

TSA BATHO NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Assistant Representative	1
Demographic Transition has happened in Botswana	2
High Level Event on Demographic Dividend	3
How fathers change lives for the better	5
Passing the baton: Women's Intergenerational Dialogue	8
Every Woman Every Child is Me	9
Botswana moves up in global gender report rankings	11



Message from the Assistant Representative

The second quarter of the year has been a busy period not only for us in the country, but also globally as United Nations continued to negotiate the next Development Agenda and the concept of the demographic dividend. The Demographic Dividend agenda remained the most top priority for UNFPA.

As a testimony to our focus on prioritizing our young people, the President of the UN General Assembly convened a High-level Event on the Demographic Dividend and Youth employment on 1 June 2015. This was collaboration with UNFPA, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi.

The Event provided an opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to consider practical ways the international community can work with Governments in countries with a large youth population to enable the necessary investments needed to reap the demographic dividend. These practical ways include through employment opportunities and decent work. The UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki Moon at the High Level Event on Demographic Dividend reminded leaders and dignitaries that, “when we give young people decent jobs, political weight, negotiating muscle and real influence in our world, they will create a better future”.

I hope you find the status of Botswana on the Demographic Dividend insightful. Also, during the quarter, we witnessed the launch of the State of the World's Fathers report, which is the world's first report to provide a global view of the state of men's contributions to parenting and caregiving.

The report defines a global agenda for involving men and boys as part of the solution to achieve gender equality and positive outcomes in the lives of women, children, and men themselves. The report comes at a time when our own MenCare programme with Stepping Stones International is gaining ground in the country. The programme is aimed at mobilizing the community to increase equitable parenting and create awareness about Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), gender equality and gender-based violence. The MenCare programme is already in five villages around the country.

I trust you will enjoy reading this issue.

Mareledi Segotso

‘The Demographic Transition has happened in Botswana’



Assistant Representative Ms. Mareledi Segotso delivering the opening statement

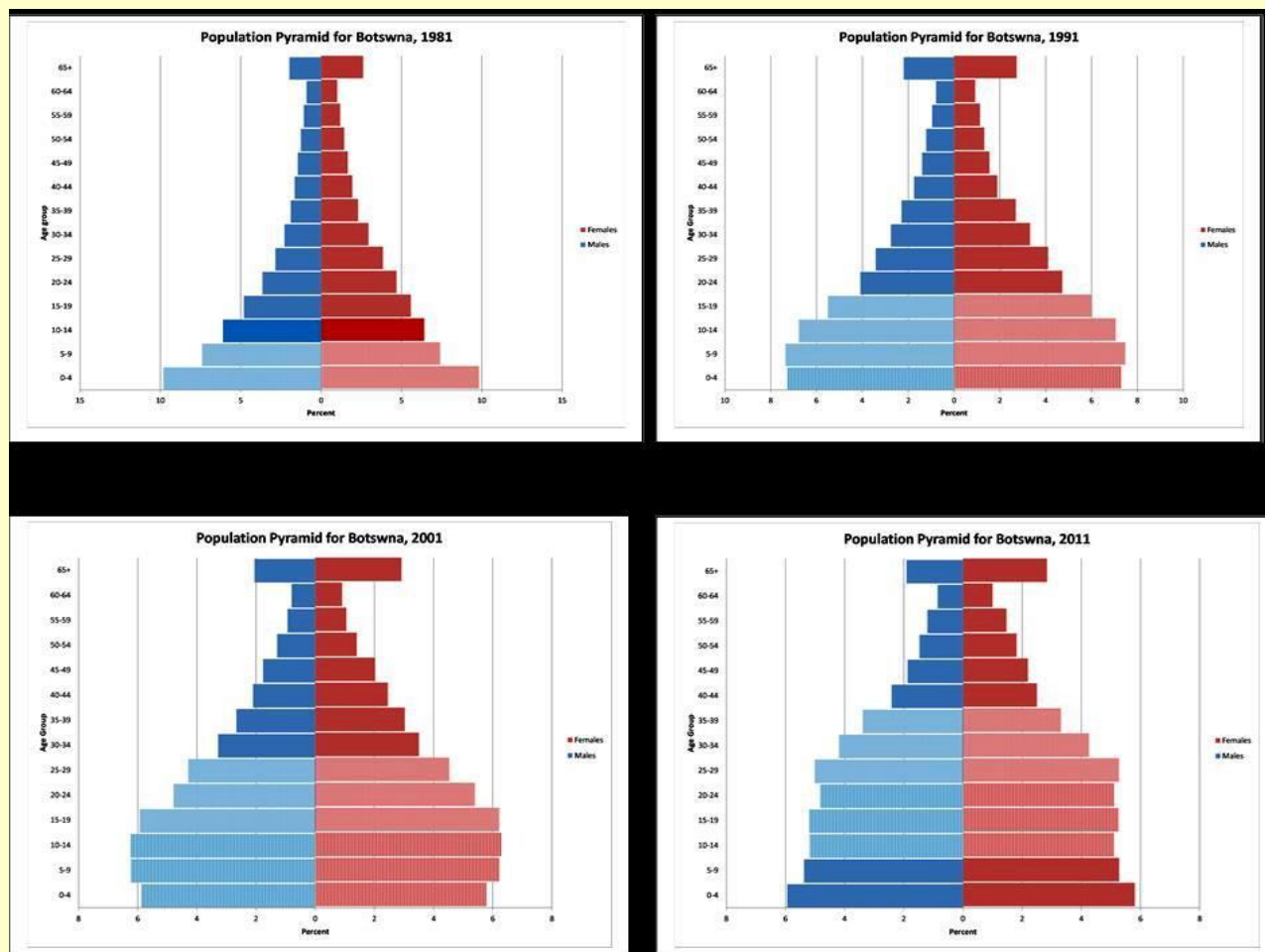
This was the key message at the policy makers briefing hosted by UNFPA Botswana on the demographic dividend. Among the policy makers were ten young people who ensured that the evening was rooted on young people's everyday life realities.

