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National Report Submitted Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Botswana

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to Para. 15(a) of the Annex to Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1 and Para. 5 of the Annex to the Human Rights Council Resolution 16/21 and following submission of the Periodic Review (UPR) Mid Term progress report in December 2020¹, Botswana is pleased to submit her Fourth Cycle UPR report. This report is an update of progress made by the country with regard to the supported ninety-three (93) recommendations, which arose from the third cycle of the UPR. While updates of this report cover the period from 2020 to 2022, some developments which predate this period and were omitted in the UPR Mid Term report (2020) have also been covered.

II. Methodology and consultation process

2. In fulfilment of its human rights coordination mandate, the Ministry of Justice coordinated the drafting of this Report. Various Government Ministries and Departments were consulted to obtain information and compile this report. A drafting and validation meeting was convened from 23rd to 27th January 2023.

3. The Drafting Committee comprised of representatives from the Ministry for State President, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture and the National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency.

4. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) were represented by the Universal Periodic Review Non-Governmental Organisations (UPR NGO) Working Group during the 23rd to 27th January 2023 meeting. This enabled dialogue between Government and CSOs on issues covered in this report.

5. Consistent and regular dialogue between Government and CSOs in issues of human rights has been maintained since the establishment of the National Human Rights Coordination Committee in June 2020. The mandate of this committee, which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Justice and DITSHWANELO – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights (a nominated representative of the CSOs), is to promote meaningful engagement between Government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on human rights issues at the national level.

III. Botswana's implementation update (2020–2022)

Ratification and domestication of treaties

Recommendations 128.10, 128.13

6. Botswana acceded to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in July 2021. To domesticate the Convention, Parliament approved the Revised Disability Policy and the drafting of the Disability Bill.

Recommendations 128.23, 128.24

7. Botswana remains committed to ratifying this Convention and continues to improve her legal and institutional frameworks geared towards compliance with international human rights instruments.

Recommendation 127.1

8. As indicated above, Botswana remains committed to ratifying international instruments that she has committed to ratify during the third UPR cycle. This is evidenced by the ratification of the CRPD in 2021. Botswana has also deposited instruments of accession to the Child Abduction, Adoption and Child Support on the 14th November 2022 which will effect on 1st February 2023, 1st March 2023 and 16th November 2023 respectively.

9. Whereas Botswana is still in need of technical support in the area of ratification, efforts to address technical capacity challenges continue to be expended. Botswana has partnered and collaborated with treaty monitoring bodies and development partners for technical support on issues of ratification and domestication as follows:

- African Union Workshop on Signing and Ratification of Protocols and Human and Peoples' Rights which was held in Lusaka, Zambia from 29th to 30th August 2022;
- Virtual Validation Meeting on the Assessment of Reasons for Slow Pace of Signing and Ratification of SADC Protocols and other legal Instruments in Botswana on 9th September 2022; and
- Dialogue on National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights in the Southern Africa Region which was held in Maputo, Mozambique from 6th to 8th December 2022.

Establishment of a national human rights institution

Recommendations 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

10. The legislative process of transforming the Office of the Ombudsman into a hybrid institution with an express mandate to promote and protect human rights has been completed. The Ombudsman (Amendment) Act was enacted in November 2021 to confer the human rights mandate on the Office of the Ombudsman in accordance with the Paris Principles. The process to review the structure of the office to enable it to carry out its new mandate is at an advanced stage. Accreditation of the Office of the Ombudsman by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) will then be processed.

Human rights promotion

Recommendation 127.3

11. Government continues to improve its institutional frameworks geared towards ensuring systematic follow up and implementation of recommendations from treaty bodies.
Reference: 127.4 below.

Recommendation 127.4

12. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Treaties, Conventions and Protocols (IMCTCP) continues to ensure Botswana's compliance to international agreements, including reporting and follow-up on recommendations from treaty bodies.

13. In addition, in April 2022, Government established the Ministry of Justice, which is responsible for amongst other things, national strategic and policy guidance on human rights promotion and protection. The Human Rights Unit was then transferred from the Ministry for Sate President to the Ministry of Justice.

14. The National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) which is supported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is currently being upgraded to ensure that it is comprehensive. In November 2022, the OHCHR conducted a Southern Africa Regional workshop on the Information Management Capacity of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up, in which Botswana was represented.

15. Furthermore, the Agreements Database has been upgraded.

Recommendations 127.22, 127.23

16. The Draft Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (CHRSNAP) was completed in December 2021. Next steps include validation and adoption by key Stakeholders. Implementation will commence in the financial year of 2023/24.

Recommendation 127.24

17. In February 2019, Botswana acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

18. To strengthen public sector efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) introduced Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, DCEC acquired the Quality Management System Certification on International Standard Organisations' ISO 90001:2015 standards in October 2021 through Botswana Bureau of Standards. To achieve service excellence, a Draft National Anti-Corruption Policy is being finalised.

19. Government developed a Governance Code for State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to improve their corporate governance, performance, transparency, and accountability. Financial Reporting Regulations of 2021 that became operational in April 2022 will strengthen oversight of SOEs. Furthermore, some SOEs have been rationalised to reduce overlaps, and promote efficiency in the delivery of service.

20. To improve measures of deterring fraud and misappropriation of public funds, the Office of the Auditor General strengthened external audit scrutiny by increasing audit coverage. This was partly achieved through establishment of Specialised Audit Division with forensic audit capability, to include auditing of SOEs.

Recommendation 127.27

21. In 2022 Government introduced the Reset Agenda to enhance service delivery and to realise more value with limited resources. One of the resultant reforms is the rationalisation of Government Ministries and SOEs. Notable highlights are the establishment of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship to promote sustainable industries and trade, and the establishment of the National Planning Commission to enhance national planning implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

22. To align the National Development Planning Cycle with the National Electoral Cycle, Government adopted and commenced the implementation of the Transitional National Development Plan (April 2023-March 2025).

