



# VOLUNTARY SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW (VSR) ON THE LOCALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE **SDGS IN BOTSWANA-**

BOTSWANA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BALA)

**– MAY 2022.**



A report on the review of the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local level in Botswana, aiming to contribute to the 2022 Voluntary National Review of the Government of Botswana to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), and to strengthening BALA's advocacy work for the implementation of the SDGs at local level.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYMS	FULL TEXT
ARV	Anti Retroviral Therapy
BALA	Botswana Association of Local Authorities
BFTU	Botswana Federation of Trade Unions
BIH	Botswana Innovation Hub
BCPI	Botswana Center for Public Integrity
BONELA	Botswana Network of Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS
BOSASNET	Botswana Substance Abuse Support Network
BOTEC	Botswana Technology Centre
BDS	Botswana Demographic Survey
BIUST	
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DC	District Commissioner
DDP	District Development Plan
DHMT	District Health Management Team
EDD	Economic Diversification Drive
ERTP	Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HCI	Human Capital Index
HCT	HIV Counselling and Testing
HLCC	High Level Consultative Council
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
LAs	Local Authorities
LED	Local Economic Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MTHS	Multi Topic Household Survey
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDP	National Development Plan
NFSD	National Framework for Sustainable Development
NSC	National Steering Committee
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
S & CD	Social and Community Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMC	Safe Male Circumcision
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SONA	State of the Nation Address
TALD	Territorial Approach to Local Development

TB	Tuberculosis
TTF	Technical Task Force
UCLG	United Cities and Local Government
UCLGA	United Cities and Local Government Africa
UDP	Urban Development Plan
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
V36	VISION 2036
VSR	Voluntary Sub national Report
WUC	Water Utilities Corporation

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) is undertaking a review of the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Botswana. The aim of this report is to contribute to the Voluntary National Review that the Government of Botswana has committed to present to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in June 2022 and to strengthen BALA's advocacy work for the implementation of the SDGs at local level.

Botswana was part of the 193 Member States of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015.

The country was also one of the first 43 countries which undertook the Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on SDGs in 2017 (Botswana VNR 2017 ). During the first five years of Botswana's reporting, the country had prioritized the following six Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 17. In between reporting cycles, the country has been generating follow-up Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

In Botswana, at local authority level, the SDGs are supposed to be coordinated by the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA). The latter came into being in 1984, but only established a fully-fledged secretariat in 2008 with funding from the European Union. In 2012 the association became fully recognized by section (90) of the Local Government Act No. 18 of 2012. The purpose of the Association is to help create an enabling environment for the Local Authorities (LAs) to become a recognized partner of Central Government, the Civil Society and the Private Sector in the country's development process.

As reflected above, the Botswana Government has since 2017, been generating the country's VNR for submission to the UN HLPF on SDGs. LAs have only participated at the level of the VNR as part of the consultative process. The Botswana LAs will be generating a Voluntary Sub-National Report (VSR) for the first time in 2022.

### 1.1 COUNTRY CONTEXT

Botswana is approximately 581.730 Km<sup>2</sup>. It is a landlocked country which is prone to drought and water is a very scarce resource. The population is concentrated in the eastern part of the country where arable farming is feasible on account of better and more favourable climatic and soil conditions. As a result, this is where better infrastructure such as developed road networks and communication facilities are also found.

#### 1.1.1 Population Dynamics

In 2018, the United Nations estimated a population of 2,304,238 inhabitants ( ). The country has a relatively young population. The 2011 Population and Housing Census (PHC) results revealed that of the total population, the 0 -14 age group accounted for 32.5 percent, 15 to 64 age group for 62.8 percent and 4.7 percent for the elderly, being those 64 years and above.

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<sup>1</sup>[www.thecommonwealth.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/BOTSWANA\\_VNR-2017.pdf](http://www.thecommonwealth.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/BOTSWANA_VNR-2017.pdf)

The 2022 Population and Housing Census preliminary results show that the country has a total of 2, 346, 179 (Two million, three hundred and forty six thousand, one hundred and seventy nine) people, which is an increase of 15.9% from the 2011 census. The annual population growth rate between 2011 and 2022 is estimated at 1.4%. This indicates a decline from the 1.9% estimated in 2011.

The table below shows a comparison between the 2011 Population and Housing Census (PHC), the 2017 Botswana Demographic Survey (BDS), the 2020 projected population and the preliminary results of the 2022 Population and Housing Census. (Source: (Botswana Demographic Survey 2020 by Statistics Botswana and the 2020 Population and Housing Census

Population Distribution by Sex			
POPULATION	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
2011 Census	988 957	1 035 947	2 024 904
2017 BDS	1 034 578	1 120 285	2 154 863
2020 Projected	1 171 629	1 203 068	2 374 697
2022 Preliminary			2, 346, 179

Preliminary results – Statistics Botswana).

