



World Health
Organization

Botswana

JULY- SEPTEMBER 2026

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Promoting, Providing and Protecting the health and well-being of all people



FOREWORD



Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

The third quarter of 2026 was marked by significant progress in advancing Botswana's health priorities through strengthened partnerships, technical collaboration and sustained investment in resilient health systems.

During the period, WHO Botswana continued to support national efforts across a broad range of areas, from pandemic preparedness and health security to disease prevention, workforce development and regulatory strengthening. Notable achievements included the expansion of One Health initiatives, enhancements in environmental surveillance, capacity-building for emergency preparedness, and continued progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

The quarter also highlighted Botswana's growing role as a regional leader. Through major engagements on medicines regulation, pharmacovigilance, clinical research oversight and emergency preparedness, Botswana hosted experts and participants from across Africa and beyond, contributing to stronger collaboration and knowledge exchange within the region.

At the policy level, WHO worked closely with the Ministry of Health, national institutions and partners to advance priorities in nursing and midwifery, cancer control, road safety, oral health and mental health. These efforts were complemented by South-South learning exchanges and regional dialogues that showcased Botswana's experience while drawing on lessons from across the continent.

As Botswana celebrated its 60th Independence Anniversary under the theme "Building Resilience, Driving Prosperity," we were reminded that sustainable progress is built on partnership. WHO remains grateful for the leadership of the Government of Botswana and the support of our many partners whose commitment continues to improve the health and well-being of communities throughout the country.

Dr. Fabian Ndenzako
WHO Country Representative

3rd Quarter at a Glance

Quarter Highlights

A snapshot of key achievements and milestones

- Expanded One Health surveillance through Pandemic Fund investments
- Strengthened Ebola and outbreak preparedness capacities
- Advanced PMTCT learning and HIV response dialogue
- Expanded Health Promoting Schools to an additional 23 schools
- Hosted regional and inter-regional regulatory capacity-building initiatives
- Advanced cancer, oral health, nursing and road safety agendas
- Celebrated Botswana's 60th Independence Anniversary

WHO Botswana Contributions by Programme Area

Selected results and activities delivered during the quarter

Health Security & Emergency Preparedness

- Communities at the heart of Botswana's One Health early warning system
- Advancing One Health through stronger laboratory systems
- Strengthening environmental surveillance to protect Botswana's polio-free status
- Regional outbreak simulation exercise strengthens preparedness
- Assessing Ebola preparedness at Botswana's points of entry
- Pandemic Fund implementation supporting One Health surveillance and response

Disease Prevention, Control & Health Promotion

- Strengthening medicine management for neglected tropical diseases
- Botswana advances access to essential medicines for brain health
- South-to-South learning exchange on elimination of mother-to-child transmission
- National dialogue on the future of Botswana's HIV response
- Twenty-three additional schools join the Health Promoting Schools initiative

Health Systems & Universal Health Coverage

- Forum brings stakeholders together to address the cancer burden
- Oral health highlighted at the Botswana Dental Association Congress
- Nursing and Midwifery priorities advanced
- Road Safety Strategy 2026-2030 development progresses
- One Health integrated into secondary education curricula
- Botswana participates in high-level UHC dialogue at RC76

Innovation, Research & Regulatory Excellence

- Botswana hosts inter-regional training on medicine quality testing
- Advancing Good Clinical Practice and Pharmacovigilance in Africa
- African regulators strengthen emergency clinical trial readiness
- Botswana reinforces regional leadership in medicines regulation

Partnerships & Strategic Engagement

- WHO and Ministry of Health reaffirm commitment to health priorities
- UN and SADC strengthen partnership for regional development
- Botswana celebrates 60 years of independence
- Continued collaboration with government, academia, civil society and development partners

Health Security and Emergency Preparedness

Communities at the heart of Botswana's One Health early warning system

In July 2026, a multi-sectoral team comprising the Botswana Public Health Institute (BPHI), government ministries, the Botswana Red Cross Society and WHO conducted a monitoring mission in North-West District to assess progress in Community-Based Surveillance (CBS), a key component of Botswana's One Health early warning system supported through the Pandemic Fund.

