



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT

ON THE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM BOTSWANA'S 3RD CYCLE REVIEW**

**UNDER THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
MECHANISM OF THE**

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

GENEVA, DECEMBER 2020



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Part I.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACHAP	African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnership.
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti Retroviral Therapy
AYP	Adolescent and Young People
CEDA	Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency
CEDAW	Convention on the Discrimination Against Women
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
CRC	Convention on the Right of the Child
COP	Country Operational Plan
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CHRSNAP	Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan
DPP	Directorate of Public Prosecutions
DREAMS	Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GeAD	Department to Gender Affairs Department
HIV	Human Immuno Virus
HRU	Human Rights Unit
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IMCPTC	Inter Ministerial Committee on Protocols, Treaties and Conventions
MDJS	Ministry of Defence Justice and Security
MOHW	Ministry of Health and Wellness
MIAC	Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation
MOBE	Ministry of Basic Education
MLWS	Ministry of Land, Water and Sanitation
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MNIGA	Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs

MOPAGPA	Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration
MYSC	Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture Development
NAHPA	National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency
NDP 11	National Development Plan 11
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NMRF	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
NCDs	Non Communicable Diseases
NRTD	National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database
NSPF	National Social Protection Framework
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OVCs	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEPFAR	President Emergency AIDS Relief Fund
PMTCT	Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission
PrEP	Pre-exposure Prophylaxis
PWDs	People Living with Disabilities
RACS	Remote Area Communities
SMC	Safe Male Circumcision
STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
SADC	Southern African Developmet Community SADC
SOE	State of Public Emergency
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UPRMT	Universal Periodic Review Mid Term
VMMC	Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
WHO	World Health Organization

PART II

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Botswana was reviewed during the third cycle of the Universal Peer Review (UPR) in January of 2018. She received 207 recommendations and supported 93 recommendations. Supported recommendations related to: Ratification and Domestication of Treaties, Establishment of a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), Human Rights Promotion, Poverty Eradication, Combating HIV/AIDS, Rights of the Child, Human Rights Education, Non-Discrimination, Human Rights Training, Cooperation with Treaty Bodies, Death Penalty, Gender Based Violence (GBV), Right to Education, Rights to Health, Access to Justice, Human Trafficking, Water and Sanitation.

2.0 METHODOLOGY AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Treaties, Conventions and Protocols (IMCTCP) which was established by Government in 2002 to serve as a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), has over the years, facilitated the implementation and reporting process of human rights recommendations.
- 2.2. Noticing that the IMCTCP had a broad mandate covering regional, continental and international Treaties, Conventions and Protocols, Government established a Human Rights Unit (HRU) under the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration (MOPAGPA) to focus solely on the human rights obligations of the country.
- 2.3 The Unit was established in August 2019 and in line with its human rights coordination mandate, it coordinated the drafting of this third Cycle Mid Term Review of Botswana under the UPR mechanism.
- 2.4 The HRU collected information through broad consultations. Consultations took place across and amongst Government officials, and between Government and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

- 2.5 The drafting of this UPR Mid Term (UPRTMT) report is done at a time when the entire world is facing a health emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic. The outbreak of the pandemic caused the cancellation of the multistakeholder workshops which were scheduled as a mode of consultations between Government and CSOs. Gatherings of more than ten (10) people were prohibited as per the Notice published in the Government Gazette of 20 March 2020.
- 2.6 Government, being committed to discharging its reporting obligations to the United Nations Human Rights Council, engaged CSOs on finding an alternative modes of consultations to ensure that the country does not default in submitting its UPRMT report. There was an agreement that consultations should be conducted using modes of communication which do not require physical gatherings.
- 2.7 To that end, the HRU Solicited updates on the implementation of accepted recommendations from Government Ministries. A draft report was then consolidated and shared with the CSOs as a form of a brief on the progress made in implementing the accepted recommendations.
- 2.4 DITSHWANELO (The Botswana Centre for Human Rights) was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to facilitate CSO Consultations. The organisation devised ways of briefing other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), coordinating information collection from CSOs, collating a Stakeholders Report and disseminating it to CSOs for validation. The Stakeholders Report was shared with Government to enable the noting of human rights issues raised by CSOs.
- 2.3 On 16th July 2020, Government convened an inter-governmental drafting meeting to validate the draft State report. The Drafting Committee comprised of representatives from the MOPAGPA, Ministry of Defence Justice and Security (MDJS), Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation (MIAC), Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD), Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs (MNIGA), Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), Ministry of Land, Water and Sanitation (MLWS), Ministry of Basic Education (MOBE), Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC), National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA). Another intergovernmental drafting meeting was held from 7th to 11th August 2020 to further validate the State report.

2.5 This Mid-term review covers the period 2018-2020. It serves as a status update on actions taken by Botswana in the implementation of the recommendations accepted during the third UPR Cycle.

3.0 BOTSWANA'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

3.1 The Government of Botswana recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic poses human rights threats hence its deliberate decision to fight the pandemic in line with the human rights based approach and good governance. To this end, Government carried out consultations which resulted in the establishment and strengthening of its laws, policies and institutions in response to COVID-19. A National COVID-19 Task Force was established to coordinate all national activities pertaining to the containment of the pandemic. It is chaired by His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi.

3.2 In addition, a legal framework comprising, the constitutional and legislative provisions was created as a basis for the State of Public Emergency (SOE), which was declared by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana. The SOE was subsequently affirmed and extended by the National Parliament. The main objective of the SOE was to allow the country sufficient legal leverage in disease containment and control, facilitate mobilisation of resources and the preservation of jobs and industries.

3.3 Government adopted a COVID-19 Response Plan in April 2020. Subsequent to that, a Relief Fund was established with the support of Government, the private sector, CSOs, development partners and individuals. The COVID-19 relief funds were expended on the provision of food hampers to households in need of food aid, wage subsidies to help companies which were struggling to pay employees, health supplies and services, the education sector, and on the support of Botswana citizens in the diaspora.

3.4 Over and above the COVID-19 Response Plan, the Government of Botswana developed the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan to respond to the economic challenges posed by the Corona virus pandemic, as well as, to effectively implement a roadmap for the national transformational agenda.

- 3.5 Government recognises and applauds the work of CSOs in response to COVID-19. CSOs don't only advocate for human rights in the context of COVID-19, but they also compliment the social programmes extended by Government to the citizens and residents of Botswana.
- 3.6 The support which development partners give to Government and the CSOs enables our country to improve its obligation not only to promote and protect human rights, but also to ensure the gradual realisation of the same in line with the global sustainable development goals.

PART III

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – THIRD CYCLE	
A MID-TERM REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA	
ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS	
RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS
RATIFICATION OF TREATIES	
128.10 ; 128.13 Consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mauritius; Ethiopia).	The Government is considering acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. To this end, a Draft National Disability Framework, which consists of a Draft National Disability Policy, Implementation Plan, Draft National Disability Strategy and Draft Disability Bill has been completed.
128.23 ; 128.24 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia; Rwanda).	Botswana’s Constitution prohibits all forms of discrimination and guarantees protection of the rights of all people without discrimination based on, among other things, race, creed, religion, sex, place of origin, political opinion, colour and ethnicity. Government is therefore committed to ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. However, there is need for technical support to the national legal and institutional framework to prepare for ratification of the Convention.

<p>127.1</p> <p>Ratify those international instruments that Botswana had committed to ratifying during the second cycle of the universal periodic review (Madagascar).</p>	<p>The policy of the Government of Botswana is that its national legal and institutional framework should ensure satisfactory realisation of the rights provided for in any given international instrument, before ratification can be done. To that end, Botswana continues to work on her legal and institutional infrastructure, to align them with the international instruments which she had committed to consider ratifying.</p>
<p>ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION</p>	
<p>127.6; 127.7; 127.8; 127.9; 127.10; 127.11; 127.12; 127.13; 127.14; 127.15; 127.16; 127.17; 127.18; 127.19; 127.20.</p> <p>Continue efforts to ensure that the national human rights institution that will be established will be in compliance with the Paris Principles (Portugal; Sierra Leone; Ukraine; South Africa; Togo; Afghanistan; Liechtenstein; Morocco; Tunisia; Greece; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Canada; Namibia; Germany).</p>	<p>Efforts continue to be expended to ensure that the Ombudsman Bill which confers human rights mandate on the Office of the Ombudsman complies with the Paris Principles. A revised second draft of the Bill was produced after the National Human Rights Symposium which was held in November 2018. The Symposium was attended by both State and non-state actors and it was geared towards sharing regional experiences and expertise with a view to refine the Ombudsman Amendment Bill. The third draft Bill was circulated to key stakeholders at a consultative meeting which was held in October 2019. In September 2020, another Stakeholders Consultative Forum was convened to discuss the fourth draft of the Bill. The finalised Bill is expected to be presented to Parliament in July 2021.</p>
<p>HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION</p>	

<p>127.3</p> <p>Continue to work on the implementation of its commitments to promote and protect human rights in the light of the recommendations already accepted (Sudan).</p>	<p>Government continues to improve its institutional frameworks geared towards ensuring systematic follow up and implementation of recommendations from treaty bodies. Reference: 127.4 below.</p>
<p>127.4</p> <p>Consider the creation of a national follow-up mechanism for recommendations on human rights issues, which would allow for the adequate follow-up of the obligations and recommendations made by regional and universal human rights systems (Paraguay).</p>	<p>The IMCTCP which was established in 2002 continues to ensure Botswana’s compliance to international agreements, including reporting and follow- up on recommendations from treaty bodies.</p> <p>In addition, the Human Rights Unit (HRU) which was established in August 2019 under MOPAGPA, coordinates State Party reporting and follows up the obligations and recommendations made by regional, continental and international systems to ensure implementation.</p> <p>The Government, through the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is in the process of establishing a National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD). This is an electronic tool aimed at facilitating the recording, tracking and reporting on the implementation of human rights recommendations issued by International Treaty Mechanisms.</p> <p>The existing Agreement Database which contains all Agreements which the country is party to, is currently being revamped to improve its functionality.</p>
<p>127.22 ;127.23</p> <p>Finalize the work on a Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National</p>	<p>Government is currently working on the development of a Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (CHRSNAP). Preliminary consultations with CSOs on the</p>

<p>Action Plan (Turkey; Zimbabwe).</p>	<p>development of the strategy were carried out in November 2019. A National Human Rights Coordinating Committee whose mandate is to, among other things, oversee the development of the CHRSNAP was set up. Membership of the Committee comprises Government Ministries/Departments and CSOs. The CHRSNAP is expected to be completed in December 2021.</p>
<p>127.24 Take measures to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency in the public service of the country (Azerbaijan);</p>	<p>During his inaugural speech in 2019, The President of Botswana His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi pronounced that his administration will revitalise national institutions that have been afflicted by corruption to add impetus to the fight against graft. He stated that service delivery cannot be improved nor any of our national objectives achieved if our institutional frameworks are not robust, transparent, accountable and free from corruption. He emphasised that Government will put in place measures and mechanisms, through the application of best practices of good governance to ensure that corruption is defeated. He said that public officials will be required to publicly declare their assets under a new law promulgated recently. In that regard, the Ethics and Integrity Directorate was established in January 2020 under the Asset and Liabilities Act (2019). It contributes to good governance and public administration by enhancing transparency and accountability of Government and public officers.</p> <p>In addition, the Governance Unit was established in April 2020 under MOPAGPA to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency in the public service of the country.</p> <p>Moreover, the Financial Intelligence (Amendment) Act of 2018 establishes a Financial Intelligence Agency and a National Coordinating Committee on Financial Intelligence for purposes of investigating suspicious transactions and other cash transactions as well as to provide for mutual assistance with comparable bodies outside Botswana in relation to financial information.</p> <p>In the effort to continue improving efficiency, accountability and transparency in the public service, Government recognizes, supports, establishes and legislate for Professional</p>

