



Talking Points

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Press Briefing on the Hepatitis E Outbreak

Ministry of Health and Social Services

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Protocol

- Dr. Bernard Haufiku, Honorable Minister of Health and Social Services
- Ms. P. Masabane, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Services
- Mr. P. Katjiuanjo, Epidemiologist and Director of Health Information and Research
- Colleagues from WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA representing the UN Family
- Esteemed Partners and Guests
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Greetings

- Good morning.
- The Government of the Republic of Namibia through the MoHSS must be commended for its strong leadership during this emergency. The MoHSS has put in place a robust, multi sectoral National Response Plan ensuring all actors remain coordinated, and most importantly respond in a timely manner.
- The Ministry has allocated NAD 3.7 million, and treatment has been provided to all the 400 people detected to have the virus. Intense efforts are underway to ensure the outbreak is contained.

UN's role in addressing the outbreak

- The UN System in Namibia is deployed precisely for emergencies such as this one.
- Our job is to assist governments to assess, coordinate and respond to these emergencies.
- Upon the declaration of the Hepatitis E crisis, WHO immediately cancelled all staff leave and deployed experts to support coordination and response; including the

establishment of protocols, case management, social mobilization and reporting to ensure timely decision-making and response.

- UNFPA has donated 720 000 NAD specifically towards coordination, community mobilization and awareness raising; specifically targeting pregnant and lactating women and young people.
- UNICEF has also supported community awareness, including in schools and early childhood development (ECD) centres, by assisting in the preparation of flyers, posters and messages to train communities and response staff. UNICEF has used social media to promote handwashing, procured 25,000 bars of hand soap and 35,000 water purification tablets.

Conclusion

- The UN System, your 'Partner of Choice', remains committed to addressing the Hepatitis E outbreak. Through partnership with stakeholders, we can ensure that Hepatitis E is contained and that no more lives are lost due to this virus.