



World Health
Organization

South Africa

Newsletter

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Message from

Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi
Country Representative
WHO South Africa



Dear Colleagues, Partners and Friends,

Welcome to the WHO South Africa quarterly newsletter.

The first quarter of 2026 demonstrated that progress in health is sustained through long-term system-building and collective action — and that South Africa's leadership continues to shape priorities beyond its borders.

The quarter included regional engagement at the Southern African Development Community Joint Ministerial Meeting on health, HIV and AIDS, with the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Mohamed Janabi, reinforcing dialogue on shared priorities and action.

At country level, we created space to think ahead. The Health Systems 2050 roundtable in Pretoria, convened by WHO together with our partners, examined how global shifts — from climate pressures to technologies — could shape health-system choices and equity in the years ahead.

Partnership also showed up in tangible ways. The Gauteng Province recognised the WHO for technical support across communicable diseases and noncommunicable diseases — an acknowledgement of what close collaboration can deliver.

We also convened a dialogue with South Africa-based WHO Collaborating Centres, exploring practical steps to make collaboration more visible, connected and strategic across the three levels of WHO.

Alongside these milestones, we continued steady engagement with our diverse partners to keep health cooperation focused on practical results.

Thank you to colleagues, counterparts, partners, communities and donors for your continued collaboration and support, which make this work possible.



Delegates at the Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers of Health and Ministers responsible for HIV and AIDS, hosted in Johannesburg.

SADC ministers meet to advance regional health priorities

From 21–24 February 2026, South Africa hosted the Southern African Development Community Joint Meeting of Ministers of Health and Ministers responsible for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in Johannesburg, culminating in the ministerial session on 24 February.

At the opening ceremony in Sandton, Dr Mohamed Janabi, the WHO Regional Director for Africa addressed ministers on regional progress and remaining gaps in the HIV response. He noted that the SADC region remains central to the epidemic, while also reflecting major advances, including progress towards the 95–95–95 targets and declines in AIDS-related deaths since 2010.

The programme brought together discussions spanning outbreaks and epidemics, tuberculosis, malaria, emergency and essential surgical care, health financing, and the regional HIV and AIDS progress report, alongside a side event to launch the 4th Southern African Development Community Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Scorecard.

Across sessions, the meeting reinforced the value of coordinated regional action, strong surveillance and integrated services, and sustainable financing to protect health gains and strengthen preparedness.

In 2025, SADC leaders appointed South Africa to chair the 2026 SADC Summit, led by President Cyril Ramaphosa.



WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Mohamed Janabi, addresses the SADC Joint Ministerial Meeting.



Delegates rise for the South African national anthem.



From left: Anne Githuku-Shongwe (UNAIDS Regional Support Team Director, Eastern and Southern Africa), Dr Aaron Motsoaledi (Minister of Health, South Africa), Dr Mohamed Janabi (WHO Regional Director for Africa) and Lydia Zigomo (UNFPA Regional Director, East and Southern Africa).

Leprosy and mass drug administration training supports readiness in Limpopo

When neglected diseases persist, readiness is built before the next case appears. The WHO South Africa, together with the National Department of Health and the Limpopo Provincial Department of Health, convened an integrated training workshop in Tzaneen to strengthen leprosy case management and planning for mass drug administration. The workshop supported South Africa's efforts to advance the control and elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases, aligned with the WHO Neglected Tropical Diseases Roadmap 2021–2030 and Sustainable Development Goal target 3.3.

While leprosy prevalence in South Africa remains low, sporadic cases continue to occur, underscoring the need for sustained capacity in early detection, effective treatment and prevention of disability. In parallel, schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis remain endemic in several provinces, particularly affecting school-aged children and underserved communities. As the country prepares to scale up mass drug administration using World Health Organization-donated medicines, strengthening provincial and district readiness is critical.

The training focused on improving technical and operational capacity for leprosy diagnosis and case management, strengthening referral pathways, promoting stigma reduction, and developing provincial and district microplans to support safe and effective mass drug administration. The workshop brought together 70 multi-disciplinary participants, with technical facilitation from government, WHO experts, academic institutions, the Leprosy Mission South Africa and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases.



