

Ministry of Health and Social Services launches Strategic Plan

16 July, Windhoek: The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) launched its Strategic Plan for 2017/18 - 2021/22 alongside partners, including the United Nations (UN) System in Namibia, on 16 July 2018 in Windhoek. The plan outlines activities towards making Namibia a healthy nation, in line with national and international development agendas.

Speaking at the launch, the UN Resident Coordinator a.i. Rachel Odede reaffirmed the UN's support towards the MoHSS in implementing the Plan. "Together, we can eliminate the barriers to quality health care access to ensure that no one in Namibia is left behind due to poor health," she said.

'Good Health' is part of the Social Transformation Pillar within the UN Partnership Framework (UNPAF) with the Government of the Republic of Namibia. Specifically, Outcome 2.1 speaks to ensuring that all people have access to and utilise quality integrated health care and nutrition services.

This is in line with Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which ensures that everyone, everywhere can access essential quality health services without facing financial hardship. UHC is an important target of Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 'Good Health and Well-being'. Access and quality of service, critical elements of UHC, are reflected in the Ministerial Strategic Plan.

The Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) to Namibia, Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses presented on UHC at the National Health Assembly, which was officially inaugurated after the launch of the Ministerial Strategic Plan.

This forum, which will continue to meet frequently throughout the implementation of the plan, brought together stakeholders to chart the way towards improving health outcomes in Namibia.

Several challenges facing Namibia's health sector were highlighted at the launch and at the inaugural National Health Assembly. The Strategic Plan outlines ways to address these challenges in an effort to ensure that all Namibians have access to quality health care. It aims to ensure that resources are distributed equally, where they are most needed to achieve tangible results.

The Executive Summary says, "The competent and skilled health workforce, adequate health financing, sound policy framework, appropriate and relevant medical products including technologies, medicines and knowledge management, are pivotal to health system strengthening in our country."

Commenting on the UN's support, the Minister of Health and Social Services Dr. Bernhard Haufiku said, "We are thankful for the financial and technical support from partners, especially the UN. Without support, we would possibly not successfully implement the strategy."

