**AGENDA 2063 IMPLEMETATION**

**BOTSWANA**

**COUNTRY REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD 2013-2019**

# **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Botswana’s economy rose from being among the poorest countries in the world at independence in 1966, to an upper middle income status in the 1990s. This was due to the revenues earned from diamond sales and prudent management of resources by the Government. The main focus of the country’s development for the past five decades centered on promoting the socioeconomic dimension, particularly economic growth and social justice. These are in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want” which is the blue print for transformation of the continent.

A multi-stakeholder body,National Steering Committee (NSC)has beenformed to coordinate implementation of global frameworks including Agenda 2063, at national and district level. It’s Secretariat is the Population and Development Coordination (PDC) Section within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED). The National Steering Committee is assisted by a multi-stakeholder Technical Task Force which works directly with the Secretariat. A Special Select Committee within Parliament of Botswana also provides oversight of global frameworks, including Agenda 2063.

The year 2019 marks the review of major frameworks that shape Botswana’s development agenda. At the national level, the mid-term review of the National Development Plan Eleven (NDP 11) is ongoing, due to end in March 2020 while at the global level the country participated in the review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Production of this report therefore, was informed by these various processes. Important lessons learnt include, acknowledging that strengthening the existing institutional and governance structures for the facilitation of the Agenda 2063 life cycle and unlocking service delivery challenges to better serve the people of Botswana, is not an option.

Going forward, efforts to promote Agenda 2063 through awareness campaigns and several dialogue sessions undertaken jointly by the Government, Local Authorities, Civil Societies and other stakeholders, will be intensified.

# **2.0 KEY STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING AGENDA 2063**

During the past seven years since adoption of ‘the Africa We Want’ framework, key strategies and planning mechanisms in Botswana were constantly reviewed, with a view to streamline and ensure alignment between global frameworks and the long-term Vision 2016 as well as its successor Vision 2036, National Development Plans Ten and Eleven (NDP 10 & 11).

The end of the current medium-term NDP 11 in March 2023 will coincide with the end of the first ten years of implementation (FTYIP) of Agenda 2063. Its theme of **“Inclusive Growth for the Realization of Sustainable Employment Creation and Poverty Eradication”** is consistent with Agenda 2063 ideals expressed in the Malabo Decisions of the Africa Union (AU) that seek to provide a push and breakthrough for Africa’s economic and social transformation. It is also in unison with the new transformation agenda of Botswana as espoused in the recent State of the Nation’s Address (SONA) of the new President.

The ongoing mid-term review of NDP 11 and subsequent annual planning cycles also provide opportunities to persistently form the necessary synergies. These are further unpacked and operationalized through various ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) policies and strategies. The multi-sectoral Technical Working Groups (TWGs) also supports implementation by way of easing synergies and guarding against silos and other roadblocks likely to hinder progress. More important is the fact that, our national priorities are all embedded in all the aspirations and goals of the Agenda 2063.

Taking into account the development imperatives facing the country, and the need to align the focus of the National Development Plan with global, continental and regional initiatives such as; the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, AU Agenda 2063, and the Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, NDP 11’s

This theme is underpinned by six national priorities, namely: *developing diversified sources of economic growth; human capital development; social development; sustainable use of national resources; consolidation of good governance and strengthening of national security; and implementation of an effective monitoring and evaluation system.*

Furthermore, there is an attempt made to mainstream the aspiration of the agenda into the National development frameworks. All stakeholders (Thematic Working groups, District Programme Officers and Planners) would be involved in crafting these frameworks to align with the goals and targets of Agenda 2063, for implementation purposes. The agenda is mapped against NDP 11 and Vision 2036, with the plan to design national projects and budgets that are cognizant of the spelled out targets and indicators of Agenda 2063.

The table below shows how Agenda 2063 is linked with other national priorities. Aspiration five (5) in particular, *“Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics”* does not have a stand-alone priority nationally, instead it falls within the national principles and values that Botswana was built upon since independence. Additionally, it is linked with the first ‘P’ that deals with people.

