

Partnership Lunch between Japan, UNICEF  
and Ministry of Health and Wellness

24 March 2022

On the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022, a partnership Launch between Japan, Ministry of Health & Wellness and UNICEF was held in Gaborone. In attendance was the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness Dr. Edwin Dikoloti, Dr. Joan Matji, UNICEF Representative in Botswana and the Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, H.E. Mr. HOSHIYAMA Takashi.

Ambassador Hoshiyama stated that two new projects in which Japan is supporting Botswana through UNICEF are :

1. Emergency Grant Aid that was extended to UNICEF to support Botswana's cold chain and
2. The project of "Enabling continuity of essential nutrition and child protection services to vulnerable children during COVID-19".

He noted that Japan and UNICEF have also worked together to promote COVAX Facilities worldwide. Ambassador mentioned that this launch was an excellent opportunity to reconfirm and reiterate Japan's commitment to the health and wellbeing of the people of Botswana and vowed to continue working closely with stakeholders based on the concept of human security and with the objective of "Leaving no one's health behind." He also urged his counterparts to further strengthen and contribute to the human security of Botswana.

In his speech, Hon. Minister Dikoloti expressed his profound gratitude to the people of Japan on behalf of the Botswana government and the people of the Republic of Botswana for this noble gesture. He added that the assistance to procure cold chain equipment, cold storage facilities and transport, and necessary human resource development came at an opportune time since the Ministry is in dire need for support in the cold chain area, especially during this era of the global pandemic.

He also appreciated UNICEF for having been there for Botswana and for their tireless efforts in making sure that Covid-19 vaccines were sourced and transported. He called on them to continue supporting the Ministry of Health in ensuring that they attain their vision and mission of "Health for All by 2036".

In response, Dr. Matji stated that UNICEF will use its comparative advantage in pooled procurement to ensure that the cold chain equipment such as ultra-low temperature freezers are procured in a timely manner through the cooperation of the Government of Japan. "It is important to highlight that at a time where the country is focusing on revitalizing Primary Health care, this support will also benefit and reinforce routine immunisation services to protect children against childhood diseases", said Dr. Matji.



