ECSA-HC Supports the Lesotho National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) Development

The East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community, in Collaboration with the Kingdom of Lesotho convened a NAPHS Validation and Costing Workshop held from the 09\textsuperscript{th} to the 13\textsuperscript{th} of September 2019 at the Mmelesi Lodge in Maseru. The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Review and validate strategic and detailed activities in the draft Lesotho NAPHS; b) Review multisectoral and multidisciplinary coordination and collaboration mechanisms between health security and health systems strengthening actors to deliver the NAPHS; c) Cost all activities contained in the NAPHS; and d) Identify next steps and recommendations to finalise and launch the plan.

Officially opening the Workshop, was Mr. Thebe Mokoatle, the Principal Secretary to the Ministry of Health Lesotho. In harmony with the Principal Secretary’s opening remarks, Dr Susan Tembo, Representative of the WHO country office Representative and Dr Mohamed Ally Mohamed, Senior Public Health Specialist of the East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC) spoke with one voice in expressing gratitude to multi-sector collaboration. All speakers highlighted their full support to the planning process and the eventual implementation of the Lesotho NAPHS, emphasizing the need to be prepared amidst the current public health emergency of international concern.

In attendance were representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, academia and the Disaster Management Authority.

The Ministry of Health assured that the proposed activities are intersectoral and linked to ongoing national strategies, guidelines and operations. The development and implementation of the NAPHS is envisaged to build strong and resilient health systems to ensure a high level of national health security, protecting the health, lives and livelihoods of the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho. The NAPHS will further provide a coordination platform to map and ensure interplay between multiple sectors and other existing health sector, population and programme specific plans, at all administrative levels of the country.

The NAPHS will be implemented under the coordination of the Ministry of Health in close collaboration with other relevant ministries and sectors, all guided under the provisions contained in the IHR 2005. To ensure successful implementation, it was proposed that a multi-sectoral technical working group (IHR TWG) established. This group will be accountable to a proposed National Interministerial Steering Committee for Health Security (IHR NSC) that will provide oversight to the implementation of the plan, and monitor and evaluate its implementation.