient support across all partners.

"Universal health coverage means that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. Access to essential medicines and vaccines is central to this promise."

Health Partners Unite to Tackle Non-Communicable Diseases in Botswana



Toward strengthening Botswana's response to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), a diverse group of health professionals and institutional representatives convened at the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Gaborone. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from the Ministry of Health (MoH), academia, research institutions, and international partners to establish a multi-disciplinary, trans-organizational working group focused on reducing the burden of NCDs in the country.

The meeting was opened by WHO Country Representative Dr. Fabian Ndenzako, who emphasized the urgency of addressing the rising burden of NCDs in Botswana. He highlighted WHO's convening role and called for coordinated efforts among partners to strengthen the national response. [Read More](#)

Family Medicine and Primary Health Care Conference 2025



Botswana's health sector convened at the **Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (SKMTH)** for the Family Medicine and Primary Health Care Conference 2025, hosted by the University of Botswana and the Botswana Association of Family Physicians. The theme was **"Money matters in primary care."**

WHO Botswana Country Representative, **Dr. Fabian Ndenzako**, emphasized that financing Primary Health Care (PHC) is a strategic investment, a moral imperative, and requires a whole-of-government approach.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, **Prof. Nkomazana**, highlighted the importance of decentralized training and efficient service delivery, acknowledging PHC as the most efficient driver of any health system.

Panel discussions covered sustainable funding models, policy frameworks for Universal Health Coverage (UHC), practice-level financial challenges, and innovations in cost efficiency and digital health. Providers also displayed their products.

Botswana Intensifies Health Security with Crucial Border Capacity Assessment

The Ministry of Health supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), completed a critical two-week nationwide assessment in September 2025 to evaluate Botswana's health security capabilities at 13 key **Points of Entry** (POEs).

This mission is part of a broader multi-country **Pandemic Fund** project to enhance regional preparedness against future health threats. The assessment focused on measuring adherence to International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities. Key objectives include:

- Determining the status of current risk management and early warning systems.
- Improving coordination across border agencies.
- Developing an Action Plan to bolster IHR implementation.

[Read More](#)



MoH - WHO assessment team at Kasane International Airport

“Strengthening border health security requires collaboration across multiple government sectors.”

WHO Calls for Disability-Inclusive Health Systems in Botswana



Disability Health and Wellness Day commemorated in Gabane Kgotla, 15 August 2025

During the commemoration of the Disability Health and Wellness Day, held at Gabane Kgotla under the theme “Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: Empowering Persons with Disabilities Through Inclusion,” Mr. Moagi Gaborone, the Health Promotion Officer at WHO Botswana, stressed that inclusion is a matter of justice, not charity, and equity must be the standard for all health policies. He then called on Botswana and the global community to adopt inclusive policies that guarantee every person the right to health.

Momentous step for One Health initiative in Botswana

Botswana reaches a significant milestone in fostering the multi-sectoral collaboration to strengthen the One Health approach for health security and resilience.

Represented at the highest level, the four key ministries for the **One Health framework in Botswana**, namely the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, the Ministry of Local Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and the Ministry of Health, convened on 24th September 2025 in Gaborone to jointly sign a commitment for the implementation of the **One Health National Strategy**.

[Read More](#)



Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse, signing the commitment



Representatives of the Government and OH Quatripartite

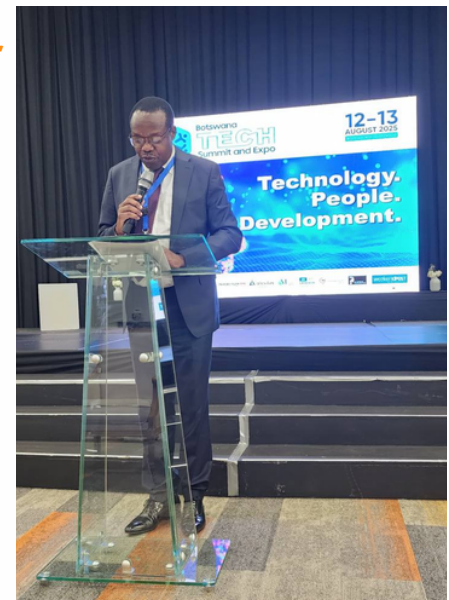
Botswana Bets on the Digital Future: Health Transformation at the Core of Economic Diversification

Botswana is making a strategic pivot from commodity-led growth to a technology-led, innovation-driven nation, with a core focus on transforming the health sector. This shift was the central theme of the recent **Botswana Technology Summit and Expo**, held 12-13 August 2025. WHO Representative **Dr. Fabian Ndenzako** praised Botswana's commitment to Digital Public Infrastructure, calling it a "strategic imperative for equity, resilience, and sustainability in health." He stressed that digital tools are key to overcoming challenges like unreliable data and supply chain gaps, reaffirming the WHO's technical support for this effort.

