



MHSC

Mine Health and Safety Council

SAMI's Journey to Zero Harm: Health Focus

Health milestones and the 2024 Summit action plan

Fatheela Brovko

Mine Health Dialogue, 2026

Every mine worker returning from work unharmed every day. Striving for zero harm in our lifetime.

SAMI Zero Harm Journey: measurable health improvement

Occupational diseases

2014 → 2024

6,577



1,723

↓ 73.8%

A major reduction, but not elimination; OLDs and NIHL continue to lead.

TB incidence / 100 000

2014 → 2024

957



187

↓ 80.5%

Consistently below the national incidence rate since 2017.

HIV Counselling

2014 → 2024

55.7%



84.9%

↑ 52.4%

Strong improvement, but still below the 90% and 95% targets.

HIV Testing

2014 → 2024

70.7%



63.6%

↓ 10%

Declined over time, indicating the need for renewed industry focus and stronger implementation.

Reported NCD prevalence cases

2019 → 2024

84,156



156 818

↑ 86.3%

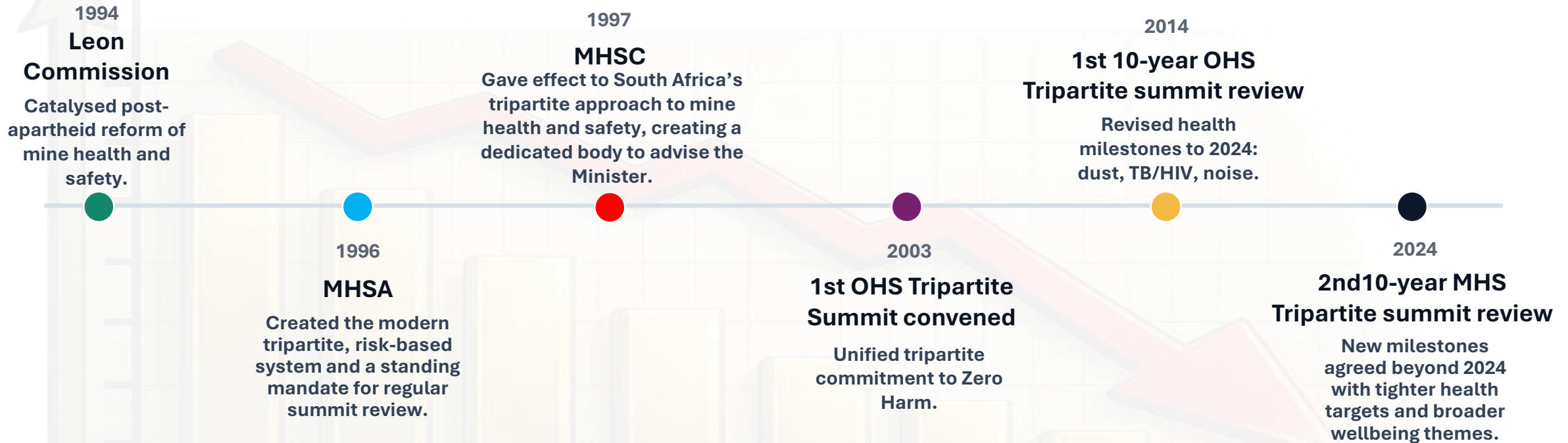
The health agenda now extends beyond traditional mining diseases.

The health burden is changing: big gains on traditional occupational disease and TB, HIV Counselling; a wider wellbeing agenda is now unavoidable

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Legislative Reform and Summits advanced Zero Harm

The health agenda did not evolve by accident: each reform cycle tightened duties, sharpened accountability and widened the lens of prevention.