Participants at the Limpopo workshop on leprosy case management and mass drug administration planning

National dialogue advances cervical cancer elimination priorities



Participants at the national dialogue to support implementation of South Africa's cervical cancer elimination priorities.

Cervical cancer can be eliminated when prevention and care are delivered at scale. The National Department of Health convened partners to align around South Africa's Strategic and Implementation Framework on Cervical Cancer Elimination (2026–2030). The programme brought together government, labour, business, civil society and survivor voices to support coordinated, evidence-based action across prevention, screening and treatment. The WHO provided technical guidance and reaffirmed that eliminating cervical cancer is achievable through sustained leadership, adequate financing and delivery at scale, with a strong focus on equity and access. Discussions also underscored the importance of strengthening primary health care, district delivery platforms, laboratory capacity and referral systems to reach women who are underserved, including women living with human immunodeficiency virus, who face higher risk of cervical cancer.



The dialogue brought together diverse stakeholders including government, civil society, the private sector, cervical cancer survivors, and development partners



WHO supported the National Department of Health to align efforts and sustain momentum on South Africa's cervical cancer elimination priorities



Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health of South Africa delivers remarks during the national dialogue



Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO South Africa Representative shared WHO's message of support

Townhall brings WHO teams together in Pretoria

At the beginning of 2026, WHO South Africa held its first townhall in the Country Office's new Pretoria premises, bringing together colleagues from the Country Office and the WHO Regional Office for Africa Pretoria Hub in person and virtually. The session included remarks from the WHO Representative, updates on office relocation and planned refurbishments, and practical guidance on facilities within the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research campus. The meeting also welcomed new colleagues and reinforced a shared culture of listening, connection and teamwork.



First townhall of the year at WHO South Africa's new premises, with colleagues from Country Office and the WHO Regional Team of Pretoria Hub





Participants of the Health Systems 2050 policy roundtable, Pretoria, South Africa.

Health Systems 2050 roundtable explores South Africa’s future readiness

On 20 February 2026 in Pretoria, the WHO Country Office in South Africa, together with the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, convened a Health Systems 2050 expert policy roundtable to examine how major global trends are reshaping health systems and what this means for South Africa’s future readiness. The in-person session brought together senior officials from the National Department of Health, national and international health leaders, global experts, and researchers from academic institutions.

The roundtable provided space to pause and take stock of the shifting global health landscape, and to reflect on what current changes could mean for health systems planning and reform.

The dialogue drew on diverse perspectives, including reflections from the National Department of Health, Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, WHO Collaborating Centres, and experiences from Japan and Uruguay, alongside provincial learning from the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness.

The interactive discussion focused on three questions: which trends are already affecting South Africa’s health system, what changes stakeholders are planning for over the next decade, and how global planning horizons towards 2035 could shape longer-term visions for health outcomes and equity. Participants explored risks and opportunities linked to climate and environmental pressures, rapid technological and medical advances, changing disease patterns, and persistent health workforce challenges. They also underscored the importance of ensuring future reforms strengthen inclusion rather than widening gaps in access and outcomes.



Left to right: Dr Kumanan Rasanathan (Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research), Dr Karina Rando (Uruguay), Dr Hajime Inoue (Japan) and Dr Aquina Thulare (National Department of Health) during the Health Systems 2050 roundtable panel discussion



Dr Yogan Pillay from Gates Foundation (centre) shares reflections during the discussion.



Third from left, Prof Debashis Basu (University of Pretoria) contributes to the discussion; he heads the WHO Collaborating Centre for Social Determinants of Health and Promoting Health and Well-being.

Strengthening public health security at South Africa's borders



Graduates from South Africa's first Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Points of Entry frontline staff, receiving certificates on completion of the training.

At airports, seaports and land crossings, frontline staff are often the first to spot a potential public health threat. In Johannesburg, South Africa's first Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Points of Entry staff concluded, supporting stronger surveillance, early detection and reporting. The training was delivered by the WHO, in collaboration with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, the National Department of Health and the Border Management Authority. The inaugural cohort is intended to strengthen routine surveillance, early detection and reporting of public health threats at airports, seaports and land crossings, supporting national preparedness and response.

