



Republic of Botswana



UNITED NATIONS  
BOTSWANA



# BOTSWANA 2022

## VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing  
the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development



**1**



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**2**



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**3**



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**4**



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**5**



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**6**




Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**7**



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**8**



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**9**



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**10**



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**11**



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**12**



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**13**



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**14**



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**15**



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**16**



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

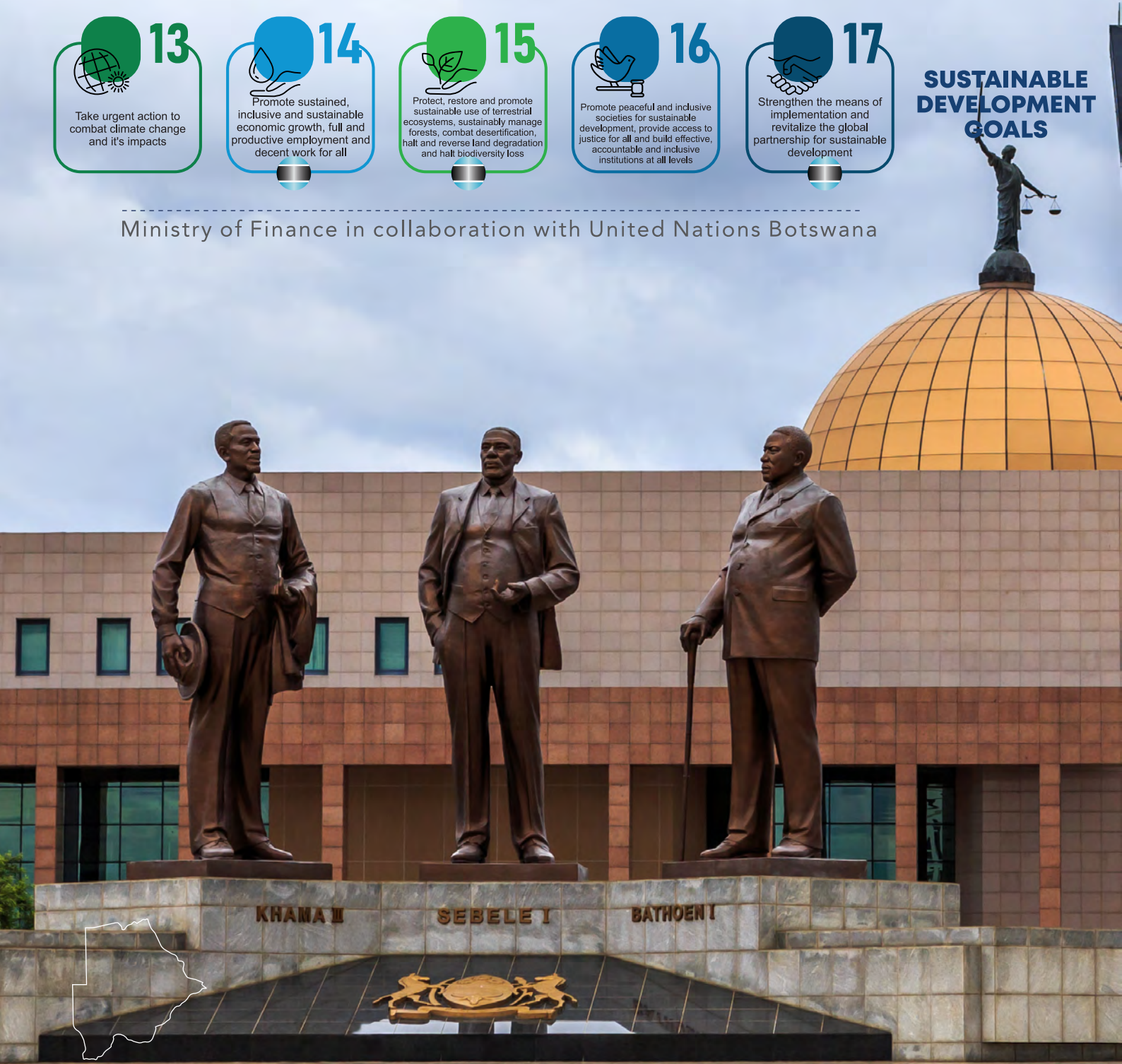
**17**



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

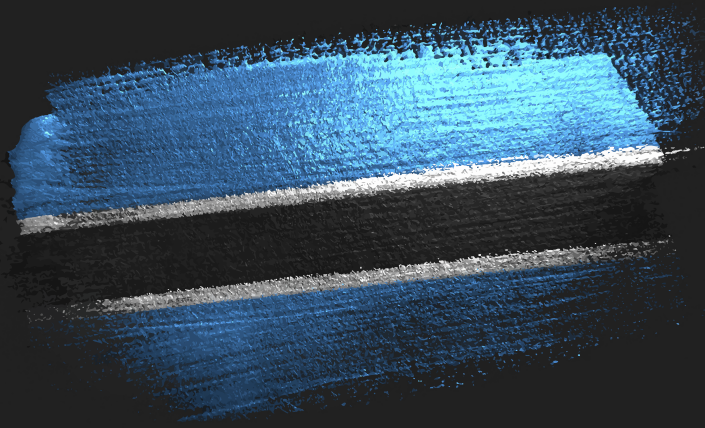
Ministry of Finance in collaboration with United Nations Botswana



**KHAMA III**

**SEBELE I**

**BATHOEN I**



# BOTSWANA 2022

## VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

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Republic of Botswana



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## ACRONYMS

<b>AAAA</b>	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
<b>AAP</b>	Affirmative Action Programme
<b>ABS</b>	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation
<b>BFP</b>	Biodiversity Finance Plan
<b>BLB</b>	BirdLife Botswana
<b>BOCONGO</b>	Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>BOCRA</b>	Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
<b>BotsREN</b>	Botswana Research and Education Network
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Analysis
<b>CEDA</b>	Citizen Entrepreneurship Development Agency
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DIF</b>	Domesticated Indicator Framework
<b>DP</b>	Development Partner
<b>ERTP</b>	Economic Recovery Transformation Plan
<b>ETSSP</b>	Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation
<b>FFPI</b>	FAO Food Price Index
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>HLPF</b>	High Level Political Forum
<b>IBA</b>	Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas
<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Framework
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>JNSC</b>	Joint National Steering Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals
<b>KAZA-TFCA</b>	Kavango-Zambezi TransFrontier Conservation Area
<b>LDN</b>	Land Degradation Neutrality
<b>LGBTQI+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersexed Community.
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MoPR</b>	Monetary Policy Rate
<b>NMES</b>	National Monitoring and Evaluation System
<b>NPGAD</b>	National Policy on Gender and Development
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals
<b>PHC</b>	Population and Housing Census
<b>PSSC</b>	Parliament Special Select Committee on SDGs
<b>RBB</b>	Results Based Budgeting
<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>RNPE</b>	Revised National Policy on Education
<b>SACU</b>	Southern African Customs Union
<b>SD</b>	Sustainable Development
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCBD</b>	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Diversification
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNDSF</b>	United Nations Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund (formerly United Nations Children's Emergency Fund)
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>ZBB</b>	Zero Based Budgeting

## GLOSSARY

**Kgotla**  
**Dikgosi**

Public meeting, community council or traditional law court  
Traditional Leaders (singular-Kgosi)

# 1. OPENING STATEMENT

This is Botswana's second Voluntary National Review (VNR). The first was successfully launched during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development held in July 2017. Given the importance the Government attaches to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the decision to conduct a second VNR was unanimously made by the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during its June 2021 session. The report is a collaborative effort of different agencies involved in the implementation of the SDGs and the government. While the Ministry of Finance (MoF) was responsible for the overall preparation of the report, it was supported by several line ministries, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), as well as the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant and unprecedented impact on the economy and the society of Botswana at large. The restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the virus resulted in disruptions to various socio-economic activities, and impacted largely on some sectors, in particular, the tourism sector. On the other hand, the pandemic reduced the country's fiscal and external buffers, and exacerbated some of the country's existing economic and social challenges such as unemployment and income inequality. Unemployment rose from 22.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019 (pre-pandemic period) to 26.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021. Further, the pandemic also had a negative impact on several key areas of the SDGs, including education, gender equality with its associated Gender Based Violence (GBV), health and others.

In response, government undertook several measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, including putting forward a comprehensive Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan as well as the President's more recent Reset and Reclaim Agenda all aimed at accelerating recovery, transformation and advancing the country to high income status. The economy did bounce back in 2021 with a positive growth of 11.4 percent from a negative growth of 8.7 percent realized in 2020. Currently, the country is developing its 12th National Development Plan (NDP), which will build on the measures taken to integrate the SDGs into the national development process.

In its quest to attain high income country status by 2036 as well as accelerate progress towards the SDGs, Botswana has taken some critical steps to fast track implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report demonstrates progress made since the last VNR in 2017 as reflected by the following actions:

## a) Domestication of SDGs in Botswana

The country's 2017 VNR underscored the need for alignment of the medium and long-term development plans (i.e NDP 11 and Vision 2036) to the SDG targets and indicators for ease of implementation and achievement of the SDGs by 2030. Therefore the design of projects and programmes for NDP 11 ensured that the delivery of the country's priorities and vision contributes to the attainment of the SDGs.

## b) SDG Planning Guidelines

Following adoption of the SDG Agenda in 2015, Botswana adopted an alignment approach in implementing the SDGs. This approach simply mapped and aligned relevant SDGs and targets to existing programmes and projects that address specific national development priorities. The country developed the SDG Planning

Guidelines to facilitate a transition to a structured approach which entails a systematic integration/mainstreaming of specific SDG targets and indicators into national and sector level plans and programmes. The Guidelines have also assisted to strengthen capacity to harness administrative data to improve the SDG monitoring capacity in the country.

## c) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

Following the development of Botswana Domesticated SDGs Indicator Framework, an SDG Indicator Baseline Framework was developed in 2018, establishing baseline data for the 209 indicators considered relevant for the country. This exercise established that Botswana's statistical monitoring capacity for SDGs was at 34.8%. The recently completed fully digitised 2022 Population and Housing Census (PHC) is expected to further augment and significantly fill data gaps for monitoring the SDGs in Botswana.

## d) Botswana's SDG Status Report 2016 - 2020

In 2016, Botswana undertook a comprehensive review of SDG implementation in the country. The review considered the extent to which specific SDG targets and indicators were mainstreamed into policy and planning frameworks at national and subnational levels, as well as assessed existing actions and programmes implemented by government and partners to support the SDGs. A significant number of policies, programmes, strategies and legal frameworks adopted and implemented by government indicated a high level of commitment towards a sustainable development pathway through implementation of the SDGs.

## e) Strengthening the SDG institutional mechanism

The institutional mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs has been designed in a manner that would ensure ownership and inclusivity in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The structures include a wide a range of stakeholders such as government, development partners, media, trade unions, civil society organisations, private sector, academia, political leadership, youth groups and community-based organisations. In February 2022, the National Steering Committee on SDGs was merged with the Development Partners Forum to enhance partnerships and ensure scaled up and more effective international support for the SDGs.

"In response, government undertook several measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, including putting forward a comprehensive Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan as well as the President's more recent Reset and Reclaim Agenda all aimed at accelerating recovery, transformation and advancing the country to high income status."