**The linkages between Agenda 2063 aspirations and priorities of the national Frameworks**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agenda 2063 Aspirations | 1,5,6 |  | 2 | 3,4 | 7 |
| The Five (5) P’s | PeopleEnd Poverty & Fight Inequality, Ensure Healthy lives, Knowledge, Inclusion of Women & Children  | PlanetProtect our Ecosystem for All Societies & Our Children | ProsperityGrow Strong Inclusive & Transformative Economy | Peace (Justice)Promote Safe & Peaceful Societies & Strong Institutions | PartnershipCatalyse Global Solidarity for Achieving SD |
| SDGs (Target 2030)  | 1 2, 3, 4,5 | 6, 12, 13, 14, 15 | 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 | 16 | 17 |
| NDP11 Priorities | End Poverty & Fight Inequality | Social Development | Sustainable Use of Natural Resources | Diversified Sources of Economic Growth & Human Capital Development | Consolidation of Good Governance & Strengthening of National Security | Implementation of An Effective Monitoring & Evaluation |
| Vision 2036 Pillars | Human and Social Development(Pillar 2) | Human and Social Development(Pillar 2) | Sustainable Environment (Pillar 3) | Sustainable EconomicDevelopment (Pillar 1) | Governance, Safety & Security(Pillar 4) | Governance & Safety & Security(Pillar 4) |

# **3.0 Status on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 Goals**

For the purposes of this report, progress on the FTYIP will mainly focus on some components of Aspiration One (1), **‘A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development.’** Specifically, goals selected are Goals one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) as well as goals seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) under Aspiration 6 on *‘An Africa Whose Development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for Children.’* This is notwithstanding the important contribution made by the rest of the Agenda 2063 goals.

## **3.1 Goal 1: A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well-being for all Citizens**

**3.1.1. Overall Progress**

Botswana has come a long way in tackling *incomes, jobs and decent work*. Despite significant growth of the economy in the past five decades, Botswana’s domestic economic growth in the past seven years, hovered around 4%, influenced by the generally subdued global growth which remained around 3%. However, the country still faces high unemployment which declined from 19% in 2009/10 to the current 17.6%. It is much higher, at 40% for young people aged 15-24 years, especially females. Disparities also exist in income, wealth and living standards as the gini coefficient remained as high as 60.9 in 2009/10 and decreased to the current 53.3% in 2019. This pits Botswana among the top ten most unequal societies in Sub Saharan Africa.

There is an intimate link between *poverty, hunger, access to nutrition and inequality.* Botswana has always prioritsed the twin challenges of poverty and inequality way before the 2013 Africa Agenda. All aspects of goal one resonate with the national priorities, focusing on incomes and people’s livelihoods; poverty in all its forms and providing social protection to its vulnerable population including persons with disabilities.

In 2013 head count poverty levels were in the decline as per the 2009/10 figure of 19.3% and further down to 16.3% in 2015/6. Extreme poverty also declined from 6.4% to 5.8% of the population. Poverty incidence decreased faster in rural areas than in cities and towns. Botswana continues to experience fluctuations in Under Five malnutrition. Underweight rates decreased marginally from 13.9 percent in 2007 to 13.1 percent in 2014. Stunting also decreased from 25.9 percent to 21 percent while wasting fell from 7.6 percent to 7.3 percent. Unfortunately these have far reaching consequences on the physiological development of infants that ultimately may compromise the country’s quality of human capital.

Since independence, Botswana took steps to invest in physical infrastructure in order to ensure that the necessary *basic, quality services* reach the vast, expansive and sparsely populated country. These included provision of amenities such as electricity, safe drinking water, sanitation as well as internet. The country’s openness to public private partnerships in solar and other energy sources, the investment in grid infrastructure, investment in non-conventional water resources, as well as improved trans-boundary water-use efficiencies, provide opportunities to develop energy projects for domestic use and export. Further, while access to drinking water in Botswana is 97%, the country continues to develop water infrastructure to provide safe drinking water to the entire nation. The review also revealed that 61.3% of Batswana have access to improved sanitation facilities.