The 12-week training cycle ran from 3 November 2025 to 30 January 2026 and combined workshops, fieldwork and sustained mentorship from WHO and National Institute for Communicable Diseases technical officers.

Participants completed modules on points of entry surveillance, traveller screening, reporting pathways and International Health Regulations obligations, alongside applied epidemiology projects, site assessments and field-based exercises.

The curriculum also covered data management and analysis, emergency preparedness, and outbreak investigation, with a focus on practical skills that can be used immediately in frontline settings.

The graduation marked a milestone in strengthening public health security at South Africa's borders. Graduates are expected to contribute to improved situational awareness, support outbreak investigations and share skills through mentorship to strengthen future training cycles. The initiative was supported through a Pandemic Fund-supported project.



Participants take part in practical learning during the training programme



Dr Ntsieni Ramalwa-Sekhwama (WHO South Africa) addresses participants during the training programme

Acknowledgement of WHO technical support

This quarter brought a simple but meaningful acknowledgement. WHO South Africa received a Special Recognition Award from the Gauteng Department of Health at the Health Programmes Excellence Awards 2026, acknowledging WHO's technical support in communicable diseases and noncommunicable diseases.



South Africa Launches Health Financing Progress Matrix Report in Pretoria



Dr Matthew Jowett (WHO headquarters) presents the Health Financing Progress Matrix report



“

HFPM report represents an important milestone in our collective journey to build a health system that is equitable, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of all who live in our country.”

Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health of South Africa

Decisions about who pays, how funds are pooled, and what services are purchased shape whether people can access healthcare without financial hardship. South Africa’s first Health Financing Progress Matrix report was launched in Pretoria, bringing partners together to discuss evidence-informed next steps. The event shared findings and supported dialogue on practical ways to strengthen health financing to advance Universal Health Coverage, with a focus on using evidence, prioritising equity, and supporting sustainable progress.

The HFPM is a structured WHO approach that helps countries assess how health financing works in practice. It reviews how resources are raised, pooled and used to purchase health services, and how governance arrangements shape these decisions.

The launch also examined what the findings mean for service delivery and financial protection. WHO experts and an independent consultant presented the main results and highlighted how the evidence can inform policy reform and planning for Universal Health Coverage.

Discussion then moved to next steps, including confirming priority actions, clarifying responsibilities, and planning further engagement to socialise the findings with relevant health sector structures.

The work was enabled by financial support from the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.



Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO Representative in South Africa, addresses the stakeholders during the Health Financing Progress Matrix report launch



From left: Dr Aquina Thulare (National Department of Health), Dr Matthew Jowett (WHO headquarters), Dr Kalipso Chalkidou (WHO headquarters), Dr Aaron Motsoaledi (Minister of Health, South Africa), Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi (WHO Representative, South Africa), Dr Joseph Kutzin (consultant), and Dr Francis Magombo (WHO South Africa)

Improving readiness across provinces

When emergencies strike, the first test is whether teams can work as one. Public health professionals from across provinces convened in Sandton for the National Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) Comprehensive Basic Training, supported by WHO and national and international partners, to sharpen operational readiness for early warning and coordinated response.

The programme focused on how emergency operations centres function in practice. Sessions covered PHEOC core functions, surveillance and information flow, incident management, and alert and notification procedures, alongside simulation-based planning to rehearse decision-making under pressure.

The mix of technical modules and practical exercises helped participants translate guidance into steps they can apply in real events.

WHO South Africa played a central facilitation role, providing technical expertise and ensuring the training aligned with relevant global frameworks. A colleague from the WHO Regional Office for Africa also contributed, supporting regional exchange and shared learning.

By the end of the course, participants had strengthened their ability to anticipate risks, organise roles, and manage response processes in a structured way. The training supports South Africa's wider efforts to improve readiness for emerging health threats and to strengthen systems for timely, effective action. WHO will continue working with partners to reinforce these capacities over time.

