



BOTSWANA



2023 Key Achievements



Message From The Head of Office

As we reflect on the past year, I am delighted to share with you the key highlights and achievements from implementation of the Government of Botswana/ UNFPA Country Programme in 2023. These results were enabled by the strategic leadership of the government, in collaboration with other partners including civil society organizations, academia, development partners and Botswana.

I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the realization of these remarkable results - particularly the women, girls and young people who are the beneficiaries of the programme, who accord us the opportunity to work with them, for them! Until the unfinished business of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is completed, UNFPA remains committed to championing the rights of women and girls in Botswana, and joins the global community as it marches towards sustainable development for all by 2030.

The year 2024 accords us yet another opportunity to collaborate with our partners to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights in Botswana. We enter this year, which marks the thirtieth anniversary of the landmark ICPD, with renewed vigor and shared determination. Our collective vision is that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every individual's potential is fulfilled. This vision is near for some, and yet so far for others, a clear demonstration of the unequal society we live in. As we march towards ICPD30 and the year 2030, let us be reminded of the dreams and hopes we carry for women and girls in Botswana. As we celebrate the progress achieved thus far, let us be reminded of our collective responsibility to advance human rights for all, and this includes sexual and reproductive health and rights. Let us unite, to keep the flame of the ICPD burning bright. Enjoy reading!

Tlangelani Shilubane
Head of Office

Partnerships

- Collaborated with the Resident Coordinator's Office and other agencies to commemorate International Women's Day, through a high-level launch of the first ever UN Talks. The event brought together technologists, innovators, entrepreneurs, and gender equality activists to provide an opportunity to highlight the role of all stakeholders in improving access to digital tools. It explored the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities, and it also put a spotlight on the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online and ICT facilitated gender-based violence.
- Partnered with UNICEF, Ministry of Education and the private sector to commemorate International Day of the Girl, through the [Take a Girl Child to Work initiative](#). The initiative, which was the first of its kind in the country, aimed at giving girls from high schools, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, exposure to different career opportunities through job shadowing. The Ministry of Education committed to institutionalizing the initiative.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Health to convene members of [Ntlo Ya Dikgosi \(Traditional Leaders\)](#) on advancing SRHR of young people within their communities. The engagement intended to build capacities of traditional leaders to advocate for SRHR issues of adolescents and young people; and to mobilize their communities to address and champion efforts to tackle negative gender and social norms hindering access to SRHR information and services. The meeting culminated in the development of an action plan to facilitate traditional leaders' advocacy efforts.

Youth Advocacy & Policy Implementation

- Supported national partners to domesticate and operationalize the new ESA Ministerial Commitment by convening a high-level advocacy platform with Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Education, Health, Youth and Gender. Permanent Secretaries pledged their full support for the process and this culminated in a comprehensive national Operational plan.
- In addition, UNFPA Supported national partners to set national baselines for the 2030 ESA Commitment Result Accountability Framework to facilitate tracking of the targets for the commitments; develop user-friendly school level monitoring tools for tracking and reporting school drop outs due to pregnancy and lastly to review and finalize the national Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Monitoring Tool(s).



HIV Prevention

Supported the National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) to convene a high level HIV prevention symposium to review the performance of the combination HIV prevention response and garner support to accelerate the reduction of new infections in Botswana. The symposium gathered over 180 national partners representing key stakeholders in the sector.

Minimum Initial Service Package

Collaborated with the Ministry of Health to conduct capacity building and advocacy workshops for integrating **Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)** into sub-national/district disaster preparedness and response plans across six priority health districts. This has resulted in the districts developing action plans to integrate MISP for SRH in the existing district disaster preparedness and response plans.



Communication Training

10 officials from UNFPA strategic partners were trained on communications techniques and the use of innovative communication tools as a strategy to augment capacity for impactful communication on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Family Planning

Supported the Ministry of Health to convene national stakeholders to finalize and validate the **FP2030 Commitments**, inclusive of young people, parliamentarians, traditional leaders, FP2030 technical working group and the High – level steering committee. The country validated five commitments on: Policy and legal environment; Access to FP services; Reducing Early and Unintended pregnancies; Improving Data for decision making & Financing SRHR. The commitments are expected to be launched in 2024.



Resource Mobilization

- The country office received the uniform \$610,000 floor per country programme and an additional \$79,521.16 yielding a total amount of \$689,521.16 from core resources.
- Successfully mobilized the annual co-financing resources of BWP600,000 (\$44,000) from the government of Botswana.
- Successfully mobilized catalytic resources from the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) for the Drones for Health Project amounting to \$1,450,000 over a three year period from 2023 - 2025.