**3.1.2** **Major Government Programmes/Initiatives and Policy Interventions**

Policy choices determine inequality outcomes and over the years Government took deliberate steps to keep it in check through various programmes and strategies that mainly target the poor. These primarily offered grants through income generating initiatives such as the Poverty Eradication Programme, Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) projects, as well as the Integrated Support Programme on Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD). The main objective being, to graduate the low income population out of poverty. The higher income brackets were funded through financial assistance programmes and soft loans with a view to develop sustainable businesses that would also provide massive jobs.

Government also provided an enabling environment by building basic infrastructure and social services for delivery of services countrywide. Social protection initiatives include feeding programmes for vulnerable populations such as children under 5 years, school feeding programmes as well as destitute food baskets. Provision of basic amenities such as running water and electricity, facilitates realization of the important education and health outcomes. It also contributes towards improving people’s lives, including those living with disabilities. It also increases their resilience to make sustainable livelihoods.

The *Leave No One Behind* (LNOB) Outcome Document produced at a March 2018 poverty conference in Botswana offers more means of implementing the goals and priority areas of the Agenda 2063 aspirations.

## **3.2 Goal 2: Well Educated Citizens and Skills Revolution Underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation**

### **3.2.1 Overall Progress**

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The country considers education to be a basic right of every child, and is committed to producing *a well-educated citizenry with skills underpinned by science, technology and innovation*. Government comes a long way in investing in access and equity to 10-year quality basic education. According to the 2017 Botswana Demographic Survey report, the primary school net enrolment ratio (NER) has been increasing over the years for children of primary school age, from 86.9% in 2007 reaching 90.2%. The country also reached parity between the enrolment of boys (90.0%) and girls (90.3%). However, the NER for ages 7 to 12 years remains higher of those who begin school at 6 years of age.

A similar trend was also observed in secondary education, where in 2017 the highest net enrollment ratio of 81.7% was experienced at age 16 years, followed by ages 15 (74.6%), 17 (68.5%), 14 (36.7%) and 13 (2.7%).This indicates that at age 13 most children are likely to still be at primary school. The secondary school NER for boys was 45.9% compared to 56.9% for girls in 2017.

In an effort to ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university, the Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) at tertiary level was 18.2 % in 2017. The African Union Continental Education Strategy for Africa proposes ways in which African countries can revolutionarise education systems to give more visibility to actions undertaken on the continent’s education and training, with more emphasis on science, technology and innovation (STI) as well as transforming TVET, education of the girl child, school feeding, school health as well as school administration.

In Botswana this function lies with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Research. One of the key initiatives they embarked upon is creating the hype behind the importance of STI subjects to encourage the girl-child to adopt these.

For pre-primary education,the country is lagging behind in ensuring that children under 5 years of age are at school. The Botswana Demographic Survey revealed that whilst only 24.1% of 3-5 year age group attended school in 2017, three quarters (74.1%) of children in the same age group had never attended early childhood education. However, this was an improvement from 18% of the 4-6 year olds who accessed pre-primary education in 2015. The BDS report further indicates that more of these children (72.9%) came from cities, towns and urban villages compared to their rural counterparts (9.7%), as shown in Table 4.1 below[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Table 4.1:** Percentage Distribution of Children aged 36-59 months attending organized ECD in 2017 (BDS 2017)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Early Childhood Education | Still at school | Yes left | Never attended | Total |
| Place of Residence |  |  |  |  |
| Cities/Town | 43.5 | 3.4 | 53.1 | 18,392 |
| Urban Village | 29.4 | 2.1 | 68.5 | 38,676 |
| Rural | 9.7 | 0.8 | 89.5 | 38,887 |
| Total | **24.1** | **1.8** | **74.1** | **95,955** |

Based on the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, an estimated 88.47% of the population aged 15 years and above in Botswana were able to read and write at the beginning of 2019. However, when disaggregated by sex, the female population (88.93%) was more literate than their male counterparts recorded at 88.01%. The youth (15-24 years old) literacy rates were also recorded at 96.15% and 99.58% for males and females accordingly, with an overall youth literacy rate of 97.85%.