Participants of the National Public Health Emergency Operations Centre Comprehensive Basic Training





WHO and the FCDO team meeting at WHO offices in Pretoria during the March 2026 scoping exercise

WHO and FCDO discuss future health cooperation

How partners align around national priorities can shape what support delivers on the ground. In early March 2026, WHO South Africa hosted a consultation with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) team as part of an FCDO scoping exercise to inform its future approach to Human Development work in South Africa.

The visit included FCDO's Senior Health Adviser, Luisa Hanna, and Health Adviser Katherine Whitehouse from FCDO headquarters in London, alongside Stefanie Grewal-Nijssen, Deputy Development Director at the British High Commission in Pretoria. The WHO delegation was led by Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, together with technical, programme and operations colleagues from the Country Office and headquarters.

Discussions considered potential focus areas referenced by FCDO, including health systems strengthening, pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and One Health, recognising the importance of coordinated and evidence-informed support.

WHO's engagement provided an opportunity to share an overview of priority health needs and to reflect on practical ways partners can align around national priorities. The consultation also supported open dialogue on opportunities for collaboration with government and partners, helping ensure that future investments are grounded in context, responsive to evolving needs and oriented towards sustainable progress.

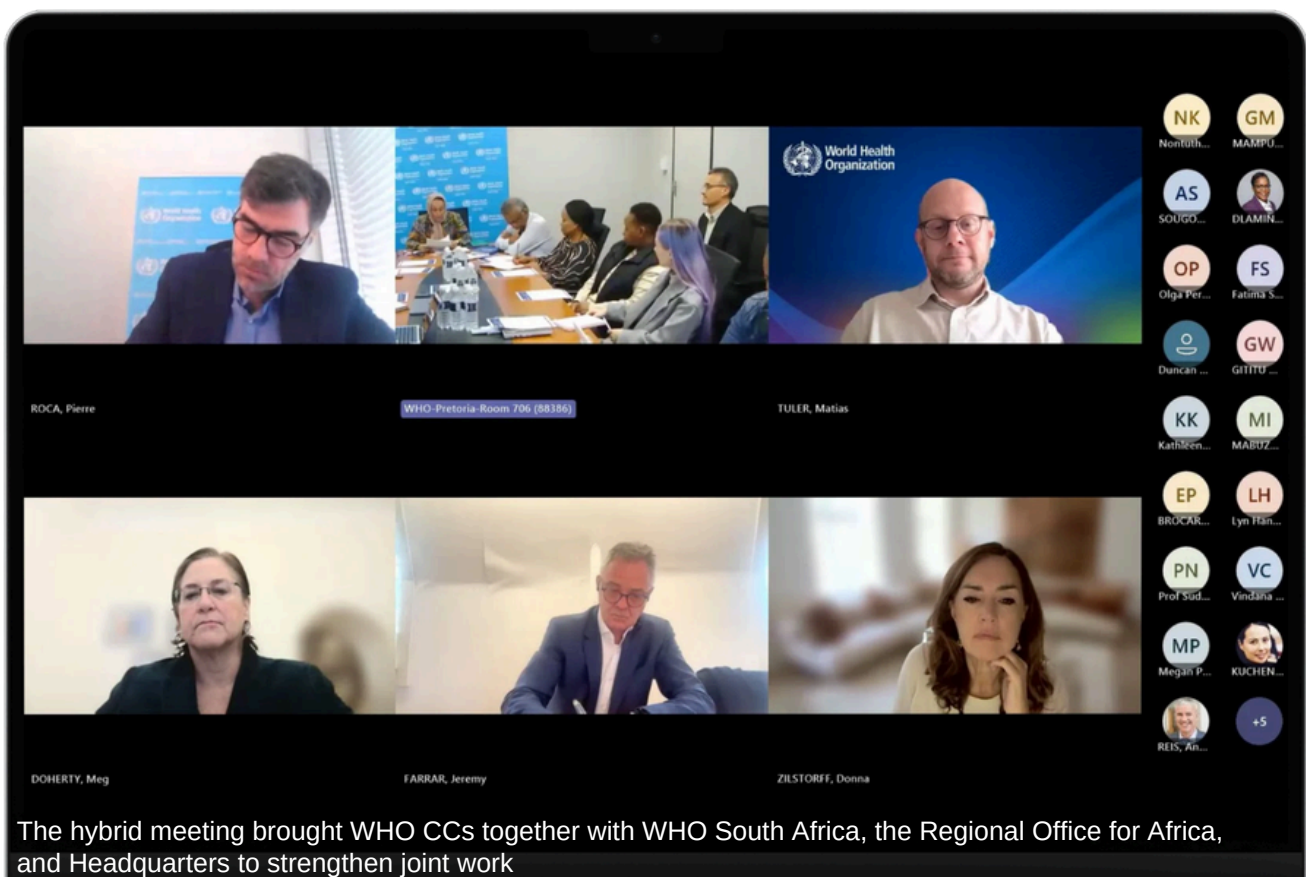
The visit formed part of a broader FCDO process of consulting key partners in Pretoria during 2–5 March 2026. WHO South Africa appreciates the continued partnership with FCDO and the British High Commission and welcomes ongoing dialogue to support shared public health goals in South Africa.

