

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION OFFICE



UNITED NATIONS BOTSWANA

# 2022 United Nations Annual Results Report Botswana

#### 2022 United Nations Botswana Country Team Annual Results Report

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#### Botswana at a Glance

#### Demography

- 2,359,609 population
- 68ys life expectancy at birth
- 1.9% population growth rate



#### Education

 Adult Literacy Rates 90% of which 88.7% (M), 91% (F) national adult literacy



#### Social

- 337,410 (16.3%) poor persons (National Poverty Incidence)
- 34.4% youth (15-35ys) unemployment rate
- 0.468 Gender Inequality Index



#### Agriculture

- 1,596,605 livestock population
- Top 3 food imports (exc live animals) Nov 2022;
  - <sup>1</sup> 16.8% beverages, spirits and vinegar <sup>2</sup> 15.1% cereals
  - <sup>3</sup> 9.3% animal, vegetable fats and oils



- GDP (Million Pula) 62,496.9 at current market price in Q3, 2022
- Annual rate of inflation 12.4% (Dec 2022)



- Net Migration Rate (2021) 0.7 migrants / 1000 population
- Women as a percentage of immigrants (2020) – 43%

Migration



#### Health

- 130.5 per 100,000 live births maternal mortality ratio
- 35 hospitals, 104 clinics with beds, 253 clinics without beds
- 5.2%, 51% (M), 49% (F) 2020 crude death rate
- 19.8% stunting in children under five
- 16.39% HIV prevalence: 15-49ys, 0.21 (M); 0.39 (F) annual incidence



#### Foreword

I am pleased to present to you the 2022 United Nations Country Annual Results Report for Botswana. The report highlights our work in the first year of the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF or Cooperation Framework) 2022–2026 for the Republic of Botswana.



As one of the first countries to implement the new generation Cooperation Framework under the UN development system reform, in 2022 the UNCT in Botswana was able to deliver coherent, efficient and effective programmatic and operational activities against the five outcomes of the UNSDCF. This was made po1ssible through partnerships with the Government, civil society, donors, and other development agents.

This report documents some of the progress made in implementing the Cooperation Framework priorities in 2022. The focus this year was on establishing structures that will underpin the implementation of the Framework, and the tracking of its progress. In 2023 we will concentrate more on implementation, with focus on ensuring that many diverse development partners are engaged to work together.

The Government of Botswana's current National Development Plan, NDP 11, ends in March 2023, and to align the national development planning process with the electoral cycle, the Government developed a two-year Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP). NDP 12 has therefore been deferred to financial year 2025/2026. In line with the Government's Reset Agenda announced in 2021, this year there was also a realignment of the government structures and geographic districts. These changes did present some challenges for the UN family, as we had to align ourselves with new structures and also build new relationships with changes in Government staffing. In 2022, innovative partnerships were forged by the UN development system in Botswana to contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A Joint SDG Fund with four members of the UN system – UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women – and coordinated by UNRCO, collaborated to support the Government to design and implement an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). This will provide solutions for strengthening the development financing system of Botswana.

To provide further support to the INFF, along with Government and representatives of civil society, we participated in the INFF conference. This discussed challenges and opportunities to address widening financing gaps as countries build back from the impact of COVID–19 in a transparent and participatory manner. We also shared ongoing experiences in drafting financing strategies, setting up SDG Financing Dialogues and implementing open budget reforms. This was a key step to ensuring that INFF becomes the financing strategy for NDP 12, scheduled for development in 2023.

Under the theme "Partnerships for increased prosperity and sustainable development for all", we hosted a Development Partners' Forum. The forum offered participants an important platform to learn more about current and emerging development issues, debate strategies for achieving SDGs, and explore ways to partner with Government and other development partners, so as to contribute to the country's development agenda.



The UN family also supported Government to conduct and publish the SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR) which was launched at the High-Level Political Forum in July, and follow-up activities are being rolled out as planned. Botswana successfully integrated the SDGs into national development frameworks, with the SDG planning guidelines providing a tool for the Government to mainstream SDG indicators into Botswana's medium and long-term development frameworks. Nine ministries piloted the guidelines, resulting in several indicators moving from the 'easily feasible' to the 'measurable' category.

At the core of our work in Botswana is the drive to ensure gender-based violence and violence against women and children are eradicated in the country. Towards this, the UN system has contributed to multiple initiatives to prevent SGBV and VAC. These include delivering training to teachers by UNESCO through the Connect with Respect curriculum tool for preventing school-related SGBV in Botswana, as well as the launch by UNICEF of the second phase of the End Violence Against Children campaign, aimed at amplifying the voice of children and promoting the reporting of abuse. This has seen an increase in reported cases of abuse, which compliments the ongoing E Seng Mo Ngwaneng campaign at community level and capacity building programme for Village Child Protection Committees. UNFPA continued to implement high quality youth programming in the North-West and Okavango districts, focusing on in- and out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education.

Looking forward to 2023, the UN Country Team will continue to implement the UNSDCF, focusing on efforts to reinvigorate collective partnerships and resource mobilization. Innovative funding streams and catalytic partnerships will also be better explored, including South–South cooperation and non-financial.

To conclude, we are aware of and grateful for the positive and supportive collaboration of Government and the people of Botswana, as we work together to implement the SDGs and continue to propel the country towards its achieving Vision 2036 and prosperity for all.

Zia Chardhung

Zia Choudhury Resident Coordinator, Botswana



# **Botswana United Nations Country Team**



For the purposes of implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2026, the Botswana UN Country Team (UNCT) is made up of 23 UN entities, of which 14 have a physical presence in the country. The UNCT is chaired by the Resident Coordinator, Zia Choudhury, who is the designated representative of the UN Secretary General in Botswana. The UNCT comprises 10 (43%) women and 13 (57%) men.

Nineteen of the 23 UN entities in Botswana are signatories of the Cooperation Framework. Of these 19 entities, 14 have added their work plans to UNINFO, while others are still in the process of aligning their country programming instruments to the Framework. With 130 activities in the 2022 Joint Work Plan (JWP), only 10 are jointly contributed to by two or more UN entities. Although individual entity contributions or sub-outputs in the JWPs are consistent with the UNSDCF's Theory of Change and contribute directly to the Framework's outputs and outcomes, UNCT commits to continuing to reduce fragmentation, avoiding duplication, and ensuring the coherence and synergy of UN Development System collective programming in Botswana.

## UN Development System through the Cooperation Framework

#### **Overview of the Cooperation Framework results**

In November 2021, the Government of Botswana (represented by the Minister of Finance) and the United Nations in Botswana (represented by the Resident Coordinator) signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, or Cooperation Framework) 2022–2026 for the Republic of Botswana. This was our first year of implementing the new Framework, with 23 resident and non-resident UN entities contributing to the Government's national priorities, as stipulated in its National Development Plan 11 (NDP 11) and Vision 2036, and the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

This was also the final year of NDP 11, and the Government of Botswana developed a two-year Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) to align the national development planning process to the electoral cycle, with NDP 12 deferred to financial year 2025/2026. In line with the Government Reset Agenda, there was a realignment of government structures and geographic districts. The Cooperation Framework implementation is monitored by five Results Groups, comprising experts from relevant UN entities and Government entities, and other partners who support the achievement of each outcome/results area. The Results Groups are co-chaired by the Government of Botswana and UN Heads of entities. This structure allows for greater information flow, accountability and transparency in the direction and tracking of the UN's work in the country. There are challenges with inconsistent attendance/participation, and these can delay progress of the Results Groups. The Co-Chairs of the Results Groups represent the Results Groups at the highest governing structure of the Framework: the Joint National United Nations Steering Committee (JNUSC).





Membership of this Committee includes stakeholders from Government, the United Nations in Botswana, the private sector, international funding institution bilateral partners, members of academia and the media, and representatives of marginalized groups. The Joint Steering Committee met twice in 2022, and provided oversight and strategic direction to the Cooperation Framework process, including aligning to the evolving country context, such as that occasioned by the TNDP and realignment of the Government ministries. This report documents some of the progress made towards implementing the Cooperation Framework priorities in 2022, and any constraints that arose during the year.

The UN in Botswana has been grateful to receive support from a range of partners, including our main funding partners shown in the graph below.





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.

