POP–UPDATE

Population Update

UNFPA Botswana

3rd Quarter 2017 Newsletter Issue

The SYP Phase II includes strengthening provision of youth friendly services, training teachers & civil society on provision of comprehensive sexuality education for in and out of school youth.

Figure 1: Mr M. Lesetedi- DDC (L) ,Ms M. Segotso - UNFPA Asst Rep (C), Mr G. Jori - DMHT (R)

Bobirwa & Ghanzi districts welcome the Safeguard Young People (SYP) programme

UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health and Wellness expand the Safeguard Young People (SYP) programme to Bobirwa and Ghanzi district respectively.

In welcoming the programme in Bobirwa, the Deputy District Commissioner, Mr Mooketsi Lesetedi raised concern about the high HIV prevalence among young people and teenage pregnancy. He lamented the challenges that young girls face in the district including being heads of households looking after their younger siblings. These circumstances often lead to young girls being defiled and contracting sexually transmitted infections including HIV. Mr Lesetedi welcomed the SYP Programme as the beginning of a long, fruitful partnership with UNFPA to protect young people in the Bobirwa district.

The UNFPA Assistant Representative Ms. Mareledi Segotso briefed the district leadership on the SYP Phase II which includes strengthening provision of youth friendly services, training teachers and civil society to provide comprehensive sexuality education for in and out of school youth. She encouraged the district to capitalize on the strong district structures to address sexual and reproductive health of young people. The SYP Programme will be implemented through health facilities, NGOs and secondary schools.

Collectively the clinics in the Bobirwa district reach about 500 young people a month. A visit to Mmadinare and Matshekge Senior Secondary boarding schools revealed that in a year, each school loses as many as 30 girls (equivalent to a class) to teenage pregnancy. Both schools have a school nurse as part of the Ministry of tertiary Education's plan to establish clinics in secondary schools. The school nurses primarily focus on treating minor ailments.

UNFPA Assistant Representative, Mareledi Segotso touring Matsha School Clinic.

Figure 2:Mrs Shamukuni - Dep School Head (L) Ms M. Segotso, UNFPA Asst. Rep (R)

Matsha College and Ghanzi Senior Secondary School teachers noted that most of the girls become pregnant during the long school holidays while waiting to transition to senior secondary school.

The College school nurse provides students with selected contraceptives (the pill and injection), HIV testing teen mother counselling.

The Hukuntsi YFS nurse Ms Natasha Banda emphasized the challenges of reaching young people living in surrounding settlements as a major challenge.

The Ministry of Health & Wellness as well as Ministry of Basic Education are working towards standards in services to be provided in school clinics. UNFPA is assisting the Government of Botswana to strengthen youth friendly services including the development of PTO.

Key Statistics

Bobirwa

Number of Young People

23 127

HIV Prevalence

9.6%

Number of Health Facilities

20

In a year, each school loses as many as 30 girls (equivalent to a class) to teenage pregnancy

Matsha College provides students with essential services- HIV testing & contraceptives (pill & injection)

Ghanzi

Number of Young People

13 501

HIV Prevalence

8.5%

Number of Health Facilities

25

Low uptake of the female condom is a contributing factor to teenage pregnancy

Young girls are sometimes heads of households looking after their younger siblings. Often leading to young girls being defiled and contracting sexually transmitted infections

Gearing Up for National Scale-up – Integrating SRHR & HIV with GBV, TB, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health

Figure 3: Focal persons for key programs including Family Planning, STIs, PMTCT, HIV testing, Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services attending workshop.

In 2014, the Government of Botswana decided to scale-up integrated reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health (RMNCAH)/HIV/TB and gender based violence services nationwide. The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) and UNFPA supports part of the scale-up.

Part of the scale-up activities was training district Integration coordinators and key programme managers and framed on the concept of integration.

The training equips focal persons with the capacity to;

- Address the SRHR needs of key populations in the face of a legal environment that is not supportive.
- Making sure that integration does not overburden existing services in a way that compromises service quality, by ensuring that integration actually improves healthcare provision (managing any potential increased workload for staff who take on additional or 'task-shifting' responsibilities)
- Reorganize/re-orient service provision processes such as patient flow.
- Combat stigma and discrimination from and towards healthcare providers, which has the potential to undermine the effectiveness of integrated services regardless of how efficient they are in other respects of their skills.
- Adapt services to attract and involve men, who tend to see sexual and reproductive health, and especially family planning, as 'women's business' e.g. SRHR information and services integrated with male circumcision for combination HIV prevention services.
- Integrate Gender Based Violence (GBV) into integrated service delivery with a highlight on global and national standards for response to GBV by the health sector.
- Reach those who are most vulnerable but least likely to access services, such as young people and people living with disabilities and the hard to reach in resource constrained environments.