	<p>associations Regulatory bodies and Learned societies. These bodies are dedicated to the advancement of the knowledge and practice of professions through developing, supporting, regulating and promoting professional standards for technical and ethical competence. There are 12 professional bodies, 8 regulatory bodies and at-least 15 learned associations. These bodies further support the public’s trust, for public service to deliver social and economic knowledge value that translates into positive and efficient policies and programming.</p> <p>The Office of the Ombudsman also contributes to transparency and efficiency in the public service through the investigation of complaints of maladministration in Government and parastatals. Since 2018, the office received eight hundred and two (802) and resolved three hundred and five (305) complaints.</p> <p>The Office of the Receiver was established in 2018 under the Proceeds and Instruments of Crime Act of 2015. It is responsible for preserving the value of confiscated property or money in respect of an order made under the Act or any written law of Botswana for purposes of compensating victims of crime after the court satisfied itself in accordance with the Act that the victim was liable for compensation. To ensure accountability in the Public service, PICA, was enacted to deprive persons convicted of certain crimes of the benefits or rewards gained from such crimes and to deprive them of property suspected to be a proceed or instrument of crime to ensure that there is accountability in the public service;</p>
<p>127.27 Continue with reforms, which include introducing measures to diversify the economy and accelerate economic growth aimed at increased productivity, poverty reduction and the attainment of equitable social development (Indonesia);</p>	<p>Botswana has adopted Vision 2036 which is a transformational blue print aimed at transforming Botswana from an upper middle-income country to a high-income country by 2036. In line with Vision 2036, the current National Development Plan 11 (NDP 11) has introduced the following key reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Botswana National Spatial Plan 2036, which presents a twenty year framework and strategy to influence the economic growth and development through sustainable distribution of people for socio-economic activities. It guides decisions

	<p>on spatial development, investment, natural resources protection, guide regional and transport linkages. It further directs planning, to align the interventions through a comprehensive geo-database.</p> <p>(ii) The Revised National Land Policy (2019), which augments the Revised Botswana Land Policy of 2019. The Policy shifts in land management, allow for mixed land uses of up to 50% in agricultural land facilitates economic value addition to land, properties and yield of economic return from the diversification of land use. This change will certainly reduce dependency on Government and ultimately poverty levels.</p> <p>(iii) The Economic Stimulus Programme which is intended to accelerate job creation and stimulate the economy through the Economic Diversification Drive.</p> <p>(iv) The Special Economic Zones which is premised on the need to diversify the economy and export base of Botswana beyond the diamond mining sector.</p> <p>(v) The Revised Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) Guidelines which bring the different citizen economic empowerment programmes (including other business development services and products, such as insurance) under one umbrella. It focuses efforts to deal with the real financial constraints affecting the development of citizen businesses and citizen participation in the economy, as a “One Stop Service Centre”.</p> <p>(vi) The Affirmative Action Framework for Remote Area Communities (RACS)(2015-2025) which aims to assist to minimise development gaps that exist between recognised remote area settlements and the rest of the country. The Framework ensures that Remote Area Communities evidently benefit from national programmes across sectors, promote self-reliance and enhance access to poverty eradication initiatives.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vii) The Local Economic Development Framework (LED) 2040 which serves to build up the economic capacity of a local area in order to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. The communities, public, business, and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment creation. (viii) The Local Procurement Scheme which reserves 20% of Government procurement for youth, women and people with disabilities. (ix) The Citizen Economic Empowerment Policy (2012) which aims to promote effective participation of citizens in economic growth and development of the country. It develops skills and knowledge for citizens to realize their full potential, builds capacity for private sector growth and infuses entrepreneurial culture to promote global competitiveness. The CEE Law is currently being drafted.
<p>127.41</p> <p>Enhance its social protection programmes in areas such as targeting mechanisms, implementation procedures and coordination (State of Palestine);</p>	<p>The social protection response has been defined in terms of public and private initiatives and programmes that are guided by state policies, to prevent, address, and reduce the risks of poverty and vulnerability among citizens. Currently, twenty-nine (29) social protection programmes, administered by nine (9) Ministries are implemented in Botswana.</p> <p>Building a robust social protection system that is sustainable, efficient, effective and coordinated as well as a comprehensive social registry has been identified as a priority under the Botswana NDP11. To this end, a National Social Protection Framework (NSPF) has been adopted to guide all interventions geared towards improving social protection.</p> <p>Under the NSPF, targeting will be improved through;</p> <p>(i) A system wide approach to targeting; All targeted programmes will rely on the same</p>

	<p>targeting mechanism and a common application process. A single assessment form for all social protection programmes will be developed and will include information to determine eligibility for universal and means tested programmes. All information collected from the application will be entered into the Social Registry. This will assist in addressing grievances, as well as improving the capacity of the government in responding to shocks.</p> <p>(ii) For poverty targeted programs the social protection system will move away from targeting individuals to targeting households. This approach will focus on the household as opposed to individuals and will help eliminate unjustified programme overlaps.</p> <p>(iii) Implementation of both universal and targeted benefits. A household might receive targeted and universal benefits. For example, a poor household with an elderly member will receive a poverty targeted cash benefit and the elderly member will also receive his/her OAP benefit. Conversely, an elderly person living in a household that is not poor will receive his/her OAP benefit.</p> <p>(iv) Using information received via the common application to determine eligibility for programs across ministries. Eligible households will not need to reapply for each benefit. In addition, and dependent upon agreements between participating Ministries, the common beneficiary identification mechanism will also determine who might be given priority access to services in other Ministries. Figure 6 provides a diagram of the harmonized social protection system. It is meant to be illustrative, not prescriptive.</p> <p>Coordination</p> <p>With regards to coordination, the NSPF will enhance this through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of coordination across programs. The Social Registry and common
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	<p>beneficiary identification system will support coordination by systematizing beneficiary selection and data handling and sharing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A National Social Protection Steering Committee comprising senior officers from key ministries, government agencies, and development partners. The committee will bring policy and program formulators together on a regular basis for integrated planning. The objective of the committee will be to build coordination and generate synergies between the range of social protection programs and to guide the development of sound and appropriate social protection policies. The National Social Protection Steering Committee will build on the existing Social Protection Technical Steering Committee. - Identifying a coordinating ministry being MLGRD to coordinate implementation of the NSPF and working in close collaboration with other Ministries, local government units, and civil society <p>Implementation</p> <p>The NSPF identifies key elements in the implementation of Social Protection. These include;</p> <p>Institutional framework: delivery of a comprehensive system requires a set of programs and interventions implemented by multiple ministries and agencies and by civil society organizations, that together address all the different aspects of poverty and vulnerability.</p> <p>Graduating Social Assistance Beneficiaries: through generating sustainable livelihood activities for social protection beneficiaries who have labour capacity and graduation potential.</p> <p>Incorporation of a goal directed approach to social work, through provision of Social Intermediation Services: reaching the poorest segments of the population to facilitate their access to programs and services adequate to improve their living conditions; optimizing household well-being by providing and coordinating services; creating a shift from defining</p>
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	benefits in terms of entitlements towards a definition of benefits as temporary or conditional assistance for those capable of work.
POVERTY ERADICATION	
<p>127.42</p> <p>Strengthen the economic resources of the most vulnerable so that they can live in dignity (Libya);</p>	<p>Given the multi-faceted nature of poverty and vulnerability, social protection cannot be delivered effectively through a single programme or intervention by a single Ministry of agency. Instead, it requires a set of programmes and interventions implemented by multiple Ministries and agencies and by civil society organisations, which, together address all the different aspects of poverty and vulnerability. This is the approach the Government of Botswana has taken to address poverty eradication as several interventions are implemented and coordinated in different Ministries.</p> <p>The Affirmative Action Framework for RACs was conceived to accelerate implementation of the Revised Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) of 2009, which underscores intensive implementation of programmes and projects aimed at promoting equity in RACs.</p> <p>Special dispensation for Rural Area Development Programme, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and people with disabilities access tertiary education sponsorships with 31 points while the normal cut off point for Government sponsorship is 36 points. The Government also provides all other support during their tertiary learning.</p> <p>To facilitate mainstreaming of access for people with disability into the workforce, Government has taken the initiative to encourage employment through their placement in various Government Ministries. To date ninety four (94) out of two hundred and eighty nine (289) registered persons with disability have benefitted.</p> <p>Government continues to implement the Inclusive Education Policy of 2011 to ensure access</p>

	<p>and equity in education for learners with Special Education Needs (SEN), as supported by goal number 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There has been a 71% increase in the enrolment of learners with special needs from 1 718 in 2015 to 2439 in 2020. In addition, Government has specialised institutions for community based rehabilitation and stimulation as well as to equip people with disabilities with vocational skills in areas such as hospitality, horticulture, carpentry, which are all intended to alleviate poverty.</p> <p>Government continues to collaborate with CSOs in delivering service. To this end, an annual grant totalling thirty-four million, nine hundred and ninety-five thousand, one hundred and eighty-nine pula (P34,995,189.00) was awarded to eleven (11) Non-Governmental Organisations to provide special education programmes, vocational skills programme and rehabilitation services to learners with special educational needs.</p> <p>Affirmative action through the Revised Botswana Land Policy (2019) affords disadvantaged members of the society (remote area communities, widows, orphans, youth, people with disabilities and the needy) access to land so that they are provided with opportunities to ensure their inclusion in the mainstream economy.</p>
<p>127.43</p> <p>Continue taking further measures to eradicate poverty (Azerbaijan);</p>	<p>The National Poverty Eradication Policy of Botswana is being developed but Government continues to implement a wide range of poverty eradication packages, for individuals and groups living in extreme poverty, aimed at economic sustainability, such as, agricultural projects, fisheries and manufacturing.</p> <p>Since the inception of the poverty eradication programme a total of USD120.6 million was expended, benefiting forty one thousand six hundred and eighty two (41682) people.</p>
<p>127.44 ;</p> <p>Adopt a specific policy with affirmative</p>	<p>Botswana continues to avail start-up capital through the Youth Development Fund to</p>

