

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM

2024



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BOTSWANA



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### **Head Of Office's Message**

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This booklet highlights our contributions to advancing the global ICPD Programme of Action in 2024, in support of the Botswana Government. It showcases our efforts towards building a better future for Botswana women, girls and young people in their diversity. As we look ahead to 2025, we express our assuredness and preparedness to persist in the promotion of reproductive rights for women and girls in Botswana.

**Enjoy reading and have a fruitful and impactful 2025!**



## SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

© UNFPA is providing ongoing technical support to the Department of Health Policy, Partnerships, Research and Development for the ongoing consultations coordinating national efforts on the review of the Essential Health Services Package and have since shared inputs on the draft EHSP document.

© Developed a roadmap for Botswana to adopt a standing arrangement for procurement through Third Party Procurement for Sexual and Reproductive Health commodities and supplies, to optimise efficiencies and savings while obtaining quality-assured products. To support implementation of the roadmap, through UNFPA technical support the Ministry of Health, Finance Division, SRH Division and Central Medical Stores as well as the Ministry of Finance, will convene national political leadership for buy-in to ensure sustainable domestic financing.

© Supported the Ministry of Health to conduct a Maternal Mortality Audit Committee meeting whose intention was to review maternal deaths, identify underlying causes, and develop actionable strategies to prevent future maternal fatalities. A total of 28 cases were reviewed, including 18 from 2023 and 10 from 2024. These reviews provided a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to maternal deaths. A significant finding was that the majority of the mothers who died had received substandard care, with notable gaps in the quality of care provided.

© To support the acceleration of access to quality inclusive services and interventions that are impactful in preventing unintended pregnancies, and reducing maternal deaths as well as preventing and managing Gender Based Violence (GBV), UNFPA supported the review and updating of Comprehensive Post Abortion Care (CPAC) Guidelines and Training Manual, to align with the latest evidence and best practices including the

WHO CAC Guidelines of 2022. To achieve this, UNFPA facilitated a review and drafting process that engaged CPAC Technical Group Members including a legal representative who provided guidance on the legal framework and correct interpretation of clauses from the Penal Code, Children's Act, Forensic Procedures Act, Domestic Violence Act and the National Gender Based Violence Strategy (2015-2020).



## FAMILY PLANNING

© UNFPA provided technical support to the Ministry of Health during the development of the FP2030 commitment for Botswana. It is expected that the commitment will provide opportunity for the government to increase investment on Family Planning. The draft commitment is now available, endorsed and awaits national launch by the government.





## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

☉ A total of 20 Training Of Trainers (ToTs) were successfully trained on the new **National GBV Prevention and Management Guidelines and Training Manual** developed with UNFPA support in 2023, to strengthen their capabilities to deliver competent gender based violence services within an integration context. Participants were pooled from training institutions, hospitals, clinics, NGOs and the District Administration, and they included nurses, social workers and psychologists. GBV Data collection and reporting tools were also pre-tested at this **training** and once finalised and in use, the Ministry will be able to report on GBV.

☉ As a result of UNFPA's successful advocacy for increased domestic financing for SRHR aligning to Universal Health Coverage, the Ministry of Health cascaded the training with support from the Global Fund and reached a total of 100 Health Care Providers (HCP) and 40 Monitoring and Evaluation Officers in 3 districts (Serowe, Palapye and Greater Francistown). The Ministry further partnered with Debeers and reached 65 HCP, Police, Social workers (Hospital and Community), and Mine employees in Orapa and Letlhakane. A further community engagement activity including Traditional leaders and other Community Leaders was convened to address barriers including unfavourable norms.

☉ To commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UNFPA launched the **Bodyright Campaign** in Botswana with various partners, including the media, government, tech companies, civil society organizations, the private sector and social media influencers, to rally them to promote the safe and ethical use of technology and develop tangible actions to end online violence. This campaign was a call to action to drive real change and claim online protection for every girl, woman, and young person and take technology-facilitated violence as seriously as copyright infringement is taken. Additionally UNFPA collaborated with SRHR Africa

Trust (SAT) and UNAIDS to organise a youth engagement workshop with youth volunteers to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in SRH/HIV/GBV prevention and response.

☉ UNFPA led the Botswana UNDS in coordinating and leading the submission of a confidential report on CEDAW implementation for the 91st pre-session working group in Geneva on 28 October to 01 November 2024. UNFPA successfully presented, on behalf of UNCT Botswana, the confidential report to the CEDAW Committee which was collated through an Inter-agency group to document and highlights the realities and needs of women and girls in Botswana focusing on policy implementation progress, gaps that require strengthening multi-sectoral response and evidence based recommendations to accelerate progress towards achieving gender equality and ending GBV in Botswana. With this submission made, the CEDAW- Inter Agency Team will follow up directly with the Government of Botswana for their response before the official consideration of the report by the CEDAW Committee, which will be scheduled in 2025.





