

Annual Results Report 2025

United Nations Country Team



UNITED NATIONS
BOTSWANA



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2025 United Nations Botswana Country Team Annual Results Report

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Foreword by the UN Resident Coordinator



As the new Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Botswana since June 2025, I am honoured to present the United Nations in Botswana Results Report for 2025. The report marks the fourth year of implementation of our five-year cooperation framework cycle, a period defined by change, partnership and a continued commitment to Botswana's national priorities.

This year's report is interactive, featuring QR codes that you can scan to view videos, stories, and additional results that bring our collective achievements to life. I encourage you to explore these interactive elements to gain a deeper understanding of the progress we are making together.

During this pivotal year, Botswana entered a new chapter under a newly elected government, which has placed economic transformation at the centre of its national agenda. The national context in 2025 was shaped by unprecedented economic challenges including declining diamond revenues, negative growth, persistent high unemployment, especially among the youth, and tightening fiscal space. These challenges underscored the urgency of structural reform and accelerated efforts toward diversification and inclusive growth. Guided by the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and other reform initiatives, the Government has emphasised execution, modernization, and long-term resilience as the foundation for steering the country toward a more competitive, export-driven and sustainable economy.

In 2025, Botswana and the United Nations deepened collaboration to advance Botswana's national development priorities under Vision 2036 and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022 - 2026. Despite climate shocks, persistent inequalities, and rising pressures on health and food systems, the year demonstrated both strong national resilience and the tangible impact of effective partnerships.

The UN supported 392 initiatives since 2022, with major gains in health, gender equality, social protection, and climate resilience. Botswana exceeded the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets, strengthened TB and

“

The United Nations in Botswana remains committed to supporting Botswana's aspirations for a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future.

HIV guidelines, adolescent-focused health models, and progressed key reforms on gender equality and GBV prevention. UN support has prioritized policy reform, legal harmonization, and institutional transformation, strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and laying foundations for durable systemic change. Social protection reforms translated into household-level gains through the introduction of a monthly Infant Grant.

Progress in climate and environmental governance was equally notable, with expanded land rehabilitation, strengthened food and nutrition systems, scaled biogas energy solutions, and a growing pipeline of climate finance and disaster preparedness initiatives. Joint UN action also advanced national policies in employment, gender equality, governance, migration, and anti-corruption reinforcing Botswana's commitment to accountable and inclusive development.

During this period, strengthened UN coherence led to a 64% increase in joint programme funding, with new initiatives on social protection and clean energy transition reaching communities across 17 districts. These joint investments demonstrate the expanding efforts of the United Nations team in Botswana to provide coordinated support and increase impacts through catalytic joint programmes.

Wenyan Yang
UN Resident Coordinator in Botswana

UN Country Team

In 2025, the UNCT welcomed UN-Habitat, which established a physical presence in the country. His Excellency Advocate Duma Gideon Boko officially inaugurated the UN-Habitat Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa in Gaborone, marking an important step in strengthening sustainable urban development and regional cooperation.

23
UNCT MEMBERS

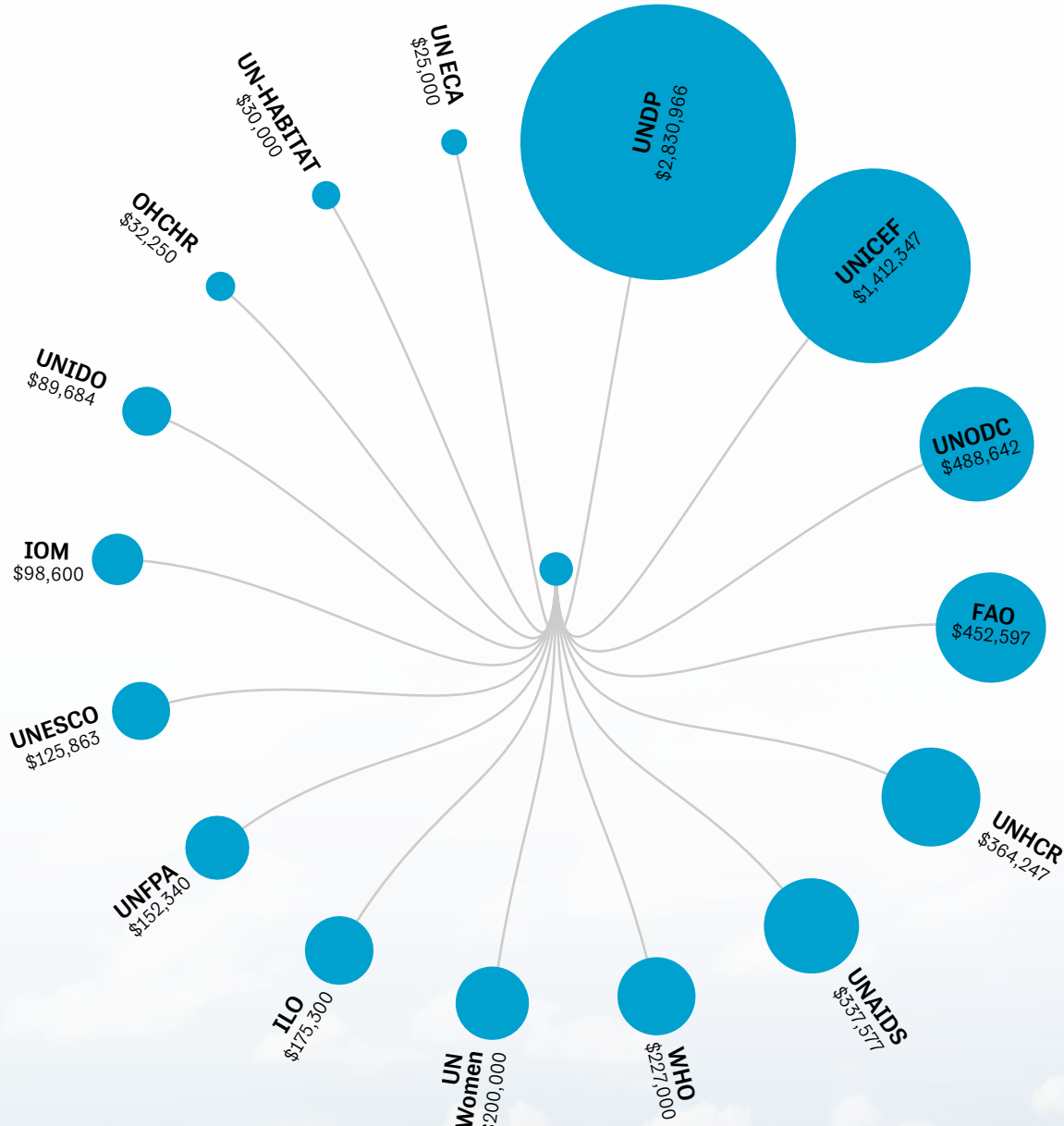
20
SIGNATORIES
UNCT member entities are signatories to the Cooperation Framework 2022-2026

18
PHYSICALLY PRESENT



2025 Expenditure per Entity

Total
\$7,042,413



Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in Botswana

In 2025, the UN Development System in Botswana delivered measurable, system-level results that advanced policy reform, strengthened national capabilities, and catalyzed investments for inclusive, climate-resilient, and rights-based development under Vision 2036. The year’s outcomes demonstrate a decisive pivot from fragmented projects to integrated policy shifts anchored in strengthened national systems, targeted financing, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

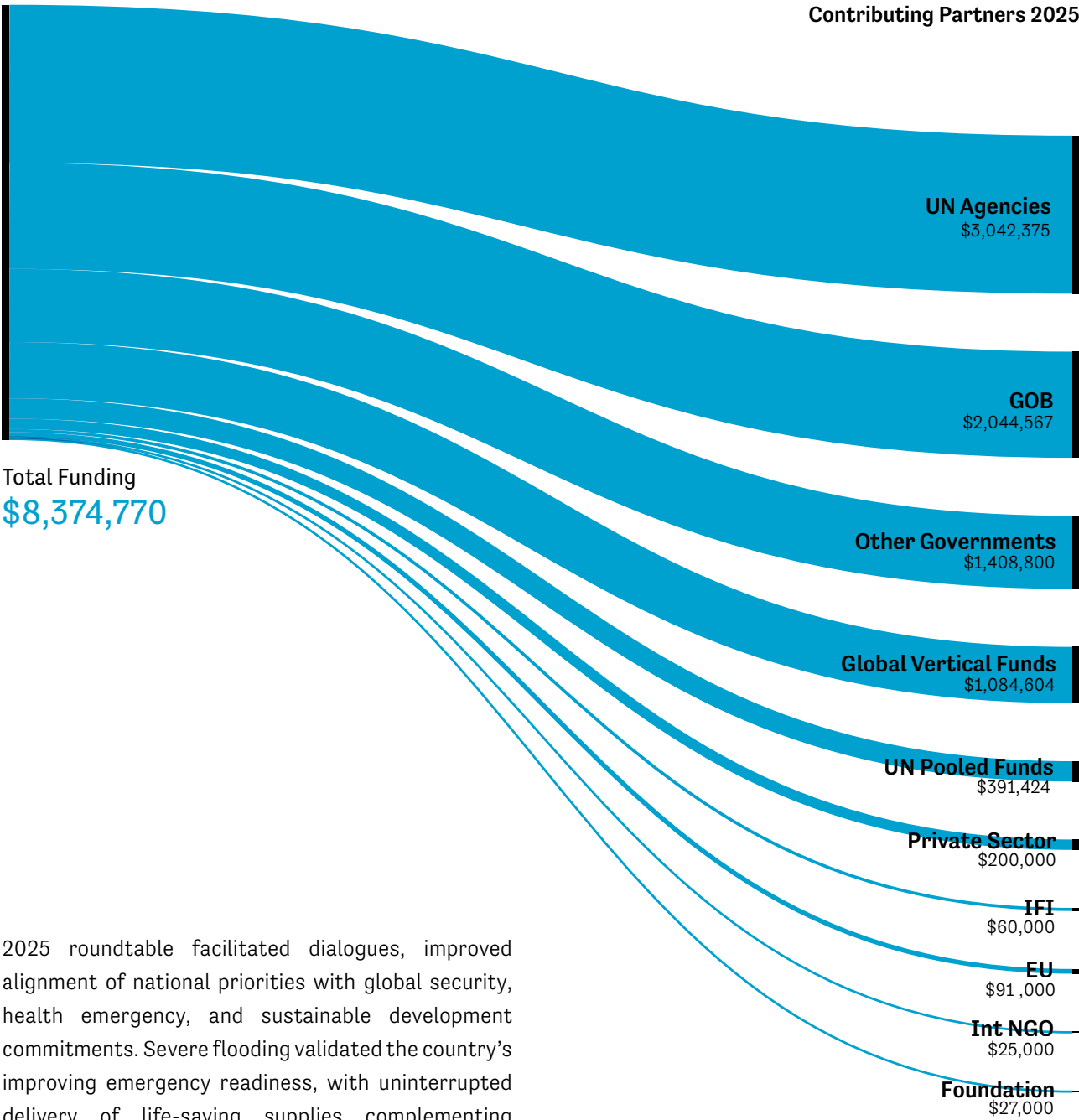
This resulted in improvements in social protection, health security, energy transition, natural resource management, accountable governance, and youth-focused economic transformation.

Partnerships enabled Botswana’s development gains in 2025, which translated into tangible results for people and systems. Private sector engagement mobilized US\$1.2 million for child and adolescent wellbeing, signaling sustained commitment to addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection.

Scientific collaborations between the Center for International Forestry Research Centre for International Development (CIFOR-ICRAF); the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD); and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) advanced sustainable wildlife management and community livelihoods, while strengthened engagement with academic institutions (notably Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources - BUAN) enhanced national capacity in agricultural innovation.

The UN’s normative and convening roles accelerated alignment with international human rights standards. Support to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Treaties, Conventions and Protocols catalyzed national processes towards accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. This laid the groundwork for stronger legal protections.

Multilateral platforms, including the Stimson Center’s



2025 roundtable facilitated dialogues, improved alignment of national priorities with global security, health emergency, and sustainable development commitments. Severe flooding validated the country’s improving emergency readiness, with uninterrupted delivery of life-saving supplies complementing Government-led recovery. UNCT coordinated efforts to support especially the most vulnerable groups.

