

# TSA BATHO NEWSLETTER



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## Football stars use soccer to 'kick' out GBV



*The Unity Cup Champions celebrating their victory*

were engaged as teams with among the most supporters, particularly of men in the country.

Prior to the match, the players and administration members of the participating teams were trained on gender and GBV. They were also trained on how they can brand themselves as positive role models and use social media to enhance social change. The two-day training reached a total of 50 people (42 men and 8 women). The trained soccer players actively participated in community mobilization, leading community discussions on GBV in Gaborone, Mochudi and Lobatse.

Different media platforms were used to continue discussion and education on GBV. An estimated total of 250, 000 people were reached through the use of print, radio, television and social media.

The campaign concluded with the Unity Cup soccer game between Township Rollers and Extension Gunners on the evening of the 9th December 2015 at the National Stadium, featuring women referees only. The kick-off of the match was preceded by statements and messages on gender based violence, along with LIVE performances and DJ entertainment. The team captains made a pledge on gender based violence and vowed to continue engaging in efforts to eliminate all forms of gender based violence with their teams to make the world a better place for women and children. The trophy and medals

**E**xtension Gunners emerged the 'Unity Cup' champions after defeating Township Rollers in a football match held to raise awareness about Gender-based violence (GBV) in Botswana.

The Unity Cup was a collaboration between UNFPA, UNDP and Men and Boys for Gender Equality (MBGE). The match was part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence commemoration.

The football match was a conclusion of a variety of activities geared towards promoting men and boys as partners in the fight against GBV. Township Rollers and Extension Gunners

were awarded the winning team by the Assistant Minister of Health - Dr. Alfred Madigele, UNFPA Assistant Representative - Ms. Mareledi Segotso, and the Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs - Mr. Montshiwa Montshiwa.

A mobile phone application was created for the Unity Cup campaign to communicate messages on GBV and build momentum for the soccer tournament by enabling supporters to participate in picking the team line-up and predicting the score. The application was available online for a total of two weeks, during which 132 supporters downloaded and used it. The application allowed campaign organizers to send bulk phone messages with GBV information. A total of 2,848 SMS messages were sent. Before accessing various features of this application, the 132 users had to answer questions about GBV.

### ***Team Captain Pledge***

*"I pledge to never commit nor support gender violence, in all its manifestations. I pledge to speak up against gender based violence and to teach other men how we can help end gender violence.*

*I believe equality for women is a basic human right that benefits us all. I commit to taking action against gender discrimination and violence in order to build a more just and equal world."*



*Assistant Representative awarding players medals accompanied by Deputy PS, Mr. Montshiwa*

## UNFPA Botswana Youth Advisory Panel Unveiled



*Botswana Youth Advisory Panel with Assistant Representative Ms. Mareledi Segotso*

UNFPA Botswana has established the first ever Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) comprised of 24 young people from eight districts. The YAP is part of UNFPA's commitment to young people's right to participate in decision making platforms. The panel members represent both in school and out of school youth; those living with disability as well as those who live in rural, peri-urban and urban areas. The panel members were selected by their respective schools and organizations.



*Keneilwe, a panel member, introducing herself to the panelists*

As part of efforts to ensure that panel members get acquainted with the setting they would be working in for the next two years as well understand their roles as YAP members, UNFPA Botswana CO held an induction meeting from the 23 - 25 November 2015 in Francistown. In her opening remarks, the Assistant representative of the UNFPA, Ms. Mareledi Segotso emphasized that "working with young people is no longer an option but a must for both the UN and government. We live in an era where young people are navigating their turbulent lives with little or no information to protect them and make informed decisions about their sexual lives. We need to make sure that every young person has adequate information to make informed decisions, because young people are the leaders of today, tomorrow and the future."

Panel members discussed the various issues in their schools and communities. Intergenerational relationships and teenage pregnancy were among the common SRH challenges faced in the various districts. The panel members reviewed the terms of reference for the panel and their roles as well using social media as an advocacy tool. At the end of the orientation panel members developed an action plan that will guide their work for the next two years.

## “Young people must be prioritized” - African Union leaders declare

Botswana has heeded the call to prioritize young people. The country’s Vice President, His Honor, Mokgweetsi Masisi highlighted this when he participated in the High Level Consultative Meeting for Heads of State and Government on the “*Demographic Dividend and Investing in Youth*”. The meeting was held in Addis Ababa on September 29, 2015. Presidents, Vice Presidents and Ministers at the meeting, chaired by Malawian President Arthur Peter Mutharika, pledged to invest in young people and work together to achieve a Demographic Dividend in their countries.



*UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin and Malawian President Arthur Peter Mutharika at the high-level African Union meeting*

Countries with high proportions of young people are poised to benefit from a ‘**demographic dividend**’, an economic boom that can occur when there are more people of working age than dependents. This is brought about by a falling birth rate and the consequent shift in the age structure of the population towards the adult working ages. As a first step, countries should experience the demographic transition. As countries move through the demographic transition, the size of the working age population increases. This creates a **window of opportunity** for attaining a Demographic Dividend.

Addressing the AU high-level meeting, Hon. Masisi acknowledged the potential of a youthful population structure in many sub-Saharan African countries, including Botswana and highlighted the critical characteristics of this cohort as “...not only young

but vulnerable, unskilled, insufficiently educated, energetic and willing to work, learn and do”. He noted that government “...would want to tap on this ..... and put young people at the center of the development process...” as the country currently develops the next generation of its National Development Plan and the Vision framework.”

Africa’s youthful population is central to the realization of the Demographic Dividend in the continent. Unleashing the potential and power of youth is a critical component of the developmental strategies. “Youth can be critical agents for socioeconomic change if appropriate investments are made to unleash their promise. However, if we don’t take appropriate action now, we will miss our opportunity to turn this growing youth population into a resource for development” said Malawian President Arthur Peter Mutharika.

“Ensuring access to education, health services and employment for youth can mean the difference between capitalizing on a demographic dividend or taking a road towards disempowerment and disaffection,” said Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA’s Executive Director, delivering the meeting’s keynote address. “Adolescent girls, in particular, if they can be ensured high-quality education and primary health care, and if they are no longer burdened by child marriage, gender-based

violence, unplanned pregnancies, poor maternal and newborn health, or HIV, can generate a better future for themselves and their families – and a dividend for their country,” Dr. Osotimehin said.

Botswana presents a youthful population. The demographic transition does not however guarantee a demographic dividend. Given Botswana’s youthful age structure, wide-ranging social, economic and governance policies and programmes, the country has the potential for realizing this window of opportunity. The Government of Botswana has prioritized young people and continues to develop and implement programmed and policies geared towards improving the lives of young people. However more deliberate policy options to achieve the demographic dividend need to be explored.

### ***What is a Demographic Dividend?***

*A demographic dividend is a boost in economic growth that occurs when there is a larger number of people of working age than those below or above working age. Maximizing the dividend depends on the empowerment, education and employment of the people, together with higher savings and investment in productive resources.*

## **UNFPA supports Vision 2016 Stakeholder Consultations**

UNFPA supported the Vision 2016 Secretariat to conduct two national stakeholder consultation conferences for women and youth, aimed at assessing progress on the Vision 2016 Pillars.

The Moral and Tolerant Nation Pillar conference held under the theme “*Enhancing and Sustaining Morality and Tolerance within our Society*” noted gaps in accomplishing morality and tolerance and observed the importance of aspects of the pillar in contributing to the social development of the nation. The consultations highlighted gaps with regards to: the disintegration of the traditional systems that assisted livelihood security and promoted co-operation amongst societies; platform for freedom of expression is created but there may be fears in some instances to express freely and some abuse the freedom; People Living With Disability (PWD) are excluded: need for all schools to cater for PWDs instead of them having special schools and units; lack of accountability especially amongst leadership; need for improved tolerance across religious affiliations; Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a sign of intolerance and immorality within societies; ICT use by youth to be nurtured so that it can benefit both the young people and the country at large.

UNFPA gave a key note address on “Mainstreaming Gender in a Moral and Tolerant Nation”. The statement highlighted various international processes that continue to place gender equity as an important development variable that needs to remain high on the national development agenda. The statement also indicated how dialogue opens a window of opportunity for a redefinition of strategies and consensus building on key recommendations for the fulfillment of human rights including the rights of women and girls that should be mainstreamed into the envisaged Vision 2036 framework and the National

Development Plan (NDP) 11. The 2-day conference was attended by about 150 stakeholders representing different districts, institutions and organizations. These included Dikgosi from different localities, District Commissioners, District Council Officials, Land Board officials, Church Leaders and Members of Parliament as well as Councilors from across the country.