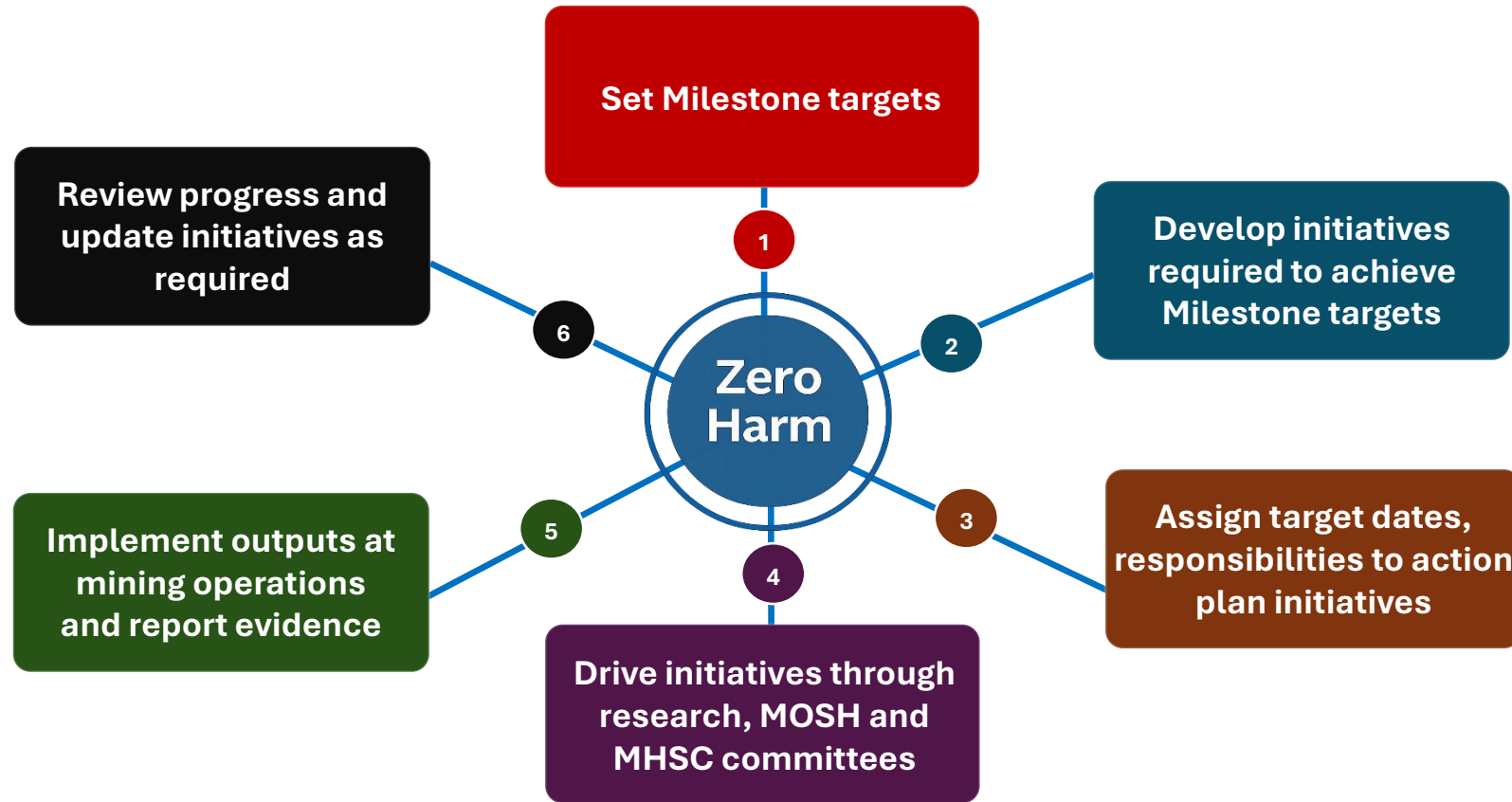


The reform path moved the sector from technical compliance to a broader model of tripartite accountability, prevention, surveillance, culture transformation and continuous milestone review.

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Milestones are the pathway to Zero Harm

They turn ambition into measurable action, clear accountability and drive continuous improvement



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Milestones are the pathway to Zero Harm

“Tripartitism: three partners driving the journey to Zero Harm through milestones.”