The mission highlighted the critical role that community volunteers play in detecting and reporting unusual events affecting human, animal and environmental health. Through direct engagement with communities and local authorities, partners reviewed progress, shared lessons learned and identified opportunities to further strengthen multisectoral collaboration and preparedness. As part of the broader Pandemic Fund-supported initiative Strengthening One Health Disease Surveillance and Response in Southern Africa, Botswana is reinforcing connections between communities, health services and decision-makers to support faster detection and response to emerging health threats. [Read More](#)



Advancing One Health through stronger laboratory systems

A One Health Laboratory Workshop on the Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and other laboratory documentation was organized from 6 to 10 July 2026. The workshop brought together experts from the human health, veterinary, environmental, food safety and plant health sectors to strengthen collaboration and enhance national preparedness and response capacities.

Implemented under the Pandemic Fund multi-country initiative, the activity supports regional efforts to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response through a coordinated One Health approach. The workshop was supported by the Botswana Public Health Institute (BPHI) and WHO.

Recognizing that many emerging infectious diseases originate at the interface of human, animal and environmental health, the workshop focused on strengthening laboratory systems, improving surveillance and fostering information sharing across sectors. These efforts are critical to preventing, detecting and responding to zoonotic diseases and other public health threats before they become emergencies.

The workshop reflects Botswana's continued commitment to operationalizing the One Health approach for healthier people, healthier animals and a healthier environment.



Keeping Botswana Polio-free: Strengthening Environmental Surveillance

Environmental surveillance remains one of Botswana's most important early-warning systems for detecting poliovirus and other public health threats before cases are identified in communities. Between 29 June and 9 July 2026, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, and WHO, in collaboration with the Water Utilities Corporation and the National Health Laboratory, conducted an integrated supportive supervision and capacity-building mission across all eight environmental surveillance sites nationwide. The mission assessed surveillance performance at sites in Kasane, Francistown, Palapye, Gaborone, Maun, Shakawe, Gantsi and Jwaneng, while also reviewing acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance and routine immunization activities at selected health facilities. Teams evaluated sample collection, handling, transport and reporting processes, and provided refresher training, hands-on mentoring and live demonstrations for surveillance officers, laboratory personnel and environmental surveillance focal points to ensure consistent application of surveillance standards across districts.

The review confirmed that all eight environmental surveillance sites remain operational and that wastewater samples continue to reach the regional reference laboratory within internationally recommended timelines. However, the assessment also identified opportunities to further strengthen sample quality, occupational safety measures, timely transportation of specimens, workforce capacity, and active case detection for suspected polio cases. Training on electronic reporting using Open Data Kit (ODK) and refresher sessions on AFP case identification and investigation were also conducted to strengthen surveillance capacity at facility level.

By combining system performance reviews with practical capacity-building, the mission reinforced Botswana's ability to detect and respond rapidly to potential health threats. The findings and recommendations will guide targeted improvements to the surveillance network and help safeguard the country's hard-earned polio-free status while strengthening preparedness for other emerging diseases.

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Regional Simulation Exercise Strengthens Outbreak Preparedness

Nearly 300 emergency response specialists from across Southern Africa gathered for the Africa CDC Southern Africa Regional Functional Simulation Exercise (SIMEX), designed to test the region's readiness to respond to an Ebola or other viral haemorrhagic fever outbreak. Representing Botswana, the Botswana Public Health Institute (BPHI), with support from WHO and other partners, joined virtually the national Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) teams, technical experts and international agencies to assess emergency coordination mechanisms, identify preparedness gaps and strengthen cross-border collaboration. The exercise provided a valuable opportunity to test systems and decision-making processes under realistic outbreak conditions, reinforcing the importance of continuous preparedness and regional cooperation. By participating in SIMEX, Botswana further strengthened its capacity to detect, respond to and manage public health emergencies, helping ensure the country remains ready for future health threats.



