



## **WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, DR MOHAMED JANABI'S FIRST OFFICIAL MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA**

19 - 23 October 2025



**World Health  
Organization**

South Africa





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## FOREWORD

It was an honour for the WHO South Africa Country Office to host the Regional Director for Africa, Dr Mohamed Janabi, on his first official mission to South Africa.

His visit marked an important moment of reflection and renewal of our shared commitment to advancing health for all, strengthening health systems, and reinforcing South Africa's leadership in regional public health.

Throughout the mission, we witnessed the strong collaboration between WHO, the Government of South Africa, and partners from the National Department of Health to academic and research institutions such as Steve Biko Academic Hospital and Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure (NuMeRI).

These engagements reaffirmed our collective resolve to accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage, promote innovation, and ensure that health remains a pillar of sustainable development in the country and the region.

As we continue to work hand in hand with national and regional stakeholders, we draw inspiration from the Regional Director's message of resilience and self-reliance—anchored in Africa's capacity to lead, innovate, and drive solutions for its own health priorities.

Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi  
WHO Representative to South Africa



## MISSION IN FOCUS: DR MOHAMED JANABI'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Mohamed Janabi, undertook an official mission to South Africa from 19–23 October 2025. The visit highlighted WHO's ongoing collaboration with the Government of South Africa and partners to advance health priorities, strengthen health security, and accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The mission included high-level meetings, field visits, and engagements with partners and staff underscoring WHO's commitment to supporting South Africa's leadership in regional public health.







Dr Aaron Motsosedi, Minister of Health for South Africa welcomes Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Africa Regional Director at the National Department of Health in Pretoria.



## COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



From left: Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health for South Africa interacting with Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Africa Regional Director at the National Department of Health in Pretoria.

The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Mohamed Janabi, paid a courtesy visit to Honourable Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health, at the National Department of Health headquarters in Pretoria.

The meeting, attended by senior officials and Deputy Director-Generals from the Ministry, focused on strengthening collaboration between WHO and the Government of South Africa in advancing health system resilience, primary healthcare, and emergency preparedness..

Both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and sustaining South Africa's leadership in regional health security and innovation.



From left : Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa, Ms Shenaaz EL-Halabi, WHO South Africa Country Representative and Dr Nicholas Crisp , Deputy Director General for National Health Insurance at the National Department of Health for South Africa.



From left : Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health for South Africa, and Ms Shenaaz EL-Halabi, WHO South Africa Country Representative



Officials from WHO and the National Department of Health during the courtesy visit.

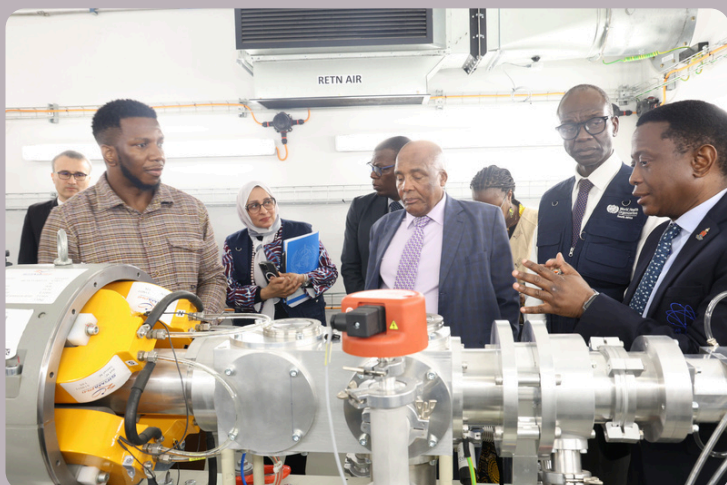


## VISIT TO STEVE BIKO ACADEMIC HOSPITAL / NUCLEAR MEDICINE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

During his mission, Dr Mohamed Janabi together with the Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi visited the Steve Biko Academic Hospital to tour the Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure (NuMeRI) – a centre of excellence advancing innovation in diagnostics, research, and training.



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa, and Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health for South Africa together with staff of Steve Biko Academic Hospital Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure (NuMeRI) unit



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa, and Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health together with officials tour the NuMeRI facility at Steve Biko Academic Hospital with Prof. Mike Sathekge, CEO of NuMeRI





Advancing diagnostics and strengthening health systems through modern medical technology at Steve Biko Academic Hospital's NuMeRI Centre



## VISIT TO FF RIBEIRO CLINIC (PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITY)



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa, engaging the health workers at the FF Ribeiro Clinic in Pretoria.