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Health Milestones Evolution from 2003

	2003	2014	2024
OLD's	- By 2014: 95% RCS exposure measurement results < 0.1 mg/m³; - No novice silicosis cases among people entering the industry in 2008	- By 2024: 95% exposure measurement results for RCS < 0.05 mg/m³, RCD < 1.5 mg/m³, RPD < 1.5 mg/m³; - No novice pneumoconiosis cases among people entering the industry	- By 2034: 95% exposure measurement results for RCS dust < 0.03 mg/m³, RCD < 1.25 mg/m³, RPD < 1.0 mg/m³ (Reviewed in 2029); - No novice pneumoconiosis among people entering the industry in 2025
NIHL	- Hearing conservation programmes to prevent >10% hearing deterioration; - Equipment noise ≤ 110 dB(A) by 2013	- By 2024: Equipment noise < 107 dB(A); - No employee standard threshold shift > 25 dB	- By 2034: Equipment noise < 104 dB(A); - No novice NIHL cases among people entering the industry in 2025
TB & HIV		- TB incidence to be at or below the national rate; 100% HCT annually offered and ART linkage	- By 2034: TB incidence for all commodities to be at or below the national rate; 95% HCT annually offered and ART linkage
Mental Health & NCDs			95% screened annually for mental health – 100% linked to care; 100% screened for NCD metabolic risk factors

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Progress against the 2024 Summit milestones

The 2014-2024 milestone cycle delivered strong health gains, but the industry still fell short of several targets.

Achieved / strong progress

- TB milestone achieved: industry incidence consistently below the national rate since 2017.
- Respirable platinum dust milestone consistently achieved across the cycle.

Near miss / uneven performance

- Respirable Crystalline Silica dust milestone improved and close to 2024 target.
- Occupational diseases reduced materially, but over 6 Silicosis novice cases reported from Gold sector.
- HIV counselling improved significantly, reaching 84,9% in 2024.

Not achieved

- Respirable coal dust milestone regressed after 2022.
- NIHL equipment-noise milestone was not achieved.
- HIV testing very low at 63,6% in 2024

The sector showed that milestones **can** drive change. The challenge is faster, more consistent implementation across all operations.

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2026 MHSC Tripartite Summit

Key question:

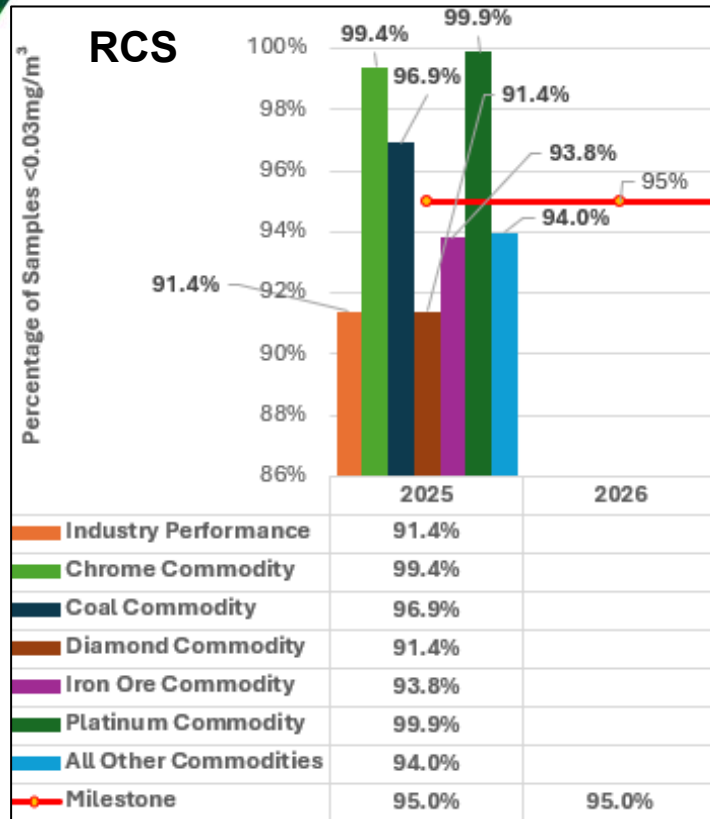
Will we be able to demonstrate **measurable progress** against the commitments we have made at the **2024 MHS Tripartite Summit**?



