

South Africa launched a Gender Based Violence strategy. Success Capital reviewed this study and contextualized it within Botswana's context. This serves as a baseline for discussions and engagements, ideally on a regular basis to track progress. This snapshot focuses on outcomes and commentary for discussion under the auspices of the 'Strengthening Diversity & Rule of Law of Youth through Art & Advocacy' project; aimed at contributing towards a more diverse and inclusive social and human rights environment for young women and LGBTIQ+ in Central District. This was achieved through: 1) 449 (from a planned 250) empowered young people accessing state economic diversification opportunities that improve their livelihood and independence, 2) Eliminating harmful gender norms that impede diversity, expression and creativity of young people in their diversity, 3) increasing justice seeking behaviour for human rights abuses through strengthened peer efficacy and support.

Pillars for Change	5 Year Outcomes	COMMENTARY
PILLAR 1 Accountability, coordination and Leadership	Enables bold leadership, strengthened accountability across government and society which responds to GBVF strategically with clear messaging and adequate technical and financial resources: 1.2. Strengthens multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration across different levels of government and sections of society based on relationships of trust that enable effect to the pillars of the NSP.	Botswana's dual legal systems, Roman-Dutch law and customary law; discriminates against women, particularly in marriage and family settings. Precedence in constitutional law is not always prioritised over customary law. Most women lack the necessary information and resources to gain access to the civil courts whilst still being subject to traditional courts. ¹ Thus, significant investments are needed to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of justice systems in a gender affirmative manner.
PILLAR 2 Prevention and rebuilding social cohesion	2.1. Develops a delivery capacity in Botswana to roll out evidence-based prevention programmes; 2.2. The rollout of evidence-based prevention interventions enables changed behavior and social norms within key groups. 2.3. Allows a shift away from toxic masculinity, towards embracing positive alternative	Gender inequality aggravates violence, education, health and service delivery outcomes. UNAIDS added a gender indicator to its global reporting systems for countries in 2001. Therefore, undertaking gender analyses to identify gender-related factors and barriers in countries has been recognized as critical to controlling the epidemic. ² This should have qualitative and quantitative aspects at national and local levels. There is a need for more robust and regular research to

¹United Nations (2010) CEDAW *United Nations* <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/country%20report/africa/botswana/botswana%20cedaw%20co.pdf?vs=450>

² I. Ramatlala (2016) Pepfar Gender Analysis *Government of Botswana*
<file:///C:/Users/USER/Desktop/outputs/something%20else/tr-16-135-en.pdf>

	<p>approaches for expressing masculinity and other sexual and gender identities, within specific communities/groups;</p> <p>2.4. Optimally harnessed VAC programmes that have an impact on GBV eradication;</p> <p>2.5. Develops increased cross fertilization and integration of prevention interventions on violence against LGBTQIA+ persons.</p> <p>2.6. Strengthens programming that addresses the restoration of human dignity, builds caring communities and responds to historic and collective trauma;</p> <p>2.7. Public spaces are made safe and violent free for all, particularly women and Children.</p>	<p>ensure systemic documenting of gender inequality and violence.³ This will ensure response and prevention interventions and relevant, scalable and impactful.</p> <p>There is a link between GBV, gender ideologies, power relations, intimate partner violence (IPV), and risky sexual behaviours.⁴ This means there should be health, governance, security, and resourcing responses to GBV.⁵ More especially in a country where over 67% of women have experienced abuse - over double the global average.</p>
<p>PILLAR 3 Justice, safety and protection</p>	<p>3.1. All GBV survivors have to access efficient and sensitive criminal justice that is quick, accessible, responsive and gender inclusive;</p> <p>3.2. Strengthens the capacity of the criminal justice system to address all impunity, Effectively and facilitate justice for GBV survivors;</p> <p>3.3. Encourages the amendment of legislation related to GBV areas that build on legislative reforms initiated under the Emergency Response Action Plan.</p>	<p>The myths and beliefs in the community about those who have survived gender-based violence bring a lot of shame, disgrace, and stigma. Thus, many opt remain silent even when they are suffering. There are elements of sex work, where parents depend on their daughter’s abusers for financial benefit. This is one of the larger contributors to unwanted pregnancies.⁶ There is a need to assess the effectiveness of possible GBV response measures such as the piloting of special GBV courts and revised processing of GBV victims. This will allow for citizen monitoring, participation and engagement in GBV interventions. More importantly, they provide a baseline for reporting and reviewing possible success for countrywide implementation.</p>

