



# WHO Country Office LESOTHO NEWSLETTER

Volume 1  
Issue 1  
Jan. 2008

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WHO Representative: Dr Angela Benson

## Lesotho launched National Measles Campaign

*By Peter Phori, Health Promotion Officer*

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*Dr. Angel Benson, WHO Representative vaccinating a child during the campaign*

## From the Editorial suite

*By Dr Angela Benson, Editor-in-Chief*

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the maiden edition of the WHO Lesotho Newsletter. This quarterly publication is intended to bring to you, our dear readers, details of the activities of the Lesotho WHO Country Office (WCO) as well as the cooperation and collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the UN system and other development partners. The publication will also feature articles and tips on burning health issues in and around the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho.

In this edition, our delightful menu includes the successful national measles campaign in October 2007; the 2007 World HIV/AIDS day, and the World Diabetes Day celebrations in Mafeteng district of the Mountain Kingdom. One of the end-of-year activities of the WCO was a retreat at Thaba Bosiu on the outskirts of the capital city Maseru.

Finally, we will also introduce to you the entire Staff of the WCO. Happy reading.

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*Draft Social Health Insurance for Lesotho is ready and being studied by government*

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## Minister of Health opens state-of-the-art lab and hospital for TB control

By Drs E Aceng, G Alabi, M Mabathoana - WCO/TB/HIV Cluster

GDF approves National TB Program's application for free grant of paediatric anti-TB drugs.



Left –Right: Dr. Raviglione (WHO); Mrs. Mathato Mosisili, First Lady; Dr. Mphu Ramallapeng, Hon. Minister of Health; Dr. S. Keshavjee (PIH), CEO of FIND, Dr. G Roscigno & Mr. T.J. Ramotsoari, PS, MOHSW at opening ceremony of TB Lab & MDR-TB Hospital, Nov 2007



Hon Minister unveiled official opening plaque for the MDR-TB Hospital, Botsabelo, Maseru..

In its determination to control TB, and especially, Multi-Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB), the Government of Lesotho through technical support from Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Partners In health (PIH) and WHO has successfully built a state-of-the-art Central TB lab with most modern facilities for the diagnosis of all forms of Tuberculosis, including, multi-drug resistance TB. In addition, a modern MDR-TB Referral Hospital has been opened at Botsabelo in Maseru district to provide adequate and most modern clinical care and support for complicated TB cases in the country.

The formal opening of the two facilities took place on Nov 13, 2007. The occasion was moderated by the Principal Secretary of the MOHSW, Mr. T. J. Ramotsoari while notable dignitaries including, the First Lady, Mrs. Mathato Mosisili; the Representative of the Open Society Institute; the Chief Executive Officer of FIND, Dr. G. Roscigno; Deputy Country Director of PIH, Dr. S. Keshavjee and the Director-General Health Services of the MOHSW, Dr. M. Moteetee were present. The Director of STOP TB, Dr. Mario Raviglione represented the WHO headquarters on the occasion. The Honorable Minister of Health, Dr. M. Ramatlapeng, unveiled the plaques of the two facilities.

## Support galore for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Lesotho

By M Hlabana, Public Health and Environment Officer

The WHO & other UN agencies in collaboration with the MOHSW and National task teams for avian and human influenza have finalized a program for implementing the communication component of the national preparedness and response plan for avian and human influenza. Funding for executing the component was provided by UNICEF. In addition, the National Avian Influenza plan has been completed. Japan Government made available additional fund of US\$60,000 to support the communication activities and a KAP study on avian influenza.

The 1st batch of the Inter-Agency Emergency Health and Diarrhoea kits procured through the US\$472,565.00 UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) support had been received in the country. The kits were distributed by WCO to six health service areas (three government and six Christian Health Association of Lesotho health facilities) to fast-track support needed to save lives in the drought-affected areas and for direct interventions to combat malnutrition and diarrhoeal diseases.

CERF support procurement of Emergency Health and diarrhoea kits for Lesotho

## WCO support for the revitalization of Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response in Lesotho

By Dr. D. Tagodoe, IDSR Consultant & Mrs. S Maepe, EPI/Surveillance Officer

The operations of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system in Lesotho has suffered a serious setback for the past two years due to the lack of focal persons at both MOHSW and WHO levels. The MOHSW and WCO have been keen to revitalize the surveillance in the country and this has come at a time when the new International Health Regulations (IHR revised in 2005) are coming into effect. The challenges to revitalize the IDSR resided in the chronic limited human resources faced by the country. The political will and the strong commitment of the MOHSW and the WHO are some of the positive factors in favor of a rapid revitalization process.