UNICEF provided US\$50,772 in emergency funding to the Government to respond to initial relief efforts, working with the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) to deliver hygiene kits, safe water and oral rehydration salts to protect children and families affected by severe flooding across districts including Gaborone and Ghanzi. The response further included health and nutrition interventions such as Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food, malaria commodities, alongside child protection services including psychosocial support in evacuation centres. To help

children continue learning and maintain wellbeing, UNICEF also supplied education and recreational kits. All these activities were implemented under a US\$860,000 multisectoral response plan, in close collaboration with the Government of Botswana (Ministries of Child Welfare & Basic Education, Health, and Local Government & Traditional Affairs), and the Government of Japan.

CHAPTER 1

Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context

Botswana's development trajectory, long characterised by sustained growth, political stability, and prudent macroeconomic management entered a period of structural stress in 2023–2025. Weakened global diamond demand, declining mining output, and reduced fiscal buffers exposed the vulnerabilities of a narrow economic base. These developments have direct implications for progress toward the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda, and the ambition to leave no one behind (LNOB).

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND EMERGING ISSUES

Botswana is at a structural inflection point. Economic growth contracted through 2024–2025 as diamond production declined sharply, with Debswana output falling 43.7 per cent in Q2 2025 year-on-year. The ripple effects across trade, transport, and manufacturing highlight deep economic interconnectedness and the limited diversification of the productive base. Fiscal pressures intensified: the 2024/25 budget outturn recorded a deficit of BWP 11.8 billion (4.4 per cent of GDP), and the 2025/26 budget projects a significantly larger deficit of BWP 22.1 billion (7.6 per cent of GDP). While inflation stabilised within the 3–6 per cent target range, disinflation did not translate into a growth rebound, underscoring persistent structural constraints.

These trends intersect with demographic and spatial transformations, particularly rapid urbanization. Botswana's population reached 2.4 million in 2022, with over 70 per cent residing in urban areas reflecting continued rural-urban migration and

widening disparities in service access. Climate change intensifies existing vulnerabilities: recurrent drought, water scarcity, and heat stress increasingly threaten livelihoods, especially for rural communities dependent on rainfed agriculture.

CHALLENGES AND ADVANCEMENTS AFFECTING LNOB AND SDG PROGRESS

Unemployment, especially youth unemployment remains one of the most binding constraints to inclusive development. QMTS data show overall unemployment at 27.6 per cent and youth unemployment at 38.2 per cent (Q1 2024). Job creation continues to lag population growth, revealing a persistent disconnect between growth and employment in a mining-dominated, capital intensive economy. Inequality remains among the highest globally, and poverty is concentrated in rural, remote, and marginalised communities, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and minority groups.

While Botswana continues to make gains in education, health, and basic services, there is a risk of reversals if fiscal constraints undermine human capital investments. Energy transition efforts critical for resilience, sustainability, and new industries remain at an early stage despite strong policy intent. A key systemic challenge is the weakening of national data and statistical capacity. Discontinuities in the publication of labour market statistics (QMTS) constrain evidence-based policy making and threaten the monitoring of SDG progress and LNOB commitments.



IMPLICATIONS FOR UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

The evolving context reinforces the need for integrated, systemwide UN support that addresses structural transformation, human capital resilience, climate adaptation, and inclusive growth. The UN will increasingly need to:

- Strengthen economic diversification, employment pathways, and social protection, ensuring interventions target youth, women, and vulnerable rural communities.
- Support climate resilience, water security, and renewable energy transitions, aligning with Vision 2036, NDP 12, and the BETP

- Reinforce data and statistical systems, a prerequisite for monitoring inequalities, tracking SDG progress, and strengthening governance.
- Apply a human rights and LNOB lens across all interventions, focusing on inequality, access to services, and structural barriers faced by marginalised groups.

This shift in context requires adaptive programming, stronger cross-agency collaboration, and readiness for more short-term support if economic or climate-related shocks intensify. The UN's role as a systems integrator—linking governance, economic transformation, social inclusion, climate resilience, and data—has become increasingly central to Botswana's transition.

CHAPTER 2

Overview of the CF results

Since 2022, the UN Country Team (UNCT) has implemented 392 initiatives towards CF results, with 57% completed to date.

The portfolio concentrated on SDG 3 (Good Health

and Well-being) 70 initiatives with 63% completion and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), with 53% completion. Limited coverage under SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) has been identified as a strategic gap to inform 2026 prioritization.

The UN Resident Coordinator alongside the Vice President, marked the UN80 initiative by hosting a public ‘Run for the SDGs’ to reinvigorate public commitment to peace, human rights, and sustainable development.

The UN also supported Botswana’s global engagement on social development, landlocked development, and social protection. Support to the Ministerial delegation to the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha showcased Botswana’s social protection programme and opened avenues for collaboration. UN Botswana secured US\$910,000 for a two-year Joint Programme on Social Protection

and Employment through the UN Joint SDG Fund and the Social Protection Reform Umbrella Trust Fund. Participation in LLDC3 in Turkmenistan reinforced Botswana’s leadership on landlocked development.

Through the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) funds are to be disbursed to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as towards the realization of human rights.

Approximately 70% of all resources available to the UN Country Team are to be directed towards significant contributions to gender equality marker

Figure 1. Number of programmatic interventions by entity since 2022

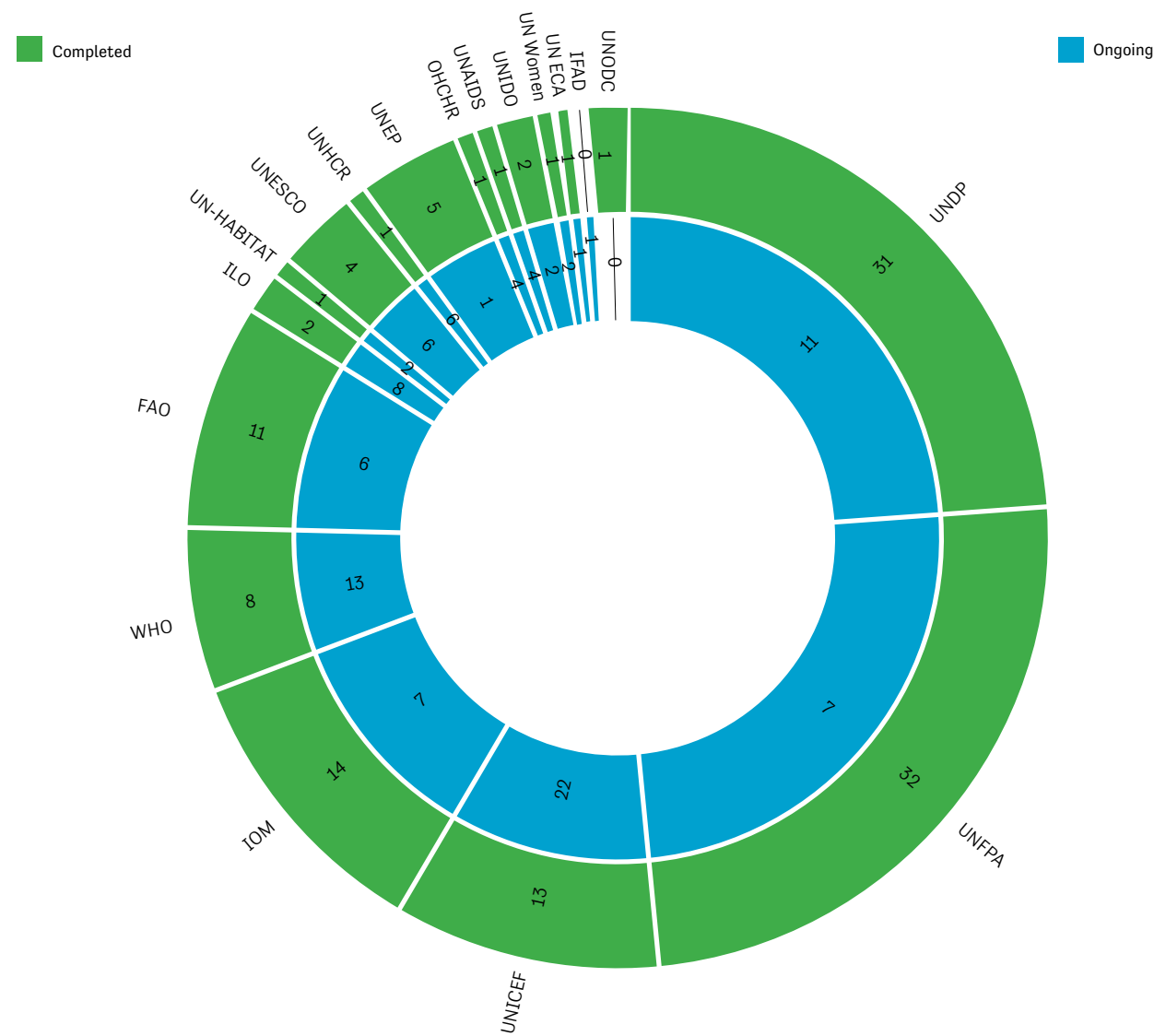


Figure 2. Number of programmatic interventions completed by SDG since 2022



(GEM 2) and human rights marker (HRM 2) or where initiatives have gender equality and human rights as the principal objectives (GEM 3 & HRM 3). During the period 2022-2025, 76% of the resources were allocated towards contributing to human rights, meeting the 70% standard.

However, 60% of the resources were allocated towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, 10% shy of meeting the standard. More effort is needed on capacity development to ensure comprehension and compliance at entity level. With

the aim to foster an inclusive culture within the United Nations system, the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the United Nations. The Strategy has 14 common system indicators in four areas: leadership, strategic planning and management; inclusiveness; programming.

Botswana has over the years approached meeting these standards with big improvements in 2024 where we either met or exceeded requirements (71%).

Continuing to mainstream the LNOB principle in all of the UN’s work, UNCT intensified the engagement on disability inclusion in general and with organizations of persons with disabilities, throughout the year. Staff gained better knowledge and capacity to better integrate disability in operations and programming through a Townhall led by Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to raise awareness eliminating discrimination to create inclusive societies. The Operations Management Team (OMT) has been tasked with further enhancing disability inclusion in the UN, especially accessibility.