WHO Collaborating Centres: Connecting knowledge to action

A network is strongest when it connects people, evidence and delivery. On 6 March 2026, WHO South Africa convened a hybrid dialogue with South Africa-based WHO Collaborating Centres (CCs) at the WHO offices in Pretoria, bringing together representatives of CCs, WHO colleagues from Headquarters and the Regional Office for Africa, and partners to discuss how to strengthen collaboration and maximise public health impact.

South Africa currently hosts 12 WHO Collaborating Centres with active designation, representing a strong base of technical expertise that supports national, regional and global health priorities. Participants highlighted the role of Collaborating Centres in advancing science, training, service delivery and policy support, helping translate knowledge into practical action.

Discussions focused on making Collaborating Centres' contributions more visible, better connected and more strategic. Participants shared ongoing work across a wide range of technical areas, identified opportunities to collaborate more effectively across the three levels of WHO, and reflected on practical challenges that can limit coordination and sustained engagement. The dialogue also underscored the importance of partnership in a changing global health environment. WHO colleagues noted that Collaborating Centres form part of a unique global network of expertise and can play an even stronger role in supporting WHO's mission going forward.



Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO Representative in South Africa, underscored that WHO CCs are an essential part of how WHO delivers on its mandate



Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Assistant Director General addressed the participants virtually from WHO headquarters



The Collaborating Centres are a unique global network. We would love to bring the collaborating centres much more into the body and the thinking and the mission of WHO going forward."

Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Assistant Director General Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Care

The dialogue concluded with a shared commitment to engage WHO Collaborating Centres more systematically in country and regional discussions, strengthen information-sharing on ongoing work, and hold a more focused follow-up exchange on priority areas for collaboration.

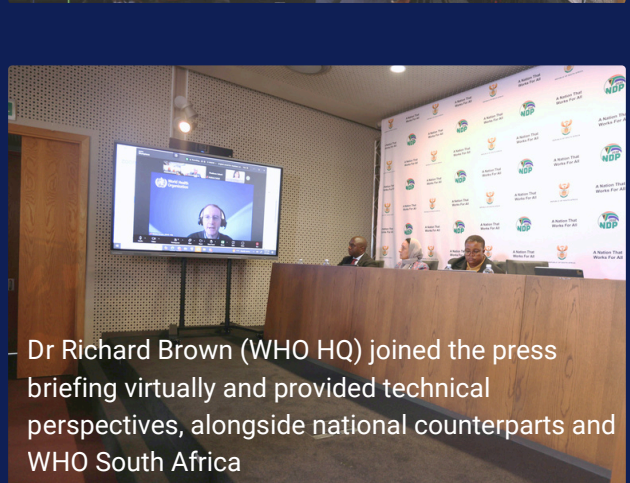


Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO Representative in South Africa (left), and Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health (right), at a media briefing in Pretoria

Supporting informed decisions through evidence-based communication

Public trust is built when institutions listen, explain what is known, and avoid speculation. On 8 March 2026 in Pretoria, South Africa's Department of Health convened a joint media briefing to respond to public questions and clarify the health and regulatory implications of recent research findings on sanitary pads and panty liners sold in South Africa. The session brought together government departments and public entities with regulatory mandates, alongside local and international experts, to address concerns raised by the public and organised groups.