The Regional Director, Dr Mohamed Janabi, visited the FF Ribeiro Clinic in Pretoria, a model primary healthcare facility providing essential services at the community level. He interacted with health workers and patients to gain first-hand insight into service delivery, referral systems, and patient care integration.

The visit highlighted South Africa's progress in strengthening primary healthcare as the foundation for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and improving health outcomes for all.



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa, interacting with staff and Gauteng health professionals at the FF Ribeiro Clinic.





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## STAFF ENGAGEMENT AND MOTIVATION SESSION



Dr Mohamed Janabi held an interactive engagement with the WHO staff, where he applauded staff for their commitment and resilience during the ongoing restructuring process.

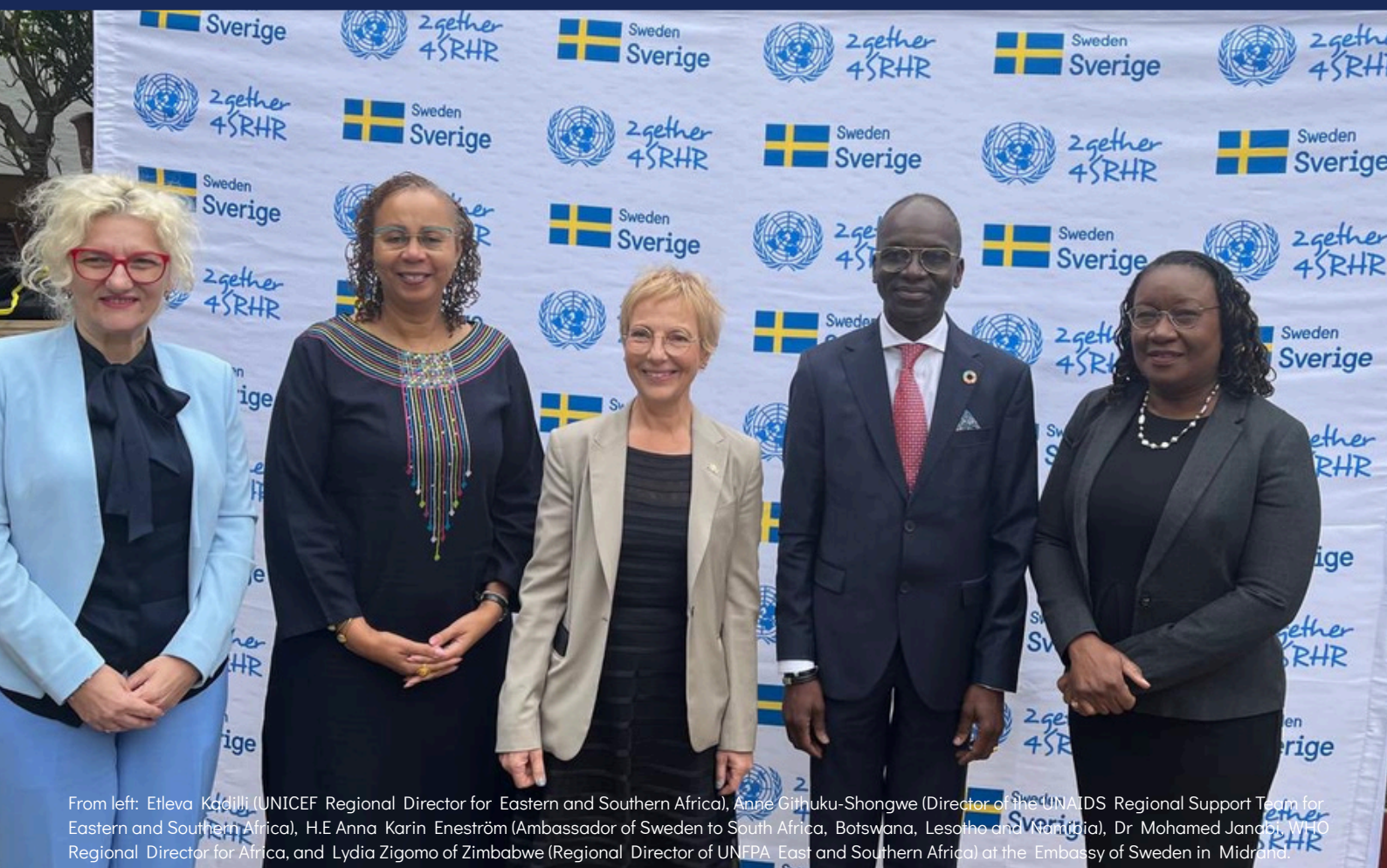
He encouraged them to remain focused and optimistic, emphasizing his open-door approach and reaffirming his support and appreciation for their vital role in advancing WHO's mission and delivering results in South Africa.