In her opening statement, the UNFPA Assistant Representative, Ms. Mareledi Segotso emphasized the need for strategic investments in key areas of the economy, such as health, education, good governance and the centrality of tapping on the potential of young people. “In order to reap the demographic dividend we need our young people to be healthy, better skilled and with decent jobs. The 10 year old of today, will be 25 in 2030, the year the world is expected to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The strategies that we will put in place now will determine whether he or she becomes a net contributor to the economy or not.”

Both the UNFPA Technical Adviser on Data for Development Policy Dr. Mady Biaye and the Executive Director for African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) Dr. Eliya Zulu indicated that evidence in some regions of the world have demonstrated the potential presented by the changing age structures, low or reducing fertility rates and low age dependency rates to spur economic development.



Left: AFIDEP's Dr. Zulu giving the perspective on Botswana's readiness to reap the demographic dividend and, Right: UNFPA Technical Adviser on Data for Development Policy Dr. Mady Biaye



Botswana's population pyramid from 1981 - 2011 shows a declining fertility rate

Dr. Zulu informed stakeholders that the first step for countries to earn a sizable demographic dividend is to accelerate fertility decline. This then opens a window of opportunity through the creation of an age structure dominated by working age youth. He observed that the window of opportunity for Botswana is already open as the country is now at an advanced stage of a demographic transition with low fertility rates and a youth bulge as presented by the age structure. Dr. Zulu however cautioned that reduced fertility rates do not automatically yield a demographic dividend without strategic investments in health, education, empowerment of women and youth, and simultaneous economic reforms to create sufficient jobs and efficiency in public institutions. Dr. Biaye on the other hand emphasized that the window of opportunity for the few Sub-Saharan countries which are experiencing the onset of the demographic dividend is temporary.

The ILO Regional Deputy Director, Dr. Joni Musabayana emphasized the importance of ensuring that the young people are provided with opportunities to acquire education, life-skills and training that will enhance their employability, productivity and competitiveness. He noted that the SADC Youth Employment Promotion Policy Framework addresses youth employment challenges and presents a potential in harnessing a sustainable Demographic Dividend through concerted effort for all SADC countries. He noted that the Framework is anchored on 4 principles, vis: Empowerment, Partnership, Participation and Inclusivity. "One of the expected outcomes of the framework is improved employability for all youth and improved supply of quality skills and reduced mismatches of youth labour market participants.

This briefing was organized as part of UNFPA, University of Botswana and Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) partnership on the demographic dividend agenda. The next steps in this work includes the completion of the national demographic dividend study, development of policy briefs and continued advocacy to incorporate the Demographic Dividend national frameworks such the National Development Plan 11.