In an effort to ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university, the Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) at tertiary level was 18.2 % in 2017, showing a decrease by 9.5% from 59,091 in 2016/17 to 53,450 in 2017/18 financial year for the 18-24 year old students. However, the female GER at tertiary was 58.3% in 2017/2018 financial year.

**3.2.2 Major Government Programmes/Initiatives and Policy Interventions**

An analysis of Botswana’s education landscape reveals that the country has a wide-range of education policies, strategies and plans in place that address issues of quality, access and relevance across the entire education sector. These policies and plans are informed by National Vision 2036 aimed at transforming Botswana into a knowledge-driven economy, through a robust inclusive quality education system.

The overarching policy is the Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE) which focuses on access and equity, quality and relevance, as well as efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of education and training in Botswana. All other education related policies and programmes are anchored on the RNPE.

Although access to early childhood education is low, Government sees the importance of adopting a child-friendly environment for children, through early childhood and pre-primary education. Government, in partnership with development partners, private and civil society sectors, put in place strategies for ensuring access to early childhood education and will be expanded over the coming years.

For many years, pre-primary education has mainly been provided by the private sector until 2013 when the programme was also introduced to public schools. In 2014, the one-year reception programme was introduced to 15.2% of the public primary schools reaching more than 4,000 children. Prior to the introduction of reception classes in public schools, the government had an orientation programme for prospective Standard One pupils, for all public primary schools. The six weeks programme prepares children for learning, with the provision of readiness activities for children to settle into schools[[2]](#footnote-2).

The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) established the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF), for universal access to communications services in 2014. One of the three key areas identified through UASF is the Schools Connectivity programme which facilitates the rollout of communications services to all communities in underserved and unserved areas. The Schools Connectivity project is a collaboration between the Ministry of Transport and Communications through BOCRA/UASF, Ministry of Basic Education (MoBE) and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

The UASF initiative provides a Local Area Network with 5 Mbps dedicated internet; a multi-purpose network printer, fifty (50) educational tablets for pupils at each targeted primary school and an ICT officer employed by BOCRA. In 2018, at least 68 schools in remote settlements received support from the UASF. The ICT officers also facilitated teachers, pupils and communities (including pre-schools) to take full advantage of the opportunities and benefits that come with access to broadband Internet and other ICT services. This initiative has improved school attendance among the learners in the rural settlements.

The Education, Science and Technology sectors are complementary and should effectively drive Africa’s social and economic development and fast-track the transition of African countries to innovation-led, knowledge-based economies so as to benefit from the 4th Industrial Revolution.

## **3.3 Goal 3: Healthy and Well-nourished Citizens**

**3.3.1 Overall Progress**

The health care service in Botswana is delivered by state-owned, private for-profit and private non-profit medical facilities, as well as the dominant public sector that operates 98% of the health facilities[[3]](#footnote-3). The health care delivery system is based on the primary health care model which is decentralized to the district level. The services are delivered free to Batswana through a network of public health facilities, ranging from referral hospitals to district and primary hospitals, clinics, health posts and mobile services. Botswana has a total of 26 public hospitals (16 primary hospitals, 7 district hospitals and 3 referral hospitals) widely distributed across the country.

Botswana is committed to ensuring healthy lives and promotion of well-being for all at all ages as embraced in the human and social development second pillar of Vision 2036. The goal can be achieved given that the government has invested in health facilities that provide access to health services within the WHO recommended radius, countrywide.