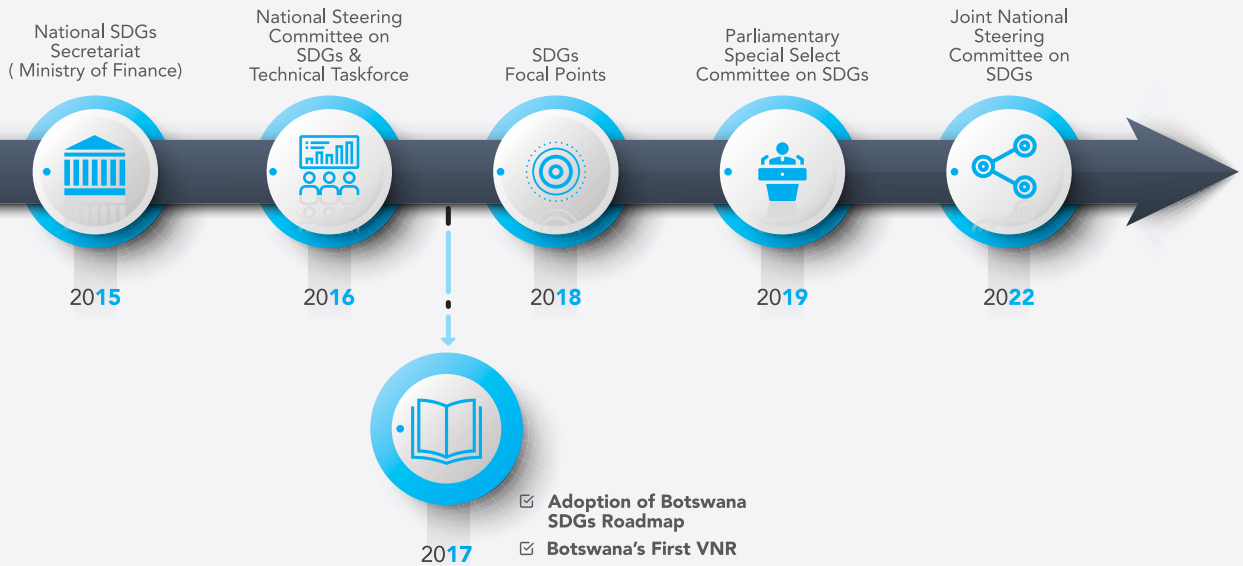


<sup>1</sup>Botswana 2017 Voluntary National Review Report, page 12

Figure 1: The evolving Botswana SDGs Institutional Mechanism



## THE EVOLUTION OF BOTSWANA'S SDGs INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

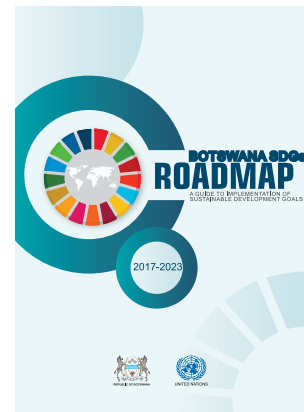
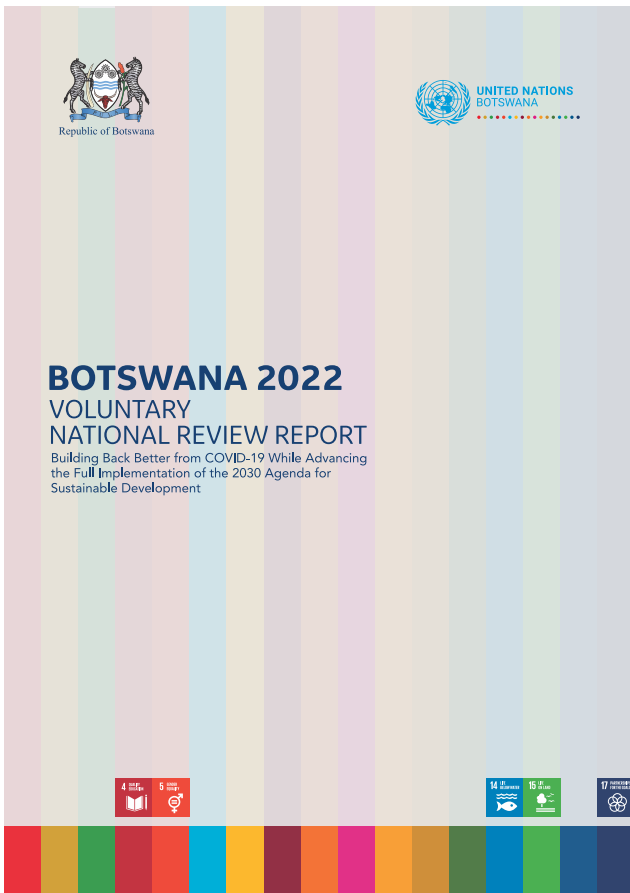


### f) From funding to financing the SDGs

Botswana recognises that the financial demands for achieving the SDGs require concerted efforts beyond government. In this context, the country has embarked on a process of strengthening resource mobilisation, focusing on innovative and alternative sources of financing from both domestic and external sources of finance. An assessment of the financing landscape within and outside the country has been undertaken in the context of the

Integrated National Financing Framework and was completed in March 2022. The findings of this assessment will be used to develop an appropriate and fit for purpose SDG Financing Strategy for the country.

As a country, we remain committed to implementation of the SDGs and the full attainment of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





# 2. HIGHLIGHTS ON REVIEW GOALS

This year's VNR puts emphasis on the consultative and inclusive process. By consulting with and drawing on the experience of stakeholders at the national, district and community levels, the VNR Core Team conducting the review was exposed to a diverse set of views and opinions vis-à-vis the opportunities and challenges facing the country. The voices of those furthest left behind came to the fore through meaningful and rich exchanges that harnessed the traditional 'kgotla' system under the adage 'mafoko a kgotla a mantle otlhe'. Thematic analysis of the qualitative data revealed common themes across the geographic location pertaining to gender equality, education, and human-wildlife conflict.

The country continues to initiate reforming the legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support development and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Some of the reforms include enactment of the Sex Offenders Registry Act of 2021, formulation of the National Climate Change Policy of 2020 and development of a Domestication Plan for the education sector.

The Botswana Domesticated Indicator Framework (DIF) was the highlight of the 2017 VNR report, indicating the SDG indicators that Botswana had adopted at the time. Further, findings by the Indicators Baseline Report, which revealed that only 34.8 per cent of the indicators could be measured as they had baselines, necessitated a data revolution, pioneered by development of the Botswana SDG Planning Guidelines. The Guidelines have so far been piloted in nine line ministries. Key lessons from this exercise are that there is need for capacity building in target setting, improved data collection, and stakeholder collaboration in SDGs implementation.

**SDG 4 - Quality education;** Botswana continues to record impressive net enrolment rates, 98.1 and 67 per cent for primary and secondary education respectively. The country boasts of a 90 per cent literacy rate. However, early childhood and tertiary enrolment lag behind, standing at 30 and 20.2 per cent respectively. Some of the reasons for the low tertiary enrolment include the high per capita cost while early childhood rates are attributed to the private sector dominance of the market share. At 7.1 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Botswana's public expenditure on education is comparable to the upper middle income country average. However, there is a disproportionate pattern of investment per student at basic and tertiary levels, with spending on the latter estimated to be six times higher. One challenge of note is the under-representation of low socio-economic students within the tertiary education sector, with 63.4 per cent of tertiary students coming from the top two income quintiles. This underscores a need to focus on pre-primary and primary education so as to strengthen the basic foundations for life-long learning and skills development.

**SDG 5 – Gender Equality;** Botswana has recorded a mix of progress and setbacks in promoting equality between women and men in different economic, social and political spheres of the country. In this context, the Government has made legislative reforms, such as the Sexual Offenders Registry Act enacted in December 2021. Further, an Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBV was established to strengthen coordination on gender issues. This is expected to address fragmented responses to GBV and other gender issues. Reforms are also ongoing within the criminal justice system to expedite the turn-around time for cases as well as provide resources and psychosocial support to GBV survivors. Despite these efforts, the level of GBV still remains high in the country. Nevertheless, substantive progress has been made in terms of representation of women in decision making in the public sector. Notable progress in sexual and reproductive health and rights indicators has also been recorded, including a decline in total

fertility rate and HIV related deaths, increase in contraceptive prevalence rate. Notwithstanding, there are pockets of unmet need for family planning (17 per cent), and a maternal mortality ratio that is double the upper middle income country average.

**Goals 14 and 15;** Botswana is a leader on biodiversity conservation in Africa. The country has set aside 40 per cent of land for conservation. However, due to dwindling fiscal space for biodiversity, the country needs to reform public sector budgeting and funding to sustain its natural capital. Evidence of the rise in wildlife crimes and the associated illicit financial flows threaten to reverse the gains made by Botswana on Goal 15. The promulgation of the Financial Intelligence Act of 2022 has strengthened the country's response to the threat of sophisticated poaching.

Although Botswana dedicates 3 per cent of GDP towards biodiversity, a significant financing gap exists to which the country has developed a Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP). Further, a public sector budgeting reform is ongoing that aims to overcome existing inefficiencies and redirect resources towards biodiversity-friendly initiatives. Botswana continues to harness available international finance to augment public resource investment towards ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. The country has also launched a multi-sectoral program that builds the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in the Okavango, the Kalahari, and the eastern corridor. Despite the significant strides, the country continues to register increasing cases of poaching and human-wildlife conflict, which undermine the efforts. Finally, Botswana continues to pursue innovative sustainable solutions such as the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), which addresses poverty and biodiversity management.

In the spirit of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) and ensuring allocative efficiency of resources, Botswana is developing a gender-responsive and climate-smart SDG Financing strategy. The process adopted several good practices, including Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB), Results Based Budgeting (RBB), and the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). The SDG Financing Strategy is also informed by the National Development Plan Eleven (NDP 11) Mid-Term Review, among others.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Botswana very hard, especially during mid-2021. Following the procurement of vaccines, the government has implemented a highly effective vaccination campaign, which resulted in over 60 percent of the eligible population being fully vaccinated by April 2022. This is well on track to surpass the World Health Organisation (WHO) target on reaching 70 percent of the eligible population with vaccinations by the end of 2022. But in addition to significant loss of life, the pandemic and the associated control measures instituted by the government led to significant setbacks towards SDG achievement, with increases in unemployment and a marked slowdown in economic activity, most notably on poverty, health, education, inequality, gender equality and the provision of clean energy. The pandemic has led to a significant drawdown of Botswana's reserves, which severely constrained the available fiscal space. In response, Botswana prepared an Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) with both short-term and long-term perspectives. The plan seeks to support the restoration of economic activity and incomes, facilitate economic growth, and further expansion of productive capacity. Its notable initiatives include a private sector recovery plan and support for the informal sector. ERTP is aligned with the spirit of SDG 17 to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not undermine the progress made towards the attainment of Agenda 2030.

<sup>2</sup>mafoko a kgotla a mantle otlhe' – meaning in any gathering, all should be given a chance to air their opinions freely

# 3. INTRODUCTION

Botswana migrated from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the SDG agenda having performed exceptionally well in all the MDGs except the two goals on maternal health and gender equality. To that effect, Botswana committed to the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in

2015. This decision coincided with the end term review of the NDP10 and Vision 2016 while predating the NDP 11 and Vision 2036, thus providing a strategic opportunity and enabled the integration of the SDGs into the national development frameworks. Figure 2 depicts how the four thematic pillars of the Vision 2036 are anchored on the principles of the SD agenda. Considering that SDG 5 on gender equality was spotlighted during Botswana's first VNR in 2017, and underscored as a priority area given the underperformance during the MDG era, the current report provides an opportunity for the country to trace its progress towards attainment of this and other goals under review in 2022.

**Figure 2:** Alignment of vision 2036 pillars and the principles of the SDG Agenda



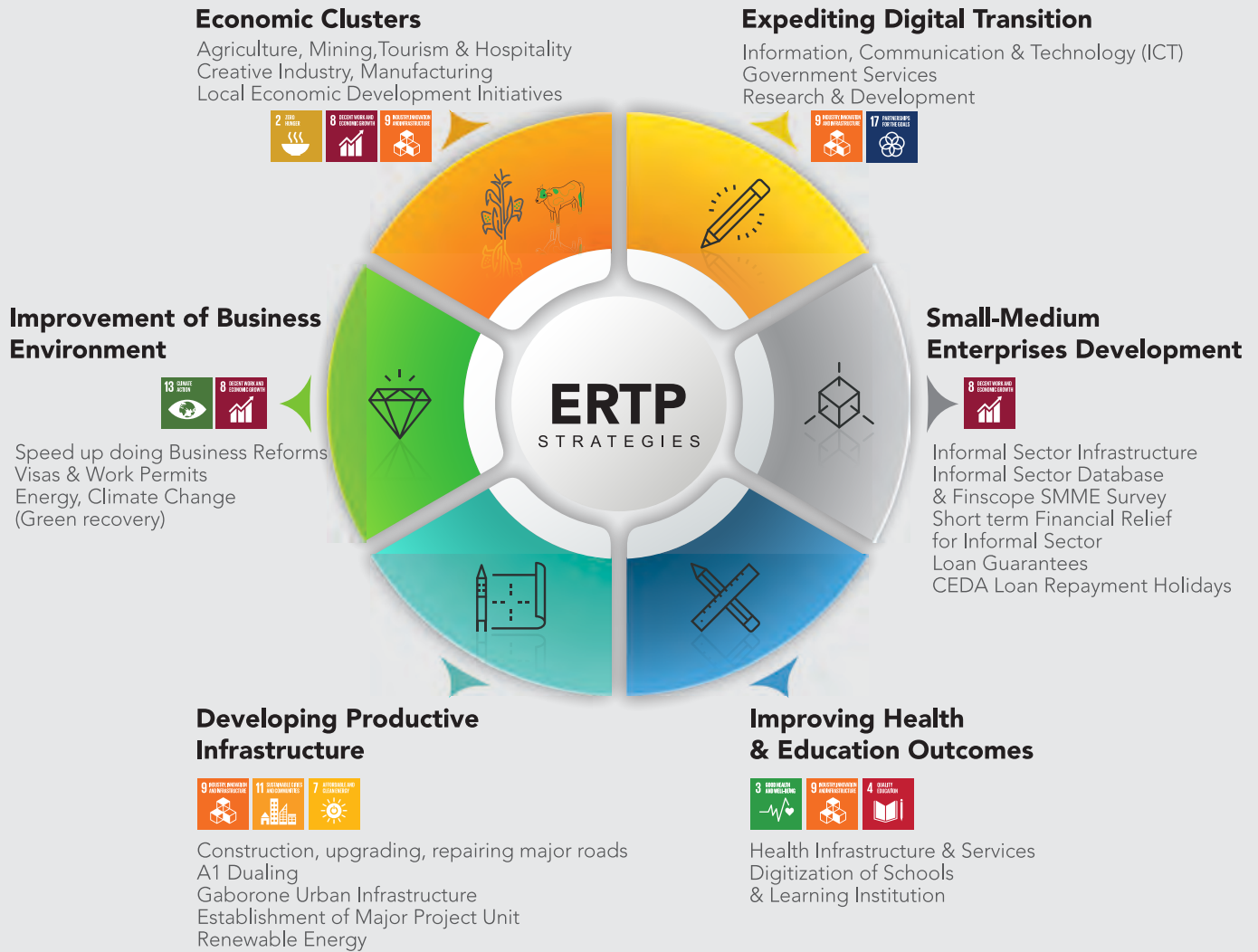
The NDP 11 identifies key development issues, among them; a) a narrow economic base; b) climate change; c) gaps in human capital development; d) gender inequality; and e) weak monitoring and evaluation capacity. The Common Country Analysis (CCA) of 2020, that underpinned the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCF), also identifies these development challenges. In the remaining years of implementation of the NDP 11, the following areas have emerged as key priorities in the mid-term review of the NDP 11;

- a) Promotion of export-led growth
- b) Ensuring more efficient government spending and financing
- c) Building human capital
- d) Provision of appropriate infrastructure

Complementary to the NDP 11 mid-term review, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, government has developed the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) to promote

implementation of the pre-COVID19 development and transformation agenda, while assimilating lessons learnt and seizing new opportunities to pursue the path towards high income status by 2036. The ERTP augments the government's short term economic relief packages that were implemented at the peak of the pandemic and is also aligned to the sustainable development agenda as demonstrated in Figure 3. As per the ERTP, Botswana will need approximately BWP 40 billion to support the economy out of the impact of COVID-19 and build back better. To galvanise action towards recovery from the economic downturn, Botswana has developed a Reset Agenda which proposes a move towards digitisation and development of value chains to stimulate private sector participation. This agenda deliberately targets citizen participation by encouraging a mindset change in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

Figure 3: Alignment of E RTP strategies to the Sustainable Development Goals



Botswana recognises the importance of strengthening local partnerships and participation and a key facilitator to this is advocacy, sensitization and awareness creation. Building public awareness is a critical step towards a participatory process in implementing the SDGs that ultimately leads to maximising ownership and sustainability of development. In this context, Botswana has set up a solid institutional SDGs Roadmap as a prerequisite for leveraging interlinkages, mainstreaming, localization and steering implementation of the SDGs across all sectors. Notwithstanding, sectors are not able to explicitly identify interlinkages across goals and targets in an integrated and holistic way, which is a prerequisite for systematic policy design, implementation and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Greater efforts are needed to bring the private sector, civil society and academia into the implementation and monitoring process.