The table below shows that out of the 2020 estimated population of 2 374, 679, about 521,341 of the population was estimated to be residing in Cities and Towns, out of which 274,341 (52. 6 percent) was estimated to be residing in Gaborone City by the year 2020 while 117, 228 (22.5 percent) was estimated to be living in Francistown city. By 2020, Selibe-Phikwe population is projected to reach 58,532 and Lobatse population is projected to be 34,361. Jwaneng and Orapa populations are projected to reach 21,332 and 11,290 respectively, while Sowa Town is projected to increase by 0.8 percent to reach 4,262 in 2020.

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<sup>2</sup>  
[https://www.statsbots.org.bw/sites/default/files/publications/national\\_statisticsreport.pdf](https://www.statsbots.org.bw/sites/default/files/publications/national_statisticsreport.pdf)  
<sup>3</sup>  
<https://www.statsbots.org.bw/sites/default/files/2022%20Population%20and%20Housing%20Census%20%20Preliminary%20Results.pdf>

CITIES/TOWNS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGES	NUMBER	PERCENTAGES	NUMBER	PERCENTAGES
Gaborone	134 493	52.3	139 848	52.9	274 341	52.6
Francistown	56 983	22.2	60 245	22.8	117 228	22.5
Lobatse	16 755	6.5	17 607	6.7	34 361	6.6
Selebi-Phikwe	29 297	11.4	29 234	11.1	58 532	11.2
Orapa	5 604	2.2	5 686	2.2	11 290	2.2
Jwaneng	11 631	4.5	9 701	3.7	21 332	4.1
Sowa Town	2 322	0.9	1 940	0.7	4 262	0.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>257 087</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>264 260</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>521 347</b>	<b>100</b>

Cities/Towns and Villages Projections 2020 – Statistics Botswana

The table below shows a comparison of progressive population growth in cities/towns since 2001. (Source: 2022 Population and Housing Census Preliminary Results – Statistics Botswana)

Cities/Towns	Population Distribution			Population Distribution (%)		
	2001	2011	2022	2001	2011	2022
Gaborone	86 007	231 592	244 107	11.1%	11.4%	10.4%
Francistown	83 023	98 961	102 444	4.9%	4.9%	4.4%
Lobatse	29 689	29 007	29 457	1.8%	1.4%	1.3%
Selebi-Phikwe	49 849	49 411	41 839	3.0%	2.4%	1.8%
Orapa	9 151	9 531	8 614	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%
Jwaneng	15 179	18 008	18 576	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%
Sowa Town	2 879	3 598	2 901	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%

Population Distribution by Census District

The majority of the population choose to reside within the proximity of the Cities/Towns, where there is an economic activity with a promise of better prospects for employment and business, especially small business opportunities as well as access to education. This explains why Kweneng East, Serowe-Palapye, Central Mahalapye, Central Bobonong, Central Tutume, and Ngamiland East districts experience higher population rates. Most of those working in cities end up commuting from towns and villages within a 100 km radius of the city.

Most of those working in cities end up commuting from towns and villages within a 100 km radius of the city. A good example is that of Gaborone. The population explosion found in the Kweneng East district (villages there comprise of; Gabane, Kopong, Kumakwane, Metsimotlhabe, Mmankgodi, Mmopane, Mogoditshane, Ntsweletau, Thamaga), and the urban village of Molepolole, or those found in Kgatleng, Ngwaketse, South East districts, are commuters between the villages found in those districts and Gaborone. In the case of the villages of Serowe and Palapye, the Serowe-Palapye Sub District experienced positive intercensal growth between 2001 and 2011 of 0.9 and 3.3 percent respectively. As an emerging industrial growth area, Palapye recorded an overall growth of 39.0 percent compared to 9.2 percent for Serowe. (Cities/Towns and Villages Projections 2020 by Statistics Botswana )

The population trends reflected below indicate an exponential population growth of people living in LAs that are within proximity of major cities and towns. This translates into a lot of pressure exerted on those LAs who are required to provide services in areas that include but are not limited to; land, water, power, waste management, provision of education and health facilities etc. For LAs to be able to cope with and to address emerging service delivery pressures, going forward, the government should consider deliberately skewing resource allocations to the concerned LAs.

