

**Public Affairs Section**

**U.S. Embassy, Gaborone, Botswana**

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**Press Release**

**United States Government Donates  
New Clinic for Safe Male Circumcision Program**

United States Ambassador to Botswana Michelle D. Gavin will dedicate the first custom-made, prefabricated clinic for Botswana's Safe Male Circumcision (SMC) program on September 18, 2012. The dedication event will take place at the Nkoyaphiri Clinic in Mogoditshane beginning at 8:30 am. This prefabricated "clinic-in-a-box" is the first of its kind to be designed for the SMC program in Botswana. It is donated by the American people through the U.S. Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as one element of the U.S. Government's investment in safe male circumcision in Botswana.

The Honorable G.U.S. Matlhabaphiri, Assistant Minister of Health, will receive the clinic on behalf of the Government of Botswana. The handover ceremony will also include other representatives from the Ministry of Health, Gaborone City Council, the greater Gaborone and Kweneng East District Health Management teams, local and traditional leaders, the U.S. Embassy and its health sector partners, other donors, and representatives of the community.

U.S. Ambassador Gavin said, "The United States Government is committed to supporting Botswana's efforts to reach the goal of zero new HIV infections by 2016. This clinic is a tangible manifestation of our financial and technical assistance to implement evidence-based HIV prevention interventions such as safe male circumcision in Botswana." She added, "SMC is a great tool to prevent new HIV infections—it is safe, and the partial protective effect lasts for life. Women's health also benefits greatly when men are circumcised."

Through PEPFAR, the U.S. Government is assisting the Botswana Ministry of Health reach its goal of circumcising 385,000 men by 2016. If this target is reached in time, 18,000 new HIV infections will be prevented by 2016. One implementing partner, Jhpiego, an affiliate of U.S.-based Johns Hopkins University, is helping the Ministry of Health reach its goal at the Nkoyaphiri SMC clinic, where teams of highly trained doctors and nurses can safely conduct over 40 male circumcision procedures per day. When teens and adults come for SMC services, they receive the highest standard of quality and efficient medical services available.

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