Recognising the integral role of financing for attainment of the SDGs, and the national budgetary oversight role of Parliament, Botswana has established a Parliament Select Committee on SDGs as a high level SDG financing advocacy group. Further, Botswana is a signatory to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the domestication of which is ongoing through the development of an SDG Financing Strategy.

In developing the current VNR, the specific objectives of Botswana are to:

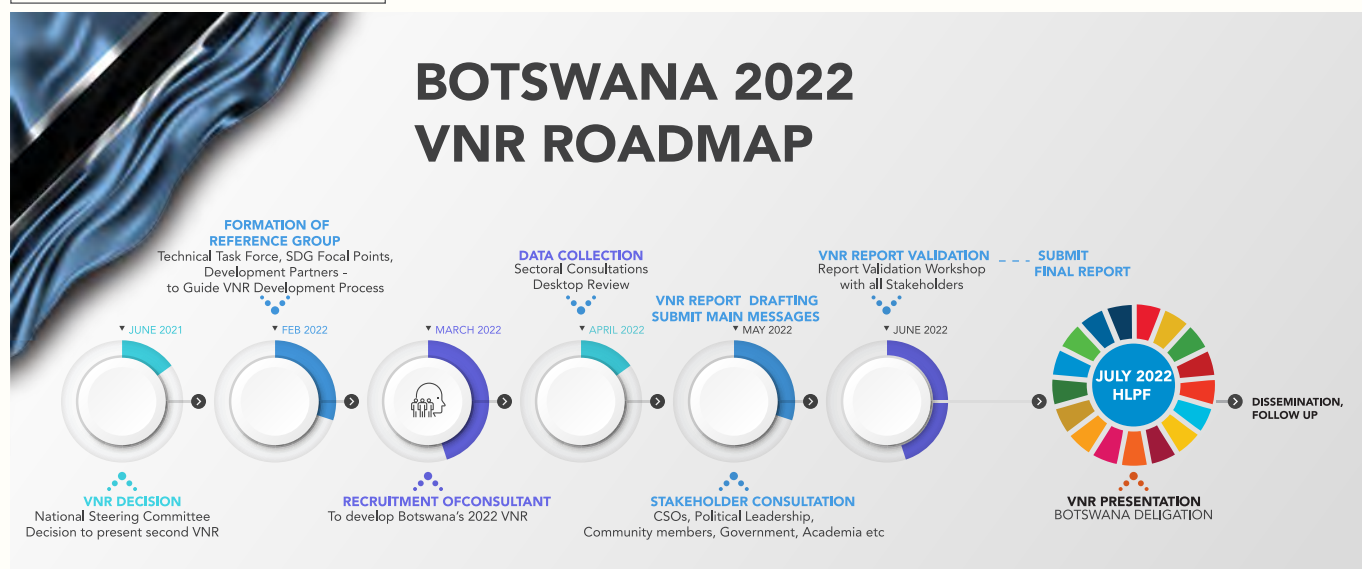
- a) Gauge progress and identify challenges in implementing the SDGs under review; and
- b) Devise ways to address implementation gaps.

# 4. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

Consistent with the principles of the VNR as outlined in the VNR Handbook, the process to develop the report assumed a joint effort by the Government of Botswana and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). The process was initiated through

the constitution of a VNR core team composed of focal persons from UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and FAO), line ministries and civil society representatives that drafted a roadmap as a guiding document for engagement.

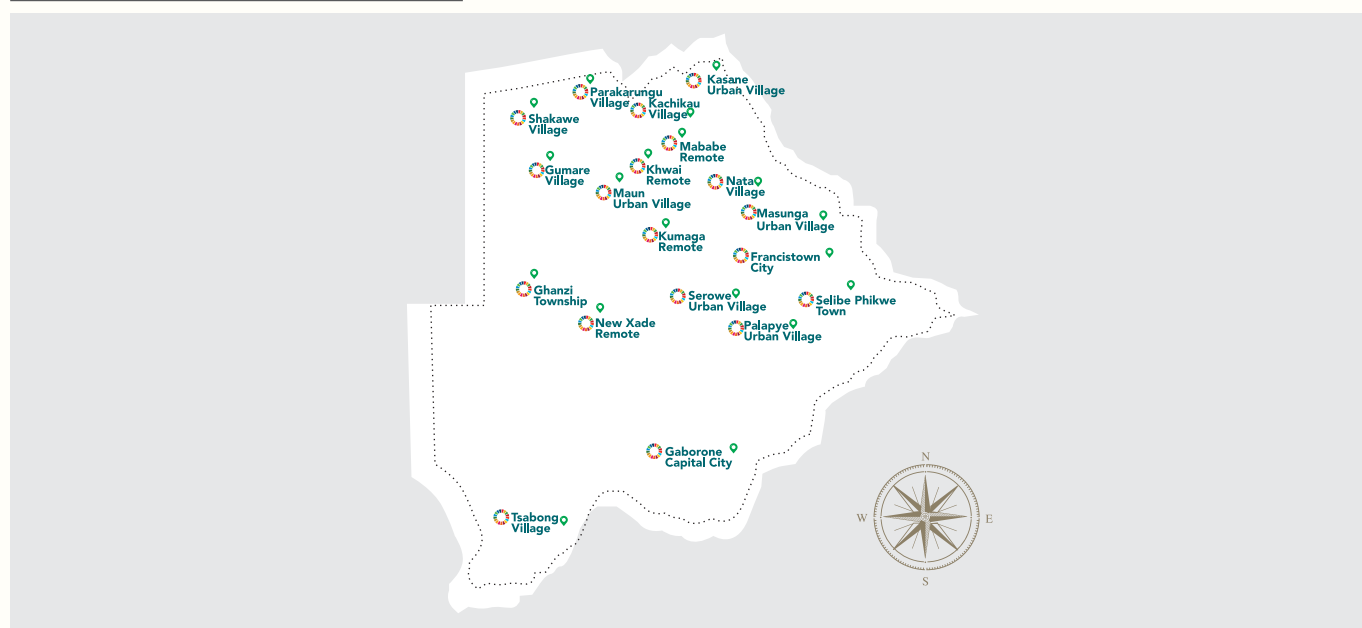
Figure 4: Botswana's 2022 VNR Roadmap



SDG oversight structures then led the endorsement of the roadmap and clearance for the process to gain traction. A stakeholder analysis was conducted, which culminated in a stakeholder engagement strategy. At the core of the strategy was the need to reach the left behind populations to address one of the

shortcomings of the 2017 VNR process of focusing mainly on urban populations. Consequently, the coverage of consultations was extensive and covered the national, district and community levels including two (2) cities, four (4) urban villages, six (6) villages, four (4) remote villages, and two (2) towns as depicted in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Extent of coverage of stakeholder consultations



Both innovative and social platforms such as the traditional kgotla system were harnessed to reach local communities. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, and reaching the furthest left behind first, community gatekeepers, traditional and civic leaders were leveraged to mobilize their communities resulting in a representative and effective participation of relevant population groups including women and girls, the elderly, young people, rural dwellers, people with disabilities, remote area communities, key populations including sex workers and LGBTIQ+ and traditional

leaders. Consultations also targeted government departments and agencies, civil society organisations, community trusts, research institutions, and academia. Differentiated stakeholder consultation tools were developed that enabled both qualitative and quantitative data collection. Thematic data analysis was conducted, and excerpts extracted in some instances. Report validation processes targeted the SDG Technical Taskforce, and the Joint National Steering Committee on SDGs and the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on SDGs.

# 5. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

## a) Institutional Arrangement for the Implementation of SDGs

Botswana has created an enabling environment for achievement of the SDGs under the lead of the Ministry of Finance (MoF). MoF is also mandated with coordinating domestication, localisation and implementation of SDGs in Botswana. Further, the Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) on SDGs was established with the purpose of revitalising partnerships for achievement of the Goals in recognition of the critical role and mantra of 'partnerships for the goals'.

Figure 6: SDGs Institutional and Coordination Structures



In terms of implementation, the integrated national planning approach is seen as key to success of the SDG implementation in Botswana. The Botswana SDGs Roadmap identified broad areas of focus; a) Coordination, Ownership and Leadership; b) Implementation, Building on Existing Structures, and c) Data, Progress Tracking and Reporting.

The SDGs Roadmap includes a five-year plan of action implemented through annual work plans. The Roadmap foresees the attainment of all MDGs that relate to the SDGs by 2022. Therefore, when reviewing progress in the implementation of the SDGs, a reflection on efforts that are being put in place to address those specific targets that were not achieved during the MDG period, is necessary.

## b) Progress in the Policy Framework for the Implementation of SDGs

Following the 2017 VNR, Government of Botswana continues to make progress in reforming the policy and legislative environment towards attainment of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. As mentioned above, Botswana has assumed an

The COVID-19 also served to reinforce the role and imperativeness of partnerships for achievement of sustainable development. To stimulate action at sectoral level, SDG Focal Points have been appointed within line ministries who act as liaisons between the MoF as the secretariat and sectors. The focal points are tasked as advocates for SDGs including advocating for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of data on SDGs relevant to the respective ministry. Additionally, the focal points bolster and support the domestication and mainstreaming of SDGs in the Ministry's policies, programmes and plans at national and subnational levels.

A Parliamentary Special Select Committee on SDGs was established in 2019 to provide oversight, ensure resource mobilisation, and champion SDGs in parliamentary and other strategic platforms. Additionally, the committee acts as a strategic point for advocating for SDG implementation and integration in policy and legislative developments. The committee offers a unique opportunity for parliamentarians to demonstrate their commitment to improving people's lives and the health of the planet (Figure 6).

integrated and all inclusive approach in mainstreaming SDGs in the reforms mentioned below:

- Development of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy,
- The formulation of the Poverty Eradication Strategy to strengthen the coordination of the institutions responsible for poverty eradication programmes,
- Reforms of the social welfare programme to strengthen their delivery in the spirit of LNOB,
- Formulation of the National Employment Policy to define targets and institutional arrangements,
- Development of the Decentralisation Policy to fast-track service delivery at subnational level,
- Development of the national Climate Change Policy and its Action Plan. An adaptation plan of the same was also crafted. These are the key domestication instruments for the Paris accord on Climate Change,
- The review of the Rural Development Policy to capture emerging issues such as climate change,
- Development of the National Energy Policy which is founded on economic development, equity and environmental protection as its guiding principles, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

### c) Mainstreaming SDGs in the National and Sub -National Frameworks

The UN Secretary General has promoted “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) and reaching the furthest left behind first as prominent rallying calls and mantra in the Decade of Action. Despite economic growth and many development advances, inequality remains a concern for the country. Even as the rapid and phenomenal national growth has been accompanied by vast and well intentioned development investments for the people, through human capital development, investments in biodiversity and infrastructure, poverty levels in the country still remain significant. The SDG agenda provides an opportunity for Botswana to adopt a development pathway that is inclusive, climate smart and gender responsive which is in consonance with the spirit of the LNOB.

To catalyse attainment of agenda 2030, Botswana with the support of the UN Country Team has designed the SDG planning guidelines to facilitate the mainstreaming of the relevant SDG targets and indicators into national/sector plans, policies and strategies and provide a planning mechanism to request funds to implement the targets, as well as ensuring a systematic process in mainstreaming SDGs into planning frameworks. Progress towards attainment of the targets is measured regularly against baselines using an agreed global or nationally adopted SDG indicator. Where a policy, programme or strategy does not exist, a structured approach may necessitate the development of such new policies or programmes to support the implementation and successful attainment of the planned targets.

The SDG Planning Guidelines include five (5) stages for the integration process as shown in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7: Five stages of the SDG Planning Guidelines



The rollout of the SDG Planning Guidelines commenced as a pilot with the following Ministries;

Table 1: Ministries that have piloted the SDG Planning Guidelines

MINISTRY	SGDs
MINISTRY OF FINANCE	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	2 ZERO HUNGER
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	4 QUALITY EDUCATION
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & HOME AFFAIRS	4 QUALITY EDUCATION
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE & SECURITY	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
MINISTRY OF LANDS & WATER	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION, 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM	4 QUALITY EDUCATION, 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION, 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES, 13 CLIMATE ACTION, 14 LIFE BELOW WATER, 15 LIFE ON LAND
MINISTRY OF HEALTH	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The need for the SDG Planning Guidelines was revealed by the [Botswana Domesticated SDG Indicator Baseline Stats Brief](#) developed in 2018 which indicated that 123 of the 169 global targets and 209 out of 232 global indicators are relevant to Botswana, and that the country's SDG monitoring capacity was at 34.8 %. In simple terms, only 88 out of 209 indicators have a baseline. Further, of the 88 only 42 indicators have been mainstreamed and have annual performance targets.