In 2022, the UN system contributed to multiple initiatives to prevent sexual and gender- based violence (SGBV) and violence against children (VAC). This included UNFPA continuing to implement high quality youth programming in the focusing North-West and Okavango districts, on comprehensive sexuality education both in and out of school, training provided to teachers by UNESCO through the Connect with Respect tool for preventing school-related SGBV in Botswana, and the launch by UNICEF of the second phase of the End Violence against Children campaign, aimed at amplifying the voice of children and promoting the reporting of abuse. There has since been an increase in reported cases of abuse, complementing the ongoing E Seng Mo Ngwaneng campaign at community level and capacity building programme for Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs), implemented by UNICEF.

UNCT also supported Government to enhance the capacities of women in the economic sphere, through a collaboration between FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture which conducted training for youth and women farmers in marketing agricultural products. Participants are expected to adopt and apply acquired entrepreneurship and management skills and tools to increase productivity levels and market share. UNCT also worked with Government to strengthen policymakers' ability to address gender inequalities, with UNDP improving the capacities of technical staff in the Department of Gender and MoF by providing hands-on experience and expertise in undertaking gender- responsive budgeting. Gender-responsive budgeting, along with supportive laws and other policy measures, will help Botswana track whether public funds respond to the different needs of women, men, and gender-diverse groups and are effectively allocated in order to further gender equality and empowering women.

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

Working towards an inclusive health system, through support provided by UNICEF and WHO, Botswana achieved almost 70 percent of national COVID-19 vaccine coverage by the end of 2022. UNHCR ensured that refugees and asylum seekers at Dukwi Refugee Camp were sensitized on health services available to them, and those needing care were enrolled to receive it. The newly updated Clinical Management Guidelines for Neonatal Care were launched, with the support of WHO and UNICEF. UNFPA supported the Botswana Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted (BAPS) to implement comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) for in- and out-of-school youth institutions for young people with visual impairments. To encourage youth access to SRHR services, in collaboration with community CSOs we also trained district level healthcare providers in Youth Friendly Services. Health commodities were also procured on behalf of Government.

To strengthen the education system, in 2022, we collaborated with Government to conduct the GenU Landscape Analysis which assessed existing opportunities available to young people in entrepreneurship, skilling and digital engagement, mapped the stakeholder landscape and proposed a portfolio scalable solution to bridge the gap from learning to earning. The findings will support the community of stakeholders representing the public and private sectors, civil society and youth-led organisations as they continue to operationalise Gen U. Towards an equitable social protection system we provided 256 refugees and asylum seekers (128 female, 128 male) who were registered for primary and secondary with monetary support for school fees and other educational needs/materials. A total of 17 unaccompanied and separated children (6 girls, 11 boys) were supported with psychosocial support through monthly home visits. All the children received refresher awareness training on children's rights.

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

To contribute to job creation for youth and women farmer enterprises in rural areas, and to improve the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Botswana, apiculture and aquaculture value chains were completed and their implementation began. When in full operation, these are expected to contribute to diversifying the economy, job creation, and ensuring food security.

Through UNDP support, marginalized communities in Okavango district, particularly Shakawe village, now have the capacity to utilize natural resources to practice alternative livelihoods such as the Mongongo household oil that is being produced and sold for profit.



▲ His Excellency Mokgweeetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, showing his interest in Mongongo oil. Explaining the process of its manufacture is a representative of Matute-A-Mongongo Women's Group. NAP UNFCC Expo, Gaborone, Botswana [2022]. [UNDP].

The Matute-A-Mongongo Women's Group in Shakawe manufacture cooking oil from the Mongongo fruit. In 2022, UNDP provided support to enable the group to refurbish its manufacturing premises, connect to a three-phase power supply, and buy a dehuller and oil press machine. The oil is very good quality and comparable to olive oil. Production of Mongongo oil provides the Shakawe community with an alternative livelihood and an opportunity to diversify its income streams. Currently, community members are dependent on the Okavango River, where they harvest fish and water lilies for subsistence and to contribute to small-scale enterprise. Sales of the oil will support families to increase their' quantity and variety of food items.

During the reporting period, UNCT contributed to enhance the capacity of nineteen government officials and four youths as Climate Change Negotiators, in preparation for active engagement at COP 27. This enabled the Botswana Negotiators, with support from partners, to develop an action plan to meet the country's Nationally Determined Contribution. With UNDP support, the Ministry of Environment & Tourism (MET) hosted the 13th National Adaptation Plans Exposition in August 2022.

This promoted partnerships with the private sector, Global Environment Facility/Green Climate Fund (GEF/GCF), and civil society locally and regionally, resulting in improved access to financing to implement the National Adaptation Plan, lesson learning and experience sharing. Botswana now has better capacities to access green funding, including private sector funds, and a better understanding of how to develop its NAP.

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.

To contribute to achieving a more equitable and resilient growth model, strategic partnerships were forged with informal economy associations such as Botswana Informal Sector Association (BOISA), Thusang Basadi and Women in Business Association (WIBA), with technical assistance provided by UNDP to support them to deliver better on their mandates. Interventions included advocacy for the rights of the citizenry working in the informal economy, inclusion in decision-making, and capacity building initiatives delivered through a series of dialogues with stakeholders. These include district councils, the Botswana Local Authority Association, the taxation authority, Department for Cooperatives Development and Botswana Police Service.

Informal economy associations were also supported to better structure their operations through attending the 1st African UNDP/ILO/AU informal economy dialogue in Zimbabwe.

To contribute to the implementation of the national Informal Sector Recovery Plan (2020), 171 informal economy players were capacitated in financial literacy to enhance their knowledge of financial management and build bankable businesses. Of these, 132 were female, 69 were youth and two were people with disabilities, from five locations outside the capital (Palapye, Kasane, Maun, Molepolole and Oodi). The project to capacitate Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in identifying and developing value chains for trade and export of agricultural products and commodities was approved; its implementation will start in early 2023. This will support Botswana to deflate the food import bill and improve foreign exchange reserves through access to external markets.

Through support from UNICEF and in collaboration with Government, a national Budget Brief was produced, providing insights into social spending trends and policy considerations concerning child-focused priority spending. This contributed to identifying public finance-related challenges in social sector budgets. An analytical policy brief on the 2023/2024 Budget Strategy Paper was developed to engage and influence Government and other key stakeholders in the 2023/24 budget process and ensure the budget addresses the needs of children. To generate evidence and influence policy, UNICEF initiated a child protection budget analysis and Health Public Expenditure Review, which is to be conducted jointly with the World Bank.

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.

To improve access to justice, UNICEF supported the Government to develop standard operating procedures to contribute to child-friendly policing. In 2022 as a result, over 2,100 children who experienced sexual violence had improved access to child-friendly justice systems. In total, 25 police officers (60 percent female) from all 18 policing districts were trained in, among other matters, collecting evidence from children, child brain development, criminal responsibility of a child, and the role of social workers and health workers in justice for children. These officers will train an additional 275 police officers working with children across the country. With the support of UNICEF and funding from Government of Japan, three child-friendly police stations were set up in Shakawe, Letlhakane and Ghanzi, ensuring that children who come into contact with the law can provide evidence in safe spaces. With support of the British National Crime agency, recording equipment was provided to the Botswana Police Service. Advocacy is required to ensure that legislative changes are made so that the recordings are admissible evidence in court. These efforts are expected to contribute to increasing the number of VAC cases that are reported.

To increase Botswana's meaningful engagement on human rights, the UNCT reviewed the state-declared actions that have been taken to improve the human rights situation in Botswana and to fulfil its human rights obligations. Through support and guidance from OHCHR, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2022 was successfully completed and submitted. To improve its efficiency, resilience and accountability, the Government of Botswana through the advocacy of UNDP, agreed to undertake a comprehensive Criminal Justice Sector Institutional Review, completion of which in 2023 will contribute significantly toward improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice sector, including the piloting and eventual scaling-up of a digital court system to improved case turnaround time.

To contribute to improving the availability and use of data, UNAIDS supported Government to update the 2022 HIV estimates and present these in the Global AIDS Report and the 2022 World AIDS Day Report. Even though Botswana is on the path to reaching the 95–95–95 targets ahead of time, progress remains uneven, with current data revealing pockets of populations left behind, including men, adolescent girls and young women, and children.

The successful completion of the 2022 Population and Housing Census was facilitated through sustained advocacy efforts by UNFPA. These efforts ensured adequate planning, and integration of risk identification and mitigation into the census' preparatory phase, a factor that ensured its implementation during the COVID–19 pandemic period. The Statistician General referred to this as "the country's first Census to utilise digital technology for both cartography (mapping) and count to enhance the quality of data".



