



UNITED NATIONS  
BOTSWANA



# Botswana

UN Country Results Report 2023





**UN Country Results Report 2023**

©UN Botswana Country Team

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

UN Building

Cnr Khama Crescent & President's Drive Government Enclave

Gaborone, Botswana

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# Table of Contents

Foreword by the Resident Coordinator .....	4
UN Country Team .....	6
Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in Botswana .....	7
Botswana among its peers .....	8
<b>Chapter 1 - Key Developments in Botswana .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Chapter 2 - UN Support to National Development Priorities .....</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results .....	12
2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs .....	16
<b>Outcome 1 .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Outcome 2 .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Outcome 3 .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Outcome 4 .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Outcome 5 .....</b>	<b>32</b>
2.3 Support to Partnerships .....	38
2.4 Financing the 2030 Agenda .....	40
<b>Chapter 3 - UNCT Key Focus for 2024 .....</b>	<b>44</b>
Abbreviations and Acronyms .....	46

# Foreword

## by the Resident Coordinator



The Annual Country Results Report 2023 captures the progress, achievements, and challenges in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework (CF).

2023 was the second year of implementation of the CF and I am pleased to report that the UN Country Team (UNCT) and partners have made substantive contributions to supporting the efforts and initiatives of Government and other Development Partners. We have pursued policies and programmes that focus on inclusive growth, social equity, environmental management, and a brighter future for the people and the planet. The UNCT is also working to revise the CF oversight structures, proposing a new way of working so that in coordination with Government we can deliver better.

The team of the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) has worked closely with different UN entities in many different coordination functions, to build stronger relations with stakeholders and encourage them to take an active role in SDG attainment. The second Annual Development Partner Forum brought together over 150 diverse participants from Botswana and neighbouring countries to spend two days discussing development opportunities and strategies. We covered topical and 'hot' issues such as the importance of building a forward-looking national migration policy, to attract new skills sets into the country, while also remaining conscious of the high local unemployment figures. We debated the pros and cons of divesting from the growing national coal industry and switching to cleaner and renewable energy sources. On the latter topic, the UN family also made a significant commitment to 'walk the talk' by raising funds to invest in solar capacity for

the main UN building in Gaborone. By 2025, we will be saving approximately US\$11,500 per annum on electric bills, and also preventing over 200 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. In just 10 years, we will see a return on investment, and believe that our example will encourage others to also save money and save the planet.

In the spirit of leaving no one behind, we have worked consistently to empower youth, women and people with disabilities, promote human rights, and ensure the wellbeing of migrants and refugees. In 2023, we also hosted open house tours for students to learn more about our work and a chance to interact with staff. These experiences empower students to take on leadership roles in their schools and communities and motivate them to become more involved in the work of the UN. Looking forward, we will support the Government's efforts to create an environment necessary to deliver on the Vision 2036 goals, National Development Plan 12, as well as the Reset and Reclaim Agenda.

Botswana has been playing a much larger and more impactful role in multi-lateral affairs than its small population size would imply. The Head of State has been active at numerous UN conferences, the country has hosted several successful international conferences linked to the UN's mandates, including the 73rd WHO Africa Regional Committee, the Land-Locked Developing Countries Africa Regional Review, and the UNESCO 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The UN and Government also hosted a number of high-level visits at Under Secretary General and Assistant Secretary

General level. The commitment of The First Lady of Botswana to SDGs was leveraged by the UNAIDS Executive Director who designated Mrs. Neo Jane Masisi as a UNAIDS champion for the empowerment and engagement of adolescent girls and young women.

The UN family works with partners across various sectors to ensure that it contributes significantly to sustainable development in Botswana. The UN expresses its gratitude to the Government of Botswana, civil society organisations, the private sector, academia, the media, activists, diplomatic missions, and the many others in Botswana for their contributions to attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

While we celebrate the successes outlined in this report, we acknowledge that our work is far from complete. The road to sustainable development is challenging, and it requires unyielding dedication and a spirit of continuous improvement. In line with the Government's call for a 'mindset change', the UN leadership in Botswana has committed to reflect on our mindsets and to provide feedback to Government and other development partners on where we feel that our collective efforts can be optimised. Mindset Change, or "a re chencheng" in Setswana, is a process that requires deep introspection, respectful challenges, robust debates, and a clear idea of where we want to go. Our excellent relations with all stakeholders in Botswana provides a conducive environment for radical change in ways of working. With 2030 approaching fast, we all need to be bold and transformative, not timid and incremental.



**Zia Choudhury**  
UN Botswana Resident Coordinator

By continuing to work closely with all stakeholders, the UN will intensify its efforts in the next year to support Botswana to fast-track the achievement of the SDGs. I am grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Planning Commission, and all Line Ministries, as well as the private sector and civil society for their continued partnerships with the UN.

We look forward to helping ensure that one day all people in Botswana can lead prosperous, healthy lives in a safe, cohesive society that prioritises human rights, economic growth and societal and environmental sustainability while leaving no one behind. **Pula!**

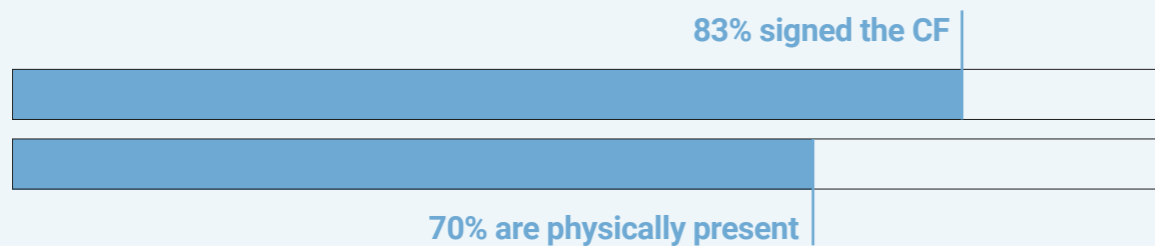
# UN Country Team



Twenty-three United Nations (UN) entities support Botswana, of which 22 are coordinated by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) under the leadership of Mr. Zia Choudhury, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UN Secretary General's Representative in Botswana. Nineteen of the 23 entities are signatories of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026.

In 2023, the number of UN entities with in-country presence increased to 16 when Botswana welcomed the International Labour

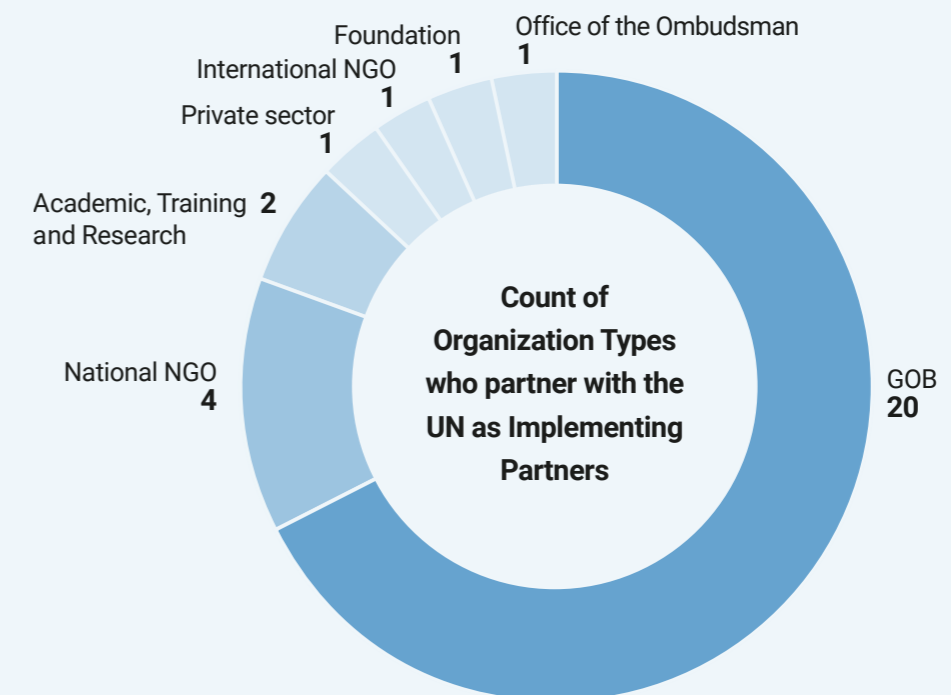
Organization (ILO) and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). ILO and UNODC programme officers are based within Government of Botswana departments at the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) and Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture (MYSC). This added presence improves UN visibility in the country, particularly in terms of Outcome 5 of the Cooperation Framework (CF) which focuses on building a just and inclusive society by promoting accountability and transparency.



# Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in Botswana

To achieve the 2023 Cooperation Framework results, the UNCT collaborated with Government, private sector and civil society organizations, academic institutions and the Office of the Ombudsman. The 21 participating Government agencies include Ministries and Parastatal Organizations. Some Ministries such as the Ministry of

Education and Skills Development (MESD), Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) have more than 10 UN entities working with them. National NGOs include umbrella organizations such as the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO) and the Labour Federations.





# Chapter 1

## Key Developments in Botswana

Botswana has been playing a much larger and more impactful role in multilateral affairs than its small population size would imply. The Head of State has been active at numerous UN conferences, including at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA78), where President Masisi drew applause for his clarion call to the Member States to elect the UN's first ever woman Secretary General.

In 2023, the world celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Human Rights 75). As a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a global blueprint for international, national, and local laws and policies and a bedrock of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### February

Botswana ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. Botswana hosted the 25th Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Africa.



### March

Decentralization within local government increased the number of fully-fledged districts from 16 to 31 districts. The upgrade will expedite the delivery of government services at the local level. Fiscal decentralization will require additional funding, equipment and skilled human resources.



### May

Declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 5th May 2023 that the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic was no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The de-escalation of COVID-19 response activities led to consideration of other national priorities. Botswana hosted the Africa Regional Review Meeting for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC). Botswana continued its role as the Chair of the LLDC Group.



### July

Approval by Cabinet and Parliament on 3 July 2023 of the Amendment of the Ombudsman Act which confers the human rights mandate onto the Office of the Ombudsman and its recognition as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). Although the Ombudsman legislation is currently not in compliance with the Paris Principles, the United Nations will continue to support the Ombudsman as a NHRI to strengthen its human rights mandate.



### August

The 73rd WHO Regional Committee for Africa.



