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Message from the Assistant Representative



Assistant Representative Mareledi Segotso

I hope you had a good start to the year. As we begin 2015, I want to take a moment to reflect on the year 2014. It was both an exciting and challenging year for us. This was the first year of the UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017. UNFPA adopted a new business model and modes of engagement in countries that we work in. Under the new Strategic Plan, Botswana was classified as a 'Pink' Quadrant country, which means as an upper Middle Income Country (MIC) it will receive less regular funding and move away from service delivery as a strategy of support .

In MICs, UNFPA focuses on policy dialogue/ advocacy. We are continuing to review our programme partnerships and strategies to be fully aligned to the business plan.

2015 is a year of reflection and negotiations in the international and global arena; the Interna-

tional Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 Agenda, the Commission on the Status of Women as well as the Commission on Population and Development. It is now time to accelerate thinking on a global development agenda beyond 2015.

With March being the month of the International Women's Day the topic of gender based violence couldn't be more important for us. UNFPA is one of the UN's lead agencies working to further gender equality and women's empowerment, and to address the physical and emotional consequences of gender-based violence.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in our country. It knows no social or economic boundaries. Sobering numbers show that

two in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime in Botswana. Gender-based violence undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death.

Gender equality is also a precondition for advancing development and reducing poverty: Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities, and they improve prospects for the next generation. In 2015, UNFPA will look to bring more evidence based technical support to the Government of Botswana, as well as cross country learning and experiences, while taking Botswana's story to the world.

I hope you will decide to be our partners in the effort to end violence against women and girls. We look forward to starting 2015 with scaling up evidence based interventions to meet the goals of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Agenda and ensuring that the ICPD agenda is at the centre of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.



68 000 condoms distributed in 4 days



A university student learning about condoms during the campaign.

The Universities of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland held the intervarsity games from 8 – 13 March 2015 in Gaborone under the theme *“We are here to grow; responsibility starts here”*. The games brought over 1 400 students from the three universities to participate in various sports. In previous intervarsity games it was concluded that there was increased risky behaviours during the games, as evidenced by increased STIs, violence and rape during the games.



Key Issues on Condoms @ University of Botswana

1. Students do not really know how to use a female condom, and a majority had not seen the condom!!
2. **80 000** male condoms distributed a month at UB, equal to 5 condoms per person
3. Usually high demand of condoms at the end of the month
4. Condoms are distributed by Health Promotion Assistants, each for specific residential block
5. They give **20** condoms per room
6. Condom dispensers are found around the campus, however are always empty and damaged
7. Condoms can be accessed at the Health & Wellness and UB clinic
8. Condom brands distributed- Lovers+ and Lorato.
9. The students highlighted that girls are ashamed to be seen having condoms. They say ‘It’s a guy thing’.
10. It was further revealed during the discussions that GBV is high, and only reported when there are bruises that require someone to go to the health facility.

The National AIDS Coordinating Agency and the Student Affairs organized health information activities for students during the games. UNFPA and the Ministry of Health took the upbeat CONDOMIZE! campaign to the games. Prior to ‘CONDOMIZING’ the games, 35 young volunteers from youth organizations on campus were trained on HIV prevention, condoms and implementation of the campaign.

The team then ‘CONDOMIZED’ the games, providing information and skills on using condoms to students from the 3 countries. Most students were not aware of the varieties of condoms (sizes, flavours, colours) available. Unlike Lesotho, students from Swaziland and Botswana had an experience of the campaign even though they did not participate when it was carried out. This was therefore an opportunity for them to learn more about condoms and access the variety of condoms that were available. A majority did not know how to correctly insert male condoms while an overwhelming majority had not seen a female condom and did not know how to use it. This called for a need to intensify information dissemination and skills building at the universities and provision of condoms that are appealing to young people.

With a vibrant CONDOMIZE team, a total of 68 000 male condoms and 8 000 female condoms were distributed in four days.

A Lot Achieved, More to be Done to Achieve Gender Equality



A woman entrepreneur displaying her wares

Botswana commemorated the International Women's Day in Molepolole village on 5 March 2015, under the localized theme of "Beijing +20: Where Are We?". This was an opportunity for the country to show its progress in support of women's empowerment. This year, 2015, the 20th anniversary of the ground breaking Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Botswana like many countries assessed progress towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The Botswana's Beijing +20 Report notes that a lot has been achieved in the critical areas but more needs to be done to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

Key achievements include the following:

1. A strengthened legal and policy framework .
2. Significant progress in promoting women's economic empowerment.
3. Participation of women in decision making in the civil service, parastatal, private and civil society sectors respectively.
4. Gender parity attained in education at primary and secondary school levels.
5. Over 95% of HIV positive pregnant women access the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme.
6. Women and men enjoy the same rights guaranteed in the Constitution of Botswana. Vision 2016 also underscores non-discrimination on the basis of sex.
7. Botswana has performed relatively well in promoting gender equality in the media sector thereby ranking fifth in the SADC region. She also ranks second in the region with regard to the percentage of women in senior management media roles.
8. Increased involvement of men and boys as partners in national endeavors towards gender equality.