## The role of youth in realizing Vision 2016



*ASRH Specialist Ms. Kefti Koogotsitse speaking on the role of young people in making a difference in their communities*

Youth participation in the development process is key for the advancement of the country. Vision 2016 Secretariat held a youth forum on “***The Role of youth in realizing Vision 2016: The past, Present and Future***”. The youth forum was convened to: i) establish the role played by young people in the seven (7) pillars of Vision 2016; ii) establish the impact of youth participation in the pillars of Vision 2016 iii) evaluate the impact of youth empowerment programs in line with Vision 2016 goals iv) develop post Vision 2016 recommendations that support the formulation of sustainable strategies that promote youth participation in development.

While the youth highlighted contributions they made during the Vision 2016, they called for their meaningful engagement in the formulation and implementation of the new Vision 2036.

Young people made the following recommendations:

- I. Harnessing youth talent through skills development;
- II. Enhancing the quality of education and empowering vulnerable youth such as those with disabilities and those living in remote/rural areas;
- III. The need to identify role models from whom youth can learn and be supported;
- IV. The need to promote inter-dependence amongst young people;
- V. The inclusion and participation of young people in national development processes geared towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- VI. Creation of employment opportunities.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Anders Pedersen, delivered the key note address and indicated that the development of this country depends on the extent to which young people are effective participants in the development of the country. He added that we have to continuously ensure that young people are at the discussion tables when the future national development agendas are shaped, the Vision 2036 and next National Development Plan and partnering with young people is necessary to ensure meaningfulness and effectiveness. The UNFPA Programme Specialist, Mr Moses Keetile, gave the closing remarks.



WORLD  
AIDS  
DAY  
2015

## CONDOMIZE! Campaign: 4 areas, 4 Days, 41 000 Condoms

41 000 condoms were distributed in four days as UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to roll out the CONDOMIZE! campaign in Mandunyane, Tonota, Francistown, Tutume/ Matobo as a build up to the World AIDS Day commemorations. Prior to the campaign 23 young people were trained on HIV prevention and skills building to use a condom.

The team took the campaign to the National World AIDS Day commemorations on the 1<sup>st</sup> December held under the theme “*Getting to Zero... Zero New HIV infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS related deaths*”. His Honour the Vice President, Mokgweetsi Masisi gave the key note address and noted that HIV prevention interventions had remained a challenge as reflected by the under-performance of the national response in prevention outcomes.

### Key Issues on Condoms @ Mandunyane, Tonota, Francistown, Matobo

- HIV PREVALENCE (15 -24 years):  
Francistown/Mandunyane - 10.1%,  
Tutume District - 10.4% (source: BIAS IV)
- Young people are warming up to the female condoms, therefore there is a need to intensify female condom education.
- Youth had strong opinions of the Lorato condoms and were glad they are no longer being distributed
- **41 000** male condoms distributed in the four areas
- **1600** Female condoms distributed

During the activation, young people raised a lot of questions on the female condom. The questions ranged from how safe it is to use, to what material it is made from, and most importantly how it is used. There were discussions around the common misconception of how inappropriate it is for women to be carrying condoms around, and that condoms are to be carried by men only. The young people also raised strong views on public sector condoms like the ‘Lorato’ branded condom. One young man explained how many of his friends no- longer use condoms as they believe that condoms burst and that they are all ‘Lorato’, just re-branded. These are some of the misconceptions that the campaign strives to end, which speaks to the need to step up information dissemination to young people on condoms.

Some of the comments they raised in the discussions were; “condoms are smelly; dirty; used by promiscuous people”.

The next stop for the team was in Francistown in the Area W location, an area notorious for being the hub of sex workers. Once again the female condom was the star, with more interest in how it is inserted and removed. The crowd there showed a much more positive reaction to the female condom than any of the other areas.

The final stop of the campaign was Matobo/Tutume where the team was assisted by the 23 previously trained volunteers. The region faces challenges of a lack of consistent supply of condoms, as there were no female condoms in the area.

The CONDOMIZE campaign sought to destigmatize the condom; clear up myths and misconceptions around condoms; encourage correct and consistent condoms use. During all the campaigns there seemed to be a growing interest from the public on the female condom, and requests for demonstrations on how to use it. In the Mandunyane area specifically there was a lot of stigma around the condom, the youth at the clinic explained that they hide condoms in boxes so that people do not know they came to collect condoms. This realization calls for a need to further intensify information dissemination on condoms and skills building.

### **Myths on condoms from Mandunyane, Tonota, Francistown, Matobo**

- Female condoms are painful to use
- You have to put in the FC2 12 hours before they are safe to use
- Condoms are not to be trusted as they burst
- Condoms are not safe they have holes in them
- Condoms are used by sinners as sexual intercourse before marriage is a sin.