The revitalization process began with the engagement of an IDSR Consultant by the WCO to provide technical assistance and the appointment of an IDSR focal point and IDSR Data Manager by the MOHSW. This was followed by on the job training of the 2 focal persons by the Consultant. Thereafter, the IDSR taskforce was revitalized followed by (i) the revision of the list of the IDSR targeted diseases; (ii) development of indicators for the targeted diseases; (iii) updating of the IDSR handbook & guidelines; (iv) development of the electronic and manual tools for in and out-patient records and IDSR training materials. The process was completed with a training workshop for trainers who later cascaded training to all districts. In all, 12 trainers and 47 senior district staff were trained on IDSR, while 10 District Information Officers were trained on IDSR and EPI data management.



Trainees at IDSR training at Khotsong Lodge Maseru

## Reproductive Health in Lesotho received boosted actions

By M Tsoloane-Bolepo, Family Health Program Officer

WCO in collaboration with UNFPA provided technical support for the finalization of the Reproductive Health (RH) policy for Lesotho. This policy addresses the core components of sexual and reproductive health care namely: improvement of antenatal, peri-natal, postpartum, and newborn care; provision of high-quality services for family planning, including infertility services; elimination of unsafe abortions; prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, reproductive tract infections, cancer and gender based violence. Others are promotion of healthy sexuality and involvement/participation of Male in reproductive health interventions.

Still on RH, Prevention of cervical cancer in Lesotho receives boosted attention with the finalization of desktop baseline study on cervical cancer. In addition, the operational guideline for the screening of cancers in women has been developed and is currently in print. Furthermore, a training Manual for Mother and Newborn Care for Health Professionals is being developed with support from the WHO Inter-Country Support team from Harare.

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*Draft Reproductive Health Policy for Lesotho is ready for dissemination and finalization in early 2008*

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## 2007 Measles campaign in Lesotho

By Selloane Maepe - EPI

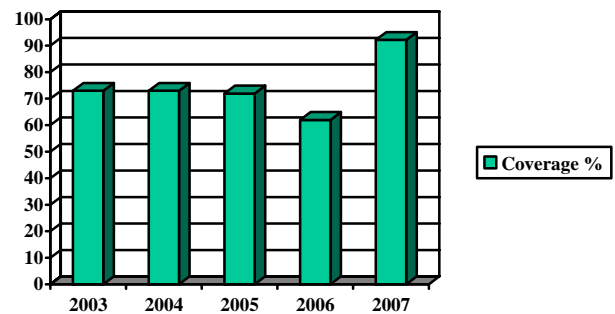
### Major Activities / Events:

The 2007 nation-wide Measles campaign was a huge success with 196,490 (92.2%) targeted population immunized. In addition, 194,462 (85.5%) received Vitamin A while 161,085 children (81.1%) received Albendazole

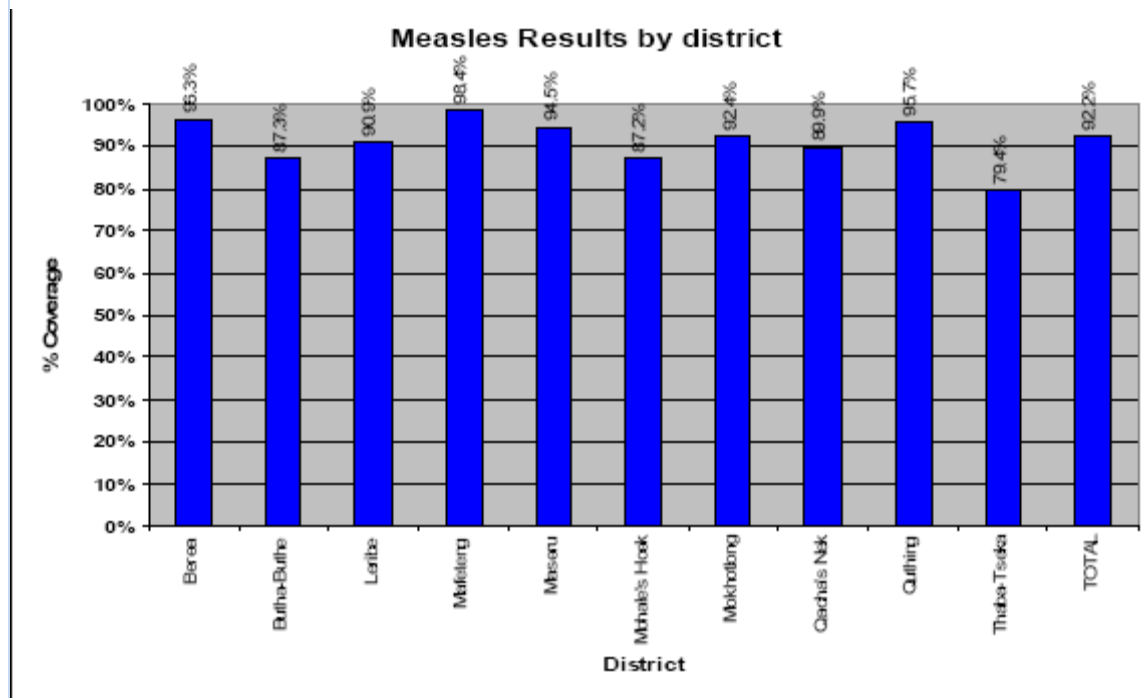
Post campaign coverage survey for measles was 89%