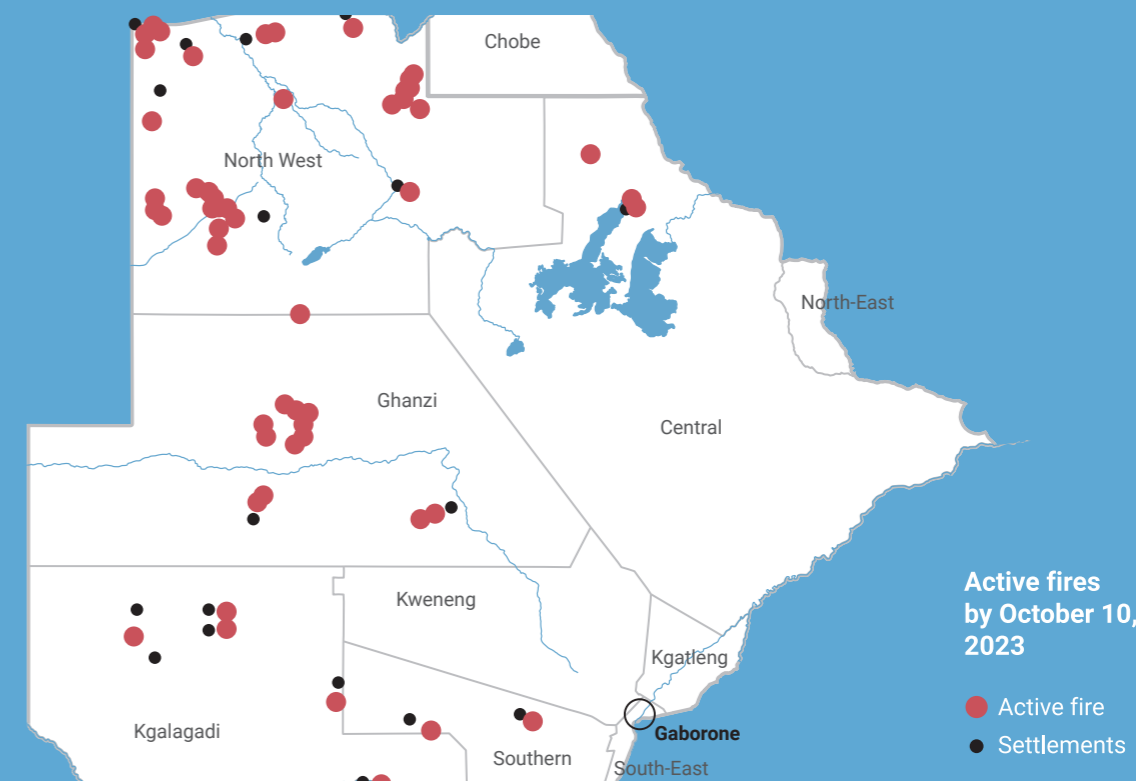
### September

Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 2021 came to effect on 15th September 2023. The Act enhances, among others, penalties for sexual offences, including for rape of persons under 18 years; enforces mandatory HIV testing for persons convicted of rape; makes provisions for victim compensation; criminalises false allegations of sexual offences; and adds new sections on criminalising the rape of persons with mental health disabilities, and the procurement of any person to have unlawful carnal connection with another person(s), in or outside Botswana.



### October

Increased incidence of large wildland fires witnessed during the August to October dry season. By October 2023, the Meteorological Services had issued several warnings of "Very Dangerous" and "Extremely Dangerous" conditions across the country on the Fire Danger Index. Veld and pasture fires have exacerbated the country's drought situation.



### December

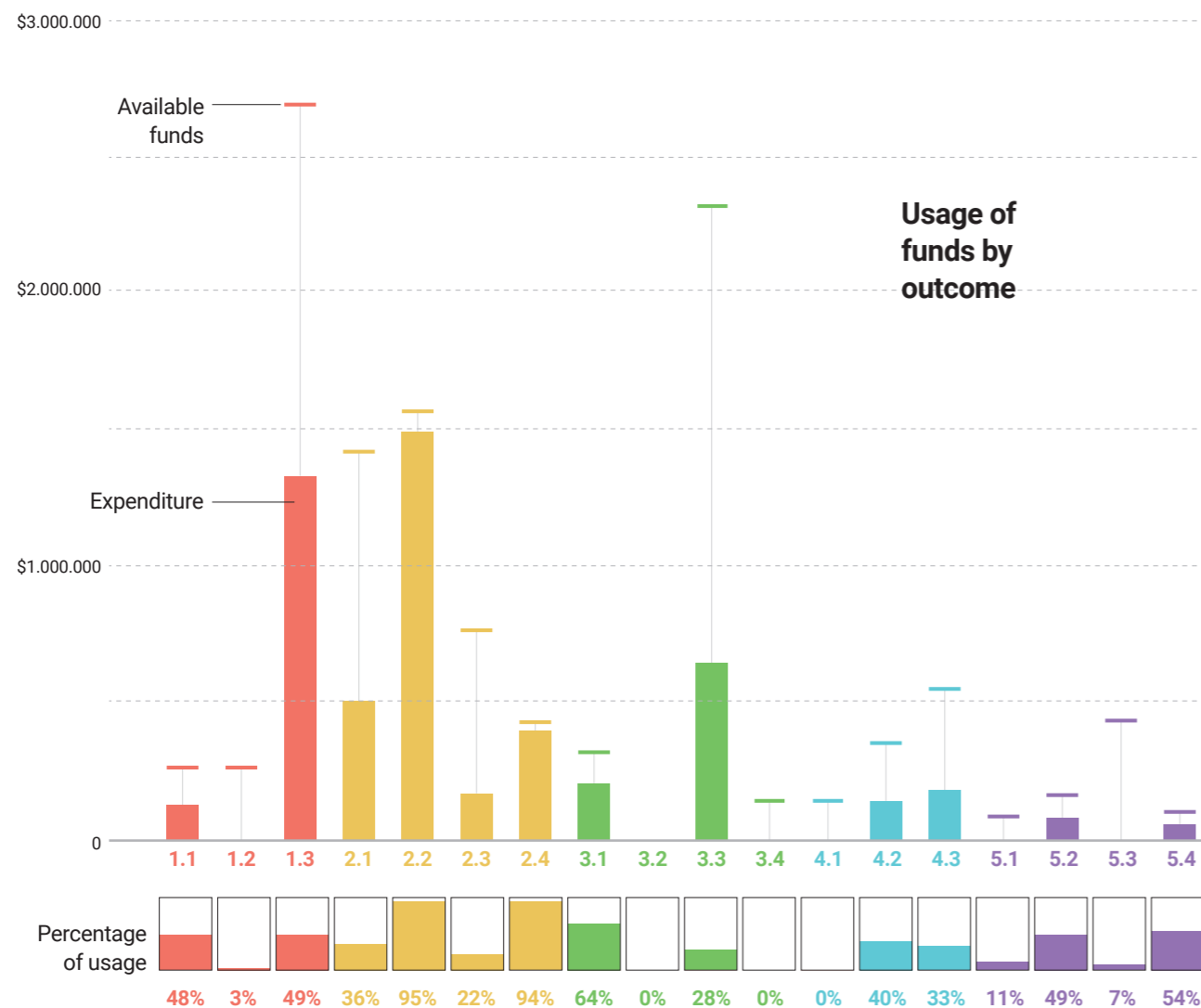
Botswana hosted the 18th Session of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee.

# Chapter 2

## UN Support to National Development Priorities

### 2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

In 2023 there were varying levels of effectiveness in fund utilization across the Cooperation Framework Outcomes. Overall, less funds were spent than planned. Key reasons include late receipt of some donor funds in the fiscal year and delayed signing of partnership agreements. On the latter issue, high turnover of senior officials among the UN's main partners resulted in the need to restart relationships and negotiations.



## At a Glance

UN Botswana Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) 2022-2026

### People

#### Outcome 1

By 2026, gender inequality is reduced, and women and girls are empowered to access their human rights and participate in and benefit from inclusive development

**Output 1.1** Policy and legal frameworks and institutional capacities strengthened to address gender inequality and human rights, in line with national and international commitments.

**Output 1.2** Enhanced capacities of women to participate equally in political and economic spheres.

**Output 1.3** Strengthened multisectoral prevention and responses, including mechanisms for addressing harmful social norms, to achieve a progressive reduction in gender-based violence and violence against children.

#### Outcome 2

By 2026, all people, particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups, have equitable access to quality services of health, nutrition, education and social protection

**Output 2.1** Health system, including community systems, strengthened to deliver inclusive, equitably accessible, quality integrated essential health services, inclusive of HIV and non-communicable diseases.

**Output 2.2** Health security systems improved to detect, prevent and respond to all hazards and emergencies and fulfil duty of safety and care to people in emergencies.

**Output 2.3** Education system strengthened to deliver inclusive, equitably accessible, quality education.

**Output 2.4** Social protection system strengthened to provide equitable and efficient social protection.

### Prosperity

#### Outcome 4

By 2026, Botswana has strengthened resilience to shocks and emergencies, and is on a sustainable, equitable economic trajectory, reducing levels of inequality, poverty and unemployment

**Output 4.1** Economic policies improved to enable a job-rich green recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Output 4.2** Improved and strengthened existing framework/s and business climate for attracting investment, fostering innovation, supporting the informal sector and boosting private sector engagement.

**Output 4.3** Strengthened institutional capacities of government, employers' and workers' organisations to transition Botswana toward a resilient and equitable growth model that ensures economic rights and creates jobs and other economic opportunities, particularly for women and youth.

### Planet

#### Outcome 3

Outcome 3: By 2026, Botswana sustainably uses and actively manages its diverse natural resources, improves food security and effectively addresses climate change vulnerability

**Output 3.1** Food systems strengthened to improve food and nutrition security, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

**Output 3.2** Increased access to sustainable, renewable, clean and affordable energy for all, especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

**Output 3.3** Improved capacities of communities, private sector and government to use and manage land, water and animal resources more equitably, peacefully and sustainably.

**Output 3.4** Capacities of government are strengthened to actively manage climate change adaptation and mitigation through policies, guidance and investments that regulate practices of government, private sector and individuals.