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa, interacting with WHO staff in Pretoria.



## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR): STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP FORUM 2025



From left: Etleva Kadiji (UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa), Anne Githuku-Shongwe (Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa), H.E. Anna Karin Eneström (Ambassador of Sweden to South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia), Dr. Mohamed Janabi (WHO Regional Director for Africa), and Lydia Zigomo of Zimbabwe (Regional Director of UNFPA, East and Southern Africa) at the Embassy of Sweden in Midrand.

As part of the Strategic Leadership Forum 2025 and 2gether4SRHR partnership, supported by Sweden, Dr. Mohamed Janabi joined other Regional Directors of the UN Regional Programme including UNAIDS, UNFPA, and UNICEF in a meeting with the Swedish Ambassador to South Africa to reaffirm joint efforts to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) across the region.

The bilateral engagement also focused on strengthening health security partnerships, promoting equity, and aligning joint initiatives that support South Africa's national health agenda.



**"Our collective strength lies in shared leadership and joint action.**

**The 2gether4SRHR partnership shows what we can achieve when we pool our strengths, expertise and resources.**

**Together, we can ensure that every person in Africa enjoys their right to sexual and reproductive health, today and beyond 2030."**

Dr. Mohamed Yakub Janabi  
WHO Regional Director for Africa







From left : Ms Shendaz EL-Halabi (WHO South Africa Country Representative), Dr Raji Tajudeen (Ag. Deputy Director General, Africa CDC), Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa, and Dr. Ngashi Ngongo (Principal Advisor Programmes Management, Africa CDC)

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES IN AFRICA

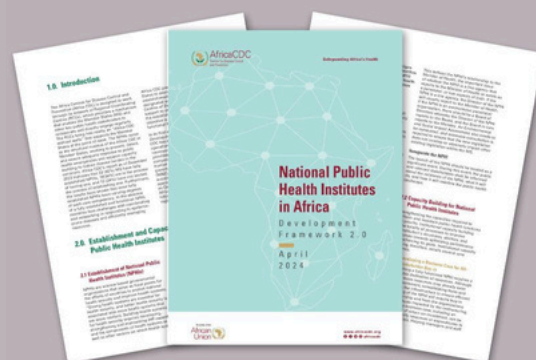
Ahead of the International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) 2025, Dr Mohamed Janabi joined partners and key stakeholders for a preparatory meeting focused on the National Public Health Institutes (NPHI) in Africa and the country's continued leadership in public health innovation.

The session provided a platform to discuss national priorities, coordination mechanisms, and the next steps in operationalizing the NPHI.

The meeting also saw the launch of the NPHI in Africa Development Framework 2.0 designed to strengthen institutional capacity and guide the development of resilient and integrated public health systems across Africa.

### NPHI in Africa Development Framework 2.0

[Click to read](#)







Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa engage with partners at preparatory meeting focused on the National Public Health Institutes (NPHI) in Durban.



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa interacting with WHO staff at the exhibition stand during the NPHI pre-meeting in Durban.





Dr Mohamed Janabi , WHO Regional Director for Africa meets with Dr Joseph Phaahla, South Africa Deputy Minister of Health at the official opening of the CPHIA in Durban





Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa delivering his remarks during the official opening in Durban



A cross-section of officials at the official opening of the CPHIA 2025 in Durban



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa interacting with Dr Joseph Phaahla, South Africa Deputy Minister of Health during the official opening of the CPHIA in Durban



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa with some delegates during the official opening of the CPHIA in Durban

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC HEALTH IN AFRICA (CPHIA) 2025

The mission concluded with Dr Mohamed Janabi's participation in the official opening of the Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) 2025 in Durban, where he reaffirmed WHO's commitment to supporting African countries in strengthening research, innovation, and public health institutions.

His participation underscored WHO's role in advancing regional collaboration and knowledge exchange to build resilient health systems across the continent.



**Africa has shown its resilience. We must now make that resilience self-sustaining, powered by our own resources, institutions, and innovation.**

**~ Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa**



Dr Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa interacting with Dr Jean Kaseya, Africa CDC Director General and Etleva Kadilla, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa during the official opening of the CPHIA in Durban





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Dr Mohamed Janabi , WHO Regional Director for Africa delivering his remarks during the official opening of the CPHIA 2025 in Durban



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