<p>action measures to lift young people out of exclusion and poverty, particularly those living in rural areas (Honduras);</p>	<p>economically empower the youth as means of including them in the mainstream economy. The youth are also able to benefit from the poverty eradication programme and CEDA funding.</p> <p>There are Reservations and Preferential Treatment for the youth in micro-procurement, price preference and maintenance of Government facilities. Furthermore, the youth are allowed to identify open spaces to utilise at no cost for setting up business stalls. The youth also benefit from the Local Procurement Scheme.</p>
<p>127.45</p> <p>Continue working on poverty eradication initiatives with special focus on women and children (Bhutan);</p>	<p>Existing Social Protection and Social Safety nets designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability continue to be implemented. These are evaluated and reviewed periodically to respond to emerging situations.</p> <p>As at June 2020, 29 978 women and 9 993 men benefitted from poverty eradication programmes. A total of 1998 youth, being 1499 females and 499 males benefitted from these programmes.</p>
<p>128.61</p> <p>Strengthen further its efforts in the area of poverty eradication, including by strengthening and addressing shortcomings highlighted in the poverty eradication programmes. (Malaysia)</p>	<p>The Draft Botswana Policy on Poverty Eradication calls for expansion of the poverty measures from consumptive measures to a multi-dimensional approach. Implementation has started and with the assistance of the UNDP multi-dimensional measures have already been developed.</p> <p>Among the key interventions included in the Draft Policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Profiling of the poor, based on a multi-dimensional approach and will lead to identification of appropriate and responsive interventions and this has already started in some districts;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Management of child poverty and inter-generational transmission of poverty through implementation of programmes that facilitate access to adequate education, food and health care. This further calls for the establishment of partnerships with critical stakeholders such as civil society, development partners as well as academic and research institutions; c) Intensify development of employment and wealth creation opportunities through the implementation of targeted citizen economic empowerment programmes, aimed specifically at women, youth and other vulnerable members of society. Programmes here include the Women Economic Empowerment Programme, Youth Development Fund and the Poverty Eradication Programme. Affirmative action for these groups will be strengthened; d) Provision of infrastructure in the rural areas to improve the investment environment and accessibility of services. This includes provision of electricity, water, roads, housing, sanitation, information communication technologies as well as harnessing renewable energy sources; e) Human Capital Development, prioritizing efforts to boost skills development and training, with emphasis on technical training as well as up skilling of the poor;
COMBATING HIV/AIDS	
<p>127.54 Further improve the health-care infrastructure in Botswana and pay special attention to awareness-raising programmes among women and adolescent girls in rural areas for</p>	<p>NAHPA, coordinates the implementation of the following awareness raising programmes for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW):</p> <p>U- Report in collaboration with the United Nations International Children’s Emergency</p>

<p>addressing the challenge of HIV/AIDS (India);</p>	<p>Fund (UNICEF) U- Report in collaboration with UNICEF is a social monitoring platform which is user-centred meant to empower adolescent and young people to speak out about HIV, AIDS, health and other developmental issues. It was introduced in 2019. To date it has reached twenty-two thousand and nineteen (22 019) U-Reporters in the data base since the first trial poll set up by Botswana’s First Lady Ms. Neo Jane Masisi at World AIDS Day Commemoration on 1st December 2019 in the northern part of the Country. The social media page has attracted 1279 followers since December 2019.</p> <p>DREAMS Project in partnership with President Emergency AIDS Relief Fund (PEPFAR) The Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) Initiative, seeks to achieve an AIDS-free future for AGYW aged 9 to 24 years with the goal to reduce HIV incidence in this population. Botswana has been selected as one of five countries to implement DREAMS-like activities. The goal is to reach the most at-risk AGYW with a comprehensive HIV prevention package, which includes adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, strengthening the family and community, and involving AGYW’s male partners in HIV risk reduction.</p> <p>Currently, the DREAMS Project covers two (2) Districts. For the PEPFAR supported Country Operational Plan (COP) 2019, the DREAMS was operating on a budget of \$3million for the Coordination office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5327 AGYWs have been enrolled and attending safe spaces between January and March 2020. • 5 AGYWs have been offered post violence care. • 579 AGYWs have been initiated on PrEP by both Tebelopele and the Youth Friendly Service Clinics. • 1504 AGYWs have completed Economic Strengthening which aims at empowering them to become economically independent and resilient.
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In COP20, DREAMS will be expanding to 6 more districts.

Shuga Radio program in partnership with UNICEF

It is a mass multi-media behaviour change communication initiative targeting young people aged 10 – 24 years. It offers intensified and localized HIV prevention education and messages along with access to vital services including, HIV counselling, testing, treatment and care; Safe Male Circumcision (SMC); and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) screening and treatment.

WISE-UP campaign

The Wise-up campaign is implemented through partnership with a CSOs called the African Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Program (ACHAP). It is a multimedia campaign that utilizes youth friendly channels of communication targeting Adolescent and Young People (AYP) aged 10-24 years. The programme currently uses social media platforms to address HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support issues, promotes consistent and proper condom use, alcohol and drug abuse, other related issues that affect young people as well as linking for accessibility of health services. The platform has reached 72 000 AYP with HIV messages.

AGYW programme

The programme is implemented through ACHAP, to address the unique vulnerabilities and challenges of Adolescents and Young People in accessing prevention and treatment services for reduction of HIV infections through a combination of; Biomedical, Structural and behavioural prevention interventions. 5811 adolescents and young people were reached with life skills and HIV prevention programmes from April to December 2019. 10 272 tested for HIV, 209 screened for TB and 47 screened for STIs.

Di-Palametse Roadshows/Campaign

Di-Palametse roadshows are an initiative to enhance Adolescents and Young People's programmes. The patron for the programme is the First Lady of Botswana Mrs. Neo Jane

Masisi who is a Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Special Ambassador for the Engagement and Empowerment of Adolescents and Young People in Botswana. The roadshows targeted in-and-out of school adolescents and young people aged 15-24 years as primary target, district leadership, and the public as secondary targets. The road shows have already covered the whole country. 13 117 students, 1 678 leaders and 5 974 members of the public were reached. 154 people tested for HIV in the 7 districts and 19 were screened for TB through this program.

Life-skills program through MOBE

Botswana continues to make progress in institutionalizing a range of information, skills and values needed for young people to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights, and to make decisions about their health and sexuality into the formal education sector through national curriculum revisions.

Life-skills Toolkit (which operationalizes the National Life-skills Framework) provides guidance to implementers (Guidance and Counselling Teachers, Social Workers and health service providers) on delivering CSE to young people at pre-school, primary and secondary school levels, as well as those out of school. The health care workers use the toolkit to impart knowledge, develop healthy attitudes, and instil skills necessary for healthy decision-making to children and adolescents.

The country also has the Form 1-3 Guidance and Counselling Curriculum Guidelines and the Living: Skills for Life, Botswana’s Window of Hope which complement toolkit. With the support of the Global Fund, The MOBE is currently reviewing and updating the Life-skills Curriculum as well as developing a Parent –Child Communication Manual. Both documents are intended as availing tools for educators, health care workers, parents and adolescents and young people to be able to address issues of sexuality and access to sexual reproductive health services for adolescents and young people.

School Health Program through Ministry of Health and Wellness

	<p>NAHPA, guides the inclusion of HIV and AIDS prevention and Care messages in the curriculum and provides oversight in implementation of the school health program. The program is broad, covering: HIV education, Nutrition education, Environmental health, Oral health, sexual and reproductive health issues etc. Its implementation is guided by tripartite policy between three government sectors being ministries of: Health and Wellness, Local Government and Rural Development and Basic Education. It is implemented in all schools.</p>
<p>127.55</p> <p>Further strengthen its national programme to reduce HIV prevalence, especially among young people (Indonesia);</p>	<p>Botswana has embarked on both primary and secondary preventative measures to reduce the HIV prevalence in young people. Botswana has adopted the UN five pillars of HIV prevention namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • programmes of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) ; • Key population (KP) programs which aim at reducing HIV infection among KPs; • Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP); • Condoms and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC). <p>HIV testing is promoted in Botswana as the entry point to every HIV/AIDS program. It aims at finding those that are negative so that they stay negative and those that are positive so that in this era of Treat All, they are immediately enrolled on treatment so that they are rendered virally suppressed. This reduces the transmission of HIV as undetectable and intransmissible (U=U).Government has also started to implement HIV self-testing as an add-on method.</p> <p>Secondary prevention is all about treating those that are HIV positive, so that they do not transmit. The PMTCT program in the era of Treat All / Option B+ is used in Botswana and has seen a great reduction in the HIV prevalence in children and adolescents. Botswana has adopted once a day, well tolerated treatment regimens that promote adherence leading to quicker viral suppression and therefore reduction in transmission of HIV.</p> <p>Youth friendly services are available in 25 out of a total of 27 health districts in Botswana. Youth Friendly Services includes education, STI screening and management, HIV testing and</p>

	<p>treatment, PrEP, condoms distribution, family planning and others.</p> <p>The Botswana Welfare Association which is a CSO receiving yearly subventions from government through long standing memorandum of agreement, has Youth Friendly Service facilities in six districts and these provide comprehensive sexual reproductive health services to adolescents and young people.</p>
<p>127.56 Strengthen the policies to combat HIV/AIDS (Senegal);</p>	<p>In 2019, the Third National Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS (2019-2023) as well as the National Multi-Sectoral Strategy on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), both developed through a multi stakeholder engagement process, were launched in June 2019 by the President of Botswana, His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi together with the Acting UNAIDS Executive Director Ms. Gunilla Carlsson. From time to time when mid-term reviews are done where all stakeholders are meaningfully engaged.</p> <p>Botswana is developing the costed National Operational Plan and Monitoring Framework the Third National Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS (2019-2023). Other frameworks aligned to the national AIDS strategy include:</p> <p>The Global Fund and United Nations AIDS Agency (UNAIDS) support the draft National Comprehensive Plan to Remove Human Rights and Gender Related Barriers to HIV and TB Services which is informed by a UNDP supported Legal Environment Assessment and the Global Fund Baseline Assessment – Botswana Scaling up Programmes to Reduce Human Rights-Related Barriers to HIV Services. The Plan aligns to the UNAIDS Recommended Seven Programmes to Remove Human Rights Related Barriers to Services (2012).</p> <p>The Botswana Guidelines for HIV/STI Programmes for Key Populations was completed in 2020 with the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The guidelines were developed for the purposes of supporting the delivery of tailored, targeted and effective services to populations that have been marginalised, hard to reach and at risk. The careful</p>

management of the HIV/STI prevention and treatment needs of Key Populations is regarded as central to the reduction of HIV and STIs in the general population.

Adolescent and Young People Framework and Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy

The Framework guides and informs planning and programming of comprehensive high impact interventions that are necessary to prevent new HIV infections and AIDS related deaths among AYP. The Framework supports strategies to find AYP living with HIV/AIDS and link them to treatment, care and support. It is further intended to shape policies, influences practices in AYP planning and programming, resource allocation, service delivery, and advance knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Within the Framework, meaningful AYPs participation, community engagement, strong political will and commitment are emphasized and utilised to drive that are sustainable access to equitable services coverage, uptake and utilisation.

Faith Based organization’s Strategy

The Faith and Communities Initiative is a PEPFAR supported program coordinated from NAHPA. It seeks to mobilise Faith Communities in Botswana to be part of the national HIV response. It focuses on engagement with key stakeholders within the Faith and Community Space to disseminate new messages of hope, expansion of targeted HIV- self testing, linkage and retention in HIV/AIDS services in Faith communities including in Traditional Health Practitioners settings. Decreasing stigma and non-adherence related to faith healing as well as Justice for Children is also what the Faith Communities Initiative focuses on.

Communities Acting Together to Control HIV (CATCH) Strategy

In Botswana, the CATCH approach has been implemented since June 2015, aiming to invest in communities to lead the AIDS response in the South-East District of the country. Civil society partners—FHI360, Humana People to People and The Constellation—are playing a key role to

implement the approach at the community level. The CATCH approach positions the vision of zero new infections as a community goalpost and sets off a national race towards these targets at the district level, spearheaded by the traditional chiefs known as Kgosi. The aim of the approach was to collectively work towards zero new infections, making the communities and their leadership integral part of the national response.

It also aims at developing a comprehensive HIV prevention delivery plan that will stimulate communities to become agents of change in their own location using participatory approaches and methods that empower community leaders and members to bring down new HIV infections to zero. The programme coverage is currently four (districts – South East, Chobe, Jwaneng and Bobirwa. The model has so far reached 34 communities in the four districts.