### Peace & Partnerships

#### Outcome 5

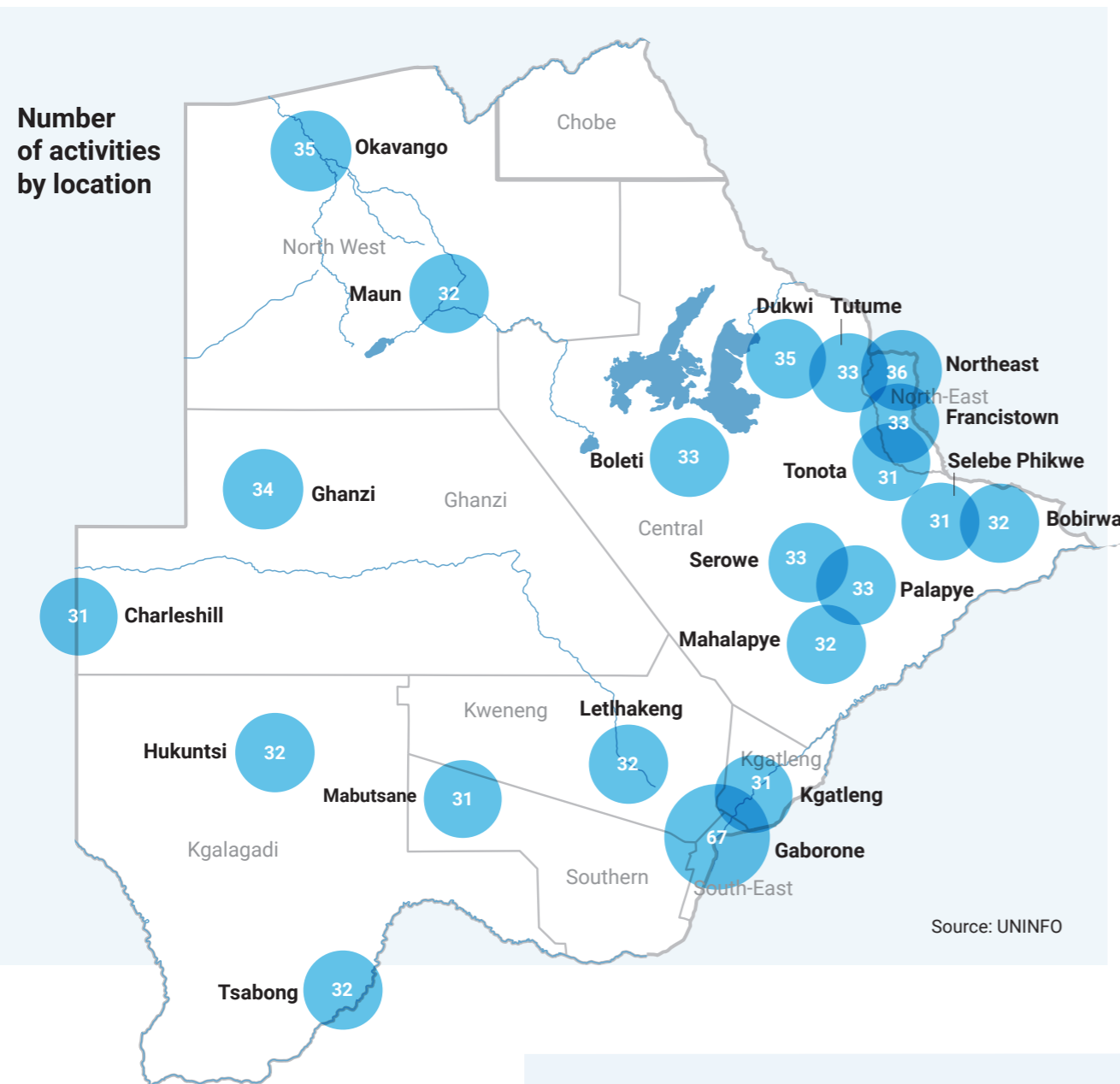
By 2026, Botswana is a just society, where leaders are accountable, transparent and responsive, corruption is reduced, and people are empowered to access information, services and opportunities and participate in decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods

**Output 5.1** Improved access to justice, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

**Output 5.2** Improved efficiency, resilience and accountability of government systems.

**Output 5.3** Increased availability and use of high-quality, disaggregated data by a more diverse range of stakeholders.

**Output 5.4** Existing partnerships strengthened and new and innovative partnerships built to help finance and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.



Across the five outcomes, the highest expenditures were made towards outputs 1.3, 2.2 and 3.3. Significant funds remain to pursue activities under outputs 1.3 and 3.3.

To achieve the targets of UNSDCF 2022–2026, increased investments are warranted to show progress regarding:

**Outputs with high fund availability/expenditure gaps**

- Output 1.3**  
Reduce gender-based violence and violence against children.
- Output 2.1**  
Strengthen health systems to deliver essential services.
- Output 2.3**  
Strengthen education system.
- Output 3.3**  
Capacitate communities, the private sector and government to use and manage land, water and animal resources more equitably, peacefully and sustainably.
- Output 4.3**  
Strengthen institutional capacities of government, employers' and workers' organisations to transition Botswana toward a resilient and equitable growth model.

**Outputs showing low progress**

- Output 1.2**  
Enhance women's capacities to participate equally in political and economic spheres.
- Output 5.3**  
Increase the wider availability and use of high-quality, disaggregated data.

**Outputs showing no progress**

- Output 3.2**  
Increase access to sustainable, renewable, clean and affordable energy.
- Output 4.1**  
Improve economic policies to enable a post-COVID-19 job-rich green recovery.

There were no initiatives towards sustainable and renewable energy in 2023 but support is expected through ongoing efforts by UN Habitat to establish and fund a country office. Efforts towards improving food security and climate change adaptation include action by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to promote the standardization of agro-processing and improve product quality for safe human consumption and the distribution of targeted supplementary feed and food distribution by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the 707 refugees and asylum seekers, including children, at the Dukwi Refugee Camp.



2.2. Cooperation Framework  
Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

People

# Outcome 1

By 2026, gender inequality is reduced, and women and girls are empowered to access their human rights and participate in and benefit from inclusive development

Outputs by total required resources

<p><b>1.3</b> Strengthened multi-sectoral prevention and responses, including mechanisms for addressing harmful social norms, to achieve a progressive reduction in gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children <b>4.04 million USD</b></p>	<p><b>1.2</b> Enhanced capacities of women, especially young women, to participate equally in political and economic spheres <b>0.53 million USD</b></p>
	<p><b>1.1</b> Policy and legal frameworks and institutional capacities strengthened to address gender inequality and human rights, in line with national and international commitments <b>0.34 million USD</b></p>

Source: UNINFO

SDG goals



In 2023, the UNCT assisted Botswana to pursue multiple initiatives to strengthen policy and legal frameworks that address gender equality, enhance women economic empowerment and strengthen the Government of Botswana’s response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Violence against Children (VAC).

The UNCT, led by UN Women, provided ongoing support to Government of Botswana’s programmes that seek to reduce women’s economic dependency as a strategy. UN Women worked with the Minis-

try of Youth, Sports, Gender and Culture (MYSC) to empower women through capacity building and business skills transfer programmes. A series of cross-country training programmes targeted small- and medium-scale women entrepreneurs and facilitated those at the business idea generation phase.

Women’s economic empowerment was further strengthened through support provided for Government’s implementation of the 2017 National Response Strategy to the US-African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the 2023 Temo Let-

lotlo programme. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) was assisted to develop the National AGOA Response Strategy that will enable Botswana to take advantage of and realize the full potential of the AGOA trade initiative. The Strategy, inter alia, seeks to reinvigorate the Buy Botswana program and encourage local producers to supply the market at competitive prices and quality. In 2023, women entrepreneurs benefitted from Government's restriction of the importation of school uniforms by initiating textile projects to supply schools in their communities. The Strategy has boosted employment creation, with the number of jobs increasing by 38 percent, from 2535 in 2022 to 3500 in 2023. Prior to the import ban, local business traders imported school uniforms, thus exporting employment opportunities that could have served local community members and improve their livelihoods.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supported Government's launch of the inclusive agricultural production programme, Temo Letlotlo, which creates economic opportunities for women through commercial farming. The FAO further collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) on the Integrated Horticulture Support programme to train 62 farmers (27 males, 35 women, including 15 youth) on good agricultural practices in horticulture. The training enhanced farmers' management skills with the aim to improve agricultural productivity and participation in value chains.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Violence against Children (VAC) was prioritised in 2023. Assistance was provided for Government's launch of the National Gender Commission that implements and monitors the National Gender Programme, including GBV Management. The Ministry of Health received support to revise the National Health Sector GBV Guidelines and develop a Training Toolkit. The Toolkit addresses capacity gaps in the provision of quality rights-based sexual and GBV information and the integration of Violence Against Women into Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services. The UNCT also worked with partners across several sectors including the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI),



Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) and the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) to mainstream gender within their operations and improve their capacity to detect and manage GBV and sexual harassment at organizational level.

The UNCT, facilitated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and with the support of the Embassy of Japan, established two (2) additional Child-friendly Police Centres in 2023, bringing the total number of Centres to eight (8) across the country. Training was conducted with members of community-based Child Protection Committees, Police

Officers and young people to improve access to justice. A total of 203 children (109 girls and 94 boys), 441 Police Officers (222 female and 219 male), and 243 Village Child Protection Committee members (143 female and 100 male) were trained.

UNICEF's work with government on child-friendly justice is improving access to justice, and constitutes significant progress in terms of access to justice for marginalised groups. UNICEF assisted the Botswana Police Service (BPS) to develop child-friendly policing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to strengthen and standardise the child-friendly and

age-sensitive procedures BPS adopts with children who come into contact with the law as victims, witnesses or suspected offenders. The SOPs were used to train over 500 Police Officers on how to handle cases of Violence against Children (VAC) at police stations. UNICEF also collaborated with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) and the BPS to develop the radio programme Ngwana Khumo, which raises awareness on the prevention of Violence against Children and the BPS' response to VAC. The radio programme reached over 100 000 listeners within 6 months of its launch.

People

# Outcome 2

By 2026, all people, particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups, have equitable access to quality services of health, nutrition, education and social protection

Outputs by total required resources

<p><b>2.1</b> Health system, including community systems, strengthened to deliver inclusive, equitably accessible, quality integrated essential health services, inclusive of HIV and non-communicable diseases <b>4.36 million USD</b></p>	<p><b>2.2</b> Botswana health security systems improved to detect, prevent and respond to all hazards and emergencies and fulfil duty of safety and care to people in emergencies <b>2.71 million USD</b></p>
	<p><b>2.3</b> Education system strengthened to deliver inclusive, equitably accessible, quality education <b>2.33 million USD</b></p>

Source: UNINFO

**2.4**  
Social protection system strengthened to provide equitable and efficient social protection  
**0.57 million USD**