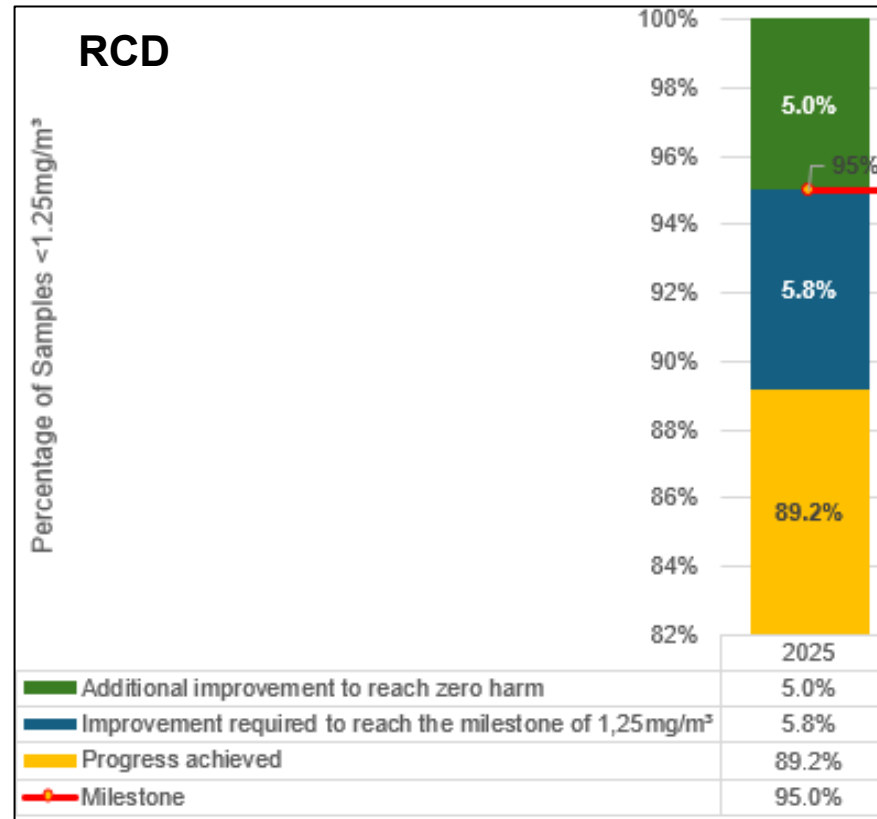
✓ Milestone reporting provides that answer. ✓

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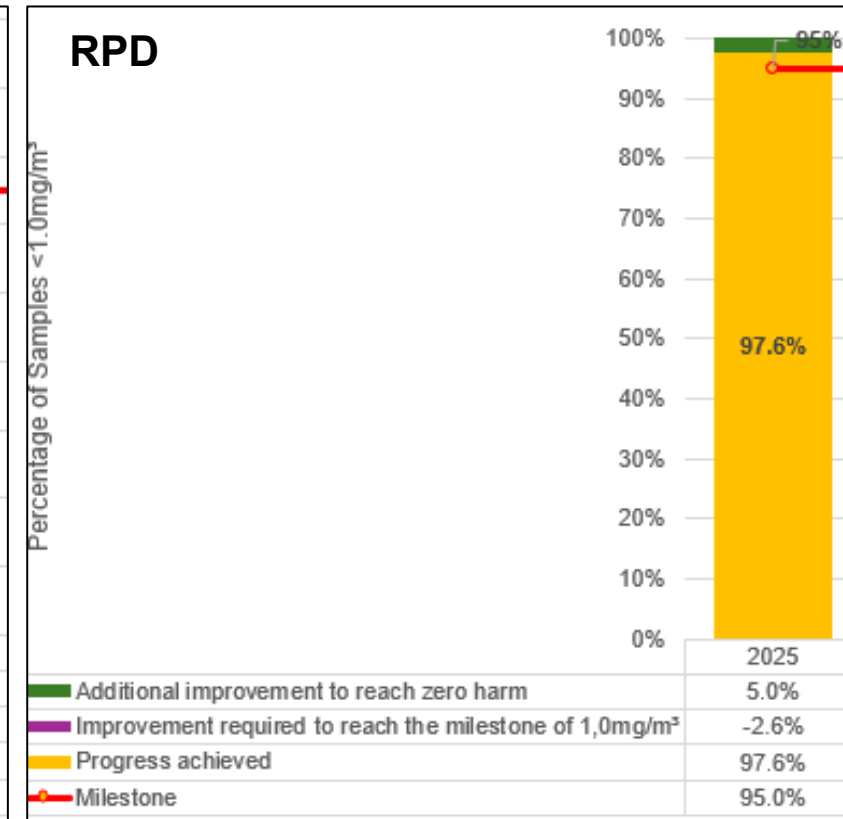
Elimination of OLDs: 2025 progress