### MINIMUM INITIAL SERVICE PACKAGE

☑ Supported capacity building for Health Care Workers and District Disaster Management structures for developing and implementing preparedness and response plans that integrate the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in emergencies whilst ensuring equitable access to high quality rights based integrated services. Two districts (Ghanzi and Charleshill) benefitted from a capacity building workshop which resulted in the development of 2 draft district preparedness and response out of a target of 3 plans. In addition, supportive supervision for provision of mentoring and coaching to remediate barriers to implementation of plans, was provided to 3 districts that were a part of the 6 that benefitted from the initial training provided in 2023. Although only two out of the 3 planned districts were reached with advocacy and capacity building workshops during this planning period, the program is on track for achieving the target of 9.



### YOUTH ADVOCACY AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

☑ Supported a high-level stakeholder engagement with the Ministries of Education, Health, Youth & Gender, civil society organisations and UN agencies to operationalize the 2030 ESA Commitment. National partners, including adolescents and young people were actively engaged in the development of the national ESA Commitment Operational plan and CSE user- friendly school level monitoring tools for tracking and reporting school drop outs due to pregnancy. These are expected to be reviewed and endorsed by Permanent Secretaries from the three leading ministries.



### YOUTH LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

☑ To enable a conducive policy and legal environment where young people participate in the decision making process, UNFPA in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Gender supported the review of the 2010 National Youth Policy where adolescents and young people were fully engaged in the formulation and review process. An impact assessment report outlined key achievements of the 2010 National Policy and gaps and a pulse study undertaken through a consultative process including with adolescents and young people. A writing workshop for the National Youth Policy and Action Plan was held with key stakeholders. The revised policy will serve as a key strategic guidance document on all issues related to youth development in Botswana.

☑ UNFPA supported youth leaders to participate in the ICPD@30 Global Youth Dialogue that took place in Cotonou, Benin. Young people who attended the dialogue will continue engaging other young people with information on the state of affairs in Sexual and Reproductive Health issues in Botswana and the relevance of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD).

☑ Youth leaders were supported to participate in the **fifth edition of the Southern African Regional Students and Youth Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SARSYC)**, which brought together over 250 delegates from Southern African countries, representing diverse groups, as well as experienced public health experts, development partners, and government officials. Held under the theme "Building Bridges: Navigating Emerging Issues: Advancing Equitable Access to Public Health and Education," the conference sought to empower young people by providing a platform to interact with government and other development players to collectively find solutions to the myriad challenges they faces.



## PARTNERSHIPS

☉ To demonstrate commitment in putting young people's talents, hopes, and unique needs at the very centre of sustainable development, **UNFPA collaborated with Sky Girls BW** for the commemoration of International Day of the Girl Child. Commemorated under the theme "Girls' Vision for the Future", the partnership resulted in the development and dissemination of **a special edition magazine**, focusing on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), including key topics such as consent, bodily autonomy and debunking myths surrounding menstrual health. This magazine was distributed to over 500 young girls at a junior school in a remote area, to cater for girls in remote areas of Botswana with limited access to digital platforms.

☉ UNFPA collaborated with BOFWA to celebrate International Youth Day under the theme **"From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development."** Key activities included a dynamic podcast discussion on how digital tools can boost health and business skills; Smart Health, where young people learned how digital resources can keep them informed about dual protection, menstrual health and staying safe. Other notable activities included the Biz Boost, which helped them discover how technology can help launch and grow their own businesses, and Healthy Success, which explored how taking care of one's health including menstrual health can enhance their career and vice versa. Overcoming Hurdles provided tips on overcoming challenges that often come with the use of digital tools, such as racism, misogyny, and increased risks of GBV, especially on adolescent girls. The BOFWA Mobile Clinic, which provided free health education on menstrual health and health services like STI screening, HIV testing, the provision of all sexual reproductive health commodities, and instruction on how to use them, was quite a hit as the youth enthusiastically embraced it. As a result, 2400 youth were given condoms,<sup>21</sup> underwent HIV testing,<sup>20</sup> underwent STI screening,<sup>3</sup> received depo provera injections,

and 3 more had implants. One young person received PrEP,<sup>2</sup> received the emergency contraceptive pill, and another 2 received birth control tablets. A total of 133 people received information regarding the use of contraceptives. This commemoration reinforced UNFPA's commitment to empowering young people across the country and served as a powerful reminder of the potential of the nation's youth.



## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

☉ Successfully managed to sign a multi-year co-financing agreement between the Government of Botswana and UNFPA for the period 2023-2026, with GoB committing to an annual co-financing amount of BWP600,000.00 towards implementation of UNFPA annual workplans. An amount of BWP600,000 (USD 42,057) was received from the GoB for this period.