SDG goals

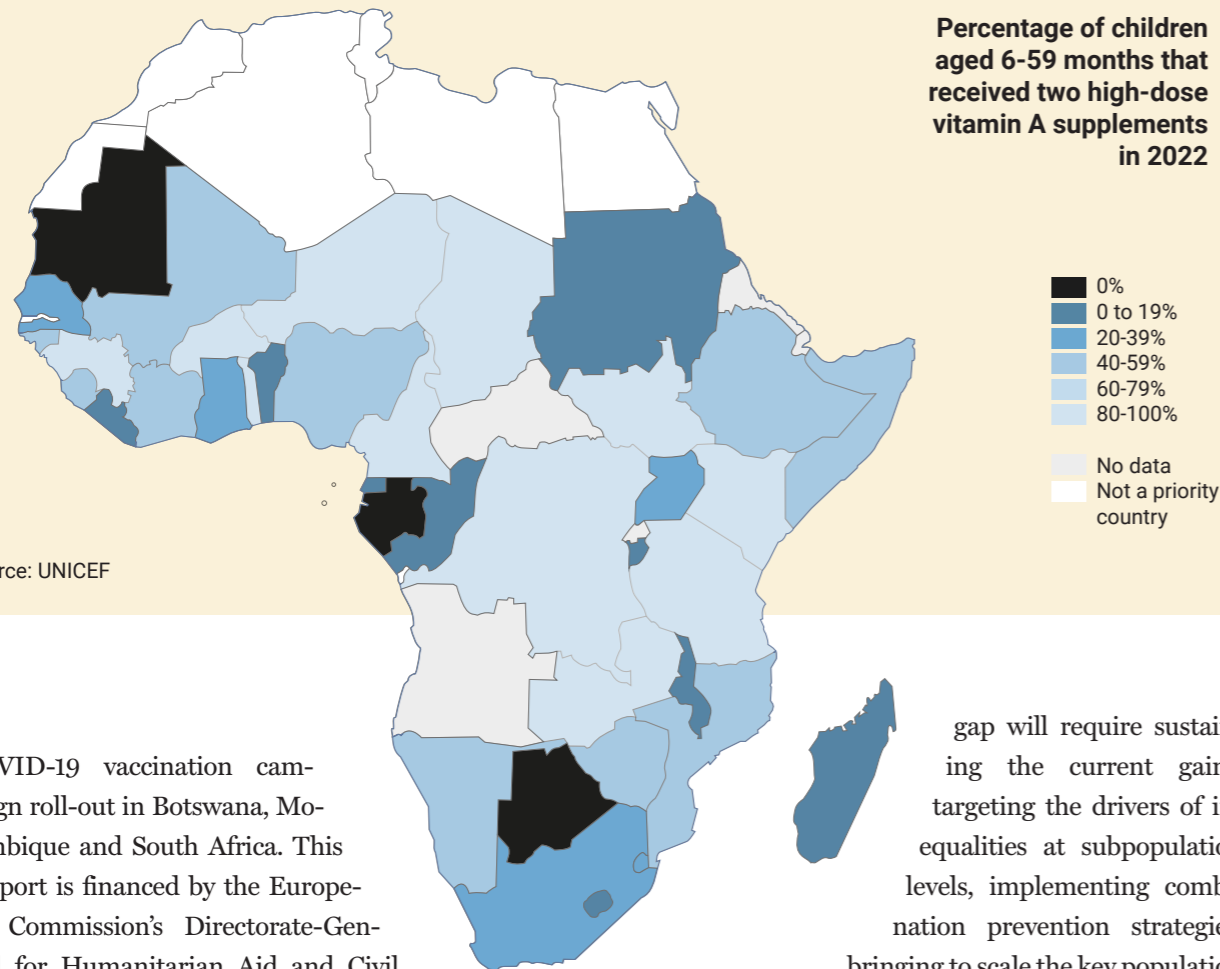


**Initiatives related to strengthening health services and emergency response, adolescent health and education, and social protection were prioritised during 2023.**

Access to health products and services was a key UNCT focal area in 2023. UN Population Fund (UNFPA) collaborated with the [Botswana International University of Science and Technology](#) (BIUST) and Ministry of Health (MoH) to advance the Drones for Health project launched in 2021. The three-phase proof of concept (pilot) project aims to revolutionise the supply chain of medical products by improving the accessibility of hard-to-reach communities to blood and blood products, drugs and commodities, using drone technology. Phase I of the pilot project, successfully completed in 2021, enhanced co-creation, prototyping, community engagement and experimentation. In 2023, Phase II focused on exploring the delivery of live products (including drugs, blood and blood products) to remote clinics within the Okavango and Ngami Health Districts. UNFPA mobilised \$50,000 in 2022 and a further \$1,450,000 in 2023 (spread over 3 years) for MoH to implement Phase II of the project. Community engagement is needed to allay fears communities might have towards this innovation.

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) further facilitated MoH’s access to vitamin A capsules and immunization antigens. Vitamin A deficiency is the leading cause of preventable childhood blindness and increases the risk of death from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea. Periodic, high-dose vitamin A supplementation is a proven, low-cost intervention shown to reduce all-cause mortality by 12 to 24 percent and is therefore an important regiment in efforts to reduce child mortality. UNICEF supported the Government of Botswana through procurement of 900,000 of 100,000 IUs and 1,239,000 of 200,000 IU vitamin A capsules to reach at least 79% of children aged 6 – 59 months and 1,523,200 doses of various routine immunization antigens to reach children under 1-year old. Through joint efforts between the MoH and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Partners consisting of the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as well as Rotary International, over 300,000 (81%) children in total were vaccinated during both rounds of the campaign across the country.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), under the multi-sector humanitarian response for persons affected by violence, continued to support the



Source: UNICEF

COVID-19 vaccination campaign roll-out in Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa. This support is financed by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG – ECHO) to contribute to efforts towards facilitating access to COVID-19 vaccines in humanitarian settings and migration-affected communities. Through this support, 7354 (36% migrants) people were fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

UNCT facilitated Botswana’s multiple responses towards combating Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS (JUTA), coordinated through UNAIDS, supported the Government of Botswana and other partners to review the Third Botswana National Strategic Framework (NSF III) for HIV and AIDS for alignment with the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP). Botswana is one of the high-achieving countries in ending the HIV epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. The country has made substantial strides in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, reflecting a strong commitment to ending AIDS by 2030 and achieving 95-98-98 along the testing and treatment cascade. Closing the 5-2-2 HIV testing and treatment cascade

gap will require sustaining the current gains, targeting the drivers of inequalities at subpopulation levels, implementing combination prevention strategies, bringing to scale the key population interventions, and strengthening community-led and multisectoral interventions.

The World Health Organization (WHO) supported several initiatives towards Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and cancer prevention and control. These initiatives included the capacity strengthening of Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) through training of trainers; sustaining an enabling environment for oral health supported through the development of the Oral Health Policy; finalization of the Cancer Control Plan; and implementing the Positive Choices Campaign to promote healthy lifestyles in 16 localities.

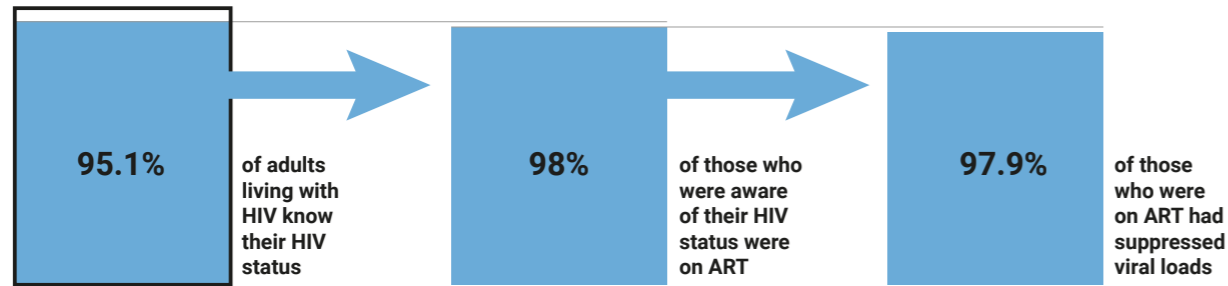
With WHO support, Botswana’s Strengthening and Utilising Response Group for Emergencies (SURGE) team complemented the Southern African region’s response to the June 2023 cholera outbreak in Malawi. This response was made possible by the training during 20-29 June 2023, of 70 specialists drawn from different governmental agencies and institutions. The training

## Drones for Health Project | Ngami District

UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health in the implementation of the Drones For Health Project to undertake a three-phase proof of concept (pilot) project in which medical products including blood products, drugs and commodities are transported through the use of remotely piloted aircrafts (drones) as an innovation to improve health care delivery in general. The phased intervention aims to revolutionise the supply chain to improve accessibility and availability of drugs and life saving commodities, including blood and blood products for hard-to-reach communities, while also saving costs, reducing lead delivery times and inefficiencies by using drone technology. This is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda which identifies innovation as critical to accelerating progress towards the global development aspirations. Phase I of the pilot project which entailed co-creation, prototyping, community engagement

and experimentation was successfully completed in 2021. In a bid to harness innovation to leapfrog progress towards achievement of SDG Goal 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing, and following the outcomes and lessons learnt from Phase I, the MoH took a decision to progress the project to Phase II. Phase II will explore delivery of live products (including drugs, blood and blood products) within the Okavango and Ngami Health District. As part of this support, UNFPA has provided technical support for the development of a business model for the Drones For Health project that informs stakeholder investment into the project. The model also responds to the questions about the choice and adoption of a model for integrating drones in support of the supply chain of health products in Botswana to reach the furthest left behind while also providing financial estimates of the cost of implementation of the project within the two health districts of Okavango and Ngami.





exercise strengthened their skills and capacities to effectively coordinate emergencies with public health impact, using a functional public health emergency operations center (PHEOC) that enables an all-hazards and multisectoral approach. Botswana is one of the first five countries in the region where SURGE was implemented as a WHO flagship initiative.

Adolescent health remained a priority area in 2023. UNFPA supported national partners to domesticate and operationalize the new 2030 East and Southern Africa (ESA) Ministerial Commitment that aims to ensure fulfillment of the health and well-being of adolescents and young people. UNFPA convened a high-level advocacy platform with Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Education, Health, and Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture. Permanent Secretaries pledged their full support for the process, and this culminated in a comprehensive national Operational Plan. UNFPA supported these partners to set national baselines for the 2030 ESA Commitment Result Accountability Framework to facilitate tracking of the targets for the commitments; develop user-friendly school level monitoring tools for tracking and reporting school dropouts due to pregnancy; and review and analyse the national Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Monitoring Tool(s).

The Resident Coordinator's Office, facilitated by the WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, worked with the National Planning Commission under the Office of the President to develop the National Commitment for Adolescents and Young People's Wellbeing, launched in October 2023 by His Excellency the President of Botswana Dr. Masisi. The Commitment recognizes Botswana's need to prioritize the needs of adolescents, promote their rights and provide them with opportu-

nities for education, healthcare and participation so as to ensure a sustainable future for them. The Commitment was also presented at the UN General Assembly during the SDG Summit, demonstrating the commitment of Botswana's leadership to investing in its youth.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the WHO collaborated with the MoH and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) to implement the Health Promoting Programme in three districts. Schools are reporting high education and health outcomes (learners' academic performance and access to youth friendly services and others) as results of the programme. UNFPA also collaborated with the MoH to conduct capacity building and advocacy workshops for integrating the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) into sub-national/district disaster preparedness and response plans across six priority health districts. This has resulted in the districts developing action plans to integrate MISP for SRH in the existing district disaster preparedness and response plans.