In order to have a continuous support and best practices sharing platform, a district Integration Coordinators' WhatsApp group was also created to enable coordinators to share experiences, implementation challenges, mutual learning and collaborative solution generation. The WhatsApp group facilitates the distribution of guides, manuals and information. The officers were trained in Jwaneng, Gaborone and Palapye as integration focal point.

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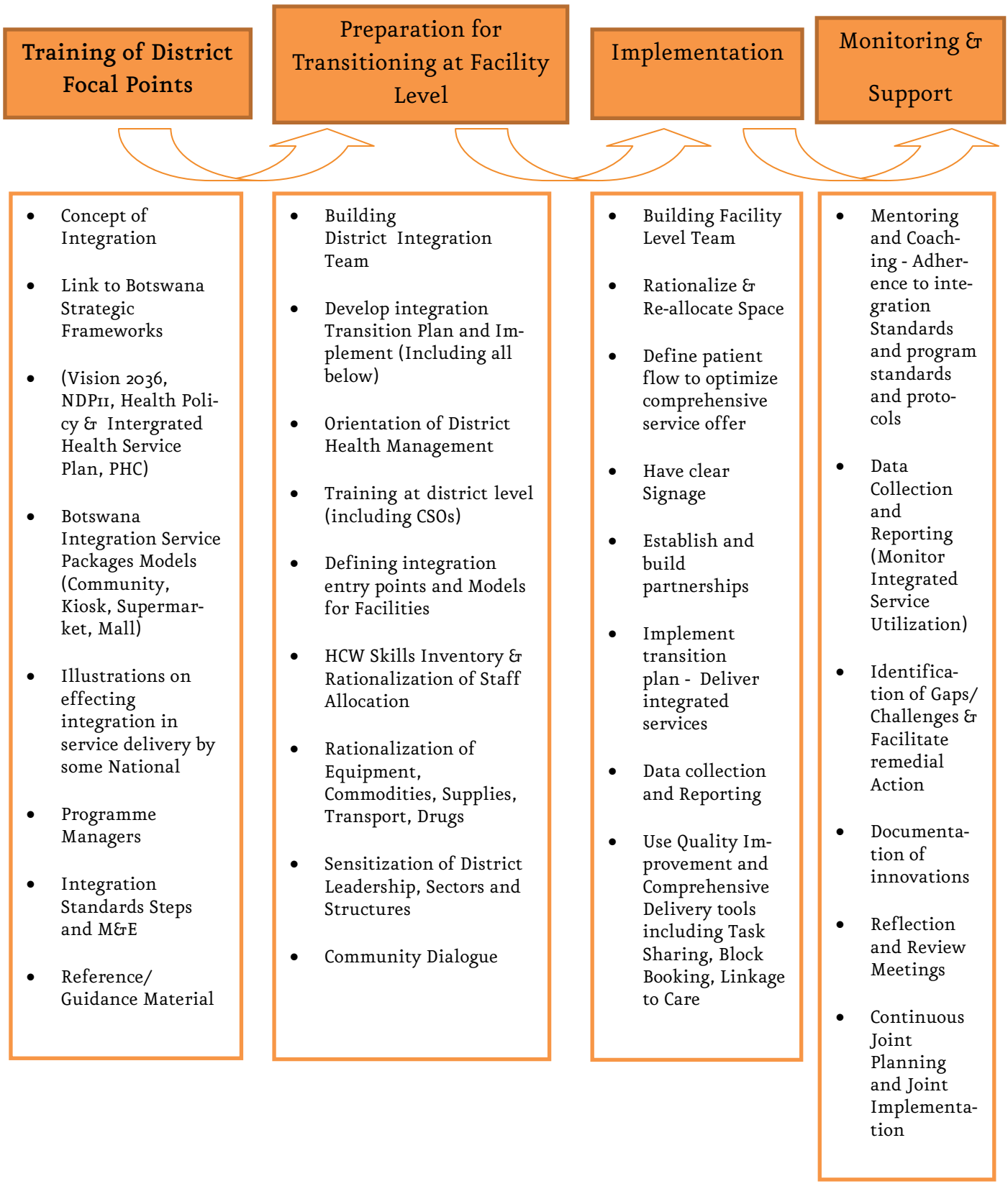
SRH/HIV Botswana Integration Steps



Engaging Young People In Their Own Space

Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health and Wellness, Ms S. El-Halabi took to Twitter to engage with the youth on the state of family planning in Botswana.

The One Hour Twitter chat supported by UNFPA and hosted in commemoration of World Population Day themed *Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nation,* created a platform for the Permanent Secretary to interact with the youth on family planning matters. The initiative bridged the gap between the Ministry and created an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the quality of family planning for young people.

The exchange also facilitated the solicitation of young people's views on family planning services. Ms El-Halabi appreciated the Twitter chat as an important platform for her and other Senior government officials to be in touch with young people's views.