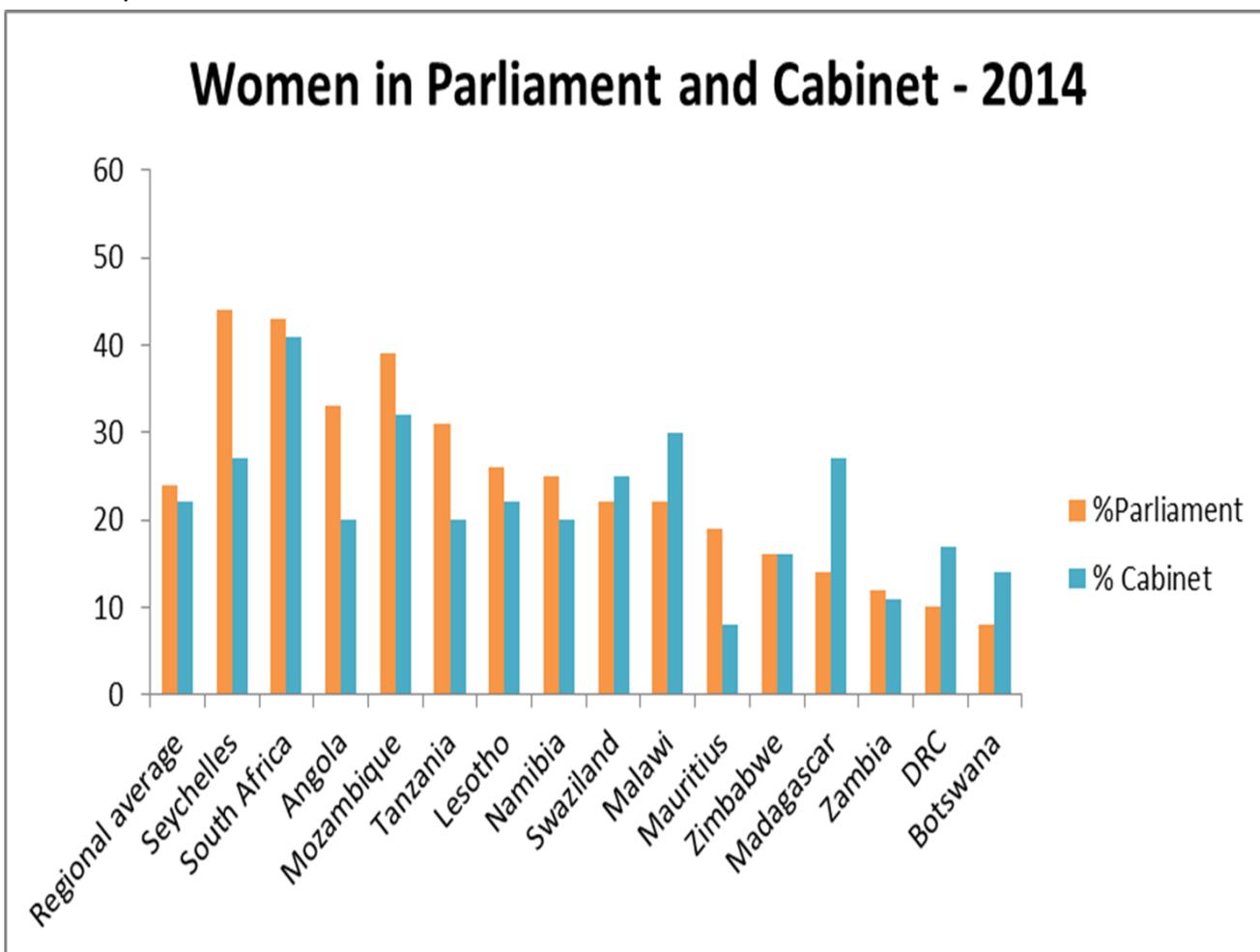
Beijing Declaration and Platform Botswana's Critical Areas of Concern for Women