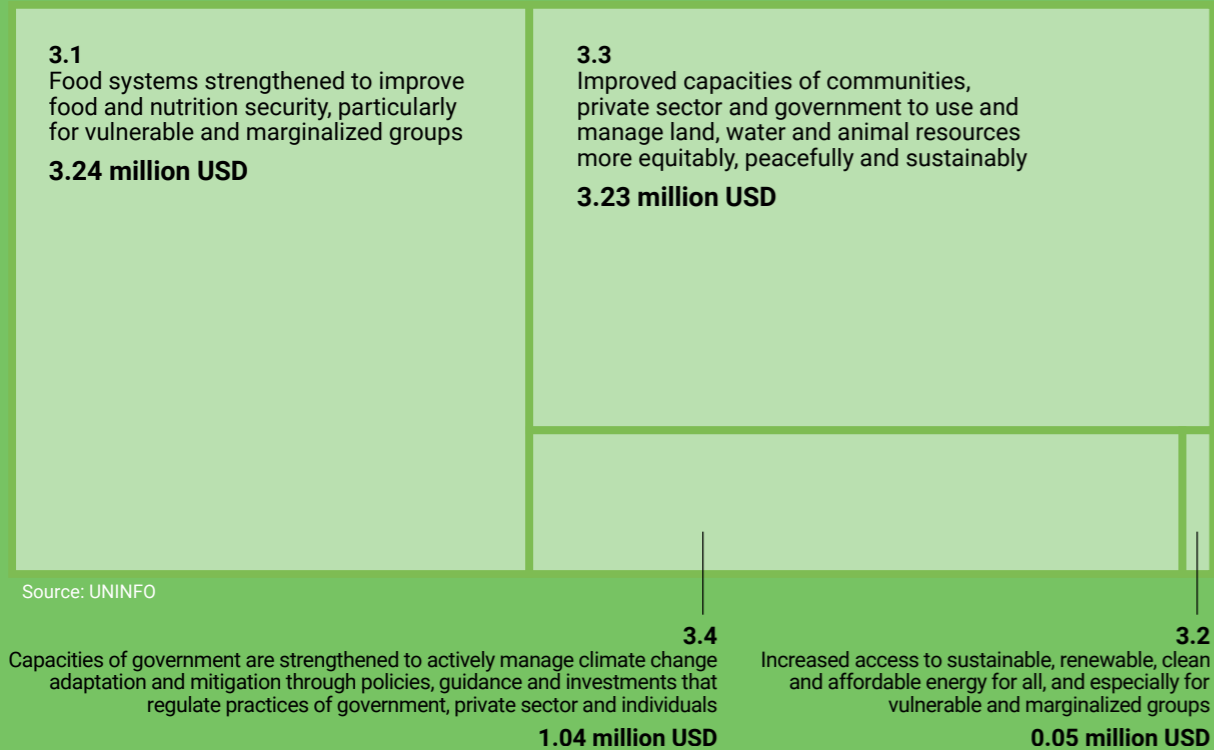
With regards to social protection, UN-Habitat provided technical support to the Department of Housing, Ministry of Transport and Public Works on the Revised National Policy on Housing. This support followed participation in the Housing Pitso 2023. UN-Habitat's technical assistance focused on aligning Botswana's housing policy to globally recognized standards for adequate and affordable housing. UN-Habitat encouraged Botswana to use the Revised National Policy on Housing as an opportunity to address climate change in an equitable way, regularize informal housing, leverage land-based finance and advocate for the use of local and recycled material.



# Planet Outcome 3

**Outcome 3: By 2026, Botswana sustainably uses and actively manages its diverse natural resources, improves food security and effectively addresses climate change vulnerability**

## Outputs by total required resources



Source: UNINFO

## SDG goals



During 2023, the UNCT, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supported the Government of Botswana on several initiatives to strengthen the country's food system and improve food and nutrition security, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Four Bee Keeping Farmer Field Schools were launched to empower local communities and improve livelihoods by providing knowledge and skills in beekeeping. The Field Schools enrolled 162 beneficiaries (68 females and 94 males) from four regions: Mogobane (Southeast district), a rural community in Kaudwane (Kweneng district), Selibe Phikwe (Central district), and Kazungula (Chobe

district). Participants transitioned from basic bee-keeping skills to mastering advanced techniques such as honey extraction and bee capture.

UNDP's Atisa Supplier Development Programme progressed in its development of the supply value chain of horticulture farmers under the National Agro Processing Plant (NAPRO), the horticulture fresh produce processing centre in Selibe Phikwe. The Chenin Blanc horticultural project, started in 2017 to produce red, green and yellow peppers and tomatoes, improved the quality of their produce after benefiting from training on customer satisfaction and business studies. Palm Farm that specializes in irrigated cabbage and butternuts benefited from training that improved their record keeping and ability to monitor insecticide residue waiting

periods so that they sell produce safe for human consumption. The Atisa programme provides opportunities for farmers to learn from each other and share lessons learned. Details about Supplier Development Programme for Agriculture Value Chains is available [here](#).

UNDP also supported the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security (MMGE) through its Department of Energy to pilot a biogas project and conduct demonstrations in the South-East District on the production and utilization of biogas from agro-waste. After the successful implementation of the pilot programme, UNDP assisted with the country-wide roll out of biogas technology, to increase access to sustainable, renewable, clean and affordable energy for all, especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups. The project constructed 200 small-scale biogas digesters for household use to offset the use of firewood and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission by an estimated total of 155t CO<sub>2</sub>/annum. Two hundred community members in South-East District benefitted from the project with equal representation of men and women among the biogas technology beneficiaries. UNDP worked with the Department of Energy to also capacitate masons in the Central District so that community members can have access to the technology, training 51 masons.

Under UNDP leadership, the UN family worked with numerous partners including the European Union Delegation to SADC and Botswana, and the Embassy of the United States to Botswana, to present an evidence-based business case for additional investment in renewable energy, particularly solar. Other activities included articles in the media, workshops with Government and other stakeholders, and meetings with the Head of State, Ministers and senior Government officials, to influence policy.

As part of efforts to capacitate government delegations taking part in global climate negotiations, UNDP engaged an expert to train the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiators. The training was intended



to help negotiators and national policymakers to improve their knowledge of the UNFCCC decision-making process so they can engage effectively and translate outcomes into national level implementation. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system, in a time frame which allows ecosystems to adapt naturally and enables sustainable development.

During 2023, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre commissioned a Feasibility Study to assess the potential of extending the boundaries of the Okavango Delta World Heritage property. The Okavango Delta is a globally significant freshwater system known for its unique characteristics and outstanding biodiversity. The Study recognizes the risks and threats posed by future water quantity, quality, and flow regimes and suggests that, extending the

boundaries to include key upstream areas in Angola and Namibia, can improve the ecological integrity and conservation of this unique landscape. The transboundary extension would recognize the interconnectedness of the Delta with the surrounding basins and ecosystems, contributing to its long-term sustainability and conservation.

UNESCO also conducted community-based research in Ngamiland to explore the indigenous knowledge of savannah fires and traditional fire management. The research found that fire is a powerful tool used for land management, food preparation, communication, and cultural rituals. However, the use of fire by indigenous peoples faces challenges such as climate change, government policies, and lack of recognition. Integrating traditional knowledge with modern scientific understanding can lead to more effective fire management strategies that benefit both people and the environment.

## Visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, David. R. Boyd

The UNCT facilitated the visit to Botswana of Mr. David R. Boyd, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment during 3-12 October 2023, upon Government's invitation.

The UN Special Rapporteur noted that there are barriers to realizing economic, social and cultural rights for marginalized groups, and that some people are being left behind when it comes to access to safe and sufficient water, adequate sanitation, clean air, and a fair share of benefits from mining, tourism and wildlife.

According to the Special Rapporteur, vulnerable groups such as children, women, Indigenous Peoples and rural communities, are disproportionately affected by environmental inequalities. Extreme economic inequality contributes to environmental inequality and jeopardizes the full enjoyment of human rights, especially for the most marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Mr. Boyd noted that Botswana, despite its leading role in conservation, faces multiple human rights and environmental challenges, including a lack of access to safe and sufficient water and adequate sanitation, the global climate crisis, human-wildlife conflict, pollution and inadequate waste management.

In his recommendations, Mr. Boyd encouraged Botswana to recognize at the national level the right to a healthy environment in law, to address challenges regarding the procedural elements of the right to a healthy environment, to prioritize the fulfilment of the rights to water and sanitation for all, and to accelerate the transition to renewable energy by becoming a solar superpower.

Prosperity

# Outcome 4

By 2026, Botswana has strengthened resilience to shocks and emergencies, and is on a sustainable, equitable economic trajectory, reducing levels of inequality, poverty and unemployment

Outputs by total required resources

<p><b>4.3</b> Botswana shifts toward a more resilient and equitable growth model that ensures economic rights and creates jobs and other economic opportunities, particularly for women and youth <b>2.48 million USD</b></p>	<p><b>4.2</b> Improved and strengthened existing framework/s and business climate for attracting investment, fostering innovation, supporting the informal sector and boosting private sector engagement <b>0.83 million USD</b></p>
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Source: UNINFO

**4.1**  
Economic policies improved to enable a job-rich green recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic  
**0.05 million USD**

SDG goals



In 2023, UNCT supported a range of initiatives to strengthen the economic resilience of businesses and youth post the COVID-19 pandemic.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) benefitted from UNDP’s collaboration with Government and the private sector to introduce the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Sustainability Framework. Integration of ESG criteria into their daily business decisions, policies, and strategies enables businesses to become more attractive to investors, clients, and partners. UNDP initiated a 10-month mentoring programme for 27 MSMEs (with a 30% women ownership commitment) in key industries that is due to conclude in mid-2024. Ten manufacturing beneficiaries also participated in a 3-day training event that introduced the ESG framework and initiated data collection.

UNICEF, in partnership with the University of Botswana, organized two seminars on entrepreneurial skills for over 200 tertiary students to expand their income-generating capabilities. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs (MLHA), also embarked on a nationwide GenU (Generation Unlimited) Youth Employabil-

ity Training and Tour, providing over 1000 youth in rural areas with practical skills that are in demand in the job market. Additionally, UNICEF and MLHA jointly organized online employability training sessions that reached over 600 youths, equipping them with essential skills for effective job hunting.

During the 2022-2023 implementation period, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) offered technical assistance to support the MoA in implementing the Small Stock Digitization Strategy in the Kgalagadi District, using the Lobu Smart Farm (LSF) Methodology at a cost of \$282,070. Work plans were developed across eight work streams to establish the LSF as a Centre of Excellence. By the end of December 2023, the project had achieved an implementation rate of 68 percent. Key accomplishments included the completion of essential infrastructure plans and the establishment of a Guiding Framework for achieving Centre of Excellence status. The project is set to enter its final phase in 2024, focusing on operationalizing the Centre of Excellence, pending final government decisions on institutional arrangements.



Peace & Partnerships

# Outcome 5

By 2026, Botswana is a just society, where leaders are accountable, transparent and responsive, corruption is reduced, and people are empowered to access information, services and opportunities and participate in decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods

Outputs by total required resources

<p><b>5.3</b> Increased availability and use of high-quality, disaggregated data by a more diverse range of stakeholders <b>1.74 million USD</b></p>	<p><b>5.2</b> Improved efficiency, resilience and accountability of government systems <b>1.06 million USD</b></p>
	<p><b>5.1</b> Improved access to justice, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups <b>0.47 million USD</b></p>

Source: UNINFO

**5.4**  
Existing partnerships strengthened and new and innovative partnerships built to accelerate progress towards the SDGs  
**0.22 million USD**

SDG goals



The UNCT supported initiatives that enhanced access to justice and Botswana’s transformation to a more just society that promotes and respects human rights.

The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Human Rights 75) was celebrated in 2023. As a “common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations,” the Declaration is a global blueprint for international, national, and local laws and policies and a bedrock of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During 2023, the United Nations provided technical and conceptual support to the Government of Botswana, to enable Botswana to join the global Human Rights 75 initiative and promote human rights.

The MoJ launched Botswana’s Human Rights 75 campaign on 27th October 2023. The UN Resident Coordinator, Resident Representative of UNDP, and Regional Representative of OHCHR served as panellists during the launch. Technical

support was further provided to enable Botswana’s participation in the high-level Human Rights 75 event that took place in Geneva on 11-12 December 2023, including to participate in the global pledging process. The President of Botswana presented several pledges that are expected to be realised by 31 December 2024, namely that Botswana will strengthen her collaboration with civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights and create a conducive environment for civil society participation; that Botswana will continue to adopt measures to address and combat Gender-Based violence; that Botswana will continuously strengthen the national human rights institution to ensure full alignment with the Paris Principles; and that Botswana will enhance opportunities for the economic empowerment of citizens by 2024, particularly youth, women, and people with disabilities through increased public investment programmes including agricultural development, water reticulation, land ownership, and bridging the digital divide.