Available data indicates that the maternal mortality ratio decreased to 143.2 per 100 000 live births in 2017 from 156.6 per 1,000 live births in 2016 and 95% births were attended to, by skilled health personnel (BDS, 2017). According to World Data Atlas Botswana Health[[4]](#footnote-4), the neonatal mortality rate (NMR)[[5]](#footnote-5) was at level of 24.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018, down from 25.2 deaths per 1,000 live births the previous year, which reflects a change of 2.78%. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)[[6]](#footnote-6) increased from 17 per 1000 live births in the 2011 census compared to 38 per 1,000 live births in 2018, while the Under-Five Mortality Rate (UFMR)[[7]](#footnote-7) increased from 28 per 1,000 live births in the 2011 census to 56 per 1,000 live births in 2018 as shown in Figure 3 below.

**Figure 3:** Under Five Mortality and Infant Mortality Rates 1971 – 2017 (Statistics Botswana, Botswana Demographic Health Survey -2017)

*NB: C is Census and BDS is Botswana Demographic Health Survey*

The increase in the mortality rates is attributed to hygiene related challenges, particularly recurring diarrhea out breaks in the country. However, government is strengthening efforts to provide equitable and robust child survival mechanisms and accelerate the uptake of High Impact Interventions including Breast feeding, Immunizations, Zinc Sulphate, Vitamin A supplementation and Oral Rehydration Salts.

The 2010 Revised National Population Policy target to reduce infant mortality from 46.5 deaths per 1000 live births in 2007 to less than 23 deaths per 1000 live births by 2020, remains far-fetched. The Policy seeks to reduce under five mortality from 68 deaths per 1000 live births to less than 29 deaths by 2020.

The third National Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS (NSF III) indicates that in 2017, the HIV prevalence among people aged 15 years and older in Botswana was 23.7%. In the same year, women were disproportionally affected with prevalence of 27.2% compared to their male counterparts estimated at 20.3%.[[8]](#footnote-8) The HIV prevalence among people aged 15-24 years was 8.4%, with females at 11.2% and males at 5.6%.

The number of persons of all ages living with HIV was estimated at 378,193, of which 215,361 females and 162,832 males. A total of 34,742 people were living with HIV in the 15-24 year age group of whom 66% (23,089) were female. About 9,018 children aged 0-14 were also living with HIV.[[9]](#footnote-9) In 2017, UNAIDS indicated that 69% new HIV infections occur among persons aged 15-34 years, and most of these occur earlier among females than males as shown in Figure 4.

**Figure 4:** New infections by sex for all age groups, 2017

*Data source: UNAIDS Spectrum, 2018*

Girls and young women aged 15-34 account for 5,609 new HIV infections, comprising 75% of all new infections among all females and 40.6% of new infections among the population as a whole. Boys and young men in the same age group account for 3,957 new HIV infections, comprising 62.6% of new infections among all males, and 28.6% of new infections among the population as a whole. On preventing mother to child transmission (MTCT) of HIV, as of 2017, the MTCT rate was estimated at 1.4%, and the UNAIDS Spectrum data of 2018 estimates that 600 new infections occur among children 0-14 years, about 9,000 children are living with HIV while 68% (6,122) of these are on ART.

On the other hand, the HIV incidence was estimated 3.91% among the female sex workers (FSW)[[10]](#footnote-10) and 3.49% among men who have sex with other men (MSM) in 2017 compared to the general population incidence 0.46% according to the Botswana Incidence Patterns Model[[11]](#footnote-11). However, according to NSF III, HIV mortality declined from 5,878 in 2010 to 4,054 in 2017 (31% decline) due to the retention of people living with HIV on treatment, more AIDS deaths occurred among men due to men’s poor health seeking behaviour.

Botswana is also experiencing a high burden of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV co-infection, with 60% of TB patients co-infected with HIV in 2016,[[12]](#footnote-12) although TB treatment success rates for PLHIV are good, with 78% being achieved among PLHIV with TB in 2015.[[13]](#footnote-13) The NSF III also identifies other opportunistic infections and non-communicable diseases as public health threats such as hepatitis-B and C and cervical cancer. Cancer contributes to 5% of all deaths, with 26% of cancer diagnoses in women being cervical cancer, and the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes contributed to 18% and 4% of deaths respectively in 2017.