(See [Botswana SDGs Status Report 2016-2020](#)). Forty of the forty two have been mainstreamed into the NDP 11 performance framework which is cascaded into ministerial performance or strategic plans. This further underscores the data revolution that the Botswana SDGs Roadmap highlights as key to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

**Table 2:** Status of Mainstreaming of the SDG targets and indicators at a glance

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	Targets		Indicators		Measurable indicators (as at 31.12.18)	Indicators with supporting Actions/ Programs	Indicators with baselines	Indicators mainstreamed and with annual targets
	GIF	DIF*	GIF	DIF				
<b>Goal 1:</b> No Poverty	7	7	12	13	9	11	7	5
<b>Goal 2:</b> Zero Hunger	8	5	14	11	8	11	6	1
<b>Goal 3:</b> Good Health and Well Being	13	13	26	28	25	25	11	8
<b>Goal 4:</b> Quality Education	10	9	11	11	9	10	3	0
<b>Goal 5:</b> Gender Equality	9	9	14	13	12	13	7	2
<b>Goal 6:</b> Clean Water and Sanitation	8	8	11	11	11	8	5	3
<b>Goal 7:</b> Affordable and Clean Energy	5	4	6	5	5	5	3	2
<b>Goal 8:</b> Decent Work and Economic Growth	12	12**	17	16	14**	12	6	4
<b>Goal 9:</b> Industry, innovation and Infrastructure	8	8	12	12	11	12	5	1
<b>Goal 10:</b> Reduced Inequalities	10	6	11	10	6	7	2	1
<b>Goal 11:</b> Sustainable Cities and Communities	10	6	16	13	8	8	4	3
<b>Goal 12:</b> Responsible Consumption & Production	11	3	13	13	3	3	2	1
<b>Goal 13:</b> Climate Action	5	1	7	4	2	3	3	2
<b>Goal 14:</b> Life Below Water	10	1	10	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Goal 15:</b> Life on Land	12	8	14	12	10	10	8	6
<b>Goal 16:</b> Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	12	9	23	22	16	15	8	3
<b>Goal 17:</b> Partnerships for goals	19	14	25	24	18	20	8	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>242**</b>	<b>219***</b>	<b>168***</b>	<b>174***</b>	<b>88****</b>	<b>42</b>

\*DIF: Domesticated Indicator Framework Stats Brief; \*\*SDG 8: Please note that target 8b in DIF (page 33) is misaligned. For the purpose of this report, it is assumed target 8b and indicator 8b.1 are included in the DIF; \*\*\* includes repeating indicators and \*\*\*\* includes proxy indicators.

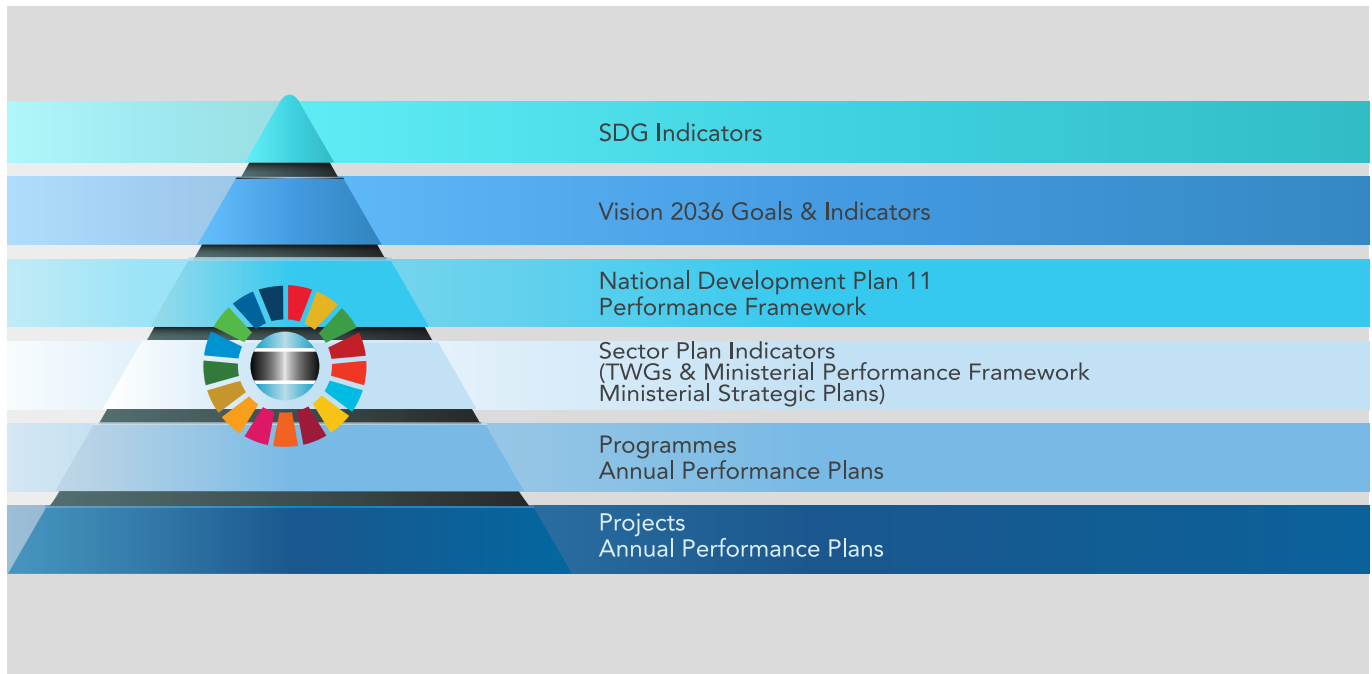
Source: Botswana SDGs Status Report 2016 – 2020

The Guidelines have demonstrated that a lot of administrative data can be harnessed to further strengthen the statistical monitoring capacity of the country. The Domesticated SDG Indicator Stats brief will be reviewed as the rollout process advances to other sectors.

**i) SDG indicators are mainstreamed into the National Monitoring Evaluation System (NMES) of the NDP 11**

The 2017 VNR had demonstrated the alignment of SDG indicators to the NDP 11. To ensure a systematic tracking of progress in the implementation of the plan, a National Monitoring and Evaluation System (NMES) was formulated. The diagram below illustrates the alignment of the NDP programmes and projects, and the NMES to the Global Goals.

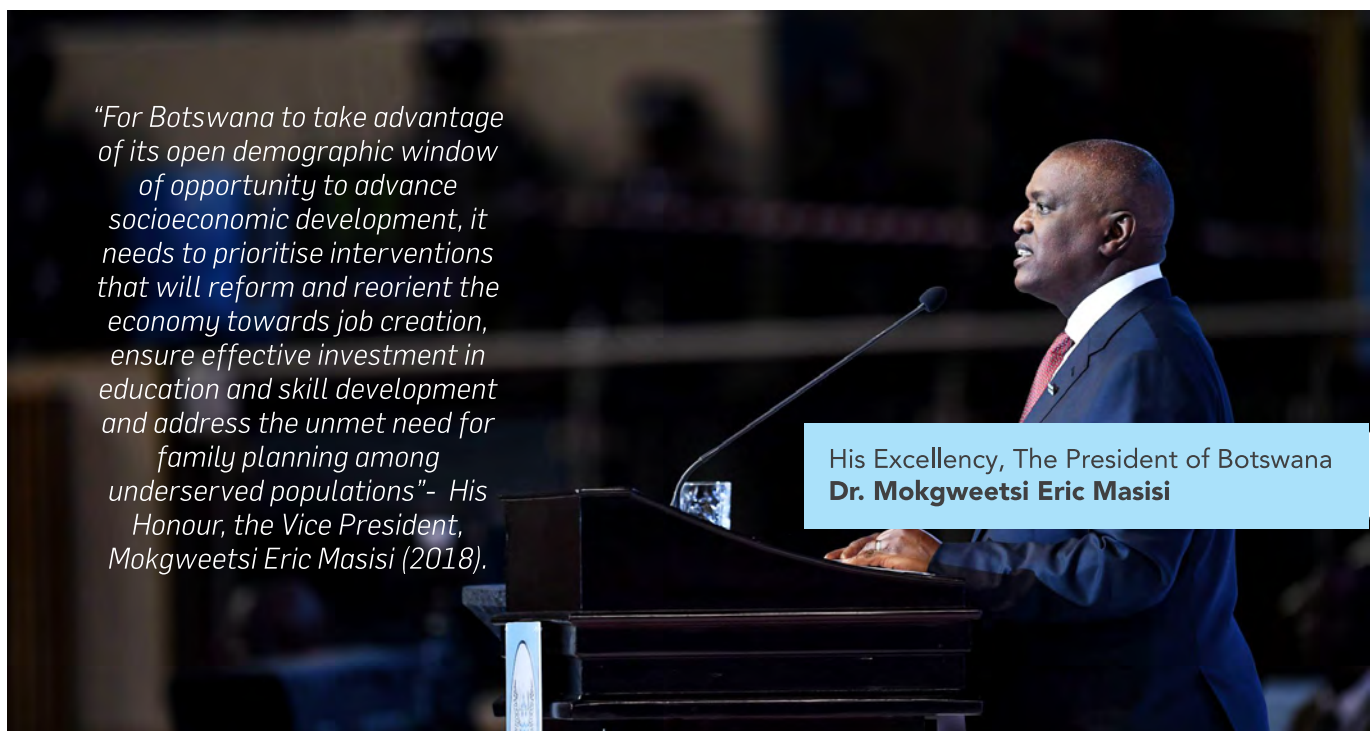
**Figure 8** SDGs Hierarchy of Indicators:



**ii) Integration of the social dimension of sustainable development**

To further ensure the integration of the social pillar of sustainable development into development policy, the country continues to formulate District population profiles. Integration of population dynamics into development planning is pivotal to the implementation of development frameworks such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.

[Kgatleng District Population and Development profile](#) and the [North East District Population and Development profile](#) were recently published. These will inform the sub-national development planning (District Development Plan Eight) in their respective areas. Further, efforts are underway to develop a Roadmap to harness the demographic dividend to support the implementation of the the [Botswana Demographic Dividend Study Report](#).



*“For Botswana to take advantage of its open demographic window of opportunity to advance socioeconomic development, it needs to prioritise interventions that will reform and reorient the economy towards job creation, ensure effective investment in education and skill development and address the unmet need for family planning among underserved populations”- His Honour, the Vice President, Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi (2018).*

His Excellency, The President of Botswana **Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi**



### iii) Integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development

To respond to the ever changing environment and the emerging issues that continue to threaten the state of environment globally and locally, Botswana continues to strengthen her legal and policy landscape. To this end, amendments were introduced to the Environmental Assessment legislation and a project was initiated to develop sector specific guidelines to support the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The country has developed a State of Environment Report which intends to inform the formulation of the next medium term development plan, NDP 12.

### d) Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

To act on the intent of the Botswana SDG Roadmap, the Government has developed an SDGs Communication Strategy to facilitate the systemic communication of the SDGs through an all-of-government and all-of-society approach to the Agenda's implementation. One of the key deliverables of the Strategy is the translation of the SDGs into local languages. Concurrently, the government is developing and/or implementing initiatives that will likely have a significant positive development impact. For instance, the social protection framework is being implemented and coordinated by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. The framework builds on existing social protection

initiatives, with the aim to consolidate, rationalise, and further strengthen interventions.

The National Digital Transformation Strategy embraces the use of technology to boost effectiveness in access to, and delivery of public services. It also aims to narrow the existing digital divide between rural and urban Botswana. Other initiatives that hold potential for transformational change include the Climate Change Policy, the Education Bill (currently in Parliament), the Ombudsman Bill, and the Integrated Resource Plan for Electricity (IRP).

Botswana has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (PWDs) and this is a significant step towards the integration of PWDs into the mainstream society. In addition, the Government has developed the Revised National Disability Policy (2021). The Policy commits to promoting equality, mainstreaming disability and removing barriers to the inclusion of PWDs in all sectors. It also creates an enabling environment for PWDs to reach their maximum potential in both their public and private lives.

The successful rollout of these initiatives not only hold the promise of accelerating progress against several SDGs, but also target those left behind.

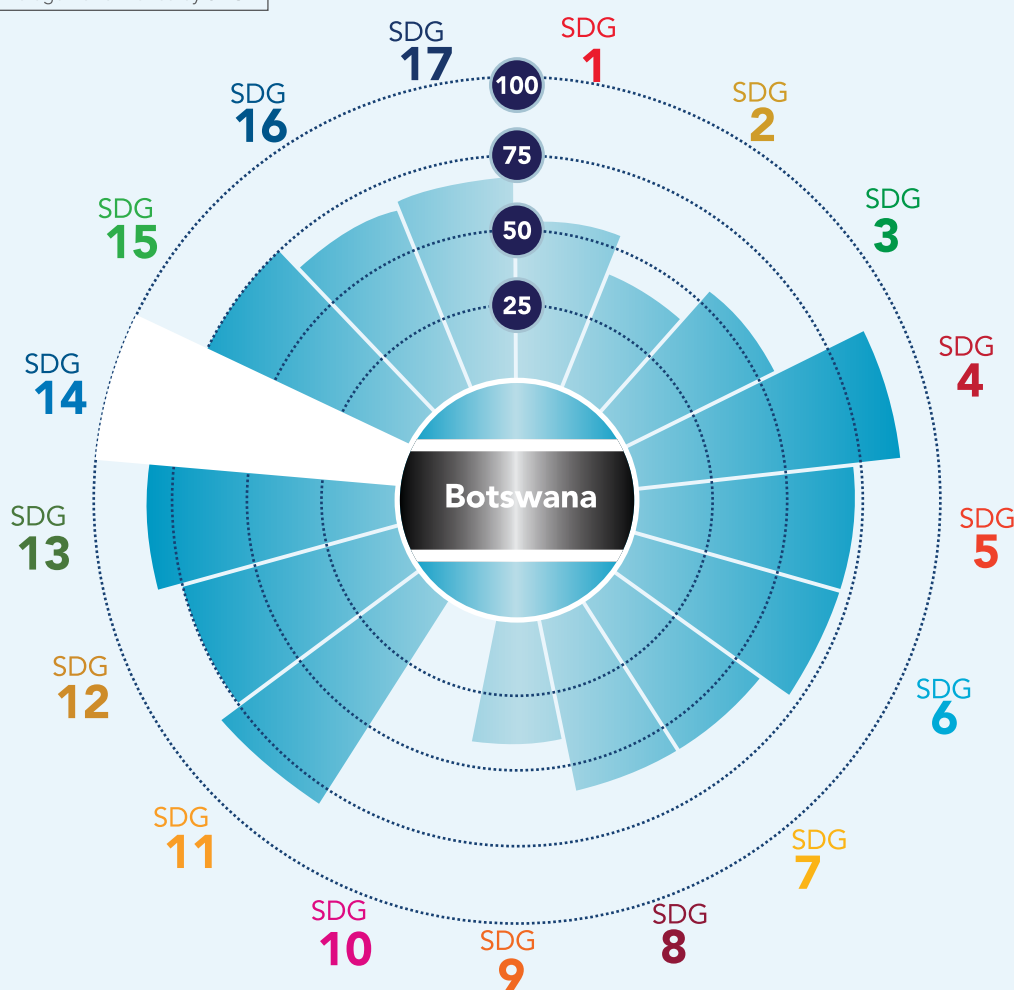
# 6. PROGRESS ON GOALS AND TARGETS AND EVALUATION OF POLICIES AND MEASURES TAKEN SO FAR

Botswana is one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa that has truly benefited from its mineral wealth. Revenues from diamond mines, combined with sound economic policies, have helped build infrastructure and kept the economy stable. But with high unemployment and limited export diversification, the mineral-dependent and public sector-led development model is showing its limits. Similar to other countries, the COVID-19 pandemic had a particularly significant

impact on the economy and society.

