



April,
2026

MONTHLY BULLETIN



INSIDE , MONTHLY ROUNDUP. QUICK READS. CLEAR HIGHLIGHTS. REAL IMPACT. HEALTHCARE STORIES THAT MATTER, AT A GLANCE.

For this month, we will look at:

1. Cervical Cancer Training
2. World Malaria Day Commemoration
3. World Day for Safety and Health at Work
4. Staff spotlight and more..

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Welcome to April's Bulletin

WELCOME TO OUR
APRIL BULLETIN



Dear all,
Welcome to our April Bulletin. We are delighted to bring you April's highlights and achievements. This month has tested us with challenges, yet it has also revealed the remarkable dedication and resilience that define us as a Provincial Health Authority. Each milestone reflects how far we have come together, and how strongly we continue to perform in service of our communities. Thank you sincerely for your commitment and hard work, it is your collective effort that keeps our journey moving forward.

Staff Spotlight

Healthcare Worker of the month: Rose Maitank

Title: Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Health

Division: Public Health

Years of service: 37 years

Brief about Rose Maitank: Rose Maitank has given 37 years of dedicated service to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority. At the age of 54, she continues to serve faithfully as the Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Health. She hails from Tiling Village in the Moge Komunika Tribe of Hagen Central and is known for her warm and approachable nature.

Her career reflects the changes of time. Rose started in the days of typewriters, and has moved with ease into the digital world of laptops and desktops. She recalls back, saying technology has only made her faster and more efficient.

Why recognized: Rose is honoured for her years of service to WHPHA and also for the energy and openness she brings every day. Through decades of change at WHPHA, she has remained flexible, welcoming, and ready to serve with a smile and greeting.



Rose Maitank in her office

Health Talks



Malaria

What is Malaria?

- **Cause:** The disease is caused by single-celled *Plasmodium* parasites. When an infected mosquito bites a human, the parasites enter the bloodstream, travel to the liver to mature, and then infect and destroy red blood cells
- **Symptoms:** Initial symptoms are often flu-like fever, chills, headache, and muscle aches, which can begin 10 to 15 days after the bite. Without prompt treatment, it can rapidly progress to severe complications, including severe anemia, cerebral malaria (brain dysfunction), organ failure, and death
- **Risk Factors:** It is most common in tropical and subtropical regions, which accounts for 94% of cases and 95% of deaths. Children under five and pregnant women are the most vulnerable.

Why is World Malaria Day observed annually every March 25? To raise global awareness about malaria, a preventable and treatable disease that still kills hundreds of thousands annually. Established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2007, it highlights the urgent need for sustained political commitment, investment, and community action to control and eliminate the disease.

Snapshots from World Malaria Day — WHPHA teams spreading awareness, testing, and sharing life-saving messages to the general public across Mt Hagen



Health Talks



What is World Immunization Week?

World Immunization Week, aims to highlight the collective action needed and to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.

Through its convening power, WHO works with countries across the globe to raise awareness of the value of vaccines and immunization and ensures that governments obtain the necessary guidance and technical support to implement high quality immunization programmes.

The ultimate goal of World Immunization Week is for more people – and their communities – to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