Youth and Youth Unemployment Takes Center Stage at the UN General Assembly

The High-level event provided an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to evaluate investments needed to reap the demographic dividend, including through employment opportunities for young people. The concept of “demographic dividend” was conceived following the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. It came at a time when the world was focusing on the interplay between population structure changes, economic growth and development.

Key steps to achieving a Demographic Dividend

The demographic dividend can be realized through three steps:

First, improvements in health status, especially of women and children, contribute to a decrease in the number of children born to each family. Improved child survival combined with fewer children, leads to a bulge – or increase – in the population’s successive contingent.

The **second step** of the dividend is the educational investment in the population bulge. As families have fewer children, they and the government have more resources to invest in the education of surviving children and women increasingly enter the labour force. Also, with fewer births each year, a country’s young dependent population declines in relation to the working-age population. There are therefore fewer people to support; giving families and the country opportunities to invest in quality education for the young.

The **third and final step** is to have an economic environment where the educated bulge can find well-paid, decent jobs. The demographic dividend provides a time-limited window of opportunity for growth if it coincides with strategic investments to enhance human capital and create an enabling environment for businesses to demand and deploy those skills efficiently and equitably.

If all three steps are successful and timed well, a first dividend is produced as a large youthful population moves into highly productive jobs boosting the family and national income.

Key Messages from the High Level Event

Health

Emphasized the importance of addressing high fertility rates, especially where there is still large unmet need for services through universal access to family planning and reproductive health services.

Education

Underscored that investment in human capital development is one of the most critical ways to achieve the demographic dividend. Speakers emphasized the importance of quality education, training and skills development.

Empowerment

Noted that gender based violence including sexual violence, remains a serious risk for young women and girls, with devastating effects on their prospects for productive learning, self-confidence, and meaningful employment. They also noted that early marriages impact negatively on young women and girls, offering limited chances for a better future.

Employment

During the discussions, speakers noted that the problem of youth unemployment represents one of the most important challenges for many countries, particularly in Africa. They noted that while young people should be at the forefront of development and global change, many young people are forced to sit on the margins of society due to unemployment; something that they are no longer contented about.

UNFPA Engages Men and Boys for Gender Equality

Pic: Stepping Stones International



A MenCare trainer demonstrating how to change a baby nappy

UNFPA works with men and boys to advance gender equality – with benefits for all. This is in realization that gender equality cannot be achieved without the involvement of men and boys. These programmes are encouraging men and boys to abandon harmful stereotypes, embrace respectful, healthy relationships, and support the human rights of all people, everywhere. Change is slowly taking place, and men are increasingly working alongside women to support gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The UNFPA has a strong mandate to work with men and boys complimenting work with women and young girls, and always within a human rights framework that recognises the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and bodily autonomy of both men and women.

The sexual and reproductive health needs of men received little attention until 1994 during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt. It was at that meeting that global leaders acknowledged the role of men in shared responsibility in reproductive health and advancing gender equality.

The ICPD Program of Action (PoA) emphasised the need for "men's shared responsibility and active involvement in responsible parenthood; sexual and reproductive behaviour, including family planning; prenatal, maternal and child health; prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV; prevention of unwanted and high risk pregnancies; shared control and contribution of family income." Today, it is widely recognized that improving women's status and advancing their rights yields benefits for whole societies, not just women and girls. Ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services and protection from gender-based violence, among other important measures, improves the health of families and the economic well-being of entire communities.

In realization of the changes that men bring in their families, Men and Boys for Gender Equality (MBGE), and Stepping Stones International, in collaboration with UNFPA Botswana launched the MenCare programme in Mahalapye Sub-District, Kgatleng and Kweneng West districts. The MenCare programme is aimed at increasing equitable parenting by men and awareness about SRH and gender-based violence. The launch was attended by the Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration Phillip Makgalemele. The programme currently runs in 9 villages^{1*} in the three districts, implemented by both MBGE and Stepping Stones International.

The MenCare program in Botswana has experienced success in its efforts to mobilize the community and recruit fathers into the program. It is due to this mobilization that over 350 people attended the launch of the State of the World's Fathers report, including 60 fathers who had graduated from MenCare programs in the villages of Otse, Mahalapye, and Shoshong. The launch was attended by the Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration Phillip Makgalemele in Shoshong.