# **UNCT Inclusion of Youth**

In 2022, the UNCT in Botswana took steps towards implementing the UN Youth 2030 Strategy, resulting in an 11 percent improvement on indicators that scored yellow in 2021, and 4 percent improvement on those that scored red.



▲ First Lady Mrs. Neo Masisi attending the Youth Village, hosted by UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO and National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA). At this 2022 World Aids Day event, young people shared their experiences with the First Lady and had access to HIV/AIDS service providers. Hukuntsi village.

UNCT has strengthened the capacity of Government to design and deliver data-driven and leave- no-one-behind strategies for youth in national and sectoral plans, including providing support for the review and alignment of National Youth Policy. UNICEF supports a steering committee for the implementation of the Generation Unlimited (GenU) initiative, ongoing since 2018, which includes five youth advocates. One of the committee's tasks is to inform stakeholders working on youth (including UNICEF) how to improve programmes on skilling, employability and entrepreneurship for young people. In 2022, UNICEF appointed its first Youth Advocate.

The 2022 JWP implemented several youth inclusive activities from the Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS, with support from UNFPA, UNESCO, UNAIDS and UNICEF facilitating implementation of CSE for in-school and out-of-school youth across the country. Over 382,000 adolescents in primary and secondary schools were trained and over 1,000 young people attended weekly CSE sessions and were referred to access HIV and SRHR services. The Botswana Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted was capacitated to implement CSE for in- and out-of-school youth institutions for young people with a visual impairment. MoH was also supported to strengthen the capacity of over 100 healthcare workers in the 35 health facilities across the country offering integrated youth-friendly health services.

Throughout the reporting period, Botswana's youth were engaged in various UNCT processes, programmes and initiatives. These include the UNDP-supported National Youth Dialogues, capacity building, the Youth Innovation Challenge and Entrepreneurship Mentoring Program. Youth engagement was also facilitated in the districts through District Council Mobilisation in Serowe, Mahalapye, Molepolole and Gaborone. Following the Youth Symposium held on November 31 in Kang as a build-up activity to World AIDS Day, December 1, 2022, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO and National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) hosted a Youth Village at the 2022 World AIDS Day event at Hukuntsi village. Its major purpose was to create a platform where young people could share their experiences with the First Lady Mrs. Neo Masisi. This provided a safe space for young people to interact with HIV and AIDS service providers. Issues of concern raised were low condom distribution, lack of youth-friendly health facilities, teenage pregnancy leading to school dropouts, little or no access to HIV testing services, as well as early debut in sexual activity. UNICEF and UNESCO also supported the Ministry of Education & Skills Development (MESD) to conduct consultations among youth to ensure their voice was heard through the U-Report platform at the international Transforming Education Summit (September 2022).

UNCT Performance on Youth Inclusion KPIs over the years





Approximately 495,000 young people reached with HIV-related information and services. The establishment of the NAHPA Youth Forum is a first step towards strengthening youth-led coordination spaces for young people. It complements the adolescent and young people (AYP) engagement through the MTV Shuga programme which has reached over 16,000 AYP with content focusing on safe sex, access to reproductive health services and empowerment.

### UNCT Commitment to Gender Equality

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.

Botswana conducted a comprehensive assessment to initiate the Scorecard in 2021 and the first annual progress assessment in 2022, where six performance indicators (Pls) were reassessed: Pl 2.3 ('UNSDCF M&E measures progress against planned gender equality results'), Pl 4.1 ('UNCT leadership is committed to championing gender equality'), Pl 4.3 ('Gender parity in staffing is achieved'), Pl 5.1 ('Gender coordination mechanism is empowered to influence the UNCT for gender equality and empowerment of women'), Pl 5.2 ('UNCT has adequate capacities developed for gender mainstreaming'), and Pl 6.1 ('Adequate resources for gender mainstreaming are allocated and tracked').

The Annual Progress reassessment, conducted by an independent external consultant, showed that although the UN system had made good strides towards gender equality, these were mostly achieved by individual entities rather than by the UNCT itself.

To implement the new Cooperation Framework, in 2022 a Results Group on Gender Equality incorporated the functions of the Gender Theme Group. Co-chaired by a UN Head of Agency (UNFPA) and the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture (MYSC), it meets quarterly, with membership comprising technical staff from the UN system, various Government structures, and civil society organizations. Although this structure has contributed to improving the results-based management structure with regard to gender outcomes, it does not have gender mainstreaming responsibilities across other Results Groups, providing a challenge for the combined Gender Theme and Results groups. UNCT does not however have the capacity to create multiple structures with overlapping staff participation.

UNCTs are expected to allocate at least 70 percent of the UNCT budgetary resources to activities which have gender equality as a principal (GEM 3) or significant (GEM 2) objective. However, of the \$8,638,525 available in 2022, only \$2,761,227 (32 percent) was dedicated to reducing gender inequalities. To address this, training is planned in 2023 for Results Groups and UNINFO Focal Points, to sensitize them on the Gender Equality Marker (GEM) so that activities are framed appropriately and assessed/rated correctly.



UNCT SWAP Results for 2021 and 2022

echchat com

credit: Christina @

photo

32% UNCT Investment in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in 2022



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# Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes & outputs 2022



#### Outcome 1 Contribution to SDGs



#### Outcome 1 Key Highlights



**250,000** people reached through campaign to end violence against children.



**10** education regions implement comprehensive sexuality education.



**90,000** children and adolescents to benefit from the Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs) capacity building programme.



**45** political cadres have capacity to develop a manual for women and youth aspirants for political leadership positions.



**14 youth, 3 female** to adopt and apply acquired entrepreneurship and management skills.



**200** guidance & counselling teachers trained on the Connect with Respect Tool for school-related gender-based violence.



**25** government officials received training on gender concepts, SDGs & gender budgeting.

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.

In 2022, UNESCO supported the review of the National School Health Policy, which is now awaiting approval and signature by the principals of the MoH, MESD and local government.

An investment case towards ending Gender-Based Violence was planned for 2022; however, this has not progressed beyond development of a draft concept note and a roadmap for its implementation. This is attributable to two factors: (1) the Government's nationwide rationalisation exercise of its departments and agencies; this resulted in the relocation of the Department of Gender Affairs (the anchor department for the investment case) to MYSC, and (2) limited Government ownership and support for undertaking the investment case. Notwithstanding these challenges, UNFPA has committed to advancing advocacy in 2023 towards the 'investment case'.

FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture has developed a National Horticulture strategy. This will contribute to establishing a competitive and sustainable horticulture industry, support economic diversification to generate decent employment, and contribute to inclusive and equitable livelihoods, and food and nutrition security. The strategy was completed in December 2022 and implementation is expected to start in 2023.

#### Output 1.2. Enhanced capacities of women, especially young women, to participate equally in political and economic spheres.

With UNDP support, 45 political cadres were capacitated to develop a manual for women and youth aspirants for political leadership positions that is, as councillors and Members of Parliament. A technical reference group comprising 90 percent

women and 10 percent youth across the political spectrum, academia and civil society, provided comprehensive guidance on the manual content, which will be used to guide training sessions scheduled for 2023 targeting incumbent and aspirant women (350), youth (80) and persons with disabilities (50).



UNDP and UN Women collaborated with Government through the Department of Gender and MoF to develop a gender-responsive INFF for implementing the SDGs in Botswana. About 25 government staff, the majority of whom were women, received training in gender concepts, gender in SDGs, gender mainstreaming in national planning and budgeting, and gender in the programme/project cycle. This has improved capacity of the technical staff in the Department of Gender and MoF to engage in hands-on experience and develop their expertise in undertaking gender-responsive budgeting. Gender-responsive budgeting, along with supportive laws and other policy measures, will help Botswana track whether public funds are effectively allocated in furthering gender equality and empowering women. FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture conducted training in marketing agricultural products at Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), Gabarone (December 5–9, 2022); 28 farmers (11 women, 17 men) participated, and included 14 youth (8 female, 6 male) and three older women. Farmers have put the entrepreneurship and management skills and tools they acquired to good use, resulting in an increase to their productivity levels and market share.



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

UNESCO launched the Connect with Respect toolkit (March 9, 2022) for teachers to address school violence, including gender-based violence. The capacity of 200 guidance and counselling teachers has been strengthened to address and prevent school-related gender-based violence.

