

Japan's support to strengthen vaccine cold chain system in Botswana through UNICEF

15th May 2023

On the 12th May 2023, the Japanese Government officially handed over vaccine cold chain equipment to the Ministry of Health in Botswana. The event was held at Central Medical Stores, following the signing of a grant contract in February 2022, in the amount of approximately P7.9 million (USD 600,000), aimed at strengthening the vaccine cold chain system in Botswana, and also monitoring effective management of the equipment through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The funding also helped to strengthen the capacity of government staff, including training of technical staff on the operation and maintenance of cold chain equipment. Walk-in Cold Rooms were installed in several regions such as Gaborone, Serowe, Francistown, and Maun. As a result, cold chain capacity around those areas have improved.

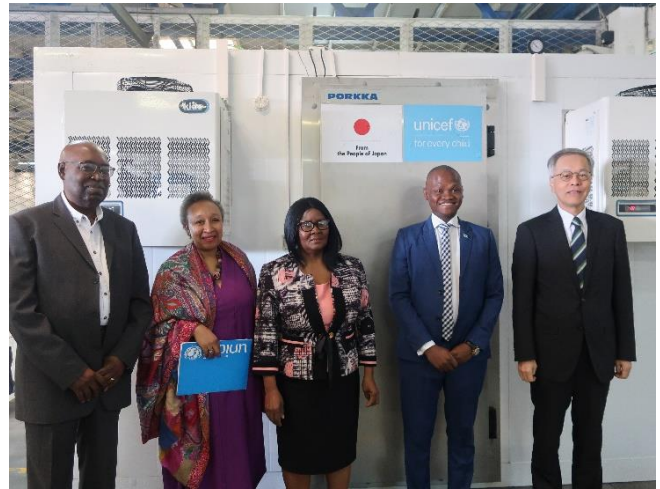
At the handover ceremony, Mr. OHMORI Setsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana gave his remarks saying that “the experience of COVID-19 has taught us that there should be no geographical vacuum in addressing global health issues. Japan upholds the notion of “human security” and “universal health coverage (UHC)”, with its firm resolution to ‘leave no one's health behind’. With such belief, Japan continues to cooperate with Botswana in the health sector through various schemes.”

Furthermore, Hon. Dr. Edwin Dikoloti, Minister of Health and Dr. Joan Matji, UNICEF Representative gave their remarks, reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic. They each described the Government's tremendous efforts made towards the fight against COVID-19. They both agreed that the donated facilities will help Botswana build a more resilient health system that will be able to sustain the gains made from the COVID-19 pandemic response and help the country to be prepared for future pandemics.

For further enquiries, please contact the Embassy of Japan in Botswana (Tel: 391-4456).



Ambassador OHMORI giving his remarks



Dr. Matji, UNICEF Representative Botswana
Dr. Seitio-Kgokgwe, DPS, Ministry of Health



Hon. Dr. Dikoloti, Minister of Health, in front of one of the Freezers donated by Japan



Walk-in-Cold Rooms donated by Japan