23. Government continues to implement special dispensation for Rural Area Development Programme (RADP). The Affirmative Action Framework for Remote Area Communities (AAFRAC 2015-2025) has been reviewed through the support of UNDP with a view to evaluate its impact on the livelihoods of the people. Implementation of the recommendations has commenced and stakeholders are continuously engaged. **Annexure 1** illustrates the impact of various programmes implemented under the AAFRAC.

24. People with disabilities are catered for in the country's socio-economic development agenda. Sectors continue to mainstream disability in their initiatives. To date, there are 11,782 people with disabilities accessing economic empowerment programmes including affirmative action job placement.

25. To decentralise services as well as to enhance service delivery at the level of local authorities, Government approved the upgrading of twenty-two (22) Subordinate Authorities to fully-fledged Councils.

26. Below are examples of developments which took place in the economic sector:

- Signing into law the Economic Inclusion Act (2022) to enhance effective participation of citizens in the economy. This law is supported by the revised Public Procurement Act (2021);
- The drafting of the Meat Industry Regulatory Authority (MIRA) Bill;
- Introduction of the *Temo-Letlotlo* programme which replaces the Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD) programme;
- The launch of the Game Farming Guidelines in (2021) to diversify the tourism sector;

- Financial sector reform and development, which has improved access to finance by firms and households, and ensured that a diversified and competitive range of financial products and services are available to support economic growth and development. One positive result is that the rate of financial inclusion rose from 76% of households in 2014 to 84% in 2020;
- Botswana's economy continues to display signs of recovery, attributable to successful mitigations and the improved performance of the mining sector, with domestic economic growth projected to be 4.2% and 4.1% in 2022 and 2023.

Recommendation 127.41

27. A National Social Protection Framework (NSPF) has been adopted to guide all interventions geared towards improving social protection. Government is in the process of adopting the Proxy Means Testing tool and users have been trained on the use of the assessment tool. This assessment approach calls for household assessment as opposed to individuals.

28. Single Social Registry intends to integrate information about the beneficiaries of multiple or all of a country's social programmes and the benefits delivered. It has been rolled out to all sixteen (16) district councils. Since September 2022, refresher trainings are ongoing and expected to be completed by February 2023. Uploading data is done on the Testing environment. Upon completion of training of all users, data will be cleaned before it is uploaded into the production environment.

29. A National Social Protection Steering Committee comprising senior officers from key Ministries, Government Agencies and Development Partners has been established. The function of the committee is to coordinate policy and programme formulation. The Committee will build on the existing Social Protection Technical Steering Committee.

30. With the support of UNDP, Government is currently designing a Social Protection Programme and related implementation guidelines and tools to rationalize, consolidate and strengthen the effectiveness of the current Social Protection Programmes and adopt the five (5) Life Stage Course Approach. This model recognizes that individuals face different challenges at each stage of their life.

Poverty eradication

Recommendation 127.42

31. The Poverty Eradication Programme provides economic opportunities to the most vulnerable populations, including remote-area communities.

32. As at August 2022, 14,744 additional projects had been funded. In total, out of the 40,973 projects funded since inception, 29,564 are operational and have employed 34,553 people thus contributing to improved livelihoods.

33. The following are some of the key achievements:

- Reduction in the backlog from over 17,647 approved but not packaged applications to around 5,809;
- Attainment of a turnover of more than a million Pula by two projects, one engaged in toilet paper manufacturing and the other in the production of detergents;
- Development of a data management system for storage and management of beneficiaries' data;
- Creation of partnerships with key stakeholders, which include the Botswana Bureau of Standards for product certification; Botswana International University of Science and Technology for technical support; supermarkets for absorption of products; and development partners such as UNDP, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and European Union (EU) for strategic focus in the endeavour;

- Development of value chains around poverty eradication packages for the engagement of other contributory players to enhance the sustainability of the projects;
- An exit strategy was introduced in 2018 to facilitate graduation beneficiaries with improved livelihoods. Overall, 3,114 beneficiaries have graduated since the implementation of the strategy;
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the strategy was developed and implemented with tools to guide data requirements for tracking programme performance.

Recommendation 127.43

34. The National Poverty Eradication Draft Policy will be reviewed in line with the recently enacted Economic Inclusion Act (2022) which provides for, *inter alia*, the implementation of economic empowerment laws and initiatives as well as the effective participation of “targeted citizens” in the economic growth and development of the economy.

Recommendation 127.44

35. Botswana continues to avail start-up capital through the Youth Development Fund (YDF) to economically empower the youth as means of including them in the mainstream economy.

36. From 2009 to 2020, a total of 10,729 youth (6,383 males, 4,346 females) benefited from the YDF funding. Out of these, 73 were persons with disability while 460 were youth in remote areas (RADS).

37. There are Reservations and Preferential Treatment for the youth in micro-procurement, project maintenance, price preference (tenders) and quota reservation for firebreak projects. From April to November 2022, total expenditure on 20% quota reservations (micro procurement) was USD 2,684,367.66 while USD 164,959.75 was spent on 15% quota for maintenance. USD 46,351,062.35 was spent on 15% price preference (tenders) while the total expenditure for 30% quota reservation for firebreak projects is USD 16,229.84 Youth are also allowed to identify unused open spaces to utilise at no cost for setting up business stalls.

38. Government is also committed to alleviating out of school youth from poverty through the National Service Programme (Tirelo Sechaba), which empowers unemployed youth with skills and experience across various industries and business sectors. Youth enrolled in the program are given a monthly allowance to cover basic expenses. As at March 2019 to date, 14,054 out of a target of 15,000 youth were enrolled.

39. The National Internship program offers unemployed citizen graduates a chance to develop work skills and experience that will support them in the transition from academia to the working environment through attachments in various organisations in Botswana. Placement is done for a maximum period of two (2) years. Selection is done on a first come first serve basis by considering the available vacancy, qualification and place of service. Similarly, the National Internship program offers the graduates a monthly allowance for basic expenses. Since 2018 to date, 13,423 youth graduates have been enrolled in the programme.

