

BOTSWANA 2022

Summary of the Joint Programme's support to the national HIV response in 2022



In June 2022, Botswana joined Phase II of the South-South Learning Network through technical support from the Joint Team. As part of the initiative, coordinators of the national HIV response in Botswana and Zimbabwe shared their experience in developing HIV prevention cascades for implementers to use when assessing the effectiveness of HIV prevention programmes (UNFPA, UNAIDS Secretariat).

The revised national integrated HIV and tuberculosis guidelines included expansion of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services for pregnant and breastfeeding women, men who have sex with men and female sex workers; adequate forecasting and supply chain and improved laboratory mechanisms (WHO, UNAIDS Secretariat).

For the first time, the *Condomize* campaign tailored its services to scale up access to condoms among young people with disabilities and 57 pharmacists and senior officials from the Ministry of health were also trained on supply chain management and Last Mile (UNFPA). In addition, 600 Healthcare workers received training on integrated adolescent- and youth-friendly services, including counselling and disclosure, HIV treatment and common clinical conditions, mental health, sexual and reproductive health as well as young adult transition and ethical and legal matters, 35 healthcare facilities now offer integrated youth-friendly services across the country (UNICEF, UNFPA).

The MTV station reached 495 000 young people with information on HIV and referral services via three seasons of its Shuga Radio programme with interactive voice response platform and face-to-face education in four districts with high HIV burden. The Shuga Wanji game further reinforced HIV-related information among 75 567 young people while peer educators sensitized 6000 young people and referred them to services when needed (UNICEF).

In 2022, about 382 000 adolescents in primary and secondary schools across the country received comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) from 436 trained

teachers while more than 1000 young people attended weekly CSE sessions and were referred to HIV and sexual and reproductive health services (UNESCO). The Botswana Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted implemented CSE for in and out-of-school young people with visual impairment and youth institutions through capacity building and technical support by the Joint Team (UNFPA). As part of the *Connect with Respect* initiative, 140 trained teachers educated 30 000 learners in eight schools on preventing gender-based violence and addressing gender norms that perpetuate gender-based violence in schools. In addition, 60 faith leaders improved their understanding of adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights while 800 parents and caregivers were oriented on parent-teacher communication to ensure effective dialogue on HIV, SRHR, sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, gender-based violence and child marriage (UNESCO). Additionally, 100 young women and people from key populations in four districts were empowered to address barriers to services while 10 traditional and religious leaders pledged to tackle harmful norms affecting women, especially young women vulnerable to HIV infection and gender-based violence (UN Women). The Government launched a framework for male engagement in HIV prevention, testing and treatment and a national campaign *Brothers Arise*, mobilizing traditional and faith leaders to engage men in transforming gender norms and reduce gender-based violence in their communities (UNAIDS Secretariat).

The assessment of technical and allocative efficiencies of the national response showed that while Botswana has one of the most successful HIV responses there is a need for more efficient implementation of services to maximize resource utilization for better return on investment. Other key findings include the need for increased domestic funding to sustain the current investment on HIV prevention and system strengthening as well as balanced investment between curative and preventive services (UNAIDS Secretariat).

KEY RESULTS

- Botswana joined the South-South Learning Network.
- 495 000 young people reached via radio programmes with information on HIV and referral services.
- Over 400 000 students received comprehensive sexuality education and learned about the prevention of gender-based violence.
- 600 healthcare workers were trained on integrated adolescent- and youth-friendly services.

Joint UN
Team on
AIDS

UNHCR
UNICEF
UNFPA
UN Women
ILO
UNESCO
WHO
World Bank
UNAIDS Secretariat

Contributing to [United Nations Development Cooperation Framework in Botswana \(2022-2026\)](#)



2022 Joint Programme
Expenditure
Total US\$ 1 797 066

2022 expenditure data
available at the time of
the update (August 2023)