¹ *9 villages are; Mochudi, Oodi, Sikwane, Sesung, Khudumelapye, Letlhakeng, Sefhare, Shoshong and Otse

About 80% of the world's men and boys will become fathers in their lifetime. Their actions throughout their children's lives can have profound effects for their families in the long run.

The new MenCare State of the World's Fathers report brings together key international research findings along with programme and policy examples related to men's participation in caregiving; in sexual and reproductive health and rights; in maternal, new-born, and child health; in violence and violence prevention; and in child development. The report defines a global agenda for involving men and boys as part of the solution to achieve gender equality and positive outcomes in the lives of women, children, and men themselves.

The inaugural SOWF report was launched globally at events in New York, Washington DC, Nairobi, London, Geneva, Brussels and Amsterdam during the month of June 2015.

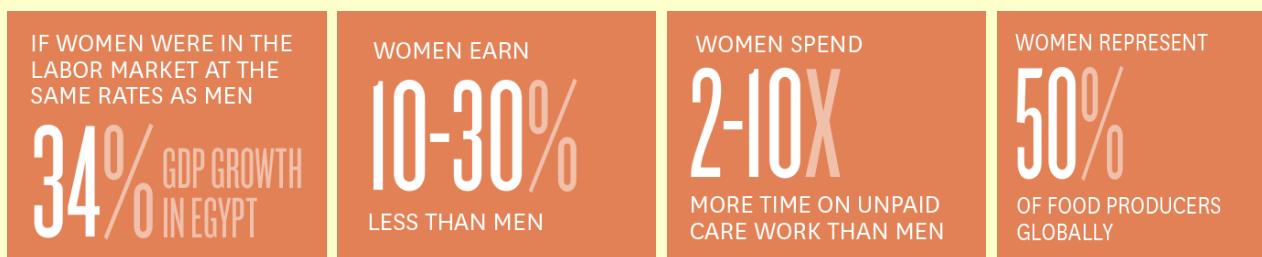
The 2014 SOWF report shows that while men are increasing in the amount of unpaid care work they do, still nowhere in the world do men share an equal part of the unpaid home and care work, compared to women. It also highlights the importance of policies such as paternity leave in terms of both promoting fatherhood and gender equality.

New 2014 State of the World's Fathers Report Looks at Key Indicators of Fatherhood Around the Globe

Did you know?

The hidden value of care work

There is no country in the world where men and boys share the unpaid domestic and care work equally with women and girls.



The cycle of violence

When children experience or witness violence, they are much more likely to perpetrate violence themselves as adults.



The full report is available on this link; http://sowf.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/08181421/State-of-the-Worlds-Fathers_23June2015.pdf



A MenCare discussion group with employees of Water Utilities Corporation

2015 Botswana SADC Gender Protocol Summit



GenderLinks and BALA support women entrepreneurs as empowerment to achieve gender equality

Gender Links Botswana and Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA), with the support of the UN in Botswana through the UN Joint Gender Programme organized the 2015 Botswana SADC Gender Protocol National Summit from 26-28 May 2015 in Gaborone under the theme *"Now and Post 2015, Yes we Must"*. In the count down to the 2015 deadline for the 28 targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, the national summit provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in attaining gender equality.

In addition, it served as an advocacy platform for signing of this Protocol by Botswana through reflecting the great efforts in implementing the provisions of this Protocol. The summit also promoted sharing of good practices in addressing gender equality.

Participation

The National Summit attracted representatives of local councils, civil society organizations, government departments and the media from across the country. A total of 62 stakeholders presented their projects to showcase their efforts on gender mainstreaming and addressing gender inequality and GBV. The Summit was preceded by the district level summits to build momentum to the national and Southern Africa summit.

Awards

The summit was concluded by an exciting awards night on the 27 May 2015 where different stakeholders were recognized for their contribution in the areas of GBV, climate change, leadership, local government centers of excellence (COEs), economic justice & education, and media reporting.