Recommendation 127.45

40. As at December 2022, 31,524 women and 10,416 men benefitted from Poverty Eradication Programme. Of these, 3,547 were youth, being 2,661 females and 886 males.

Recommendation 128.61

41. Profiling of the poor which leads to identification of appropriate and responsive interventions has been undertaken in eight (8) severely impacted districts. Implementation of its recommendations is ongoing.

42. The management of child poverty and inter-generational transmission of poverty has been achieved through implementation of programmes that facilitate access to adequate

education, food and health care. These include the Early Childhood Development (ECD) whose objective is to bridge a child's two worlds: home and school.

43. The Botswana National School Feeding Programme has a universal coverage and it reaches school children from reception to standard seven (7) in all government owned schools. The programme provides two on-site hot meals a day covering 364,859 learners in 764 public primary schools country wide. Thus, early morning breakfast before classes commence and mid-morning meals. A special dispensation of a third lunch meal is given to 23,049 learners in Remote Area Settlements or from vulnerable communities. The school feeding programme also caters for Secondary school students.

44. Employment and wealth creation continue to be a priority for the country. As such, the implementation of targeted citizen economic empowerment programmes, aimed specifically at women, youth and other vulnerable members of society will be maintained. These include Women Empowerment initiatives, Youth Development Fund and the Poverty Eradication Programme. Affirmative action for these groups is being strengthened through amongst others, the Economic Inclusion Act, Local Economic Development Strategy and the Public Procurement Act.

45. Progress has been made in the 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 technology as well as harnessing renewable energy sources. The rate of electrification stood at 72% access in 2020 (90.74% in urban areas and 26.38% in rural areas) while 203 villages are being connected for ICT purposes through SmartBots Village Connectivity Project.

46. To accelerate infrastructure development and to increase employment opportunities at local authority level, Government has rolled out the Constituency Community Projects (CCP) programme covering all fifty-seven (57) constituencies in the financial year 2017/18. The total yearly funding under this programme is USD 570,000.00 where each constituency benefits USD 100,000.00. Infrastructure developed includes classrooms, storm water drainage, roads, day care centres, guest houses and street lights.

47. Human Capital Development, prioritizing efforts to boost skills development and training, with emphasis on technical training as well as up skilling of the poor continues to be developed.

Combating HIV/AIDS

Recommendation 127.54

48. The issue of health care infrastructure has been referenced at 127.51 below.

49. Government has implemented the following awareness raising programmes for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW).

50. DREAMS, which is an HIV prevention program that is a partnership between the Government of Botswana and the Government of the United States of America. The coverage of DREAMS increased from two (2) districts in 2020 to eight (8) districts in 2022.

51. The Shuga Radio program, mass multi-media behaviour change communication initiative targeting young people aged 10-24 years in partnership with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), reaching 34,819 Adolescent and Young People between 2020 and 2022.

52. From 2020 to 2022, the program reached 87,782 adolescent girls and young women with HIV prevention messages. 40,946 AGYW were enrolled into safe spaces and received economic strengthening skills while 1,984 received post violence care and 3,845 received Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. (PrEP).

53. With the support of the Global Fund Matching Funds for AGYW in the 2019-2021; 2022-2024 grant cycles, Botswana received USD 2 million to continue institutionalizing a range of information, skills and values to empower young people to exercise their sexual and

reproductive rights, and to make healthier decisions about their health and sexuality by revising the national curriculum.

54. The 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.

55. The Form 1-3 Guidance and Counselling Curriculum Guidelines and the Living: Skills for Life, Botswana's Window of Hope complement the toolkit. With the support of the Global Fund, The Ministry of Education is currently reviewing and updating the Life-skills Curriculum as well as developing a Parent-Child Communication Manual.

Recommendation 127.55

56. The following are the successes of the measures adopted by Botswana to reduce HIV prevalence among young people:

- With regard to condom distribution, according to the 2020 report of the Global HIV Prevention, Botswana is ranked as one of the best countries in terms of the number of condoms distributed per person per year in sub-Saharan Africa between 2018 and 2019. The report applauds Botswana for managing to narrow the gap regarding preventive benefits of condom use in the 15-49-year age group;
- With regard to the promotion of HIV testing as the entry point to every HIV/AIDS program, Botswana exceeded the World Health Organisation (WHO) 95-95-95 target. This shows that 95.1% of the adult population living with HIV know their status, 98% are on treatment, while 97.7% of those who are on treatment are virally suppressed;
- With regard to Voluntary Male Circumcision (VMMC), cumulative achievement from 2009-2022: 273,983 SMCs were conducted, which translates to 92.5% of the 298,180 needed to be reached by 2022. Of these SMCs 6,021 were done through the Early Infant SMC Project;
- Botswana has also been effective in reducing Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and has reduced direct transmission from mother to child to 2.21%, surpassing the 5% global target. In recognition of this achievement, Botswana became the first African country to be awarded the Silver Tier Certificate on the Path to eliminate of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV by WHO;
- The National comprehensive program to remove human rights and gender related barriers to HIV and TB services which is supported by the Global Fund's Breaking Down Barriers Initiative covered eleven (11) out of twenty-seven (27) health districts and will gradually be scaled up nationally to promote human rights awareness and capacitate key and vulnerable populations.

Recommendation 127.56

57. Noting that Botswana exceeded the 95:95:95 target, Government expanded the mandate of National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) to include Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). As such, in 2021, with the support of the WHO, Botswana developed an NCDs investment case to guide resources mobilisation for NCDs.

58. In addition, Botswana was on 20th September 2022, bestowed with a "National Achievement Award" by the Africa-America Institute (AAI), for effectively containing and managing the spread of HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, among others.

59. Furthermore, the Botswana Guidelines for HIV/STI Programmes for Key Populations was completed in 2020 with the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Through the assistance of UNFPA, Government has developed the second National Condom Strategy (SBCC) 2020-2023, which is aligned to the National Strategic Framework III. The main highlights of the national strategy are to Strengthen coordination and condom programming, expand condom market beyond the public sector and address funding and resource gaps.