### **3.3.2 Government Programmes/Initiatives**

The Government of Botswana has established policies, programmes and procedures to protect the health of pregnant women, neonates and children. These health policies and strategies are anchored on the National Health Policy (NHP) and Integrated Health Service Plan for 2010- 2020 (IHSP), which is due for review. Although the NHP and IHSP provide guidance on reducing infant, child and maternal mortality, as well as improving nutritional status of children, the review of these strategic documents (NHP and IHSP) is due in 2020.

In addition to the NHP and IHSP, the country has also shifted its focus from the Maternal Child Health and Family Planning (MCH/FP) to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) by signing the Reproductive Health Programme Development and Capacity Building Project with UNFPA (BOT/98/P02). The paradigm shift sets the goal of improving SRH of all people living in Botswana and recognized the critical nature of both management and service delivery issues and their interactions in facilitating the process of expanding SRHR services and enhancing quality of care.

## **3.4 Goal 4: Transformed Economies and Job Creation**

Political stability, a cautious foreign policy, and prudent and effective use of revenues from mineral resources contributed to a robust economic growth that transformed Botswana from a least developed country at independence in 1966, to an upper middle income country within three decades. However, Botswana is currently experiencing high poverty levels in relation to its per capita income level, income inequality and unemployment.

Botswana acknowledges that employment creation is the foundation for poverty eradication and income distribution. It is on this premise that the country is committed to higher levels of productivity and technological innovation for sustained economic growth through entrepreneurship and creation of decent jobs not associated with forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. This developmental objective has always been prioritized in all its successive National Development Plans. Further, the government has put in place flexible measures on change of land use for expanded economic benefits.

### **3.4.1 Overall Progress**

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in Botswana has increased from a record low of US$407.80 in 1960 to an all-time high of US$8,031 in 2018 – an equivalent to 64% of the world's average. This reflects a GDP per capita average of US$3,689.56 for Botswana between 1960 and 2018. It also important to note that the GDP annual growth rate averaged 4.62% between 1995 and first quarter of 2019, with an all-time high of 18.2% in the fourth quarter of 2002 and a record low of 10.40 percent in the third quarter of 2009.

The review indicates that Botswana continues to record low levels of productivity and competitiveness. According to the 2017/18 World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report, Botswana scored 19% in work ethic in the labor force, 12.7% score for inefficient government bureaucracy and 11.9% restrictive labor regulations. In recognition of these challenges, the Botswana National Productivity Centre has embarked on programmes aimed at improving efficiency, customer service, enterprise productivity and competitiveness, through various consultancies and capacity building initiatives. The country is engaged in resuscitating work ethics for high impact roll-out in the Public Service through the development of productivity indicators for both local and central government.

According to the available data, through an investment of P466 million managed by Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), a total of 2,466 jobs were created in the manufacturing, property, services and agricultural sectors during the 2018/19 financial year. During the same financial year, the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC)’s promotion drive created an additional 3, 981 jobs in the Services, Agriculture, Agro-processing sectors and Manufacturing Sectors.

### **3.4.2 Government Intervention/Programmes**

Government is implementing policies that promote sustainable tourism, create jobs and promote local culture. To that end, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation sector created 9, 512 jobs and accrued revenue amounting to P2, 008, 191.00. Furthermore, at the time of the review, the government had licensed 2,107 tourism enterprises, of which 1,577 are wholly citizen owned, 269 joint ventures and 261 non–citizen owned.

