

The UNFPA logo is located in the top right corner. It consists of the letters "UNFPA" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid orange circle. Above the circle, there is a decorative pattern of orange dots and a faint, repeating UNFPA logo watermark.

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# A SNAPSHOT

OF UNFPA BOTSWANA IN 2021



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, works with governments, other UN agencies and partners to improve access to sexual and reproductive health care in countries where sexual and reproductive health problems are a leading cause for ill health and death for women and girls of child bearing age. The work of UNFPA is guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 3 on health, Goal 4 on education and Goal 5 on gender equality. In Botswana, UNFPA supports the country to end preventable maternal deaths, end the unmet need for family planning, and end violence and harmful practices against women and girls. In addition, we support the prevention of sexual HIV transmission. We also work to ensure that no one is left behind and those furthest behind are reached with SRHR services.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the commitment and joint efforts of all stakeholders strived to achieve significant results for women and girls. This brochure summarizes UNFPA's key results achieved in 2021 under the leadership of the Government of Botswana in collaboration with technical and financial partners and civil society organizations. The year

2021 marked the end of the 6th cycle of cooperation which started in 2017. It focused on provision of quality reproductive health services and improving programming for sexual and reproductive health services, in particular to adolescents and young people.

The programme implementation of 2021 was geared towards contributions to the below outputs:

- Improved policy standards for delivery of integrated, gender-sensitive and non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health services at national scale.
- Improved policy guidelines and service standards for provision of high-quality family planning services, including demand for and supply of modern contraceptives.
- Strengthened policy guidelines and protocols for development and implementation of evidence-based and comprehensive maternal health services.
- Improved policy and programming for adolescents and young people's rights to access SRH information and services.
- Improved guidelines and standards for the design and implementation of community and school-based comprehensive sexuality education programmes that promote human rights and gender equality.





# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



## FAMILY PLANNING

- Developed an investment case on Family Planning to augment advocacy efforts towards increasing financing for family planning services. The investment case, which entails gaps and return-on-investment analysis provides quantitative evidence on family planning as a high impact intervention, and will act as a key advocacy piece in negotiations with government and other potential donors in a bid to increase family planning financing.
- Partnered with a social media influencer in a national campaign to mobilize communities to access and use female condoms. Over 300 000 people were reached through a weekly 1-hour radio show and a Facebook live streaming show. It provided a platform for the delivery of accurate information about Female Condom 2 (FC2) and demystified myths surrounding it.



## MATERNAL HEALTH

- Partnered with Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) to provide technical and financial support to the Ministry of Health and Wellness in the implementation of phase I of the Drones for Health initiative. Through this initiative, medical products will be delivered using drone technology, as an innovative solution for reducing maternal mortality and improving health care delivery in general.
- Facilitated national stakeholder consensus building to prioritize recommendations of the Strategic Assessment on unintended pregnancies, contraception and unsafe abortion. The recommendations will be piloted in Stage II of the WHO Strategic Approach, as new or revised policies to improve service delivery, programme management, and community-level interventions related to critical SRH issues.



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- Collaborated with Men & Boys for Gender Equality (M&BGE) during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV to enhance awareness, address harmful norms and practices and recognize men as key players in efforts to end GBV and realize gender equality.
- Supported training of 40 counselors from five (5) Civil Society Organizations on provision of remote counseling and tele-therapy services to support women, men, girls and boys experiencing and affected by Gender Based Violence in Botswana.



## HIV PREVENTION

- 11 050 male condoms and 1000 female condoms were distributed to sex workers.
- 203 health care workers were trained to provide quality integrated SRH/HIV services.
- 137 female sex workers in Gaborone, Palapye and Selibe Phikwe were reached with information on HIV prevention, access and use of condoms, access to SRH and HIV services, in collaboration with Sisonke Botswana. This resulted in a total of 79 sex workers testing for HIV.
- In partnership with the National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA), UNFPA initiated the development of HIV prevention cascades, which are useful tools to improve adherence to HIV prevention interventions such as condom programming among others.



## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

- Collaborated with the Botswana Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted (BABPS) to convene young people with disabilities for a dialogue on their SRHR issues. The meeting culminated in the establishment of a Youth Network for young people with disabilities who continue to advocate for policy and programming inclusion to ensure that their voices are heard.
- Partnered with BABPS and Special Olympics Botswana to train 30 implementers on delivering quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for young people with disabilities. This resulted in a total of 420 young people with disabilities reached through the weekly CSE sessions delivered by these trained implementers.
- Provided 1500 reusable sanitary pads to 500 girls in two schools; Ngambao Junior Secondary School in Seronga and Shakawe Senior School in Shakawe to close the persistent lack of sanitary pads among girls in hard to reach areas that has often impacted on adolescent girls' ability to remain in school.
- Supported the development of the National Disability Policy and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by ensuring effective participation of partners serving people with disabilities in the development processes.



## ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Supported training of 40 health care workers on the delivery of quality youth-friendly health services in the Ngami and Okavango districts.
- Reached over 200,000 adolescents and young people with sexual reproductive health and HIV information through the Don't Get it Twisted weekly radio show.
- 757 adolescent boys and young men were reached through dialogues on positive masculinity to help confront negative gender norms and barriers affecting their Sexual Reproductive Health. The dialogues also highlighted the role of men and boys in supporting adolescent girls to continue their schooling, the importance of knowing about the various contraceptives, and where to access them before they engage in sexual activities.
- Supported delivery of CSE, reaching a total of 3224 young people in Ngami and Okavango districts. 45 teachers from 34 schools in the same districts were trained to deliver quality CSE to learners. 4947 students have received CSE sessions at the school level in the region.
- Facilitated the mobilization of national leaders, including ministers to adopt the ESA 2030 Ministerial Commitment on the health and well-being of adolescents.



## INTEGRATION OF SRH & HIV SERVICES

- Conducted review mechanisms using the SADC SRHR Strategy (2019-2030) and Scorecard and the Minimum Standards for the Integration of HIV and SRH in the SADC Region as guides for programming. The country office convened national stakeholders to reflect on progress made between 2019 and 2021 and identified priority areas of action to accelerate realization of national, regional and global SRHR targets. As a result, reporting requirements to the SADC Secretariat, the SADC Ministers of Health Meeting and the World Health Assembly in 2021 were fulfilled.
- Supported the development of the National Guidelines on Health Services Integration to provide strategic guidance by positioning integrated service delivery as a health development imperative. The guidelines will support all health service providers from public, private and civil society health care settings, to provide holistic client centered integrated services that prioritize people's health needs.
- Supported the Ministry of Health and Wellness to strengthen and improve the availability of quality data needed to inform evidence-based programming for SRHR/HIV and SGBV integration. M&E officers across the country were trained and mentoring and supportive visits to five integration scale-up districts was undertaken. This support resulted in an increased number of districts consistently reporting on SRHR/HIV and GBV integration indicators from six (6) to eleven (11) by the third quarter of 2021.
- Advocated for the inclusion of SRHR and gender equality in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Report for Botswana. This is the first time SRHR and gender were included, to highlight issues of SRHR and climate change. This inclusion will ensure that all future national preparedness plans and responses fully respond to SRHR and gender equality.



## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- In 2021, the Country Office mobilized over \$600,000 from different donors.
- \$54,000 through the OED iAccelerator innovation to support the Drones for Health pilot project for reducing maternal mortality. The funds were used to support phase II implementation, which included engagement of technical assistance for project coordination and support for documentation of phase I.
- \$500,000 was received from the Government of The People's Republic of China for procurement of Personal Protective Equipment for health workers, to support the government in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, as well as procure reproductive health commodities to address the shortage faced by the country.
- \$80,000 was mobilized through NAHPA Global Fund Linkages of HIV, RMNCAH & TB programme for Adolescent Girls and Young Women to support SRH/HIV integration 2021/2022 work plan. The Country Office supported the SRH division in the Ministry of Health to develop and cost activities to strengthen SRH programmes.



## DATA GENERATION

- Developed two evidence briefs on the demographic dividend agenda; one on *Capitalizing on Young People* and the other on *Preparing for an Ageing Population*. The briefs will inform the ongoing development of the national Demographic Dividend roadmap for Botswana.
- Procured 100 census tablets out of the 180 tablets required for Statistics Botswana to implement the first digital pilot census.
- Assessed the alignment of the 2020 National Population Policy to the principles of population policies as defined in the ICPD Programme of Action. The assessment demonstrated critical gaps in the ability of the policy to respond to the rapidly evolving population dynamics in the country and made recommendations.



## COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Led the development of the Integrated COVID-19 and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services Guideline for Botswana. The guideline was developed to provide guidance to health care workers, at all levels; to ensure continued provision and access of SRH services during the COVID-19 crisis period.
- Supported the government with procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for health care workers as part of safeguarding SRH. These included gowns, gloves, surgical masks, goggles, face shields and coveralls, which were distributed across 18 health districts.



## GEARING FOR THE DECADE OF ACTION

- As part of efforts to achieve the SGDs in the Decade of Action, the country office in consultation with the Government of Botswana, other United Nations agencies and partners, successfully developed the GOB/ UNFPA 7th Country Programme 2022 - 2026. This new CPD seeks to accelerate and scale up access to SRH services in Botswana.





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