60. Through social contracting, Government has engaged CSOs in order to increase condom access to the community. 11,613,200 condoms were distributed in 2021 of which 36% were distributed by the various NGOs funded by Government.

Recommendation 127.57

61. The following are some of the collaborations between the Government of Botswana and development partners in combating HIV/AIDS:

- U-Report in collaboration with the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF);
- Prevention of Mother to Child HIV Transmission in collaboration with United States (U.S) Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- HIV Programmatic response in collaboration with the U.S President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR);
- Improving the delivery of quality HIV services in partnership with Human Resources for Health (HRH 2030);
- HIV response in partnership with United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);
- HIV research, training and capacity building in collaboration with Harvard AIDS Institute;
- First Lady’s Men’s’ Health Initiative supported by the European Union and UNAIDS;
- Paediatric AIDS initiative in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine International AIDS Initiative;
- Global Fund support the national HIV, Malaria, TB and COVID19 response (2019-2021, 2022-24) grant cycles;
- Sexual Reproductive Health and integration of services supported by United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)27;
- The Global Fund supports the national HIV, TB, Malaria and Covid 19 response (2019-2021, 202-2024 grant cycles);
- The UNFPA supports the Government to integrate SRH/HIV and GBV;
- WHO continues to support Government with the technical expertise across different areas of the health sector programs including the investment case for NCDs.

Recommendation 127.58

62. **Refer to Recommendations 127.55 and 127.56 above.**

Recommendation 127.59

63. Government continues to collaborate with CSOs, development partners and the media in raising awareness for the prevention of HIV.

Recommendation 127.60

64. To further combat Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the context of health and HIV/AIDS, the Draft Comprehensive National Plan to Remove Human Rights and Gender Related Barriers to HIV and TB Services includes interventions aimed at reducing gender inequalities, harmful gender norms and gender-based violence. Government continues to collaborate with GBV service providers to reduce vulnerability to HIV and GBV.

65. The Faith and Communities Initiative (FCI) – a PEPFAR supported program reached 66,269 men and boys across the programme interventions. In 2022, the FCI programme scaled up interventions to address stigma and non-adherence related to faith healing as well as harmful gender norms and practices which perpetuate the recently escalating gender-based violence cases.

66. To eliminate stigma and discrimination, Government adopted a Broad-based Stigma and Discrimination Reduction approach. Initiatives include:

- Awareness to reduce gender inequality;
- Training and support of adolescents and young people (AYP) as well as faith-based organisations;
- Community mobilisation and dialogues with traditional leaders;
- Training of service providers and peer educators.

67. The expected outcome of the above include:

- Enhanced capacity for recognising and responding to GBV;
- Enhanced capacity for provision of psycho-social support;
- Rapid response and referral for monitoring and responding to human rights violations;
- Strengthened participation of AGYW as peer educators in HIV prevention for in and out of school youth.

Rights of the child

Recommendation 128.67

68. Section 56 of the Children's Act criminalises neglect, ill treatment and exploitation of children whereas Sections 57 to 61 of the Act stipulates specific offences which can be perpetrated against children. There is a case management system which Government utilises to capture the number of these offences and it informs interventions for children who are found to be in need of protection.

69. A protection order which results in the removal of a child to a place of safety that has been duly established as per the provisions of Section 97 of the Children's Act may be issued for a child who is deemed to be in need of protection.

70. There are currently three hundred and seventy-three (373) children in child welfare institutions across the country and twenty (20) in foster care. Such facilities are routinely inspected to ensure their compliance to child welfare standards and are issued renewable licences on annual basis.

71. The pilot foster care programme has currently been extended to four (4) more districts.

72. Regarding the monitoring of the welfare of children placed in alternative care, each child has an individual care plan which is monitored by resident social workers or case workers in the community for children in foster care.

Recommendation 128.68

73. The INSPIRE model continues to be implemented. The National Children's Council (NCC) has embarked on a campaign called *#Section25*, which is aimed at enforcing the child's right to protection against sexual abuse and exploitation through promotion of reporting as the first point of intervention.

74. Traditional leaders in some parts of the Northern, Southern, Central and Western regions of Botswana have been capacitated to lead initiatives related to discouraging harmful practices against children.

75. A training manual has also been designed for Village Child Protection Committees to guide communities on identification, prevention and intervention of child abuse and exploitation. The manual has been distributed across all the districts in Botswana.

76. Furthermore, Government has signed an MoU with two (2) NGOs whose key mandate is the provision of psycho-social support interventions to children and their caregivers. Through the partnership, service providers are also capacitated to deliver support services at a decentralised level.

77. The Botswana Police Service contributes to efforts of ending violence against children through its Child Friendly Police Stations, by creating a conducive atmosphere for victimised children to feel free to report and/or cooperate with law enforcers investigating their cases, to ensure appropriate action is taken against the perpetrators.

Recommendation 127.37

78. To address and investigate human trafficking and sexual exploitation, the Botswana Police Service has put the following measures in place:

- Establishment of the Anti-Human Trafficking desk;
- Capacity building of officers dealing with such cases;
- Use of forensic expertise;
- Stakeholder cooperation and collaborations, both locally and internationally. This include investigation support, repatriation of victims, amongst others;
- Community out-reach, especially in the areas along the borders.

79. Government through the Ministry of Justice has also facilitated targeted trainings to frontline officials such as immigration offices; political leaders and traditional leaders so as to better detect and refer the crime to law enforcement. The Ministry is also spearheading the Anti-Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill of 2023 to address legislative deficiencies which also include eliminating the option of fines in lieu of custodial sentences for offenders. A national consultative workshop to this end was conducted in December 2022. Such stringent measures will therefore increase deterrence of the crime for both local and transnational cases or incidences of the crime.