The Human Rights Council Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) considered Botswana's Report and its addendum on 29 September 2023. OHCHR provided technical support to the UNCT in respect of Botswana's 4th cycle UPR review, to enable the UNCT to make a comprehensive submission ahead of the review. The Universal Periodic Review is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States, providing an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. In its 4th cycle UPR, Botswana received 296 recommendations, of which 206 enjoyed Botswana's support, and 5 were partly supported, while 85 recommendations were noted. This constitutes a marked improvement since 2018, when during its 3rd cycle UPR, Botswana had received 207 recommendations of which 93 recommendations enjoyed Botswana's support. The United Nations will provide technical support to the Government of Botswana to implement the supported recommendations emanating from Botswana's 4th cycle UPR.

UNCT, led by OHCHR and UNDP, supported the launch of an e-learning course on Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals in Botswana, with assistance from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and in consultation with various stakeholders including government and civil society. The e-learning course seeks to increase knowledge and awareness of human rights and the SDGs in Botswana, the role of key stakeholders, institutional arrangements and key issues.

OHCHR and UNDP enhanced their technical support to the Ombudsman to build its capacity, support its operationalisation, strengthen its mandate, and thereby enhance access to justice for rights holders in Botswana. The Ombudsman Act of 2021 entered into force in July 2023, marking the conferral of a human rights mandate to the Ombudsman which will further enhance access to justice in Botswana. The Ombudsman has the



new dual mandate in respect of investigating allegations of maladministration and human rights violations and is empowered to provide remedies to complainants for violations. The Ombudsman enjoys jurisdiction over private entities in respect of human rights and has assumed an advisory role to Government in respect of the ratification and implementation of treaties and conventions.

Botswana acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2021. The CRPD aims to address the long history

of discrimination, exclusion, and dehumanization of persons with disabilities. In November 2023, the Government of Botswana, OHCHR, and Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) co-organized a workshop focused primarily on raising awareness about the CRPD and promoting its domestication and implementation in Botswana.

Support and technical assistance were provided towards the preparation of the country's first quadrennial periodic report, due in 2024, on the

## Rights of Persons with Disabilities

"As Botswana Council for the Disabled (BCD), we are energised by the current movement to promote and support the rights of persons with disabilities in Botswana. We consider persons with disabilities to be the most vulnerable population group, and that you find persons with disabilities amongst all other vulnerable populations groups be it Children, Rural Area Dwellers, and LGBTQI community, and girls and young women. It is with this understanding that as we promote rights for persons with disabilities, we need to also be specific and zoom into rights of persons with disabilities who are also within other vulnerable population groups.

As United Nations celebrate 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promoting dignity, freedom and justice for all, the disability sector in Botswana is so hopeful that they will also experience the above principles since the Government of Botswana has ratified the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021), revised the National Policy on Disability (2021) and currently working on the Disability Bill."

**Moffat Louis,**  
Executive Director,  
Botswana Council for the Disabled



implementation of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. UNESCO and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) cooperate on the project “ReShaping Policies for Creativity and Artistic Freedom” that supports policy monitoring and design to promote the cultural and creative industries at national and global levels. Submission of the report serves as a useful priority-setting tool of future policies for the cultural and creative sectors as well as to engage a policy dialogue between governments and civil societies.

During 2023, increased availability and use of high-quality disaggregated data were prioritized. UNFPA supported the Ministry of Labour and

Home Affairs (MLHA) to conduct a comprehensive review of the Civil Registration & Vital Statistics (CRVS) ecosystem. Information was gathered on opportunities and bottlenecks, and best practices towards improved availability, analysis and use of disaggregated data. UNFPA provided technical support for the End Term Review of the CRVS Strategy 2016 - 2020 that aimed to generate evaluative evidence for the development of the successor strategic plan, envisaged to be developed in 2024.

UNFPA also supported capacity building of Statistics Botswana personnel on the mapping and analysis of geolocational census data, in line with the UN Principles and Recommendations for Pop-

ulation and Housing Censuses (Third Edition) that emphasise the use of modern technology in all phases of census operation, including in the planning, mapping, data collection, processing, and dissemination stages.

UN-Habitat contributed towards strengthening consultative spatial planning in Botswana using the Digital Participatory System (DIPAS). UN-Habitat, together with partners UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) and Hafencity University at the United Nations Innovation and Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNI-TAC), collaborated with the Department of Town & Country Planning (DTCP), Ministry of Land & Water Affairs, and Botswana Digital and Innovation

Hub (BDIH) to strengthen citizen participation in urban planning. Over two days in May 2023, UNI-TAC’s Digital Participatory System was implemented to engage with 80 diverse stakeholders from the Ministry of Land & Water Affairs, Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, Ministry of Transport & Public Works, Botswana International University for Science & Technology, University of Botswana, development partners, the private sector, and members of the public to collect 167 points of feedback on the Segoditshane River Corridor plan. DIPAS enables DTCP to establish a geospatial data server to host geographical and related datasets for spatial planning needs and strengthen participatory urban planning processes using digital technology.

## 2.3 Support to Partnerships

**In 2023, the UN system in Botswana forged innovative partnerships to contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda.**

### Regional Gender-Based Violence Joint Programme

The UNCT collaborated with five countries - Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia - through the Spotlight Initiative MOU. The 5-year regional programme aims to combat the cross-country common challenge of high incidence and prevalence of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The UNCT collaborated to develop the programme proposal for Botswana as well as to contribute to the sub-regional roundtable at which Botswana's Statement was delivered by Deputy Permanent Secretary, MYSC, Mr. Tshepo Mophuting.

**Over the five years of the programme, Botswana aims to mobilize US\$11 million towards:**

- Addressing gender inequality gaps in laws, policies and frameworks, and supporting their implementation.
- Equipping key institutions with the necessary

capacity on rights-based GBV/VAWG services, data and coordination, and a systems-approach to monitoring, reporting and documentation.

- Equipping service providers with the evidence, data, knowledge and skills to provide survivor-centered, multi-sectoral essential services for women and girls victims of violence.
- Identifying perceptions, values, norms, expectations, behaviours and attitudes that enable and drive GBV in communities, institutions and the broader society, and mobilize efforts to address such barriers and promote gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours at the various levels (interpersonal, community and societal levels), and promote initiatives for women's economic empowerment.
- Promoting strong and empowered civil society and autonomous women's movement; so that as rights holders, they can hold the duty bearers accountable.

### UN Efficiency Drive

Through our Operations Management Team (OMT), the UNCT realized substantial cost savings totalling US\$166,004 in 2023. Efficiencies were gained include through collective bargaining for some common services such as ICT and the renegotiation of some existing contracts. A major investment

by UN entities in 2023 includes the collective contribution of US\$70,086.10 into a 75 kWp rooftop solar system for the main UN building, which will realise savings of over US\$11,000 per annum, and provide a return on investment after just 10 years. From 2025, the system will also save 201 tonnes of CO2 emissions per annum.

### Joint Team on HIV/AIDS (JUTA)

The UNCT supported the GoB to develop the 2023-2025 HIV Prevention Roadmap that seeks to improve the coordination of Botswana's HIV/AIDS response. Support was provided through funding from UNAIDS and UNFPA and technical support from UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO and UN Women. The Roadmap proposes the placement of District AIDS Coordination Offices under the National AIDS & Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA), a move that permits effective cascading

of plans and effective management of prevention budget and donor funds. During the year, the age of access for youth to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) was reduced from 18 years to 16 years; advocacy made for the inclusion of people who use injectable drugs; and sex work was decriminalized. The Social Contracting Guidelines that will be used to coordinate civil society engagement, is being finalised with the plan to commence its implementation by 2025.

### UN Common Pledge 2.0 on Refugee Inclusion

On 23rd May 2023, the UNCT led by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), visited the Dukwi Refugee Camp, which is regulated as a closed encampment under the MoJ, to better appreciate the situation in the Camp and identify areas of engagement. During the site visit, the UNCT met with refugee representatives, representatives of camp management and key services (school, clinic, police) and Skillshare, the main NGO providing skills development and other services in the Camp. The UNCT also visited residential areas of the sites and key facilities.

As a result of the site visit, the UNCT made pledges under the UN Common Pledge 2.0 on Refugee Inclusion ahead of the December 2023 Global Refugee Summit. Pledges related to ensuring the refugee community in Botswana is included in national systems and have access to complementary pathway opportunities and improved protection mechanisms against GBV. Additionally, the UNCT pledged to

improve access to fair and efficient asylum procedures for asylum seekers. In parallel, WHO and UNDP engaged with UNHCR to aid a few medical cases deemed urgent by UNHCR that had not been able to receive support through Government channels.

The Government of Botswana, supported by UNHCR, made key pledges at the Global Refugee Summit. The pledges were submitted at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum and the Government of Botswana has also included them in the Transitional National Development Plan which will also ensure effective implementation.

UNCT supports employment and awareness-raising within and around the Refugee Camp by procuring corporate gifts made by refugee and local community women. The eco-friendly initiative, led by the Catholic Church, empowers women through training on craft skills, involves their conversion of recycled waste into commercial items and furthers their socio-economic development.

### Youth Inclusion

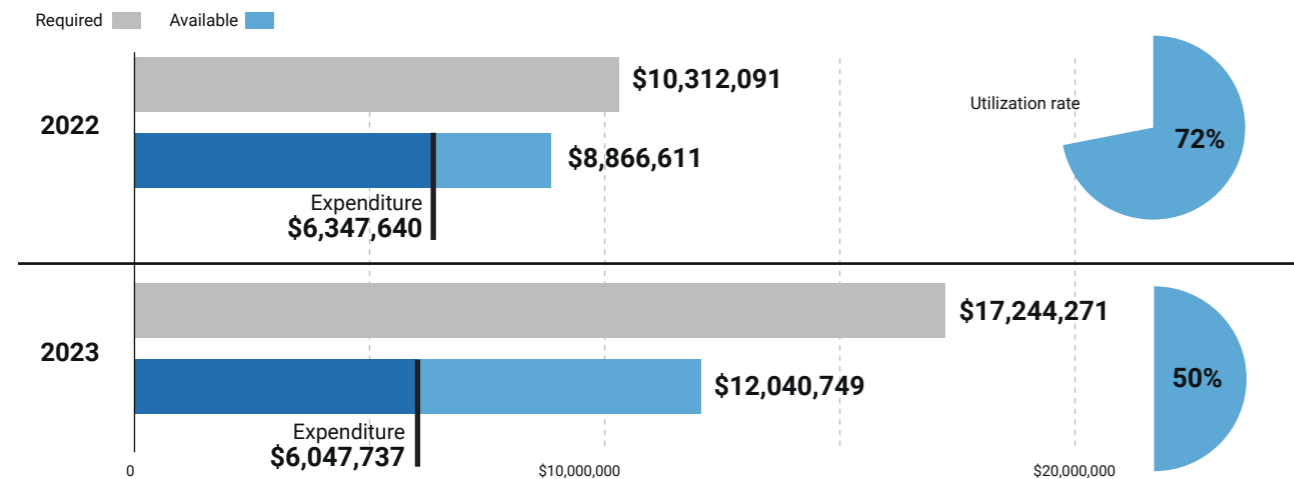
The UNCT through UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF, collaborated to support the national and sub-national multi-sector coordination of adolescent young people and adolescent girls and young women (AYP/AGYW) programme implementation, data management and youth engagement platforms, including U-Report through MoH and NAHPA. U-Report is a social messaging tool and data collection system developed by UNICEF to improve citizen engagement, inform leaders, and foster positive change. A total of \$313,880 was utilised to capacitate over 15,000 adolescents and young people to access HIV prevention and treatment services, and adopt positive behaviours related to SRH, mental health, substance abuse, and violence, through the provision of differentiated models of care for HIV, strengthening youth-led responses, and public awareness-raising. Furthermore, UNICEF strengthened adolescent and youth participation platforms by establishing a Children and Youth Advisory Panel and the National Network of Young People Living with HIV.

