

TSA BATHO NEWSLETTER



Celebrating International Youth Day

UNFPA Botswana celebrated the 2015 International Youth Day with a social media campaign showcasing young people's community engagement. The campaign was in line with this year's theme of "Youth Civic Engagement" and profiled young people driving change in their community. From 12th August, UNFPA featured profiles of youth involved in civic engagement each day until 31st August. 57 youth profiles were posted to both Twitter and Facebook during the campaign.

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Young people aged 18 – 35 years submitted their profiles showcasing their contribution to their communities. The campaign highlighted that the engagement and participation of youth is essential to achieve sustainable human development. The International Youth Day 2015 campaign aimed at promoting civic engagement and participation of youth in politics and public life, so that young people can be empowered and bring a full contribution to society, development and peace.

The submissions were featured on the UNFPA Twitter and Facebook platforms while the winning submission, the one that gathered the most number of likes and engagement was used in the country office print publicity material. The campaign reached over 57, 000 users on Facebook, and had over 29, 000 tweet impressions on twitter over the 19 day period. Tweet impressions are the overall exposure the tweets received.

In Botswana, young people make up two thirds of the population, and they are faced with a multitude of challenges including unemployment, rising crime and disillusionment. However, today's young people, with their incredible potential and drive, also offer high hopes for the future. With the current cohort of young people, the participation of youth in government and civil society is essential to achieve sustainable human development.



Botswana

Olerato Keegope, 22 yrs

I am a vibrant and optimistic change maker, who strongly believes in active citizenship and youth involvement as solutions to the problems faced by the world. I have been an active member of civil society since 2013, and went into it voluntarily because I felt the need to make a change. As part of my work, which is mainly dealing with issues of sustainability, leadership, development and youth empowerment; I have had the opportunity to learn, and ultimately impact the local, regional and international community. I am a committed member of youth organization. YALDA, and a full time employee of NGO, Young 1ove. Working for the youth and making a difference makes me happy.

Hashtag and tag us in your pictures, showing us how you are actively changing your community!
#YouthDayBW #YouthNow

 @UNFPABotswana
UNFPA Botswana

 2015
YOUTH CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Keegope's profile got the most engagement on social media and was subsequently used in UNFPA publicity material

Tweet Meet: “Young people and Health Issues”

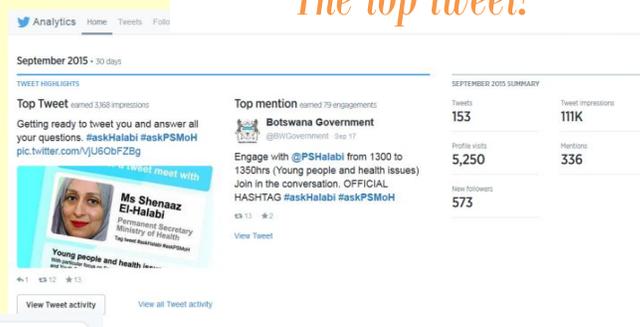
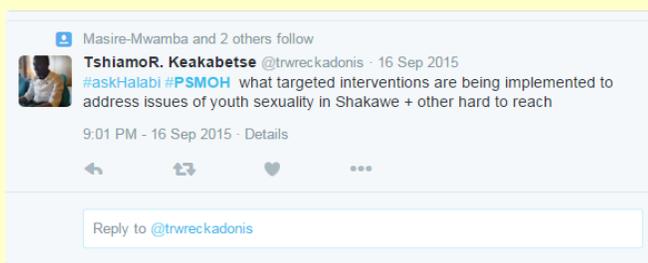
The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ms. Shenaaz El-Halabi, hosted a tweet meet on the 17 September 2015. The hour long *tweet meet* was a live online discussion with young people. It was an opportunity for the young people to engage with the Permanent Secretary on “youth friendly services” and how to improve on their delivery of services. It also provided an opportunity for the MoH and the youth to discuss some of the challenges.

Some of those topics discussed by the youth include: the different types contraceptive methods; cervical cancer; safe male circumcision; the deteriorating state of health care facilities and issue of the accessibility of female and male condoms.

The tweet meet demonstrated the potential of social media in connecting policy makers with young people and to include youth voices to guide youth programming, and facilitate youth participation in development. Following the success of this tweet meet, the ministry is planning to hold tweet meets every quarter to discuss different health topics.



“What they said:”



The top tweet!



120 Teachers take CSE online training



Ms. Matebele creating a problem solving tree on young people's SRH issues as part of the training

Discussing sexuality with somebody younger is a challenge for most people, be it a parent, a teacher, the challenge is the same. Where do I begin? Should it really be me talking about this? Which topic do I cover? Are the learners mature enough to know? These are some of the many questions that teachers ask themselves. The majority are not trained to deliver Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). As part of the ESA Commitment for scaling up CSE in the region, UNFPA and UNESCO regional offices developed online teacher training courses for teachers responsible for teaching CSE. The course equipped teachers with knowledge and skills related to the delivery of age appropriate, human rights and gender-based CSE in schools. Evidence shows that effective CSE programmes consistently increase student knowledge about HIV and preventing unwanted pregnancy, delay sexual debut, and increase use of contraception including the use of condoms by young people. Effective HIV and sexuality education requires trained and motivated teachers to deliver CSE. The course began with a face to face component where teachers were introduced to the course, followed by individual learning where they completed the course on their own.

