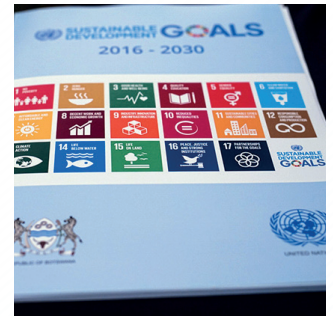




## His Honour Vice President Masisi launches SDGs Roadmap



The Government of Botswana in Partnership with United Nations Botswana and the University of Botswana officially launched the SDGs Roadmap in February 2018.

Speaking at the launch, Vice President Mokgweetsi Masisi said the roadmap is a strategic document that guides the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs within National

Development Plan 11 and beyond. He affirmed the need for national ownership and coordination of the goals through mainstreaming them into all programs. He further indicated that the roadmap recognizes the need for sustained advocacy, sensitization and awareness creation regarding the implementation of SDGs. This, he observed, would empower local commu-

nities and enhance their participation in the implementation process. He noted that a comprehensive national SDG communication strategy was being finalized to address these advocacy needs.

He also stressed the importance of setting up effective planning and coordinating structures for the successful implementation of the SDGs.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Jacinta Barrins, emphasized the need to bring all stakeholders on board including the private sector, research and learning institutions, NGOs and CSOs to create new partnerships around SDGs implementation. She further elaborated by saying, "Government's commitment is vital, but insufficient on its own". The Private sector, youth and NGOs committed on the day to being a partner in the implementation of SDGs.

### Resident Coordinators Office

UN Building, Government Enclave,  
Cnr Khama Crescent & President's Drive

Telephone: (+267) 363 3700  
Fax: (+267) 3956093

PO Box 54, Gaborone  
Botswana

United Nations in Botswana  
 @UN\_Botswana



# UN Women and De Beers Group in Partnership



## to implement a Programme on the 'Acceleration of Women-Owned Micro-Enterprises for Decent Work & Economic Security (AWOME)'

UN Women and De Beers Group are engaged in a three-year global partnership to implement a women's economic empowerment programme '**Acceleration of Women-Owned Micro-Enterprises for Decent Work and Economic Security (AWOME)**' in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. For Botswana, the programme targets selected women and communities in the Okavango Delta. The Programme supports the women-owned micro-enterprises to enhance their capacity to grow their businesses, increase their incomes and create decent jobs.

During the announcement of the AWOME Programme in Botswana at the W Summit in Gaborone, on the 9th November 2017, Bruce Cleaver, CEO, De Beers Group, said: "I am delighted to announce the programmes we will be imple-

menting in Botswana through our global partnership with UN Women. Advancing women's economic empowerment in one of the deprived areas of Botswana has the potential to make a real difference, not only for the women micro-entrepreneurs that participate in the programmes, but also for their families and communities through increased employment opportunities and skills development."

Anne Githuku-Shongwe, Representative, UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office, said "The selected areas in the Okavango Delta are socio-economically disadvantaged and women in these communities bear the greatest impact of this poverty, coupled by their multiple roles and responsibilities. Through this programme, we hope to create more viable, sustainable opportunities for women to improve their livelihoods

through enhanced economic empowerment."

Responding to SDG 1, 5 and 8 and 17, the AWOME Programme aims to contribute to the empowerment of women entrepreneurs at the micro-enterprise level and cooperatives by designing and piloting a context-responsive capacity building model that can be adapted and scaled up. The SDG's principle of leaving no one behind entails prioritizing human dignity and placing the progress of the most marginalized communities first.

The women micro-entrepreneurs are a group that could easily miss out in the conventional small business support programmes. In addition to ordinary challenges faced by entrepreneurs, women face gender related barriers that thwart their entrepreneurial potential. Often, women

micro-entrepreneurs are the bedrock of their household's livelihood and financial security as their businesses create employment for themselves and other members of their communities.

The AWOME Programme aims to contribute to long-lasting economic empowerment of women by developing knowledge products (in the form of training manuals and a capacity building model) that can be used across the countries and can be adapted for other target areas with minimal investment in adapting for context. Under this global partnership and within its normative mandate, UN Women will also carry out advocacy to strengthen the enabling environment for women entrepreneurs and decent work.

# Embrace children in political party manifestos - Masisi



Children are partners in today's decision-making processes, hence the need to include them in political party manifestos, said Vice President Mokgweetsi Masisi at the launch of Botswana Children's Month of Broadcasting (BCMB) which was held under the theme Botlhale jwa phala bo tswa phalaneng... countdown to 2019.

Vice President Masisi said it is important for political parties to create platforms for

dialogue to work with children to enable them to capture their views and perspectives. This, he said, would help parties to conceive policies that were relevant to children. He further said children are a special constituency and deserved respect and recognition, thus everyone in the society had a duty to ensure their safety and protection, adding that they must be included in decision-making as they had their own special way of thinking. "There is need to

prioritize children's issues by political parties ahead of the 2019 general elections. Children must be given the platform to engage with politicians, policy makers, media and academics to

elucidate their interest in their country's development," he said.