### Disability Inclusion

Botswana is one of the 6 countries (Botswana, Maldives, Algeria, Costa Rica, Mali & Nigeria) that were awarded US\$ 70,000 each from the UNPRPD Disability Fund. The funds will be implemented jointly by the RCO, UNDP and OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF in partnership with the National Disability Coordinating Office (NDCO) and Botswana Federation of the Disabled (BOFOD), the umbrella organisation for the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD). UNDP is the recipient agency, OHCHR will have the technical lead on the multistakeholder capacity building exercise on disability inclusion while RCO will lead the Vulnerability Risk Assessment of persons with disabilities in Botswana over 8 months from time of award in November 2023.

## 2.4 Financing the 2030 Agenda

### Comparing 1st and 2nd year of implementing the CF - Improved Resource Mobilization



#### Financial Overview

The UN's work around the integrated National Financing Framework with the Ministry of Finance was completed by the 3rd quarter of 2023. The Government and the UN engaged a range of development partners in this process and the Ministry of Finance has accepted Botswana's SDG Financing Strategy which has to undergo an approval process before it is adopted and implemented.

The Government of Botswana is developing its next (12th) National Development Plan (NDP). The UN is closely working with the National Planning Commission to ensure that key elements of the Financing Strategy will be integrated into the new NDP. Through the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and SDG Financing Initiative, the UN has been able to influence the Government to increase budgetary resources towards the social sectors (and the SDGs). This was evident in the budgetary outlays for the 2024-25 fiscal year. The 2024-25 budget marks a 23.5% increase compared to the previous year's budget, with marked increases across education and human development, health, sustaining livelihoods, research and development and infrastructure development.

In addition, to support the informal sector, a revolving fund with an initial capital injection of ap-

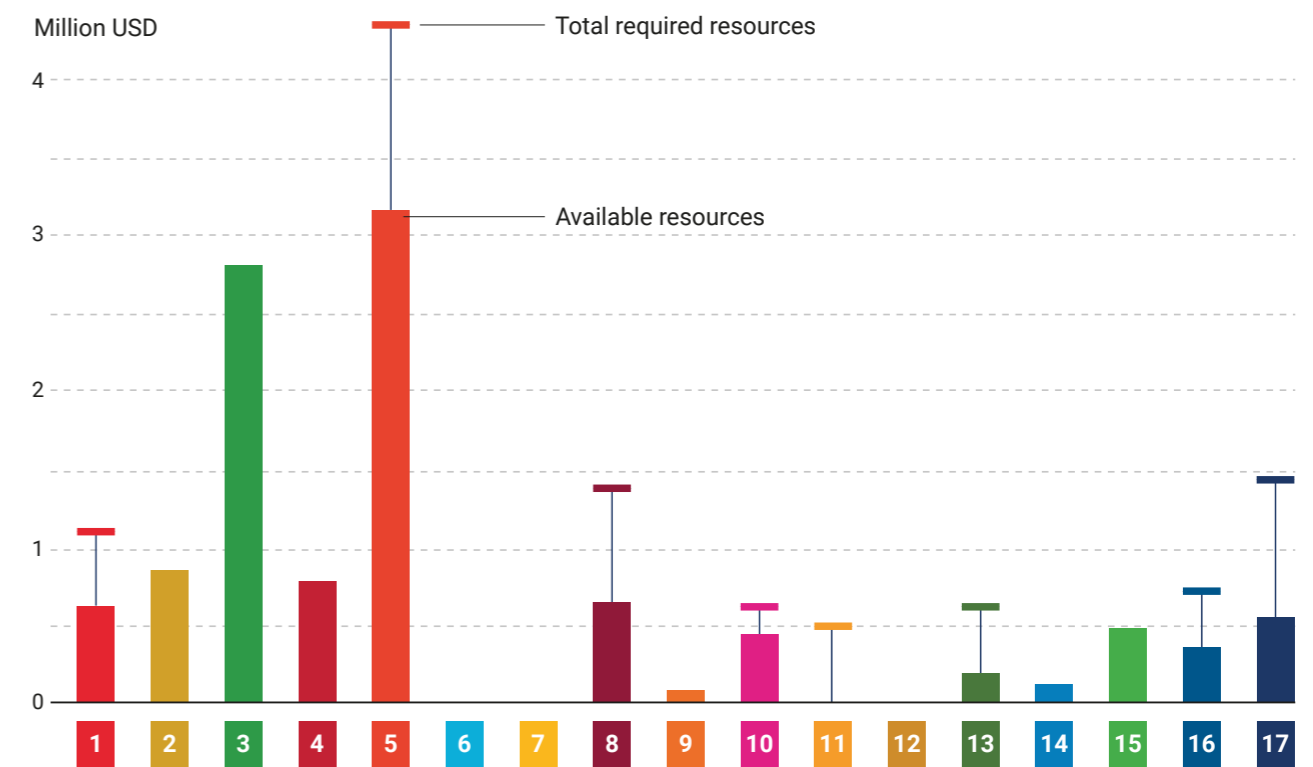
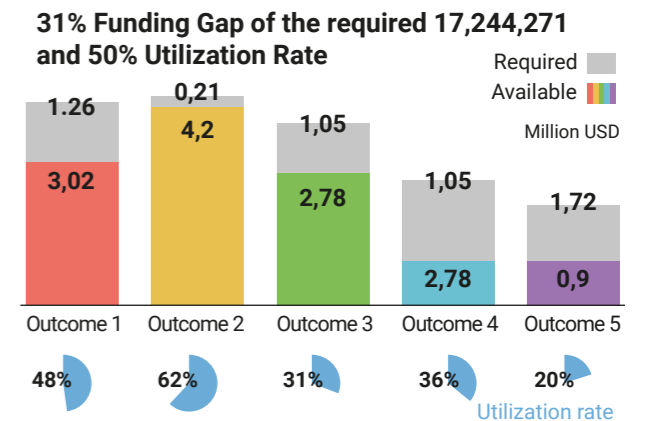
proximately US\$14 million has been set-up to boost entrepreneurship. While additional fiscal outlays by the Government are a welcome initial step toward investing in the SDGs, progress of results will need to be monitored.

Within the UN family, available resources in 2023 (US\$11.82 million) exceeded that of 2022 (US\$ 8.86 million), indicating that UN agencies were able to mobilize more resources in 2023. However, the amount mobilized was significantly less than what was required, so there was a financial shortfall. Nonetheless, given the current trajectory, several UN agencies are committed to mobilizing additional resources in 2024.

In terms of partnerships, especially with the private sector, the RCO has worked closely with the UN Global Compact to establish a local office and hire a country manager. Rapid progress has been made in forging partnerships with local, regional and global businesses with the aim of expanding Global Compact membership. UN agencies have also stepped-up engagement with public and private entities with the intention to pursue collaborative work around several of the SDGs, including health, education, urban development, and climate change.

### Funding Gap for the Cooperation Framework

In 2023, the second year of implementing the CF, while the UNCT required US\$17,244,271 to facilitate achievement of the 2023 Joint Work Plan, it was only able to mobilize US\$ 11,827,256 resulting in a US\$5,417,015 (31%) funding gap. The 2023 funding gap of 31% exceeds the 14% gap experienced in 2022.



### Funding Gap for the SDGs

A funding shortfall was also experienced in terms of the resources required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The total required resources amounted to US\$16.5 million while only US\$11.7 million was made available, resulting in a coverage of 71 percent.

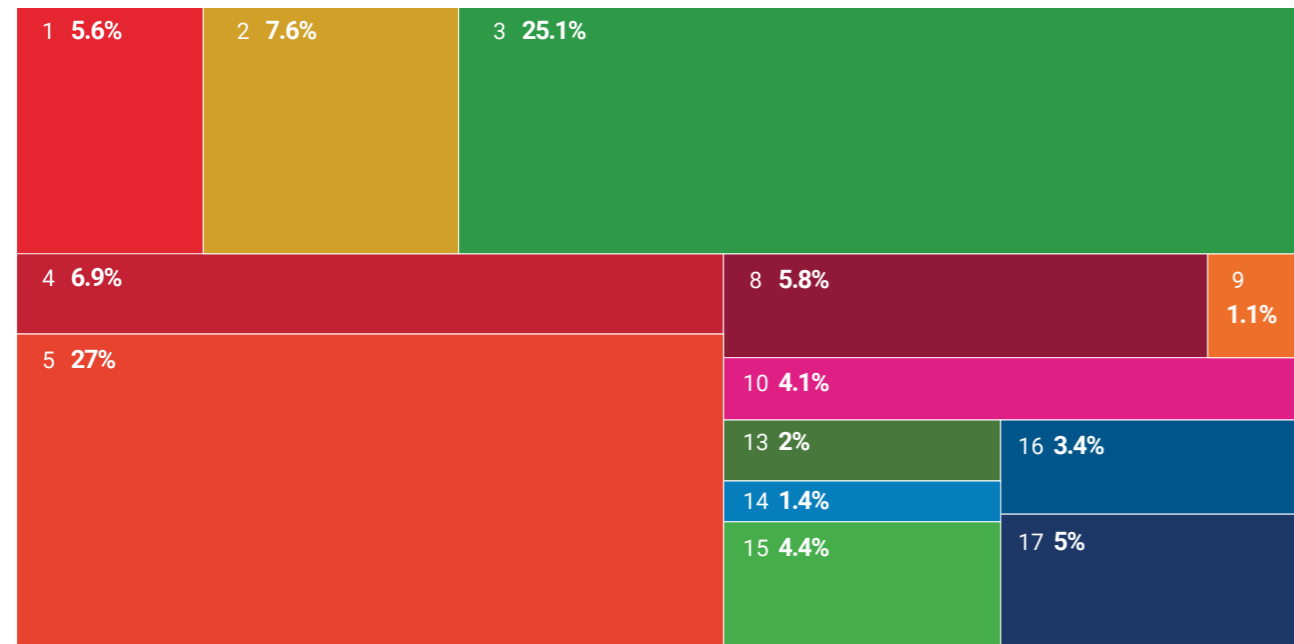
Funding data highlight both successes and challenges in resource allocation towards achieving the SDGs. Goals such as SDG 2 - Zero Hunger, 3 - Good Health and Well-being, 4 - Quality Education fully utilised available resources and 15 - Life on Land, potentially indicating areas of success and priority.