Botswana shows positive progress against the SDGs. Figure 9 below is based on the UN statistical performance index (0-100), where 0 stands for worst progress, while 100 stands for best performance. Botswana's statistical performance index value is 57.3 across all the SDGs, which is above average and reflects that Botswana is 'on track and maintaining progress'. Figure 9 also depicts good progress against the goals under review.

Figure 9: Average Performance by SDG



Botswana has performed relatively well in its development agenda, and is rated positively on a number of indicators including in terms of human development. According to the Human Development Index 2021, the country has progressed from an HDI of 0.578 in 2000 to 0.735 in 2019—an increase of almost 30 per cent. Globally, Botswana is placed 100 out of 189 countries<sup>3</sup>. However, the HDI rates Botswana in a lower quintile compared to its economic counterparts. The governance and institutional machinery for transparency have also received positive rankings from Transparency International. This is attributed to the structural limitations that have exacerbated inequalities in the country.

inequality during 2010 to 2015 period (from 60.5 to 54.9) was by far the highest annual reduction in the SACU region. As the most recent Gini coefficient figure is from 2015, there is also a need for more frequent monitoring of inequality. It is very likely that inequality has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This chapter reviews implementation progress on selected SDG targets and indicators, specifically SDG 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17. The review focuses on legislative, policy and institutional reforms, performance trends, challenges and areas for accelerated action.

Inequality is another major challenge for Botswana. While the Gini coefficient is high at 54.9, it has come down over the past few years. A recent study by the World Bank noted that the reduction in

<sup>3</sup>UNDP, 2021. Global Human Development Report 2021: The 2021 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). New York, United Nations Development Programme.

# DECADE OF ACTION

## **BOTSWANA 2022** VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing  
the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development



## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



# 6.1

## SDG 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

At the policy level, Botswana has developed a Domestication Plan for SDG 4 which outlines the roles and responsibilities of each player in the Education Sector, cutting across a number of sectors including Environment and Finance. The sector has initiated the structured integration of SDG indicators through a process called the SDG Planning Guidelines. Botswana has adopted nine (9) of the 10 targets under SDG 4, and eleven (11) indicators. The national capacity to track implementation of SDG 4 is at 27 per cent (three of eleven domesticated SDG 4 indicators have baseline data).

### a) Legal, policy and institutional reforms

Botswana provides free and compulsory ten (10) years of Basic Education from primary to lower secondary school. This is in line with the country's Vision 2036's Pillar which promotes Human and Social Development; the Revised National Policy on Education as well as the Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP) aspirations. Further, the Inclusive Education Policy of 2011, ensures that children with disability are part of the education mainstream. Through the Out of School programme, young and adult learners are given an opportunity to attain literacy and numeracy skills.

### i) Enrolment

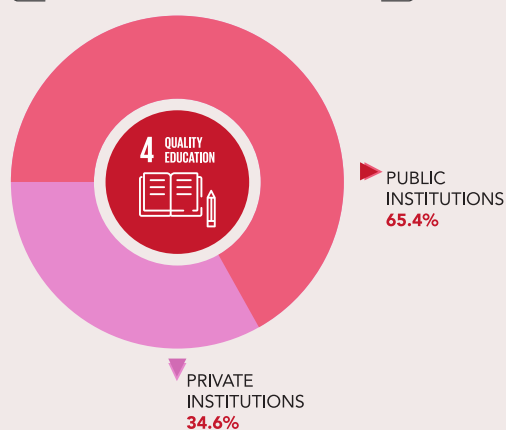
In 2019, the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) was as follows (see Figure 10 as well):

- At pre-primary it was 48 per cent;
- Primary school it was 109 per cent with a parity index of 0.9 and completion rate of 99.5 per cent;
- Lower secondary was 99.9 per cent with completion rate of 99 per cent and parity index of 1.00;
- Upper secondary school was 56.7 per cent with Completion rate 98.8% and parity index of 1.31;
- Tertiary was 19.5 per cent with a parity index of 1.6

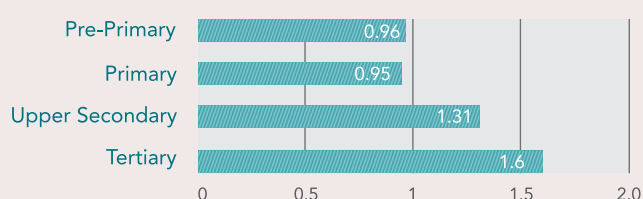
The reasons for the low GER at pre-primary and upper secondary school include limited space. At Tertiary Education, the low GER is attributed to the significantly high fees and heavy dependence on government funding. However, through initiatives such as the Affirmative Action Programme (AAP), learners from remote area communities, and economically and socially disadvantaged groups are supported socially, financially and psychologically to access education and training.

Figure 10: Enrolment Rate – Pre-primary, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education

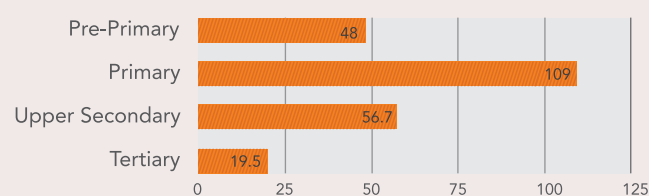
### TOTAL TERTIARY ENROLMENT BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION (2020)



### GENDER PARITY INDEX (2020)



### GROSS ENROLMENT RATE (2020)



### ii) Education Expenditure

At 7.1 percent of GDP in 2019, or 22.2 percent of the government budget, Botswana's public spending on education is high relative to peers. Considering the country's level of economic development, Botswana spends more, on average, on education as a share of GDP than peers such as Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, and South Africa. The country allocates a large share of its education budget to tertiary education, both for subsidies to universities and bursaries/loans to university students. While per student spending is estimated at US\$800 in primary and US\$1,630 in secondary school, spending per tertiary student is estimated at about six times as much. This high level of spending on universities is relatively inequitable, as the gross tertiary enrolment rate is only 19.5 per cent. The poorest segments of the population are under-represented among university students, while around 60 percent of tertiary students come from the top two income quintiles.

### b) Performance Trends

#### i) Quality Education

As outlined in Vision 2036, National Development Plans and the Revised National Policy on Education, Botswana has committed to providing a competitive and relevant curriculum that is delivered by qualified teachers and trainers, making compliance to quality assurance standards mandatory. To this end, the minimum qualification for teaching at a tertiary institution has been raised to an advanced university degree. Additionally, implementation of the quality standards meant that the number of personnel without teaching qualifications within the sector were drastically reduced. As per the ETSSP, government has determined that Colleges of Education programmes should be upgraded to degree level, which will further strengthen the quality of teaching and learning in schools.

<sup>4</sup>UNICEF, World Bank, MOBE, MOF (2019). PUBLIC EXPENDITURE REVIEW OF THE BASIC EDUCATION SECTOR IN BOTSWANA, November 2019

### Box 1: Inclusive Education - A world of respect, dignity, choice and community inclusion for every person

Camphill Community Trust was founded in 1975 with the establishment of Camphill School Rankoromane, a residential primary school for children with special needs, focusing on children with learning difficulties. The residential primary school provides education for children with learning difficulties and related disabilities aged between 5 – 14 years. Motse Wa Badiri Training offers a four-year learning programme for people with learning difficulties or disabilities aged fourteen years or older. A transition support programme offers support to graduates in finding employment or other sustainable livelihood.



#### c) Challenges

Botswana has a youthful population, with 30.3 per cent of the population of 2.3 million aged 10–24 years. Strengthened investments in education at this stage are critical for the country to harness its human capital and accelerate the achievement of a demographic dividend while also contributing to sustainable development. Some of the challenges encountered in the sector include;

- While Botswana invests significantly in the education sector which consistently receives a large proportion of the annual budget, allocative inefficiencies exist within the sector. It is important to underscore that transition rates from secondary to tertiary level education remains low (30.3 per cent). This suggests that the large tertiary education allocation only benefits a small segment of the population.
- Botswana pursues a bursary approach to fund tertiary education for its citizens through a revolving fund. Although this has bridged the access gap to tertiary education, challenges with collections due to non-compliance persist.
- Access to pre-primary education where enrolment rates remain low and influencing factors include the dominance of the private sector in the provision of pre-primary education and prohibitive fees.
- Although secondary level enrolment rates are on parity level between girls and boys, when compared to primary education, the net enrolment rate at secondary schools is lower. Retention and completion of secondary school levels is also a challenge particularly for girls, early and unintended pregnancies play a contributory factor in school dropout and grade repetitions, especially for those from poor and rural communities.
- Despite the wins of the AAP, interactions with the communities during consultations confirmed the high dropout rates among beneficiaries of the AAP at all levels. Factors attributed to this challenge include; long distances between schools and the communities, separation anxiety due to prolonged absence from families, and limited acclimatisation to the new school environments.
- Parental engagement and participation in their children's education is curtailed, resulting in learners not understanding the importance of education and not being encouraged to stay in school. *"Bana ba ya sekoleng, mme rona batsadi re emetse ko morago"* – *"Children go to school, parents are not fully involved in their education"* - *New Xade kgotla attendee*

#### d) Opportunities for accelerated action

- To reduce costs and increase enrolment at tertiary education, the country is exploring differentiated tertiary education financing systems where cost reductions are based on the economic ability of the learners or parents. This is because with the advent of education financing, it is not only unaffordable for the government but unsustainable.
- Government through the village connectivity project under SmatBots is aiming to connect all schools to the internet and bring e-learning in the forefront of education initiatives.
- Government is also furthering efforts for more inclusive education by introducing multilingualism and improving support for quality education and learning for learners with special education needs (SEN). To improve learning outcomes, Botswana is also focusing on foundational literacy and numeracy through the development of a remedial and enrichment programme.
- Strengthen the AAP's support to increase retention and completion rates at secondary school level, especially for young women and girls, as well as increase access and retention of groups furthest left behind at the tertiary education level.
- Strengthen prevention of early and unintended pregnancies through multi-sectoral policies that ensure links between health, education and cross referrals.
- Strengthen interlinkages in skills development including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to meet the market needs required to achieve High Income Country Status.
- Consider increase in funding models for tertiary education.

# 5 GENDER EQUALITY



Archive gender equality and empower all women and girls



The first Female Minister of Finance, Honourable Peggy Serame being escorted by fellow women to Parliament to present her maiden Budget Speech in Parliament (2022)

**a) Legal, policy and institutional reforms**

Botswana has extensive laws and policies that constitute an enabling environment for elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls including the constitution that enshrines equality before the law, promulgation of the Sex Offenders Registry Act, Domestic Violence Act, the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, the Public Service Act, Marriage Act and abolition of Marital Power Act. Further, the Penal Code was amended to align it with the Children's Act towards protecting children from sexual offences. The amendment increased the age of consent from sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) years while introducing a close-in age provision to protect consenting and experimenting adolescents. The overarching policy instrument that guides action towards gender equality and women's empowerment is the National Policy on Gender and Development. Currently, there are on-going efforts to reform the Office of the Ombudsman towards a Human Rights Institution.

At policy level, Botswana ratified the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Gender Protocol. The Botswana Land Policy was revised in 2021 to facilitate ownership of land by both men and women married in community of property. Botswana has adopted the Economic Inclusion Act which aims to promote the effective participation of targeted citizens in the economic growth and development of the economy. The Act is also expected to empower women as one of the targeted groups and this dovetails with the principle of leaving no one behind.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBV was constituted in 2021 to provide overarching strategic guidance and coordination in response to the fragmented response to GBV in the country.

Administrative reforms implemented include introduction of the Gender and Child Protection Unit within the Botswana Police Service (BPS) as a mechanism to improve access to justice. Additionally, specialised courts to expedite gender based violence (GBV) cases through the system were established by the Administration of Justice. The Botswana Prison Services has also introduced a programme, Perpetrators Perspective which is aimed at re-integration of perpetrators of GBV into mainstream society upon release from incarceration. Furthermore, Botswana conducted the first nationally representative study on GBV, the National Relationship study in 2018 that established baselines for some key SDG 5 indicators and targets, thus strengthening evidence based policy and decision making.