Speaking on behalf of the children, former chairperson of Children's Consultative Forum, Mr Cantona Bolokang (pictured above) said there was need for children to be included in decision-making and be given the platform to air their views. For her part, UNICEF

Representative, Ms Julianna Lindsey, said children are a critical component of the society that is capable of raising global awareness on policy issues. She emphasized the need for children to be given the platform to express themselves. "Children make 36

per cent of Botswana's population and this year they shall take it to the airwaves to talk about the issues they want to see in party political manifestos," she said.



"I acknowledge that the right investments have to be made in Botswana for us to tap into the potential and skills of young people. Our Return on Investment (ROI) isn't commensurate with the expectations we have for Botswana" said Vice President Mokgweetsi Masisi (pictured left) at the Demographic

Dividend (DD) Report launch in Gaborone. President Masisi said that; "the political will is in place to support the DD agenda, what is needed is the technocratic will & ability to deliver the political will."

In his address, he noted that unlike in other African countries, the demographic

transition in Botswana has happened, in that, Botswana has more people in the working age than in the dependent age groups of children and the elderly.



## Botswana's Demographic Transition has happened!



The report reveals that this gives Botswana a **temporary window** of opportunity to reap the demographic dividend. According to the **Opportunities and Policy Actions to Maximize the Demographic Dividend in Botswana** report, an overwhelming majority of Botswana's population is young people. "They are not only young but are also vulnerable, unskilled, insufficiently educated, energetic and willing to learn and work. Therefore, for us to seize the window of opportunity we must tap into our young

people's energy, talent and their innovation" he said. The report also states that like all other dividends, the demographic dividend is not automatic as such the right investments have to be made in education, empowerment and employment of Botswana's youthful population.

The DD report also shows that Botswana's youth remain dependent until the average age of 32. "We note that youth unemployment remains high, and that our economy is not producing jobs at a scale

necessary. Consequently, as the report states, our young people start contributing to the economy at older ages than generations before them. The Government of Botswana and its partners should act with urgency to implement interventions to take full advantage of the Demographic Dividend to achieve its development aspirations," said Masisi.

Vice President Masisi stated he is committed to giving young people a competitive edge, in Botswana's quest to become a

high-income country. The commitment to put the needs, rights and capabilities of young people at the center has been demonstrated by the African Union Commission where member states took a decision in January 2016 Assembly to establish the theme for 2017 as 'Harnessing the Demographic Dividend (DD) through Investments in Youth. The AU roadmap on DD was developed bearing in mind the urgent necessity to transform the potential of Africa's large youth population.



# LEARNING

TO REALIZE EDUCATION'S PROMISE

## World Bank Kicks off Discussion on Education, Learning and Skills

The World Bank's office in Botswana today convened development partners, private sector representatives, government officials, and education stakeholders to share and discuss the findings from the World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise.

The report highlights some alarming facts and warns of a learning crisis across the world. It states that, even after several years in school, millions of children are unable to read, write or do basic math. Without these skills, students around the world are being denied opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives while maximizing their contribution to national economic development.

Education remains one of the best investments that govern-

ment and citizens can make and helps countries develop the human capital that will end extreme poverty. Without quality education, developing countries will continue to fall behind as they face an acute shortage of essential skills.

Those attending the meeting also had the opportunity to consider the report's findings given the serious challenges facing Botswana's education sector. Botswana's secondary education system is presently generating too many graduates who do not possess the skills necessary to become productive members of Botswana's economy. According to the latest data, 34 percent (87,000) of Botswana's young graduates are presently unemployed. It is therefore critical that the Government of Botswana and other education stakeholders act swiftly to

improve the quality of learning taking place in Botswana's public schools to ensure the nation's future economic competitiveness.

"One of the ways in which Botswana can reap the demographic dividend is through the provision of quality education and learning," said **Xavier Furtado, World Bank Country Representative for Botswana.** "The World Bank is committed and ready to support reforms to the education sector so that Botswana can succeed in its transition to a knowledge-based economy and young Botswana have the skills necessary to lead successful and productive lives."

Relying on evidence gathered around the world, the report offers three policy recommendations:

**First, assess learning, so it can become a measurable goal.** Only half of all developing countries have metrics to measure learning at the end of primary and lower secondary school. Well-designed student assessments can help teachers guide students, improve system management, and focus society's attention on learning. These measures can inform national policy choices, track progress, and shine a spotlight on children who are being left behind.

**Second, make schools work for all children.** Level the playing field by reducing stunting and promoting brain development through early nutrition and stimulation so children start school ready to learn. Attract highly capable people into teaching and keep them motivated by tailoring teacher training that is reinforced by mentors. Deploy technologies that help teachers teach to the level of the student, and strengthen school management, including principals.