Assessing Ebola preparedness at Botswana's Points of Entry

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen preparedness for Ebola Virus Disease and other public health threats, WHO Representative to Botswana, Dr. Fabian Ndenzako, joined national and district authorities on a mission to assess readiness at key Points of Entry in Chobe District. Led by the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, the mission included engagements with district leadership and inspections of the Ngoma Border Post, Kazungula One Stop Border Post, Kazungula Road Border and Kasane International Airport. The assessment reviewed surveillance and screening systems, cross-border coordination, infection prevention and control measures, availability of personal protective equipment, and emergency response arrangements.

The team noted strong collaboration among border stakeholders, effective cooperation with neighbouring countries, and the commitment of frontline personnel to strengthening preparedness.

The mission also identified opportunities to further enhance readiness, including strengthening traveller tracking systems, increasing staffing levels, improving isolation facilities, and conducting regular training and simulation exercises.

The findings will help guide ongoing efforts to improve preparedness and response capacities at Botswana's Points of Entry and reinforce the country's ability to prevent, detect and respond to emerging public health threats.



Disease Prevention, Control and Health Promotion

Medicine management for the Neglected Tropical Diseases

A joint technical mission led by the WHO Regional Office for Africa's Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN), in collaboration with WHO Botswana, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, was conducted to support Botswana's efforts to strengthen programmes addressing schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH).

The mission brought together the National Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Programme, the Central Medical Stores, and technical partners to review programme implementation, strengthen coordination, and enhance the management of donated medicines. Participants engaged with the Central Medical Stores to better understand national medicine management systems and identify practical measures to improve the efficiency of preventive chemotherapy programmes.

The mission highlighted Botswana's strong commitment to country ownership, demonstrating how nationally led and domestically supported NTD programmes can be effectively integrated within the broader health system. The recommendations from the mission will contribute to strengthening service delivery, improving access to essential interventions, and accelerating progress towards the elimination and control of neglected tropical diseases in Botswana.



Botswana strengthens access to essential medicines for brain health

Botswana has taken an important step towards improving access to care for people living with mental, neurological and substance use (MNS) conditions through the launch of the MNS Access to Medicines Survey Training, held from 24-26 August in Gaborone.

Supported by WHO, the training brought together participants from the Ministry of Health, health facilities, academia, civil society and development partners to prepare for a national survey that will assess the availability, affordability, accessibility and appropriate use of essential medicines for conditions such as epilepsy, depression, psychosis, dementia and Parkinson's disease.

The survey will generate critical evidence to identify barriers related to medicine supply, financing, workforce capacity and service delivery, helping guide policies and investments to improve access to quality care.

"Access to essential medicines is fundamental to brain health, Universal Health Coverage and the well-being of individuals, families and communities," noted WHO Representative Dr Fabian Ndenzako during the opening session. The initiative reflects Botswana's commitment to integrating mental and neurological health services into primary health care, reducing stigma and ensuring that no one is left behind.

As the country moves forward with the survey, the findings will help shape evidence-based actions to strengthen brain health services and build a more inclusive and resilient health system for all.

[Read More](#)



Reimagining the future of the HIV response

The 9th Botswana International HIV Conference brought together government leaders, communities, researchers, development partners and health professionals under the theme, “Re-imagining HIV Response in Botswana: Sustainable Communities, Resilient Health Systems, and Tech-Driven Solutions for Ending the HIV Epidemic by 2030.”

Representing WHO Botswana, Dr Fabian Ndenzako, WHO Representative to Botswana, participated in a high-level panel discussion on the future of the country’s HIV response. Discussions focused on sustaining progress achieved over the years, strengthening community leadership, building resilient health systems, harnessing innovation and technology, and accelerating efforts towards achieving the 2030 HIV targets.