The winners during the Botswana's national summit

Category	Name of organisation
Local Government COE	
• <i>Urban</i>	Lobatse Town Council
• <i>Rural</i>	North East District Council
Emerging Entrepreneurs	
• <i>Start Up business</i>	Sense Mokoti
• <i>Existing business</i>	Green Cornerstone Land Scappers
Leadership /Gender Champion	Bo Mme Isago – Boineelo Gupta
Economic Justice and Education	Lobatse Town Council
Gender Based Violence	Stepping Stones International
Climate Change	Moshupa Sub District Council
Media Content	
• <i>Print</i>	Sunday Standard
• <i>Radio</i>	Men and Boys
Faith Based Organisations	Tutume Baptist Church
Government	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development / Community Development Department

Delivering a statement on behalf of the UN, Dr. Felicitas Zawaira – WHO Representative:

“The summit also comes at an opportune time when the world is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ground breaking Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which is a comprehensive and transformative framework for action to move humanity forward; focusing on the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.”

The UN in Botswana identifies this national summit as an opportunity to promote gender mainstreaming at national and local levels and within organizations through motivating the councils and other stakeholders to put more effort in addressing gender inequality and gender based violence. UNFPA has already supported Gender Links to reach 10 local councils across the country on gender mainstreaming training and development of gender action plans.

UNFPA Botswana hosts Innovation day

UNFPA brought together young minds to draw innovative ideas and solutions to curb the Sexual Reproductive Health problems that the country is facing at a one day session held at the Blue Tree on the 22 May 2015.

The Innovation Day was organized in response to a UNFPA wide call to institutionalize the culture of innovation in the organization’s work. The call to innovate is more than just an exciting opportunity; it is an imperative for global organizations to continuously strive to deliver the best responses to the challenges at hand, and to remain adaptable, agile and responsive in a rapidly changing world.

Botswana is a young nation with more than 60% of its population is below the age 35. This is a cohort that needs better resources and useful information to shape their future and in essence shape the future of the future of the country. Opening the event, UNFPA Botswana Assistant Representative, Ms. Mareledi Segotso said “we simply cannot ignore innovation as it is part of our daily lives. So it is only fitting that we use innovation in finding solutions to challenges in Sexual and Reproductive Health and help in making a better country for all of us”.

Using interactive methodologies the young people explored in depth three problems and identified innovative solutions to these problems. Some of the problems identified at the event were the cultural dynamics in the country, information gap and the challenge of information dissemination and the high prevalence of STIs. The young people chose the deficiency in information dissemination to bridge knowledge gap amongst the youth as the main problem to innovate solutions for. It was agreed that collaborating efforts as youth based organizations, co-creation of messaging with the young people that should be considered.

As such it was agreed that an establishment of an application that could be used by both smartphone users and non-smart phones should be developed to give knowledge and answer questions relating to sexual reproductive health that the youth might have.

Following the successful day, a team made up of innovators and UNFPA Botswana staff was selected to develop the chosen idea into a proposal that will subsequently be submitted to the Innovation Fund. In 2014, UNFPA created an Innovation Fund to bring together may innovative initiatives under a common approach. For UNFPA, promoting innovation offers an opportunity for experimentation and creativity, and for testing new ideas and approaches through innovation projects.

Passing the Baton: Women's Intergenerational Dialogue

Recommendations & Action Areas to Address Strategic Issues of Concern

Category	Action Areas
1. Reinvigorating the women's movement	- Acknowledge diversity within the country and amongst women and apply different strategies.
	- Conversations with communities at national level should be cascaded to local level.
	- The need for major campaigns on women's areas of concern with synergized efforts and collective strategies from various organizations.
	- Involvement of men and boys especially from a young age.
2. Advocacy for the SADC Gender & Development Protocol	- Formalise a structure for implementation of a countrywide mobilisation strategy to raise awareness and buy-in.
	- Targeting and aligning with the right organisations (<i>churches, unions, women's leagues</i>).
	- Focus on common interests and the different strengths of women's organizations to advocate for the protocol.
3. Priority action areas for young women and girls	- Bridge the intergenerational gap with actions geared towards change of mind-sets.
	- Create a platform that gives voice to young women.
	- Education for young women and girls on their sexual and reproductive health rights.
	- Contribute to the educational advancement of young women and girls.
	- Promote access to economic empowerment opportunities for young women and girls.

UNFPA identifies empowerment of the girl child and young women as a pillar for their social and economic progress, resulting in their individual well-being and sustainable development. On the 25th May 2015, UNFPA supported Putting Women First Trust (PWFT), Young Women's Leadership Club (YWLC), The African Women's Leadership Academy (TAWLA) and The Sir Ketumile Masire Foundation (SKMF) to create a platform for inter-generational dialogue between young and senior women to re-invigorate Botswana's women's rights movement.