Recommendation 127.70

80. The *Children's Act* addresses the right of participation of the child through the establishment of the Village Child Protection Committees and the Children's Consultative Forum. Such forums provide children with a platform to participate in the decision-making processes on matters affecting them, such as education, health, safety, or general well-being. In addition, in contested custody cases, affected children are consulted on their preferred custody arrangements.

81. Furthermore, Section 7(a) of the Children's Act provides for the promotion of equal rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against children.

82. The "Eseng Mo Ngwaneng" campaign was relaunched in August 2022 in The North West District and has since been reactivated North East and South East districts while Kgalagadi and Gantsi district are scheduled for 2023. During such reactivations, dialogues are held with community leaders, children, traditional leaders, as well as men to encourage them to participate in matters that affect children.

83. Efforts have also been directed at child rights education through partnerships with civil society, specifically Childline Botswana, development partners such as UNICEF as well as public and private radio stations which have segments devoted to children's rights.

Recommendation 127.71

84. A situation analysis on Orphans and Vulnerable Children was conducted in 2019. The findings of the report have informed the National Social Protection Framework and the Draft Orphans and Vulnerable Children Policy which is almost complete.

Recommendations 127.72, 127.45

85. The budget allocations for the orphan care programme for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 were USD 18,067,425.77 and USD 18,066,744.21 respectively. This is the budget that is used to implement the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

Human rights education

Recommendation 127.63

86. Human rights education has been streamlined in the school curriculum at primary and secondary levels through social and cultural studies, guidance and counselling, development studies, history, geography and environmental science. At tertiary education level, human rights issues are covered in amongst others legal, administrative, teaching, social work and media courses.

87. Government is conducting awareness raising campaigns to promote education on the right to a name and a nationality. The country has achieved 98% birth registration coverage as per the 2020 Vital Statistics Report.

88. Public Awareness continues to be conducted through various forms of media, Kgotla meetings, commemoration of disability days, including the International Day for persons with disability. This helps to promote and enhance inclusion of people with disabilities as it dispels the misconceptions, stigma and stereotypes surrounding those with disabilities.

89. Through print and electronic media as well Crime Prevention awareness programme, the Botswana Police Service sensitizes the public and targeted vulnerable groups, in particular women and girls on various human rights issues.

90. Government conducts outreach programmes to teach the public on their right to legal identity and the importance of births and deaths registration. During these campaigns, real time mobile registration and issuance of Births and Deaths Certificates is conducted.

91. Furthermore, public awareness campaigns for community leadership and migrants on the provisions of the Citizenship Act and Immigration Act continues to be undertaken. This is also augmented by capacity building geared towards sensitising migrants to make informed decisions regarding their rights and eligibility to permanent residence and citizenship. Media platforms like Radio and Facebook pages are utilised to educate the public on the right and eligibility to permanent residence, citizenship and labour laws.

92. During the process of admission of prisoners, every prisoner is informed of all the laws applicable to them during their incarceration. Legal Aid Botswana and the Office of the Ombudsman educate prisoners on human rights.

Non-discrimination

Recommendation 127.26

93. The Botswana Police Service Standard Operational Procedures provide guidance on how to handle cases without any form of discrimination. In order to promote non-discrimination and enforcement of laws, capacity building for all officers is provided at the Botswana Police College for both pre-service and in-service trainees.

94. Regarding non-discrimination to LGBTIQ+ community, on 29 November 2021, in the case of *Attorney General v Motshidiemang*, the Court of Appeal held that Section 164 of the Penal Code which prohibited consensual same sex relations is unconstitutional.

95. All children born in Botswana are issued with birth certificates to promote the right to legal identity.

96. Media Practitioners Bill (2022) whose objective is to ensure professional conduct of journalists, provides for the establishment of disciplinary boards for action against journalists who publicise discriminatory information.

Human rights training

Recommendation 127.25

97. Human rights education continues to be offered to Botswana Prison Service officers at pre-service and in-service level. Some of the courses offered include the following:

- Definition of rights and human rights;
- Trace evolution of human rights;
- UN Declaration of Human Rights (1948);
- The difference between a right, privilege and freedom;
- Basic human rights in Botswana;
- Application of basic human rights in Botswana;
- Humane treatment of offenders covering the following components: Definition and explanation of humane treatment of offenders; Discussion of human rights of prisoners; Sources for human rights for prisoners; United nations standard minimum rules for prisoners (Mandela rules).

98. Since the year 2019, a total of 1,448 Police Officers have completed Human Rights related trainings. In addition, allegations of breach of human rights by Botswana Police Office continue to be investigated and since the year 2020, twenty-nine (29) of such allegations have been investigated of which in four (4) cases, perpetrators were convicted with two (2) dismissals, whereas sixteen (16) of the officers were dismissed and nine (9) were either under investigation, pending before courts or awaiting disciplinary hearings.

99. A total of 1,000 Pre-Service trainees have been trained in human rights during the training on Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, eighteen (18) police officers of the rank of Sergeant also went through the same training when attending Supervisory Skills course.

100. The administrative provisions relating to disciplinary sanctions imposed on perpetrators of torture in the Botswana Police Service are regulated through Sections 23 and 27 of the Botswana Police Act (CAP 21:01). The disciplinary sanctions, which can be imposed on a perpetrator of torture are reprimand, severe reprimand, fine, reduction in rank or dismissal.

101. A further safeguard that is provided by Botswana's judicial system is that when a judicial officer is recording a confession statement from an accused person and it is realised that the accused was coerced into making the confession by infliction of torture, that statement is considered inadmissible evidence.

Recommendation 127.32

102. The Botswana Police Service has a training module on gender-based violence for pre-service and in-service officers. This facilitates officers' 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 such as obtaining statements from GBV victims or survivors in private rooms.

103. 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 CSO and health care providers to respond to GBV. This intervention is part of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (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. Government is currently implementing the Global Fund grant for 2019-2021 and has been allocated further matched funding for the 2022-2025 cycle.