In August 2022, UNICEF re-launched the second phase of the Eseng Mo Ngwaneng national campaign to end violence against children, premised on creating a social movement towards amplifying the voices of children and promoting reporting of abuse. Since the launch of the campaign, 72 cases of abuse were reported through the helpline, Childline 116. The campaign reached over 3,500 people, including children, chiefs, religious leaders, Village Child Protection Committees, social workers, teachers, and health workers, through community dialogues in

Okavango, Northeast, and Boteti districts. It has also reached over 250,000 people with key messages through online engagement and radio. To further amplify the key messages, UNICEF established a media partnership for 2023, worth \$6,000 with leading local radio station Duma FM, and engaged local influencers to support the campaign.

In 2022, UNCT continued to implement UNICEF Botswana's ongoing capacity building programme for the country's Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs) to enhance their knowledge, skills and perceptions, and ability to effectively

identify, respond and prevent violence against children in their communities. As a result of this programme, more than 90,000 children and adolescents are expected to benefit from the efforts of VCPCs. The intervention is undertaken through a partnership with Stepping Stones International to capacitate 40 VCPCs in four districts. District leadership has been engaged in this work in Boteti and Ghanzi districts, with VCPC training ongoing in Boteti. Training has included social workers aimed at providing continuous support to VCPCs and ensuring sustainability beyond UNCT's involvement. Advocacy efforts through the E Seng Mo Ngwaneng campaign at community level in the four districts has bolstered the capacity of communities to identify VAC issues and to stimulate zeal for action to stop violence against children.

In 2022, UNFPA continued to implement high quality youth programming in the North-West and Okavango districts, focusing on in- and out-of-school CRE, and UNESCO continued to implement CRE training for both pre-and in-service teachers in all 10 of the country's education regions.



#### Outcome 2 Contribution to SDGs



#### Outcome 2 Key Highlights



**16,000** adolescent and young people reached with information on behavior access to SRH services.



**50,000** children benefit from developing learning materials in 13 local languages.



**21** parliamentarians engaged in dialogues to create enabling legal and policy environment for access to HIV and human rights services.



**57** officials from 17 of 18 health districts trained in response to persistent stockouts of SRH commodities.



**500,000** learners gain from UNICEF national remediation and enrichment program.



**70%** national COVID-19 vaccine coverage.



ART Coverage.



**170,000** secondary school students benefit from integration of digital technologies in teaching.



**128 (M); 128 (F)** refugees & asylum seekers provided monetary support for school fees and education materials.



**\$1,600,000** mobilized for implementation of 2nd phase of the Drones for Health project.

94% 88% (M); 98% (F) Adults (15+)



**38 (M); 75 (F)** refugees and asylum seekers have information on access to Primary Health Care Services. 21 males; 23 females supported to access specialized care.

By 2026, all people, particularly vulnerable and marginalized 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.

Almost 70 percent of national COVID–19 vaccine coverage was achieved in Botswana through technical support to the MoH on immunization coordination, vaccine and cold chain management. Since 2020, total immunization coverage for Botswana has been declining. To improve this, WHO collaborated with the MoH to strengthen the vaccine management program by training 35 pharmacists at the national and district level to use the Vaccines Management Training Modules. They will train 40 national and district health workers in effective vaccine management assessment at national, district and health facility levels, ensuring vaccine delivery to zero dose communities and underserved areas.

To support the equipping of the national Emergency Operations Centre, UNCT succeeded in procuring some of the required ICT/telecommunications equipment. The simulation exercise to test EOC plans and procedures was undertaken in December 2022. The guiding documents to build capacity of officers at the national and sub-national levels on the Emergency Operations Centre and Incident Management System are in place. The Centre is not fully functional as yet, due to human resource constraints.

In June 2022, WHO facilitated a coordination meeting to operationalize One Health platforms and the One Health approach, to contribute to promoting synergies in human, animal and environmental health at the national and global level, to strengthen International Health Regulations (IHR) implementation. Recommendations and next steps have been proposed.

As part of its ongoing support to Government's implementation of the IHR, and specifically to strengthen and operationalize

the National IHR Focal Point, UNCT through the support of WHO ensured the appointment of national focal points. These were included in the Event Information Site (EIS), a secure web-based platform established to facilitate the sharing of information and alerts about acute public health risks.

UNCT, supported by WHO, also ensured that the IHR State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR), required from all signatories to the IHR (2005), was completed and submitted to the World Health Assembly on time.



Output 2.2. 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.

A total of 113 refugees and asylum seekers (38 males, 75 females) at Dukwi Refugee Camp were provided with information on primary health care services, in a session focusing on referral systems, sexual reproductive health, mental health and HIV services. In addition, 44 refugees and asylum seekers (21 males, 23 females) with chronic conditions

were given specialised medical care and six refugees enrolled under home-based care. The health budget was depleted before the year end, even after two reallocations, and many patients approved by the UNHCR Regional Exceptional Medical Referral Evaluation Committee (REMREC) could not be supported.

In 2022, UNCT initiated a baseline assessment of Botswana's oxygen systems capacity (results available in the first quarter of 2023) in response to recommendations by UNICEF. Results will inform programmatic adjustments to strengthen these oxygen systems, ensuring patients have access to oxygen when required, and consolidating resilience within the respective sub- components of the health system.

Implementation of newly launched updated Clinical Management Guidelines for Neonatal Care is contributing to improved prevention of maternal and neonatal mortality. As part of a training of trainers (ToT) initiative, 30 individuals were trained in Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR). This approach will cascade trainings to the country's 17 districts. These efforts are providing health care professionals with the knowledge necessary to investigate maternal deaths and modify strategies to prevent women (and their babies) from dying during childbirth.

The MTV Shuga programme delivers differentiated models of care to adolescents living with HIV. Through it, UNICEF has reached more than 16,000 adolescents and young people (AYP) (including 56 percent adolescent girls and young women) with content on safe sexual behaviour, access to reproductive health, HIV services and empowerment opportunities, through in-school and out- of-school peer education sessions. More than 22,000 adolescent and young persons (AYPs) were reached through virtual peer education. Of those reached through in-person peer education, 59 percent expressed positive attitudes towards gender equitable norms; however, these increase girls' exposure to new infections. Due to this initiative, coverage improved to 79 percent. After peer education sessions (January–October 2022), 86 percent of AYPs knew how to report sexual violence.

MTV Shuga is gradually being taken over (including financially), through social contracting with civil society organisations, by Government, which has been committed to the programme and involved in its conceptualization and implementation since 2018. It is currently being implemented in more than 10 districts (in addition to the initial four supported by UNICEF) and will be evaluated in 2023 to inform the transition towards full government ownership. An evaluation is also ongoing on of the programme and its achievements in delivering differentiated models of care to adolescents living with HIV. Both evaluations will inform programme replication and scale-up.

In September, the Male Engagement in HIV Testing, Treatment and Prevention in Eastern and Southern Africa framework was launched, providing a foundation for Botswana to achieve the globally agreed goals stipulated in the Global Aids Strategy 2021–2026. The UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and Botswana, in collaboration with National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA), supported local NGO Men and Boys for Gender Equality (MGBE) to launch the framework in Botswana. The attendance of Minister of State President, Hon. Mr. Kabo N. S. Morwaeng, Dikgosi (chiefs) and faith leaders indicated strong government and public support for the initiative. Government support was also demonstrated for the Brothers Arise #Nanogang campaign, which promotes HIV testing, treatment and prevention for men and boys. The Hon. Minister of Health Dr. Edwin Dikoloti through the support of UNAIDS, and in partnership with MBGE, convened the first Pitso ya Borre ('men's engagement meeting') (October 29, 2022). The MoH and partners also provided health screening services.

In 2022, training was implemented for 136 health workers from nine districts which have high prevalence rates of stunting. Treatment outcomes for children aged under five suffering from malnutrition will improve through the increased capacity of these health workers to treat malnutrition. The training was part of UNICEF support to the MoH to scale up the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition program, to increase capacity for prevention, identification and management of child malnutrition through procurement of supplies and the development of training materials and tools.

During the reporting period, UNICEF supported Government by conducting a Comprehensive Points of Care Landscape Assessment. This will inform possible rollout of innovative approaches to strengthen and improve early infant diagnosis of the approximate 250 infants born with HIV annually, and diagnosis of the maternal viral load of HIV-positive women giving birth. In 2023, UNICEF will continue to support the Government's efforts on elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in line with the assessment's recommendations, and keep strengthening Government's coordination and implementation capacity.