1. *Women and poverty including Economic Empowerment*
2. *Women in Power and Decision Making*
3. *Education and Training of Women*
4. *Women and Health*
5. *Violence Against Women and Human Rights of Women and*
6. *The Girl Child*
7. *Two more critical areas have since been added:*
8. *Women and the Media*
9. *Women and the environment*

The Unfinished Business

1. Low representation of women in political decision making (8% in Parliament in 2014).
2. High prevalence of violence against women and girls (67% in 2011).
3. High HIV and AIDS prevalence rate at 18.5%, with women at 20.8% compared to men at 15.6%.
4. Low enrolment of women and girls in science and technology fields.
5. Women are predominantly found in the low paying jobs, especially in the informal sector.
6. Inadequate implementation, enforcement and monitoring of laws and policies regarding the promotion of gender equality.

Women's representation in Parliament and Cabinet 2009—2014



Source: SADC Gender Protocol 2015 Barometer

Engaging the Village Development Committee to Address GBV



A participant at the meeting reading about GBV

As part of its commitment to eliminating gender based violence (GBV), UNFPA supported a sensitization workshop on GBV targeting the Village Development Committee (VDC) in the village of Mogoditshane. UNFPA identifies the role of community-based structures as critical in addressing GBV. As GBV stems from unequal power relationships within families, communities and between men and women, interventions that seek to prevent or respond to GBV are most effective when they challenge inequitable norms and practices through community engagement.

The VDC is pivotal in addressing GBV as they have influence and are in contact with the community members to raise

awareness on GBV. They are also strategic in identifying cases of abuse and making the necessary referrals. The VDC also works in close contact with structures like the Botswana Police Service, Religious Leaders, Crime Prevention Units and traditional leaders (chiefs) and can therefore engage with these to prevent and respond to GBV.

The workshop, organized and facilitated by IkaGE Gender Network, was held at the Mogoditshane *Kgotla* on the 25 February 2015 as part of the **Orange Day campaign**. It educated the VDC on GBV, the Domestic Violence Act of 2008, and highlighted the role of the VDC in prevention and response to GBV. Empowering the VDC with GBV education is important in community awareness of GBV.



VDC members taking part in the case study on GBV.

The workshop was interactive and participatory with participants sharing their experiences on what they know and see in their communities about GBV. The role of the VDC in addressing GBV was emphasized through a case studies for participants to show case how they would respond to different cases of GBV.

Reflections by the VDC members on what GBV is:

“Making someone suffer”

“Not consulting each other within a relationship”

“To beat and to kill your partner”

“Verbal abuse within an intimate relationship”