Recommendation 127.21

104. To date, Members of the National Gender Commission have been trained on gender and development to equip them with skills to adequately deliver on their mandate. The next steps include developing a Strategy to guide their work as well as undertaking benchmarking for best practices. The Commission is scheduled to have dialogues with various groups beginning February, 2023. Target groups include: Faith Based Organisations, Dikgosi (Traditional Leaders), People with Disabilities, the Sporting Fraternity and Pioneers of the Gender Movement in Botswana.

Recommendations 127.35, 127.69, 127.66

105. Regarding women's participation in the mainstream economy, refer to Recommendation 127.27 and 128.45.

106. Regarding the participation of women in politics, refer to Recommendation **127.36 below**.

Recommendation 127.36

107. During the reporting period, Government appointed (four) 4 out of six (6) Specially Elected Members of Parliament. In addition, women were appointed in the following leadership positions:

- The first woman Minister of Finance and Economic Development;
- The first woman to head the Civil Service, that is, Permanent Secretary to the President;
- Deputy Permanent Secretary to the President;
- The first woman to be President of the Court of Appeal of the Republic of Botswana;
- The first female Commissioner to head the Botswana Prisons Service;
- The first woman to head the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS); and
- Vice Chancellors of the Botswana Open University and the University of Botswana, respectively.

108. Within the wider Public Service, as at January 2023, women represented 44% at Executive level being Director level and above.

Recommendation 127.65

109. In Botswana, 88.7% of all women aged 15 years and older are literate compared to 86.74% of men. Within the mainstream education system, gender parity stands at:

Pre-primary – 0.96;

Primary – 0.95;

Secondary – 1.1;

Tertiary – 1.32.

110. These statistics indicates that more girls are enrolled at secondary and tertiary level compared to boys.

Recommendations 127.66, 127.67

111. To ensure that women continue to enjoy their full human rights, Government established the National Gender Commission to monitor implementation of the National Policy on Gender and Development which emphasises gender mainstreaming across sectors. In addition, the Commission monitors the environment to ensure that women and men equally access the socio-economic, cultural and political opportunities in the Country. Furthermore, Government established the High Level Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBV to guide the National GBV Response. Establishment of District Gender Committees also continues and a total of thirteen (13) committees were established during the reporting period. Further, the Five Year National Comprehensive Plan to Remove Human Rights and Gender Related Barriers to HIV and TB identifies harmful gender norms and cultural values as drivers of GBV. As such, Botswana started implementing the seven key programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination recommended by the UNAIDS.

Recommendation 127.68

112. Response is covered under **Recommendations 127.27, 127.65 and 127.67**.

113. Mr. and Miss RADP fashion show, a local beauty pageant solely for remote area boost empowerment for young women and men living in remote areas settlement in line with the Affirmative Action Framework policy. This year, the pageant was held under the theme "Unearthing Natural Beauty and Talent". This theme embraces talent development amongst youth from Remote Area Communities, advancing the element of social inclusiveness of youth in mainstream society. The first lady of the Republic of Botswana is the patron for the Miss RADP Pageant.

Recommendation 127.73

114. The Ministry of Health provides youth friendly services including family planning education and the use of contraceptives. CSOs such as Botswana Family Welfare Association also provide youth friendly services with a particular focus on AGYW 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.

Cooperation with special procedures and treaty bodies

Recommendations 128.26, 128.27, 128.28, 128.29, 128.30, 128.31

115. Botswana hosted the following human rights mandate holders:

- Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Minorities (August 2018);
- Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation (2019);
- Committee of experts (African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child) (June 2021);
- Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial Killings (2021);
- Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (July 2022);
- Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (December 2022);
- Special Rapporteur on Persons with Disabilities is expected to visit in April 2023.

Recommendation 127.64

116. 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 was reviewed in March 2019. Botswana is due to submit her fifth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in March 2023.

117. **Implementation efforts are documented in this report at 127.5 (non-discrimination); 128.18 (ratification of treaties); 127.30 (Gender based violence); 127.34 (Access to justice); 127.38, 127.39, 127.40 (anti human trafficking) and 127.51 (right to health)**

Death penalty

Recommendations 127.28, 127.29

118. The Draft Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan, which will be implemented in 2023 is expected to include the death penalty public debates under the National Action Plan.

Gender-based violence

Recommendation 127.30

119. Government continues to implement laws which criminalize domestic violence and provide survivors of domestic violence with protection. These include the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana, the Penal Code, the Domestic Violence Act and the Married Persons Property Act. Government also subvents CSOs which provide safe havens for women who are victims of violence.

Recommendation 127.31

120. The following measures are implemented by the Botswana Police Service in the fight against GBV:

- Developing competencies of police officers in handling cases;
- Provision of psycho-social support and counselling to victims;
- Collaboration with other stakeholders and referral systems;
- Use of informers;
- Appointment of Gender Focal Point Persons;
- Community Policing (bringing on board the community to assist in policing);
- Community out-reach programmes (public education);
- Anti-GBV campaigns.

121. In an effort to curb the prevalence of GBV incidents and on improving programmes tailor made to prisoners, in September 2021 the Service launched the “Gender Based Violence Perpetrators Programme”. The programme is specifically designed to rehabilitate offenders of GBV and related offences.

Recommendation 128.48

122. The Government of Botswana remains committed to implementing all her International, Continental and Regional human rights obligations, which are domesticated through laws and policies to ensure that women and men fully and equally enjoy their human rights. To this end, Government continues to adopt new laws and establish human rights protection institutions. Examples include the Sexual Offenders Registry Act (2021), the Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBV (2021) and the Special Courts for GBV (2020).

Recommendations 127.33, 127.66

123. Government has prioritised the GBV response and the following measures, among others, have been put in place to combat GBV:

- The Sexual Offenders Registry Act was adopted in 2021;
- The Gender and Child Protection Branch established in the Botswana Police Service,
- Specialised GBV Courts were set up;
- The High Level Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBV was established.