Botswana continues to be recognized as a global leader in the fight against HIV, having achieved significant milestones in HIV prevention, testing and treatment. Conference participants emphasized that sustaining these gains will require continued investment, strong partnerships, community engagement and innovative approaches that place people at the centre of the response.

The conference reaffirmed the importance of collaboration among government, civil society, communities, development partners and the health sector to ensure that Botswana remains on track to end HIV as a public health threat by 2030.



South-to-South learning exchange advances Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission

WHO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNAIDS, UNICEF and partners, hosted delegations from Mozambique and Nigeria in Gaborone for a South-to-South learning exchange supported by the International AIDS Society (IAS). The exchange provided an opportunity for Botswana to share lessons and best practices from its progress towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. Participants explored key elements of Botswana’s approach, including the integration of services within maternal and child health care, strengthened antenatal testing and retesting, quality-assured laboratory systems, stronger linkages between communities and health facilities, and continuity of care for mothers and infants. Through technical discussions and visits to health facilities, the delegations examined how strong leadership, coordinated health systems, effective use of data and meaningful community engagement have contributed to improved outcomes for women and children.

The learning exchange highlighted the value of South-South collaboration in accelerating progress towards the elimination of vertical transmission. By sharing experiences and adapting proven approaches, countries can strengthen their national programmes and move closer to a future where every child is born free from preventable infections.



Botswana became the first country in Africa, and the first high HIV-burden country globally, to achieve WHO Gold Tier status on the path to eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV as a public health problem.



Twenty-three more schools turned into Health Promoting Schools

As at end of August 2026, only three districts in Botswana had not been introduced to the concept of Health Promoting Schools. These are Kgalagadi, Chobe and Okavango.

In September 2026, 23 schools from Kgalagadi were trained and enrolled as Health Promoting schools. The training included application of the Global Standards for Health Promoting Schools which enable better implementation and monitoring right from school up to the Ministry or national level. The training included school heads, teachers, public health professionals, education and local government officers at district level.

These represent a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral team that should ensure coordinated and collaborative implementation. Some parents represented Parents Teachers' Associations, which links the school with the community, particularly parents of learners. These efforts attest to Botswana's commitment to turn every school into a health promoting school to enhance both the health and educational outcomes of learners and social connection with the community. The training was jointly coordinated and facilitated by WHO, UNESCO and ministries of Health, Basic Education and Local Government. Plans are under way to mobilize resources to train the two remaining districts.



Forum brings stakeholders together to address cancer burden

WHO jointly supported the Botswana Oncology Consultative Forum, convened by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Rutgers Global Health Institute and partners. The forum brought together government officials, health professionals, academia, development partners, civil society, cancer survivors, patient advocates and the private sector to identify priorities and practical solutions for improving cancer services. Held under the theme "Strengthening Botswana's Cancer Care Pathway: Access, Quality, Innovation and Sustainable Financing," discussions focused on prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care and survivorship.

Dr Fabian Ndenzako welcomed the country's continued commitment to advancing cancer services and Universal Health Coverage. He highlighted the importance of prevention, early diagnosis, equitable access to quality care, strong cancer registries, research and partnerships in reducing the cancer burden. Participants reaffirmed the value of proven prevention measures, including HPV vaccination, tobacco control, healthy lifestyles and early detection programmes. The forum reinforced a shared commitment to reducing cancer-related illness and deaths through collaboration, innovation and people-centred care.



Oral Health in focus at Botswana Dental Association Congress

WHO Botswana joined oral health professionals, policymakers and partners in Maun for the Botswana Dental Association Oral Health Congress under the theme "Precision in Dentistry: Achieving Excellent Clinical Outcomes."

In his keynote address, WHO Country Representative, Dr Fabian Ndenzako, underscored the importance of oral health as an integral part of overall health and well-being. He highlighted the growing burden of oral diseases and called for greater emphasis on prevention, early intervention, equitable access to care and a strong oral health workforce.