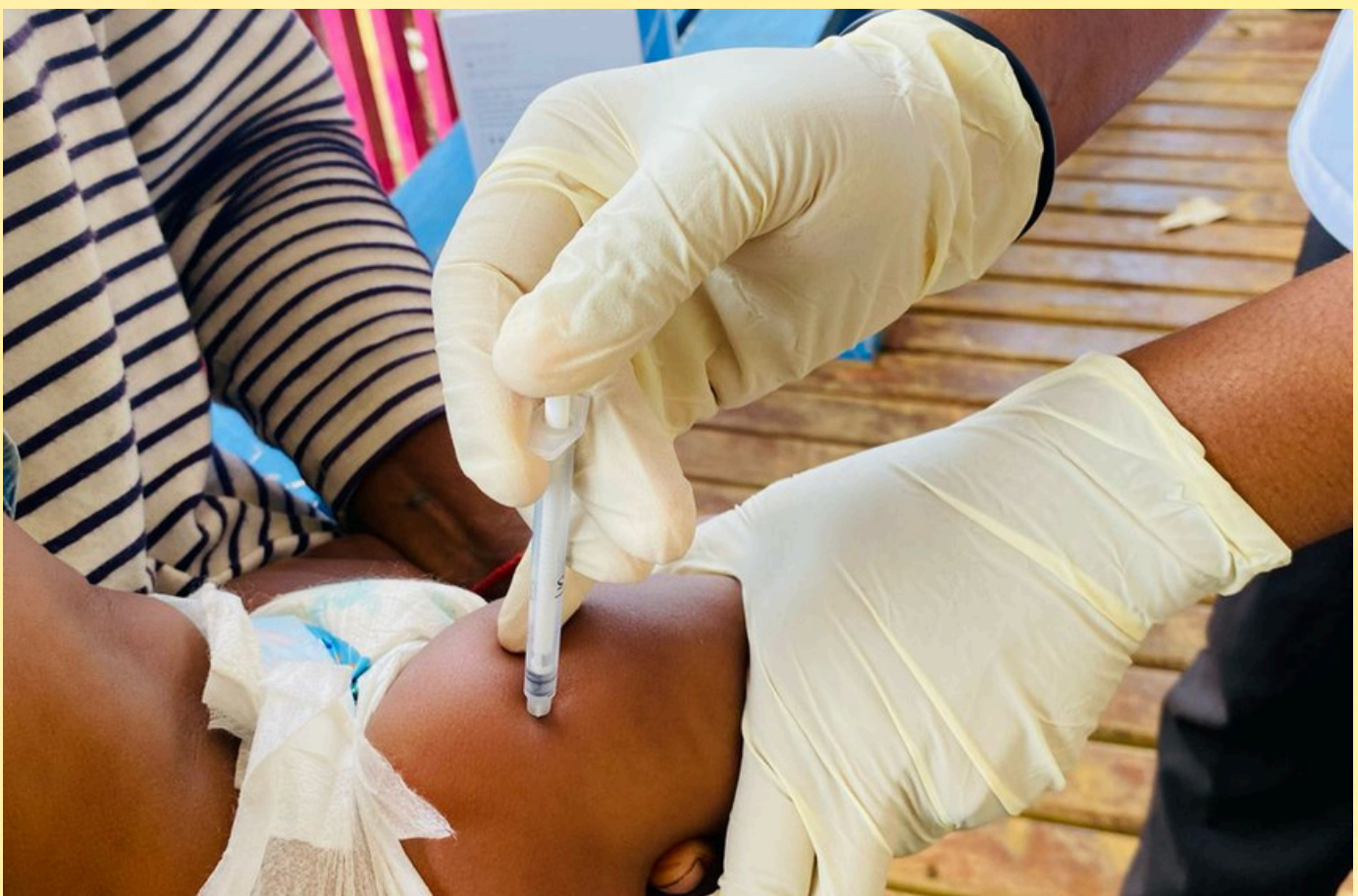
For this year, it was observed from April 24–30 under the theme “For Every Generation, Vaccines Work.”

It served as a reminder that vaccines are not just medical tools, they are traditions of protection passed down through families and communities, safeguarding lives across generations.

For more than half a century, vaccines have been at the heart of public health progress. They have prevented diseases like measles, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, and rotavirus, saving over 150 million lives. This achievement is not accidental—it reflects the everyday choices of parents, caregivers, and communities who decided to protect themselves and their children.

World Immunization Week 2026 celebrated this legacy by encouraging families to see vaccination as a tradition worth keeping. Just as stories, values, and customs are passed down, so too is the protection offered by vaccines. The campaign highlighted how vaccines strengthen communities, build trust in health systems, and ensure that every generation can look forward to a healthier tomorrow.

NB: Information extracted from the World Health Organization website: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-immunization-week>



Frontline guardians of public health

Our Health Inspectors continue to stand at the frontline of public health, moving tirelessly through the shops, big supermarkets and restaurants to ensure that food safety and hygiene standards are upheld. Their work protects families and communities from risks that often go unnoticed.

Health Inspector Joe Wasia, explained that inspections are carried out two to three times a week. "Sometimes it is risky for us to carry out our duties but we choose this path so we will do it," he said. His words reflect the courage and commitment behind the routine checks.

The most common issues uncovered include expired food items still sitting on supermarket shelves and unhygienic practices in restaurants and fast food outlets. Each inspection is a reminder of why the Food and Sanitation Act matters, and why enforcement must be strict to safeguard public health.