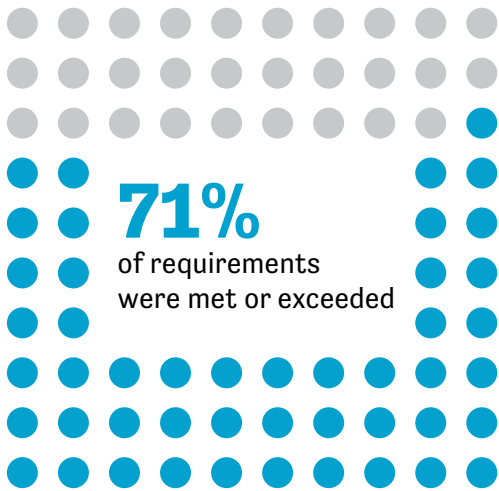
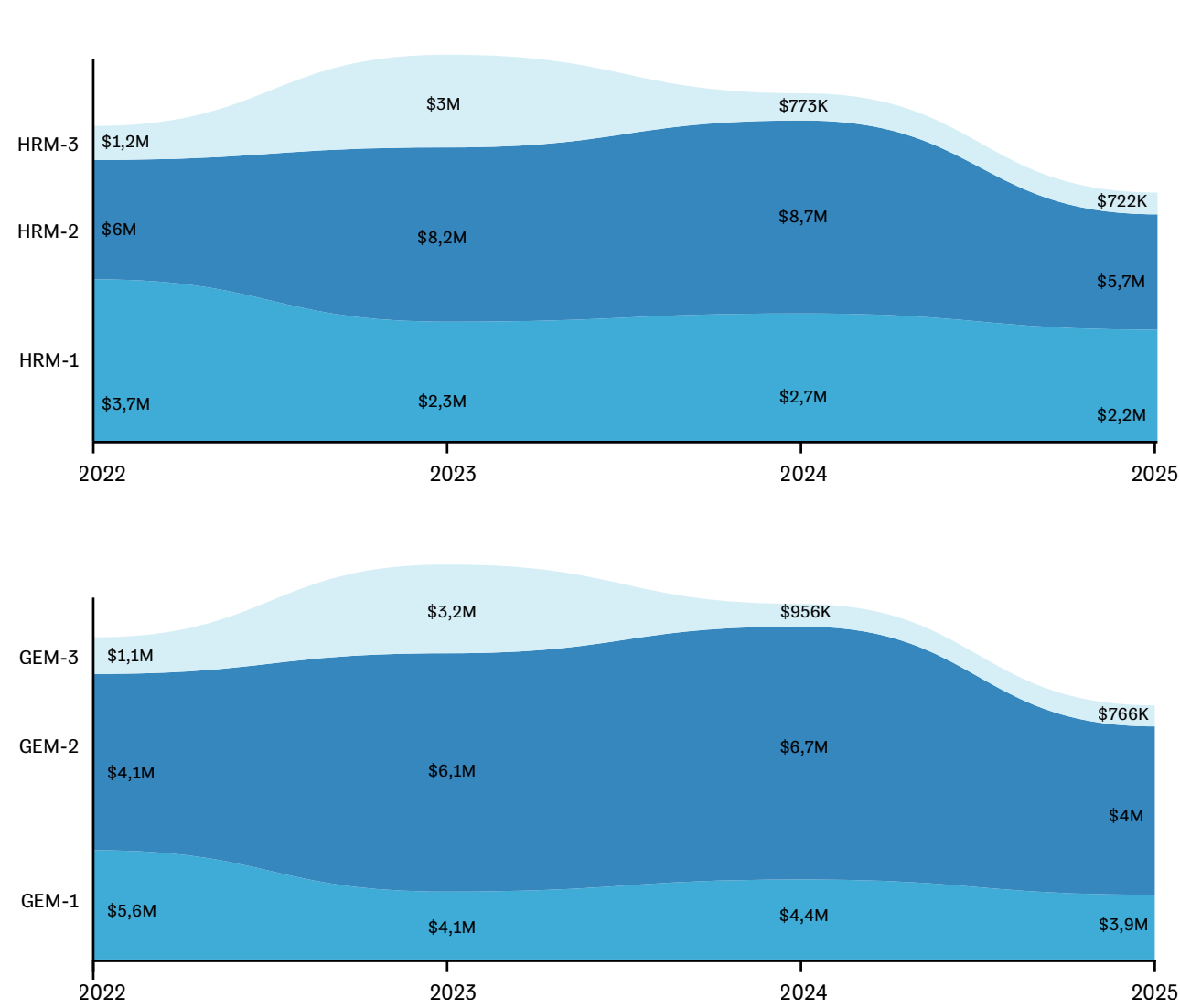


Figure 3. 2022-2025 financial commitment towards the realization of Human Rights Marker¹ (HRM) and Gender Equality and Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Marker² (GEM)



1. HRM is a tracking and reporting tool to track financial allocations and expenditures dedicated to upholding human rights in programs and projects.
 2. The GEM is a tool to track financial allocations and expenditures according to their contribution to gender equality and/or women’s rights (GEWE).

Figure 4. Disability Inclusion in UN Botswana per Year

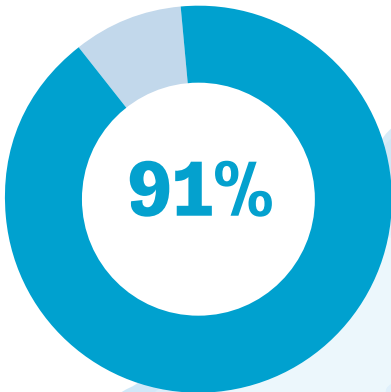


1 Towards Gender Equality

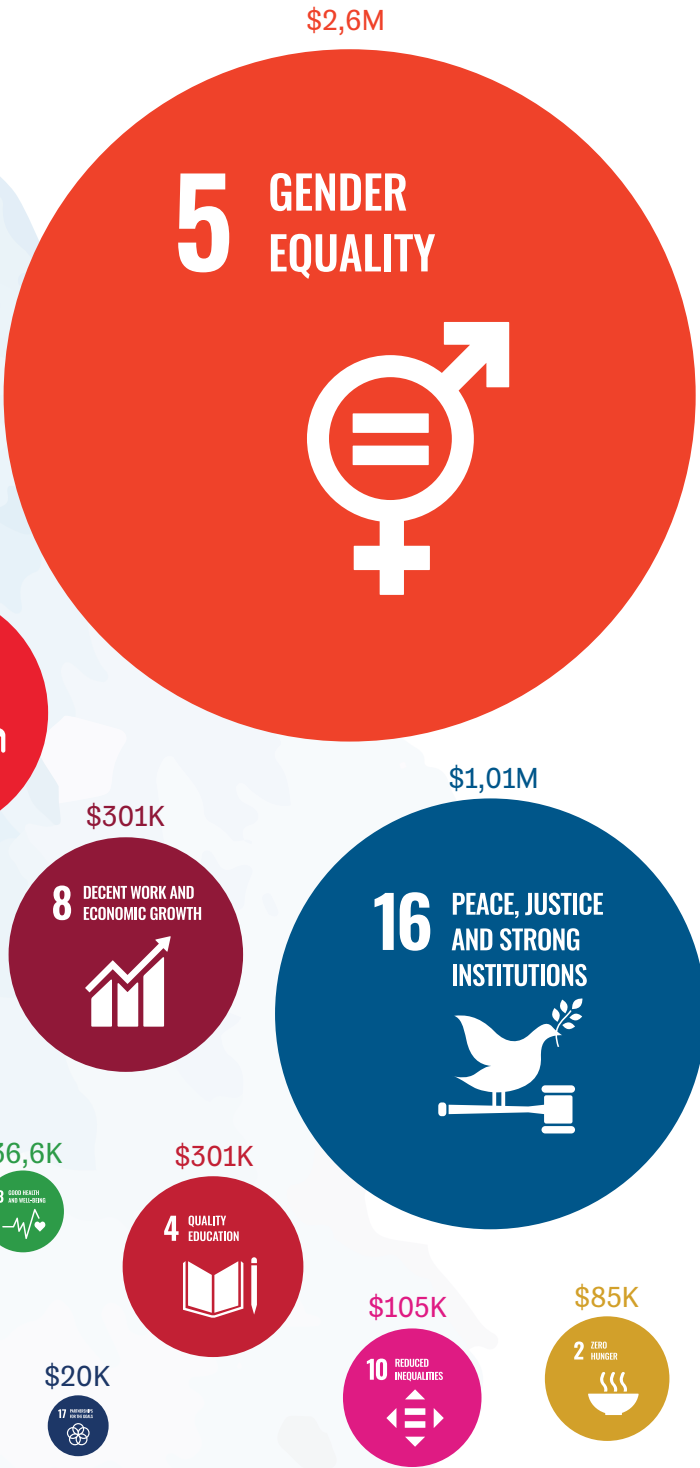
Funding Partners 2025
Total: \$812,251

- UNFPA
- IDF
- UNESCO
- UNDP
- Joint SDG Fund
- Ireland
- Botswana
- ILO
- Sweden
- EU
- UNHCR
- UBRAF
- FAO
- De Beers Group
- UNICEF

Annual Funding
Delivery Rate



Contribution to SDGs



Participating UN Agencies



Working with





How Keolatetse Molly Segwape turned drought challenges into a business opportunity

Keolatetse Molly Segwape, the founder and CEO of LIT Springs (Pty) LTD is a 32-year-old entrepreneur from the small rural village of Sekoma, nestled in Botswana’s Mabutsane District. Molly has always been deeply connected to the spirit of entrepreneurship, a passion she inherited from her family. Growing up in a business-oriented household, her family survived through small enterprises and subsistence farming. These early experiences ignited her dream of building something bigger, something that could not only sustain her family but also uplift her community.

She faced challenges in record-keeping, financial management, and strategic planning, which made it difficult to track her business’s financial health.

“One business owner who has taken advantage of EntreprenHER is Keolatetse Molly Segwape, who runs a cattle farm and agriculture shop.”

In 2023, Keolatetse made her first significant leap into entrepreneurship by applying for funding under the Youth Development Fund programme in Botswana. Her proposal to venture into the male-dominated agricultural sector of cattle production was approved, and she received funding of P99,724.00 (about USD 7,000). With this support, she purchased 14 cows and a bull, laying the foundation for her cattle production business.

Before enrolling in the EntreprenHER programme in May 2024, Keolatetse’s business operations lacked structure.



Women’s Representation in Parliament

from **9%** in 2021 to **8%** in 2024

Structural gender gaps persist, including a decline in women’s representation in Parliament (from 9% in 2021 to 8% in 2024). UN support focused on policy and institutional reforms with transformative potential. Technical assistance advanced in the review of the National Policy on Gender and Development and the development of a National Gender Strategy. Labour reforms progressed toward ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment, with key provisions reflected in Employment and Labour Relations Act 2025. Women’s economic resilience improved through 326 women-led enterprises that strengthened business performance, income and market access.

UN supported resource packages on SRHR/HIV/GBV for men and boys and for traditional leaders, targeting perceived drivers of harmful norms. UNCT’s collaborations on GBV, including a civil society CEDAW Watch Party, which strengthened national accountability to international commitments.

Multi-sectoral mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based violence were reinforced through coordinated government and civil society action. A national mechanism addressing discriminatory gender and social norms is now operational, strengthening advocacy and institutional coordination toward a National GBV Emergency Declaration. Labour sector reforms and progress toward an Ethical Recruitment Policy further reduce risks of exploitation and workplace violence.



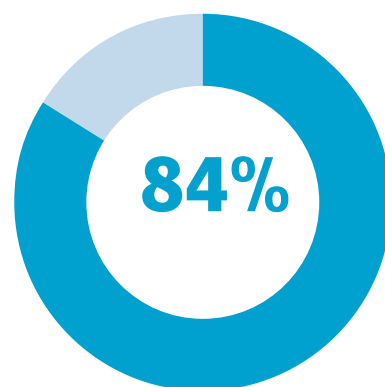
SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY

2 Equitable Access to Services

Funding Partners 2025
Total: \$3,250,143

IDF
UNODC
World Bank
Joint SDG Fund
Ireland
Sweden
BMGF
ILO
UNFPA
FAO
WHO
UBRAF
UNHCR
Botswana
USA
UNICEF
Japan

Annual Funding Delivery Rate



Contribution to SDGs

\$7,86M

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



\$623K

1 NO POVERTY



\$586K

2 ZERO HUNGER



\$355K

5 GENDER EQUALITY



\$116K

10 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



\$230K

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



\$215K

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



\$45K

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



\$2,49M

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



\$438K

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Participating UN Agencies



Working with





The Path to an HIV-free Botswana

The Triple Elimination Initiative, led by WHO, in close collaboration with UNICEF and UNAIDS, aims to halt vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, by encouraging countries to integrate services to improve the health of mothers and children. In May 2025, Botswana's Gold Tier status on the Path to Elimination of HIV, was unanimously agreed by the global validation committee, which assesses programme interventions, laboratory services, engagement of Civil Society Organisations and evaluates data against a set of elimination criteria.

“This milestone shows what’s possible with political will, strong health systems, and equity-driven action”

Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu
Acting Regional Director,
WHO Regional Office for Africa

The attainment of ‘Gold tier’ status by Botswana can be attributed to several high impact initiatives:

- Pioneering interventions over the years, such as the early adoption of Option B+ (lifelong treatment for all pregnant and breastfeeding women with HIV), free antiretroviral therapy for all, including non-citizens since 2019, and decentralisation of services through District Health Management Teams.
- Digitising data collection systems with the Open Medical Record System (OpenMRS).
- Championing the empowerment of community health workers (CHWs) through increased training.
- Strong government leadership, including committing domestic resources.
- Embracing the crucial importance of Civil Society Organisations, which engage communities in reducing stigma and violence, testing partners and encouraging adherence to PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and treatment.



**SCAN TO
READ THE
FULL STORY**



TRIPLE ZERO FOCUS

Zero missed doses,
Zero missed appointments,
Zero viral load among adolescents living with HIV.

Health system and community systems strengthened to deliver inclusive, equitable, quality integrated essential health services

Botswana achieved a historic milestone as the first high HIV-burden country globally to attain the WHO's Gold Tier status for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV, reducing transmission rates to 1.7 per cent, below the 5 per cent benchmark and ensuring 98 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV receive lifesaving treatment. Botswana also exceeded the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets (BAIS V), reflecting strong integration of HIV testing, treatment and viral load monitoring in primary health care.