Source: Mineral Council OHIMS



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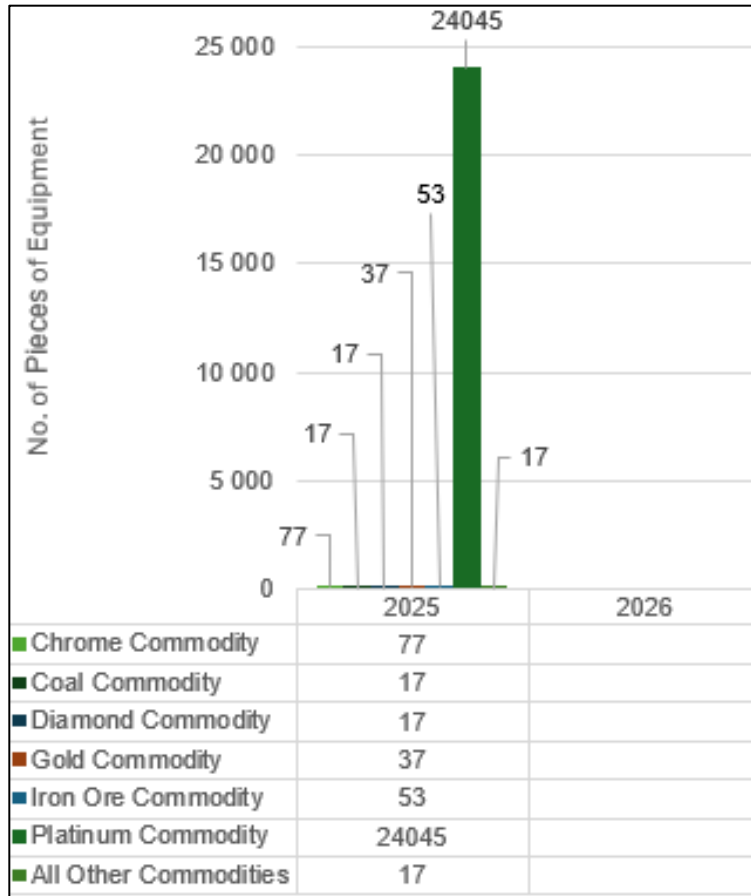


Source: Mineral Council OHIMS

No new novice pneumoconiosis cases reported in 2025

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Elimination of NIHL: 2025 progress



