



Botswana



A SNAPSHOT

OF UNFPA BOTSWANA IN 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF OFFICE

In 2022, which was our first year of implementing the new 7th Country Programme 2022-2026, UNFPA Botswana moved swiftly to put into practice the spirit of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025 that is to Innovate, Accelerate and Motivate to advance equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. This meant intensifying and growing our strategic partnerships with the Government and national partners to pursue our collective commitment towards accelerating the pace and scale to achieving the three transformative results of ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence and ending sexual transmission of HIV, which underpins the acceleration of HIV combination prevention in Botswana. Achieving these results requires stronger collaboration and partnerships, and in 2022, UNFPA was happy to have worked closely with the government and implementing partners in ensuring that no one was left behind.

UNFPA acknowledges the country's demonstrated commitment to ensuring the dignity and rights of women and girls by strengthening the health system to provide quality, integrated sexual and reproductive health and family planning services; and underscores the need for stronger commitment to accelerating the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. Gender-Based Violence seems to be escalating in the country, which makes it near impossible to meet the target by 2030. Ending Gender Based Violence before 2030 would therefore require accelerated and increased efforts and investments not just by UNFPA, but by the Government of Botswana and all the relevant



stakeholders, including communities, to work as a collective and come up with interventions that will address the root cause of GBV.

This brochure summarizes the UNFPA's key results achieved in 2022 under the leadership of the Government of Botswana in collaboration with technical and financial partners and civil society organizations.

Proud as we are of all the achievements scored in 2022, we are cognizant of the need to renew our efforts to build on these successes and meet the challenges that are ahead of us. We continue to build forward from the COVID-19 pandemic and position universal access to SRHR and the ICPD Agenda as critical priorities in advancing inclusive recovery and galvanizing the transformative change required to achieve the SDGs.

Enjoy reading!
Tlangelani Shilubane
Head of Office



FAMILY PLANNING

- Strengthened capacities of 57 pharmacies and senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Central Medical Stores on Supply Chain Management to close the persistent stock-outs of reproductive health commodities in the country.
- Donated reproductive health commodities and Personal Protective Equipment to the Ministry of Health consisting of Emergency contraceptives (Levonorgestrel 0.75 x 2s) x 4500 packs and Contraceptive pills (Levonorgestrel 0.03m) x 11 664 packs and over 438 000 vials of Depo Medroxyprogesterone Acetate 150MG/vials, with financial support from the Government of the People's Republic of China. Over 40 000 women and girls have accessed contraceptives across the country. As a result, the commodities impacted many lives since the consignments were received at the time when the country was experiencing extended stock outs of reproductive health commodities.
- Launched an investment case on Family Planning to 21 Members of Parliament, including Ministers 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.
- Facilitated a south- south learning platform between the Ministries of Health of Botswana and Uganda to share lessons on the FP2030 commitment engagement at the national level. In addition, convened a high level advocacy engagement between the Ministry of Health, the FP2030 Secretariat and national partners to facilitate the country to kick- start drafting of the FP2030 Commitments



MATERNAL HEALTH

Supported the detailed documentation of the Drones for Health project phase I. The initial investment and technical assistance from UNFPA has been instrumental in unlocking the government of Botswana's commitment in the continuation of the project into phase II. The Government has since committed \$1.6M in phase II of the project and assumed leadership of the project. This investment by the government through the Ministry of Health is aligned with principles of financing for SRHR and thus a big win for UNFPA to date.