In December 2021, WHO's Global Validation Advisory Committee (GVAC) certified Botswana's achievement of the Silver Tier of the 'Path to Elimination' of HIV. As part of the validation process, GVAC made several recommendations, specifically, that in October 2022, the Government develop and submit a national plan to address its recommendations on human rights, gender equality, and community engagement. UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF, as part of a wider prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV Technical Working Group (TWG), supported the process to successfully meet this timeline.

In May 2022, to advance SRHR for populations left behind, UNCT worked through UNFPA in collaboration with Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum and successfully convened a two-day high-level dialogue with Government to discuss SRHR specifically for persons with disabilities and key populations (sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender people). With over 50 participants, the dialogue included 21 parliamentarians – one-third of all MPs – and focused on the latters' role as





powerful change agents for development. The dialogue also accorded civil society organisations an opportunity to provide a status update on interventions supporting the SRHR of people with disabilities/key populations, and identified clear key actions required by parliamentarians to support SRHR for those left behind. Next steps include providing technical assistance to the parliamentary committees to implement actions and facilitating tabling of SRHR motions in parliament.

UNFPA provided also provided technical support to Women Against Rape, a local NGO based in North-West District, to provide CRE to adolescents and youth within the North-West and Okavango districts, where it also supported the training of 104 health care workers in delivery of Youth Friendly Health Services.

In collaboration with the South African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and UNCT, UNFPA successfully convened a high-level dialogue with parliamentarians on advancing SRHR for populations left behind, specifically persons with disabilities and key populations (sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender persons). One-third of all MPs (21 parliamentarians) participated in the dialogue, in which civil society organisations provided an update on interventions supporting the SRHR of people with disabilities. The dialogue identified key actions for parliamentarians to support SRHR for populations left behind.

A successful joint monitoring visit was undertaken to North-West district where Women Against Rape (WAR) is implementing CSE for in-school and out-of-school youth, and the youth programme is supporting delivery of youth-friendly health services. Senior managers from the Ministries of Health and Education, together with UNFPA, participated in the visit, with key stakeholders implementing the programmes at district level providing insights on progress.

In strengthening national capacities to provide equitable access to high-quality, rights-based integrated SRHR, HIV and SGBV information and services, UNFPA supported MoH to revise the 2011 national Protocol and Service Standards for prevention and management of SGBV. This document will support healthcare workers to identify, manage and refer victims and survivors of SGBV appropriately. UNCT will undertake targeted advocacy to ensure that the revised Protocol and Service Standards are used immediately to provide quality integrated prevention and management of SGBV within the health sector and across relevant linkages to the social and justice sectors.

UNFPA also collaborated with MoH and Central Medical Stores to train 57 senior officials from across 17 of the 18 health districts in supply chain management as a response to the persistent stock-outs of reproductive health commodities in the country. Follow-up training is planned to close some of the gaps identified during the training. Also, the National Comprehensive Condom Programming Strategy was finalised for dissemination in 2023. With support from People's Republic of China, procurement of reproductive health commodities was completed, with 4,500 packs of emergency contraceptives and 11,664 packs of contraceptive pills delivered to MoH. Distribution of commodities across the country commenced immediately with stock reports indicating that emergency contraceptives were quickly depleted following the training of national partners on supply chain management.

In accord with the UNFPA 2022 State of World Population (SWP) report ("Seeing the unseen: the case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy"), a high-level dissemination event for this and the Botswana investment case on ending the unmet need for family planning was successfully conducted under "Accelerating Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Financing to End Pregnancies". Unintended The event targeted parliamentarians, ministers and senior government officials, and underscored increased financing as one of the response pillars for addressing the burden of early and unintended pregnancies in Botswana. An action plan to operationalise the findings, and a cost benefit analysis for advancing family planning interventions in Botswana, have been commissioned. By the end of 2022, these were at an advanced stage of development, with a draft plan waiting validation.

To support implementation of Phase II of the Drones for Health project, UNFPA sustained advocacy and generated evidence to support decision-making, resulting in MoH mobilising \$1.6 million to implement the phase, while UNCT sustained its technical assistance to the Ministry's Thematic Working Groups (TWGs). The project aims to improve healthcare delivery, including addressing one of the top causes of maternal mortality by delivering life-saving commodities and supplies timely to and from hard-to-reach communities. Preparations for implementation have been instituted in Okavango district, prioritised due to its geographical makeup which makes accessibility to health services challenging. Key milestones achieved up to 2022 include the Okavango site assessment, capacity building for the TWGs, a benchmarking mission to Kigali, and generation of a draft business model for the project.

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To amplify lessons learnt from the scale-up of SRHR, HIV and SGBV integrated service delivery in Botswana, various knowledge management products were developed and disseminated to a broad-based range of stakeholders. These include a case study on Botswana's transition from pilot to scale, and accomplishments related to the integration of SRHR, HIV, SGBV and other services in 13 health districts. The case study provides practical examples of integration in action, including lessons learnt, and benefits for clients that can be amplified nationally and at the regional level.

UNCT supported MoH through UNFPA to update SRHR, HIV and SGBV data by assessing the extent of SRHR, HIV and SGBV in 13 districts, using the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP). This mixed methods approach examined (1) the extent of integration of MISP, (2) enabling factors for the integration of services, (3) nationwide scale-up approaches, and (4) recommendations for addressing the identified challenges and gaps. The level of integration was estimated at 46 percent for the first quarters of 2020 and 2021. Across the 13 districts, hospitals generally showed higher levels of integration followed by health posts.

The intervention provided monitoring and evaluation technical assistance by engaging a local consultant to work directly with MoH leads and focal points to strengthen M&E systems.

UNCT also facilitated completion of a qualitative assessment of the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on the availability on continuity of SRHR information and services in selected districts. To address quality gaps in SRHR (including post-abortion care, family planning, and HIV and SGBV service integration), UNFPA collaborated with WHO to develop three policy briefs. These explore gaps and opportunities for improving the uptake of contraceptives, reducing unintended pregnancies and the need for a multifaceted approach to prevent unsafe abortion as a means to reducing maternal mortality. They are expected to augment multisectoral advocacy efforts to protect and advance SRHR in Botswana.

A roadmap for addressing Human Rights section was devised and submitted to the Global Validation Committee (GVC), and a PMTCT Thematic Working Group was set up to oversee some of the recommendations. The finalisation and dissemination of the reviewed HIV Treatment Guidelines was co-supported by UNAIDS and WHO. An assessment of the functionality of district health systems was started through WHO, and data collection and upload is ongoing. African Vaccination Week and Child Health Days were conducted by WHO (May and November). Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS) was conducted in all low-performing districts through the support of recruited polio surveillance officers and engagement of an IQVIA consultant supported by WHO.

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

During the reporting period, UNCT provided 256 (128 males and 128 females) refugees and asylum seekers, registered for both primary and secondary education, with monetary support for school fees and other educational needs/materials.

In collaboration with MoH, MESD and MYSC, UNFPA and UNESCO supported a high-level stakeholders' platform (September 12–15, 2022) to operationalize the 2030 ESA Ministerial Commitment, following its endorsement by Government in 2021. Stakeholders evaluated the 2020 ESA Commitment (2013–2020) and developed a national operational plan for the 2030 ESA Commitment, expected to be reviewed and endorsed by Permanent Secretaries from the three leading ministries before the end of 2022. Implementation of the operational plan is expected to commence in 2023.

In partnership with Women Enabled International (WEI), the programme piloted a global curriculum on SRHR and SGBV for women and young persons with disabilities. Two training sessions, virtual and in-person, were completed successfully and acted as a springboard to build expertise. The curriculum is expected to be rolled out globally in 2023. A successful joint monitoring visit was undertaken to North-West district where Women Against Rape (WAR) is implementing CSE for in-school and out-of-school youth, and the youth programme is supporting delivery of youth-friendly health services. Senior managers from the Ministries of Health and Education together with UNFPA participated in the visit, with key stakeholders implementing the programmes at district level providing insights on progress. Key actions agreed were (1) to convene a dialogue with relevant stakeholders on best approaches for elimination of harmful cultural practices such as child marriage, and (2) for UNFPA, MoH and MESD to develop a sustainability plan for the SYP programme.