Vice President Ndaba Nkosingithi Gaolathe solidified this national vision, stating that digital health infrastructure is a catalyst for economic growth and improved services. He highlighted its potential to create opportunities in telehealth, AI diagnostics, and youth employment. The Vice President called for comprehensive education reforms to integrate STEM and coding, alongside strategic partnerships with global tech leaders. In a powerful closing statement, the Vice President declared: "The future of Botswana's prosperity no longer lies underground, it lies online, in the cloud, and in the ambitions of our young people." Both leaders agreed that digital transformation is a defining, non-optional moment for the nation's future.



"Strategic imperative for equity, resilience, and sustainability in health"



Botswana Accelerates Efforts to Eliminate Malaria and NTDs

Botswana is accelerating its fight against Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). In August, the Ministry of Health, supported by key global partners including WHO Botswana, ALMA, and RBM Partnership, held high-level sessions to fast-track elimination efforts.

These consultations are vital for setting up the End Malaria and NTD Council and developing the strategic plans needed to achieve the national goal of zero cases by 2030.

This momentum is championed by President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, who, as the current Chair of ALMA, underscores Botswana's strong commitment to lead by example. The meetings resulted in a clear roadmap and priorities to move Botswana closer to achieving its national and global elimination targets.



"Zero Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases by 2030."

ELPIDA Foundation Visits WHO Botswana to Bolster Child Health Partnership

Our WHO office was privileged to host a high-level courtesy call on Monday, September 22nd, from a delegation representing Cyprus, focused on strengthening the partnership for childhood health in Botswana. This visit followed recent engagements with the Botswana Baylor Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence (BCCCE) and Dr. Matshaba. The delegation was led by Professor Loizos Loizou, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and founder of the ELPIDA Foundation for Children and Adolescents with Cancer (established in 1991).

The larger Delegation from Cyprus, which included representatives from the Cyprus Aid Agency, the private sector, and the High Commissioner to Botswana, engaged with the Government of Botswana and other partners ahead of the Palliative Care Conference.

Strategic Action for Children's Health

The meeting centered on the strategic expansion of the Cyprus International Action Plan for Childhood Cancer (Cy-IAPCC), with Botswana designated as its first extended partner country. This initiative is explicitly designed to align with the WHO's Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC).



WHO staff hosting Elpida Foundation's delegation



Botswana Strengthens TB Response with Updated Management Guidelines

In a major step toward eradicating tuberculosis (TB), Botswana's National TB Program successfully convened a multi-stakeholder workshop in the third week of July to review and update the country's national TB management guidelines. This critical initiative follows the expiry of the previous guidelines and is designed to ensure national practices are fully aligned with the latest global standards.

The review process was heavily informed by WHO. Providing essential technical assistance, WHO presented the most recent evidence and updates from its consolidated guidelines on TB management, helping to guide the comprehensive revision process.

This collaborative effort has introduced several key updates to the national approach, including:

Enhanced Screening and Diagnostics: Adoption of new diagnostic technologies and improved screening protocols.

Childhood TB Management: Implementation of improved approaches tailored specifically for children.

Shorter Treatment Regimens: Updated regimens, focusing on shorter, more efficient options for both drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB.

Preventive Therapy: Introduction of newer and shorter preventive therapy strategies to curb the spread of the disease.

The workshop concluded with a draft version of the updated guidelines, which are currently undergoing final refinement and validation. This significant milestone reflects Botswana's firm commitment to delivering high-quality, evidence-based TB care and ensuring its healthcare system is equipped with the best international practices in the fight against TB.



[Read More](#)

8th International African Palliative Care and Allied Services Conference and 5th African Ministers of Health Session on Palliative Care



"Palliative Care is a global health priority and must be recognized as an essential component of UHC and a fundamental human right. Investing more in palliative care and accelerating its implementation would facilitate the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and further push the achievement of the African Union Agenda 2063 for a prosperous Africa," said Dr Fabian Ndenzako, WHO Representative to Botswana and SADC, addressing African health officials, palliative care professionals, civil society, and academia gathered from around the world at the 8th International African Palliative Care and Allied Services Conference 2025 in Gaborone.