Focus

The inter-generational dialogue recognized that passing the baton of leadership for the women's rights movement is not only urgent and overdue but is also a multi-staged process which includes mentorship. The dialogue brought together 73 women from across age, ethnicity, class, geographical location and veterans of the women's rights movement in Botswana and the new, younger entrants and aspirants to co-create a powerful, transformative women's movement.

The dialogue raised participants' understanding of the SADC Gender and Development Protocol to broaden advocacy for its signing by Botswana. Critical concerns for young women and girls in Botswana were identified and recommendations on the key strategic issues emerging from the dialogue were adopted.

The women's intergenerational dialogue identified the need to redefine what the women's movement in Botswana stands for as there has been a paradigm shift and to create a formal platform and network to advance advocacy on priorities of women and girls. UNFPA continues to engage with these women's organizations and stakeholders for follow up action on recommendations of this dialogue and to seek resources to support action on young women and girls' empowerment.

Role Model Testimony by Tumie Ramsden:

"Mentorship is extremely important to ensure that you are on the right track and always ensure that you have the right kind of guidance into becoming who you are meant to be."

Every Woman Every Child *is Me*

by *Gogontlejang Phaladi*

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in May hosted a high-level Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) luncheon and retreat to help galvanize support and action for the updated Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health.

The retreat provided a key moment for political mobilization, bringing together Government leadership, CEOs, civil society leaders and head of agencies to gain consensus on the direction of the updated GS which is to be launched by the UN SG during the SDG Summit in September. The retreat aimed to harmonize global health leaders on the organizational framework and forward looking plan for women's, children's and adolescents' health post 2015 and mobilize action leading to September. This kind of transition into the updated GS post 2015 requires string country ownership, high level political support and mobilization of ambitious and concrete multi-stakeholder action at the country level.

Since the Secretary-General launched the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health (Global Strategy) in 2010, the subsequent EWEC movement has galvanized action and has catalyzed unprecedented progress in reducing maternal and child mortality worldwide. EWEC has helped to strengthen political commitment at the highest levels, mobilize resources, focus attention, consolidate efforts and bring people together to build a global movement. Despite the incredible advances, women's along with newborn, children's and adolescents' health remains one of the core unfinished businesses of the MDGs and needs to be prioritized in the post 2015 development agenda. The world is faced with a historical opportunity of eliminating preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths within a generation. Our task now is to continue to accelerate this momentum, but also protect the often fragile gains, as we transition the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Chaired by the UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, the retreat focused on gaining consensus on the draft of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, including the proposed framework for accountability and Global Financing Facility (GFF) and begin to mobilize commitments for the SDG Summit in September. The main issues discussed during the retreat included the need to collect data on adolescents and include SRHR in the GS, universal health coverage, investing in young people beyond investment in health for sustainability, systematizing accountability and governance mechanisms and resource mobilization for implementation at country level.

This was a good opportunity for 1.2 billion (adolescents) to be heard, recognized and make a contribution towards issues that affect them and safeguarding the future. 1.8 billion of the world population and 60% of the population of Africa cannot go unheard.

At the event, Every Woman Every Child also launched a new digital media campaign; *Every Woman Every Child is Me* as a build up to the UNGA in September.



