



STATISTICS BOTSWANA

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REMARKS

DELIVERED BY

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STATISTICIAN GENERAL**

AT THE LAUNCH OF BOTSWANA HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE (HDC)

HELD AT

GABORONE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (GICC)

ON

10 MARCH 2020



- Director of Ceremony,
 - Honorable Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Lemogang Kwape
 - Honourable Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, Mr Kagiso Mmusi
 - Honourable Minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs Ms Anna Mokgethi
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Mr Solomon Sekwakwa
 - World Health Organisation Representative, Dr Joseph Namboze
 - Head of Delegation, European Union, Mr Jan Sadek
 - Country Coordinator, PEPFAR, Mr Dan Craun-Selka
 - NAHPA Coordinator, Mr Rachard Matlhare
 - Deputy Permanent Secretaries here present
 - Senior Government officials
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- Ladies and gentleman,

Good morning.

1. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to make these brief remarks on the importance of quality data at this launch of Botswana Health Data Collaborative. This launch comes at an important time when Statistics Botswana is strengthening its work on building capacity within the sectors of the National Statistics System to improve collection, compilation, processing and dissemination of administrative data in order to ensure that decisions



are anchored on empirical evidence based on quality data. This is being done through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics.

2. Statistics Botswana produces health statistics publications on the basis of administrative health data provided by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The publications include the annual health report, the maternal mortality report and the Botswana cause of death report. The key statistics released through these reports include maternal mortality ratio and leading causes of deaths for both infants and adults.

These statistics are intended to inform planning, policy and health intervention and programs in both preventive health and curative health. Given the critical areas in which these statistics to support evidence based decision making, it is crucial that the data used to arrive at these statistics are of very high quality in all data quality dimensions

3. The United Nations outlines five key elements to define data quality. These are completeness, consistency, accuracy, validity, and timeliness.
4. The first component emphasises the **completeness** of data. This component underscores the need to ensure



that there is enough information to draw conclusions about the data and whether enough individuals responded to questions to ensure representativeness. The second component of **consistency** considers the extent to which data is collected using the same processes and procedures by everyone doing the collection in all location over time. The third component of quality deals with **accuracy**, which basically should indicate whether the data is free from significant errors and whether the number seem to make sense; the fourth component deals with **validity** of the data, that is, whether the data collected and reported appears to measure the approved performance measure or program goal. The last, component deals with **timeliness** of data that is whether the data is provided at a reasonable time to facilitate timely decision making.

5. Director ceremonies; ensuring that we attain acceptable levels of quality in line with the above components demands strong collaboration between different stakeholders with guidance to Statistics Botswana. In addition, the above standards challenge us to explore innovative ways of collecting, processing and disseminating data. I want to add that we in Statistics Botswana have adopted Computer assisted personal interviews (CAPI) for all household surveys to ensure that we do not only improve of the quality of data collected but also improve on the timeliness of



reporting and dissemination. This approach shall be extended to the upcoming Population and Housing Census of 2021.

6. In this connection, I would like to note the efforts made by the Ministry of Health and Wellness to automate patient management information system. Adoption of this system shall ensure that patient information is received and processed and reports for the same are produced at timely leading to timely and relevant interventions. In addition, adoption of this system will considerably reduce errors introduced during entry and improve on the turnaround time.
7. In our continuing effort to improve the quality of data and ensure that our data is comparable internationally, Statistics Botswana and the Ministry of Health and Wellness follow the International Classification of Diseases. In order to ensure that we continue to collect comparable and quality data, one needs to emphasise the need for continuous training of those who collect and process health related data.
8. Director of ceremonies, as all of those attending this event may know, Botswana signed on to the agenda 2030, of living no one behind, thereby committing to do everything possible to achieve relevant sustainable development goals. In addition, this country has adopted a set of indicators to monitor the Sustainable



Development Goals. Ladies and gentlemen, monitoring these indicators require considerable amount of data from administrative, censuses and household surveys.

9. The third SDG emphasises ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. In order to adequately monitor achievement of this goal and make timely and appropriate interventions, we need quality data.
10. In concluding, I would like to emphasise that data is a vital part of public health's assessment function, used to identify special risk groups, detect new health threats, plan public health programs and evaluate their success, and prepare appropriate budgets.
11. I thank you for your attention