The UN-supported policy reforms strengthening service quality and rights-based access through:

- Integrated HIV Testing Services Guidelines aligned with human rights standards
- Updated National TB Management Guidelines
- Consultative development of the Fourth HIV/AIDS National Strategic Framework

Community innovations including scale-up of the Operation Triple Zero Plus model and drone delivery of maternal health commodities, addressed equity gaps, particularly for adolescents, young mothers and hard-to-reach communities. Rising maternal mortality and child malnutrition signal the need for continued frontline investments.

Click to see



**Malnutrition
in Botswana**





Stunting among children

increased from **22.8%** in 2021 to **31.2%** in 2023

Health security systems improved to detect, prevent, and respond to all hazards and emergencies

The August 2025 public health emergency stressed supply chains but demonstrated improved response capacity and service continuity. The rapid procurement of critical commodities (including ART and cold-chain equipment) attests to this. A five-year National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) established a strategic framework for all-hazards preparedness and IHR-aligned response. Together, these measures contributed to enhanced national readiness to protect lives, maintain essential services during crises, and uphold the state's duty of care to populations affected by health emergencies. Despite rising under five mortality (23.4 to 28.4 per 1,000 live births between 2021–2023) and increased stunting (22.8% to 31.2%), UN support enabled government action to address worsening child health and nutrition outcomes. Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) social and behaviour change interventions were implemented in five high burden districts. To strengthen food systems, the UN supported a landscape analysis to reformulate Tsabana and Malutu (Botswana's cereal-based supplementary feeding products) to improve micronutrient quality and user experience, and initiated a legal review to advance front of pack nutrition labelling to curb unhealthy food marketing. Additionally, UN technical assistance facilitated integration of fish farming into the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme in Kgatleng District, enhancing diet diversity while strengthening local livelihoods and food value chains. These combined interventions contributed to a more resilient, nutrition responsive child health system.



Fewer babies in Botswana acquire HIV thanks to dedicated push to eliminate mother to child transmission

Eliminating mother to child transmission of HIV is possible. And Botswana is celebrating becoming the first country in Africa – and the first country with a high burden of HIV - to be awarded a Gold Tier status by the World Health Organization (WHO), for its efforts to eliminate vertical transmission of HIV completely.

This is a huge accomplishment for a country with one of the most severe HIV epidemics in the world, which in 1999 had an estimated HIV prevalence among adults as high as 30%.

Women living with HIV who do not receive antiretroviral (ARV) medicine have a 15–45% chance of transmitting the virus to their children during pregnancy, labour, delivery or breastfeeding. That risk drops to less than 5% if treatment is given to both mothers and children throughout the stages when transmission can occur.

According to UNAIDS Spectrum report 2024, around 360,000 people are currently living with HIV in Botswana, with 98% of pregnant women living with HIV receiving treatment. Vertical transmission has dropped to just 1.2%, resulting in fewer than 100 infants being born with HIV in 2023. The goal is to reach zero.

Infants born with HIV in 2023:
fewer than 100



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“Botswana is a beacon of hope for the region, it has proven that with bold leadership, community commitment, strategic action and perseverance, ending AIDS in children is within reach.”

Anne Githuku-Shongwe
UNAIDS Regional Director, East and Southern Africa





Education system strengthened to deliver inclusive, equitably accessible, quality education

LEARNING ACCESS

598

public schools were connected to the internet through Giga, supporting digital learning

Early learning opportunities are unavailable to 67% of children under five; UN support focused on expanding inclusion and digital connectivity. High-level advocacy enabled the transition of children in detention centres to the DRS, with safe learning spaces provided for 350 primary learners and 120 children in daycare.

In 2025, 470 learners directly benefited from skills development and lifelong learning programmes, including comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), with continued scale-up across educational regions and teacher colleges.

Through Giga, 598 public schools were connected to the internet, supporting digital learning.

Support from 2gether 4 SRHR

2gether 4 SRHR is a joint UN Regional Programme, in partnership with Sweden, which brings together the combined efforts of UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all people in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The regional validation secretariat of the Triple Elimination Initiative includes the same UN agencies, which continue to support Botswana through its validation process, with funding support from 2gether 4 SRHR. In phase one of the programme (2018-2023), Botswana was supported as the first country globally to apply for the Path to Elimination of HIV. To meet these rigorous data requirements, 2gether 4 SRHR established a data mentorship programme, aiming to build the capacity of Ministries of Health across the region, to analyse and use data to prove progress on the path to elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B.

Countries including Botswana also received financial support from 2gether 4 SRHR to develop HIV Prevention Roadmaps. These evidence-based, people-centred, HIV prevention plans focus on reducing new infections and ensuring long-term sustainability of prevention programming which can withstand funding shocks.

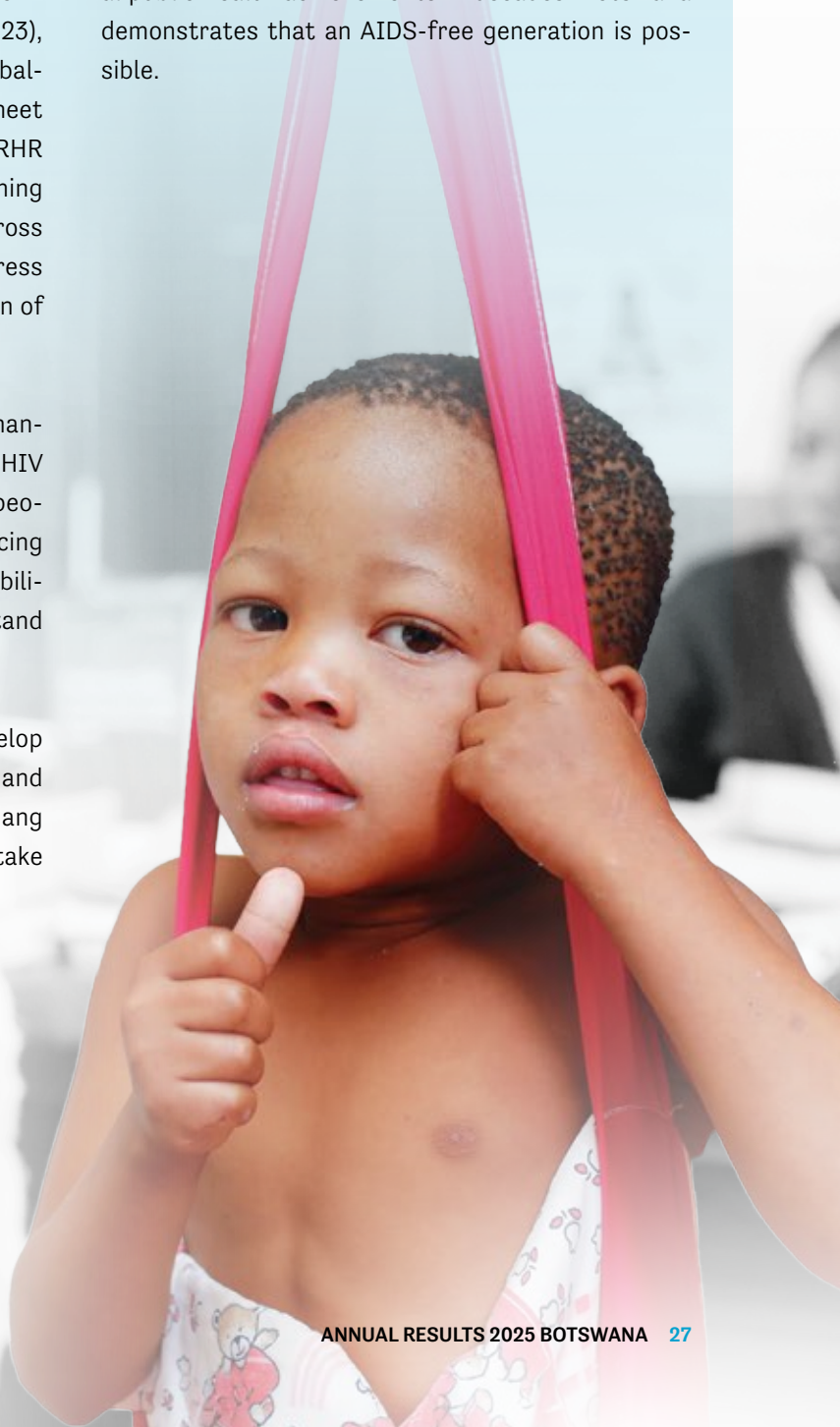
Botswana was also one of ten countries to develop action plans to engage men in HIV prevention and leveraged the existing “Brothers Arise” #Nanogang campaign, to work with men to increase their uptake

of HIV services and create male friendly platforms to discuss norms. In consultation with the Ministry of Health, a guide for best practice services for men and boys is now in use.

This major milestone should be celebrated not only in Botswana, but across the Region. With 2.6 million new HIV infections in children averted since 2010, the 57% decline in new HIV infections among children in Eastern and Southern Africa is one of the top global public health achievements in decades. Botswana demonstrates that an AIDS-free generation is possible.



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY



Social protection system strengthened to provide equitable and efficient social protection



Poverty rate in Botswana

16.3% in 2022 to 13.9% in 2024

Botswana outperformed regional peers with poverty falling from 16.3% (2022) to 13.9% (2024). Policy reforms translated into household-level gains through the introduction of a P300 monthly Infant Grant. A national Social Development Symposium informed the prioritization of social protection in the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), ensuring social protection is embedded within inclusive growth strategies.

These reforms strengthen early-life protection, reduce vulnerability, and embed social protection within national development planning.



Momentous step for One Health initiative in Botswana

Botswana has reached a pivotal milestone in strengthening its health security and resilience through enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration under the One Health approach.

The Ministry of Health and partners from the One Health quadripartite alliance (FAO, WOA, and WHO) and the Ministries of Lands and Agriculture, Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Environment, Tourism and Education, jointly signed a national commitment to implement the One Health National Strategy. This collective pledge marks a transformational shift from siloed operations to an integrated, whole-of-government effort to protect the health of people, animals, and the environment.

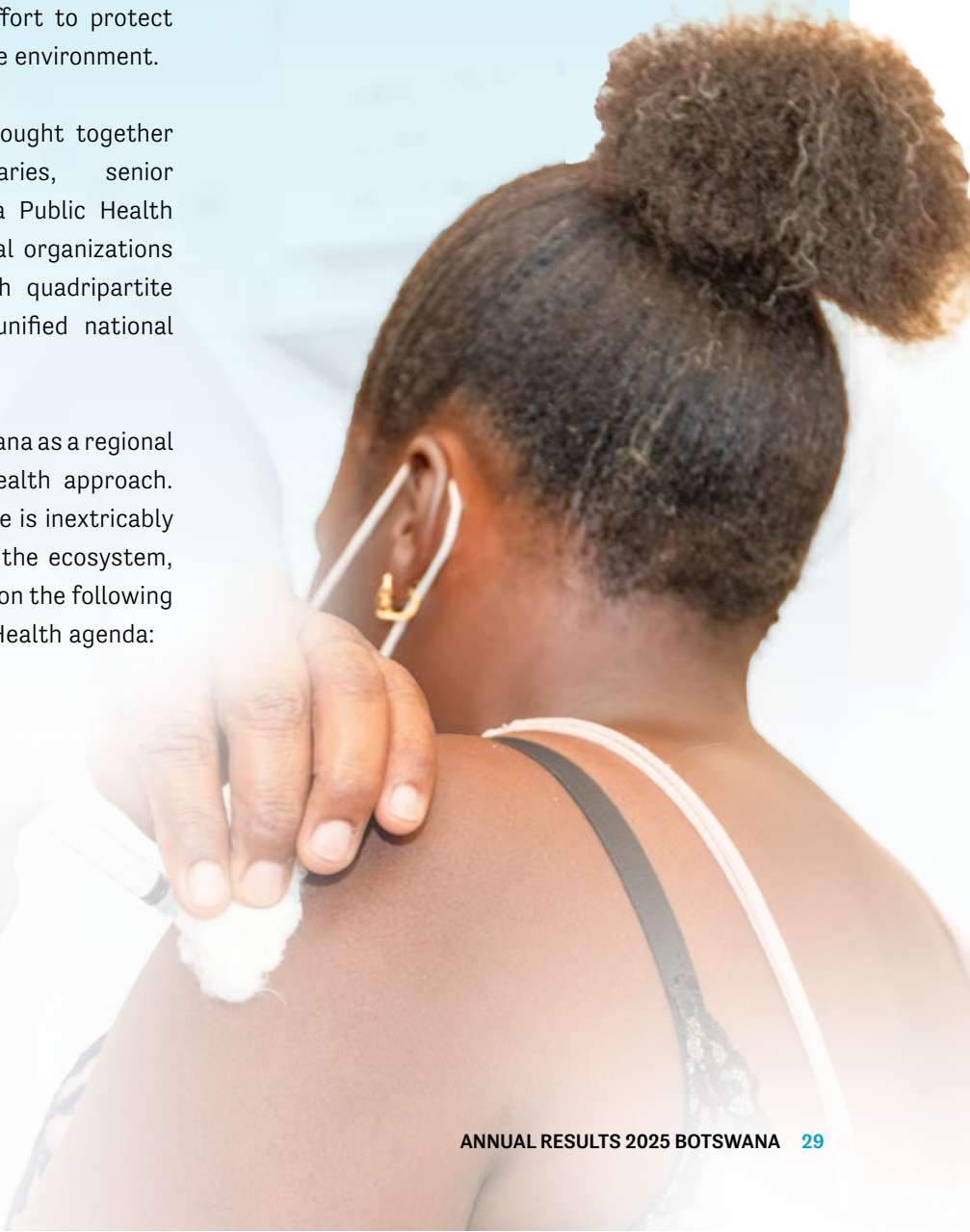
The high-level signing ceremony brought together Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, senior government officials, the Botswana Public Health sector, representatives of parastatal organizations and partners from the One Health quadripartite alliance. Their presence signaled unified national ownership of the One Health agenda.