GBV in Botswana

2 out of 3 women (67%) have experienced some form of GBV in their lifetime

62% of women experienced violence within intimate relationships

45% of women experienced Emotional intimate partner violence

35% of women experienced Physical intimate partner violence

29% of women experienced Economic intimate partner violence

15% of women experienced Sexual intimate partner violence

1.2% of women reported cases of GBV to Police

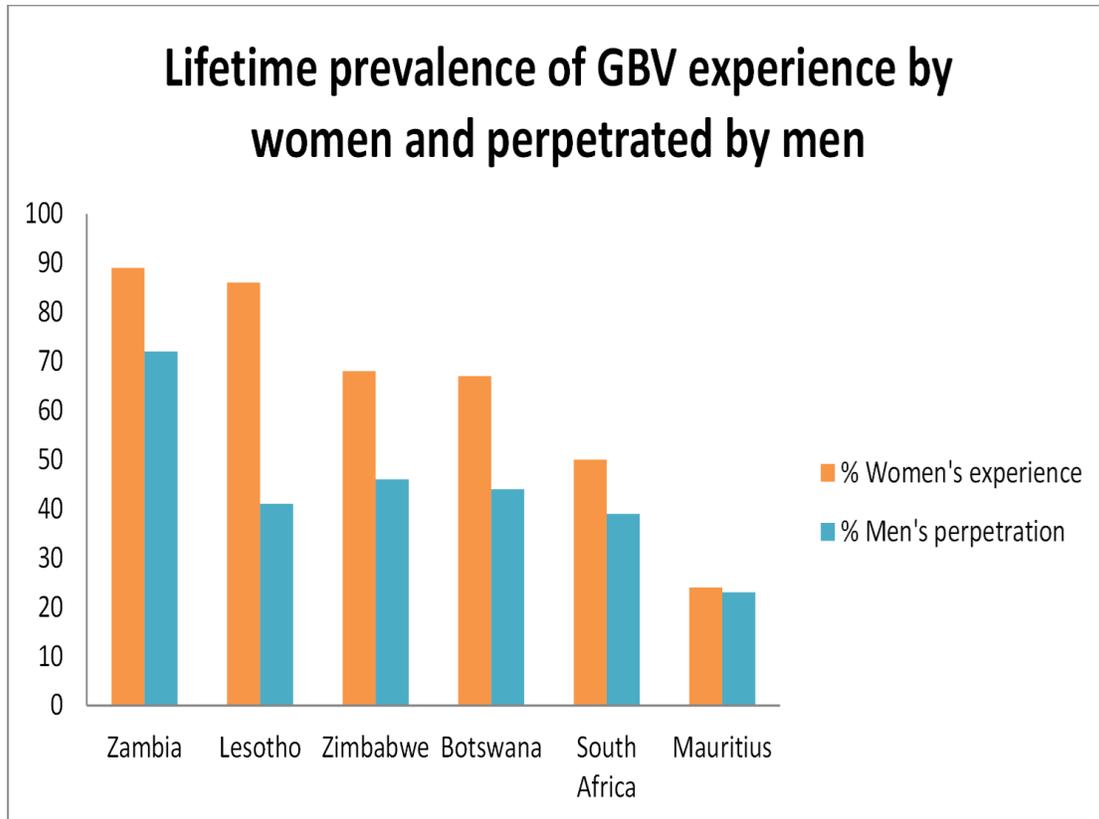
1 in 9 women report rape to the Police

Prevalence of GBV in the survey is 24 times higher than that reported to the Police

Of the women raped in the last 12 months prior to the study, 30.8% attempted suicide

44% of men admitted to perpetrating violence against women.

Lifetime prevalence of GBV



Source: SADC Gender Protocol 2015 Barometer

No country has fully achieved equality and women empowerment

The Global 12 Critical Areas of Concern for Women

1. Women and poverty
2. Education and training of women
3. Women and health
4. Violence against women
5. Women and armed conflict
6. Women and the economy
7. Women in power and decision-making
8. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
9. Human rights of women
10. Women and the media

The 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 59) focused on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and considered opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.

The session highlighted that from the political to the economic spheres, progress has been made but not enough, and also confirmed and reaffirmed the commitment to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Action. Botswana was represented by a delegation of 18, comprising of representatives from Government, civil society organizations and private sector.

The Commission concluded with an outcome document of the session titled a *“Political Declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women”*. The outcome document highlighted the following summary agreements by Governments:

1. *Reaffirm* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the 10th and 15th anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women;
2. *Recognize* that implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights;
3. *Welcome* the progress made towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through concerted policy action at the national, regional and global levels;
4. *Express concern* that progress has been slow and uneven, that major gaps remain and that obstacles, including, inter alia, structural barriers, persist in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, and recognize that 20 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, no country has fully achieved equality and empowerment for women and girls;
5. *Recognize* that new challenges have emerged, and reaffirmed the political will and firmly committed to tackle the challenges and remaining implementation gaps in all 12 critical areas of concern;
6. Pledge to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

7. Emphasize that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential for achieving the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and for tackling the critical remaining challenges through a transformative and comprehensive approach in the post-2015 development agenda, including through the sustainable development goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls;
8. *Reaffirm* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;
9. *Recognize* the important role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and the central role it is playing in supporting Member States and in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
10. *Welcome* the contributions made by civil society, including non-governmental organizations and women's and community-based organizations, to the implementation of the Platform for Action, and pledged to continue supporting civil society;
11. *Recognize* the importance of the full engagement of men and boys for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and commit to taking measures to fully engage men and boys;
12. *Commit* to engaging all stakeholders for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
13. *Also commit* to using all opportunities and processes in 2015 and beyond to accelerate and achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

UNFPA engaged in this global platform and discussions to raise voice on how gender equality and women's & girls' empowerment relate to sexual reproductive health and rights. Kate Gilmore, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, at a high level session during the 59th CSW highlighted the critical

need for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) at all levels of public life and emphasized the need for a stand-alone target and indicator for sex education in the post-2015 development framework. CSE empowers young people to make responsible, autonomous decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and contributes to reduced rates of STIs, HIV and unintended pregnancies and enables young people to stay healthy.