90-90-90 Initiative (Now 95-95-95)

By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status. By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

To achieve the 95–95–95 targets, UNAIDS emphasises the need to focus on five prevention pillars (Programs for Adolescent girls and Young women- AGYW; Programs for Key Populations; Condoms;VMMC; PrEP delivered through a rights-based, people-centred, combination approach. Botswana progress towards achieving the stood at 92% for the first 95; 89 for the second 95 and 96% for the third 95 in December 2019

Comprehensive Condom Strategy

Botswana has prioritised Comprehensive Condom programming for the prevention of HIV and other public health concerns like STIs and Unintended pregnancy prevention. This triple prevention benefit has also positions condoms as a vital commodity as it is included under the Essential Drug List. Condoms are distributed mainly through the public facilities and some

selected Civil Societies facilities in order to enhance access by key and vulnerable populations. In 2017 a market research was conducted to assess the need as well as the perspectives of consumers on condom programme. The market research led to government rebranding the male condom and offering it in different flavours. The female condom use has been low. Therefore Government is currently refocusing to strengthen its promotion through the support of the Global Fund. The Government has also been able to programme for availing lubricants through the support of the Global Fund commencing at a smaller scale for key populations and adolescents and young people.

VMMC Strategy (2017-2022)

The Strategy was drawn up and the target is to circumcise 80% of HIV negative males which translates to 298,180 to achieve 60% reduction in the number of new HIV infections. This is in line with the country's new phase of development that is defined by Vision 2036 and the National Development Plan 11 (NDP 11) and aligned to the international commitments such as African Union Agenda 2063 and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Cumulative achievement from 2009 to March 2020: 253,589 SMCs conducted which translates to 85.0% of the 298,180 needed to be reached by 2022. Of these SMCs 6 021 were done through the Early Infant SMC Project.

Botswana Guidelines for HIV/STI Programmes for Key Populations

To accelerate the achievement of the 95-95-95 targets for ending AIDS by 2030, Government of Botswana has adopted the global prevention agenda anchored on five pillars that include combination prevention for Key Populations. In addition, Botswana as one of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States, adopted the Strategic Plan for Key Populations in 2017.

The Botswana Guidelines for HIV/STI Programmes for Key Populations were developed in 2018 for the purposes of supporting the delivery of tailored, targeted and effective services

	<p>to populations that have been marginalised, hard to reach and at risk to fast track achievement of prevention, treatment and care targets. The careful management of the HIV/STI prevention and treatment needs of key populations is regarded as central to the reduction of HIV and STIs in the general population. The guideline is therefore aimed to support all partners providing services or otherwise working with key populations, not only in government and civil society organisations but also the private sector, detailing background information, guidance, instructions and advice on the large number of issues and topics that are of relevance to Key Populations service provision and policy development.</p> <p>In terms of coordination, policy direction and strengthening focus and partnerships, the National AIDS and Health Promotion Council was reconstituted in 2019 to engage other key stakeholders dealing with non-communicable diseases. The Council is chaired by the Vice President brings together the majority of stakeholders and sectors, civil society organisations, development partners and key and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>The national HIV and AIDS, the NCD strategies and other program frameworks are driven through strong stakeholder partnerships mentioned above.</p> <p>Botswana continues show great value for community engagement and thus endeavours to strengthen and meaningful participation of civil society and affected communities through the CATCH strategy.</p>
<p>127.57 Maintain the Government’s programmes on combating HIV/AIDS with the support of the World Health Organization and other international partners (Ukraine);</p>	<p>Government works in partnership with in-country United Nations agencies for the success of the HIV/AIDS response. WHO provides the technical and policy guidance for HIV/AIDS TB and other diseases. The HIV Testing guidelines, Anti-Retroviral Therapy and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission programs all use World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNAIDS guidance. UNICEF and UNFPA also support the country with the paediatric response and SRH.</p> <p>Having the in-country offices promotes the relationship. The Global Fund also supports the</p>

	<p>country with all the three diseases: HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The country complies with the majority of requirements of these international partners hence the smooth working relationship. PEPFAR and its implementing partners are also in country driving high impact interventions particularly adolescents and young women and Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) for non-nationals. Joint meetings are the norm between the government of Botswana and the partners.</p>
<p>127.58 Take further steps to ensure the right to health, particularly by combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS (Azerbaijan);</p>	<p>In 2019, Government of Botswana decided to extend free HIV treatment to foreign residents in a major policy shift that closes a significant gap in the country’s response to the epidemic. There are an estimated 30 000 foreign residents living with HIV in Botswana, but less than a quarter of them currently have access to treatment. Many foreign residents are simply unable to afford medicines or return home to seek medical help. Provision of ARTs to citizens and non-citizens cost is line with the treat all and achieving universal access for ART.</p> <p>Implementation of PrEP</p> <p>As per Botswana HIV clinical Care guidelines PrEP is to be provided to HIV negative individuals 18 years and older who fall into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Partners of HIV positive individuals – Discordant Couples. -Men who have sex with other men. -Individuals who cannot negotiate safe sex with their partners. -Commercial sex workers. -Intravenous drug users <p>PrEP has being rolled out in phases which started with AGYW through APC (in CSO clinics such as Tebelopele clinics) in some districts in the Northern Botswana and Southern Botswan and in the same districts targeting Men who have Sex with other men (MSM) and Female Sex Workers under Linkages(now called EPIC programme). It was then rolled out to six Youth Friendly Facilities namely Tlokweg Main Clinic, Bontleng Clinic, Scottish Livingstone</p>

	<p>Hospital, Thamaga Primary Hospital, Mahalapye Hospital and Greater and Implementation has started. However uptake is very low therefore the program developed the PrEP Implementation Framework and Social Behaviour and Communication Strategy (SBCC) to help address issues of demand creation.</p> <p>By December 2019 the PMTCT program statistics for Botswana is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PMTCT program uptake is 97% - The Testing rate at ANC is 98% - Male partner testing is 19% - The positivity rate for ANC women tested is 22% - The MTCT rate at end of breastfeeding is 1.13% - The Early Infant Diagnosis is 81%
<p>127.59 Continue to take action to promote awareness-raising programmes for the prevention of HIV/AIDS (Myanmar);</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) is the technical lead in drawing up awareness programmes in the country. The National Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) supports the MOHW towards delivering awareness interventions for the prevention of HIV. Government partners with communities, affected populations, civil society and media to promote awareness HIV and AIDS, TB and related diseases. Development partners support government through financial and technical guidance to ensure efficient education and awareness raising for the public and also for specific audiences.</p>
<p>127.60 Strengthen targeted interventions on vulnerability to HIV and gender-based violence (Ethiopia);</p>	<p>To further combat GBV and SGBV in the context of health and HIV and AIDS, the National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency completed the Draft Comprehensive National Plan to Remove Human Rights and Gender Related Barriers to HIV and TB Services in 2020. The Plan includes is aligned to the UNAIDS recommended Key Programmes to Reduce Stigma and Discrimination and Increase Access to Justice in National HIV Responses. It includes interventions which to reduce gender inequality, harmful gender norms and gender-based</p>

	<p>violence and to increase access to healthcare services for women, including AGYW, and LGBT populations. In this regard, Government of Botswana continues to utilise the partnership with relevant GBV partners to drive these interventions to reduce vulnerability to HIV and GBV.</p>
<p>RIGHTS OF THE CHILD</p>	
<p>128.67</p> <p>Establish a comprehensive monitoring mechanism on the treatment of children with the aim of disclosing cases of sexual abuse, mistreatment and neglect, including by introducing the possibility of taking children out of an environment which is not conducive for their development. (Germany)</p>	<p>Section 56 (1) of the Children’s Act (Cap. 28:04) criminalises neglect, ill-treatment and exploitation of children, while Sections 57 - 61 identify specific offences related to the same including corruption of children, exposing children to pornography, cruel treatment and punishment, cohabitation with children, exposing children to narcotics as well as protection from harmful traditional practices. Where there is reasonable cause to believe that a child may be in need of protection, Section 43 provides for the immediate reporting of the incident to the Police or Social workers who shall immediately investigate the allegation.</p> <p>Furthermore, Section 39 provides the procedures for the sitting of a children’s court which shall be held informally and shall sit in a room other than that in which any other court ordinarily sits and specially authorised persons to be present.</p> <p>The Act further outlines the process of applying for various orders that may be issued by the court to protect children with different situations. One such order is a protection order which may result in the removal of a child to a place of safety that has been duly established as per the provisions of Section 97. In cognizance of the need for protective residential care for children, the Government of Botswana, through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development provides annual subventions to all three (3) NGO run residential care institutions being SOS Botswana, Childline Botswana and Love Botswana (Lorato House).</p>

	<p>Mandatory reporting of abuse is also provided for under Section 25 (2) of the Children’s Act, with non-reporting carrying a penalty of not less than USD1000 but not more than USD3000 or to imprisonment for a term of not less than two (2) years but not more than three (3) years or both.</p> <p>The Children’s Act provides for a penalty of a fine of not less than USD500 but not more than USD1000 or to imprisonment for a term of not less than six (6) months but not more than twelve (12) months or both, for a service provider who abuses a child with whom they are working.</p> <p>Community and traditional leadership involvement in the protection of children is vital to the prevention and management of child abuse and neglect. To this end, community based mechanisms for information dissemination, identification, accountability and arbitration in matters of children who are in conflict with the law or with family have been established in the form of Village Child Protection Committees. The <i>Kgosi</i>/traditional leader of any given community presides over this Committee.</p>
<p>128.68</p> <p>Take effective measures to end violence against children including sexual abuse and exploitation. (Myanmar)</p>	<p>Botswana conducted the Violence Against Children Survey in 2018. To address the identified challenges, the Government adopted the INSPIRE model which is based on evidence observed from the survey. Below is the progress on interventions as per the model:</p> <p><i>Implementation and enforcement of laws</i></p> <p>The Children’s Act is the principal legislation for the protection of children in Botswana. As prescribed under this law, the child protection machinery has been established and enhanced in some areas. This includes the establishment of structures at community and national levels. The law also provides for the mandatory reporting of any form of child abuse as well</p>

as in camera hearings for matters involving children.

Other laws that continue to be implemented to protect children include the Penal Code which has since been amended to align the age of majority with the Children’s Act; the Anti-Human Trafficking Act; the Marriage Act, which is currently being reviewed to prohibit the marriage of children, including under Customary Law and religion; the Employment Act and others whose implementation have a direct impact on child wellbeing.

Moreover, the National Children’s Council (NCC) is a structure established by the Children’s Act mandated to advocate for a child centred approach to legislation, policies, strategies and programs; has embarked on a campaign called *#Section25* which is aimed at enforcing the child’s right to protection against sexual abuse and exploitation.

Norms and Values

The Government, in partnership with UNICEF and a civil society organisation (Marang Child Care Network) engaged *Dikgosi* (traditional leaders) as custodians of culture and religious leaders on harmful traditional and religious practices such as child marriages and power relations between adults and children. Traditional leaders in both the northern, central, east and southern parts of Botswana have been mobilised to lead such initiatives.

Currently, a training manual is being designed to train Village Child Protection Committees so they can empower communities about prevention and interventions for child abuse and exploitation.

Safe Environments

Education is a strong protective factor for violence, as it strengthens skills and opens economic opportunities that help reduce vulnerabilities to violent relationships and contexts. In Botswana, the high school attendance by children of school going age further provided the context for understanding the lower prevalence of violence as compared to other countries

where the Violence Against Children Surveys were conducted. Pre-primary and primary education is free in government schools, and the two meals provided per day have further incentivized attendance. There are no gender disparities in school attendance between females and males.