Gender-Based Violence

- Supported the Ministry of Health to revise the national health sector GBV Guidelines and the development of a training toolkit. The training toolkit aims to address capacity gaps in provision of quality rights-based sexual and GBV information and integration of VAW into SRHR information and services.
- Launched the Orange Day campaign on the 25th September, which was observed monthly on the 25th of every month as per the UNITE campaign guidance.

Youth Leadership & Participation



- Convened 32 young people representing young mothers, young people living with HIV, boys and young men, adolescent girls and young women, in and out of school youth and young persons with disabilities on a consultative forum towards the drafting of the FP2030 Commitments. The young people reviewed the draft FP2030 Commitments and provided clear guidance on strengthening the commitments including advocating for an additional commitment specifically focusing on reducing early and unintended pregnancies among adolescents and young people.
- Supported SRHR AIDS Trust (SAT) to build capacities of over 30 young people during the Youth Quake 3.0 on youth leadership and advocating for the SRHR needs of young people. These youth leaders were capacitated on SRHR, advocacy elements and youth leadership.
- Convened 50 young people to contribute in drafting of the national commitments on the well-being of adolescents. The National commitments on Adolescents' well-being were presented at the SDG summit in September and launched by His Excellency the President. The government further amplified the commitments at the Global Youth Forum.
- Supported the engagement of youth leaders regionally and globally. One youth leader was supported to participate in the Youth pre-event of the 4th Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports (STC-YCS4) hosted at the African Union Commission, which attracted over 200 young leaders from AU member states. The youth leaders drafted key recommendations on the pathways for change to advance youth development in the continent which were presented to experts and Ministers of Youth, Culture and Sports. In addition, another youth leader participated in the 2023 Innovation Hacklab and became one of the 10 finalists in the ESA region.
- Supported 3 youth leaders to participate in the United Youth Leaders summit that brought together over 40 youth leaders across East and Southern Africa. Y+ Global and AFRIYAN ESA organized this summit with support from UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF. The summit provided a platform for linking, learning, and concepts exchange among youth-led SRH, HIV and AGYW networks in ESA.



Population Dynamics, Data, Policy & Megatrends



- Led the adoption of a model for integrating drones in support of the supply chain of health products in Botswana. The business model has been presented to the senior management team of the Ministry of Health. Also, led development of the first ever costed work plan for the [Drones Project](#); firstly to inculcate a results based management culture into implementation of all project related activities, and secondly, to generate financial estimates for the project leading up to the launch as a strategy to support all resource mobilization efforts.
- Supported the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs to conduct a comprehensive review of the [CRVS ecosystem](#) to provide intelligence on opportunities, bottlenecks and best practices to focus on towards improved availability, analysis and use of adequately disaggregated data. A final report has been submitted that has undergone validation by stakeholders in the CRVS system, including Statistics Botswana and the Ministry of Health.
- Supported a high level advocacy platform to mark the [Africa CRVS Day](#), in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, to garner support, technical and political goodwill for an advanced CRVS ecosystem.
- Provided technical support for the end term review of the CRVS Strategy 2016 - 2020 to generate evaluative evidence for the development of the successor strategic plan, envisaged to be developed in 2024. The Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs has since completed and approved this review report, which generated action oriented recommendations.
- Supported the review of the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1998 through stakeholder consultations targeted at key constituents including traditional leaders, women and girls, rural dwellers and migrants, members of the LGBTQI+, persons with disability among others. These consultations culminated in the drafting of legal instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to effect the proposed changes to the legislative instrument. It is anticipated that the revised bill will be presented to the February 2024 sitting of the National Assembly.
- Provided support to the initial stages of the thematic analysis through convening a workshop for the Census Analysis Review Committee, with the aim to provide feedback and guidance on proposed focus areas as per abstract to ensure the national priorities are adequately covered and responded to while also responding to the demands of data users nationally, regionally and globally. This workshop culminated in detailed mapping of analysts to thematic areas of analysis, and provision of specific feedback to potential analysts.
- Supported capacity building of Statistics Botswana personnel on mapping and analyzing geolocational census data. This is in line with the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Third Edition) and emphasizes on the use of modern technology in all phases of the census operation, including in the planning, mapping, data collection, processing, and dissemination stages.
- Supported a joint review of the Revised National Population Policy and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in collaboration with the National Planning Commission. A draft combined report has been submitted that is undergoing internal quality assurance processes.



**United Nations Building
Corner Khama Crescent and Presidents's Drive
Government Enclave**

P O Box 54, Gaborone, Botswana

Tel: (+267) 391 4753 / 363 3700 | Fax (+267) 390 1562

Email: botswana@unfpa.org

  UNFPA Botswana