## UNFPA call to action against GBV



Violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive violations of human rights in the world. The United Nations estimates that globally one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime. In Botswana two in three women have experienced Gender Based Violence (GBV) in their lifetime, which is double the global average!

These numbers only reflect cases where the victim was brave enough to report the crime to police. Studies suggest many cases of GBV go unreported. These numbers are not just statistics – they represent our mothers, sisters, daughters and friends. GBV not only affects the health, dignity and security of women and girls; it threatens entire societies by fueling cycles of violence and inhibiting economic growth.

As a result, UNFPA has made responding to GBV a top priority among its key actions. This message was delivered by UNFPA Assistant Representative, Ms. Mareledi Segotso during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence on Women and Girls campaign, which was held under the theme ***“From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All.”*** The Assistant Representative stated that the magnitude and complexity of GBV in Botswana requires forging of stronger partnerships that will yield results at a higher and deeper scale. The government must forge stronger partnerships with civil society and vice versa, civil society must work better together, men and women, parents and children, every stakeholder must play their role and compliment the efforts of the collective.

“In most countries, fewer than four in 10 survivors of GBV report or seek help. This is because of their limited knowledge on GBV, lack of awareness of their rights, and normalization of this social ill, and GBV being treated as a private family matter. We therefore need to take bold steps to increase access to health, justice and information services for survivors of GBV,” highlighted Ms. Segotso.

She concluded by saying; “The United Nations strongly believe that every woman and girl has the right to live free of gender-based discrimination and violence. This is an imperative not only for the dignity, human rights and well-being of women and girls, but for the common humanity and the common future.”

The international community is about to embark on a 15-year journey towards equitable and inclusive sustainable development. For the new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to have a meaningful, positive impact, actions must be taken to break the cycle of violence against women that denies millions of women and girls their fundamental human rights and their ability to contribute to the economic and social progress of their nations.

Ending violence against women and girls should be a priority for every human being. This is not only a women's issue; it affects all people. As long as the dignity and well-being of half of humanity is at risk, peace, security and sustainable development will remain out of reach. With the new global goals, we have a collective responsibility to end violence against women and girls by 2030. We need to do more, all of us, and leave no one behind.

## The power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030

Botswana has an opportunity to focus on the power of the adolescent girl to drive progress and transformation if increased investments are made to address poverty and gender inequality, which are the key drivers of vulnerability among adolescents particularly, adolescent girls. This was the key message from UNFPA as it joined The African Women Leadership Academy (TAWLA) in celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child, under the theme ***“The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030”***.



*Some of the young people who turned up for the commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child in Gaborone*

60 vibrant adolescent girls aged between 13 and 18 years from Junior and Senior Secondary schools attended the commemoration. The day promotes girls' human rights, highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys and addresses the various forms of discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the world based upon their gender.

Speaking at the event, UNFPA's Ms. Chada Kealotswe, highlighted that this year's theme focused on adolescent girls and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which set a range of international targets including on gender equality, to be achieved by 2030 which shows the commitment by the global community to realizing the potential of adolescent girls. "It is

important to invest in adolescent girls as they have the potential to become leaders and effect change in their families, communities and the world at large," Kealotswe stated.

She also shared that the potential of adolescent girls to become leaders can be hindered by challenges such as unwanted pregnancies, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and limited access to higher education and reproductive health service, and that these challenges need to be addressed.

The participants got the opportunity to dialogue amongst themselves in smaller groups on issues around GBV. The discussion centred on what GBV is and its forms, what causes or leads to GBV, where it usually happens and whether they knew where they can report GBV cases. From the discussions it emerged that most participants knew what GBV is, and its different types, a few knew about emotional abuse while most adolescent girls from junior secondary schools did not know much about economic abuse. Most participants gave examples of their mothers being harsh on them as GBV, which shows the need for more education for young people.

Girls born in in the year 2000 when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted have reached adolescence today, and the generation of girls born this year will be adolescents in 2030 when the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will expire. The year 2015 presents an opportune time to reflect on the importance of social, economic, and political investment in adolescent girls, as fundamental to breaking the intergenerational cycle of hunger, poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination, in order to achieve equitable and sustainable development outcomes. The future of the country rests on the capacity of this generation of 10 to 24 year olds to utilize opportunities and services across all sectors.

## 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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