Some health facilities across the country have designated youth and child friendly points to provide a safe space for them to access health related services which may be difficult to access in mainstream facilities.

With respect to labour exploitation of children, in the context of Botswana, the VACS revealed that most work locations for adolescents are in a family dwelling, not outside the home. This reflects that adolescents are less likely to be exposed to situations outside the home where they may experience violence or exploitation before the age of 18. There are routine inspections by Local Authorities and Labour inspectors to prevent children from working in farms.

Parent and Caregiver support

The Government, in partnership with other relevant stakeholders, has convened community dialogues on household interventions and parenting skills development. Training manuals on parenting are being consolidated with the aim of developing a standardized manual that will be used by all stakeholders providing the training.

A pilot foster care programme is being implemented and the evaluation results will determine whether a scale up is required, in line with the principle of institutionalization as a measure of last resort by keeping children in homes. Foster parents receive training on child care prior to placement of children and receive ongoing support, (emotional support as well as in kind where there is need).

Food security within the household is facilitated through the delivery of a host of social

welfare programmes (e.g. destitute programme, Orphans and Vulnerable Children programmes) and universal feeding programmes (public school feeding, under five, expectant and lactating mothers feeding programmes).

Income and economic strengthening

Social protection programs in Botswana include a range of cash transfers, in-kind transfers, feeding programs, fee waivers, public works, programs to enhance employability and livelihoods of youth and other adults, and pension programs. Caregivers of children and other vulnerable persons are empowered through skills transfer and establishment of government supported income generating projects popularly known as poverty eradication interventions.

Response and support services

Services for both sexual violence and physical violence are widely available across the country at different levels of health, social and justice service centres; health posts, clinics, hospitals; police stations; social welfare offices; District Commissioner's offices, schools, *kgotla*. However, several studies have shown that knowledge of the availability of such services among youth, access to and utilization of services is low. As a result, help-seeking among victims of sexual and physical violence is generally low for both females and males. In order to encourage safe disclosure and service seeking behaviour among victims of violence, direct service providers are continuously receiving in service training so that they can deliver a more child friendly service.

Education and life skills

It has been alluded to earlier that Botswana has an excellent rate of enrolment in school. Until the establishment of reception classes in 2014, many children could not access pre-primary education as it was mostly run by private entities at a cost. The programme started in 115 schools across all regions in the country. Currently there are 613 out of 755 schools already implementing the programme. The programme is accessed by children who are 4 ½

	<p>years – 5 years so that they are ready for grade 1 at 5 ½ years. It runs for a period of one school year.</p> <p>Botswana has continued to ensure that primary education is free for nationals and refugees; but non-nationals pay a subsidised fee of P200 per term. Free education was formalized into law by the enactment of the Children’s Act which grants every child the right to ‘free basic education’ (Section 18) and makes it a criminal offence for a parent, guardian or relative who denies a child the enjoyment of this right.</p> <p>With regard to secondary education, school fees was reintroduced in 2006, as part of cost recovery. The fees were set at a level equivalent to 5% of the cost to Government of providing secondary education, with a provision for exemption for children from destitute families, orphans, needy students registered with the Social Welfare Services . Fees per child were set at P300 a year for Junior Secondary and P450 a year for Senior Secondary schools.</p> <p>The Ministry of Basic Education implements a very broad curriculum that covers issues related to human rights, child abuse and exploitation and other matters. Pastoral services are also offered through the Guidance and Counselling units in schools across all levels.</p>
<p>127.37</p> <p>Take the necessary measures, as a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, to address and investigate such crimes (Syrian Arab Republic);</p>	<p>Part V of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (Sections 16-19) provides for the establishment and operationalisation of the centres for Trafficking In Persons (TIP) victims, including those of children. In the absence of such dedicated centres for victims, Botswana Government has put mechanisms in place to ensure that victims of human trafficking are placed under protective custody pending disposal of their cases after which they are repatriated to their countries. Child victims are accommodated in shelters mandated to care for children in need for protection, which are licensed as per Children’s Act.</p> <p>All victims are medically examined upon their arrival/interception and are provided with free</p>

	<p>medical care where necessary. The victims are further provided with basic essentials such as food, clothing, and toiletries by the Botswana Government. Provision of psychosocial support is administered on regular basis to assist the victims to cope and also prepare them for Court sessions. The victims are further assisted to communicate with their families once successfully traced. Children and young victims are further assisted to access education.</p> <p>Since the enactment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, seventy nine (79) victims have been accommodated on long term basis, majority of which were children, three (3) children were born by the victims within the country and have also been taken care of by the State. Forty (40) victims have been successfully repatriated to their countries while the country received eight (8) Botswana victims from other countries. 6 victims were assisted to start/continue with their education pending the trial of their cases and/their repatriations.</p>
<p>127.70</p> <p>Pursue the implementation of plans and strategies to promote the rights of the child (Cuba);</p>	<p>The Children’s Act provides for a Bill of Children’s Rights which serves as the main benchmark for children’s rights and covers both civil and social rights. In order to increase reach and foster stakeholder participation in child rights education, the government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Childline Botswana to deliver child rights education. UNICEF Botswana, in partnership with government of Botswana have also mounted a child protection campaign called “Eseng mo ngwaneng”, loosely translated “touch not the child”.</p> <p>The right to a name and a nationality is protected by Section 12 of the <i>Children’s Act</i> which provide that ‘<i>Every child has a right to a nationality from birth</i>’. In order to motivate all Botswana families to register their children and to promote the right to an identity, the Government has waived registration fees charged for late birth registration. Efforts to ensure registration of all children at birth through awareness-raising campaigns continue.</p>
<p>127.71</p> <p>Continue conducting the situational analysis of the National Plan of Action for</p>	<p>A situation Analysis on Orphans and Vulnerable Children was conducted in 2019. The findings</p>

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (Slovenia);	of the report will inform the envisaged OVC policy in which all the gaps identified from the analysis will be filled.
<p>127.72 ;127.45</p> <p>Allocate dedicated funding to the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children for more effective implementation (Singapore) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);</p>	<p>The orphan care programme, which came into being as a response to the rising crisis of orphanhood in the late 1990's, has continued to enjoy dedicated funding from Government. It later emerged that other vulnerabilities, which were equally detrimental to children had been overlooked hence the establishment of a more comprehensive programme for OVC.</p> <p>The key interventions under the NPA were identification of vulnerability, provision of service and on-going support, facilitation of graduation through life skills provision and mindset change. The budget allocation for this programme are in excess of USD250,000 from the Government of Botswana and is further supported by other partners including the US Government to cater for systems development, capacity building of service providers as well as research needed for programming.</p>
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION	
<p>128; 129; 127.63</p> <p>Continue to promote human rights education (Armenia) (Ethiopia) (Ghana) ;</p>	<p>Human rights education continues to be offered in the school curriculum at primary, secondary and tertiary level.</p> <p>As a development partner, UNICEF Botswana also supports stakeholders in ensuring that they play a role in teaching children their basic human rights as well as protecting children's rights. It has collaborated with <i>Dikgosi</i>, the society and parents, by encouraging them to know Children's rights.</p> <p>The Government undertakes public education programmes that cover various issues of people with disabilities, including human rights. Furthermore, CSOs who deal with people</p>

	with disabilities are given subventions to carry out advocacy work.
<p>128 Continue to raise awareness on harmful cultural norms and traditional practices as well as human rights education in primary school system (Ethiopia);</p>	<p>Addressed at 128.68 and above.</p>
<p>NON-DISCRIMINATION</p>	
<p>127.26 Take measures to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination, especially against women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (Italy);</p>	<p>The Government of Botswana recognises the fundamental rights covered in Article 6 of the Convention as set out in the following legislative provisions:</p> <p><i>The Constitution</i> <i>Section 3</i> provides fundamental rights and freedoms to individuals on a non-discriminatory basis. It states that ‘...every person in Botswana is entitled to fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual whatever his or her race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex...’ Further, <i>Section 5</i> explicitly prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race.</p> <p><i>Penal Code</i> <i>Section 92</i> criminalises the utterance or publication of expressions of hatred on a person because of their race, tribe, place of origin, colour or creed. The offence carries a fine not exceeding P500.00/ \$50.00. In addition, Section 94 makes it an offence to discriminate</p>

against any person on the grounds of race, colour, nationality or creed. The offence carries a fine not exceeding P500/ \$50.00 or six months imprisonment, or both penalties.

Public Service Act

Section 1 of the Act sets out human resource management standards in the public service. It enjoins appointing or supervising authorities not to discriminate against employee(s) on grounds of sex, race, tribe, place of origin, national extraction, social origin, colour, creed, political opinion, marital status, health status, disability, pregnancy or any other ground, nor discriminate against person(s) seeking employment in the public service on any such ground.

Section 37 (e) of the Act classifies as 'particular misconduct', the appointment or promotion of any person to a post in the public service or sending of any person on a course or training on the basis of consanguinity, affinity, amity, amorous relationship, tribe, favouritism, or on any other consideration other than on merit based on fair and open competition. An employee who commits an act of misconduct is liable for disciplinary action.

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act

Section 5 (1) (c) of the Act provides for refusal of assistance to a foreign state where in the opinion of the Director of Public Prosecutions there are substantial grounds for believing that the request was made for the purpose of prosecuting, punishing or otherwise causing prejudice to a person on account of his race, sex, religion, nationality or political opinions.

Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act

Section 9 of the Act restricts the removal of a recognised refugee from Botswana under the provisions of the Immigration Act except to a country approved by the Minister, being a country in which, in the opinion of the Minister, the life or freedom of the refugee will not be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality or membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Children’s Act

Botswana has domesticated the Convention on the Rights of the Child which apart from dealing with child welfare issues generally, explicitly prohibits exposing children to discriminatory conduct of any kind, including race. See **Section 7**.

Institutions

Over and above the laws which protect against all forms of discrimination, Botswana has established strong institutions which promote non-discrimination and enforce the laws against non-discrimination. The office of the Ombudsman addresses allegations of maladministration which if not curbed, lead to human rights violations.

There are Government Ministries/Departments, which are lead implementers of human rights Treaties/ Conventions which the country is party to. They lead the promotion and protection of the rights protected in the Treaties/Conventions which they lead, among those rights being the right against non-discrimination. All other Government Ministries/Departments also promote and protect human rights in carrying out their mandate and delivering services to the people. Equitable distribution of services without discrimination is aligned to the National Development plan which was developed with a human rights based approach. As the services are rolled out, the gradual realisation of human rights is achieved.