Dr Ndenzako also emphasized the need to integrate oral health into Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage efforts, while leveraging innovations such as digital technologies, artificial intelligence and tele-dentistry to improve service delivery and outcomes.

The congress provided a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and professional development, bringing together oral health practitioners committed to advancing quality dental care in Botswana.



Dialogue on Nursing and Midwifery priorities

WHO Botswana welcomed representatives from the Ministry of Health's Department of Nursing and Midwifery for discussions on priorities to strengthen the nursing and midwifery workforce and improve health outcomes across the country. During the meeting, WHO congratulated Botswana on the establishment of a dedicated Department of Nursing and Midwifery, a significant milestone that demonstrates national leadership and aligns with World Health Assembly Resolution WHA74.15, which calls for increased investment in nursing and midwifery education, leadership, employment and service delivery. Discussions focused on key areas for collaboration, including the review of the National Nursing and Midwifery Strategy, strengthening workforce data and evidence systems, enhancing leadership capacity, and expanding opportunities for education and professional development.

Nurses and midwives play a vital role in delivering essential health services and are central to achieving Universal Health Coverage. Investing in their skills, leadership and working environment is essential for building a resilient and responsive health system.

WHO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Botswana's efforts to strengthen the nursing and midwifery workforce through partnership, evidence-based planning and sustained investment.



Road Safety partners advance strategic action for safer roads

Stakeholders convened to advance the development of Botswana's Road Safety Strategy 2026-2030, a multi-sectoral framework being developed by the University of Botswana with technical support from WHO and oversight from the National Road Safety Committee. Aligned with the Global Plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, the strategy is expected to be finalized by the end of 2026 following review, validation and approval of the current draft.



Complementing this effort, the Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund hosted the 2026 Road Safety Stakeholders Engagement Meeting in Gaborone under the theme "Information Sharing for Effective Road Safety Management." The meeting brought together key stakeholders to exchange experiences, strengthen collaboration and discuss evidence-based approaches to improving road safety outcomes. A key highlight was the presentation of findings from the 2026 Road User Behaviour Observational Study, which identified priority areas for targeted interventions. Discussions reinforced the importance of data, research and partnership in informing policy and translating evidence into action.

WHO Botswana participated in both engagements, reaffirming its commitment to supporting multi-sectoral efforts that strengthen road safety governance, prevent injuries and deaths, and contribute to safer roads and healthier communities across Botswana.



Advancing One Health through education

WHO Botswana joined partners in the official opening of a One Health Workshop for Curriculum Developers and Subject Panelists, supporting efforts to integrate One Health principles into Botswana's secondary school curriculum.

Organized by the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and partners under the COHESA initiative, the workshop brought together educators, curriculum specialists and technical experts to explore how the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health can be reflected in teaching and learning.

Representing WHO, Kentse Moakofhi, Team Lead for Emergency Preparedness and Response, conveyed WHO's support for equipping future generations with the knowledge and skills needed to address complex challenges such as climate change, zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, biodiversity loss and food insecurity.

The initiative reflects Botswana's commitment to embedding One Health thinking across sectors and fostering a better understanding of how health outcomes are influenced by the environment, animals and human behavior. Integrating these concepts into education will help prepare young people to contribute to healthier and more resilient communities.

WHO remains committed to supporting the Government of Botswana and partners in advancing the One Health agenda and promoting collaborative approaches to public health challenges. By investing in One Health education today, Botswana is helping build a healthier, safer and more sustainable future for people, animals and the environment.



Regional and Global Engagement

WHO Botswana supported the successful hosting and participation of national stakeholders in several regional initiatives led by WHO Regional and Headquarters offices and partner organizations, fostering knowledge exchange, collaboration and the sharing of best practices.