**b) Performance Trends****i) End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere**

As highlighted earlier, Botswana has an enabling environment (through the existence of sound legal and policy frameworks) to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. In 2019, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee in its concluding observations to Botswana noted positive progress in the legislation and policies. At the same time, it recommended that government:

- Adopts a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, covering all prohibited grounds of discrimination, encompassing direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, in line with article 1 of the Convention.
- Carries out a thorough gender analysis of all laws in order to identify all customary laws that are incompatible with the Convention so as to bring them into compliance with statutory laws and the Convention.

In response to these recommendations, the government has amended the; a) Penal Code; b) Criminal Procedures and Evidence Act and c) Revised Botswana Land Policy.

**ii) Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation**

Violence against and exploitation of women and girls remain a challenge, 1 in 3 women have experienced GBV in their lifetime, with women with disabilities two to three times at risk. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) accounts for most cases of violence against women (36.5% lifetime experience). Women of reproductive age are more likely to experience IPV than older women, specifically those aged forty and higher while fifteen percent (15%) of women who have ever been pregnant experienced GBV during pregnancy. High levels of GBV are driven by entrenched gender inequalities and negative socio-cultural practices that assert male dominance over women and girls (patriarchy) fostering a culture of silence, fear and impunity related to GBV.

Botswana has committed to accelerating action to eliminate GBV at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25). Further, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, as GBV incidences soured, the BPS set up a toll-free line to aid reporting of GBV cases particularly during the period of extreme social distancing. Civil Society Organisations also developed various digital platforms where they provided a range of services to GBV survivors including on-line counselling. Capacity building for various sectors remains central to the success of the GBV response with efforts ongoing to mainstream gender into the Customary Justice System such as the implementation of the 2018 Dikgosi GBV Action Plan. Since then, one hundred and thirty-eight (138) Dikgosi have undergone training countrywide. Consequently, a GBV Training Manual was developed for this purpose. Government is also finalising Guidelines on Child Welfare and Abuse, to assist Dikgosi on handling issues of child abuse.

In 2021, a feasibility study on the Strengthening and Establishment of Safe Havens in Botswana was completed. This was in response to recommendations from the 2017 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) country report. The findings and recommendations of the feasibility study are currently being considered to inform decision making regarding the needs of GBV survivors.

*"Mo motseng wa rona tota kgokgontsho ya bomme e ko tlase, mme gape re lemogile gore dikgang tsa kgokgontsho mo motseng wa rona di tlhotlhelediwa ke tiriso botlhaswa ya bojalwale ditagi"*

*English translation: "In our village, violence against women is low – and we've realised that when it happens, it's usually linked to alcohol and drug abuse"*

**iii) Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation**

Botswana has a relatively strong civil registration system that captures all common law marriages as mandated by the Marriage Act. The mean age at first marriage in Botswana is 40 years and 35 years for males and females, respectively. There is acknowledgement of lack of completeness of data on marriages in the country as the current registration considers common law marriages only, despite the country also recognising customary and religious marriages. Further, there are anecdotes of child marriages as revealed in the 2011 Population and Housing Census (PHC), and this was triangulated with data from the stakeholder consultations. It is expected that more data and information on harmful practices such as child marriages will be generated by the recently completed 2022 PHC.

<sup>5</sup>Targeted citizens means a citizen whose access to economic resources has been constrained by various factors as may be defined by the Minister from time to time

<sup>6</sup>Botswana National Relationship Study (2018).



**iv) Women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life**

Since 2017 to date, Botswana has made substantive progress in the representation of women at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. In the current electoral cycle (2019-2023), women make up eleven (11) per cent of the national parliamentary seats from 7.9 per cent in the previous cycle. At local government level (councils), women account for eighteen (18) percent of the seats from six (6) percent in the previous cycle. Within the public sector, women make up 43 per cent compared to 57 percent for men of managerial level positions. In 2019, the CEDAW Committee in its concluding observations to Botswana, noted the increase in the number of women traditional leaders as a positive change in social and cultural norms in the country. The Botswana Demographic Dividend Study of 2018 revealed that two thirds of the population is economically active. Although unemployment rate is high (24.5 per cent) with youth and women being the most affected, Botswana has reached gender parity where 50.1% of the economically active males are employed compared to 49.9% of females. With the disruption of livelihoods and the limited access to social services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, women, young people and persons with disabilities face increased multi-dimensional inequalities based on income, gender and disability; this has further compounded their economic vulnerabilities.

**v) Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate**

Time-use surveys produce statistics that reflect the average number of hours per day that people with different characteristics and in different locations spend on various activities. They are the main specialised household surveys that provide statistics on the amount of time individuals spend on unpaid domestic and care work. They help to provide a complete picture of society and, in particular, the unpaid contributions of both men and women as well as the total workload consisting of both paid and unpaid work. Botswana recognises the importance of measuring the extent of unpaid care and domestic work as a critical tool to advance gender equality and tailor policies that ensure social protection and support (e.g. childcare support).

**vi) Ensure universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRHR)**

Botswana is committed to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with the Government aligning national health strategies to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and strengthening primary health care as the delivery vehicle to achieve equitable access to people-centered, non-discriminatory, comprehensive health services. Furthermore, Botswana possesses a legal framework that ensures access to women and men to most aspects of SRHR care, information and education. In this regard, improvements in key sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) indicators have been recorded; decline in AIDS related deaths from 5300 (2017) to 5100 (2020), total fertility rate from 3 to 2.8 births per woman, and increase in contraceptive prevalence rate from 53% to 64.7% (2017). Notwithstanding, pockets of unmet need for family planning exist, where 17% of women of reproductive age have an unmet need for family planning, evidenced through differential fertility rate by rural/urban divide and education level attainment. This was corroborated during the stakeholder consultations where participants expressed persistent stockouts of reproductive health commodities especially condoms, arising from supply chain related bottlenecks. Trends in maternal mortality also reveal that the country is off track to meet the SDG target by 2030.

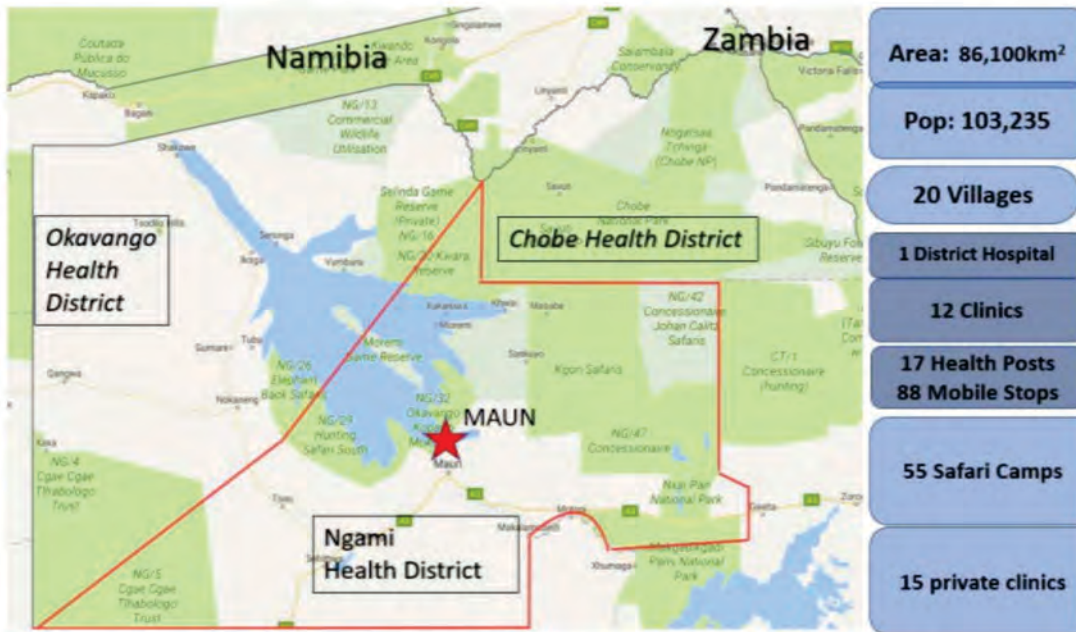
This represents the unfinished business of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and Botswana has made commitments to accelerate progress towards ending the unmet need for family planning, preventable maternal deaths, GBV and sexual transmission of HIV. Already, Botswana has recently developed an investment case on ending the unmet need for family planning to quantify the scale of sustainable financing required to ensure effective coverage of high impact interventions required to achieve this target.

In the current electoral cycle (2019-2023), women make up eleven (11) per cent of the national parliamentary seats from 7.9 per cent in the previous cycle.



<sup>7</sup>Statistics Botswana (2021). Vital Statistics Report 2019. <https://www.statsbots.org.bw/sites/default/files/publications/Vital%20Statistics%20Report%202019.pdf>

**Box 2:** The Ngami Health District Maternal Mortality Reduction Initiative - 11 Promising practices



Ngami Health district has shown good success in reducing maternal mortality from a high of nine (9) maternal deaths in 2016 to two (2) in 2018. Expressed as maternal mortality ratio, the district experienced a significant reduction in maternal mortality ratio from 321 per 100,000 live births in

2016 to 68 per 100,000 live births in 2018. This documentation presents a summary of the promising practices that were used by Ngami Health District in significantly reducing their maternal deaths.

"The time came when as a district we realised that our systems had become a killer and that it had victims who escaped death narrowly- the near misses"

"This was our turning point, we realised we had to do things differently...we needed to do things differently to get different results. We used to feel very embarrassed in meetings when Ngami would be mentioned as the district with the highest maternal mortality in the country", reports the district maternal mortality reduction coordinator

The Ngami Health District maternal mortality reduction initiative was started by the District Health Management Team (DHMT) in 2016 with the overall goal to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity through improved quality of care for obstetric complications in the targeted hospitals and clinics. A systematic quality improvement approach was assumed including;

a) Identification, training and re-assignment of a maternal mortality coordinator to Ngami district.

- b) Development of the response plan inclusive of gap analysis
- c) Formation, training of the quality improvement teams
- d) Regular supportive supervision, mentorship to health facilities and implementation of community initiatives
- e) Learning from the process and sustaining district performance

Eleven promising practices (PPs) were identified from the Ngami Health District experiences in reducing maternal deaths;

ENABLER	UPSTREAM	FACILITY BASED
a) Leadership and governance	a) Maternity waiting homes	a) Maternal death audits
b) Emergency Obstetric Care (EmONC) training	b) Community Engagement and partnership	b) Change ideas
c) Dedicated Focal Point Person	c) Support to referring facilities	c) Obstetric drills
d) Data for decision making		
e) Use of Mobile telephone		

"It was in the quiet hours of the morning when I received a call from an unfamiliar male voice. "A woman has delivered" he echoed. What do you mean by a woman has delivered, where are you calling from and what do you see, responded Ngami DHMT Head. I can see a lot of blood and there is no way we can take her to any nearest health facility because there is water all over and the the delta is flooded. Fear was creeping closer by now and I quickly dialled the District Commissioner's number for urgent help. "We are sorry we cannot help, the roads are bad and the delta is flooded", the DC office responded. The thought of what might be happening with the delivered mother brought more panic and an immediate plan was to contact Botswana Defence Force Maun. "We can only help following authorization from Head Quarters in Gaborone", the army responded. I was sweating by now and hope was slowly draining away but managed to call Headquarters. Finally, a Chopper was released to fly 119 km to Khwai to collect the delivered bleeding mother. Upon arrival to Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital, on assessment of the woman, she had sustained a 3rd degree tear and was still bleeding. This was repaired and both mother and baby were stabilised. The Botswana Defence Force had a saved a life

### vii) Equal rights to land ownership

The Revised Botswana Land Policy of 2019 now affords married men and women the right to be allocated land marking the end of discriminatory treatment under older legislation.

### viii) Women economic empowerment

Over and above the Economic Inclusion Act, and in recognition of the gaps in financial inclusion where women access the least funded products, Government has revised the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) funding requirements. This resulted in an increase in loan amounts with special considerations for women, youth and people with disabilities.

### c) Challenges


While the Government has strengthened efforts to prevent and respond to gender inequalities, key constraints include;

- Inadequate funding for policies and projects that promote SDGs.
- Absence of a national system to collect, update and disseminate data on the incidence and prevalence of harmful practices.
- A national gender machinery that operates under a weak legal framework hampering coordination efforts.
- Capacity gaps in the provision of client centred, quality assured, integrated and sustainable Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights/HIV and GBV services.

### d) Opportunities for accelerated action

There is an urgent need to strengthen the legal framework to guide implementation of laws, policies and projects that promote achievement of gender equality in Botswana including promulgation of laws that empower the national gender machinery to effectively coordinate the national gender agenda. To understand the financing landscape and strengthen resource mobilization efforts, Botswana intends to develop an investment on intimate partner violence, including a return on investment analysis. Mainstreaming gender into public finance management (PFM) and creation of dedicated budget lines for gender issues including establishment of a gender response fund to support CSOs also offer opportunities for advancement of gender equality in Botswana.

Consistent with the principles of evidence based decision making, there is a need to strengthen the gender data ecosystem including the registration of all legally recognised marriages through the development of an integrated data and information management system. Strengthen provision of quality, adolescent and youth friendly, integrated SRH, HIV and GBV services, including the management and offer of reproductive health commodities to avoid stockouts. Conduct a time-survey to estimate the unpaid contribution of both men and women as well as the total workload consisting of both paid and unpaid work.



In 2019, the CEDAW Committee in its concluding observations to Botswana, noted the increase in the number of women traditional leaders as a positive change in social and cultural norms in the country.

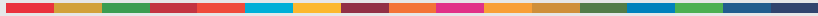




## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



## 6.3

# SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Government of Botswana considers the development of Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture sub-sector as one of the key priorities. Government also foresees the critical role of inland fisheries and aquaculture in enhancing food and nutrition security, eradicating poverty, generating employment and income, improving rural livelihoods and increasing investment. While the Inland Fisheries has been there since independence, the aquaculture industry is just emerging and thus it is still at a nascent stage.