Gogontlejang Phaladi, a youth advocate who attended the EWEC retreat

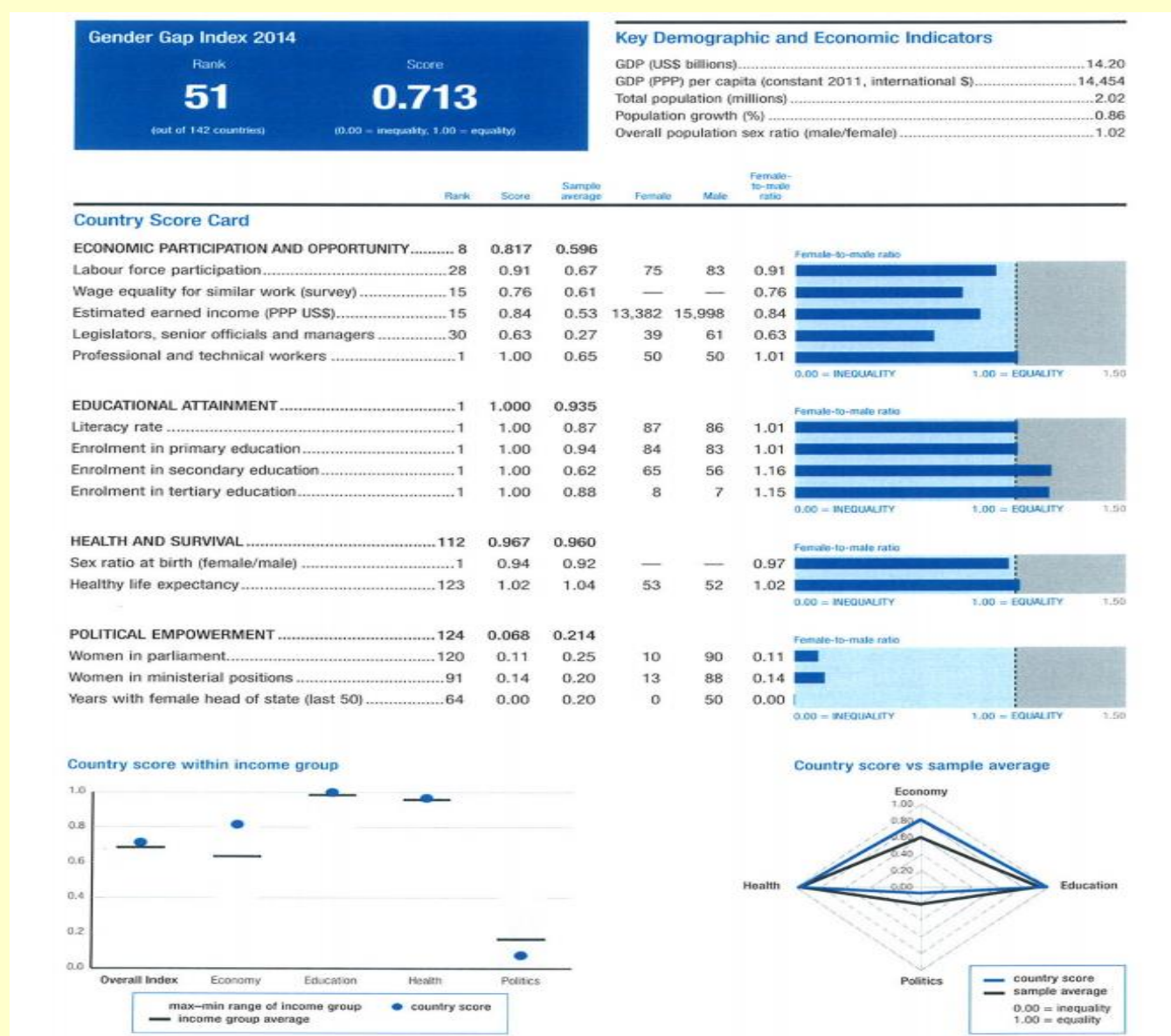
Botswana Moves Up in Global Gender Report Rankings

Botswana has been ranked overall number 51 out of 142 countries, in the 2014 Global Gender Gap Report and Index, increasing its score of 0.675 to 0.713 this year. The country increased its score on the Estimated earned income and Legislators, senior officials and managers indicators. In fact, it is one of the region’s top performers on Estimated earned income, and has also closed the gender gap on Professional and technical workers.

As for Political Empowerment, the country ranks near the bottom at 124 out of 142, due to the low percentage of female Parliamentarians and the fact that the country is yet to have a female head of state.

The report by the World Economic Forum, (WEF), was first introduced in 2006, and provides a worldwide comparative examination of gender based disparities, on economic, political, education and health criteria.

Botswana Country Score Card



Source: The Global Gender Gap Report 2014

2015 Calendar of events

6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
8 March	International Women's Day
5 May	International Day of the Midwife
15 May	International Day of Families
23 May	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
11 July	World Population Day
12 August	International Youth Day
19 August	World Humanitarian Day
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
1 December	World AIDS Day
10 December	Human Rights Day



Like us on Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/UNFPABotswana>



Follow us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/UNFPABotswana>



United Nations Building, First Floor
Cnr Khama Crescent/President's Drive
Government Enclave
P. O. Box 54
Gaborone, Botswana
Office: +267 3633700
Fax: +267 3901562
<http://botswana.unfpa.org>