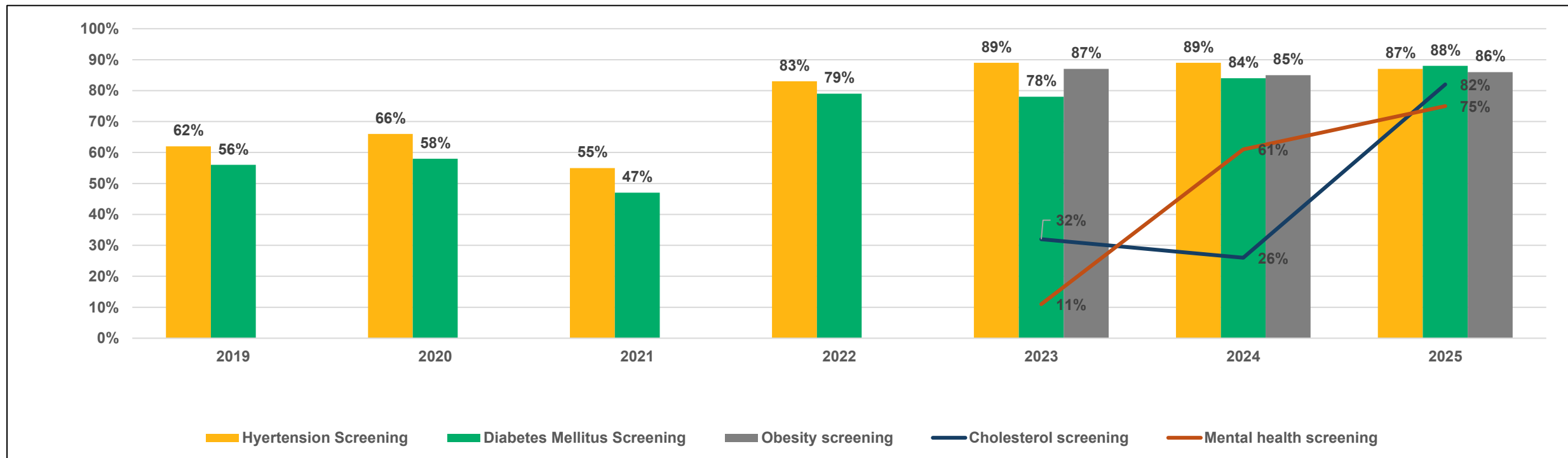
Source: Mineral Council OHIMS

No new novice NIHL cases reported in 2025

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Mental Health and NCDs: 2025 progress

Screening for NCDs steadily improved with the addition of obesity, cholesterol and mental health screening in 2023.



Source: Mineral Council OHIMS

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2024 Health Summit action plan initiatives: Elimination of OLDs and NIHL

Review and disseminate
dust and **noise** research
from past 15 years

Research alternative
backfilling methods to reduce
RCS exposure in the gold
sector

Monitor the national equipment
database quarterly

Evaluate effectiveness of
dust and **noise** engineering
controls

Increase OEM and supplier
participation in health
initiatives

Improve screening,
early diagnosis of
OLDs and **NIHL**

Prioritise adoption of
MOSH **dust** and **noise**
leading practices

Implement early indicators of
OLDs and **NIHL** and report
annually via DMPR 165

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2024 Health Summit action plan initiatives: Elimination of TB and HIV

Review and implementation
of audit tool for TB and HIV

Establish Health Working
groups in all regions to
prioritise issues of Health

Education , awareness and
availability of preventive TB and
HIV measures

MOUs with NDOH and SLAs
with private health providers

Implement TB and HIV
guidance notes from MHSC
and Masoyise

Strengthen linkages to
care

Implement provider
and client initiated
HCT

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2024 Health Summit action plan initiatives: Mental Health and NCD Prevention

Build partnerships for prevention and management (e.g. ILO, WHO, NDOH)

Integrate metabolic-risk screening into routine medical surveillance.

Implementation of the NCD and Mental Health disorders guidance note.