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<https://www.statsbots.org.bw/sites/default/files/Cities%2CTowns%20and%20Villages%20Projections%202020.pdf>



CITY/TOWN	VILLAGE NAME	2011 POPULATION	2022 POPULATION	GROWTH RATE %
GABORONE Population Trend - 2001: 86 007; 2011: 231 594; 2022: 244 107				
	Mogoditshane	58,079	88 098	4.0
	Tlokweng	37 364	55 278	3.8
	Mmopane	15 450	25 355	4.8
	Kopong	9 312	13 820	3.8
	Oodi	5 687	10 258	5.7
	Bokaa	5 680	9 143	4.6
	Modipane	3 298	7 983	8.7
	Ramotswa Station	4 250	6 294	3.8
	Morwa	3 643	5 009	3.0
FRANCISTOWN Population Trend – 2001: 83 023; 2011: 98 961; 2022: 244 107				
	Tati Siding	8 112	12 340	4.0
	Chadibe	4 939	7 404	3.9
	Shashe-Mooke	3 380	5 850	5.3
JWANENG Population Trend – 2001: 15 179; 2011: 18 008; 2022: 18576				
	Sese	2 721	6 802	9.0

*This table above shows the exponential population growth for some of the large villages surrounding cities and towns. (Source: 2022 population and housing census preliminary results v2 - e-mail: [info@statsbots.org.bw](mailto:info@statsbots.org.bw) website: <http://www.statsbots.org.bw>)*

### 1.1.2 Botswana's Geo-Political and Economic Trends

#### 1.1.2 Botswana's Geo-Political and Economic Trends

From the economic perspective, Botswana is considered a success story in Africa. Botswana has transformed from one of the poorest countries in the world at independence in 1966 to an upper middle-income economy, and has since developed a transformation agenda of becoming a high-income country by 2036 (Botswana's VISION 2036). Some of the factors contributing to these developments include but are not limited to; significant mineral (diamond) wealth, good governance, prudent economic management and a relatively small population (2.3 million).

However, Botswana still struggles with longstanding development challenges. The 2015/16 Multi-Topic Household Survey (MTHS) indicates that poverty and high levels of income inequality persist. It has been noted that though poverty (using the \$1.90/day measure) has

come down to approximately 16 percent, some 30 percent of the population remains just below the poverty line and thus vulnerable to a range of shocks. At the same time, Botswana's level of income inequality, while declining, remains one of the highest in the world, with a Gini coefficient of 0.52. Unemployment remains high, with youth unemployment posing a critical challenge. Addressing these challenges will require improving the quality of infrastructure (water and electricity), essential basic services (education, health, and social safety nets), as well as accelerating reforms to the business environment and effective support for entrepreneurship.

The Constitution of Botswana explains that the country is a unitary Republic and a multi-party parliamentary democracy. After attaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1966, the country adopted the Westminster form of representative government. This form of government is characterized by regular elections that are held every five years. The executive powers are vested in the President. The country has a bi-cameral Parliament made up of a National Assembly and Ntlo Ya Dikgosi (House of Chiefs). Fifty-seven of the sixty-three National Assembly members are directly elected by universal adult suffrage under the first-past-the-post ballot system from single-member constituencies. Thereafter, six members are then nominated by the President and subsequently endorsed by Parliament. The President and the Attorney General are ex-officio members of Parliament. The President appoints Ministers who compose Cabinet and these are sourced from amongst members of the National Assembly. The ministers then become political heads of ministries while permanent secretaries are appointed as administrative heads. Ntlo ya Dikgosi serves to provide an advisory role especially as regards traditional and cultural matters to Parliament.

Administratively, the country has a two-tier system of Government which is made up of the Central/National Government and local governments. However, there is no constitutional provision for local government in Botswana, and the main legislation is the Local Government Act of 2012. The Local Authorities (LAs) on the other hand have Council Chairpersons as the political head of Local Authorities in rural districts and Mayors as political heads in towns/cities. The Council Secretaries and Town Clerks are the administrative heads of rural and town councils respectively.

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) is charged with the provision of policy direction and guidance to Local Authorities (LAs). In Botswana, Local Government is made up of 16 administrative districts (ten rural and six urban). Under these, there are 23 sub-districts and these include four administrative authorities. Governance at the local level also recognizes a traditional system whereby villages are headed by a Kgosi (chief). This traditional system works cooperatively with other district institutions.

At local level, each locality has a District Commissioner (DC), who is the senior representative of the National Government in that district. The District Commissioner coordinates development activities at district level and also chairs the district/urban development committee. The latter is a planning body at local government. (Source: Republic of Botswana – The Local Government System in Botswana, Country Profile 2017 – 2018)

Currently, the constitution is undergoing a national review. This follows the appointment of a Presidential Commission of Enquiry on the Review of the Constitution earlier in the year (2022). The Commission is currently touring the country consulting the population and seeking them to contribute their views in shaping the next Constitution. The Commission is expected to submit a report that will contain their findings and the recommendations of the people, to the President in September 2022.