³ M. Machisa (2016) Begin GBV *Government of Botswana*
<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/botswana/docs/Gov%20and%20HR/GBV%20Indicators%20Botswana%20report.pdf>

⁴ M. Tirelo. (2017). Masculinities, gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS in Botswana: *Botswana Journal of African studies*
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313846523_Masculinities_gender-based_violence_HIV_and_AIDS_in_Botswana_Tirelo_Modie-Moroka/citation/download

⁵ UNFPA (2020) Gender-based violence <https://botswana.unfpa.org/en/topics/gender-based-violence-1#:~:text=In%20Botswana%2C%20over%2067%25%20of,culture%20of%20silence%20and%20normalization.>

⁶ O. K. Maswabi (2018) Risk Analysis and Countermeasures of Gender-Based Violence in *Botswana International Journal of Innovation and Economic Development* <https://researchleap.com/risk-analysis-countermeasures-gender-based-violence-botswana/>

<p>PILLAR 4 Response, care, support and healing</p>	<p>4.1. Reinforces existing response, care and support services by the state and civil society in ways that are victim-centered and survivor-focused to facilitate recovery and healing; 4.2. Secondary victimization is eliminated through addressing specific individual and systemic factors that drive it; 4.3. Victims feel supported by the system to access the necessary psychosocial, material and other support required to assist them with their healing; 4.4. Strengthens community and institutional responses to provide integrated care and support to GBV survivors and their families, and takes into account linkages between substance abuse and HIV/ AIDS.</p>	<p>GBV survivors require the care and support services that cut across sectors that normally do not work together, such as education, health, legal/justice, and social welfare. For example, when a GBV victim presents at a health facility, it is likely she will need services currently not available within the health sector, such as police or legal services. In Botswana, as in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, there was no organized system to address if referrals to outside services were made, if they were taken up, or what resolution occurred.⁷ There is a need for a concerted effort to convene and coordinate a civil society response that is just, equitable and trauma informed. This will unlock solutions for more meaningful engagement.</p>
<p>PILLAR 5 Economic Power</p>	<p>5.1. Accelerates initiatives that address women's unequal economic and social position, through access to government and private sector procurement, employment, housing, access to land, financial resources and other income generating initiatives; 5.2. Cultivates safe workplaces that are free of violence against women and LGBTQIA+ persons, including but not limited to sexual harassment;</p>	<p>Government needs to rethink public procurement policies and use it as a strategic lever to accelerate gender-inclusive economic growth through the application of state spending power, while maintaining rigorous governance standards. Reform of public procurement to make it more gender-inclusive could create a 'diversity dividend' through increased job creation and economic growth. This would also mitigate economic and business risk through diverse supply chains.⁸ Other groups need to be included, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons.⁹</p>

⁷ S. S. Bloom (2015) An Information System for Gender-Based Violence Care and Support: Botswana *Measure Evaluation*

<https://www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/fs-15-145>

⁸ S. Rimmer (2017) Gender-smart Procurement Policies for Driving Change *Global Economy and Finance Department*

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/Gender-smart%20Procurement%20-%202020.12.2017.pdf>

⁹ Izugbara et al (2020). Regional legal and policy instruments for addressing LGBT exclusion in Africa. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338552456_Regional_legal_and_policy_instruments_for_addressing_LGBT_exclusion_in_Africa/

	<p>5.3. Demonstrates commitment through policy interventions, by the South African state, private sector and other key stakeholders to eliminate the impact of economic drivers of GBV;</p> <p>5.4. Strengthens child maintenance and related support systems to address the economic vulnerability of women</p>	
<p>PILLAR 6 Research and Information management</p>	<p>6.1. Improved and broadened understanding of the extent and nature of GBVF, in relation to specific groups and forms in Botswana;</p> <p>6.2. Allows the adoption of GBV policies and programming interventions that are informed by existing evidence-based research;</p> <p>6.3. Readily available information on GBVF across different government management information systems is used to address systemic challenges and facilitate effective solutions and responses.</p>	<p>As per Pillar 2 above. In addition, the UN Economic Commission for Africa Gender Centre (UNECA/AGC) commissioned desktop research on GBV data collection for Africa. This research found gaps in the data collected across many countries. However, most countries concede GBV as gross human rights violations.¹⁰ Thus, this should reflect in commitment, research capacity and coordinated responses that center survivors.</p>

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¹⁰J. H. Hancock (2018) Preventing Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Botswana *USAID*
<https://www.samrc.ac.za/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-11-09/ALIGHTSsituationAnalys.pdf>