WHO Botswana supports national participation at RC76

WHO Botswana worked closely with the WHO Regional Office for Africa to facilitate Botswana's participation in the Seventy-sixth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC76), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As the Region's highest annual health governance meeting, RC76 brought together Ministers of Health and senior officials from 47 Member States to review progress, adopt regional policies and shape Africa's health agenda.

As part of the programme, Botswana also participated in a High-Level Ministerial Dialogue focused on strengthening health systems and accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage. Discussions highlighted the importance of strong regulatory systems, local manufacturing and sustainable health financing as foundations for resilient health systems, improved access to medicines and health technologies, enhanced health security and greater African ownership of health priorities.

RC76 provided an important platform for policy dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration among Member States as they considered collective actions to improve health outcomes and address emerging public health challenges across the African Region.



Seventy-sixth session of the
WHO Regional Committee
for Africa

25-27 August 2026
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Botswana hosted inter-regional training on medicine quality testing

Botswana has reinforced its leadership in medicines regulation and safety by hosting an inter-regional laboratory training programme in collaboration with WHO, bringing together laboratory analysts from the WHO African Region and, for the first time, the WHO South-East Asia Region (SEARO).

Hosted by the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA), the practical training focused on strengthening countries' capacity to detect ethylene glycol (EG) and diethylene glycol (DEG), two toxic industrial chemicals that have been linked to serious illness and deaths when present as contaminants in medicines, including paediatric cough syrups.

The workshop built on a regional training hosted by BoMRA in March 2026, which introduced laboratories to analytical methods for identifying these contaminants. The latest programme moved beyond demonstrations, providing participants with hands-on experience conducting the tests under the guidance of WHO technical experts using internationally recommended analytical techniques.

The training comes at a critical time, following updates to international testing standards that require laboratories to apply more advanced methodologies for detecting contaminants in pharmaceutical products. By strengthening practical laboratory skills, the initiative aims to improve the quality and reliability of medicines testing across participating countries.

The inclusion of analysts from both the African and South-East Asia regions marked an important milestone in global regulatory collaboration, enabling the exchange of expertise and harmonized approaches to medicines quality surveillance.

Through its continued partnership with WHO, BoMRA is positioning Botswana as a regional centre of excellence for pharmaceutical quality control and regulatory science. As more laboratories acquire the skills and tools necessary to detect potentially harmful contaminants, countries will be better equipped to protect populations and ensure access to safe, quality-assured medicines.

The training underscores the growing role of regional cooperation in strengthening regulatory systems and advancing public health protection across borders.



Advancing Good Clinical Practice and Pharmacovigilance in Africa

The Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA), with support from WHO, hosted an International Training Workshop on Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and Pharmacovigilance, bringing together regulators, researchers and pharmacovigilance professionals from seven African countries. The workshop focused on strengthening competencies in clinical trial oversight, medicines safety monitoring and post-market surveillance, helping participants apply international standards and best practices across the product lifecycle.

Opening the workshop, WHO Representative, Dr Fabian Ndenzako, emphasized the importance of effective oversight in protecting patients, supporting innovation and maintaining public confidence in medicines, vaccines and other health technologies. Through technical discussions, practical learning and peer exchange, participants strengthened their ability to oversee clinical research and monitor the safety of health products after they enter the market. The training supported ongoing efforts to harmonize regulatory practices across Africa and implement the Regional Strategy for the Regulation of Medical Products 2026-2035. It also reinforced Botswana's growing role in regional collaboration to strengthen medicines oversight, promote patient safety and improve access to safe, effective and quality-assured health products.



African regulators enhance emergency clinical trial readiness

Regulators, technical experts and partners from across Africa gathered in Gaborone for a simulation exercise focused on the authorization of clinical trials during public health emergencies.

The exercise provided a practical platform for testing emergency review processes, strengthening coordination among national authorities and improving the speed and quality of decision-making during health crises. Participants worked through realistic scenarios that replicated the challenges regulators may face during future outbreaks.