Read more here: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/L.1

UNFPA Speaks at the 59th CSW

*"Why is it taking so long for adults in power around the world to 'grow up' about introducing sexuality education."
"Silence on sex kills. Stigma about sex is destroying lives."*

*"For the rest of the population, death by HIV/AIDS has gone down by 40%. For adolescents they have gone up by 30%."
"15 million girls will be married this year under the age of 18"*

"16 million young women will give birth as adolescents, a child bearing a child, with great consequences for her health and well-being and great consequences for the health of her newborn"

Realizing the Future We Want-Commission on Population and Development



On 13-17 April, the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) – with the special theme of “Realizing the Future We Want: Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable Development, Including in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” – was held at UN Headquarters in New York. The Commission is tasked with identifying ways to integrate population issues into the new sustainable development agenda.

This year, the Commission addressed challenges that included issues within the areas of family planning, migration, fertility and urbanization.

Issues in these areas will be crucial to achieving sustainable development in the years ahead.

Speaking at the session, UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin stated that there was recognition that the ICPD's timeless principles and commitments are prerequisites for sustainable development that delivers for all. He added that as stakeholders design a new post-2015 development agenda, this CPD, by integrating population issues into sustainable development can turn that reaffirmation into reality. “By ensuring that the inextricable link between human rights and development is firmly rooted in the new development paradigm, we can jumpstart achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that no one is left behind.”

Investing in Young People for Sustainable Development

Getting it right for young people will be critical. Investments in the rights and well-being of adolescents and youth, now and throughout their lives, will unleash a demographic dividend of inclusive, sustainable economic growth in many countries, as they see larger numbers of young working age people relative to children and older persons. In our interconnected and globalized world, this dividend will pay off for all.

Realizing this potential requires a powerful commitment to health, and in particular to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights throughout the life course. Dr. Osotimehin highlighted that there is a need to empower young people, especially adolescent girls, to make informed decisions, have control over their bodies and stay healthy. He said; “We need to empower young women to delay fertility, prevent adolescent pregnancy, stay in school and find jobs that provide security and well-being. Women and girls must be free from the threats of maternal mortality, gender based violence and harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. And they must have the opportunity to decide on the number and timing of their children.”

Dr. Osotimehin concluded that this year, over 59 million girls will turn 10 years of age. That's another 59 million chances to do it right, to catalyze the dramatic transformations they – and we – so desperately need. “We have 59 million chances to get it right. If we do so, we will be well on our way to sustainable development. If we do so, by 2030, today's 59 million 10-year-old girls will be 25-year-olds living with their brothers in dignity, equality, health and well-being. We can't afford to wait. The time is now. Let's make it happen.”

UNFPA briefs *Dikgosi* on its mandate



Ntlo Ya Dikgosi members at the briefing

Recognizing that traditional leaders and traditional structures are an influential force among a large majority of communities in the country, UNFPA accepted the invitation to brief the house of chiefs as part of orientation at the opening of the 3rd Session of the 10th Ntlo Ya Dikgosi. Speaking at the briefing, UNFPA Assistant Representative said the session was important as development and improvement of people's lives can only happen with the involvement of traditional leaders who she described as community role models on whom the people rely on. "The institution of Dikgosi is seen as vital in addressing gender inequality and GBV

within communities. Dikgosi have always played an important role in the Botswana society as they are custodians and protectors of culture, customs and values, and hence carry the responsibility to promote positive values within the community and advocate for the respect of men, women, boys and girls."

In Botswana, 2 out of 3 women (67%) have experienced Gender Based Violence (GBV). There is a persistence of socio-cultural dynamics, norms and values that perpetuate violation of reproductive rights and negatively impact sexual reproductive health outcomes. Women continue to experience higher poverty and unemployment rates, and bear the brunt of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The engagement with Dikgosi was meant to inform them about the mandate of UNFPA and highlight possible areas of collaboration in the fight against GBV, HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancies and maternal deaths.

Across rural Africa, Botswana included, chiefs wield enormous power. They mediate disputes, resolve conflicts, and dictate the terms of everything from cattle rustling cases to inheritance. Dikgosi are key gate keepers at community level who shape the norms and values of their communities. They are also well-positioned to help support policy development on various socio-economic and socio-cultural issues that affect people at grassroots level.

Dikgosi have a significant influence on positive and culturally sensitive behavioural change and have the capacity to address socio-cultural norms and beliefs that fuel gender inequalities and the spread of Gender Based Violence.

