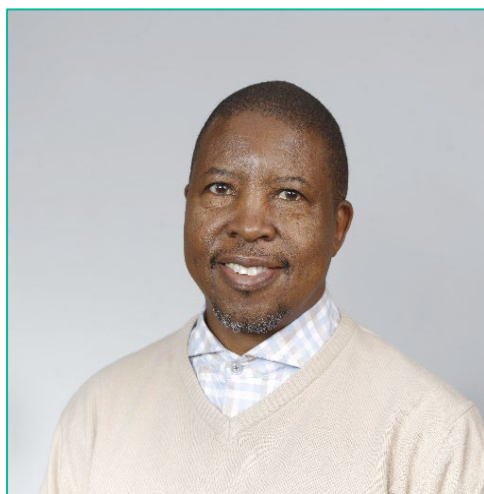




News in Brief

August 2026



Professor Setswe Appointed as CEO of Aurum Institute SA

Professor Geoffrey Setswe was recently appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Aurum Institute South Africa. Setswe is the Nodal Director of SAPRIN's seventh and newest Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) node, BMMISHO - the Bafokeng Health & Demographic Surveillance System in the North West Province.

Prof Setswe is a distinguished public health leader with more than three decades of experience spanning public health research, policy development and institutional leadership. Throughout his career, he has held senior leadership positions across academia and research institutions, building a reputation for advancing evidence-based approaches to some of South Africa's most pressing health challenges.



GRT-INSPIRED hosts Mandela Day activities

The GRT-INSPIRED HDSS node carried out Mandela Day activities in Melusi and Hillbrow. In Melusi the University of Pretoria GRT-I team and the Community Advisory Board (CAB) gave back to the community by cleaning the local clinic and serving warm soup to children.

GRT-I and University of Johannesburg Community Engagement volunteers hosted the Ekhaya Mandela Day Tournament at Ekhaya Park. The tournament brought together 17 youth soccer and netball teams from Hillbrow and Berea. The event was a successful day filled with connection with the community.





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DIMAMO HDSS hosts outreach event

The DIMAMO Population Health Research Centre (PHRC) Community Engagement Department held an asthma and tuberculosis awareness outreach event at Malesa village on 26 March 2026. The event was supported by different volunteers, community leaders, and community members with the intended purpose of informing the local community.

The main purpose of the event was to launch the Asthma project that will be conducted by DIMAMO PHRC, and University of Limpopo in collaboration with S.A Cares Lung Institute at the University of Cape Town.



AHRI Hosts USINGA for Benchmarking Session

In early March the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI) hosted the Umlazi Surveillance Initiative to Nurture Grassroots Action (USINGA) HDSS for a hands-on, three-day benchmarking session. USINGA is a relatively new SAPRIN urban node that started data collection in 2023.

During the engagement, the teams exchanged insights on operational systems, data collection methodologies, quality assurance mechanisms, and practical strategies to address fieldwork challenges. As members of SAPRIN, this collaboration was used to advance standardisation and deepen shared learning across the network. This joint effort supports the delivery of ethically sound surveillance practices across both long-standing and emerging research sites.