UNFPA also supported Botswana Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted (BAPS) to implement CSE for in-school and out-of-school institutions for young people with visual impairments; this is also underway in four educational institutions for young people with disabilities, in Kgatleng district and Francistown. In 2022, a monitoring visit was undertaken to two of these institutions, where trained volunteers deliver CSE in weekly sessions attracting over 60 students. Also, through the work of UNESCO, CSE content was integrated into the primary and secondary school curricula, using the comprehensive International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education.

During the reporting period, UNICEF's efforts focused on evidence generation and systems strengthening to support Government capacity to implement learning solutions, bridge the gap from learning to earning, and leverage digital transformation processes for improved outcomes for learners. Under the guidance of the National Steering Committee for the Generation Unlimited (GenU) initiative, UNICEF commissioned a landscape analysis which assessed existing opportunities available to young people aged 15–24 in entrepreneurship, skilling and digital engagement, as well as mapping the stakeholder landscape and proposing a portfolio scalable solution. The findings will serve as key reference points for the community of stakeholders on the committee representing the public and private sectors, civil society and youth-led organisations, as it moves to operationalise Gen U.

UNICEF initiated the development of the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), aimed at ensuring that over 100,000 children in Botswana benefit from quality ECE services. The main aim of ELDS and school readiness is to produce a common reference framework for all early childhood and preschool services, and to ensure that educationalists and family approach the child from a holistic perspective. This document will be used to assess the quality of ECE provision in public and private schools and education centres. UNICEF supported Government's efforts to increase access to Early Childhood Education (ECE) through the development of the ECD public–private partnerships model (PPPM), expected to improve access for the more than 70 percent of children aged 36 to 59 months not engaged in formal learning programmes. The ECD PPPM and framework has provided alternative ways for increased access to ECE, especially among marginalised communities, and an operational structure for engaging private sector partners to enhance equitable access, affordability and improved quality of ECE. The proposed model is viewed as mutually beneficial to both the public and private sector by pooling financial resources, knowhow and expertise in order to improve access to and quality of ECD and thus better school readiness and improved educational outcomes.

In 2022, UNICEF supported the enrolment and training of ten Special Education Officers in the online learning programme, Foundations of Disability-Inclusive Education Sector Planning, delivered in partnership with UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning. This will benefit children with disabilities in Botswana to access education.

Through UNICEF's support, the MESD developed learning materials in 13 local languages. From January 2023, these will be used as a medium of instruction for learners in grades 1 to 4 (ages 6 to 9) and are expected to improve access to and inclusivity of education for over 50,000 children, by contributing to ensuring that children from those communities using minority languages, some of them marginalized, overcome language barriers impacting on learning outcomes and the acquisition of foundational skills.

This year, UNICEF also supported Government's implementation of the National Remediation and Enrichment Programme, aimed to improve learning outcomes of over 500,000 learners. In 2022 the programme tools were pretested in 50 schools with capacity building of teachers and principals education officers.

Over 170,000 secondary school students in Botswana will actively participate in knowledge building facilitated by the National Strategy for Integration of ICT in Teaching and Learning, supported by UNICEF to accelerate integration of digital technologies into teaching and learning for inclusive, equitable and quality education. This will play a pivotal role in engaging learners to actively participate in knowledgebuilding as full-fledged members of society and global citizens and is now being implemented with Phase I prioritising secondary schools and schools with special education units for the visually impaired children and young people.

Global Standards for Health-Promoting Schools is being piloted in three schools through the support of implementing partners who report to tripartite ministries and technical working group.





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

Through UNICEF, cash assistance was provided to vulnerable families to address their various household needs. Seven refugee/asylum seeker families staying in urban areas of Gaborone and Francistown for medical reasons were supported with money for food and utilities, with the children of the families assisted with transport costs to and from school. A total of 244 patients (120 females, 124 males) from Dukwi Refugee Camp were assisted with transport costs to access secondary and tertiary treatment in urban areas. Overall, a total of 288 individuals were assisted with cash assistance during the reporting period.

Business training and start-up kits were provided to 25 refugees/asylum seekers (11 women, 14 men) aged 23–44 to enhance their self-reliance, and five young people (2 females, 3 males) aged 17–29 were assisted with business start-up kits. The start-up kit for each beneficiary was worth BWP 5000. They were also trained in business management skills, including marketing and record-keeping. The grant enabled the young people to start businesses, such as cell phone repair, household utensils and haberdashery shops. A monitoring exercise conducted indicated that, the individuals supported with business grants have reported increased income as result of the support extended.

During the reporting period, 17 unaccompanied and separated children (six girls, 11 boys) were supported with psychosocial support through monthly home visits, and received refresher awareness training on children's rights, as enshrined in the Children's Act 2009.

## Outcome 3 Contribution to SDGs







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### Outcome 3 Key Highlights



**771** refugees and asylum seekers at Dukwi refugee camps were provided monthly food assistance through UNHCR support.



Apiculture & Aquaculture value chains developed to create jobs for youth and women farmer enterprises in rural areas.



**19** government officials and four youth had their capacities enhanced as Climate Change Negotiators in preparation for COP27.



**13th** National Adaptation Plans Exposition hosted to promote partnerships with the private sector to access green funding.



**Sustainable Natural Resources** marginalized community in the Okavango District supported to utilize natural resources and practice alternative livelihoods through Mongongo oil.

## **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.

Through UNHCR support, monthly food assistance was provided to 771 refugees and asylum seekers at Dukwi refugee camp to boost their food security and nutritional needs.

FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture developed a Post-Harvest Handling project document. Project funding has been approved and implementation will commence at the start of 2023. The intervention is anticipated to facilitate farmers to reduce food/production losses, contributing to ensured food security.

FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture also collaborated to develop apiculture and aquaculture value chains to facilitate understanding of/how to address the main constraints and challenges in value chains in order to improve the planning and management of the two sub-sectors. The value chains are currently under implementation, and when fully operational will support diversifying the economy, job creation, and ensuring food security.

FAO also supported the Ministry of Agriculture to control locust outbreaks. This resulted in improved food production and nutrition security of vulnerable households and communities in affected areas, contributing to improved food security and eliminating hunger, and contributing to addressing climate change vulnerability.

In collaboration with the MoH, FAO developed National Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for Botswana. These will contribute to improving diets among individuals and households in Botswana to reduce malnutrition. During the process, FAO provided technical expertise. When implemented, it is expected that the guidelines will contribute to the country moving a step closer to having a healthy population and reducing chronic diseases.





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

Through UNDP support, marginalized communities in the Okavango District, particularly Shakawe village, now have the capacity to utilize natural resources to practice alternative livelihoods. One example is Mongongo household oil that is being produced and sold for profit. Capacity building initiatives like these render the 'leaving no one behind' vision attainable.

In 2022, Botswana benefited from the targeted support provided by UNEP to produce a National Environment Summary (NES) and SDG profiles. These were utilized as part of a workshop and hands-on training for focal points of the National Environment Information Network (NEIN) (Cairo, Egypt, May 16–17, 2022) on the use of a web-based tool being developed to enhance national and regional environmental information and knowledge management in the Africa region. An online platform for air quality data and information management whose development is at the final phases, was reviewed with key regional partners and stakeholders (May 18, 2022) and outcomes of the deliberations used to inform its finalization. Discussions are ongoing regarding UNCT support for development of environmental reports for Gabon, Senegal, Botswana and Uganda.

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FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism conducted a land degradation assessment for the entire country and a land degradation map was developed. A land degradation monitoring system was also developed and is became functional in 2022. Land degradation neutrality targets for Botswana were set and the Land degradation Status Report for 2022 has been produced. All these deliverables provide the necessary foundation to support the restoration of degraded land beyond the forestry sector, with the monitoring systems providing information on other land-based sectors such as agriculture, water, soil, tenure, livestock and biodiversity, and others. All are meant to improve land productivity, and sustainable land use to realise food security.

#### ▶ 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.

In 2022, UNCT ensured enhanced capacity for 19 Government officials and four young Climate Change Negotiators (aged 15-24) in preparation for their active engagement at COP27, enabling them, with support from partners, to develop an action plan to meet the country's Nationally Determined Contribution to tackling climate change. UNCT also contributed to global discussion on just and fair mechanisms for climate action and financing for developing countries. With support from UNDP, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism hosted the 13th National Adaptation Plans Exposition, promoting partnerships with the private sector, Global Environment Facility/Green Climate Fund, in August 2022 and civil society locally and regionally, to improve access to finance for NAPs implementation, lesson learning, and experience sharing. Botswana now has better capacities to access green funding including private sector funds, better understanding of developing NAP, and shared experiences from implementing adaptation projects.

