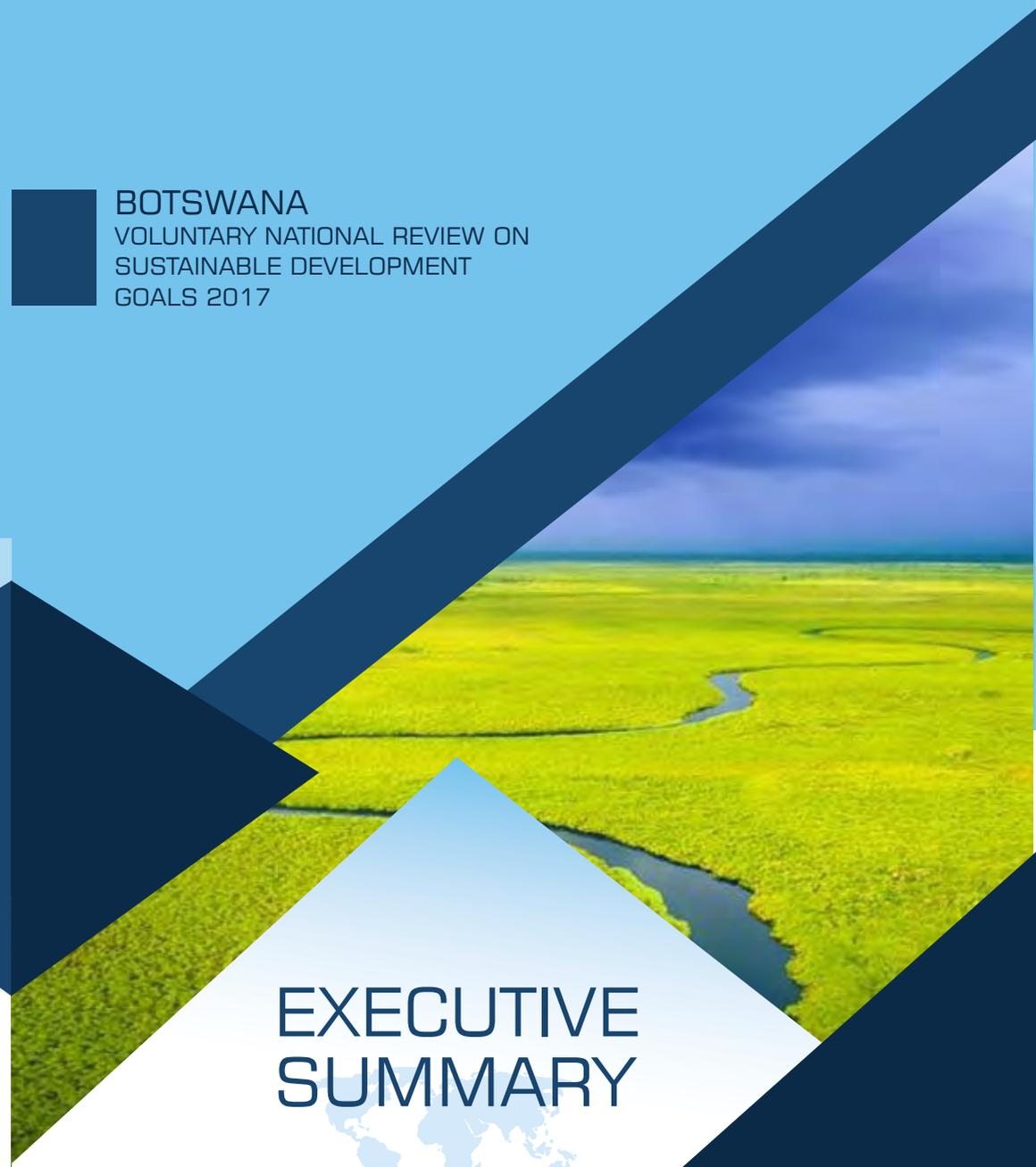


BOTSWANA
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS 2017



**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**





BOTSWANA'S DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Botswana's economy rose from being one of the poorest in the world at independence in 1966 to an upper-middle income status in the 1990s. This was due to the revenues earned from the discovery and sale of diamonds and the government's prudent management of mineral revenues. The focus of the country's development policies for the past five decades has centered on promoting economic and social development particularly rapid economic growth as well as social justice. These are much akin to the three dimensions of Sustainable Development and laid the foundation for a seamless transition to adopting the SDG agenda.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ROLL OUT OF SDGs IMPLEMENTATION

Botswana's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) roll out process began with a strong campaign to ensure ownership of SDGs at all levels. The 2030 Agenda has been promoted through awareness campaigns and several dialogue sessions undertaken jointly by the Government and UN agencies for Local Authorities, Civil Society, Academia and the Parliament. Botswana underwent a lengthy consultation process in the development of the country's national Vision 2036 (2017-2036), National Development Plan (NDP) 11 (2017-2023) – and the associated District and Urban Development Plans to ensure they were aligned to the SDGs. Institutional mechanisms were established for effective SDGs coordination. It was in this regard that the National Steering Committee (NSC) was formed to drive the SDGs agenda. Its membership is derived from Government, Private sector, Development Partners, Youth Groups, National

Assembly, Ntlo ya Dikgosi (formerly House of Chiefs), Civil Society Organizations, Trade Unions and other Non-State Actors. The NSC put together a National Roadmap to rollout the SDGs. The Roadmap sets out three areas of focus; (i) Coordination, Ownership and Leadership; (ii) Implementation, building on existing structures; and (iii) Data, progress tracking and reporting.