	District	Target Population for Measles (9-59mths)	Number of Children Immunized	Coverage %
1	Berea	29 055	27 979	96.3%
2	Butha-Buthe	12 415	10 840	87.3%
3	Leribe	33 748	30 674	90.9%
4	Mafeteng	21 932	21 592	98.4%
5	Maseru	48 823	46 133	94.5%
6	Mohale's Hoek	19 760	17 223	87.2%
7	Mokhotlong	10 845	10 019	92.4%
8	Qacha's Nek	8 164	7 341	89.9%
9	Quthing	13 629	13 044	95.7%
10	Thaba-Tseka	14 661	11 645	79.4%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213 032</b>	<b>196 490</b>	<b>92.2%</b>

Chart 1: Measle coverage trend 2003-2007  
 Lesotho



### 2007 Measles campaign coverage by districts in Lesotho



## Commemoration of 2007 World AIDS Day in Lesotho

*By P. Phori, Health Promotion Officer*

The World AIDS Day national commemoration was marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 in Mahobong, Leribe District, in the Kingdom of Lesotho. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Head of State, His Majesty, King Letsie the 111, The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Mr Pakalitha Mosisili, the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Mphu Ramatlapeng, Honourable Ministers of Gender, Forestry and Land Reclamation, members of the Diplomatic missions, the Acting UN Resident Coordinator, the WHO Representative, Dr Angela Benson, Church leaders, the principal Chief of Leribe, Community Counselors, schools, Organizations of People Living with HIV and AIDS, media and the wider communities



*Rev Rapelang Mokhahlane - Church leaders' representative  
Adding the voice of the clergy in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the 2007 World  
AIDS Day commemoration*



*Dr. Angel Benson - WHO Representative in Lesotho  
Listening attentively to the speeches of the leaders during the 2007 World  
AIDS Day ceremony*



*Dr. Mphu Ramatlaping - Honourable Minister of Health & Social Welfare  
Delivering the welcome address at the 2007 World AIDS Day ceremony*



*Mr Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili - The Right Honourable the Prime Minister  
Listening with close attention and demonstrating government commitment and  
support to HIV/AIDS prevention, care & support*



*His Majesty King Letsie III of the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho  
Reiterating government determination to KEEP THE PROMISE during his  
Keynote address at World AIDS Day 2007*

## MOHSW and WCO complete the preparation of a new Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) for 2008-2013

*By Dr. Kawaye Kamanga, Health System Adviser*

The exercise began with the constitution of a Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) Task Force, headed by the WR/Lesotho and the engagement of Ms Zondy Mohapi as the local consultant. The review of first Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS - 1) for the period 2004 - 2007 was done so as to identify its implementation status and to identify the gaps that need to be addressed in the second generation Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS - 2G) for the period 2008 - 2013. The findings and recommendations of the review of CCS-1 together with AFRO and Global strategic documents were utilized and reflected in the elaboration of the CCS -2G.