Finally, the High Court redresses human rights violations. **Section 18 (1)** provides that any person within the jurisdiction whose rights have been, are being or are likely to be violated (including allegations of discriminatory laws and practices) may approach the High Court for redress. Cases: LEGABIBO, Ramantele.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

<p>127.25</p> <p>Provide trainings on human rights principles and obligations for all law enforcement officers, as well as continue to investigate allegations of human rights violations, including violations committed by police officers, and hold accountable those who are responsible (Thailand);</p>	<p>The Botswana Defence Force continues to provide human rights training under the law of armed conflict at the Junior Command and staff levels at the Defence Command and Staff College. The Botswana Prison Service also continues to provide training through human rights modules infused in the initial Prison Officers’ Course Syllabus.</p> <p>Moreover, the Botswana Police Service regularly provides training to its officers at the Botswana Police College in the field of Human Rights as follows: Introduction to Human Rights; Human rights myths; Human rights and policing; Definition and concepts; History of the notion of Human Rights; Botswana Constitutional Framework; Characteristics of Human Rights; Sources of Human Rights; Specific Rights and Examples of Human Rights.</p> <p>Furthermore, Botswana hosts the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) which is at the Botswana Police College. It offers training on human rights and other law enforcement courses. The Academy is supported by the US Government and provides courses for law enforcement officers from Botswana, Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and the African continent.</p> <p>With regard to the investigation of allegations of human rights, including those committed by the Police, it is worth noting that the Botswana Constitution guarantees everyone without exception, the right to protection of the law. Any person who is aggrieved either by another individual or the State or any of its organs such as the Police, has the right to seek legal recourse in the Courts or specialized institutions such as the Office of the Ombudsman.</p>
<p>127.32</p> <p>Train police officers and other stakeholders on the handling of reported cases of gender-based violence (Belgium);</p>	<p>The Botswana Police Service has a training module on gender based violence for recruit and in-service officers. This facilitates their competence in appropriately dealing with GBV. In addition, all district police stations have a gender focal person responsible for ensuring correct handling of GBV cases at police stations such as obtaining statements from GBV victims or survivors in private rooms.</p>

	<p>With respect to health care providers, there is a comprehensive national plan (2019-2024) to remove human rights and gender related barriers to HIV and TB services. This plan includes interventions to train and capacitate police to collaborate with Civil Society Organisations and health care providers to respond to gender based violence. This intervention is part of the UNAIDS Seven Key Programmes to remove human rights barriers to HIV and TB services supported by the Global Fund in twenty countries globally through the catalytic/matched funding. The Government is currently implementing the Global Fund grant for 2019-2021 and has been allocated further matched funding for the 2022-2025 cycle.</p>
<p>127.21 Resource adequately the National Gender Commission established in 2016 to monitor implementation of the National Policy on Gender and Development to perform its functions effectively (Singapore);</p>	<p>The National Gender Commission has an annual budget of about USD35 000.00 which supports their mandate.</p>
<p>127.35 ; 127.69; 127.66 Continue with efforts in the field of gender equality, especially by removing loopholes in national legislation and by encouraging participation of women in the economy and politics (Slovenia) (Cuba) (Spain);</p>	<p>To ensure that women are afforded equal opportunities, Government constantly reviews laws to repeal those that are discriminatory and establish the ones that enable women and men to meaningfully contribute in development. For the period under review, Botswana is drafting a Sexual Offenders Registry Bill which is aimed at amongst others: creating a Sexual Offenders Registry; and banning child sexual abuse offenders from working in institutions dealing with children, People with Disability including those with mental health conditions.</p> <p>Regarding women’s participation in the mainstream economy, the revised Citizen Entrepreneurship Development Agency (CEDA) guidelines include discounted Security requirements for People with Disabilities (PWDs), women and youth across all loan classifications.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, Government in 2018 signed the Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women’s Economic Empowerment. Through this, Botswana has commenced national efforts to facilitate women to participate in international trade.</p> <p>On promoting women, a deliberate effort was made to appoint 4 out of 6 women as Specially Elected Members of Parliament. Noting the low representation of women in political leadership, women who stood for Council seats in the 2019 General Election were trained on life skills including public speaking.</p>
<p>128; 127.66</p> <p>Continue to study the possibility of establishing the measures and mechanisms in order to improve the representation of women’s access to decision making positions in politics (Mauritania) (Spain);</p>	<p>In addition, Government collaborates with civil society in capacity building and public education on the importance of women’s representation in politics. To establish specific challenges faced by women in politics, Emang Basadi, a Non-Governmental Organisation working in the area undertook a Study named “Mme O kae” which is “Where are the Women”. The Study mainly revealed that women lack resources, are confined by patriarchy and multiple roles to effectively participate in politics. To mitigate, the Study recommends provision of resources, intense public education and interrogation of gender stereotypes to open spaces for women. The Study was launched on the eve of the 2019 General Elections.</p> <p>Government is currently mobilising resources to facilitate implementation of the recommendations.</p>
<p>127.65 ; 127.66</p> <p>Continue to put emphasis on gender equality and ensuring the rights of women and girls, including better access for them to education, aside from committing greater budgetary resources to the</p>	<p>The 2020/2021 budget for Education constitutes seventeen point five per cent (17.5%) of the National Budget. Government through the Education and Training Sub-sector Strategic Plan (2015-2020) has made deliberate decision to empower the girl child in education through various interventions including by providing an option for the girl child to continue with school in case of pregnancy and other factors.</p>

<p>Women's Economic Empowerment Programme (Malaysia) (Spain);</p>	<p>The Botswana International University of Science and Technology and the Human Resource Development Council have started initiatives to encourage girls to enrol in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses. Examples of the initiatives include; the #Women&GirlsForSTEM Campaign, STEM Festival, Science Circus, and Girls in Residence Mentorship where girls are mentored to enrol into STEM.</p>
<p>128; 127.66</p> <p>Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and achieve gender equality (Tunisia) (Spain);</p>	<p>Botswana continues with the implementation of the Revised Laws that promote gender equality such as the Anti-Human Trafficking Act which protects women and girls who are the most victims of human trafficking, the National Policy on Gender and Development which guides all sectors on gender mainstreaming as well as the National Strategy Towards Ending Gender Based Violence which guides national efforts in Gender Based Violence Management.</p> <p>Government in collaboration with Civil Society also undertakes public education through various means such as community dialogues. The areas covered include; positive role of men/positive masculinity, gender equality, Gender Based Violence, sharing the burden of care and HIV/AIDS and Men's Health.</p>
<p>127.68 ; 127.66</p> <p>Continue efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women (Egypt) (Spain);</p>	<p>The Ministry responsible for Gender currently collaborates with the First Lady of the Republic of Botswana in the empowerment of women especially those in rural areas as well as the empowerment of adolescent girls. To date, the First Lady has undertaken several sessions across the Country where she held dialogue with young people and parents. In addition, the First Lady is the National Champion of the #EsengMoNgwaneng Campaign (#TouchNotTheChild) which is a Campaign against the sexual exploitation of children. Through this Campaign, the First Lady continues to mobilise various sectors to fight child abuse including sexual exploitation.</p>

<p>127.73</p> <p>Implement gender equality policies that foster girls' access to health and education and raise awareness among the population about sexual and gender-based violence (Mexico).</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health and Wellness provides youth friendly services including family planning education and the use of contraceptives. Civil Society such as Botswana Family Welfare Association also provide youth friendly services with a particular focus on adolescent girls and young women in rural areas. The Ministry of Basic Education also undertakes Comprehensive Sexuality Education which is age appropriate. Various sectors also undertake awareness raising through various platforms such radio, television, print and social media.</p>
<p>COOPERATION WITH TREATY BODIES</p>	
<p>128</p> <p>Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders (State of Palestine) (Honduras) (Ukraine) (Portugal) (Montenegro) (Chile)</p>	<p>The Government extended a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders on the 2nd May 2018.</p>
<p>127.64 ; 127.66</p> <p>Continue efforts to implement Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women obligations and promote and protect the rights of women (Maldives) (Spain);</p>	<p>Botswana continues to make efforts to implement her obligations to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women obligations thus promoting and protecting the rights of women. Botswana submitted her fourth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in 2018, and she was reviewed in March 2019.</p>
<p>DEATH PENALTY</p>	
<p>127.80 ; 127.29</p>	

<p>Take active steps to ensure that public consultations on the abolition of the death penalty, including on its abolition, are held, and include information on the outcome of those consultations in its next universal periodic review report (Rwanda); (Ukraine);</p>	<p>The Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan which is in the process of being developed, is expected to cover the death penalty and provide for the holding of the holding of public debates under the National Action Plan.</p>
<p>GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</p>	
<p>127.30</p> <p>Criminalize domestic violence and continue the elaboration and implementation of public policies to prevent, address, punish and eradicate all forms of violence against women, including building help centres for women victims of violence (Paraguay);</p>	<p>Government continues to implement the National Policy on Gender and Development (2015) which prioritises, amongst others, access to justice and freedom from violence. In addition, Government adopted the National Strategy Towards Ending Gender Based Violence which guides sectoral initiatives geared towards addressing Gender Based Violence.</p> <p>Botswana notes the need for places of safety and in this regard is undertaking a Feasibility Study to inform the establishment of safe havens. To strengthen the existing efforts, Botswana Government provides financial support (USD75 000) to the two Shelters in the country on an annual basis.</p>
<p>127.31</p> <p>Implement further measures to combat gender-based violence and take steps to strengthen legal protections for victims of gender-based violence (Australia);</p>	<p>Government has completed piloting a Gender Based Violence Referral System. Lessons learnt from the pilot include, amongst others, that it relieved the victims the ordeal of having to repeat their story to every service provider and alerting the service providers of the incoming client. The system has however not been rolled out due to budgetary constraints.</p>

Botswana continues to conduct Gender Based Violence Studies. The Studies guide interventions by different sectors and at targeted geographical locations, the most recent being the Botswana National Relationship Study in 2018 which included women and men. The Study revealed a prevalence rate of 37% amongst women and 21% amongst men. **For mitigation, the Study recommends the following key actions:**

- Sectors to prioritise GBV;
- Development of a comprehensive prevention strategy that includes interventions at all levels of the ecological model that is: individual, relationship, community and societal;
- Undertake a dedicated study that assesses the costs of GBV from individual level to national level;
- Have an intensive engagement with men and boys to promote gender equality and the prevention of GBV and HIV transmission.

Government is implementing Standard Operating Procedures for GBV Key Service Providers such as Botswana Police Service, Social Protection, the Education Sector, and Civil Societies working in the area.

Furthermore, the Traditional Leaders have also developed a Gender Based Violence Action Plan which aims to guide interventions within the Customary Justice System and address discrimination of women in traditional setting. To ensure effective implementation of the plan, capacity building of Traditional Leaders continues. To date, Traditional Leaders in three districts have been trained on GBV management and provided with tools to facilitate monitoring and evaluation. Government is currently mobilising resources for capacity building of the remaining 13 districts. Furthermore, Government has concluded capacity building of all Districts in preparation for establishment of District Gender Committees which will ensure mainstreaming of gender including GBV at community level.

Gender Based Violence specialised Courts were launched on the International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2020, which day also marked the end of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women and Children. A directive was issued to adjudicate on all GBV

	cases urgently.
128.48 Continue to fully implement various international human rights instruments particularly CEDAW and CAT with a view to reduce gender-based violence. (Indonesia)	Following completion of the audit of Botswana Legal Instruments in line with CEDAW, Botswana is mobilizing technical support for drafting legislation to domesticate CEDAW. With regard to the implementation of CAT, Botswana has accepted the offer to use the simplified reporting method. Once the list of issues is received, Botswana will be able to holistically assess her current implementation rate as well as areas of improvement.
127.33 ; 127.66 Punish the authors responsible of sexual violence against women and girls (France) (Spain);	The perpetrators of sexual violence are punished under the Children’s Act and the Penal Code. Government has also strengthened measures to protect children particularly the girl child by raising the age of consent from 16 to 18 years. The Sexual Offenders Bill has also been drafted.
RIGHT TO EDUCATION	
127.61 Continue efforts to promote comprehensive education policies, particularly by implementing the national strategic education plan (2015–2020) (Brazil);	The national Vision 2036 and the NDP 11 identify education and skills development as the basis for human resource development with a focus on “Inclusive Growth for the Realisation of Sustainable Employment Creation and Poverty Eradication”. In this regard, the Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP) 2015-2020 promotes comprehensive education availability, equitable access and quality education. On availability, Government is implementing an Early childhood care Policy on education. There are 756 Primary schools out of which 613 offer pre-primary education, 210 Junior Secondary Schools and 34 Senior Secondary Schools located in all regions of the country.