WHO South Africa, together with colleagues from WHO headquarters, participated to provide technical perspectives and support clear, evidence-based public health communication centred on women's and girls' health. The briefing emphasised listening to concerns, explaining what is known and unknown, and guiding audiences to interpret health information responsibly. WHO's contribution reinforced the importance of calm, transparent communication that builds trust, avoids speculation, and supports informed decision-making.





Promoting physical activity for health during the Dorothy Nyembe Parkrun launch, Soweto, Johannesburg

Dorothy Nyembe parkrun launches in Soweto

Health promotion can be simple, visible and joyful. That spirit was on display in Soweto at the official launch of the Dorothy Nyembe parkrun, a community-based initiative that encourages regular physical activity close to home. WHO joined the National Department of Health, the City of Johannesburg and community members at Dorothy Nyembe Park to mark the launch. In her remarks, Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO Representative in South Africa, highlighted physical activity as an investment in health across the life course and reinforced that prevention can be practical and accessible.

Parkrun's model, where people can walk, jog, run or volunteer close to home, helps make healthy behaviour visible, social and achievable.

WHO welcomed the collaboration between government, community partners and parkrun South Africa, and encouraged residents to invite friends and family to build a lasting culture of wellness in Soweto.



WHO South Africa team: Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi (left), Representative and Dr Joseph Mwangi (right), Team Lead are walking the talk on health and wellbeing



Dr Joseph Mwangi shares health information with participants during the parkrun launch

Planning South Africa's first WHO STEPS survey



Partners meet at WHO South Africa offices in Pretoria to plan South Africa's first WHO STEPS survey

WHO South Africa brought national partners together to plan South Africa's first WHO STEPwise Survey, uniting the National Department of Health, the World Health Organization, Statistics South Africa, the South African Medical Research Council and the National Health Laboratory Service. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to stronger health intelligence.

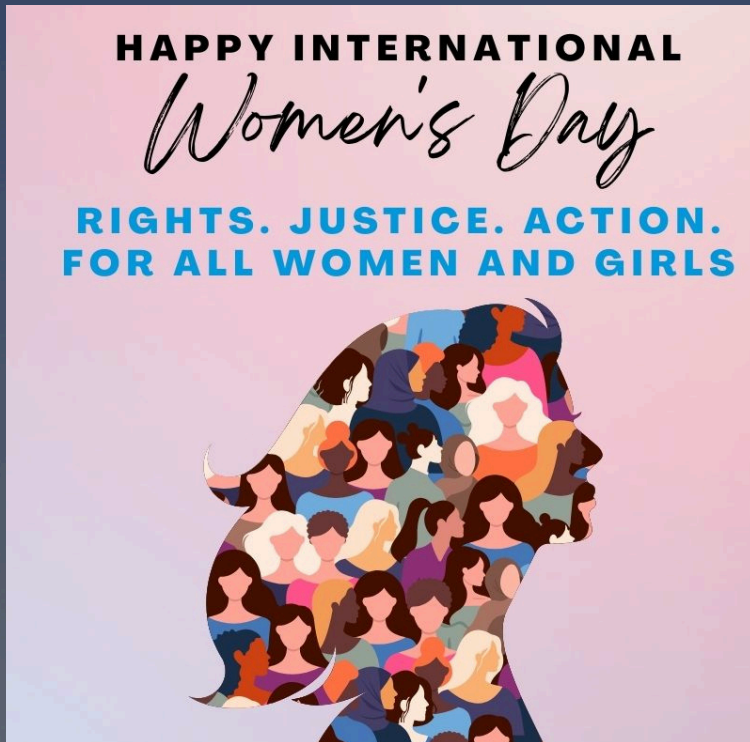
WHO's STEPS survey is a standardised approach for collecting and analysing nationally representative data on key risk factors for noncommunicable diseases, including tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol. It also includes biological measurements such as blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol. As South Africa's noncommunicable disease burden rises, these data will help inform policy, guide resource allocation and strengthen prevention strategies. These insights will support action for healthier communities. The collaboration will continue through the next phases, with updates shared as milestones are reached.



