

# **Global Advocacy for Occupational Health**

What does this mean in practice ? The example of Southern Africa

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# OUTLINE

- Overview of OH in Southern Africa
- Key Gaps
- Opportunities for Advocacy
- Conclusion

# BACKGROUND

- OSH & OHS access: Low in Southern Africa
- High-level commitments to OHS & OSH –ILO Ratifications & Policy
- Research in OH
- Climate change & OH
- Improvements @ country levels:
  - Human resources, Policy & legal frameworks
  - RSA, Mozambique, Tanzania, Lesotho, Zambia, DRC etc

# OH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA –ADVOCACY FOCUS

- Policy & Legal frameworks
- Good Practices
  - Tools & Methods
- Human Resources:
  - Competence, skills & ethics
- Infrastructure
  - Service provision
  - Support Structure

# POLICY & LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

- Lack completeness in embracing OH fundamentals
- Fragmentation on Policy & legal frameworks
- Glaring deficit of OH:
  - OSH vs Occupational Health Services
- Advocacy
  - OSH vs OHS
  - Ministries of Health & Occupational Health Services

# ILO RATIFICATIONS

COUNTRY	ILO 155	ILO 161
Botswana	X	X
DRC	X	X
Lesotho	✓	X
Tanzania	X	X
Mozambique	X	X
Namibia	X	X
South Africa	✓	X
Zambia	✓	X
Zimbabwe	✓	✓

# GOOD PRACTICES

- HIRA
- Risk Based Medical Surveillance
- Integration of OH into Primary Health
- Informal Sector
- **ADVOCACY FOCUS**
  - BOHS Model
  - At MOH levels
  - OHS Fundamentals



Protracted Gestation  
& Difficult Delivery

# HUMAN RESOURCES

- Competence, skills & Ethics: **Constrained**
- Occupational Medicine Specialists
- Occupational Hygienists
- Ergonomists
- **Advocacy**
  - Academic institutions
  - Governments
  - Industry



**<5 in most Southern  
African countries  
except RSA**



# INFRASTRUCTURE

- Service provision
  - Lack of a systematic approach
  - Near absent in informal sector
  - In public sector – No BOHS, limited OH Centres
- Support Structure
  - Huge funding gap
  - OSH vs OHS infrastructure
  - Integration with broader Health Systems

# KEY FOCUS AREAS

- Legal frameworks
- Resources – Human and Financial
- Good Practices

# LEVELS OF FOCUS

- AU & SADC
- Governments
- Academic Institutions
- Research Institutions
- Occupational Medicine Associations
- Unions

**THE END**

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