While they were receptive to the discussion about Human Rights, and women's rights in particular, there were clear capacity gaps. They recognized that they had been doing a lot in a vacuum – with little help or information. They requested capacity building and training for them to empower them to become better women and human rights' advocates. In the end, the chiefs agreed that everyone in their community would be better off if they supported women's equal rights. They also pledged their commitment and support in carrying out sensitization in their communities for the strong protection of the rights of women and children, and to cut down on GBV.

The Ntlo ya Dikgosi is an advisory body to the country's Parliament which consists of chiefs from the country's tribes. Botswana has a dual legal system; that is the received law, Roman Dutch Law existing side by side with customary law. The Tswana customary law is valid in matters of property, inheritance and personal dispute arbitration in rural areas. The traditional chiefs act as court presidents. The tenure of office for the twelve members stands for as long as they remain Dikgosi of their tribes. Elected and specially elected members are elected every five years (once in the Life of Parliament.) Thus it is linked to the dissolution of parliament.

2,419 people tested in 8 hours

Botswana, Tanzania and South Africa have collectively set a new Guinness World Record of Most People being tested for HIV in Multi-Venues in 8 hours.

The record event was a joint collaboration between the National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA) and Ministry of Health UNFPA UNAIDS, WHO through an eight hour HIV testing campaign that took place in Maun on the 29th of November 2014. Through the Maun event Botswana contributed the biggest number to the three countries combined effort. At 13.9% Maun is one of the districts with the highest HIV prevalence in the country.

The Guinness citation reads: “The most people being tested for HIV at multiple locations in eight hours is 4,367 people and was achieved by UNAIDS and the Governments of Botswana, Tanzania and South Africa, in locations across Botswana, Tanzania and South Africa, on 29 November 2014. The organisers successfully orchestrated the testing to take place across three different countries all in the same 8 hour time frame.” At 2, 419, Botswana contributed the most numbers of people tested. The UNFPA CONDOMIZE! campaign was the crowd puller at the event. 16 000 Male and 5 000 female condoms were distributed during the eight hour period.

The campaign is a good example of UN acting together towards a common goal.

In 8 Hours:

- a) 16 000 male condoms were distributed*
- b) 5 000 female condoms were distributed*



Pic: Andy M Photography. Celebrate with us! CONDOMIZE! Team in action.

1st Regional Project Steering Committee meeting for the Safeguard Young People Programme

As part of its effort to monitor the effectiveness of the overall SYP programme and its strategies, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office held the first Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) meeting for the Safeguard Young People (SYP) Programme.

The RPSC was established to provide policy and strategic guidance, make appropriate strategic decisions on the project implementation and ensure strategic knowledge sharing to attract donor support. In addition, the RPSC endorses the annual report and the annual workplans for the 8 countries.

The Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting will be chaired by a Government Representative from the 8 countries covered by the project in alphabetical order. The chairperson will rotate from meeting to meeting and each chair will conduct the RPSC business until the next meeting when another chair will take over the chairpersonship. The steering committee will meet the first week of December each year for the duration of the Programme. The RPSC will also meet to review project achievements, review and validate the annual reports and workplans for the following year.

SYP Objectives

1. To empower adolescents and young people aged 10 to 24 (with special focus on adolescent girls) to protect themselves from STIs including HIV
2. To empower adolescents and young people against unintended pregnancies
3. To empower adolescents and young people unsafe abortions,
4. To empower adolescents and young people against early marriages,
5. To empower adolescents and young people against gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices while promoting gender equitable norms and protective behaviours in 8 Southern African Countries

2014 - 2015

Phase 1

1. Programme Planning
2. Development of national level 3 year operational plans
3. Development of a Programme M&E Framework based on country frameworks
4. Conducting a baseline study and focused assessments
5. Capacity building for implementing partners
6. Identification and scaling up of best and promising practices

2015 - 2016

Phase 2

1. **Project progress and planning**
 - a. Endorse the country and regional presentations on progress made in 2014.
 - b. Agree to the proposed 2015 activities as defined in the AWP.
2. **M&E and Reporting component**
 - a. Endorse the outline to be followed in order to report to the donor
 - b. Endorse the schedule for reporting to the donor.
 - c. Agree on the schedule of field visits in 2015.
3. **Project governance**
 - a. Propose schedule for RPSC telephone conferences and meetings in 2015-2016.
 - b. Establish a communication mechanism with the RPSC.
 - c. Agree that a regular meeting schedule should also be established for the Project Coordinators (both teleconferences and coordination meetings).

SYP Countries

1. **Botswana**
2. **Lesotho**
3. **Malawi**
4. **Namibia**
5. **Swaziland**
6. **South Africa**
7. **Zambia**
8. **Zimbabwe**