Country Cooperation Strategy  
2008 – 2013 Lesotho



- Three key issues for improving the CCS-2G:
  - In-depth review and analysis of the key health sector issues, including the factors that influence the health status of the Basotho
  - Broad consultations and advocacy for the CCS - 2G preparation process, to ensure that the process was inclusive and participatory
  - Active involvement of key stakeholders, especially the MOH&SW, UN partners and WCO staff

In order to improve the awareness and the use of the CCS - 2G, the development process emphasized, amongst others, three key issues:


- In-depth review and analysis of the key health sector issues, including the factors that influence the health status of the Basotho
- Broad consultations and advocacy for the CCS - 2G preparation process, to ensure that the process was inclusive and participatory
- Active involvement of key stakeholders, especially the MOH&SW, UN partners and WCO staff

The review of CCS-1 was supplemented by undertaking face-to-face interviews and the administration of a structured questionnaire. The interviews were done with all WHO country office technical staff and with stakeholders including MOH&SW program officers, line ministries, UN agencies, academic institutions, development partners, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the private sector (both for profit making and not for profit).

To get a broader picture of the new priorities, an additional review of relevant documents was undertaken. These documents included the Budget Framework of Lesotho Health Sector for the years 2007/08 to 2009/2010, Lesotho National Health



Priorities and Strategic plan for 2004/05-2010/2011, which highlight the priorities for this period, Vision 20:20, the Lesotho Poverty Reduction Strategy, Health-related Millennium Development Goals, WHO Global & Regional Strategic Plans/Directions, The Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of WHO and United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2008-2012 of Lesotho. The priorities gathered from these, together with the gaps and recommendations from the review of CCS-1, defined the priority areas of CCS-2G.



<b>WHO/Lesotho CCS 2008-2013 Strategic Objectives</b>
<b>1. Strengthen health systems focusing on equitable access to quality health care and health sector reforms</b>
<b>2. Strengthen the control of TB, HIV and AIDS</b>
<b>3. Strengthen family and community health</b>
<b>4. Enhance capacity for the prevention and control of major communicable and non-communicable diseases</b>
<b>5. Foster partnership and coordination for national health development.</b>

There were broad consultations and advocacy for the preparation for the CCS-2G taking into consideration the global health challenges and targets, the WHO HQ and Regional Strategic Plans and National Health Priorities. We took opportunity of the Health Sector Review Forum where the MOH&SW, Multilateral Organizations, Bilateral Organizations, the NGO's, Private Sector and the Civil Societies were represented to present the CCS-2G process and priorities.

During the WHO staff Retreat at the end of 2007, the top senior staff in the MOH&SW, Directors and Program Managers were again consulted and the draft CCS-2G document was given to them for comments and inputs.

The comments from the MOH&SW and other Partners were incorporated into the draft document. This was followed by several discussions and consultations internally within the WCO/Lesotho to fine tune and to strengthen the document. The draft CCS-2G document was also shared with the UN Heads of Agencies for comments. All these consultations provided the needed harmonization with the National Health Priorities

We express our gratitude to the WHO ICST/ESA, the Regional Office and Headquarters for their orientation in the finalization of the document.

## Lesotho celebrates 2007 World Diabetes Day in style

*By Peter Phori, Health Promotion Officer & Dr. Gani Alabi, Medical Officer-TB*

### Lesotho World Diabetes Day Commemoration Nov 16, 2007 in pictures



Dr. Letsie, Head Disease Control ,  
MOHSW, making a speech as  
representative of the Hon. Minister of  
Health at the occasion



Mr. Phori, WHO/Health Promotion  
Officer & Dr. Alabi, WHO/Medical  
Officer speaking as representatives of  
WHO Representative in Lesotho



School Children entertaining at the  
occasion



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Mr. Lehloenya, the Mafeteng District Secretary, delivering a speech at the occasion



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Community members listening and waiting to be screened

**Tsakholo Health Centre, Mafeteng district, was the venue of the 2007 World Diabetes Day.**

## WCO ends the year 2007 with a retreat

*By Dr. Gani Alabi, Chairman, Retreat Organizing Committee*

### Introduction:

The third WHO Country Office (WCO) Lesotho retreat was held at Khotsong Lodge, Thaba Bosiu, in Maseru district from the November 27-29, 2007. The retreat was conducted under the leadership of the WHO Representative in Lesotho, Dr. Angela Benson with the assistance of the WCO 2007 Retreat Organizing committee.