As part of economic diversification, Government ventures into development of tourism clusters. These clusters are guided by the recently reviewed Tourism Policy. The policy emphasises mainstreaming of tourism into planning processes with meaningful citizen and community participation in the industry. It encourages public-private partnerships and product diversification. Government is also developing a Master Plan for the development of heritage tourism in the south of Botswana, reviewing the Cinematography Act, developing the National Arts Council Act and the accession to the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, as part of the efforts to create jobs in the cultural and creative industries. These tourism initiatives will also ensure that the country’s Cultural Property is protected.

## **3.5 Goal 17: Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life**

The Abolition of Marital Power Act enacted in 2004 made women equal to men in marriage, property holding, domicile and the guardianship of minor children. Further, in 2012, in a landmark case, the High Court ruled out that, the customary inheritance law that discriminated against women was unconstitutional. The UNDP Human Development Report indicated that Botswana’s Gender Inequality Index (GII) was 0.486 in 2014. This ranked the country as number 100 out of 149 countries. At the time of the review, the Marriage Act was under review to provide for amongst others, the registration of religious and traditional marriages, monitoring and regulation of appointed Marriage Officers, as well as to review the age of consent for marriages.

### **3.5.1 Overall Progress**

Botswana recorded significant progress in gender equality in education, leading to parity in female and male enrolment in primary and secondary education, as well as in adult literacy rates. Although there has been an increase in the proportion of economically active women, their earned income is much less than that of men. Women also continue to have low access to property ownership and financial credit and their participation in politics is below the initial SADC threshold of 30%. This underlines the need for strong advocacy and progressive legislative reforms.

The Government of Botswana also acknowledges that Gender based Violence (GBV) is one of the most common human rights violations in the country. According to the Botswana National Relationship Study, the following Gender Based Violence (GBV) related statistics were recorded in 2017:

* 37% of women and 21% of men reported experiencing some form of GBV in their lifetime
* 30% of all men and 12% of women said they perpetrated some form of violence
* Most common form of GBV experienced is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) with 37% women and 18% of men reporting lifetime experience
* 27% of men and 18% women reported perpetrating IPV respectively
* Most common form of IPV is emotional followed by physical, economic, and sexual intimate partner violence
* 5% reported experiencing attempted rape while almost 8% of the men disclosed attempted rape of a non-partner.
* 1% of men reported experiencing forced sex by their non-partners and also 1% of women disclosed ever forcing to have sex with a non-partner.
* 15% of women who were ever pregnant reported experiencing abuse at some point during their pregnancy.
* 5% of all the women reported experiencing sexual harassment at school
* 6% reported sexual harassment at work.

### **3.5.2 Government Programmes/Initiatives**

The Government of Botswana adopted a National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGAD) which prioritises economic development, prosperity and poverty reduction, social protection and social services, political power, democratic governance and decision making, access to justice and protection of human rights and freedom from violence, and special measures targeting vulnerable groups of women, men, girls and boys.

Botswana signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in 2017, which aims to end GBV by 2030. Further, Botswana is the first SADC country to conduct a follow up to the initial 2012 Gender Based Violence Indicators Study, and second after Seychelles in SADC region to conduct a comprehensive GBV study now incorporating Violence against Men (VAM). This provides data on extent and perpetration of GBV on men for evidence based planning.

The country has also developed a gender research agenda and a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework for the Policy on Gender and Development as part of strengthening the strategic information and knowledge management system of the country’s gender machinery. The Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs has piloted a Gender Based Violence Referral System for GBV survivors, in four districts, among key service providers.

## **3.6 Goal 18 Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children**

The Government of Botswana is keen on substantially reducing the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training. In light of this, young people are encouraged to participate in youth exchange platforms which offer them an opportunity to benchmark best practices locally and internationally. Through this initiative, participation in the Youth Business Exposition grew from 224 in 2016/17 to 602 in 2018/19, and young people were offered mentorship by stakeholders.

The country continues to advocate for the protection of labor rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment. As such government is in the process of reviewing the Factories and Workers Compensation Acts to help reduce accidents and occupational diseases affecting the workforce which have a negative impact on compensation claims. A draft Occupational Health and Safety Policy has been developed, and is awaiting approval.

