



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**SYNOPSIS OF BOTSWANA UPDATE ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF 27 SEPTEMBER, 2015 COMMITMENTS TO
ELIMINATE GAPS IN GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

3RD FEBRUARY, 2017

1. The Government of Botswana remains strongly committed to the **promotion and protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms** of her people and uphold the principle of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Botswana therefore, continues with domestication of CEDAW. Drafting of legislation is in process and anticipated to conclude by December, 2017. This should reverse imbalances created by previous legislation.
2. By close of 2015, Botswana had met all **MDGs targets** except for target 10 and 11 on integration of principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; and development of an environment conducive for beneficial trade and foreign direct investment which registered slow progress respectively. Botswana also registered reversal in maternal mortality.
3. To close gaps from MDGs report, Botswana continues to prioritise women empowerment. The **National Vision 2036: Pillar 2** on Human and Social Development recognises gender equality as central to socio-economic, political and cultural development.

4. The **National Development Plan 11** as aligned to Sustainable Development Goals provides for gender mainstreaming and prevention and elimination of Gender Based Violence.
5. Following adoption of the National Policy on Gender and Development in 2015, the **National Gender Commission** was established in September, 2016 to monitor implementation of the Policy. In addition, gender was made prominent in Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs.
6. To strengthen the **Women Economic Empowerment Programme**, Botswana committed additional resources in 2017/2018 by increasing the budget from USD2.5 million to USD5.5 million (63.6%). In addition, a Women's Business Directory was developed to facilitate women entrepreneurs' access to available markets.
7. To promote **women's participation in leadership**, the Director, Public Service Management in 2016 started capacity building for women in executive positions within the Public Service.
8. Regarding **Gender Based Violence (GBV)**; Government is piloting the GBV Referral System. Referrals are currently made on-line; reducing the ordeal of victims having to repeat their story to each service provider. Government is also undertaking a

National GBV Study which will include GBV amongst men and boys.

9. Government recognizes the importance of **traditional leaders** (Dikgosi/Chiefs) and continues to engage them. In November, 2015; Dikgosi developed a National Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender into the Customary Justice System.
10. Regarding **engagement of men**, in December, 2015; Botswana launched the National Champion to drive the HeforShe campaign particularly in sport. The Men Sector also continues with capacity building amongst men and boys.
11. Botswana commits to continue prioritising inclusive growth as a strategic enabler for achievement of sustainable socio-economic development.