Right to education

Recommendation 127.61

124. The Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP) 2015-2020 promotes three critical components of education, which are availability, equitable access and quality education.

125. To address these three components, Government has achieved the following:

- Increased number of public primary schools offering reception class programme, from 613 to 683;
- Increased number of primary schools from 756 to 758 between 2018 and 2022;
- Six (6) satellite schools in remotest areas, four (4) in the Northern part and two (2) in the Southern part of the country;
- Forty-four (44) units for persons with intellectual disabilities: four (4) for hearing impairment, two (2) for vision impairment. Some of the learners are in mainstream schools;
- Introduction of the back to school, circles of support, pastoral care, guidance and counselling and compulsory remediation programmes to promote learner retention;
- Review of the curriculum into outcome-based education which was completed in 2020;
- 38 learning programmes have been completed in preparation for introducing multiple pathways in 2021;
- Botswana Examination Council is currently developing curriculum assessment framework in line with the outcome-based education;
- Prisoners are offered free basic education programmes, which are equivalent to the ones offered to the mainstream society;
- Brigades have improved from offering artisan courses to technical courses;
- Offering of out of school and adult education programmes.

126. The Government of Botswana strives to further promote the right of children to quality education through the creation of child friendly schools.

Recommendation 127.62

127. The Ministry of Education developed an Education and Strategic Plan aimed at transitioning education to outcome-based education. The plan has been rolled out to all senior secondary schools in Botswana, to align with the reset agenda.

128. Government has adopted Languages Policy (2022) to be implemented at public primary schools with the aim of introducing the use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction at early childhood level (Pre-Primary up to Standard 2). These languages will be introduced in a Phased approach, starting with thirteen languages, sign language inclusive.

129. All education institutions undergo accreditation by the Botswana Qualifications Authority in order to be recognised in Botswana. Thirty-eight (38) learning programmes in Government schools have been accredited. Tertiary institutions also have to undergo the accreditation process to enhance the standard of education offered.

130. A three phased School Digitalisation Plan with integration of ICT in teaching and learning has commenced. 500 out of 756 primary schools, all (207) junior secondary and all (34) senior secondary schools have been provided with mobile ICT laboratories as a way of promoting e-learning. All secondary schools have a full time IT officer to manage the ICT services while learners and teachers in all senior secondary schools have been provided with laptops.

131. In-service training for e-education for 2,528 primary school teachers, 758 junior secondary school teachers and 14 senior secondary school teachers were trained in e-education, to enhance the quality of education through the use of technology.

132. Botswana Prisons offer education to prisoners in partnership with the Ministry of Education and all other intuitions of learning and universities, library services, and Non-Government Organisations. Learners undergo examination in various levels through the Botswana Examination Council and are awarded certificates. Vocational training focusing on equipping prisoners with skills to accord them equal opportunity for employment and to start their own businesses on expiration of their sentences are also offered.

Right to health

Recommendation 127.51

133. 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. There are 1,500+ mobile stops across the country.

134. The following are the achievements of Government in improving access to health services:

- The Early Child Development Policy Framework which is geared at ensuring that children have equitable access to early childhood development regardless of their place of origin or their families' economic status. The programme supports the "Early Moments Matter" by training parents/ caretakers and communities on the importance of the first 1,000 days;
- Free infant formula to babies of HIV infected women who opt to formula feed and meet the AFASS criteria. The percentage of HIV exposed infants on infant formula is around 57%;
- In an effort to address morbidity and mortality of women due to cervical cancer, Government has embarked on consolidation of a National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP-2022-2026). The screening coverage recorded in eighteen (18) districts is 56%. 35 Loop Electro Excision procedure (LEEP) clinics have been established across these districts to expedite treatment of precancerous lesions and linkage to specialist care clinics.
- Furthermore, Global initiatives such as FP 2030 Agenda have been adapted to further strengthen interventions for maternal mortality reduction. In an endeavour to strengthen provision of sexual and reproductive health services during emergencies, the Ministry of Health with support from the UNFPA undertook an assessment on the country's readiness to provide Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in Emergencies. The aim of the MISP Readiness Assessment is to provide a snapshot of national and/ or sub-national readiness and capacity to ensure access to essential SRH services.

135. The impact of the health sector interventions includes:

- Vitamin A coverage for children aged 6-59 months was 76.1% in 2021 and 75.5% in 2020. The intervention was affected by lock down measures during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Zinc Sulphate coverage was 52% in 2020 and 38% in 2021 and 55% in 2022;
- ORS coverage was 52% in 2020 and 68% in 2021 and 76% in 2022;
- Penta 3 coverage was 77% in 2020, 69% in 2021 and 53% in 2022;
- Measles Rubella 1 coverage was 70% in 2020, 72% in 2021 and 69% in 2022;
- A vaccine manufacturing plant was established in 2022;
- Botswana attained 64% vaccination rate against the target of 70% set by WHO.

136. Botswana Police Service continues to hold Wellness Day activities whereby Doctors are invited to provide health education and screening for different diseases including HIV/AIDS and other NCDs. During these activities, 848 officers were in attendance.

137. Botswana Prison Service provides comprehensive quality health care to the Prison Community equivalent to that offered to the entire nation as prescribed in the Public Health Act. In addition, it focuses on maintenance of optimum standard of health during incarceration. Services are offered to the prison population, which includes the prisoners, prison officers and members of the public within Prison catchment areas. The services provide holistic health services at all stages of the disease and assist in health restoration, management and mitigation of infectious diseases.

138. The following health services are offered in collaboration with the ministry of Health, NGO and the International Community: Curative Services; Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Services; HIV/AIDS Programmes; Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19); Referrals to Civil Health Facilities.

Recommendation 127.52

139. The Government of Botswana continues to strive towards reducing maternal mortality to meet the set SDG 3 target of (reducing maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 by 2030). Interventions to track and ensure quality of care are continuously being implemented as scheduled annually. These include, but not limited to the following: maternal national and institutional committees and the Maternal Mortality Reduction Initiative (MMRI). Capacity building on Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) continues to be pivotal to improvement of quality care towards reduction maternal mortality. To date, the MMR stands at 130.5 per 100,000 (2020), a decline from 166.3 per 100,000 in 2019.

140. Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in Botswana shows continuous improvement especially in the Family planning and Reproductive cancers components. This is evidenced by an increase in the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate from 52.8% in 2007 to 67.3% in 2017 and an increase in screening coverage for cervical cancer from 57% in 2017 to 65% in 2021. The increase in CPR was attributable to the introduction of Long-Term Reversible contraceptives (e.g. Implants). The Ministry has reviewed the 2021 strategic document to run from 2022-2026 in order to incorporate critical community engagement interventions to address maternal mortality reduction.

141. In order to sustain this achievement, the Ministry of Health has effectively integrated the Comprehensive post abortion care intervention into the Family planning component to harness the positive linkage to adoption of long-term reversible contraceptives. This approach will go a long way in reducing the unmet need for family planning and reduce unintended pregnancies.

142. Government has introduced specialist services in district hospitals in order to improve services. These specialist services are general surgery, internal medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology and anaesthesia. Government has a budget to pay local and international private facilities for citizen's specialised medical care which is not available in public sector facilities.

Recommendation 127.53

143. **Addressed at 127.51 above.**

Administration of justice and fair trial

Recommendation 127.34

144. Botswana Police Service continues to capacitate officers to enhance and upgrade the skills of investigations. The officers are regularly trained at Botswana Police College, International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) and other Institutions in various fields.

145. Furthermore, Botswana Police Service has collaborated with the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) to empower Police Officers with prosecution skills.

146. The Safer City Project has been beneficial in the detection of various crimes, such as cash in transit heist, fatal accidents and others. Botswana Police Service is therefore in the process of extending the safer city coverage over other strategic areas.

147. In addition to the existing Police Stations, one more Police Station was opened in Semolale, with an increased police strength and policing areas, for the benefit of the population in the village and the surrounding areas.

148. Seven (7) more Police Posts have been opened across the country and more are still under construction. The increase in the number of Police Stations and Posts will assist in bringing the much-needed Police service closer to communities.

149. Botswana Police Service continues to apply scientific methods in its crime management mandate. As a result, more cases of GBV, sexual assaults and murder have been detected. Further, the role of science has enhanced management of investigations related to missing persons and unknown deceased persons by application of International Standards and practices.

150. The cybercrime forensic capability has also contributed positively to crime investigation and detection, especially on offensive electronic communication, fraud, criminal defamation as well as in case of child pornography.

Domestication of treaties

Recommendations 128.37, 128.38, 128.43, 128.44

151. Efforts continue to be made to incorporate international human rights treaties in national legislation. The Ombudsman (Amendment) Act of 2021 domesticated the Paris Principles while the Disability Bill which seeks to domesticate the CRPD will be tabled at the next sitting of Parliament.

Recommendation 127.5

152. Government remains committed to domesticating the CEDAW and is still mobilising technical and financial support.

Human trafficking

Recommendation 127.38

153. The Government of Botswana continues to collaborate with International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to capacitate immigration officials on issues of Anti Human Trafficking. Thirty-seven (37) were trained.

Recommendation 127.40

154. Government has adopted an all-inclusive approach by including CSOs in the high-level strategic processes to develop the Anti-Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill of 2023. Nation-wide consultative workshops were conducted and key stakeholders such as members of CSOs, the international community, law enforcement, social workers, and other critical front-line officers and partners were engaged. In addition, Government established a National Drafting Committee (NDC) to develop the Anti-Human Trafficking National Action Plan (2023-2028) which includes members from civil society.

Recommendation 127.39

155. In 2022, Government conducted awareness raising activities, two (2) radio engagements, two (2) capacity building workshops, Commemoration of World Day against Trafficking in Persons and a high-level meeting to finalise a draft cooperation agreement between the Government of Botswana and Love Justice international on trafficking in Persons (TIP).

Water and sanitation

Recommendation 127.47

156. To ensure that the public is supplied with potable water, the Government of Botswana consistently carries out water quality monitoring. Botswana continues to explore appropriate technologies to improve water quality. The following process are continuously implemented to this end:

- Rolling out installation of facilities to manufacture Chlorine Dioxide, which has a long retention time at the water treatment plant for disinfection to improve water quality;
- Development of water safety plans and protocols on water quality monitoring and management;
- Research and development for improvement of the existing water treatment technology;
- Engagement of a multi-stakeholder approach. Stakeholders involved include the Water Quality and Conservation Division, the Laboratory Water Services Department and Botswana Bureau of Standards amongst others.

Recommendation 127.48

157. Botswana joined a UN partnership on Water and Sanitation for All in August 2020. In the same year, 80% of the country had access to basic sanitation services, as compared to 52% in 2008. In addition, according to the UN Water SDG 6 snapshot, 78% of monitored water bodies in Botswana had good ambient water quality in 2020.

158. Government continues to prioritise the development of water and sanitation infrastructure. About 30% of the development budget was dedicated to water and sanitation during the National Development Plan 11. A total of Nine (9) Water, Land Servicing and Sanitation projects were completed across the country: six (6) projects completed in 2021 and three (3) during 2022. Nineteen (19) projects are on course to be completed during 2023, which will ensure water security and increased access to portable water to some villages in the central, southern, North East, and North West Districts.

Recommendation 127.49

159. **Refer to Recommendations 127.47 and 127.48.**

Recommendation 127.50

160. 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).

Institutions and policies – General

Recommendation 128.45

161. The National Social Protection Framework consolidates all the twenty-nine (29) social protection programs which are implemented in Botswana. This has improved targeting, coordination, implementation and monitoring of social protection services.

162. **Refer to 127.27 above** on the Rural Development Program and the Affirmative Action Framework for Remote Area Communities.

Notes

¹ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session29/BW/BOTSWANA_MidTerm2020_3rdcycle.pdf