### **3.6.1 Overall Progress**

Available data from on Drugs and Crime's International Homicide Statistics database indicates that the value for intentional homicides (per 100,000 people) in Botswana decreased from 13.9 in 2017 to 13.7 in 2018. However, it should be noted that between 2003 and 2011 the indicator reached a maximum value of 17.20 in 2003 and a minimum value of 10.50 in 2011.

In the year 2018, the country reported 1.0% of victims who were subjected to physical violence, including grievous bodily harm. This represents a slight decrease from 1.1% recorded in 2017. It was also reported in 2018 that 0.03% of Botswana population was subjected to sexual violence (rape). According to Gallup’s Law and Order Index, the percentage of residents in Botswana who are least likely to say they feel safe walking alone at night has declined from 38% in 2017 to 34% in 2018. There were 0.3 victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population in 2018, mainly involved in forced labor.

### **3.6.2 Government Programmes/Initiatives**

 Botswana has adopted a broad and holistic approach to amend all relevant legislation such as Counter-Terrorism Act, Financial Intelligence Act and Arms and Communications Act with a view to strengthening measures aimed at countering and combating international terrorism, as well as combating money laundering.

## **3.7 Goal 19: Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence**

# **4.0 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Impelled by the pursuit to implement the Aspirations and Goals of Agenda 2063, Botswana has faced challenges of data availability. This is mainly because tracking progress being made in the implementation of each target requires detailed data, disaggregated according to gender, regions and social status of the population. To this end, baseline data forms a core part of the commencement of the implementation process. Such data is not readily available and in some cases the available data is not up to date or is not in the format required by Agenda 2063 indicators. Furthermore, there is a challenge of data being located in different sectors instead of being housed and coordinated by Statistics Botswana for better collation, tracking, monitoring and evaluation.

Botswana also needs to address the many data gaps observed in the different sectors. It needs to modernize the national monitoring system at national and sub-national levels to ensure an integrated system.

This is the first progress report on Agenda 2063 goals and targets. Going forward, the country will continue to explore opportunities to be able to report comprehensively on all the components within the required level of detail.

# **5.0 KEY LESSONS LEARNT**

Botswana made strides in making community led interventions more effective. In some instances, the coordination of critical development imperatives like the eradication of poverty and dealing with HIV/AIDS matters are housed under the Office of the President for effective coordination and timely interventions.

A clear emerging issue is that while fast economic growth is necessary, it is not sufficient in itself to deal with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. However, through the implementation of the national development frameworks, Botswana has made considerable progress in terms of economic growth and at one point was the fastest growing economy in the region attributed in part to the robust management of the country’s natural resources.

# **6.0 CONCLUSION**

Through the direction of the national statistics office (Statistics Botswana), the country has to map all Agenda 2063 Aspirations, Goals and targets relevant and measurable in Botswana, and align them fully to the country’s Vision 2036, NDP 11 and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development (Sustainable Development Goals).

1. Statistics Botswana (2018). Botswana Demographic Survey Report 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. MOESD/Department of Basic Education (2013), Guidelines for Standard One Orientation Programme in

Primary Schools Gaborone: MOESD. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ministry of Health and Wellness (2012). National Health Policy: Towards a Healthier Botswana. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://knoema.com/atlas/Botswana/Neonatal-mortality-rate [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Neonatal mortality rate – Probability of dying during the first 28 days of life expressed per 1,000 live births [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Infant mortality rate - Probability of dying between birth and exactly one year of age expressed per 1,000 live births [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Under-five mortality rate - Probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age expressed per 1,000 live births [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Botswana SPECTRUM data, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Botswana SPECTRUM data, 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Statistics Botswana (2013). Botswana AIDS Impact Survey IV. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Ministry of Health and Wellness (2017). Incidence patterns model implementation in Botswana. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. MOHW. (2015). TB programme data. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. WHO. (2016). Global TB Report. Geneva: WHO [↑](#footnote-ref-13)