HIV PREVENTION

Facilitated a south to south learning platform between the National AIDS Commission of Zimbabwe and NAHPA on the development of HIV prevention cascades to build capacities of implementers on the effectiveness of the HIV prevention programmes. The engagement culminated in a three day training for 50 national partners in the HIV national response on developing HIV Prevention Cascades for Botswana. The training is expected to strengthen competencies among implementers to deliver quality HIV interventions across the HIV prevention pillars.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- Provided both technical and financial support for a comprehensive review of the status of implementation of SDG 5 in the country, as well as progress update on the SDG 5 targets and indicators through the Voluntary National Review mechanism. This review underscored areas where much needed implementation acceleration is required, and is therefore expected to support advocacy efforts towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in Botswana, particularly from an SRHR perspective.
- Led the assessment of indicator: PI 5.2 Gender Mainstreaming Capacities during the UNCT-SWAP Scorecard 2022 Annual Progress Assessment. The Annual Progress Assessments spur progress by the UNCT toward meeting and exceeding all UNCT-SWAP minimum performance requirements, through the implementation of the Action Plan, monitoring and improvements.
- Supported the Ministry of Health to revise the 2011 national Protocol and Service Standards for prevention and management of GBV. The revised protocol is designed to assist the health care workers to identify, manage and refer victims and survivors of SGBV appropriately including screening and identification, examining and provision of comprehensive services according to national guidelines. The CO further undertook targeted advocacy to ensure that the revised Protocol and Service Standards are immediately used to provide quality integrated prevention and management of GBV within the health sector and across relevant linkages to social and justice sectors. This resulted in the MoH mobilizing resources (\$30,000) to support training of healthcare providers on the revised guidelines.
- Jointly with UNICEF, the CO supported UNHCR in undertaking the GBV Safety Audit designed to zoom in on GBV/PSEA risks, gaps and needs faced by the refugee population in Dukwi refugee camp in order to develop a comprehensive multi-sectoral response plan. Gender-based violence continues to be top protection concern in Dukwi refugee camp with the preliminary findings of Audit indicating clear gaps in the capacity to prevent and respond to major forms of GBV amongst the different population groups in the camp, particularly the need to address the multiple vulnerabilities of women and girls in encampment.





LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

- Supported the Botswana Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted (BABPS) to implement Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for over 130 young people with visual impairment. The programme is implemented in four educational institutions serving young people with disabilities; Pudulogong Rehabilitation and Development Trust; Mochudi Resource Centre for the Blind, Linchwe Junior Secondary School and Lephoi Centre for the Blind.
- Piloted a global curriculum on SRHR and GBV for Women and Young Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with Women Enabled International (WEI). Five facilitators from Organizations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) engaged in the exercise to ensure the curriculum meet the needs of persons with disabilities. The training acted as a springboard to build expertise on SRHR & GBV for Young People With Disabilities.
- Supported the Botswana Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (BABPS), to host the first ever youth dialogue for 35 young women with visual impairment in commemoration of International Day of the Girl Child under the theme Our time is Now – Our rights, our future. The dialogue provided a platform for young women with disabilities to voice out their SRHR experiences, including bodily autonomy, while providing concrete actions for national players including UNFPA to fully contribute to the fulfillment of their SRHR individually and as a collective.
- Trained a total of 8 members of the network of young people with disabilities on SRHR. The training aimed at capacitating the members with leadership skills such as problem solving and advocacy to engage in SRHR policy dialogues. As part of the training, a tailor-made CONDOMIZE campaign was undertaken for young people with disabilities, for the first time. While the CONDOMIZE campaign commenced in 2013, young people with disabilities have never been reached with this innovative campaign.
- Convened a high level dialogue with 21 parliamentarians on advancing SRHR for populations left behind, specifically persons with disabilities (PWDs) and key populations (sex workers, men who have sex with men & transgender persons), in collaboration with SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and the Office of the UN Botswana Resident Coordinator. It provided an opportunity to reflect on how parliamentarians can use their strategic roles to promote a more enabling environment for all populations. It also centered around identifying opportunities for parliamentarians advance SRHR for vulnerable and key populations in Botswana and make the principle of Leaving No One Behind a reality.



ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Convened a high level stakeholder platform to facilitate the development of the national operational plan for the domestication of the 2030 ESA Commitments, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Skills & Development, Health and Youth, Gender, Sport & Culture. This followed the endorsement of the commitment by the government alongside other countries in the region in 2021. Partners developed a national Operational plan for the 2030 ESA Commitment that is expected to be implemented in 2023.
- A total of 20 volunteers were trained on delivery of quality CSE in response to the high turnover of CSE volunteers in Ngami and Okavango. The training done in partnership with Women Against Rape, intended to enhance their knowledge and build the necessary skills required for seamless delivery of CSE.
- Trained over 100 health care workers on the delivery of quality youth friendly health services in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. A total of 35 stand-alone facilities are offering youth friendly health services across the country. In other health facilities not offering stand-alone services, health care providers have integrated the delivery of YFHS with other health services to ensure adolescents and young people continue to have access to services.
- Over 204 963 adolescents in primary school (19,067 males & 185,896 females) and over 177 000 adolescents and young people in secondary school from 273 schools were reached with CSE through the national life skills programme led by the Ministry of Education Skills & Development.
- A total of 1075 young people (10 – 24yrs) were recruited in 4 villages (Maun, Gumare, Shakawe & Seronga) in Ngami and Okavango districts to attend CSE sessions. Of the 1075 young people, 1005 attended CSE sessions with only 560 young people completing 10 sessions. A total of 249 young people were linked with SRH services.
- The national Parent-Child Communication manual has been finalized under the leadership of the Ministry of Education Skills and Development and UNESCO. Over 300 master trainers from 9 regions across the country have been trained on the use of the manual with full implementation expected to commence in 2023.
- 171 000 condoms were distributed in the Ngami and Okavango districts. The country continues to experience persistent stock out of condoms, particularly female condoms.





INTEGRATION OF SRH & HIV SERVICES

- Supported the Ministry of Health to develop Botswana's first National Guidelines on Health Services Integration which provides a broad guidance on actions and processes that need to be undertaken to respond holistically to RMNCAH+N, NCDs and other health needs. The Guideline, which applies lessons learnt from the SRH/HIV Linkages project and its scale up is intended to be used by health care providers and managers in public, private and civil society settings.
- Collaborated with WHO to develop three policy briefs that explore gaps and opportunities for improving the uptake of contraceptives, reducing unintended pregnancies and the need for a multifaceted approach to prevent unsafe abortion as a means to reducing maternal mortality in Botswana. The policy briefs stem from key findings and recommendations of the Strategic Assessment on unintended pregnancy, contraception, and unsafe abortion in Botswana.
- Supported the MoH to update SRHR/HIV and GBV data and strategic information through undertaking an assessment of the extent of SRH/HIV and GBV in 13 districts following the baseline assessment. The mixed methods research specifically examined i) the extent of integration of the minimum service package ii) the enabling factors for integration of services, iii) nation-wide scale up approaches and, iv) recommendations to address identified challenges and gaps. The assessment estimated the level of integration at 46% in 2020 and 2021.

Across the 13 districts, hospitals generally showed higher levels of integration followed by health posts. SRHR/HIV integration was consistently high and reported for ANC and HIV testing as well as HIV positive women who delivered and were on PMTCT; and the least reported integration indicator was SAC or PAC and STI screening across the 13 districts.

- Amplified lessons learnt through documentation and dissemination of knowledge management products including: A case study on how Botswana transitioned from pilot to scale up and the accomplishments related to integration of SRHR, HIV, SGBV, and other services in 13 health districts, two photo essays that present human interest stories of two beneficiaries' perspectives on the successes of the integrated SRH/HIV and GBV services and the 2gether 4 SRHR programme's contribution to increasing access to integrated SRH, HIV and GBV services Botswana.
- Convened a Knowledge Sharing & Learning Symposium jointly with the MoH on the scale-up of integrated SRH, HIV & SGBV and other services. The symposium which brought together various players in the SRHR sector, shared achievements, lessons learnt, identified recommendations to strengthen implementation integration and ensured a responsible transition. It created a platform for high level advocacy and dialogues, and boosted the visibility for the, 2gether4SRHR and the support from the Government of Sweden.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- In 2022, the country office received the uniform \$500,000 floor per country programme and an additional \$105,000, yielding a total amount of \$605,000 from regular resources. Other available resources successfully mobilized for the 2022 work plans includes funding from Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), China International Cooperation Development Agency [CIDCA], SDG Fund, United Budget, Results, and Accountability Framework [UBRAF], Swedish International Cooperation Agency [SIDA], Office of the Executive Director [OED] and Strategic Investment Facility [SIF] totaling **1,167,746**.
- **\$60,000** was been mobilised (UNFPA ESARO **\$30,000** and MoH **\$30,000** through The Global Fund) to support dissemination and training of healthcare providers on the revised national guidelines on integration of RMNCAH+N, NCDs + & other Services.
- Leveraged domestic resources, and a total of **\$1.6M** from the Ministry of Health for implementation of the second phase of the drones for health project. The project aims to improve healthcare delivery including addressing one of the top causes of maternal mortality by delivering life- saving commodities and supplies timely to and from hard to reach communities.