This ambitious move positions Botswana as a regional centre of excellence in the One Health approach. Recognizing that the health of people is inextricably linked to the health of animals and the ecosystem, the partners have pledged to champion the following priority areas in support of the One Health agenda:

- 1. Intensifying the national response to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) to safeguard human and animal health.
- 2. Strengthening biosafety and biosecurity systems to prevent and manage biological threats.
- 3. Enhancing zoonotic disease prevention through integrated surveillance, ensuring faster detection and coordinated response.
- 4. Accelerating the establishment of the Botswana Public Health Institute (BPPI) as a central hub for health security and data-driven decision-making.



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY



3 Food Security, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Funding Partners 2025 Total: \$2,886,404

ILO
 EU
 UNICEF
 World Bank
 UNIDO
 IDf
 Joint SDG Fund
 UNDP
 FAO
 Botswana
 GEF

Annual Funding Delivery Rate



Contribution to SDGs



Participating UN Agencies



Working with



AT A GLANCE

105

biogas digesters
commissioned

650

schoolchildren received
clean cooking solutions

7

districts covered
by biogas programme

Severe flooding validated the country's improving emergency readiness, with uninterrupted delivery of life-saving supplies complementing Government-led recovery.

Botswana made measurable progress translating climate and environmental commitments into operational policies, investments and institutional reforms.

A rights-based National Food and Nutrition Policy, developed with UN support, anchors food systems transformation and addresses hunger, malnutrition and diet-related diseases. Parliamentary capacity on the right to adequate food was strengthened. Complementary investments in sustainable aquaculture, farmer training and diversified school meals are improving nutrition while stimulating local economic development.

Access to clean and affordable energy expanded through the domesticated biogas programme in seven districts: 105 digesters were commissioned, 160 masons trained and clean cooking solutions provided to 650 schoolchildren, supporting women's economic participation through green entrepreneurship. Evidence from national household surveys underpins the Clean Cooking Roadmap (inception completed), positioning Botswana to raise ambition in the next NDC. Youth engagement on climate action is strengthening the pipeline for green jobs.

Together, these reforms strengthen resilience, climate adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.

Botswana's Conservation, Climate, and Disaster Preparedness Achievements

Land rehabilitation scaled from 627 ha (2021) to 17,852 ha (2024). Integrated Land Use Management Plans enabled the gazettment pathway for 624,000 ha of Wildlife Management Areas. Park fee reforms generated nearly US\$ 16 million, doubled institutional capacity, and operationalized anti-poaching systems placing Botswana at the forefront of conservation finance and enforcement. A National DRR Strategy aligned to Sendai was drafted. US\$ 1.8 million was mobilized via the Pandemic Fund for preparedness, and over US\$ 500,000 was secured to accelerate NDC revision and Just Energy Transition programming. A Government GIS laboratory now strengthens spatial planning and evidence-based decisions.



17,851 ha
land rehabilitated
(2021–2024)



US\$ 16 million
generated from
park fee reforms



2× increase
in institutional
capacity

From Fragile Drylands to Resilient Landscapes: Transforming Conservation in Kgalagadi and Ghanzi

In Botswana's Kgalagadi and Ghanzi drylands, wildlife, livestock, and livelihoods share one fragile landscape. For years, this balance was under strain - poaching threatened biodiversity, human-wildlife conflict tested community tolerance, and land degradation weakened ecosystems and economic opportunity.

Today, that trajectory is changing.

The Kgalagadi & Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystem Project (KGDEP) has helped transform the region from reactive crisis management to integrated landscape governance - strengthening wildlife protection, securing land for conservation, and embedding sustainability into district systems.

Stronger Protection, Safer Ecosystems

Wildlife crime once thrived in isolated areas with limited enforcement reach. KGDEP changed that dynamic. Through strengthened implementation of the National Anti-Poaching Strategy, the establishment of Forward Operating Bases, and the operationalization of a National Joint Operations Centre and Intelligence Diffusion Centres, enforcement in Wildlife Management Areas is now coordinated and intelligence led. Eighty-eight wildlife officers - 47% of them women - were trained, strengthening both capacity and gender inclusion. The result is not just more patrols, but a structured system that deters illegal wildlife trade and strengthens ecosystem security.

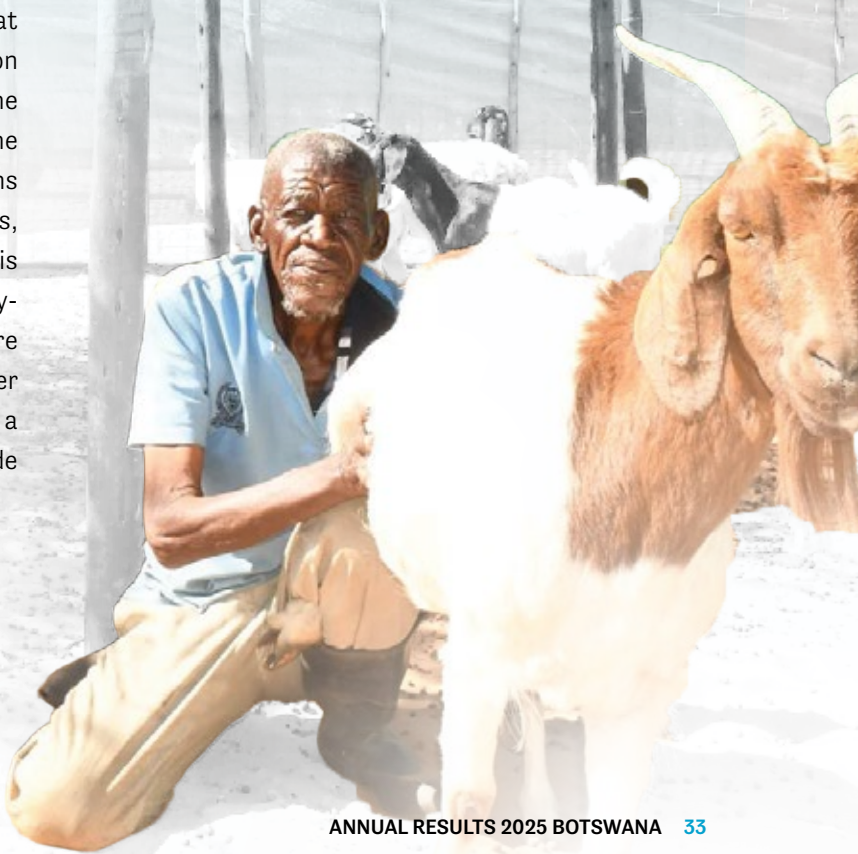


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FULL STORY

Securing Half a Million Hectares for the Future

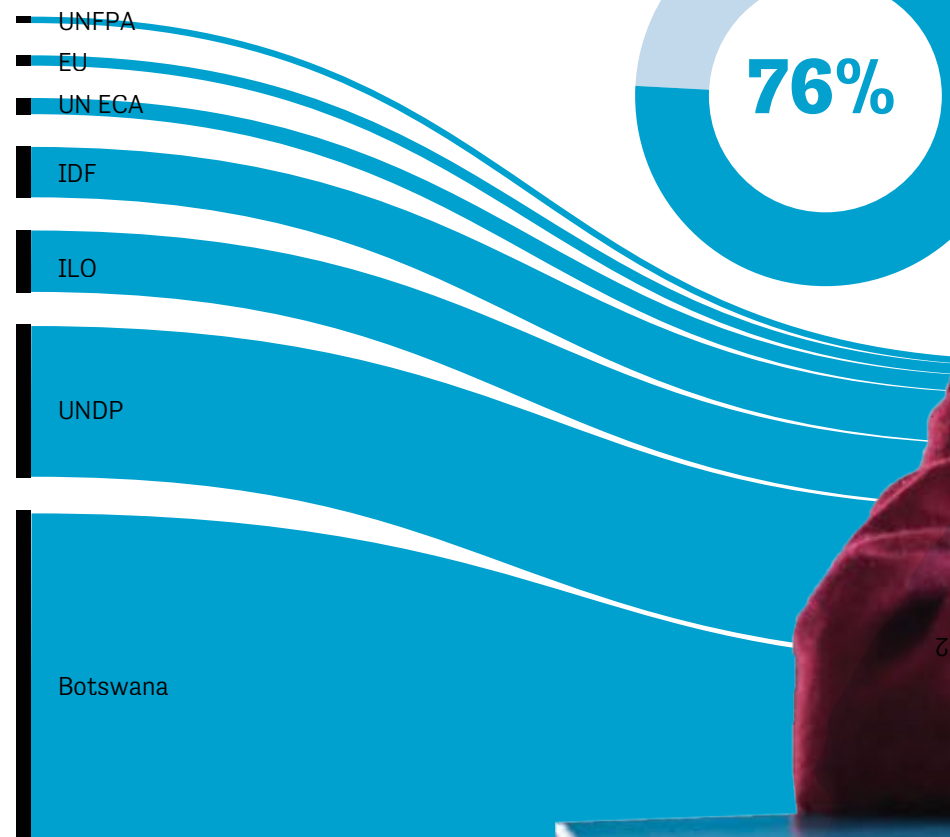
One of the project's most enduring achievements is structural. Two District Integrated Land Use Management Plans were developed and gazetted, positioning approximately 500,000 hectares for long-term conservation as Wildlife Management Areas.

This marks a fundamental shift. Biodiversity conservation, livestock production, settlement growth, and economic activities are now guided by a unified landscape framework. Instead of competing land uses, there is a shared vision anchored in law and district planning systems.

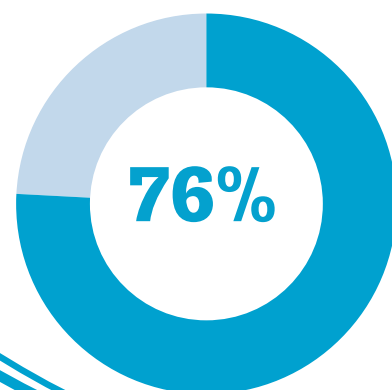


4 Strengthened Resilience and an Equitable Economic Trajectory

Funding Partners 2025
Total: \$962,082



Annual Funding Delivery Rate



\$1,02M

1 NO POVERTY



\$526K

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



\$341K

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



\$256K

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



\$25K

10 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



\$227K

5 GENDER EQUALITY



\$115K

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



\$115K

2 ZERO HUNGER



\$227K

13 CLIMATE ACTION



\$30K

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



\$201K

15 LIFE ON LAND



Contribution to SDGs

\$3,1M

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Participating UN Agencies



Working with





The UN supports the National Human Development Report on Youth, strengthening Government capacity to design targeted employment policies to address high unemployment, youth disengagement, inequality, a large informal economy and labour market mismatches to strengthen the inclusive economic transformation.