**Third, mobilize everyone who has a stake in learning.** Use information and metrics to mobilize citizens, increase accountability, and create political will for education reform. Involve stakeholders, including the business community, in all stages of education reform, from design to implementation.

"Education has the power to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity for all," said **Deon Filmer, World Bank Lead Economist and co-director of the report.** "The findings from the World Development Report may make for disheartening reading, but it is meant as a wake-up call; we know that change is possible when countries and their leaders make learning for all a national priority."



## UNDP Launches a Programme to Support SMEs in Botswana



On the 4th July 2018, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, (MITI) Ms. Peggy Serame (pictured left) launched the UNDP's Business Supplier Development Programme (SDP). The SDP seeks to develop the productive capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and improve their competitiveness to enable them to supply large-scale companies. In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary said the initiative comes at the right time when Government is upscaling effort to fight the challenges of unemployment, poverty and a less diversified economy.

The UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Jacinta Barrins emphasized UNDP's commitment to build resilient SMEs which will meaningfully

contribute to GDP and create jobs in Botswana. She further assured the Government and the private sector of UNDP's technical support. She explained that the SDP is part of the wider UNDP support to MITI around sustainable solutions to Botswana's economic challenges of high unemployment, poverty and an undiversified economy.

The SDP Project Manager, Ms. Tumi Mbaakanyi gave an overview of the SDP. She explained that qualified consultants will mentor SMEs over a 10 to 12 months period using a rigorous six-stage process. The initial roll-out of the programme will target 80 – 100 SMEs in the selected sectors and related value chains in mining, leather, textiles, agro-processing and infrastructure development

projects. The next steps will include the recruitment, training and certification of local consultants which will be followed by selection of beneficiary SMEs (suppliers) and identification of large-scale businesses (buyers) who are willing to buy the products from the SMEs.

Also speaking at the launch was Mr Charles Siwawa, the Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana Chamber of Mines. The Botswana Chamber of Mines will be a Coordinating Partner in the implementation of the SDP in the mining sector. Mr. Siwawa said that they are looking forward to the implementation of the SDP which will broaden the benefits to the SMEs.



# IOM supports migration management



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been providing technical support to the Government of Botswana on migration management, with the aim to build institutional, human and operational capacity. As part of the support, IOM has been

working with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, under the Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs to conduct training of trainers for frontline officials on the management of mixed and irregular migration.

The main aim of this capacity building was to equip participants with the skills to identify vulnerable migrants in mixed migration flows and refer them accordingly for protection assistance. This is in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10 - target 10.7, which calls upon all States to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies and programmes.

Trained trainers from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship have been very instrumental in rolling out the training to their colleagues and counterparts across the country. In addition, there have

been critical recommendations made at the various training workshops, which are currently being acted upon. Key amongst those is the recommendation to standardize the migrant screening and referral process. In line with this recommendation, IOM supported the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in the development of a Draft National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as part of the Standard Operating Procedures for use by frontline officials and service providers who interact with vulnerable migrants during their operations. The draft national referral mechanism is currently being piloted at 5 border sites; Tlokweng, Ramatlabama, Martins Drift, Ramokgwebana and Kazungula.



The University of Botswana (UB) School of Nursing, which has been a WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Development (WHOCC) since 1990, has been re-designated with expanded terms of reference (TOR) for another 4 years. The re-designation occurred after a WHO Africa Regional Office (AFRO) and HQ assessment team visited the centre in conjunction with the WHO country office. The team also held discussions with the Ministry of Health and Wellness in terms of

## WHO partners with UB

the centre's potential contribution to health and development in Botswana. The letter of re-designation was presented to the new UB Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris, by the WHO Representative Dr Martins Ovberedjo on behalf of the Regional Director Dr Matshidiso Moeti.

Dr Ovberedjo (above, left) handing over the Re-designation Certificate to Professor Norris. In his acceptance response, the Vice Chancellor expressed his appreciation for the re-designation of the UB School of Nursing as a WHOCC, describing the achievement as special recognition of the valuable work by the WHOCC and University of Botswana. He

said the centre deserved a special award from the university leadership as its achievement has contributed to the challenge and expectation on universities to have a direct impact on new knowledge development, evidence generation, people's lives and national development. He pledged full support to the centre and working relationship with WHO.

On his part, Dr Ovberedjo the WHO Representative (WR) congratulated Professor Norris for his appointment as the Vice Chancellor of Botswana's premier university and acknowledged the valuable contribution by the university, including resources commit-

ted by the University of Botswana, to enhance the tripartite partnership between UB, Ministry of Health and Wellness and the WHO on health development in Botswana. He suggested that perhaps the Chancellor could mobilize heads of other institutions of higher learning and rally them around health and development. He presented the Vice Chancellor with copies of key AFRO strategic documents. He concluded by saying that the re-designation of the Centre has a key role in the health development of the African region and that the implementation of the TOR will have a direct impact on the lives of communities.