First coordination meeting for South Africa's WHO STEPS survey, with Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO Representative opening the discussion and underscoring the importance of strong country-owned data for action.

Health awareness highlights

International Women’s Day - “Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL women and girls”



On International Women’s Day 2026, WHO South Africa joined colleagues across the region and globally to recognise the contributions of women and girls and reaffirm commitment to their health, rights and well-being.

Under the theme “Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL women and girls”, the office highlighted the leadership and service of women across the country team.

WHO amplified the Regional Director for Africa’s message that women and girls are more than half of Africa’s population and constitute nearly 70% of the global health and care workforce, delivering essential services in hospitals, clinics and communities. The message reaffirmed WHO’s commitment to health systems designed for women and girls, including respectful maternal care, sexual and reproductive health services, and support for survivors of gender-based violence. WHO South Africa also recognised the leadership and service of women across the country office.

Health awareness highlights



2026 World Optometry Week and Day

On 26 March, the National Department of Health hosted a World Optometry Day webinar on its Knowledge Hub platform. Dr Joseph Mwangi, Team Lead, Disease Prevention and Control from the WHO South Africa contributed technical input, giving an overview linking eye health to noncommunicable diseases and ageing. Discussions emphasised integrated, people-centred eye care and primary health care so services reach communities.

The Integrated people-centred eye care (IPEC)

"A Shared Vision: Collaboration in Global Eye Care"

Dr. Kibachio J. Mwangi: MD, PhD
NCD & Mental Health Advisor;
WHO South Africa Country Office; PRETORIA



2026 WORLD OPTOMETRY WEEK AND DAY
COMMEMORATION WEBINAR



STEPS TO PREVENT OBESITY



1 LIMIT FATS & SUGARS



2 EAT MORE VEGETABLES & FRUIT

3 DO REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Any amount of physical activity is better than none, and more is better



4 LIMIT SCREEN TIME & GET ENOUGH SLEEP

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day - "Unite. Act. Eliminate."

WHO South Africa marked World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day on 30 January 2026 under the theme "Unite. Act. Eliminate." Neglected diseases are preventable and treatable, yet affect over one billion. 58 countries have eliminated at least one disease, and the number needing interventions has fallen by over one third since 2010. South Africa has been an important contributor to this global progress.

World Obesity Day - "8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity"

On 4 March 2026, South Africa marked World Obesity Day under the theme "8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity" and the national call to change systems for healthier lives. Nearly 50% of adults are overweight or living with obesity, affecting 68% of women and 31% of men, and costing over R33 billion in health care.

In her call for action, Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO Representative in South Africa, emphasized: "We need to protect children from unhealthy food marketing and promoting safe community physical activity initiatives."

WHO South Africa supported evidence-based action to prevent obesity and reduce noncommunicable diseases through stronger monitoring, healthier food environments and continued multisectoral collaboration.



NTD stakeholders convened for the national strategic plan for soil-transmitted helminth infections and schistosomiasis in South Africa

Health awareness highlights

World Tuberculosis Day 2026 - “Yes! You and I Can End TB”



Deputy President Paul Mashatile delivers remarks at the World Tuberculosis Day commemoration in Caledon, Western Cape

Tuberculosis remains preventable and curable, yet it still demands urgency. On 24 March 2026, South Africa marked World Tuberculosis Day in Caledon, Western Cape, with a community programme at Caledon Sports Grounds and a visit to Caledon Clinic. The Department of Health convened the commemoration with partners, including the World Health Organization, combining integrated services, health education and media engagement, followed by a briefing and facility walk-through led by Deputy President Paul Mashatile.