A National Migration Policy was developed

recognizing migrants’ contribution to development

A National Migration Policy was developed, recognizing migrants as contributors to development and aligning Botswana with regional best practice on labour mobility and inclusion.

UN support contributed to the Fodder Production Strategy, advancing rural diversification, job creation, and food security. In addition, capacity building on value chain development tools strengthened investment readiness and public-private collaboration in agri-food systems.

Government financing allocated to implement the National Employment Policy beckons the transition from policy development to implementation. The revised National Youth Policy establishes a comprehensive

A Personal Story of Migration, Resilience, and New Beginnings

My name is Tapologo, and I want to share my migration journey—how I moved from Ireland back to Botswana, thanks to IOM. And how ended up with nearly 20 sheep!

It has been a story of adapting to new environments, overcoming challenges, and finding hope in the midst of change. Even at my age.

I went to Ireland with my children, hoping for a better future. Coming from Botswana, it took us a while to adjust to the constant drizzle and cloudy skies.

However, the cold and damp weather gradually took a toll on my health. I began to struggle with the climate, feeling its effects both physically and emotionally. The discomfort made me long for the warmth of home and the familiarity of home. After careful consideration, I decided it was best for my well-being to return home. My children, who had adapted better than me, would remain behind.

I reached out to IOM Ireland, after I was informed that they could help me return and reintegrate back into Botswana. To my relief, they approved my request for assistance. This brought me a huge sense of comfort and optimism - I knew I wouldn’t have to face the transition alone.

Back in Botswana, I met Daphne at the local IOM office, who kindly guided me through every step of the reintegration process, ultimately assisting me in starting my own sheep farming business.

“IOM helped me with a business plan, and I started off with 10 sheep. I am very pleased that my flock has almost doubled in size. Even as I approach my seventh decade, I still have lofty goals.”



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ANNUAL RESULTS 2025 BOTSWANA 39



AT A GLANCE

10,000

people reached through legal awareness campaigns

11,2%

increase in walk-ins for justice services in 2025

100

representatives engaged in multi-stakeholder consultations

Access to justice improved, particularly for vulnerable groups. Botswana now meets all six international criteria for high-quality, free and universal birth registration. UN-supported legal awareness campaigns reached an estimated 100,000 people, contributing to an 11.2% increase in walk-ins and a 28% rise in referrals in 2025, including GBV-related cases. A judges’ colloquium advanced child-friendly justice, reinforcing protections for women and children.

National commitment to economic, social and cultural rights deepened through a multi-stakeholder consultation (100 representatives across sectors) on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the 1961 Statelessness Convention strengthening the case for accession and implementation.

Botswana’s finalization and approval of the Anti-Human Trafficking Amendment Act and the National Migration Policy improved Government effectiveness, oversight, and integrity through legal, policy, and institutional reforms. SOPs and training for frontline officials strengthened protection-sensitive capacities. A validated Criminal Justice Sector Review and Roadmap (from 2026) will improve case turnaround and efficiency. Technical support progressed through a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and strengthened whistleblower protections.

Data systems for policy and SDG monitoring advanced with the launch of BSDS II and progress toward statistical legislation aligned with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Innovative data integration (e.g., mobile data for tourism statistics) expanded evidence for decision-making. Census-based analytical reports on youth health and maternal health filled critical gaps and informed priorities to reduce maternal mortality and strengthen SRH for young people.

Listening to Botswana’s Indigenous Voices

The UN Special Rapporteur visited Botswana in September 2025 and spent time with indigenous communities, whose lives are shaped by both pride in their heritage and long-standing challenges.

Communities across villages and traditional lands, applauded the renewed political commitment to recognizing Indigenous rights, a development that brings hope. They shared their concerns over the uncertainty on official recognition, loss of land and resources, and limited participation in public affairs among other persistent struggles.

Batswana parents desire that their children would preserve their languages and culture while accessing quality education. Community members discussed barriers to justice, unequal access to public services, and experiences of labour exploitation. Concerns also emerged about projects that are extractive, affecting ancestral lands.

The resilience of Botswana’s Indigenous Peoples was unmistakable amid challenges. Their message was simple and powerful: “See us. Hear us. Work with us.” The visit aimed to ensure that the country’s renewed political will translate to meaningful change in their everyday lives. The visit by the UN Special Rapporteur generated actionable recommendations to be presented to the Human Rights Council in 2026.

The commissioning of the UN-supported Criminal Justice Sector Review in 2024, led by the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services assisted Botswana to embark on a deliberate journey to transform its justice system - anchoring reform in evidence, human rights, and the national aspirations of Vision 2036 and SDG 16.

The Review surfaced systemic gaps - delays in case resolution, inconsistent data, limited victim support, underutilized technology, and resource constraints -and charted a five-year reform pathway to deliver justice fairly and efficiently, elevate victims’ rights, strengthen transparency, modernize case management, and build institutional capacity.

The move toward standardizing crime classification, aligned with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), represents the shift from assessment to structural reform: creating a unified, data-driven justice ecosystem where crimes are consistently defined, performance is measurable, and impact can be tracked across prevention, policing, prosecution, adjudication, and rehabilitation.



Diaspora engagement

- 1 Mapping and Profiling Report Completed
- 1 Costed Diaspora Engagement Policy Developed
- 1 Implementation Plan Endorsed

What began as a comprehensive sector review is evolving into a sustained national reform agenda - embedding accountability, strengthening coordination, and laying the foundation for a more just, victim-centred, technologically enabled justice system that continues to mature through structured change management, monitoring, and enduring partnership.

Partnerships to accelerate the SDGs were broadened. Anti-trafficking campaigns integrated prevention and referral mechanisms into local development planning, with district councils committing to sustain actions beyond project cycles. Diaspora engagement progressed through virtual dialogues and a completed a mapping and profiling report, culminating in a costed Diaspora Engagement Policy and implementation plan endorsed by a high-level inter-ministerial committee.

Botswana continues to face structural gender inequalities, reflected in the decline in women’s representation in the national legislature from 9 per cent in 2021 to 8 per cent in 2024. In response, UN support has prioritized policy reform, legal harmonization, and institutional transformation, strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and laying foundations for durable systemic change despite slow progress to political parity.



Botswana Launches Multisectoral Standard Operating Procedures for a Child-Friendly Justice System

The official launch of the Multisectoral Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for a Child-Friendly Justice System signals a historic transformation in the way children engage with the justice system. Samuel Phiri, Acting UNICEF Country Representative to Botswana, led the launch, highlighting the significance of this milestone.

temic reform. In 2023, Botswana hosted its first Child-Friendly Justice Symposium, bringing together national ministries, civil society, and international partners to establish a roadmap guiding the development of these SOPs.

The journey toward this launch began with the “E Seng Mo Ngwaneng Campaign,” a national movement to end violence against children, which evolved into a multi-sectoral, strategic approach to sys-



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY



“This is not just an administrative milestone; it is a defining moment in Botswana’s journey toward a justice system that is humane, restorative, and deeply anchored in the dignity of every child..”

Samuel Phiri, Acting UNICEF Deputy Representative to Botswana



“Proud Moment. Botswana has launched its national guidelines for child-friendly justice - a major leap forward in protecting children. I’m proud of the British government’s role in this journey..”

Giles Enticknap, British High Commissioner to Botswana and UK Special Representative to SADC



“Justice delayed is justice denied. Children may encounter the justice system as victims, witnesses, or alleged offenders. These SOPs are not just guidelines; they are a tool for transformation..”

Hon. Ramaotwana Nelson Ramaotwana, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

Support to Partnerships and Financing

Botswana's 2025 development finance landscape was shaped by a sharp and persistent fall in global demand for natural diamonds, which weighed on growth, public revenues, and external balances. In response, Government in collaboration with Developmental Partners accelerated diversification and financing reforms including a new Country Financing Framework (CFF) developed with UNDP and the World Bank, revitalization of public-private partnerships (PPPs), and private-sector competitiveness measures. Multilateral partners (AfDB, IMF, IFAD) supported macro-fiscal stabilization, structural reforms, climate resilience, and inclusive rural transformation. These shifts created a scope for the UN Development System to expand SDG Financing through blended finance, climate instruments, SMME ecosystems, and research-driven policy support.

Policy dialogue intensified on diversification and SDG Financing under Vision 2036/NDP12, laying groundwork for the Botswana Country Financing Framework 2025 and macro consultations.

Launch of the Private Sector Development Strategy (PSDS) 2025 – 2029 prioritizing competitiveness, SMME formalization, and investment readiness, with participation from financial institutions.

AfDB launched the 2025 Country Focus Report, urging strategic reforms to unlock national wealth and improve fiscal resilience and natural capital management.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Government – World Bank – UNDP: Country Financing Framework (CFF) 2025 A tripartite framework to mobilize and align public, private and climate finance toward Vision 2036/ NDP12, emphasizing innovation, diversification, climate resilience, and institutional coordination.

GOVERNMENT- IFAD: COUNTRY STRATEGY NOTE (2025)

Road mapping for rural transformation, livestock commercialization, smallholder resilience, and alignment to climate finance windows (e.g., GCF/GEF), reinforcing inclusive growth.

PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Business Botswana launched its Private Sector Development Strategy 2025 – 2029 which is a sector wide platform to improve competitiveness, formalize SMMEs, and expand investment readiness; bank partners such as Bank Gaborone, Stanbic advanced tailored SMME products and digital payments to crowd in private capital.

PPP Revitalization given fiscal headwinds, Government of Botswana signaled revamping PPPs in infrastructure and innovation to mobilize private finance. This agenda underpins opportunities for blended finance and SDG – aligned investment in the upcoming years.

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, partnerships were strengthened through coordinated engagement with civil society organizations to safeguard essential services during major disruptions. When HIV programming faced significant setbacks following the U.S funding freeze, UNAIDS played a convening role by bringing civil society partners together to assess impacts, share updates, and jointly plan continuity measures. It further supported a multi-stakeholder task team including the Ministry of Health, NAHPA, CSOs and UN agencies to monitor service disruptions and guide response actions, ensuring that



community needs remained at the forefront of decision-making. Civil Society Organizations demonstrated strong resilience by conducting rapid assessments and actively participating in UNAIDS facilitated platforms, enabling evidence driven and coordinated national response.

In addition, the UN system strengthened global partnership mechanisms ensuring that Botswana and its civil society actors were integrated into major international engagement platforms, thereby advancing SDG 17 on inclusive, multi-stakeholder cooperation. During the CEDAW 91st Session held in Geneva from June to July 2025 ensuring Botswana was among countries whose national report underwent review, with the process explicitly structured to facilitate participation from NGOs and national human rights institutions through established civil society engagement guidelines. This created avenues for Botswana's civil society to contribute to global accountability processes on gender equality, demonstrating the UN's role broadening access for local actors to international decision-making spaces and reinforcing cross-border collaboration in line with SDG17.

Opportunities

AfDB's analysis indicates substantial untapped national wealth (US\$ 116 billion) across human, natural and financial capital which can be converted into bankable SDG pipelines with the right policy and structuring support. The UN aims to use its convening power and technical depth to help with translating the BETP into investable portfolios and blended finance structures. Facilitate Government capacity in fiscal risk management and public investment management to improve project bankability and investor confidence. Connect private sector reforms to SDG outcomes through de-risking, impact frameworks and SMME finance. In addition, leverage IFAD pipelines for climate – resilient rural growth and AfDB policy dialogue for capital-stock optimization.

Results of UN Working Better Together

In 2025, UN coherence and collective impact increased across programming, policy and financing. Two new Joint SDG Fund awards increased resources from \$553,912 (2024) to \$725,810 (2025).

Joint reach and influence expanded across 17 districts, engaging 700 adolescents in climate literacy and training 17 Climate Champions now anchored within the Botswana Climate Change Network. Four major national frameworks were advanced, including the NSF4, National Drug Control Plan, the NPGD review and the ESA Plan.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EMPLOYMENT SYSTEMS

Launched on 16 October 2025, the Joint Programme on Advancing Social Protection and Employment

Opportunities is driving reforms to operationalise the Single Social Registry, strengthen delivery systems and expand economic opportunities for youth and vulnerable groups. A public lecture convened policymakers, academia, civil society, private sector and development partners to shape a more inclusive and shock-responsive social protection system.