Reflection from Ms. Tumisang Matebele, Guidance & Counselling teacher, Morama CJSS

“I enjoyed studying the seven modules. The impact it had on me as an educator and a Guidance & Counselling teacher will go a long way to assist me to impart knowledge in many students at my school. The knowledge I have received will help learners receive accurate and age-appropriate information which will help them through the adolescence stage. This will encourage them to make responsible decisions that will impact their current and future sexual and reproductive health and overall well-being. The online course has really empowered me. I now have an in depth understanding of sexuality education. I am now very confident and comfortable in teaching and discussing sexuality and its related topics with the learners. As a Guidance & Counselling teacher I strongly believe that CSE should be taught in schools and more educators should be trained, and make CSE a part of the teacher training curriculum. Having gone through the course I realize that these are the skills that we have been lacking as teachers in delivering sexuality education.”

This year UNFPA and UNESCO supported training covering 7 modules:

- 1) Sexuality Overview-The Circles of Sexuality
 - 2) Adolescent Social and Emotional Development
 - 3) Sexual Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology
 - 4) Fertility, Pregnancy and Reproduction
 - 5) Preventing STI's and HIV
 - 6) Gender
 - 7) Relationships.
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Progress on Implementation of the SADC Gender Protocol

Botswana hosted the 2015 SADC Gender Protocol @ Work Regional Summit on the 17 August 2015 in Gaborone under the theme "Post 2015 – Action & Results". In the count down to the 2015 deadline for the 28 targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, the summit highlighted the regional progress areas (Green Flags) and challenging areas (Red Flags) for the thematic areas of the Protocol as follows:

PROGRESS AREAS	CHALLENGES
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL RIGHTS	
The campaign against child marriages has gained momentum with Malawi raising the age of marriage to 18	Customary laws and practices often run against Constitutional provisions on gender equality
GOVERNANCE	
Women in SADC make up 27% of members of parliament. This is higher than the global average of 22%	No SADC country has reached the 50% target of women's representation in parliament, cabinet or local government
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	
Most SADC countries now have equal numbers of boys and girls at secondary and primary school	Many young women do not complete their education because of gender violence and teenage pregnancies
ECONOMIC JUSTICE	
All SADC countries make legal provision for maternity leave	Women are the majority of the unemployed and the dispossessed in SADC. They only own 10% of the land
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE	
All 15 SADC countries now have laws and plans to end gender violence	At least one third of all women in SADC have experienced gender violence in their life time
HEALTH	
Fewer women are dying at child birth in Zambia, Lesotho and Zimbabwe	SADC has not achieved the MDG target of reducing maternal mortality by three quarters in 2015
HIV AND AIDS	
Treatment of HIV and AIDS in SADC is expanding rapidly. Mother to child transmission has been dramatically reduced	Southern Africa has the highest proportion of people living with HIV and AIDS anywhere in the world. The majority of these are women
MEDIA, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	
Over 100 media houses in SADC are now Centres of Excellence for Gender in the Media	Women constitute only one in five of the views and voices heard and read in the media
IMPLEMENTATION	
The SADC Gender Ministers have agreed to review the SADC Gender Protocol and to add a Monitoring, Evaluation and Results Framework	Resources and capacity for gender ministries remain weak
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
The SADC Protocol on Environment has strong provisions on gender equality	Women suffer the most from the natural disasters that accompany climate change

Our UNFPA Experience

UNFPA through the eyes of Interns

The importance of an internship experience cannot be overstated. An internship makes the classroom's abstract theories and learned examples concrete by placing the graduate in a real life work situation with real live co-workers performing actual professional tasks, which the job encompasses.

As part of the efforts to encourage youth participation, the UNFPA Botswana embraced us in helping to develop our skills in different programmes areas. It is exciting especially as young women being with the UNFPA when its programmes are aimed at promoting youth leadership and participation, and working on Sexual Reproductive Health, Demographic Dividend and Gender Equality. Five months later, we feel like we have been able to get a wonderful introduction of the work of UNFPA and been fully immersed as members of an already proven, dedicated and professional UNFPA country team in Botswana.



“My experience here has definitely broadened my mind to see how an office works and it has also given me an insight to see what makes an organization come together and be successful. It has also made me a lot more curious about issues of Sexual Reproductive Health and solidified my interest in Gender Equality. UNFPA has thus far provided a great platform not only to discover myself as a young professional but also helped me learn to claim my space as a woman in a corporate environment.” – **Tlotlego (Communications Intern)**

“It has been a challenging and exciting journey to be part of the UNFPA family. As an intern, I got exposed to new areas that challenged me on the way but with the guidance from my supervisors, the learning has been a success. It has helped me to develop new skills in the areas that I lacked; I got involved in trainings, learning sessions and short courses. My work has not been limited to only one area which has exposed me to all the UNFPA programmes. In this past couple of months, I have had time to meet with different people and learnt from them, thus improving my interpersonal relations especially in areas where there were youth sessions.” – **Goitse (M&E Intern)**



“As an intern I have learned firsthand about the complexities and multiple players that go into promoting human rights and a sexual reproductive health rights for young people in Botswana. I also have had the opportunity to get involved in the various programmes designed to increase the empowerment of young people in Botswana; to address the difficulties in access to SRH commodities; focusing on increase the accessibility of health care for the youth & women as well as gender mainstreaming programmes. – **Rea (ASRH Intern)**

“As UNFPA our efforts to promote youth leadership and participation enable young people to develop the skills, knowledge and support needed to make informed decisions about their bodies, lives, families, communities, countries and the world.” **Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director**

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



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