Botswana, as a landlocked country, has few inland water bodies and therefore has domesticated one (1) target under SDG14 and one (1) indicator (14.4.1). The domesticated target is focused on the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. The largest fishery resource in Botswana is the Okavango Delta, which accounts for 80 per cent of Botswana's catch. The remaining 20 per cent is located in Gaborone Dam, Bokaa Dam, Shashe Dam and Letsibogo Dam. The Chobe system, which includes a fairly extensive water area, contributes to a small extent, to the national catch.

### a) Legislation, Policy and Institutional Frameworks

In 2021, the fisheries management architecture, managed through the Fish Protection Act (Cap 38:04) and Fish Protection Regulations of 2016, was migrated from the environment to the agricultural sector to harness fish as a food resource.

### b) Performance trends

Botswana has focused on the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. Under this target, the aim remains to effectively regulate harvesting and eliminate overfishing. This is achieved through issuance of fishing permits, the utilisation of which are seasonal to allow fish stock recovery. Where pockets of small-scale fishermen exist, self-regulation is achieved through community based fisheries committees. This is the case for fishermen in Parakarungu, and other villages along the Chobe river. To improve livelihoods through fishing, the Poverty Eradication Unit implements various aquaculture development projects which are at different stages of implementation. These include; Thito Village Development Committee integrated fish farming project in Maun, Shakawe FIAB (Farm in a Box) model and Parakarungu fish farming cooperative project. Other fish marketing value chain projects include; Samochima, Mohembo West, Ngarange, Etsha 13/Ekoga and Kauxwai/Mohembo East. The programme has a high acceptability quotient as revealed during the stakeholder consultations in the riparian communities of Kachikau, Shakawe, Khwai and Mababe.

### c) Challenges

The migration of the fisheries management architecture from the environment to the agriculture sector threatens the achievement of the SDG indicator 14.4.1 due to conflicting mandates (conservation versus commercialisation). Spotlighting the Chobe river system, which is a resource shared by Botswana and Namibia, fishing is subjected to different legal regimes where one allows for everyday fishing (Namibia) compared to seasonal fishing (Botswana).

### d) Opportunities for accelerated action

Harmonisation of policies on fishing between Botswana and Namibia is ongoing to regulate fishing in the Chobe river through the Kavango-Zambezi TransFrontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA). There is a need to develop a national fisheries industry strategy to ensure sustainability and ecosystem balance.



The largest fishery resource in Botswana is the Okavango Delta, which accounts for 80 per cent of Botswana's catch.





## 15 LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



# 6.4 SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

Biodiversity has been central to Botswana's developmental agenda and the country has relied on its rich biodiversity for livelihoods and economic development. Botswana has a unique and diverse array of ecosystems which include the Okavango delta, two perennial rivers, and diverse habitats. The key guiding principles for Botswana in this area are; a) to ensure that ecosystems, species and genetic diversities are valued and protected; and b) sustainable use of biodiversity to the benefit of the communities and the economy.

## a) Legislative, policy and institutional reforms

Botswana has an enabling legislative and policy framework to support the implementation of Goal 15. In biodiversity management, the key guiding instruments are;

Figure 11: Key instruments guiding implementation of SDG 15

## BOTSWANA BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT KEY GUIDING INSTRUMENTS

- National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan
- UNCCD National Action Plan
- National Conservation Strategy
- Wildlife Conservation & National Parks Act
- National Forest Policy
- Botswana Threatened Species Management Action Plan
- Predator Management Strategy
- Community Based Natural Resources Management Policy
- Okavango Delta Management Plan
- Elephant Management Plan

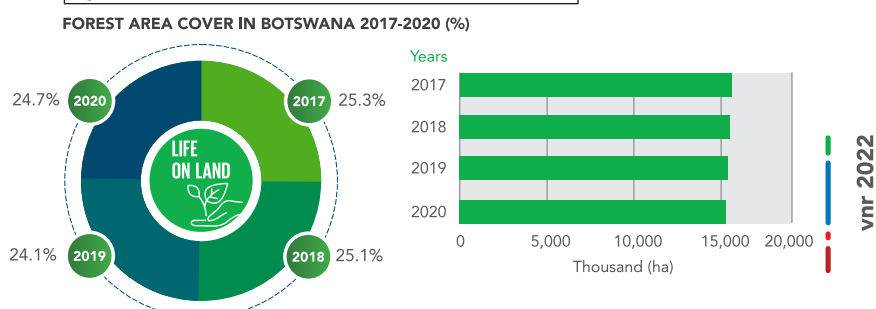
The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan apportions biodiversity management responsibilities to all stakeholders including Departments of Environmental Affairs; Forestry and Range Resources; Wildlife and National Parks; Agricultural Research; and National Museums and Monuments that serve as national focal points for the UNCCD, UNCCD, CITES, Biosafety and Global Taxonomy Initiative respectively. These efforts are coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Besides the centrality of the above mentioned instruments and institutions in guiding the biodiversity agenda, they have also enabled biodiversity integration into other sectors.

## b) Performance trends

### i) Sustainable management of forests

The total forest area has declined from 25.3 per cent in 2017 to 24.7 per cent in 2020 (Figure 12) mainly due to habitat fragmentation and the effects of climate change. Despite the recorded decline, it is important to underscore that the decline is in a diminishing phase, which is partially attributed to the national forestry management architecture. Further, to compensate for current and future forest area decline, Botswana has set aside a total of 4,372.64 km as forest reserves under preservation status.

Figure 12: Forest Area Cover in Botswana 2017-2020 (UNStats, 2020)



**ii) Land degradation**

The State of Environment Report (2022) revealed that 22 percent of Botswana is under land degradation status while 70 percent remains in a natural condition. Land degradation is a key threat to

land productivity and is driven by human activity, evidenced through loss of soil fertility, decline in freshwater resources, vegetation cover and other forms of biodiversity. Botswana has embarked on a Land Degradation Neutrality project to address this issue.

**Figure 13:** Degradation footprint in Botswana



**Figure 14:** Protected area matrix of Botswana



**iii) Protected areas**

About 40 per cent of Botswana's land cover is under protected areas status which is beyond the UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD) Aichi target of 17 per cent of terrestrial land. This includes parks, game reserves, forest reserves, important bird areas and sanctuaries. Table 3 below shows a list of key protected forest areas in Botswana.

**Table 3:** List of key protected forest areas in Botswana

Year of Declaration	Name of Forest Reserve	Area (Square Kilometres)
1968	Kasane Forest Reserve	131.86
1981	Kasane Extension Forest Reserve	475.00
1981	Chobe Forest Reserve	1,740.31
1981	Kazuma Forest Reserve	225.47
1981	Maikaelelo Forest Reserve	625.00
1981	Sibuyu Forest Reserve	1,175.00
<b>Total Area of Forest Reserve</b>		<b>1,372.64</b>

**Box 3: Contribution of BirdLife Botswana to Conservation of Birds**

BirdLife Botswana (BLB) strives to conserve birds and their habitats. It realises this through an integrated approach with special focus on community involvement. Through partnerships with the Botswana Government and communities, BLB has designated twelve sites as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). Four of them (Chobe National Park, Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Kalahari Trans-Frontier Park and Manyelanong Game Reserve) are fully within protected areas; while three (Okavango delta, Linyanti swamps and Makgadikgadi pans) only partially overlap the protected areas). Other IBAs include Lake Ngami, Tswapong Hills, Bokaa Dam, Phakalane sewage ponds, and South-eastern Botswana, and these are not under legal conservation protection. BLB remains an important player in the ecosystem management architecture.

**iv) Threatened and Endangered species**

In 2019, Botswana scored 0.97 on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species index which indicates that while most species are not under threat, there is still some level of biodiversity loss (IUCN, 2020). The positive score on the IUCN Red List Index is attributable to sound biodiversity management systems inclusive of an enabling policy and institutional framework, and the engagement of all stakeholders, especially communities as resource custodians.

**v) Poaching**

Poaching is estimated at 20 per 10,000 in 2020 compared to 22.3 per 10,000 in 2016, representing a decline in incidence. Species of concern with regards to poaching include rhinos, elephants, and pangolin. Botswana has adopted the use of a multi-stakeholder approach to address poaching with the private sector, communities and civil society organisations as key partners.

**vi) Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) (fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources)**

Botswana acceded to the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation (commonly known as ABS) on the 2nd of February 2013. As part of the domestication process, Botswana is in the process of finalising the ABS legislative instrument (to be

enacted by the end of 2022). In the interim, measures have been established to guide the administration of the national ABS regime, and have been accordingly deposited with the UNCBD. This includes the ABS Access Form and a National ABS Committee established in 2020. Botswana has also developed the ABS Code of Conduct for researchers, Training Manual, and Biocultural community protocols for two community trusts (Kgetsi ya Tsie Women's Trust, and Matute a Mongongo Trust).

Noting the need for awareness on the Nagoya protocol, a number of stakeholder awareness activities have been undertaken. These were targeted at genetic resource users especially in the rural areas including; decision makers, Community organisations, private sector, legal practitioners, researchers, and the general public.

**c) Challenges**

**i) Human-wildlife conflict**

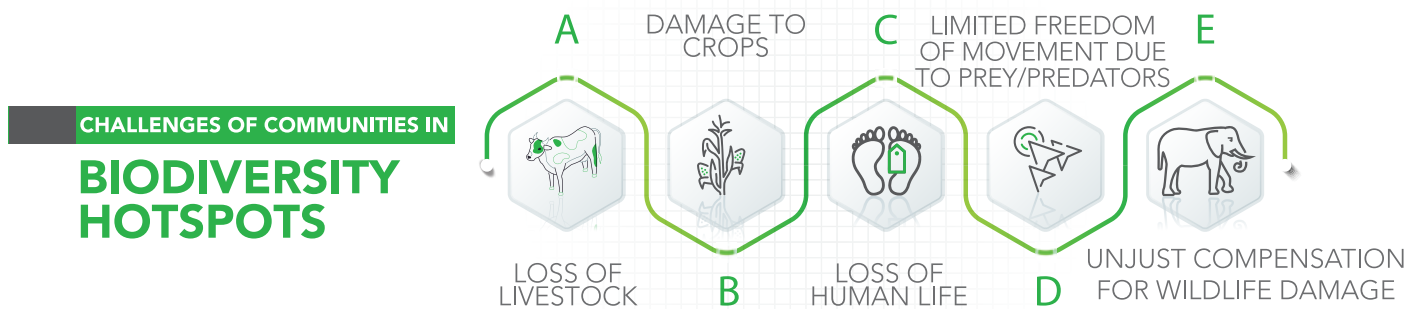
Human-wildlife conflict is a common occurrence especially in communities around protected areas and biodiversity hotspots. The Table below provides a summary of reported conflict incidents for selected species over a 5-year period. Communities in biodiversity hotspots have indicated that the high numbers of wildlife have affected their livelihoods. Their farming activities do not yield any positive results due to damage by wildlife and their lives are also at risk from predators.

<sup>9</sup>ABS: Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation



**Table 4:** Total reported human-wildlife conflict incidents for selected species (DWNP, 2020)

ELEPHANT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
ELEPHANT	2, 295	2, 165	3, 427	3, 842	3, 440	11, 729
LION	1, 248	1, 199	2, 022	1, 814	2, 231	8, 514
LEOPARD	1, 381	1, 038	1, 104	1, 066	1, 123	5, 712
WILD DOG	949	733	987	1, 014	910	4, 593
HYENA	240	192	185	158	140	915
CHEETAH	89	70	111	75	96	441
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6, 202</b>	<b>5, 397</b>	<b>7, 836</b>	<b>7, 969</b>	<b>7, 940</b>	<b>35, 344</b>



# Voices FROM THE COMMUNITY

" I find it difficult to do my job as an agricultural practitioner - You provide advice and farming inputs to farmers, they grow crops, and they never have any yield- why? Because of wild animals. Maybe farming should be stopped in this areas"  
**- a government employee in the Chobe district.**

" As PALEKA Trust we are happy with lifting of the hunting ban. Through hunting quotas, we now have a total of P13.2 million pula. We will utilise these funds to develop our communities"  
**- a village leader in Pandamatenga**



" We don't have a problem with wildlife, we love them, we can co-exist with them, our only plea is for government to erect an electric fence around our farmlands"  
**- an elderly woman in Kachikau**

" we do grow crops but we never harvest, elephants do the harvesting, we are just helpless"  
**- an elderly man at Parakarungu**

## SNAPSHOT OF OTHER CHALLENGES

- 1** Alien Invasive Species
- 2** Habitat Fragmentation
- 3** Climate Change
- 4** Human Wildlife Conflict
- 5** Inadequate compensation where wildlife has destroyed community 'property. Communities felt compensation guidelines needed to be revised
- 6** Veldt Fires
- 7** Poaching
- 8** Resource Limitations

### ii) Increase in the elephant population

The increase in elephant population is a key success of Botswana's conservation efforts which are lauded globally. However, this means that the population has exceeded the carrying capacity of the Chobe and Okavango areas where they are concentrated. Consequently, there has been excessive damage to the ecosystem with limited opportunity for nature to recover. The stakeholder consultations also revealed that due to the excessive damage, some veldt products have become extinct.

### d) Opportunities for accelerated action

The following key actions are a necessity;

1. Continuous development of a detailed State of the Environment Report, updated every four years, to inform policy and decision making

2. Development of a Comprehensive Alien Invasive Species Management Strategy
3. Mapping of degraded areas and implementing a SMART programme for restoration and land degradation neutrality
4. Conducting Natural Capital Accounts for sensitive and strategic ecosystems
5. Provision of financial and technical resources for full and effective implementation of domestication instruments and ecosystem management framework
6. Development of an Environmental Information System
7. Spearhead for the establishment of a Global Programme for incentivising success in conservation.