Summary dashboard showing:

- **2 new JPs, 64% increase in JP funding (2024-2025);** Reach: 17 districts, 700 youth engaged in climate literacy,
- **17 Climate Champions trained; Policy Results:** 4 major frameworks advanced; National policies advanced (NSF4, Drug Control Plan, NPGD review, ESA Plan)

ACCELERATING A JUST AND INCLUSIVE ENERGY TRANSITION

The Joint Programme on Energy Transition completed the inception phase of the Clean Cooking Roadmap, validated implementation approaches, and launched national household surveys to inform policy and investment. Joint outreach engaged 700 adolescents across 17 districts using a co-created Just Energy Transition board game and developed 17 Climate Champions integrated into the Botswana Climate Change Network building local leadership for long-term sustainability.

DELIVERING JOINT RESULTS IN HIV, GBV, AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

Under the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) supported Joint Programme on HIV, the UN and the Ministry of Health jointly finalized the National Drug Control Plan and advanced the 4th National Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS, reinforcing multisectoral approaches to reach key and vulnerable populations. Joint efforts strengthened national capacity toward the triple elimination of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis, and progressed the operationalization of ESA commitments through multi-

ministerial coordination. The Joint GBV Programme continued to provide coordinated technical support for the review of the NPGD, laying out a foundation for a unified national approach to gender equality and GBV prevention.

COORDINATED UN SUPPORT STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SYSTEMS

Beyond formal joint programmes, collective action delivered systems results. Support to the National Employment Policy and the National Informal Sector Strategy catalyzed Government investment in the Employment Services Department and advanced implementation planning. On governance and anti-corruption, coordinated engagements with BIDPA and DCEC supported development of a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and strengthened whistleblower protection regulations, reinforcing transparency and public trust.

CONTRIBUTION OF JOINT RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TO UNCT FUNDS

Since the start of the CF, jointly mobilised resources contributed 6% of total UNCT funds. In 2022,

Figure 5: Fund received through Joint Programme

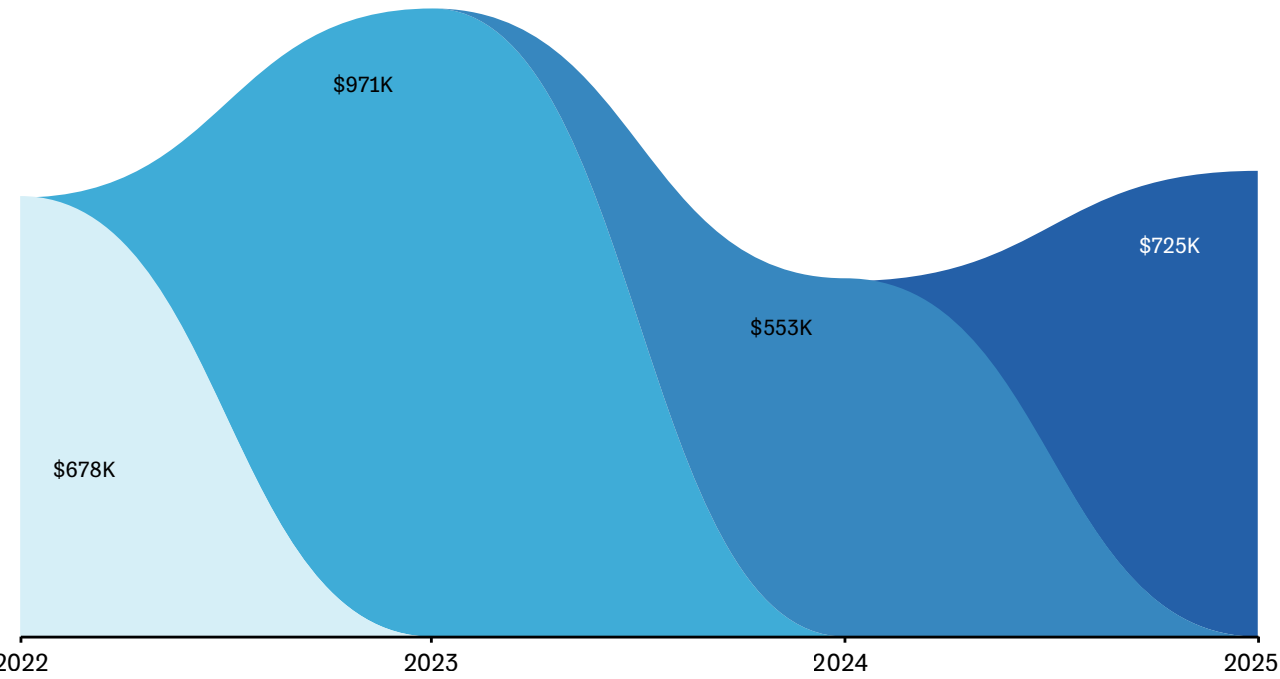


Figure 6: Mobilized Resources (JP vs Non JP)

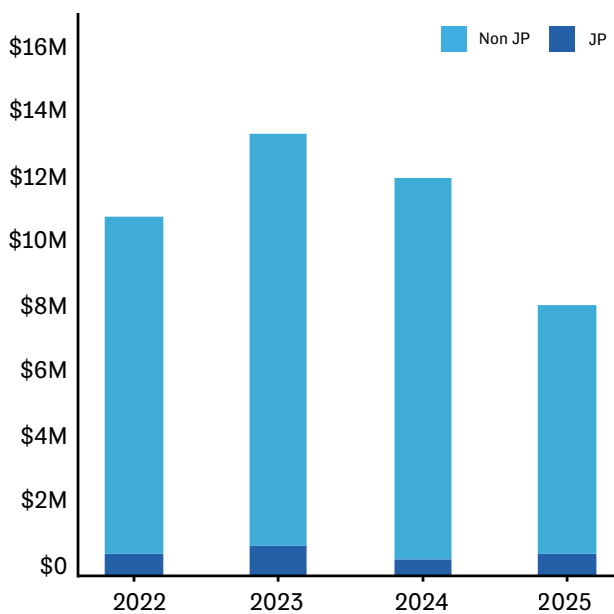
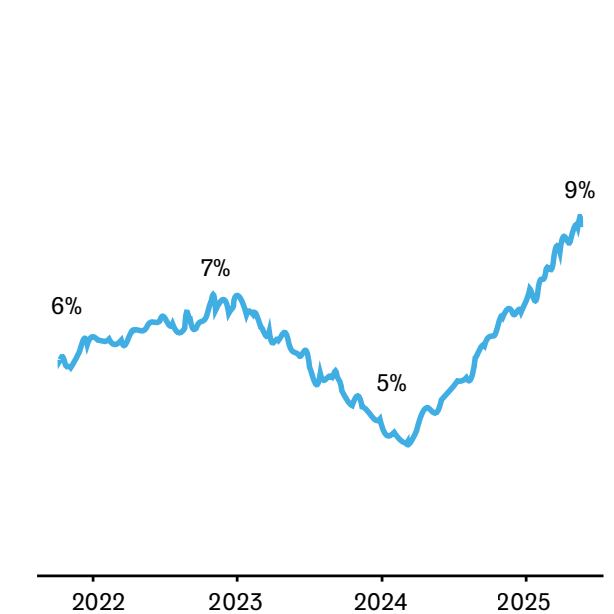


Figure 7: JP contribution



contributions were driven by the Joint SDG Fund (economic empowerment) and UBRAF (HIV prevention) with slight increase of \$38,000 in 2023 from the Regional Joint GBV Program. In 2024, the share dipped to 5% (\$553,912), likely reflecting the national election focus. The recovery in 2025 was driven by two new joint programmes on Just Energy Transition and Social Protection, which shows renewed momentum and strengthens prospects for future resource mobilization.

YOUTH INCLUSION

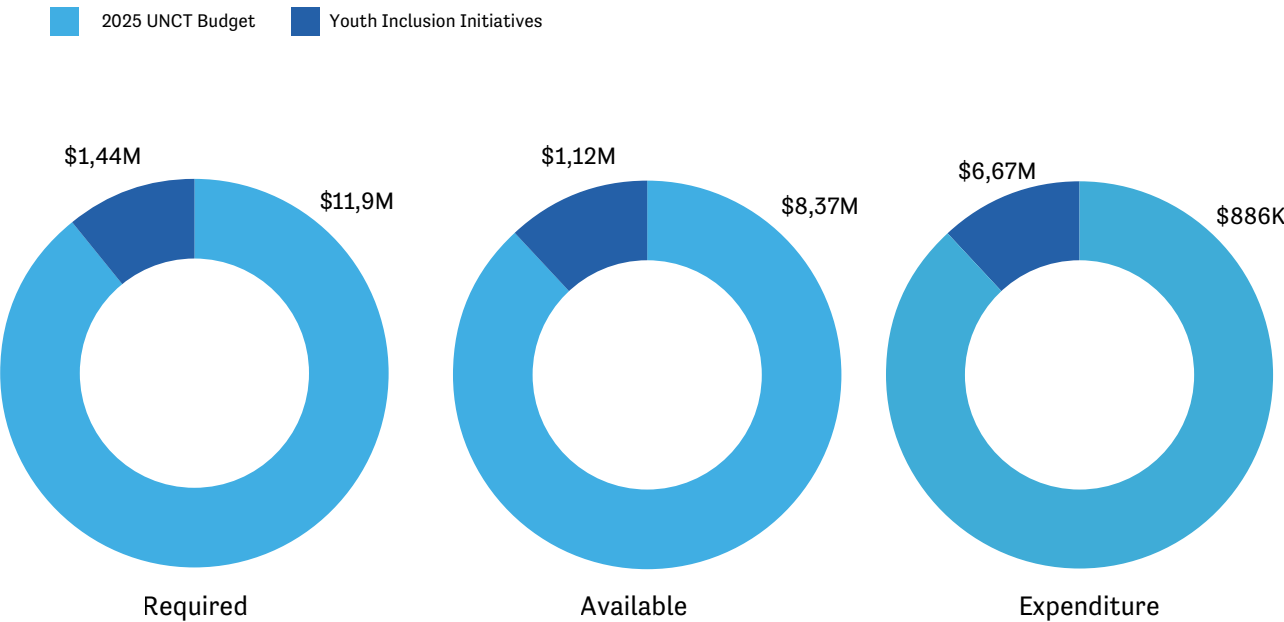
The UNCT invested 13% of the total UNCT budget to initiatives that advance the empowerment of youth this year, which is 70% of what was needed. Through these resources, the UN supported the Government of Botswana to advance key national priorities across social protection, youth development, HIV response, drug control and evidence-based planning.

High level advocacy and coordinated resource mobilization secured more than US\$ 900,000 to strengthen social protection and youth employment linkages, while youth participation was

institutionalized through the national Youth Advisory Panel. UNICEF supported the review of the National Youth Policy and development of its implementation plan, alongside strengthening employability skills for over 1200 young people through Generation Unlimited. UNFPA facilitated operationalization of the ESA Commitment by developing an ESA Operational Plan and CSE monitoring tools with strong youth engagement. UNODC provided technical support to finalize the National Drug Control Plan, contributed to the development of the 4th National Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS and strengthened national capacity through regional training on drug use disorder treatment standards.

A youth-led climate initiative engaged over 1,000 adolescents in rolling out the Phetogo climate action board game, while a 300-member youth network advanced HIV advocacy. UN Women contributed to HIV strategy finalization despite funding constraints and supported a gender-responsive needs assessment. Two thematic evidence reports and updated population projections were produced to inform national planning and targeted resource allocation.

Figure 8: Youth Inclusion funding



Lessons Learned and Evaluations

The independent evaluation of Botswana’s UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026 was conducted to inform the next Cooperation Framework. Methods included extensive document review and stakeholder interviews across Government, UN agencies, private sector, civil society, and development partners.