Disseminate mental health and NCD awareness material

Reporting and monitoring

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Milestone Reporting Matters

With Consistent Reporting

Enhanced Health & Safety Milestone Visibility



✓ Early risk signals are identified



✓ Best practice is shared

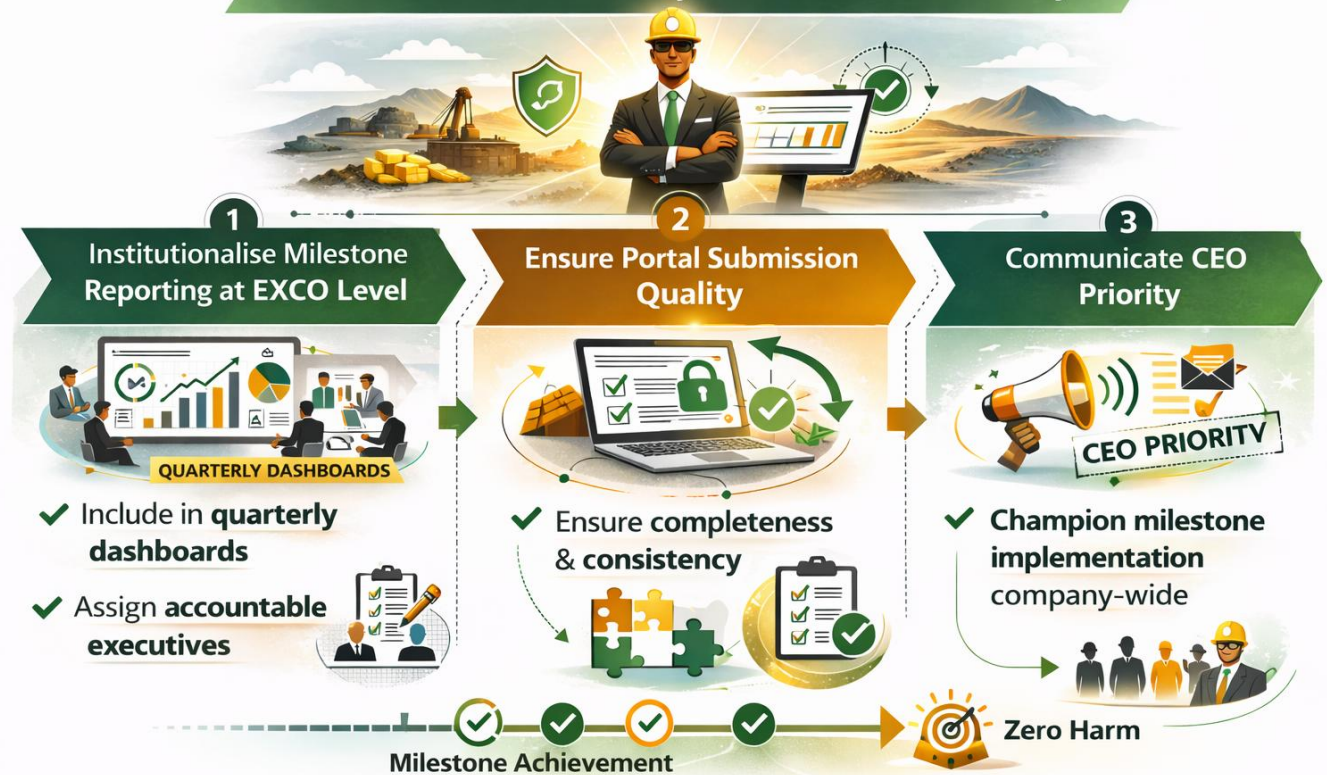


✓ Accountability is strengthened



Call for Action

Drive Mine Health & Safety Milestone Accountability



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Conclusion

Health is central to the goal of Zero Harm

- The journey started with dust and noise control; it now extends to TB, HIV, mental health and NCDs.
- Milestones matter because they convert intent into commitments, owners and evidence.
- The previous summit proved progress is possible, but there is still uneven implementation.
- Summit milestones focus the sector on the most pressing priorities, but other health risks and diseases must also remain visible and managed.
- Our journey to Zero Harm depends on leadership, resources and sustained commitment from all stakeholders.



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GET TO KNOW THE PRESENTER



Ms Fatheela Brovko

Ms. Fatheela Brovko is the Chief Research Operations Officer at the MHSC, where she leads the Research and Development Unit which includes several health and safety technical and research advisory committees. She plays a key role in advancing the MHSC's strategic mandate to improve health and safety in the South African mining sector, ensuring that research, legislation and regulations are responsive, relevant and aligned to address both current and emerging challenges faced by the mining industry. With over 18 years of experience spanning mining and mining research, she is strongly committed to evidence-based decision-making and to supporting the MHSC's vision of ensuring that every mineworker returns home unharmed every day.

"I enjoy nature and am a bit of an adventure junkie. I love travelling, long road trips, and hiking, and I have completed challenging multi-day hikes such as the Fish River Canyon in Namibia and the Mnweni Circuit in the Drakensberg."

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