Policies on accessibility of education include:

improve learner retention in primary schools with a success rate of xxxx, x amount of mobile schools have been rolled out in rural and hard to reach areas; compulsory remediation programme through support from UNICEF is currently being developed; phased implementation of special units for learners with disabilities, 44 units with intellectual disabilities, 4 for hearing impairment, 2 for vision impairment, some of the learners are in mainstream schools.

- Review of the curriculum into outcome based education was completed in 2020. 38 learning programmes have been completed in preparation for tentatively introducing multiple pathways in 2021. Botswana Examination Council is currently developing curriculum assessment framework in line with the outcome based education.
- To improve the quality of Teachers, the Ministry has phased out Certificate level holders. The intention is to have Diploma, Degree and Masters level teachers only.
- The Revised National Policy of Education of 1994 emphasises universal access of 10 year free basic education for all. 6 junior secondary schools to over 207 junior secondary schools. Currently Botswana's literacy rate is 90.2% and MoBE report of 2019 indicates that 168 out of 1113 have been integrated into mainstream schools.
- At Basic Education level, access in 2020 stands at a total of 52 000 pre-primary, 332 526 primary and 126 223 Junior Secondary and 46 479 Schools.
- Inclusive Education Policy of 2011 continues to be implemented and it aims at providing high quality inclusive basic education for all learners particularly those from vulnerable and marginalised groups. It also aims at improving access to appropriate vocational training to young people with diverse needs. It basically supports access and participation of children and youth with special needs in education.

	<p>To implement that the national education strategy has the following elements – availability, accessibility, non-discrimination, economic accessibility and physical accessibility, acceptability (sustenance of education, curriculum, relevant, culturally appropriate and of good quality to students), adaptability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tertiary Education Policy 2008, based on Tertiary Education Act of 1999 ensures that Botswana’s tertiary education is accessible, relevant and of high quality, calls for a system that provides diversity and choice. It is to a large extent, linked to broader policies and national priorities that relate to Human Resource Development and Research and Innovation 2013. - National Policy on Vocational Education and Training (Year), lays a broad framework within which training activities, both formal and non-formal are carried out.
<p>127.62 Improve the quality of education (Iraq);</p>	<p>The Botswana Examination Council Amendment Act to cater for general education technical, vocational educational sub-systems was approved by Parliament in 2019. The purpose of the amendment is to guide on assessment policy of the curriculum and capacitate teachers on how to assess on the new curriculum.</p> <p>The Ministry has submitted 38 learning programmes for quality assurance and 35 of the programmes have been accredited by the Botswana Qualifications Authority.</p> <p>311 out 756 primary schools, 90 out of 207 junior secondary and 24 out of 34 senior secondary schools have been provided with mobile ICT laboratories as a way of promoting e-learning. All secondary schools have internet connectivity, while 287 primary schools are connected and all senior secondary schools and most junior schools have a full time IT officer to manage the ICT services in teaching and learning.</p>

	<p>In-service training for e-education for primary teachers 2528, junior 758 and 14 senior secondary school teachers trained in e-education which will enhance the quality of education through the use of technology.</p> <p>To improve the quality and relevance of education-Teacher Development, the Ministry has developed Teachers' standards namely Botswana Professional Council which was improved by Parliament in June 2019 for regulation of the teaching Profession. Certificate level Teachers have been upgraded to have Diploma as the basic qualification. There are Teachers with Degree and Masters level.</p> <p>Botswana Examination in collaboration with MOBE developed a National Certificate Framework for certification and accreditation of Trainees and Trainers.</p> <p>BQA accredits learning institutions and courses offered in Botswana.</p>
<p>RIGHT TO HEALTH</p>	
<p>127.51</p> <p>Take necessary measures to improve access to health, particularly for vulnerable groups, including children and women (Algeria);</p>	<p>Government of Botswana continues to strive to provide essential health services to ensure universal health coverage to all its citizens. This includes Government funded free access to specialised medical care which is not available in public sector facilities to private facilities in and outside of Botswana.</p> <p>The country has ensured that health facilities are within reach for its citizens, with over 85% of the citizens within the 15km of a health facility. Additionally, mobile outreach services are conducted to service hard to reach populations.</p> <p>To improve access to health services for vulnerable groups, Government is implementing:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) strategy (2017-2021). The strategy adopts an integrated approach that emphasises the need to provide inclusive care for the vulnerable children and women. Sexual Reproductive Health services are provided throughout the day from Monday to Friday in all health facilities providing; b) Early Child Development Policy Framework was developed in 2018; to ensure that every child has access to health services. The government launched the Early Moments Matter in 2019 to increase awareness and demand for child health services c) The Botswana National Nutrition Surveillance System (BNSS) which used to monitor growth on children from birth to five years of age at health facilities on a monthly basis is being replaced by a new integrated Nutrition Information System in order to broaden the scope of nutrition and child health indicators collected as well as to set evidence-based thresholds that will trigger different levels of response for intervention. The proportion of under-five children who attend monthly child welfare clinics to receive health and nutrition interventions is currently 82% nationally. d) Addressing malnutrition in children and women of reproductive age and acute malnutrition in children is treated in both outpatient and inpatient care facilities e) The Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme which provides supplementary foods and other food commodities to under five children, medically selected pregnant and lactating women, and TB outpatients through clinics, health posts and mobile stops; f) The School Health Program which includes feeding, screening and vaccinations targets school going children continues to be implemented. This also include vaccination both school going and of out of school girls aged 9-13 years with HPV vaccine at home; g) High Impact Interventions (HIIs) services provided to children including Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6-59 months during the designated Child Health
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	<p>Days months (May and November) in May 2019), routine Immunisations, distribution of ORS and Zinc Sulphate to all children under the age of 5 years during child welfare clinic visits;</p> <p>h) Free infant formula to babies of HIV infected women who opt to formula feed and meet the AFASS criteria;</p> <p>i) Recognizing the impact of several health indicators such as HIV prevalence, maternal mortality, STI prevalence and others against women Botswana continues to collaborate with other partners (UNFPA and CDC through PEPFAR) to conduct a program evaluation and further review GBV guidelines to facilitate access to and provision of integrated SGBV services.</p> <p>j) Cervical cancer is a major concern especially among the HIV positive women in Botswana. In an effort to address this problem the Government continues to introduce and expand innovative methods for screening and treatment of pre-cancer lesions. The screening coverage is currently at 56% for all screening methods. HPV testing was introduced in 2017 and scaled up in 2019 while Visual Inspection with acetic Acid contuse to be expanded to all the districts to increase access to screening services that provide treatment on the same day to the majority of women especially the HIV positive women on ART.</p> <p>High Impact Interventions coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vitamin A coverage was 87% in 2018 and 83% in 2019 - Zinc Sulphate coverage was 75% in 2018 and 74% in 2019 - ORS coverage was 73% in 2018 and 73% in 2019 - Routine Immunization coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penta 3 coverage was 79% in 2018 and 79% in 2019 Measles 1 coverage was 79% in 2018 and 79% in 2019
127.52	Access to emergency obstetric care

<p>Broaden access to emergency obstetric care, improve midwifery training for medical personnel and consider increasing resources assigned to maternal health (Russian Federation);</p>	<p>To strengthen provision of quality care, Government has established maternal national and institutional committees to ensure that all the maternal deaths are reported and audited on a quarterly basis. Furthermore, capacity building on Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) continues to be pivotal to improvement of quality care towards reduction maternal mortality.</p> <p>Comprehensive post abortion continues to be provided as an integrated service within outpatient departments to ensure equality, improve access and reduce stigma to all clients that report to health facilities with abortion related complications. Evacuation is conducted within 2hrs.</p> <p>Government has also embarked on a quality improvement project on the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality since 2014. The SDG target is to reduce maternal mortality by half by 2030. To date there has been a decline in Maternal Mortality ratio from 183/100 000 in 2013 to 133/100 000 in 2018.</p> <p>Midwifery Training</p> <p>On average Institutes of Health Sciences produce 84 midwifery graduates per year. Most health care professionals also undergo training on emergency obstetric care.</p> <p>Resources for maternal health</p> <p>Botswana Government continues to ensure accessibility and affordability of maternal and new-born care as reflected by medically supervised delivery and antenatal care attendance of 95% and 94% respectively (BFHS IV, 2007).</p>
<p>127.53</p> <p>Work at improving health-care</p>	<p>See above on Obstetric care</p>

<p>infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training and resources devoted to maternal health (Holy See);</p>	<p>Improved Health-care Infrastructure</p> <p>The Government has introduced specialist services in district hospitals in order to improve services. These specialists are general surgery, internal medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology and anaesthesia. Government has a budget to pay for citizen’s specialised medical care which is not available in public sector facilities, in local and international private facilities.</p> <p>There are 25 Youth friendly Services clinics across the country which provide integrated services for adolescent and youth such as general consultation, sexual reproductive health including Sexual Transmitted Infections screening and management, Anti Natal Care, Post Natal Care, Gender Based Violence screening and linkage with other services. Through collaboration with the Ministry of Basic Education additional 20 Youth friendly services has been established in junior and senior secondary schools.</p>
<p>ACCESS TO JUSTICE</p>	
<p>127.34</p> <p>Strengthen its domestic criminal legal system in order to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes (India);</p>	<p>The criminal legal system in Botswana is made up of institutions which enforce criminal law in accordance with the established legal framework. These include the Botswana Police Service, The Directorate of Public Prosecutions, the judiciary and Botswana Prisons Service.</p> <p>Botswana Police Service</p> <p>According to a report released by Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) of 2017, Botswana Police Service ranked number 47 out of 127 on the World Internal Security and Police Index (WISPI. It was Number 1 in Africa according to the ranking.</p> <p>Initiatives Of The Botswana Police Service In Crime Investigation</p>

Use Of Science Technology:

There is a Branch of scientists working at the Forensic Science Services (FSS), who are leading in forensic science investigations and their services include use of the DNA, which is used to investigate a wide spectrum of cases such as rape, defilement, murder, fire incidents, breakings etc. Whilst there is a laboratory situated in Gaborone to do in-deep investigations, there are officers in all major stations around the country, who carry out first line investigations and gathering of forensic evidence for onward submission to the main laboratory.

Cyber Forensics Branch

This Branch of the Botswana Police Service has been formed to tackle the problem of cybercrime, which is an emerging phenomenon across the globe and Botswana is also affected. The Branch deals with crimes such as child pornography, offensive electronic communication, fraud, criminal defamation, to name but a few.

Safer City

Botswana Police Service has also embraced modern technology through the use of surveillance cameras located in strategic places in the cities of Gaborone and Francistown. These have so far solved criminal problems ranging from theft, robbery, murder and even rape.

Community Policing

Botswana Police Service has long realised that the police alone cannot effectively fight crime. As such, the community policing approach has been in place for a while now and the results are encouraging. The society is organised in Clusters, which are geographical demarcations of neighbourhoods, so demarcated to fight crime prevailing in their respective locations. With these Clusters, crimes such as break ins, theft and even street robberies have been brought under control.

Community Clusters are monitored through police structures from local to national level, and an evaluation of Cluster policing activities is carried out at the end of the year. Participating Clusters come together annually at a prize giving ceremony held to celebrate community efforts against crime and this motivates Cluster members and sustains the spirit of community policing. There is a Unit in the Botswana Police Service charged with the responsibility of managing community policing.