☉ Through technical support from the ESARO Resource Mobilization team, the Country Office conducted a capacity building training for all staff on resource mobilization. This resulted in the development of an agreed clear road map with resource mobilisation priorities for the country office, to be implemented in 2025.









## POPULATIONS DYNAMICS, DATA, POLICY AND MEGATRENDS

⊙ UNFPA retained its role as a thought leader in the space of data, especially population data. This was achieved through sustained and coordinated technical support to the national statistics office [Statistics Botswana] in the thematic analysis and dissemination phase of the 2022 Population and Housing Census. This tailored support focused on ensuring the development of high quality policy papers / manuscripts based on the census data through convening a technical session to review and quality assure draft manuscripts. This culminated in high quality policy papers based on the 2022 census data that were disseminated at the high level 2022 Population and Housing Census Conference. Four of these policy papers encompassed the targeted UNFPA thematic areas of interest [gender, fertility and nuptiality, youth and disability], surpassing the set target of three thematic analysis papers. The availability of these policy papers is expected to strengthen evidence based programming in UNFPA defined mandate areas.

⊙ Further, to advance the integration of demographic dynamics into national policies and development plans, through the technical leadership of UNFPA, the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs developed the successor Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Strategic Plan that identifies amongst others pathways for increasing coverage rates for population birth and death registration rates as a precursor to the envisaged development of a population register. The successful development of this strategy was ushered in by the collaboration of a number of key stakeholders including the Ministries of Health, Justice and Defence, Local Government and Rural Development, Statistics Botswana and UNICEF. While this strategy is pending validation and approval for implementation by the ministry in 2025, its completion is expected to strengthen the use of demographic intelligence in policy making processes.

⊙ UNFPA successfully supported the review of the Births and Deaths Registration Act as a legislative instrument to facilitate the population based civil registration and vital statistics system. UNFPA facilitated effective nationwide stakeholder consultations that targeted key constituents including women and girls, rural populations, LGBTQI community, traditional leadership, religious groups and service providers. These consultations culminated in drafting of legal instructions for revision of the bill that was successfully presented and approved into law by the National Assembly in August 2024. Through these efforts, with regards to one of the country programme indicators, the set target of two national plans and policies has been achieved.

⊙ 2024 marked a significant year as the global community reached the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD]. In anticipation of the 57th Commission on Population and Development, and the Summit of the Future, the national review of the ICPD was commissioned, and within the African and indeed the Botswana context, this review was conducted under the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development [AADPD]. This review also coincided with the review of the Revised National Population Policy [RNPP], both reviews conducted with the technical leadership of UNFPA. Following completion of these reviews, the cumulative results of these reviews being empirical demographic evidence for policy making, two knowledge products specifically focused on population and development have been produced to support effective advocacy efforts especially in positioning the demographic dividend agenda in the ongoing development of the National Development Plan 12.

### > Population Dynamics Continued

☑ To promote financial accountability and generate evidence to facilitate effective decision making in strategy development and programme implementation, the UNFPA Country Office participated in the formative evaluation of the UNFPA SP 2022-2025 as a source of evidence from an upper middle income country context. Further, as guided by the results-based management frameworks, the country office successfully convened mid year and annual programme review meetings to assess progress towards the planned results and to inform course corrections towards accelerated programme implementation and progress for achievement of the transformative results.

☑ UNFPA supported the stakeholder consultations of key constituents in relation to the review of the Marriage Act 2001 including women, LGBTQI+ community, traditional leadership, religious groups and rural communities. These initial consultations revealed a need for further consultations prior to the drafting of legal instructions for the review of the Act, and these are scheduled for 2025.



### DONOR VISIBILITY

☑ In order to ensure proper donor visibility and communicating our results and the impact of support of donors, UNFPA documented the China CIDCA support extensively through various **communications products** which include an op-ed in the newspapers, articles in major newspapers, a short video highlighting the key areas and impact of the support. A campaign that ran for six weeks on both major newspapers and UNFPA social media pages was also successfully completed, which elevated the visibility of the project. The project demonstrated effective results in ensuring uninterrupted delivery of sexual and reproductive health services, ultimately reaching a total of 5500 healthcare workers and over 100,000 women and girls accessing contraceptives across the country.



### KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

☑ Following the support UNFPA provided to convene a high level platform engaging members of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi (House of Chiefs) on advancing SRHR of adolescents and young people within their communities, an **advocacy booklet** encompassing the agreed action plan was developed and disseminate to all the traditional leaders, as well as through all the UNFPA digital channels. Other products, the resource packages for men and boys and for traditional leaders on SRHR are currently underway and once finalised are expected to promote inclusivity and community leadership in advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and also enhance access to SRHR services for men and boys.

☑ Other knowledge management and advocacy products produced and widely disseminated through all available platforms, to both internal and external audiences include the **2023 annual report**, which highlighted the achievements made by the country office in 2023 towards the realisation of the transformative results and a **summary booklet of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD)**.







2024



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