DATA GENERATION

- Developed knowledge products in the form of synthesis reports to promote use and assimilation of demographic intelligence into policy and programming processes at national and sub-national levels. These reports synthesized evidence focusing on how Botswana can capitalise on its young people, prepare for an ageing society and the assessment of the Government of Botswana / UNFPA 6th country programme. The reports are expected to augment advocacy efforts for integration of population dynamics into development planning in a bid to harness the ongoing demographic dividend, while also providing analytical inputs into the envisaged review of the Revised National Population Policy, and the development of the National Development Plan 12.
- Supported the development of the National Demographic Dividend (DD) Roadmap, which is expected to identify lead actors and projects and programmes whose implementations are key for harnessing a maximized demographic dividend. The final DD roadmap is expected to serve as an analytical input into the envisaged development of the National Development Plan 12 and the formulation of a new National Population Policy.
- Supported the training of stakeholders on an electronic platform for tracking implementation of projects that are perceived to have a contributory effect on realization of the DD in Botswana.
- Provided technical support for implementation of the 2022 Population and Housing Census which was implemented in March 2022 following COVID-19 related postponements. UNFPA sustained advocacy efforts to ensure adequate planning and integration of risk identification and mitigation into the preparatory phase of the project, a factor that facilitated implementation of the census during the COVID-19 pandemic period.
- Noting that Botswana has undergone a significant demographic shift, and thereby necessitating a population policy that will aid the government to build demographic resilience, UNFPA successfully advocated for the review of the National Population Policy. This revision is envisaged to take place in 2023.
- Supported the National Statistics Office to conduct national evaluation consultations on the 2022 Population and Housing Census for 270 key personnel from all administrative districts for the census project. The process of evaluating a Population and Housing Census is a critical step towards documenting lessons learnt for consideration during the next census, which is scheduled for 2031.



COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA AND LINKS TO PUBLICATIONS

- Botswana Voluntary National Review Report.
- Government of Botswana/UNFPA 7th Country Office Programme
- National Guidelines on Health Services Integration
- Policy briefs:
 - Reducing Unintended Pregnancy,
 - Multifaceted Approach to prevent unsafe abortion,
 - Accelerating progress towards contraception for all.
- Synthesis reports:
 - Capitalizing on Botswana's young people,
 - Preparing for an ageing society,
 - 6th Country Programme 2017-2021
- SWOP and Investment Case launch report
- Dialogue with parliamentarians report
- 2gether 4SRHR Symposium report
- Synthesis report - Botswana: Investment Case Towards Ending Unmet Need for Family Planning.
- Botswana: Investment Case Towards Ending Unmet Need for Family Planning

Web stories

- Achieving her dream and promoting rights: journey of a young woman with a disability.
- 2030 ESA COMMITMENT: The Road to Fulfilling the Education, Health, and Well-Being of Adolescents and Young People in Botswana.
- Parliamentarians Reaffirm Commitment to Advancing SRHR for those furthest left behind.
- UNFPA initiates a journey to strengthen Botswana's Supply Chain Management through training of personnel.
- UNFPA and Ministry of Health host a successful symposium on the scale up of integrated sexual reproductive health services.
- Leaving No One Behind in Botswana's first digital census.



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