KEY CONCLUSIONS

- **RELEVANCE:** The UNSDCF was well aligned to national priorities and vulnerable groups’ needs but was broad in scope and not sufficiently adapted to new national strategies introduced during implementation.
- **UN POSITIONING:** Government and stakeholders view the UN as reliable and credible. However, internal fragmentation reduced UN cohesion and weakened alignment between UNSDCF priorities and agency-level plans.
- **EFFECTIVENESS:** Results measurement was constrained by inadequate data, missing targets, and incomplete reporting. Qualitative evidence shows contributions to policy development, institutional strengthening, improved service delivery, and behaviour change—though interventions were often small-scale and inconsistently funded.
- **EFFICIENCY/ DELIVERING AS ONE:** Joint programming demonstrated efficiency gains but remained limited (about 8% of expenditure). Coordination structures initially functioned well but weakened after 2024 due to contextual shifts.
- **COORDINATION:** UNCT participation was strong, but Results Groups became irregular. The RCO showed strong convening power during crises, though absence of humanitarian architecture and predictable financing reduced system resilience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **NARROW THE SCOPE OF THE NEXT UNSDCF:** Reduce outcomes and outputs to match UN capacity and streamline Results Groups.
2. **STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DATA SYSTEMS:** Consider a joint programme to fill SDG data gaps, support disaggregated data, and improve routine systems using human rights–based approaches.
3. **REINFORCE UNCT MECHANISMS:** Consolidate Results Groups, establish a Programme Management Team (Deputy Heads of Agencies), introduce crosscutting Theme Groups, and ensure agency plans derive from UNSDCF workplans.
4. **STRENGTHEN DELIVERING AS ONE:** Create a multipartner trust fund and scale up joint programmes through pooled funding and coordinated resource mobilisation.
5. **IMPROVE RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT:** Set indicator targets, rationalise the number of indicators, align activities and resources to targets, and incentivize accurate reporting.
6. **EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS:** Engage more systematically with civil society and the private sector, including through dedicated engagement platforms.

Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

The past year has been marked by significant turbulence across the international development landscape.

Over the 2022–2025 period, the Cooperation Framework demonstrated generally strong but fluctuating performance in both resource mobilization and delivery of activities. Against a total requirement of US\$56.3 million, the UN mobilized US\$45.3 million, representing an overall coverage rate of 80%. Coverage was highest in 2022 at 87%, reflecting strong early phase financing commitments, before declining to 79% in 2023 and falling further to 70% in 2025 as funding conditions tightened. Despite these fluctuations, delivery performance remained relatively stable

and resilient. The UN expended \$35.9 million over the period, thus 79% of resources made available, indicating consistent utilization capacity even as resources declined in some years.

The 2022–2025 funding profile shows a consistent pattern, with three main sources: UN Organizations, the Government of Botswana, and Other Governments which accounted for most contributions (82%) over the four-year period. Across all years, UN Organizations remained the dominant contributor, providing \$23.26 million (51%) of the total. Their funding profile decreased annually, from \$8.31 million in 2022 to \$3.04 million in 2025, mirroring the contraction in contributions from major UN entities such as UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR.

The Government of Botswana (GoB) was the second largest and most stable funding source, contributing \$7.78 million (17%) over the period. GoB financing remained consistently above \$1.6 million annually, underscoring strong national ownership and steady domestic investment. Other Governments collectively contributed US\$ 6.26 million (14%), with marked year-to-year variability driven by partners such as the USA, Japan, and Germany. Their support spiked sharply in 2023 (\$1.66 million) and 2024 (\$2.90 million) but declined in 2025 (\$1.41 million).

Global Vertical Funds provided \$5.06 million (11%),

concentrated mainly in 2023–2025, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as the main contributor. GEF is consistently a top three contributor in multiple years. UN Inter-agency Pooled Funds contributed \$1.60 million (3.5%), with relatively stable annual flows, reflecting predictable funding streams from UBRAF, Joint SDG Fund, and UNPRPD.

UNCT also received strategically important contributions from the private sector (\$0.52 million) largely De Beers Group in 2024–2025 and International NGOs, Foundations, and the EU, which together accounted for less than 2% of total funding but played critical roles such as the fight against GBV.

Figure 9: CF 2022 - 2026 Funding Coverage and Delivery Performance

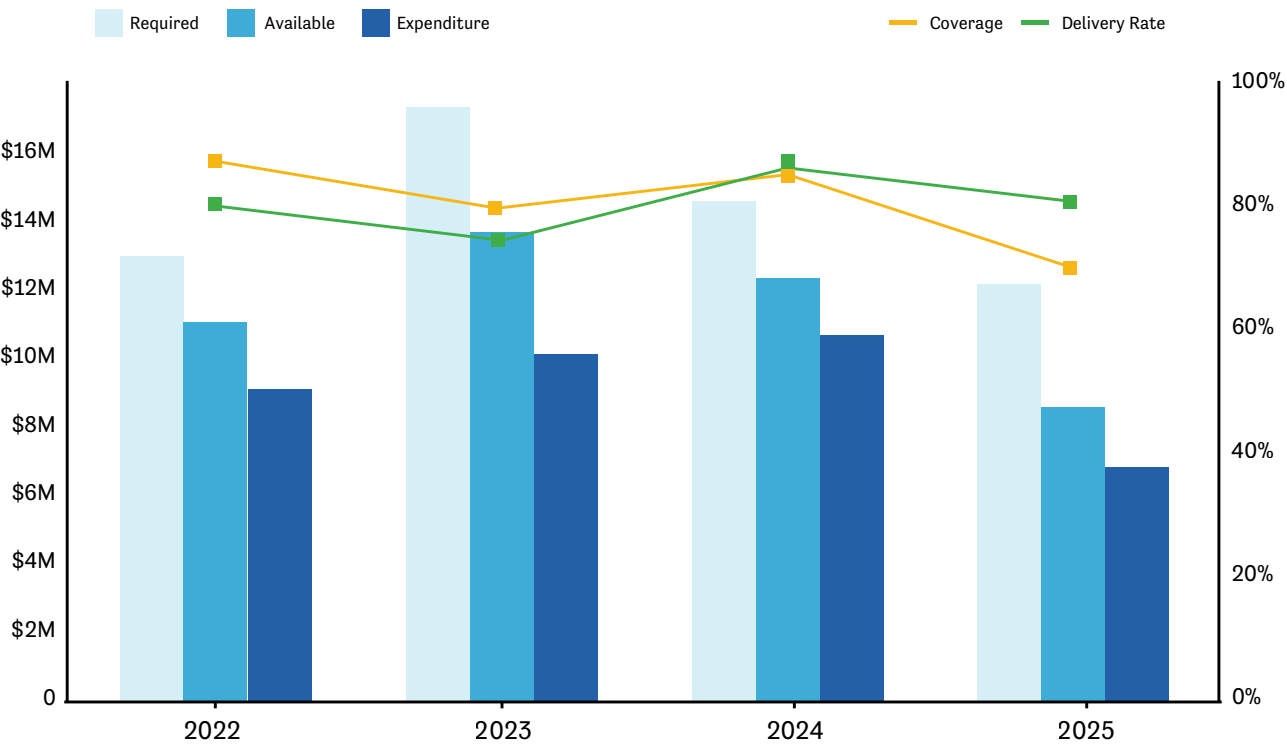
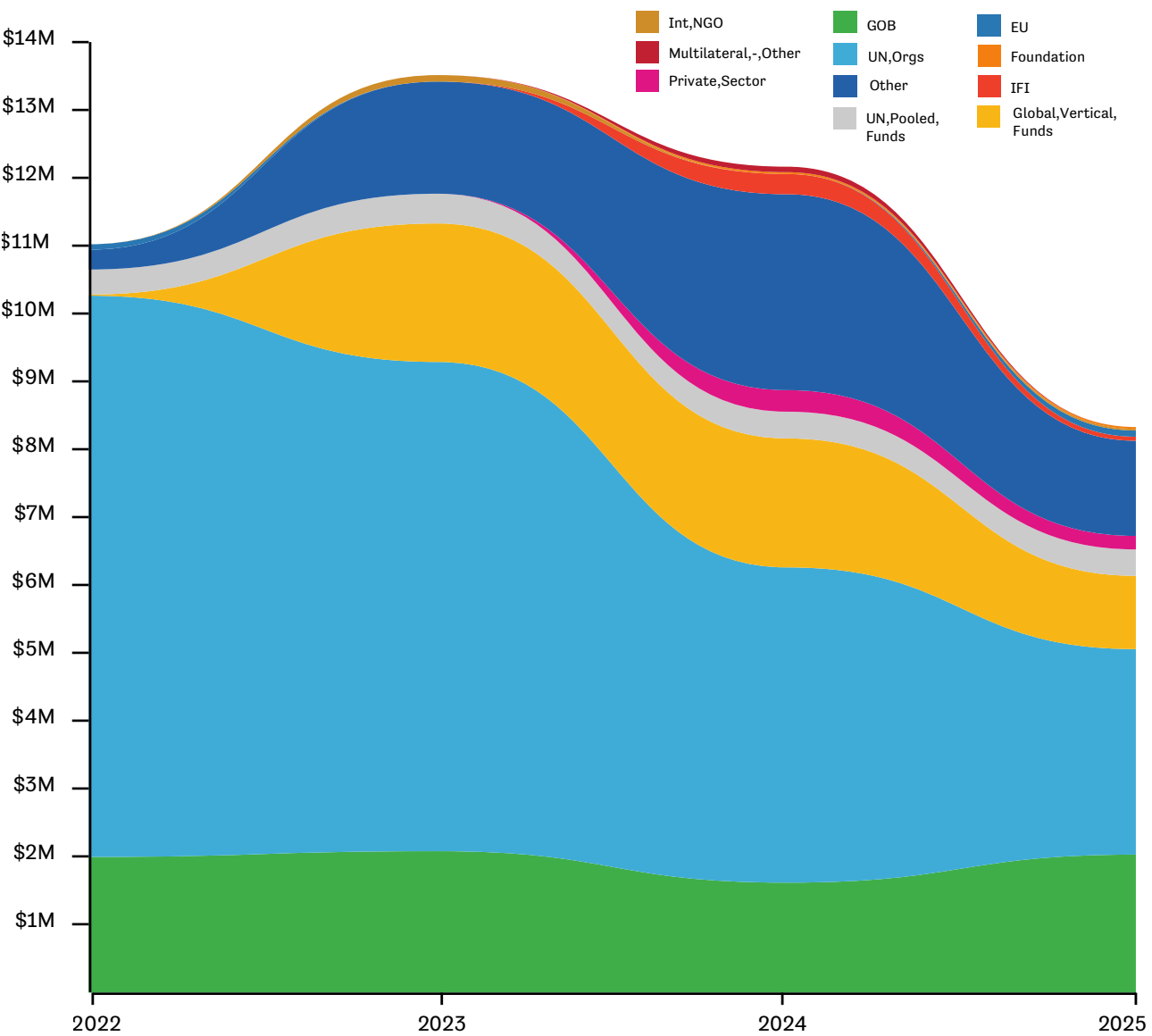


Figure 10: Source of Funds 2022-2025



CHAPTER 3

UNCT Focus for 2026

The year 2025 brought significant shifts for Botswana, the global landscape, and the United Nations. It became increasingly evident that Botswana is charting a new development trajectory, centred on economic diversification, as it seeks to address vulnerabilities arising from declining diamond revenues.

The UN Country Analysis conducted in Q3 - Q4 confirmed that longstanding social challenges such as high youth unemployment and elevated levels of gender-based violence risk being further exacerbated by emerging economic pressures.

At the same time, the multilateral system continues to face headwinds. Declining financial contributions from Member States are constraining the UN's operational space, reinforcing the imperative to deliver more effectively and efficiently with fewer resources in order to remain relevant and effective.

Against this backdrop, 2026 is a year of strategic repositioning for the UN Country Team. The focus is on strengthening its ability to respond to Botswana's evolving priorities while adapting to a more constrained resource environment. Central to this effort is the development of a new UN Cooperation Framework for 2027 - 2031, closely aligned with national priorities.

The UN is listening closely to the Government's emphasis on economic diversification and growth. Its contribution will be anchored in its distinct comparative advantage promoting a model of development that is socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and firmly grounded in human rights principles. In this way, the UN seeks not only to support growth, but to help shape its quality and long-term sustainability.

Given the fiscal constraints facing both the Government of Botswana and the UN system, 2026 will also require a stronger focus on forging innovative and diversified partnerships to support implementation of the next Cooperation Framework. Equally important will be enhancing the clarity, coherence, and reach of communications ensuring that the UN's contributions and results are effectively articulated and visible to partners and stakeholders in Botswana and beyond.

“

The UN and Botswana are strategically repositioning to drive inclusive, sustainable growth through stronger partnerships and a new Cooperation Framework for 2027–2031.





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