Simultaneous to the above, the country embarked on developing a sustainable development framework that will set out how the country will implement all its programmes using a sustainable development approach. The draft Framework provides a coherent and well-coordinated approach to the implementation of the SDGs. It identifies broad areas to be covered in the medium to long term.

The private sector, NGOs and the youth actively participated in all of the above activities and continue to play this active role. Nonetheless, greater efforts will be made to ensure the private sector become a stronger partner in SDGs implementation.

BOTSWANA'S EXPERIENCE IN ROLLING OUT SDGs RELATED TO POVERTY

The report describes the progress made in implementing SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 17, with a focus on poverty. Historically, head count poverty has always been very high in Botswana. According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) of 2002/03 and the Botswana Core Welfare Indicator Survey (BCWIS) of 2009/10, the national rate stood at 47 percent in 1993 and in 2002/3 it dropped to 30.6 percent and further decreased to 19.3 percent in 2009/10. The decrease from 47 percent (%) to 19.3 % in about 15 years is a great achievement. However, poverty eradication remains a priority for Botswana. The BCWIS survey indicated that in addition to the poverty levels of 19.3% in 2009/10, there was a segment of 6.4 % of the population that lived in extreme/abject poverty. Available survey data from both surveys show that poverty in Botswana has a rural bias i.e. in terms of intensity and levels.

Although poverty levels are still higher than those of its comparator upper-middle income countries, Botswana has made some significant progress in reducing poverty levels. This was achieved mainly through the provision of agricultural inputs subsidies to the rural sector. These subsidies are estimated to have contributed to about 47.5 percent of the actual poverty reduction that occurred. Consequently, the decrease in poverty levels was accompanied by decreases in inequality levels particularly in rural areas. This resulted in Botswana attaining a very high score of 4.9 percent in shared prosperity against a global medium of 3.9 percent.

Botswana has also made some progress in other SDGs that contribute to poverty eradication. In the area of ending hunger and increasing access to nutrition, the experience is mixed, with wasting and underweight situations having slightly improved between 1993 and 2007, while stunting has not changed during the same period. Notable progress has been made towards healthy lives and wellbeing where under-five and infant mortality fell from high of 63 and 48 respectively in 1991 to 27 and 17 per 1000 live births respectively in 2011. This is due in part to the country's extensive network of health infrastructure where 84 percent of the population live within 5km radius of the nearest health facility and a further 11 percent of population living within 5km to 8km radius, which translate into a total of 95 percent population within an 8km radius.

Botswana has also made significant progress with regards to women's participation and representation in leadership and decision making positions. There is substantial representation of women in decision making positions in the Public Sector at 44%, Parastatal 26.9%, Civil Society Organisations 45%, and Private Sector 21.3%. However, women's representation in Parliament stands at 6.3 percent which is way below the SADC recommended 30 percent. The country has also achieved gender parity at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

While the country has made significant progress towards improving its infrastructure, particularly in the road, water and sanitation sectors and has increased rural access to power and mobile telephone sectors, much remains to be done, especially in the ICT sector to facilitate modernizing e-service delivery to the remote areas of the country.

The government recognizes that pro-poor economic growth requires a significant amount of resources and multi stakeholder participation including private sector and civil society. To address this Botswana needs to create new and strategic partnerships for development financing.

LESSONS LEARNT

The review reveals that Botswana has made big policy strides through the harnessing of community and traditional leaders, opinion leaders, the media and political leaders to address some of the social challenges faced by the country. This approach has made community led interventions more effective, particularly in the area of gender based violence. Similarly, entrusting the coordination of poverty issues to the Office of the President

has given poverty the attention it deserves. This provides the platform and leadership that will enable the country to make even greater progress in poverty reduction, going forward.

A clear emerging issue from this review is that while fast economic growth is necessary, it is not sufficient in itself as demonstrated in the current levels of poverty and inadequate improvement of some health outcomes. The review has shown that while reasonable progress has been made in both economic growth and poverty reduction, maternal mortality rates and malnutrition levels have remained high. This runs counter to the expectation that these health parameters should respond by decreasing. Therefore, this aspect will require special attention.

The review has also shown that Botswana stands to benefit immensely from improved technology, particularly in the areas of Information Communication Technology (ICT), renewable energy and climate resilient practices.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA

In gearing up for the SDGs implementation process, Botswana has faced challenges of data availability. This is mainly because tracking of progress being made in the implementation of each target requires detailed data broken down into such details as gender, regions and social status of the population amongst others. To that end, base line data forms the core part of the commencement of the implementation process. Such data is not very readily available in Botswana and most of those that are available are not up-to-date. Indications emerging from the roll out process, therefore, suggest that a huge amount of resources will be needed to construct the required robust data base to inform implementation and track progress.

ENSURING NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

The progress above puts Botswana on a strong foundation to address poverty in all its forms. The country is now focusing on eliminating extreme poverty (6.4%) by the end of 2017, and in doing so it will "leave no one behind," especially the poorest of the country. This is why the theme of NDP 11 is "Inclusive growth and the realization of Sustainable Employment Creation and Poverty Eradication".

GOALS EMPHASIZED IN THE REVIEW