Rebuilding Primary Health Care: Stakeholders Discuss Innovative Pathways for Community Health and Policy Reform



Ahead of the symposium "**Reengineering the role of Local Government in democracy and development agenda**" (22–23 September 2025), the Department of Primary Health Care at Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs - Botswana held a panel discussion on 18 September 2025 titled "**Towards re-building the people oriented Primary Health Care: Innovative solutions for self-sustaining healthy communities,**" attended by various stakeholders including government, academia, civil society, development partners, and media. The panel brought together experts who discussed health workforce development, digitization, public-private partnerships, primary health care models, and integration of specialist care in PHC. Key health system challenges and the required policy actions were highlighted by the panellists.

The outcome of the panel discussion will shape the role of the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs of Botswana in advancing primary health care towards better **#HealthForAll**.

WHO Convenes Health Partners to Strengthen Sector Coordination



On 15 July, WHO hosted a Health Partners Working Group (HPWG) meeting in Gaborone, bringing together senior officials from the Ministry of Health, UN agencies, development partners, civil society, and academia. The meeting aimed to enhance coordination and align support with Botswana's health priorities.

WHO Representative Dr. Fabian Ndenzako emphasized the platform's role in fostering collaboration and accountability. MoH Permanent Secretary Professor Oathokwa Nkomazana welcomed the initiative, stressing the need for unified action: "Every pula must buy health for Botswana."

The HPWG will support implementation of the National Development Plan and health-related SDGs through regular meetings and technical subgroups. Members agreed to expand participation and strengthen secretariat support to ensure effective engagement and joint planning.

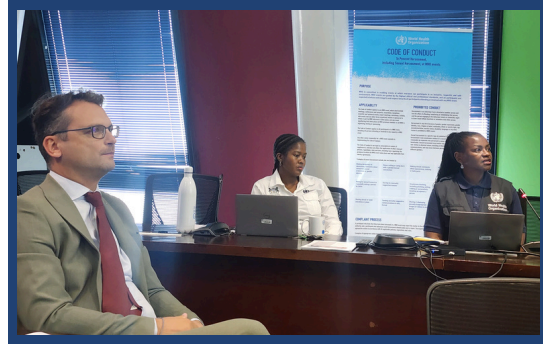


Universal Health
Coverage Partnership



Representatives of the European Union in Botswana were briefed on progress made, challenges and achievements of the technical assistance provided to WHO Botswana through the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Partnership. The six investment areas for which funding continues to be provided between 2025 and 2028 were also introduced.

As one of WHO's largest platforms for international cooperation on universal health coverage and primary health care, the UHC Partnership works with governments to strengthen national health systems so that everyone, everywhere, can get the health care they need without financial hardship.



Botswana-Rutgers Partnership for Health paid a courtesy call to explore areas of collaboration, particularly in cancer care, training, and community engagement.

Unity in Action: Botswana UN Team Competes at the United Nations Africa Games



The spirit of collaboration and staff welfare was on full display as nearly 400 UN personnel from 14 country offices, including a strong Botswana contingent including five WHO staff, gathered in Lobamba, Eswatini, for the 14th UN All Africa Games (August 29-30, 2025).

More than just a competition in athletics, soccer, and netball, the Games were a vital opportunity to reinforce unity, mental health, and inter-agency partnership across the continent.



Key Highlights

- **Collaboration and Well-being:** The event provided a crucial break from high-pressure work, strengthening peer networks and promoting staff mental health through friendly competition and cultural exchange.
- **Team Botswana and WHO:** The active participation of the UN Botswana team, including five WHO staff members, showcased the national office's commitment to team building and cross-agency solidarity.
- **Shared Purpose:** As the UN Resident Coordinator in Eswatini stated, "we came as colleagues; we leave as friends. We share the same purpose: to serve humanity." The Games served as a powerful reminder that teamwork is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Africa.

Participants returned to their duty stations with a renewed sense of shared purpose, ready to apply the lessons of teamwork and solidarity to their work.



Partners Appreciation





**World Health
Organization**

Botswana

Country Office, Botswana
MVA Fund Building
Plot 50367, Fairgrounds, Gaborone
+267 3905593
[www.who.int/countries Botswana](http://www.who.int/countries/Botswana)