Supported by the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF), the African Medicines Agency (AMA), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Paul-Ehrlich-Institut (PEI) and WHO, the initiative reflects growing continental efforts to prepare for future emergencies while supporting research, innovation and local production of health products.

By strengthening collaboration and readiness, African countries are better positioned to respond rapidly to emerging threats and facilitate timely access to lifesaving interventions.



Partnerships for Health

WHO and Ministry of Health reaffirm commitment to advancing health priorities

WHO Representative Dr Fabian Ndenzako, accompanied by the WHO Country Office team, paid a courtesy call on the newly appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr Neo Tapela, and the Ministry's senior management team. The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen dialogue on Botswana's health priorities and reaffirm the longstanding partnership between WHO and the Ministry of Health. Discussions focused on advancing Universal Health Coverage, strengthening health systems, enhancing emergency preparedness and response capacities, and accelerating progress toward improved health outcomes for all people in Botswana.

The engagement highlighted the importance of continued collaboration in addressing emerging public health challenges and supporting the implementation of national health strategies. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to working together to build resilient health systems capable of delivering quality, accessible and people-centred services.

WHO welcomed the opportunity to engage with the Ministry's leadership and reiterated its commitment to providing technical support and fostering partnerships that contribute to healthier communities across the country.

The courtesy visit underscored the shared vision of WHO and the Government of Botswana to advance health, strengthen resilience and ensure that no one is left behind on the path towards Health for All.



UN and SADC Strengthen Partnership for Regional Development

WHO Representative to Botswana and SADC, Dr Fabian Ndenzako, joined members of the United Nations Country Team in a high-level meeting with SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Mr Elias Magosi, to reaffirm the shared commitment of the United Nations and SADC to advancing sustainable development across Southern Africa. Led by UN Resident Coordinator Ms Wenyan Yang, the discussion focused on strengthening collaboration in support of the SADC Regional Strategic Development Plan (RSDP) 2020-2030 and accelerating progress on regional priorities.

Participants highlighted the importance of coordinated action in addressing interconnected development challenges and emphasized the value of leveraging the expertise and partnerships of the UN system to support regional integration, resilience, inclusive growth and sustainable development. The engagement also underscored the role of the UN system in supporting the translation of regional commitments into country-level action through existing cooperation frameworks between SADC and UN agencies.

For WHO, strong collaboration with regional institutions remains essential to advancing health and development goals. Through continued partnership with SADC and fellow UN agencies, WHO contributes to efforts that strengthen health systems, improve resilience and support the well-being of communities across Southern Africa. The meeting reinforced a shared commitment to deeper collaboration and a coordinated approach to delivering sustainable and people-centred development outcomes throughout the region.



Botswana at 60: Advancing health together

WHO Botswana joined the nation in celebrating Botswana's 60th Independence Anniversary, commemorated under the theme "Building Resilience, Driving Prosperity".

The milestone provided an opportunity to reflect on the country's remarkable development journey and the progress achieved in improving the health and well-being of its people. Over the past six decades, Botswana has made significant strides in health, social and economic development through strong leadership, strategic investments and enduring partnerships. These achievements have been supported by the commitment of health workers, government institutions, communities and development partners working together to improve lives across the country.



As Botswana continues its journey towards sustainable development, WHO remains committed to supporting national priorities, strengthening resilient health systems, advancing Universal Health Coverage and promoting equitable access to quality health services for all.

The anniversary celebration also served as a tribute to the people of Botswana whose dedication, service and collaboration continue to contribute to a healthier, stronger and more prosperous nation.

WHO Botswana congratulates the Government and people of Botswana on this important national milestone and looks forward to continuing its partnership in support of Health for All.

PARTNERS APPRECIATION





**World Health
Organization**

Botswana

Country Office, Botswana
MVA Fund Building
Plot 50367, Fairgrounds, Gaborone
+267 3905593
www.who.int/countries/Botswana