Police Outreach Programmes

Botswana Police Service has several outreach programmes, meant to bridge the gap between the police and the community. These includes “Dipitso” or town hall debates, whereby the police address specific issues to a targeted section of the society. This year on Valentine’s Day, such a gathering, where the First Lady, Mrs. Jane Masisi was a guest speaker, men from all spheres of life; government and council employees, private sector, officers from Prisons, Botswana Defence Force and Police as well as general members of the public, were addressed on anti-Gender Based Violence issues. The activity was further cascaded to other areas throughout the country. The aim of these “Dipitso” or town hall debates is to sensitise especially the menfolk against cross-gender crimes.

Itshireletse

This is a television drama programme, in which police actors relay a wide variety of anti-crime messages to the nation.

Police Special Operations

Crime is always monitored by observing both local and international trends. From constant analysis, specific measures are taken to fight prevailing trends as well as to act proactively to fight any crime that may arise. Specific operations are undertaken to address these problems and these include operations against drugs as well as anti-stock theft operations. For

	<p>example, a code-named Operation Kgomo-Khumo which is an anti-stock theft strategy was introduced. Other operations carried out at station level target crimes such as burglary and theft, car breakings, robberies etc. These operations always bear fruits and many criminal cases have been detected and some crimes effectively prevented.</p> <p>Police Stations</p> <p>There are more than 78 Police Stations covering cities, towns and villages and more are still under construction. This year a new Police Station was opened in Mmathubudukwane and another is expected to be opened in Semolale.</p> <p>Due to limited resources, Government is unable to build police stations in all major centers and construction of police posts, which are smaller police offices, have come handy in bringing the police service closer to the community. This year alone, more than 20 police posts have been constructed across the country and others continue to be built at various places to ensure police services are accessible to a greater majority of customers.</p> <p>Training of Botswana Police Service Officers</p> <p>Training given to Botswana Police Service Officers include Basic Investigation Course, Cyber Crime Investigation, Scene of Crime Preservation, Finger Print Identification, Fraud Investigation, Human Rights Training, Initial Crime Intelligence, Policing Skills, Community Policing, criminology and Police Science.</p>
DOMESTICATION OF TREATIES	
128.37 ; 127.38; 128.43; 128.44	

<p>Take necessary steps to incorporate into domestic law those international human rights conventions that Botswana has ratified (Slovakia) (Zimbabwe) (Niger) (Russian Federation)</p>	<p>Efforts continue to be made to incorporate international human rights treaties in national legislation, for example, the Equality Bill, Disability Bill, and the Ombudsman Bill are being enacted to incorporate international law into national laws.</p> <p>Our courts also apply international human rights law, which leads to reforms in national law, including in customary law. Cases: Ramantele. LEGABIBO</p>
<p>128.43</p> <p>Further consolidate its social and human rights policies, particularly in the area of economic, social and cultural rights in order to improve the quality of life, particularly of the most vulnerable groups of its population. (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)</p>	
<p>127.5</p> <p>Domesticate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in order to enhance the promotion and protection of women's rights (Namibia);</p>	<p>Addressed at.... And.....</p>
<p>HUMAN TRAFFICKING</p>	
<p>127.38</p>	

<p>Continue to strengthen measures to combat human trafficking by providing training to service providers and stakeholders working with victims of human trafficking (Maldives);</p>	<p>From 2017 to 2019, and in a bid to strengthen the capacity of critical service providers within the criminal justice system in Botswana on matters of trafficking in persons (TIP), the Government facilitated three (3) judicial colloquia for Honourable Judges and their Worshipful Magistrates of the Bench. Government-wide collaborative efforts drew technical and financial assistance which was rendered by members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), particularly the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the SADC Secretariat; the United States of America’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; and the International Association of Women Judges (Botswana Chapter).</p> <p>The Colloquia afforded distinguished participants an opportunity to interrogate highly technical matters such as evidential issues and challenges in advancing TIP cases through the courts and appreciating judgments handed down within the region and across the different jurisdictions.</p> <p>Botswana has also ensured that <i>Dikgosi</i> (traditional leaders) from the different communities across the country are capacitated on issues of TIP. Government is of the view that traffickers are less likely to strike if they are aware that traditional leaders and community leaders are cognizant of the multifaceted nature of the crime of trafficking in persons and how it manifests itself. In 2019, Government provided twenty (20) separate trainings, workshops, and media interventions whilst in 2018, a total of eleven (11) such interventions were facilitated by Government. These interventions were in addition to other numerous interventions that were held at community level by other stakeholders across the country.</p> <p>In April 2019, Government facilitated a tailor-made training for members of the media fraternity. The intention was to ensure that members of the media reported professionally on cases of human trafficking. In addition, Government wanted to ensure that such media reporting respected the rights and privacy of victims of human trafficking in accordance with Botswana’s Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2014. Training of front line officers, social workers, prosecutors was also done.</p>
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<p>127.40</p> <p>Work closely with civil society and non-governmental organizations in addressing human trafficking issues (Philippines);</p>	<p>Government considers civil society as an indispensable cornerstone of a democratic system of governance.</p> <p>2019 Government hosted specific tailor-made training of trainers (ToTs) for civil society organisations in conjunction with UNODC and the SADC Secretariat. In trainings conducted in 2019, and as a result of conducting hybrid Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) exercises, and in a bid to ensure accountability for funding provided and also guarantee positive results of such interventions, Government adopted a strategy of requesting trained civil society organisations to report back as to how many meetings, workshops, seminars, community addresses they subsequently facilitated or held. Government is of the view that this strategy would thereafter adequately inform the national coordination body, the Human Trafficking (Prohibition) Committee with enough information to effect legislative reforms or develop new measures and policies.</p> <p>Botswana is in the process of developing implementing regulations for its Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2014. In order to ensure that the views of civil society are taken into consideration during the legislative drafting process, Government hosted a multi-stakeholder workshop which brought together a wide variety of professionals including civil society. The UNODC provided technical assistance for the process. At present, and in their supporting role, the UNODC is currently recruiting a consultant to assist Botswana to finalise Draft Zero of the regulations.</p>
<p>127.39</p> <p>Take concrete measures to prevent human trafficking and exploitation, especially of women and children</p>	<p>In 2018, Government embarked on and sponsored a nation-wide campaign to sensitise school-going children of various ages on the dangers of human trafficking. Subsequent to that, Government administered a survey to which a selected 10% (1,516) of the 14, 783</p>

<p>(Republic of Korea);</p>	<p>Secondary school students trained on TIP participated.</p> <p>The evaluation sought to determine their level of awareness on human trafficking matters before and after sensitisation workshops. The results also gave direction to Government on how best to modify and/or adjust future student sensitisation workshops.</p> <p>Results from the evaluation indicated that 70% of all students expressed significant understanding of human trafficking following the presentations. Only 29% of all students indicated that they knew about Botswana’s Anti-Human Trafficking Act prior to the presentation, and 97% of all students indicated that it was very important for all students nationwide to learn about human trafficking.</p> <p>Research permits were granted for undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Botswana who are undertaking research as part of their dissertation on human trafficking in Botswana.</p> <p>Government has made concerted efforts to reach out to community leaders, religious organisations and has collaborated with the media to ensure that women were made aware of the dangers of human trafficking. Government has also ensured and facilitated the commemoration of World Day against Trafficking in Persons in accordance with the United Nations Resolution A/RES/68/192. Emphasis on building awareness for women and children as well as other particular vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>WATER AND SANITATION</p>	
<p>127.47 Adopt measures to improve the quality of water (Timor-Leste);</p>	<p>In an effort to improve frequency of water quality monitoring, Government established Multi-Stakeholder Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme in 2018. The Programme brings together the Water Utilities Corporation, the Botswana Bureau of Standards and Ministries of Health, Local Government and that of Water and Sanitation Services. The water quality</p>

	<p>monitoring is done bi-annually.</p> <p>Furthermore, to ensure that the public is supplied with potable water, the Government of Botswana continues to improve the water quality monitoring mechanisms through the optimization of water and wastewater treatment facilities for operational efficiency; the assessment of the existing technologies such as the installation of Chlorine Dioxide for disinfection to improve water quality; the development of water safety plans and protocols on water quality monitoring and management; and research and development for improvement of the existing water treatment technologies.</p> <p>Strategies are currently in place to prevent water pollution such as public education and awareness on water quality and pollution control and the implementation of the Trade Effluent Agreements (TEA) to manage the industrial effluents.</p>
<p>127.48</p> <p>Continue efforts to ensure the right to safe drinking water and sanitation by adopting, in this regard, a national water supply policy that includes a strategy for its sustainable management and measures to improve its treatment (Spain);</p>	<p>The Botswana Water Policy was approved by Parliament in August 2016. The principles of the policy are to ensure equity to water access, efficiency of water use and sustainable management of the resource. The policy gives priority to domestic water supply and sanitation. The Government has made a provision through the National Development Plan 11 and the World Bank loan to fund water supply and sanitation projects. These includes the construction of water treatment facilities as well as the sanitation infrastructure networks in the two cities in the north and south of the country.</p> <p>The Government completed a Botswana Sanitation Roadmap in November 2019 whose intention it is to improve access to sanitation in Botswana. The Roadmap is currently being implemented. The Government has also established a division responsible for the coordination of all activities relating to sanitation services. Furthermore, Waste Water legislation has been developed.</p> <p>The national rural sanitation programme is currently being revitalised to promote sanitation</p>

	<p>in rural and hard to reach areas as well as end open defecation. The implementation of this programme is being done through technical assistance from the UNDP.</p> <p>Waste water infrastructure development is ongoing in the south and planned for the northern and western side of the country in the future.</p>
<p>127.49</p> <p>Adopt a national water policy, elaborating a long-term strategy to manage this resource in a sustainable manner (Senegal);</p>	<p>Water and water related legislation is currently under review through a funding from the World Bank (WB) to align with the water policy and the emerging needs of the nation. This includes among others, the development of the water conservation & demand management strategy, the sanitation strategy draft drought strategy and the Draft Water 2040 plan. The Integrated Water Resources Management Efficiency Strategy (2017) principle has been adopted to manage the water resources in Botswana to ensure that all the stakeholders are involved in the planning and management of water.</p> <p>The Botswana Government continues to commit to international water resources management through its membership to the four River Basin Organizations (RBOs) which are the Limpopo River Commission (LIMCOM), Okavango River Commission (OKACOM), Orange – Senque River Commission (ORASECOM) and the Zambezi River Commission (ZAMCOM), as a way of improving water governance and increasing the water resources. Interim measures for water supply are also undertaken where there is emergency needs.</p>
<p>127.50</p> <p>Adopt policies aimed at improving the quality of water and introduce a systematic monitoring system for water treatment (Holy See);</p>	<p>Water quality monitoring protocols are implemented nationwide to safe guard drinking water quality in accordance with the Botswana Drinking Water Quality Standard (BOS 32:2015), this also includes the surveillance and monitoring of the wastewater generating facilities in accordance with the Botswana wastewater discharge standard (BOS 93:2012).</p> <p>Quality control and quality assurance procedures are undertaken during water treatment to improve the treatment processes, as well as stakeholder engagement on water pollution</p>

prevention strategies. The Government through the World Bank funding is refurbishing the water testing laboratory of the Water Utilities Corporation (WUC), as well as the procurement of laboratory equipment to improve the scope of water quality parameters that are being tested.

There is a Water apportionment Board which is being restructured. A water regulatory authority also exists.