The theme for the 2007 retreat was “Sustaining the A-Team Spirit through improved performance and stakeholders’ satisfaction”. The first retreat was basically on Team building while the second began the process of addressing technical issues. The 2007 theme focused on analysis of the performance of the WCO team and laid down the strategic directions for effective technical collaboration with the MOHSW.

### Objectives of the retreat

The main objectives of the retreat were as follows:

- To update staff on the content & implications of the WHO 2007 Human resource (HR) and the United Nations (UN) reforms.
- To review and refine the strategies for strengthening WHO collaboration with MOHSW, UN Agencies and other development partners in the context of the WHO Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) and the MOHSW health policy.
- To reflect on the framework and challenges of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Country Cooperation Strategies (CCS 2G)
- To address the issues of stress and stress management for staff

### Recommendations

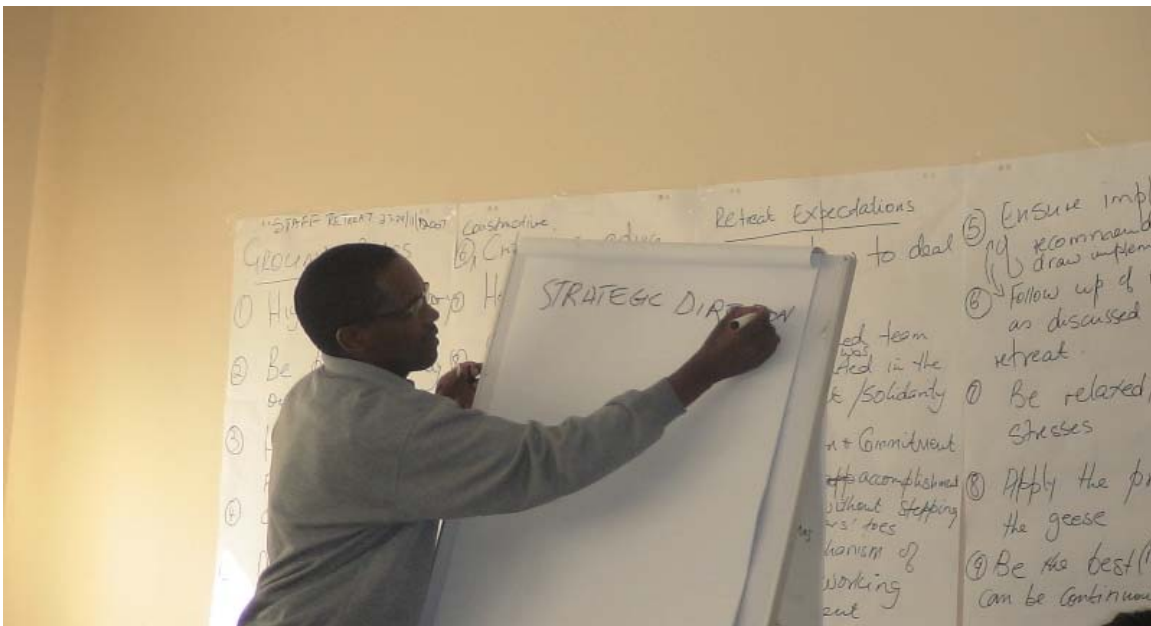
The main recommendations of the retreat were:

- Implement the strategic directions agreed upon with the MOHSW
- The MOHSW will invite WCO/Lesotho program officers regularly to participate in their in-house quarterly/monthly Health Program Reviews with a view to having frank inputs and comments before the general Stakeholders’ Health Sector Reviews
- All focal points (Admin & Technical) should provide updates in respect of their respective areas of work and disseminate same, by all means to all stakeholders on a regular basis.
- The WCO retreat should be held once annually and during the last week of October 2007.
- The organizing committee must be set-up by end of quarter 1, every year. The theme for the annual retreat must be developed by end of quarter 2 by the organizing committee.