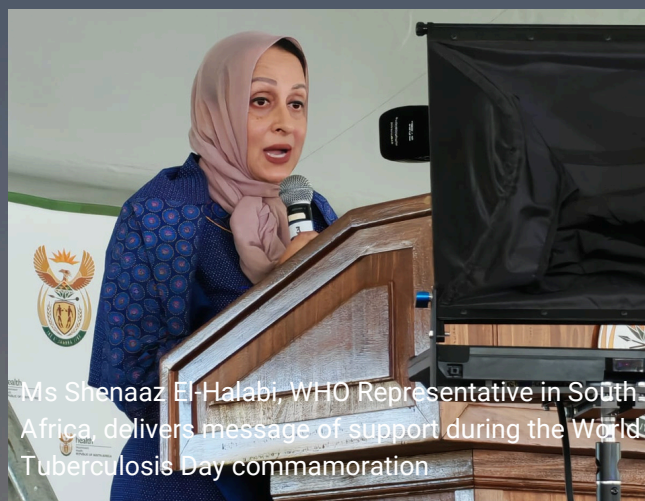
In his message, the Deputy President highlighted both progress and gaps. He noted that the proportion of people with tuberculosis placed on treatment dropped from 79% to 74% in 2025, and urged accelerated follow-up to link every person to care without delay. “We must double our efforts and close the gap,” he said.

Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health, in his remarks underscored the importance of sustaining momentum on prevention, testing and treatment, and keeping people-centred services accessible at community level.

Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO Representative in South Africa delivered a message and reinforced support for expanded testing, attention to social determinants and access to effective treatment.



Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health, delivers keynote remarks at the World Tuberculosis Day



Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi, WHO Representative in South Africa, delivers message of support during the World Tuberculosis Day commemoration

Partners engagement



HE Ambassador of China **Mr Wu Peng**

Meeting with Ambassador Wu Peng supported continued dialogue on priorities and alignment for future cooperation, including ongoing programme proposals, to promote, provide and protect health.



IOM Chief of Mission **Mr Yitna Getachew**

Ms Shenaaz El-Halabi welcomed the new International Organization for Migration Chief of Mission and discussed 2026 collaboration on health and migration, including coordination, evidence use and emergency preparedness, to support safe, dignified and healthy movement.



HE Ambassador of Türkiye **Ms K. Nilvana Darama Yıldırımgeç**

A courtesy meeting at WHO South Africa's offices with H.E. Ambassador Yıldırımgeç focused on shared public health priorities and practical follow-up, keeping the South Africa-Türkiye dialogue on health cooperation moving forward.

Partners engagement



TIKA Country Programme Coordinator

Ms Şule Bayar

At the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Pretoria office, Ms Shenaz El-Halabi met with TIKA Representative to exchange views on people-centred development cooperation and explore practical partnership options to advance shared public health priorities.



HE Ambassador of Algeria

Mr Ali Achoui

The discussion with Ambassador Ali Achoui recognised Algeria's experience in advancing health systems and explored practical ways to keep dialogue and collaboration moving forward between Algeria and WHO in South Africa.



HE Ambassador of Mauritania

Mr Amedi Camara

Meeting Ambassador Amedi Camara offered an opportunity to reaffirm WHO's engagement with Mauritania and explore areas for continued cooperation.

Partners engagement



HE Ambassador of Sweden

Ms Anna Karin Eneström

With Sweden being a longstanding partner to advance sexual and reproductive health, the meeting with Ambassador Eneström explored support for self-care at scale, stronger family planning guidance so services are safe, dignified and equitable, especially for women, girls, children and adolescents.



Former WHO Representative in South Africa

Dr Stella Anyangwe

It was a pleasure to receive Dr Anyangwe, WHO South Africa's first Representative, at the Pretoria office. The visit provided an opportunity to reflect on WHO's journey in South Africa, share perspectives on public health leadership, and draw on her experience from across the WHO African Region.

Acknowledgements

Every milestone in this newsletter has partners behind it. WHO South Africa sincerely thanks our government counterparts, partners, communities and donors for their gracious and steadfast support. Your collaboration and contributions help us promote health, provide essential technical support and protect communities across South Africa.



**The
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Fund**
FOR A RESILIENT WORLD

Gates Foundation



**WORLD
DIABETES
FOUNDATION**



**novo nordisk
foundation**
Benefitting people and society

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Canada



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PARTNERSHIPS**



MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND
MPTF



A big Soweto turnout at the Dorothy Nyembe Parkrun launch—one crowd, many paces, shared energy for healthier living

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