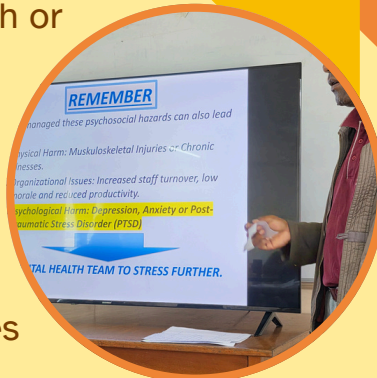
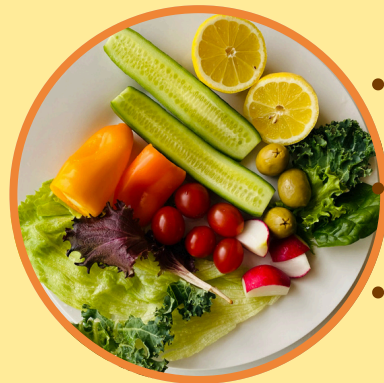
A big thank you to Health Inspectors; Win Koi, Joe Wasia, Esther Kuya, Melissa Steven, Stephanie Steven, and Occupation Health & Safety Officer Bob Nikints. Their presence ensures that food safety standards are upheld, hygiene practices are maintained, and the community in Mt Hagen can trust the places they visit for daily essentials.





Health Tip

- **Hydration reminder:** Carry a water bottle and sip regularly.
- **Mindful breaks:** Take 2–3 minutes to stretch or breathe deeply between tasks.
- **Sleep priority:** Aim for 7–8 hours of rest to recharge.
- **Balanced meals:** Choose fresh fruits and vegetables to sustain energy.
- **Connection:** Talk to colleagues or loved ones when feeling overwhelmed.



Summary of Activities provided for the month of April, 2026:

*WHPHA's Cervical Cancer Screening Clinic successfully hosted a five-day training in Mt Hagen from April 20–24, funded by WHO and was led by our Project Coordinator Ms. Josephine Gabuzzi. 7 women clinicians from Hela, Southern Highlands, Milne Bay, and Port Moresby General Hospital gained vital skills in screening and treatment and will share knowledge in their respective PHAs. WHO commended WHPHA's evidence-based rollout. The next training is scheduled for **June 15–19, 2026**, targeting senior medical officers and consultants from Milne Bay, Southern Highlands, Hela, Port Moresby, New Ireland and Western Highlands PHAs.

*WHPHA marked World Day for Safety and Health at Work with a five-day training (27th April to 01st May, 2026) focused on building a healthy psychosocial workplace.

-Staff were urged to stay alert to risks, report hazards, and support colleagues under stress. Facilitators stressed that wellbeing is vital for patient care, while respect and accountability keep standards strong.

-The revived program was praised as motivational and practical, with calls for regular trainings to keep staff health at the heart of quality healthcare.

*The health promotion drive carried out by our Public Health Team continue to make a real difference to community wellbeing. By shining a light on both lifestyle and communicable diseases, linking families to essential services, and offering on-the-spot wellness checks, the continuous initiative encourages preventive habits and early detection of health risks. Health education is another added layer of support, helping people make safe choices, while referrals ensures that anyone with identified concerns receives timely follow-up care. Altogether, the program deepened public health engagement and inspired healthier living across the province.





Mount Hagen Provincial Hospital



Key Performance Indicators

Date 09/05/2026 Month April Report Date 30/04/2026
 Time 7:35:39 pm Year 2026 Report Period April
 User Name james.gunua Timestamp 09/05/2026 7:35:39 pm

Ward/Location Mt. Hagen Provincial Specialist		Ward Admissions	
No of patients admitted	1,610	Hospital days stayed over 16 days	103
No of patients discharged	1,5219	Same diagnosis readmitted with 28 days	28
Deaths	68	No of patients transferred to ICU	5
Abscond	35	Hospital acquired infection	60
Left at own risk	14	Same admission with more than one procedure	22
No of patients transferred	0	No of patients admitted straight from ED	427
Total Beds	245		
BOR	101%		
ALOS	4		
Mortality rate	4%		
Doctors/HEOS	58	Doctors/HEOS to Pts Ratio	1:28
Nurses	196	Nurses to Pts Ratio	1:8
CHW	236	CHW to Pts Ratio	1:7
Total staff	490	Total staff to Pts Ratio	1:3
Maternal deaths	2		
Remarks	1. For more infor. on hospital aquired infections, refer to IPC report attach. 2. More infor. on maternal deaths always available in qtr. report.		



That's a wrap for April! A month that showed us the strength of teamwork, compassion, and quality care. To our WHPHA family, thank you for your dedication. Together, we are shaping a healthier Western Highlands.

We'll be back next month with more stories of progress and impact.

For more information, contact: Ms. Rita Peki, Liaison Officer/Public Relations Officer

☎ 74351005

✉ rita.peki@whhs.gov.pg

Your story matters. Let's keep celebrating healthcare milestones across the Western Highlands Province.