Pierre Boileau, Head of the Global Environment Outlook programme at UN Environment, was invited by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to participate in a workshop exploring sustainable development challenges and opportunities in Anglophone Africa. The discussions and outcome of the meeting will serve as inputs to the 2023 United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) which will inform the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Successful outreach events including virtual events, were held and organised in different regions for example Africa, there was a Workshop and Hands-on Training for Content Development of National Environmental Summaries (NES) and Country SDG Profiles using GEO Methodology. Botswana is an active participant in all these initiatives.





The annual UNEP Emissions Gap Report continued to provide useful information for governments globally. In 2022, UNEP's two Institutional Series on climate science were released ahead of the 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the UNFCCC, to inform negotiations. For the first time, the reports were cited in the COP cover decision, the Sharm el-Sheikh (unfccc.int/ Implementation Plan documents/624444) adopted by Member States. On November 14, 2022, World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP), comprising seven UN agencies, launched the Science for Adaptation Policy Brief on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) at COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh to discuss the GGA's status, and country-driven approaches building on existing tools and reports to operationalize the GGA.

In 2020–21, FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture implemented climate-smart agriculture technologies as part of the "International Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture" project, in Gantsi, Boteti, and

Bobirwa to support farmers to cope with the adverse effects of climatic change. Farmers have adopted the technologies and the adoption rate assessment is ongoing. The socio-economic impact of the project resulted in improved livelihoods of the beneficiaries. Capacity building in the community raised awareness on climate-smart agriculture technologies and beneficiaries adopted the technologies subsequently improving productivity.

# Outcome 4 Contribution to SDGs





() U N D P

### Outcome 4 Key Highlights



**5** dialogues conducted in 5 districts, 2 horticulture trainings on horticulture in 2 districts.



**518** informal economy participants attended the horticulture dialogues and trainings collectively.



**132 (F); 39 (M)** informal economy players have capacity in financial literacy to enhance their knowledge on financial management and build bankable businesses.



 $15\,$  other local authorities anticipated to replicate the informal sector strategy pilot for inclusive decision making that the Francistown City Council developed through UNDP support.



## **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 4.3. 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.

In 2022, UNDP has forged strategic partnerships with informal economy associations including Botswana Informal Sector Association (BOISA), women's finance house NGO Thusang Basadi, and Women in Business Association (WIBA), facilitating technical support to these organizations to enable them to better deliver on their mandates. Interventions which UNDP has supported so far include advocacy for the rights of workers in the informal economy, inclusion in decision-making, and providing capacity building initiatives through a series of dialogues with stakeholders, including district councils, local authority associations, the taxation authority, Department of Cooperatives and Botswana Police Service. Key milestones achieved were five dialogues conducted in five districts and two horticulture trainings delivered in two districts. A total of 518 members of the informal economy participated in the dialogues, which covered the tourism, services, manufacturing, retail and agriculture sectors. A follow-up review will be conducted in 2023.

As a pilot and model to be replicated across 15 other local authorities within the country, Francistown City Council developed an informal sector strategy through the support of UNDP, with implementation to start in 2023. UNCT also supported stakeholders to attend the first policy dialogue, "Informal Economy in Africa: Which Way Forward" hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC), UNDP and ILO (May 10–11, 2022), which supported the associations to structure their operations and opening up to them a wider African network. Contributing to this output, UNDP's on-going partnership with BALA has resulted in more meaningful engagements between local authorities and the informal economy operators.

The Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), established by Government to provide financial and technical support for business development, now has the capacity to monitor the financed projects, and to assess their performance and overall impact on Botswana's national priorities. Through this systematic and centralized monitoring and evaluation system, CEDA is now able to track its impact. Most businesses benefiting from CEDA financing are SMEs and informal businesses, owned mostly by women.

In 2022, UNCT through UNDP capacitated 171 informal economy actors (132 female, 41 male, 69 youth, two with disabilities) in financial literacy, to enhance their knowledge of financial management and how to build bankable businesses. Training was held in five locations outside the main cities in Botswana: Palapye, Kasane, Maun, Molepolole and Oodi.

The project to capacitate MDAs on value chains for trade and export of agricultural products and commodities has been approved and its implementation will commence at the beginning of 2023. This project will support the country to deflate the food import bill and to improve foreign exchange through access to external markets.

### Outcome 5 **Contribution to SDGs**



## Outcome 5 Key Highlights



**2,100** children who have experienced sexual violence will have improved access to child-friendly justice systems.



25 police officers (60% female) from all 18 policing districts have been trained on collecting evidence from children, child brain development, criminal responsibility of a child, the role of social workers and health workers in justice for children, etc.



**4th UPR** Cycle on Human Rights successfully prepared and submitted by UNCT.



**270** participated in evaluation of the 2022 National Population & Housing Census.



**95–95–95** HIV targets are on track to being achieved ahead of 2025 by Botswana. Estimated 18.56% HIV prevalence for adult population.

## **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.

OHCHR provided technical support to Government regarding its withdrawal of its reservation to Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, after six years of engagement with authorities, with effect from June 30, 2022.

Over 2,100 children who have experienced sexual violence will have improved access to child- friendly justice systems as a result of UNICEF's support to Government to develop standard operating procedures for child-friendly policing. In 2022, 25 police officers (60% female) from all 17 policing districts were trained in collecting evidence from children, child brain development, the criminal responsibility of a child, and the role of social workers and health workers in ensuring justice for children) and will now train 275 police officers across the country working with children. Furthermore, with the support of UNICEF and funding from the Government of Japan, three child-friendly police offices have been established in Shakawe, Letlhakane and Ghanzi, ensuring that children in contact with the law can provide evidence in safe and supportive spaces. With support of the British National Crime agency, recording equipment was provided to the Botswana Police Service; advocacy is required to ensure that legislative changes are made so that recordings are admissible in court. These efforts will contribute to increasing the number of VAC cases that are reported.

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

OHCHR Regional Office of Southern Africa (OHCHR ROSA) provided technical support and guidance to the UNCT in Botswana to prepare and submits its report as part of its engagement in the UPR Fourth Cycle process.

In 2022, UNCT worked with Government to secure consensus

and ministry support for the comprehensive Criminal Justice Sector Institutional Review, due for completion in 2023. The Review will contribute to improving significantly the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice Sector, including the piloting and eventual scaling up of digital court system for improved case turnaround time.

In collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in 2022 and in consultation with local stakeholders, an e-course was developed to increase knowledge and awareness among stakeholders in Botswana of human rights and the SDGs, the role of key stakeholders (including the United Nations, Government agencies, the private sector and civil society), institutional arrangements, and key issues. The course is expected to contribute to identifying synergies between human rights and the SDGs in implementation roles and responsibilities, to increase achievements in regard to both human rights and SDG targets, and to strengthen institutional arrangements and processes.

OHCHR ROSA continue to engage with the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) to promote the preparation of reports to treaty bodies. The State response to list of issues prior to report on the Convention against Torture was recently submitted to the relevant committee. OHCHR ROSA also provided technical guidance to the NMRF in Botswana with its preparation of its next periodic report on the CRC, using the simplified reporting procedure.

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

Support to this output was not provided in 2022. Both datasets, the fifth Botswana AIDS Impact Survey and the population housing census are not yet available for secondary analysis.



In 2022, UNCT collaborated with Government counterparts to produce a national Budget Brief, through support from UNICEF. The Brief provided insights into social spending trends and policy considerations related to child-focused priority spending, as well as contributing to identifying public finance management-related challenges in social sector budgets. In addition, an analytical policy brief on the 2023/24 Budget Strategy Paper was developed to engage and influence Government and other key stakeholders in the 2023/24 budget process to ensure the budget addresses the needs of children. To generate evidence and influence policy, UNICEF initiated a Child Protection Budget Brief, and a Health Public Expenditure Review which is to be conducted jointly with the World Bank.

Since 2010, the Government of Botwana has facilitated pitsos (opinion-gathering meetings) to enhance participation of the public - including the Children's Forum, civil society organisations and the general citizenry - in the budget process. In 2022, with UNICEF technical and financial support, UNCT developed draft Public Participation Guidelines for stakeholder consultation. UNICEF also collaborated with the Botswana Centre for Integrity on Budget Transparency to train young people, children's representatives and civil society organisations from across the country on the role of young people in national budget processes and the importance of transparency. UNICEF advocacy also resulted in the MoF using social media platforms to establish public consultative windows. In 2022, the Government developed and adopted an Action Plan for Budget Transparency Reform, again developed with UNICEF's technical support and institutionalising budget transparency. Government also established a Technical Working Group, comprising representatives of the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, to coordinate budget transparency reforms.