## 7.0 NEW AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

### a) Impact of major global events

Building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic; The COVID-19 pandemic implied significant setbacks in progress towards attainment of some SDGs. An increase in unemployment and income inequality was observed, with the biggest impact recorded within the informal sector while a significant decline in fiscal and external buffers was noted. The economy contracted almost 9 per cent during 2020. COVID-19 containment measures contributed to an increase in gender based violence as women and girls were confined at home with their abusers. Response measures include the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme that has ensured full vaccination status for over 60 per cent of the eligible population. An Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) was developed to boost economic activity and incomes while expanding productive capacity. Notable initiatives from the ERTP include private, informal and social protection recovery plans. The economy did bounce back, especially in the second half of 2021. Currently, the country is developing its 12th National Development Plan (NDP), which will build on the measures taken to integrate the SDGs into the national development process.

Ukraine Crisis; As Botswana recovers from the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ensuing impact of the conflict in Ukraine looms on the horizon. Notwithstanding the efforts outlined, as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an emerging three dimensional challenge of food, energy and finance. The rapid increase in food prices – an important part of consumer spending – and the increase in fuel prices will affect the poor and vulnerable, and exacerbate food insecurity, especially in a context where most of the foods are imported. According to Bank of Botswana, the current high level of inflation is driven mainly by supply-side factors which contribute about 7 percentage points to the prevailing inflation (March 2022). In the short term, inflation is estimated to remain above the central bank target range (between three and six per cent).

### b) Population dynamics

The erosion of the purchasing power presents new challenges for the attainment of the 2022 review goals. The correlation between nutrition and education outcomes are well documented. With the anticipated limited access to food items linked to dwindling household disposable income, it is projected that this will have negative connotations on education outcomes. Further, Botswana remains a relatively youthful population. As revealed by the Botswana demographic dividend study, young people remain dependent up to the age of 32 years, with consumption needs met by government and household transfers. The current inflationary trends worsen the burden on household income that is stretched already by transfers to unemployed and underemployed youth family members. Further, noting the dominance of women in the informal sector, and the burden of unpaid work that disproportionately affects women, it is expected that this constituency will experience the biggest burden of the elevated inflation, particularly on issues of food and fuel. In response to the crisis, policy reforms are underway and these include; a) National Employment Policy; b) Youth Policy; and c) Demographic Dividend Roadmap. In addition, the NDP 12 accords an opportunity to respond comprehensively and decisively to these.

### c) Biodiversity issues

One of the resultant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the declining fiscal space. The burden of competing priorities means that the likelihood of repurposing of financing from biodiversity to other sectors to respond to the three dimensional crisis increases. This will exacerbate the biodiversity financing gap already revealed by the Financing Biodiversity initiative. Nevertheless, a biodiversity finance plan has been formulated which outlines strategic areas for resource mobilisation.

### d) Climate change

As an arid country, Botswana's main challenges with climate change is increased incidence of droughts, veldt fires, and localised

flooding. Since the 2017 VNR report, Botswana has acceded to the Paris Climate Accord, and articulated a Climate Policy, and submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NCD) that encompasses adaptation and mitigation plans, which have since been costed. The additional costs necessitated by climate adaptation and mitigation will be further aggravated by a constrained fiscal space. The roadmap for the SDG Financing Strategy identifies key areas that Botswana can leverage on to augment domestic finance.

## 8.0 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Botswana remains fully committed to ensuring attainment of the SDGs targets by 2030. The country has made concerted efforts aimed at creating a conducive policy and institutional environment for the realisation of agenda 2030.

### a. Legislative, Policy and Institutional Frameworks

The decision to align the NDP 11 with the SDGs was a critical precursor for budgeting to support SDG implementation. It allowed the government to integrate SDGs not only into the planning process, but also into all cycles of budgeting processes. The appointment of SDG Focal Points at sectoral level has strengthened advocacy for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of data on SDGs relevant to the respective Ministry as well as the domestication and mainstreaming of SDGs in the Ministry's policies, programmes and plans at national and subnational levels. In addition, the establishment of the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on SDGs in 2019 was a strategic decision to strengthen oversight, integrate SDGs in policy and legislative frameworks and catalyse resource mobilisation.

### b. Resource Mobilisation

The COVID-19 pandemic made achieving the SDGs more challenging for most developing countries and Botswana was no exception. The pandemic severely disrupted global and domestic supply chains as well as foreign direct investment. The overall impact on society and the economy has been significant. Botswana has had to draw down on its foreign reserves—it witnessed a 40 per cent reduction in reserves, prompting Botswana to obtain budget support from the World Bank.

The impact of the pandemic also led to policy makers taking a fresh look at development financing and the evermore important role that an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) can play in effectively and efficiently managing development resources. The INFF is risk-informed, climate focused, gender sensitive and responsive to the country's development priorities.

The Government and its Development Partners are working to develop and operationalize an SDGs financing strategy through the INFF. The strategic initiative around financing also aims to achieve the much-needed efficiency in spending through containing costs, avoiding waste, addressing corruption and illicit financial flows, as well as using zero-based budgeting in sector ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).

Gender equality and empowerment of women are high on the policy agenda of the Government. Therefore, the development of a gender mainstreamed INFF is in line with Government's policy priorities. The investment case for family planning aims to address this challenge by better understanding local needs, funding flows and the gaps pertaining to family planning. This will help define the scale and scope of investments needed. Also, by mainstreaming practices such as gender-based budgeting, SDG financing aims to ensure that the needs of women and girls are prioritised.

In pursuit of measurable targets for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, Botswana has initiated public sector budgeting and financing reforms and developed a biodiversity finance plan. The country has also developed a Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme aimed at achieving biodiversity and improving livelihoods of local communities. Further, the National Environmental Fund (NEF) supports Community Based Organisations (CBOs) with grants to support biodiversity conservation projects that benefit local communities.

### c. Monitoring, including data Collection, Analysis and Reporting

Botswana is continuously improving the process of data collection and reporting due to the realisation that this is critical to monitoring progress in the SDGs. It is against this background that the country made a decision to utilise modern census technologies - Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for the 2021 Population and Housing Census. This has significantly reduced the cost of census-taking and improved the quality of data. In addition, the country launched the Continuous Multi-Topic Household Survey (CMTHS) in 2019. The CMTHS is conducted annually in order to provide more frequent socio-economic data to meet the planning and decision making needs of stakeholders as well as allowing for close monitoring of programmes and ensuring timely interventions. The CMTHS is designed to provide more frequent updates on the baseline indicators from the Botswana Multi Topic Household Survey (BMTHS).

### d. Advocacy, Sensitization and Awareness

Advocacy, sensitization and awareness creation are integral to generating momentum and commitment to attaining the SDG targets. Public awareness is key to ensuring a participatory process in implementing the SDGs and creating ownership. Key activities undertaken include: (a) Presentation to the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on SDGs, on the domestication and implementation of SDGs in Botswana and the role of Parliament on SDGs implementation in line with Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) – Parliaments; (b) dialogues with traditional leaders on negative social norms and cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequality and (c) dialogues with young people particularly the boy child on positive masculinity.

## 9.0 CONCLUSIONS AND THE NEXT STEPS

### Conclusions

The VNR process has demonstrated Botswana's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda . The legal, policy and institutional frameworks provide a conducive environment for accelerating implementation of the SDG agenda. In the decade of action, a unique opportunity exists for Botswana to leverage the ongoing national and sub-national development frameworks to galvanise action for the realisation of the Goals.

Botswana's achievement of SDGs hinges on the country's capacity to monitor, measure and evaluate progress towards the global goals. The Botswana Domesticated Indicator Framework estimates the SDG progress tracking capacity at 34.8 per cent. This underscores the need to fast track key strategic interventions including; a) data automation, b) rolling out the monitoring and evaluation framework and manual and c) building capacity of key players.

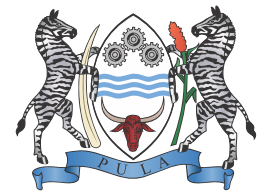
The level of ambition embedded in the Goals calls for extensive and sustainable financing if they are to be achieved. However, there is sufficient evidence of a financing gap which calls for innovative and alternative sources of financing. Government has identified approaches to be integrated into the short, medium and long term legal, policy and institutional reforms necessary to create the requisite financial environment.

### Next Steps

- a. Botswana recognises the importance of advocacy, sensitization and awareness as an integral part to generating momentum and commitment to the attainment of the SDG targets. The country will intensify implementation of the SDGs Communication Strategy.
- b. Building on the lessons learnt from the aforementioned SDG planning guidelines, resources will be deployed to capacitate Local Authorities to mainstream the SDGs into the sub-national plans, programmes and projects.
- c. Key oversight institutions such as the Parliament Special Select Committee on SDGs will be capacitated to strengthen their advocacy efforts towards domestic resource mobilisation.
- d. The country will review the Botswana SDG Roadmap to align it to emerging issues.

### Accelerated actions

- The country has embarked on the process of strengthening domestic and international resource mobilisation. As such, Botswana is working closely with the Development Partners to develop a new financing strategy that aims to leverage innovative and alternative sources of financing. The financing strategy is being developed in tandem with the next (12th) National Development Plan and will be an integral part of it.
- Rollout of the SDG Planning Guidelines to the remaining line ministries.



Republic of Botswana



# **BOTSWANA 2022** **VOLUNTARY** **NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT**

“ Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing  
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# **ANNEXES**



# 10. ANNEXES

## ANNEX 1: Consultations Schedule

ITEM	GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	DATE	TEAM
Drafting of the Botswana 2022 VNR Key Messages	Gaborone	28th April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Ministries &amp; their sectors</li> <li>• BOCONGO</li> <li>• Business Botswana</li> <li>• UN Agencies</li> </ul>
VNR Key Messages Validation Breakfast meeting	Gaborone (AVANI)	3rd May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Ministries &amp; their sectors</li> <li>• BOCONGO</li> <li>• Business Botswana</li> <li>• Development Partners</li> <li>• Consultant</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement <b>A</b>	Gaborone and Surrounding Areas	04-06th May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoF</li> <li>• UN</li> <li>• Consultants</li> <li>• VNR Core Team</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement <b>B</b>	Ghanzi, Kgalagadi, Okavango, Maun  08th Travel 09th Ghanzi workshop (Government, Farmers Association, Game Farmers - morning) 09th NGOs workshop (afternoon) 10th New Xade (Community Groups) 11th Gumare (Government & NGOs) 11th Shakawe (NGOs) 12th Travel to Maun 13th Maun (Government, CSOs, Guides, Tour Operators) 14th Khwai & Mababe (Community Trusts –BOCOBONET, CBNR Coordinator) 15th Travel to Boteti 16th Khwee & Kumaga (CSOs)	9-16th May 2022	<b>Team A</b> i. Bakang Mokime – MET iii. Maipelo Phale –BOCONGO iv. Tiny Motlhabane – IHS v. Gape Machao - UNICEF vi. Boago Makatane – UNFPA vii. Tsalano Kedikilwe – UNDP viii. Dr Michael Flyman – FAO ix. Martha Marenga – UNDP Consultant
	17th Travel to Gaborone		
Stakeholder Engagement <b>C</b>	Palapye, Selibe-Phikwe, Serowe, Francistown, Nata, 08th Departure 09th Palapye (Government, Business Community, NGOs) 09th Serowe (Government) 09th Travel to Phikwe 10th Selibe Phikwe (Government, CSOs Business Community, Mine Workers Union) 10th Travel to Francistown 11th Francistown, Tutume, Masunga (Government, CSOs) 12th Travel to Nata 13th Nata (Trusts, CSOs) 14th Travel to base	9-14th May 2022	<b>Team B</b> i. Tshoganetso Paphane – MoF ii. Martha Sereetsi – MOESD iii. Goitseone Mphato – MOESD iv. Taimur Khilji – UNRCO Consultant

## ANNEX 1: Consultations Schedule (Cont...)

ITEM	GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	DATE	TEAM
Stakeholder Engagement <b>D</b>	08th Departure 09th-10th Kasane (Government, Community Trusts, NGOs, Business community, Tourims) 11th Kachikau, Parakarungu 12th Lesoma, 13th Pandamatenga 15th Travel back to base	8-15th May 2022	<b>Team C</b> i. Onalenna Senwedi -MOESD ii. Olefile Maikaelelo - MoF iii. Boemo Richmond Mpolokeng - MYGSC iv. Mosimanegape Nthaka – MET v. Mpho Raboloko - UNRCO

### COORDINATION

<b>Moremi Moremi</b>	<b>Director,</b> Population & Sustainable Development Coordination	<b>Ministry of Finance</b>
<b>Patrick Seitiso</b>	<b>Chief Economist,</b> Population & Sustainable Development Coordination	<b>Ministry of Finance</b>
<b>Mr Taimur Khilji</b>	<b>Economist,</b> Office of Resident Coordinator	<b>United Nations Botswana</b>
<b>Ms Tsalano Kedikilwe</b>	<b>Acting SDGs Project Manager,</b> UNDP	<b>United Nations Botswana</b>

## Annex 2: Community Level Consultation Template

Questions & Answers	Challenges	Recommendations
	Please indicate implementation challenges	indicate Any recommendations?
Does the school have adequate infrastructure, staff & Equipment as listed below?		
Classrooms		
Ablution facilities		
Kitchen		
Books		
Desks		
Chairs		
Balanced Diet		
Teachers		
Library		
Computers / Tablets		
Wi-fi		
Electricity		
Water		
Boarding facilities		
Adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities		

## Annex 2: Community Level Consultation Template (Cont...)

Questions & Answers	Challenges	Recommendations
	Please indicate implementation challenges	indicate Any recommendations?
What is the maintenance status? Poor / Fair/ Good?		
Basic hand-washing facilities		
Do pupils regularly attend school? If no, please give reasons.		
Are boys and girls given equal opportunities?		
Do you have a problems of school dropouts? If so, what are the causes? What is the ratio of the dropouts (boys : girls). Please give reasons.		
Are there any programmes to deal with the above situation?		
Do you have a PTA? If yes, how effective is it?		









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