Goals such as SDG 5 - Gender Equality, 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13- Climate Action, 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and 17 - Partnerships for the Goals, show substantial gaps in resource allocation, suggesting areas that require immediate attention and increased investment to drive progress. Impactful initiatives are required to drive Goals 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation, 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy and 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production. Overall, the analysis underscores the importance of strategic resource allocation and continued efforts to address the funding gap to achieve the SDGs effectively.

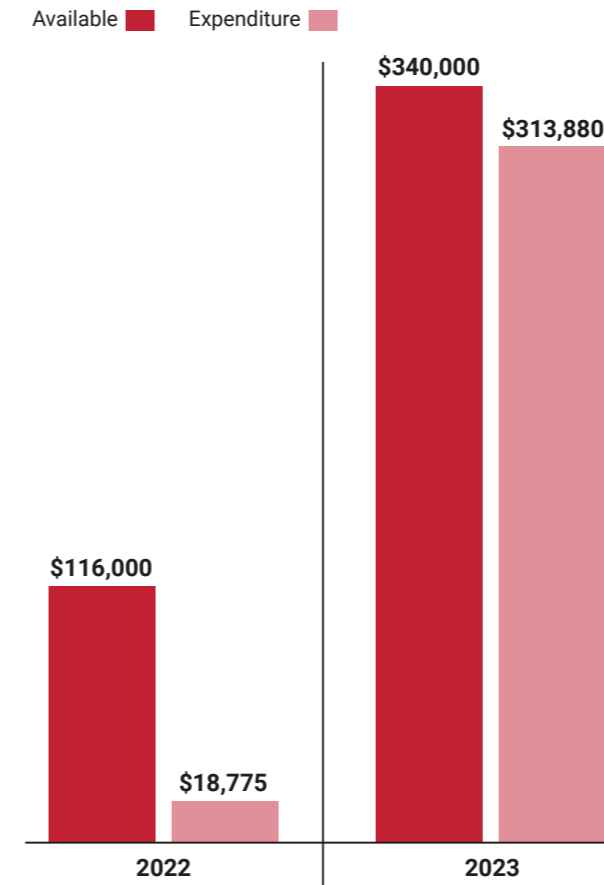
**Distribution of Funds Available for 2023 for SDG**

The UNCT programming in 2023 targeted all the 17 SDGs. Of the US\$11,827,256 available funds in 2023, most of them were towards the realization of SDG 5 – Gender Equality (27%) and SDG 3 – Good

Health and Well-Being (25.1%). SDG 7 has only one initiative towards it which does not require funding but non-monetary assistance.



**Available funds for Youth Joint Programming in 2023**



**UNCT Financial Commitment to Youth Joint Programming, 2023**

In 2023, the UNCT continued work towards implementing the UN Youth 2030 Strategy. Youth were engaged in various UNCT processes, programmes and initiatives.

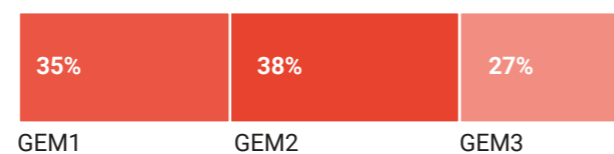
The data indicates a significant increase in available funds from 2022 to 2023. While expenditure also increased in 2023, it remained below the available funds, suggesting the potential for further programme expansion or investment in youth initiatives. The increase in fund availability and expenditure might be attributed to a more coordinated approach to joint youth programming through a recently formed UNCT Youth Thematic Group.

**UNCT Financial Commitment to Gender Equality and Human Rights, 2023**

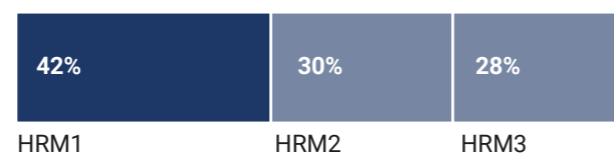
The UNCT System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) Gender Equality Scorecard is a globally standardized monitoring and accountability framework that promotes adherence to minimum gender mainstreaming requirements in the work of the UN system at the country level.

UNCTs are expected to allocate at least 70 percent of the UNCT budgetary resources to activities which have gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal (GEM 3) or significant (GEM 2) objective. While progress assessment on the Scorecard for 2023 indicates an improvement over the 2022 assessment of 32 percent of resources dedicated to reducing gender inequalities, the allocation remains below the 70 percent threshold. In 2023, 65 percent of resources were allocated to initiatives where gender equality and women’s empowerment were significant (GEM 2) or principal objectives (GEM 3).

**2023 Available Resource Towards Advancing Gender Equality**

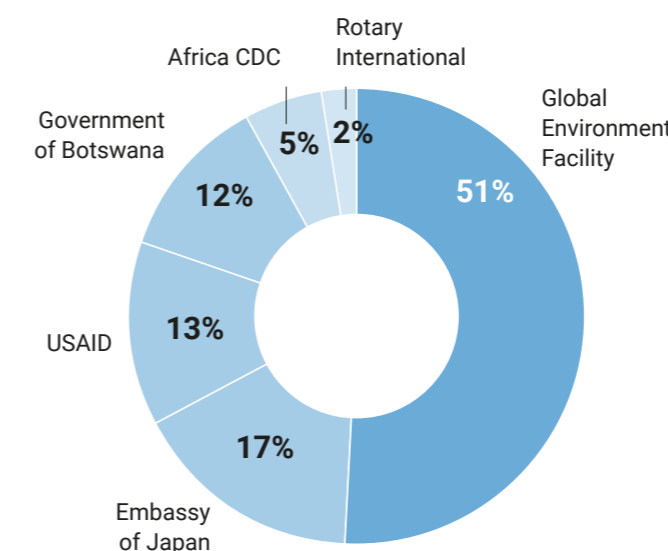


**2023 Available Resources Towards Advancing Human Rights**



Botswana also aims to have at least 70 percent of the UNCT resources allocated towards the realization of human rights. In 2023, the allocation remains below the threshold, with 58 percent allocated towards initiatives where human rights were significant (HRM 2) or principal objectives (HRM 3).

**\$3,857,657 of \$11,827,256 available in 2023, was received from development partners supporting UN work in Botswana**



**Resource mobilization and Quality of Funding**

The major development partners supporting the UN’s work financially in 2023 were Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Embassy of Japan, the Global Environment Facility, Government of Botswana, Rotary International and USAID.

About 33% of funds available through the UN in 2023 derived from these development partners: US\$1,961,910 from the Global Environment Facility (GEF); US\$641,489 from the Embassy of Japan; US\$500,000 from USAID; US\$451,819 from the Government of Botswana; US\$206,750 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and US\$95,689 from Rotary International.

# Chapter 3

## UNCT Key Focus for 2024

### Joint Programme for the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme (SIARP)

The UNCT will initiate the implementation of the five-year Spotlight Initiative Sub-Regional Programme to end Gender-Based Violence in Southern Africa. Led by Result Group One on Promoting Gender Equality, this will involve most of the UN entities in Botswana, with and without physically presence, as well as civil society, development partners, private sector, academia, labour federations and the Government of Botswana. The Joint Programme will also provide support to the achievement of most of the Cooperation Framework results as well as contribute to the specific UNSDG Output Indicators 5.1, 5.5, 5.7, and 16.6.

### Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) Strategy, Revised GBV Health Sector Guidelines and Toolkit and Gender Mainstreaming

Gender policy will be an important focal area for 2024. Key initiatives will include the development of the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) Strategy, roll-out training on the revised National Health Sector GBV Guidelines and Training Toolkit and the further mainstreaming of Gender in Botswana's Policies, Acts and Strategies.

### Multilateral Cooperation for Botswana

The UNCT will seek to amplify multilateral cooperation for the Government of Botswana. The Team will support Government's role and participation at two critical 2024 LLDC Conferences by convening key consultations and coordinating the preparation and drafting of key documents. Botswana currently chairs the LLDC group at the WTO and is aiming to convene a meeting of African Trade Ministers at the upcoming 13th WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates during 26–29 February 2024. In addition, the Third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) will be convened during the fourth quarter of 2024, in Gaborone, Botswana. Botswana is the current chair of the UN LLDC group and is responsible for developing the Gaborone Outcome document. In 2024, the UNCT will also provide technical support to GoB to implement the supported recommendations emanating from Botswana's 4th cycle UPR.

### The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The UNCT will continue to support the Government of Botswana and its efforts towards trading within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). AfCFTA has tremendous potential for unlocking sustainable economic growth. The pact connects 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) valued at US\$3.4 trillion. It has the potential to lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty but achieving its full potential will depend on implementing significant policy reforms and trade facilitation measures. AfCFTA will result in wider and increased market access for Botswana's exports in the African continent and stimulate industrial development, investment and job creation within the country.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>AGOA</b>	African Growth and Opportunity Act
<b>BDF</b>	Botswana Defence Force
<b>BIUST</b>	Botswana International University of Science & Technology
<b>BOCONGO</b>	Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>BOFOD</b>	Botswana Federation of the Disabled
<b>BPS</b>	Botswana Police Service
<b>BURS</b>	Botswana Unified Revenue Services
<b>CCA</b>	UN Common Country Analysis
<b>CDC</b>	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>CF</b>	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>DCEC</b>	Botswana Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime
<b>ESA</b>	East and Southern Africa
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GANHRI</b>	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GOB</b>	Government of Botswana
<b>HRM</b>	Human Rights Marker
<b>ICOPE</b>	Integrated Care for Older People
<b>IFAD</b>	The International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>JSC</b>	Joint National-UN Steering Committee
<b>JUTA</b>	Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS
<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plans
<b>LLDC</b>	Landlocked Developing Countries
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>MESD</b>	Ministry of Education and Skills Development
<b>MLGRD</b>	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
<b>MMGE</b>	Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security
<b>MoA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance

<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MTI</b>	Ministry of Trade and Industry
<b>MTR</b>	Mid-Term Review
<b>MYSC</b>	Botswana Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture
<b>NAPRO</b>	National Agro Processing
<b>NCDs</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases
<b>NDCO</b>	Botswana National Disability Coordinating Office
<b>NDP 11</b>	National Development Plan 11
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institution
<b>NDCONSF III</b>	Third Botswana National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>OPD</b>	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
<b>PHEIC</b>	Public Health Emergency of International Concern
<b>PHEOC</b>	Public Health Emergency Operations Centre
<b>RCO</b>	UN Office of the Resident Coordinator
<b>RI</b>	Rotary International
<b>SDGs</b>	UN Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SURGE</b>	Strengthening and Utilising Response Group for Emergencies
<b>TNDP</b>	Botswana Transitional National Development Plan
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNECA</b>	The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNFPA</b>	UN Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNITAC</b>	United Nations Innovation and Technology Accelerator for Cities
<b>UNODC</b>	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UN OICT</b>	UN Office of Information and Communications Technology
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Children
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



# Botswana

UN Country Results Report 2023



UNITED NATIONS  
BOTSWANA