## WCO 2007 retreat in pictures



*A cross-section of the MOHSW & WCO Staff during the interaction session*



*Mr. Peter Phori, moderating the brain-storming session to articulate the strategic directions for collaboration between the MOHSW and the WCO*

## Administration and other business

*By Mrs. Linda Tembo, Administrative Officer*

### *International meetings/workshops:*

The following international meetings/workshops were attended by members of the WCO:

- Public Health/Environment (PHE) officer participated in the Internal Meeting on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in the African Region.
- The NPO-TB/HIV and Medical Officer MDR-XDR-TB participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning meeting held in Accra Ghana for TB Program Managers WCO TB & TB/HIV Officers, using WHO TB Planning and Budgeting tools.
- HIV Officer participated in a workshop for UNFPA newly recruited UBW-Supported staff on SRH and HIV and AIDS in Cape Town South Africa.
- NPO-Family Health Program Officer participated in a workshop on Repositioning Family Planning and Update of Family, and an Orientation Workshop on MPS/IMPAC Guidelines and Tools in Harare.
- EPI Officer and two officers from MOHSW (EPI Manager and Epidemiologist) participated in the training on GAVI application and updating of the comprehensive Multi-year Plan (cMYP) in Maputo

### *2008-2009 POA:*

The WCO biennium Plan Of Action (POA) 2008-2009 has been approved by Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Luis Gomes Sambo and its implementation has commenced in earnest and gathering speed.



## WCO-Lesotho Staff



Dr. Angela Benson, WHO Representative



Dr. Esther Aceng, HIV Program officer



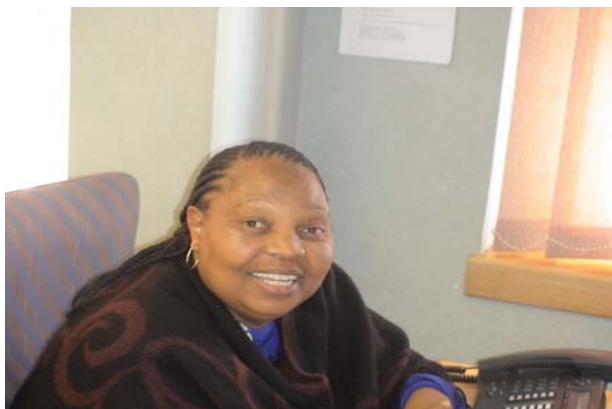
Dr. Kawaye Kamanga, Health System Adviser



Mrs. Selloane Maepe, EPI/Surveillance Officer



Mr. Peter Phori, Health Promotion officer



Mrs. Mantsane Ts'oloane  
Family Health Program Officer



Dr. Gani Alabi, Medical Officer - TB



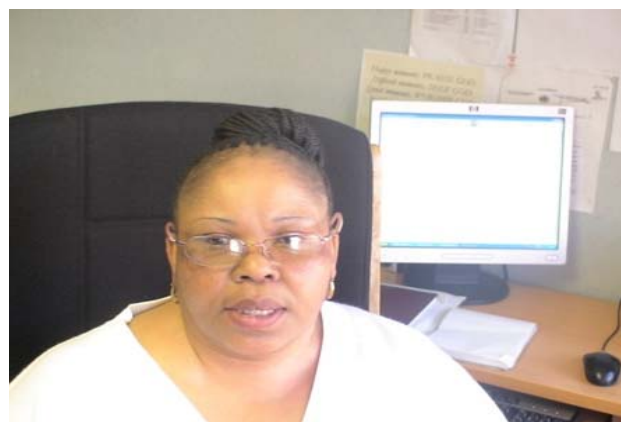
Mr. Mohlakola Hlabana, Public Health & Environment  
Officer



Dr. Makafane Mabathoana, TB/HIV Officer



Mrs. Linda Tembo, Administrative Officer



Mrs. Ntsoaki Tlebere, Sec./WR





Ms. Flora Lekhanya, Administrative Assistant



Mr. Peo Maraisane, ICT officer



Mrs. Motselisi Molisana, Sec/Country Team



Ms. Naleli Mochochoko, Administrative Clerk



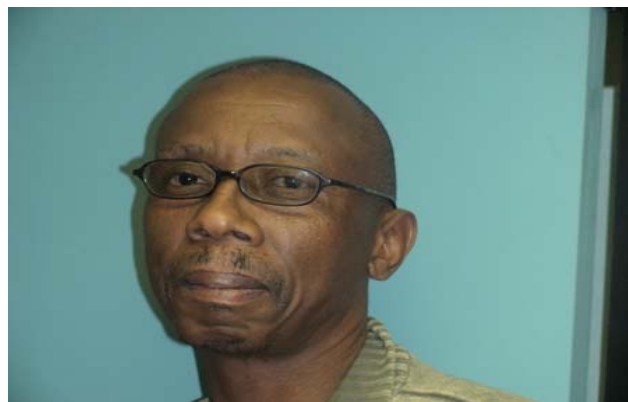
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