School and community profiles were developed and piloted in Gantsi and Chobe regions to improve the use of data for planning and decision-making. Malnutrition estimates were updated through the analysis of the national household survey to contribute to updating SDG monitoring. In 2022, UNICEF supported the MoH to conduct a Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition Analysis. The purpose of the analysis was to assess the availability, access to and fit-for-purpose of adolescent sexual reproductive health information and to determine the magnitude of the child and adolescent overweight and obesity challenge in Botswana. The assessment enabled the determination by Government of priority interventions as well as strategic entry points to address the challenges.

The 2022 HIV and AIDS estimates were updated and published in the Global AIDS Report and 2022 World AIDS day Report. The data identified inequalities and disparities, and even though Botswana is on the path to reaching the 95–95–95 targets ahead of time, this positive achievement has a tendency to mask populations left behind and in hard-to-reach areas, including men, adolescent girls and young women, and children.

To address the lack of nationally representative data needed to enable the country to monitor progress towards some SDGs, UNFPA, as lead partner to the National Statistics Office, provided technical support for implementation of the 2022 Population and Housing Census in March 2022 following a few COVID-19-related postponements. Specifically, UNFPA sustained advocacy efforts to ensure adequate planning and integration of risk identification and mitigation into the preparatory phase of data collection, facilitating implementation of the census despite the pandemic. It also supported the National Statistics Office to conduct evaluation consultations on the 2022 Population and Housing Census. These workshops brought together an estimated 270 key census personnel and were imperative for two main reasons: (1) this was Botswana's first- ever fully digitised census, involving a major learning curve offering major opportunities and challenges for the country, and (2) the COVID-19 pandemic required numerous precautionary measures to be enforced during the preparatory/enumeration phases of the census which needed to be assessed.



## Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2022, the UN development system in Botswana forged innovative partnerships to contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda. A Joint SDG Fund, contributed to by UNDP, UNCEF, UNFPA and UN Women and coordinated by UNRCO, collaborated to support the Government of Botswana to design and implement an INFF that will provide solutions to strengthen the development financing system of Botswana. Botswana was represented by UN RCO, UNDP, UNICEF, Government and civil society organizations at the INFF Conference.

This was held to discuss challenges and opportunities to address widening financing gaps as countries build back from the impact of COVID–19 in a transparent and participatory manner. It also shared ongoing experiences in drafting financing strategies, setting up SDG financing dialogues and implementing open budget reforms. The conference was a key step in ensuring that the INFF becomes the financing strategy for NDP 12, scheduled for development in 2023. During the reporting period, the Government of Botswana conducted the SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR), which was published and launched at the UN High-Level Political Forum. Follow- up activities are being rolled out as planned. The VNR shared several successes. Government has successfully integrated the SDGs into Botswana's mediumand long-term national development frameworks. Nine ministries piloted the SDG planning guidelines (which serve as a tool for mainstreaming SDG indicators into the country's development frameworks), resulting in several of the indicators moving from easily feasible to the measurable category.

Following its establishment of the National Steering Committee and the SDG Technical Task Force, in 2022, Government also set up a Parliament Special Committee on SDGs to ensure sufficient resourcing and accountability for delivering the SDGs. A gender-responsive and climate-smart SDG financing strategy is being developed. The process adopted several good practices including zero-based budgeting, results-based budgeting and the Integrated National Financing Framework.



## Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization



From the \$10,494,290 required to implement the initiatives planned for 2022, \$8,638,525 was available, providing a funding gap of \$1,855,765 (18%). The Botswana UNCT Resource Mobilization Strategy is currently in development and there is a clear need to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new and innovative ones.

Outcomes 2 and 3 had the most funds (at \$4,642,146 and \$1,908,529 respectively) and the highest burn rates (70% and 78%, respectively), with an expenditure in 2022 of \$3,251,017. Outcome 4 had the lowest funding (\$612,000) and the lowest burn rate (46%). There was an overall burn rate of 69% (\$5,942,476). The Government of Botswana underwent a restructuring this year during the rationalization exercise, which delayed implementation and prioritization of some planned initiatives.

Most of the resources in 2022 were allocated to SDG 3 ("Good Health and Wellbeing") and mainly contributed to by UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, Embassy of Japan, Rotary International, CDC and USAID.

SDG 7 ("Affordable Clean Energy") and SDG 9 ("Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure") had no funds in 2022 but were supported through non-monetary initiatives. There is an opportunity for partners to consider funding work towards achieving these SDGs in order for Botswana to implement successfully the Cooperation Framework in 2026 and the 2030 Agenda. For these to be achieved, the UNCT is continuing to maintain its awareness of the challenges of raising resources in an upper middle-income country such as Botswana.

#### Distribution of the 2022 available funds, \$8,638,525 per SDG



## **UNCT Key Focus for 2023**

#### Joint Resource Mobilization

The 2022 Funding Framework showed an 18 percent funding gap and 69 percent burn rate. The UNCT, in collaboration with Government and their partners, are in the process of mapping the UNSDCF multi-year annual funding framework (MYFF). The information in the MYFF will be used as a basis to formulate the Resources Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy, to provide a common understanding and a strategic framework for the UNCT on partnerships, resource mobilisation and development financing.

#### Joint Communication Strategy

The UNCG will develop a communications and advocacy strategy within which it will support the UNCT in the promotion of the 2030 Agenda and advance the goals of the new strategic document, that is, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) signed off by both the Government of Botswana and the United Nations.

#### **UNCT Joint Programming**

The UNCT is looking forward to at least two Joint Programmes on Gender Based Violence and Social Protection. As these will contribute mainly to Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 of the Framework, it is anticipated that these will be managed by existing Cooperation Framework structures which ensure efficiency in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting using the new Joint Programmes Guidelines.

Enforcing Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) The UNCT has engaged a consultant to conduct the PSEA risk assessment and an induction briefing on conduct and discipline issues, including sexual exploitation and abuse for staff and implementing partners, in line with implementing the PSEA Guidelines.

### Taking the Cooperation Framework (2022–2026) to the communities

In 2022 UNCT established the structures to oversee implementation and tracking progress of the UNSDCF 2022–2026, signed by the Government of Botswana and the UN System in Botswana in 2021. In 2023, the Government will disseminate the Framework at community level to inform communities of the work the UN does in Botswana and opportunities for stakeholders to contribute.



#### 2022 Funding (\$8,638,525) and Expenditure (\$5,942,476) by UN Agency

#### List of Acronyms

AGYW	Adolescent Girls & Young Women	NDP	National Development Plan
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
BB	Business Botswana	NHL	National Health Laboratory
BCM	Botswana Chamber of Mines	NPC	National Planning Commission
BDIH	Botswana Digital & Innovation Hub	OMT	Operations Management Team
BITC	Botswana Investment & Trade Centre	PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse
BNPC	Botswana National Productivity Centre	PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	SB	Statistics Botswana
CCA	Common Country Analysis	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
CEDA	Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency	SRHR	Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights
CF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation	SWAP	System-Wide Action Plan
	Framework	UB	University of Botswana
DCEC	Directorate on Corruption & Economic Crime	UBRAF	UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results & Accountability
GBV	Gender-Based Violence		Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UN	United Nations
GEWE	Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment	UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
GOB	Government of Botswana	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
IAR	Intra-Action Review	VAC	Violence Against Children
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex & Queer or	VNR	SDG Voluntary National Review
	questioning	WAR	Women Against Rape
MSP	Ministry of State President		
MOJ	Ministry of Justice		
MDS	Ministry of Defence & Security		
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture		

MLGRD Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development

MCKT Ministry of Communications, Knowledge & Technology

MESD	Ministry of Education & Skills Development
MOHW	Ministry of Health
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MEE	Ministry of Minerals & Energy
MTI	Ministry of Trade & Industry
MYSC	Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports & Culture
MET	Ministry of Environment & Tourism
MLWA	Ministry of Lands & Water Affairs
MoTC	Ministry of Transport & Public Works
MLHA	Ministry of Labour & Home Affairs
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning
NAHPA	National AIDS & Health Promotions Agency
NASA	National AIDS Spending Assessment

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT G ALS



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