#TwitterImpressions

58 800

#Mentions

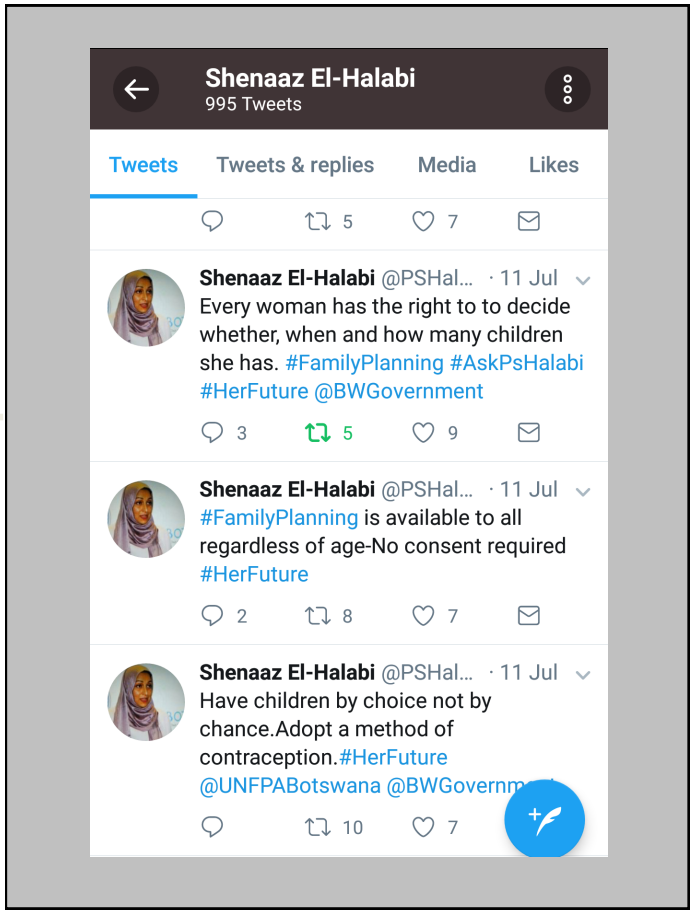
150

#Tweets

68

Some of the issues that Ms S. El-Halabi engaged youth are the importance of access to SRH information in order to empower young people to make informed decisions about their health.

Some of the youth engaged said that they enjoyed the Twitter chat as it created a more youth-friendly platform for them to access more information from a well-informed source.



1010 young people registered in 7 days!

Figure 4: Youth at the Tune Me Stall activation at the Botswana Consumer Fair 2017

The Annual Botswana Consumer Fair attracts 60 000 people every year and this year was no exception. The 7 day exhibition attracted businesses, service providers, public sector, private sector and NGOs from local and neighbouring countries such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho and South Africa.

UNFPA participated at the fair registering young people on the TuneMe mobisite. TuneME is an interactive platform that engages young people on issues affecting their Sexual and Reproductive Health through the use of their mobile phones. A total of 1010 young people were registered in the platform during the exhibition.

Parents, who often are challenged with discussing sexuality issues with their children, welcomed the TuneMe site. A mother of a young person who registered for TuneMe stated; "As a mother, I am thankful for TuneMe."

Today, young people have been registered and regularly receive information on SRH issues.

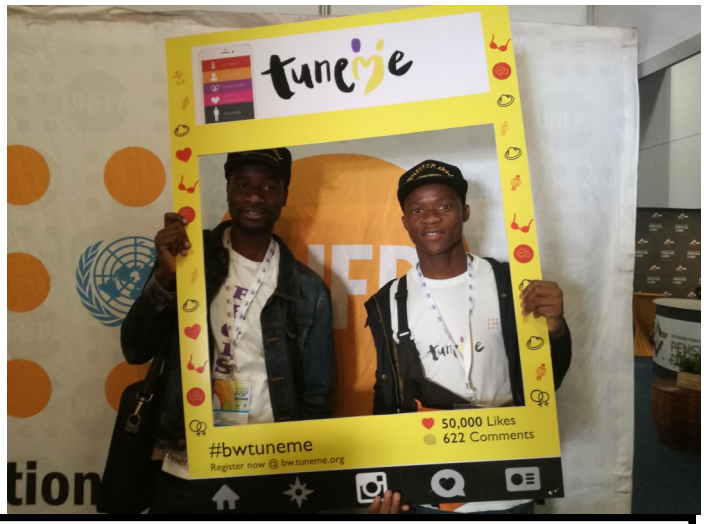


Figure 5 & 6 Youth getting information at the TuneMe Stall

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United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Botswana

UN Building, Corner Khama Crescent & President's Drive,
Government Enclave
P.O. BOX 54, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: (267) 3633700 Fax: (267)3901562