## 2. METHODOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the VSR is to review and establish a framework for the localization of SDGs at the local government level. The methodology followed the literature review and a survey incorporating various approaches, both qualitative and quantitative, through the following actions:

- a) The exercise commenced with the review of the literature on the localisation of the SDGs so as to ascertain the understanding and appreciation of the SDGs agenda in the country
- b) The survey tools, both qualitative and quantitative were developed
- c) A validation meeting with the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the VSR development was conducted
- d) There was also a virtual meeting held with the TWG
- e) Development and administration of both qualitative and quantitative tools for data collection focused on the following;
  - o On-line questionnaire (being the Survey Monkey)
  - o Questionnaire administered by BALA through Electronic Mail
  - o Workshop with CSO representatives
  - o Virtual Workshops

Virtual consultations include the National Executive Committee of BALA and the Association's Local Economic Development (LED) Commission. Representatives of the District Development Committee (DDC), from Kgatleng District were also consulted virtually. The latter structure is comprised of various partners at district level that include Government, Private Sector, and Civil Society. A group of ten CSOs representatives were physically interacted with. Interview tools were developed, one that served as a qualitative and another as a quantitative survey tool. The qualitative survey tool was sent to Council Planners. The quantitative tool (through a Survey Monkey application) was addressed to LAs staff and some stakeholders. Online discussions were also conducted. These were meant to assist respondents in better understanding the interview tools.

As a way of supporting the process, the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD), in collaboration with the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) ran two workshops, the first on the 8th February and the second on the 6th May 2022. The purpose of these workshops were to avail the opportunity for the exchange of experiences and knowledge between local government associations' representatives and field experts that are engaged in the preparation of VSRs in 2022, in 10 countries: Argentina, Botswana, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Italy, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Uruguay.

It will be noted that the process of data collection has been highly constrained. A total of 23 people from three LAs, Chobe and Kgatleng Districts Councils, as well as the Jwaneng Town

Council responded to the qualitative survey tool, whilst 192 people accessed the electronic quantitative tool, but only 19 people out of the 192 responded to the tool.

The main deliverables were divided between the BALA Secretariat staff administering the survey tools to all respondents and a group of consultants collating the responses and analysing them. The consultants also identified, reviewed, and analysed the literature on

SDGs implementation materials and data. The consultants further reviewed the development trajectory of the country, as well as the current decentralization literature. Constrained budget allocation limited part of the exercise. Proposed meetings with national institutions and partners were not conducted.

### 3. POLICIES AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGS

#### 3.1 National Strategies for the Implementation and localization of the SDGs

As mentioned in the introduction, and just like with the MDGs and Botswana's Vision 2016, the process of adopting the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs happened at approximately the same time that Botswana was crafting the country's Vision 2036 (V36), National Development Plan 11 (NDP 11), District Development Plans 8 (DDP 8), 4th Urban Development Plan (UDP4) as well as the draft National Framework for Sustainable Development (NFSD). As a result, all these national development plans took into consideration the newly introduced UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

After the adoption of the 2030 agenda and the associated 17 SDGs, awareness campaigns and several dialogue sessions were undertaken by the government in collaboration with United Nations Development system in Botswana and other relevant stakeholders including Local Authorities (LAs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Academic and Research institutions, Parliament, media, private sector and the youth. As part of the domestication process, and to facilitate tracking of implementation of SDGs in the country, the SDGs indicators have been localized to Botswana's context. (Source: Botswana Domesticated Sustainable Development Goals Indicators by Statistics Botswana and UNFPA – December 2018).

The Botswana's appropriate institutional framework put in place to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of SDGs comprises of the SDG National Steering Committee (NSC); the SDGs National Secretariat based within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED) and the SDGs Technical Task Force (SDG TTF). (Source: Botswana SDGs Roadmap 2017 to 2023 – A Guide to Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals – Botswana Government and United Nations). It is under this framework that the SDGs roadmap has been designed to guide implementation of the 2030 Agenda at both national and local levels.

#### 3.2 VISION 2036 ( )

Vision 2036 (2016 – 2036) is a transformational agenda that defines the aspirations and goals of Botswana. It is a national dream that projects the aspirations of the country in its developmental journey. The vision is an embodiment of hope that looks into the future for transforming Botswana into a nation that delivers services to all Batswana, ensuring that no one is left behind. Through its four transformative pillars of; PILLAR 1: Sustainable Economic Development; PILLAR 2: Human and Social, Development; PILLAR 3: Sustainable

Environment, and PILLAR 4: Governance, Peace and Security, Vision 2036 also seeks to transform Botswana from an upper middle-income country to a high-income country by 2036 and sets out a compelling vision of what the future of Botswana will look like. It follows, and builds on Vision 2016, Botswana's first national vision of 2000 to 2016.

Under Pillar 4; Governance, Peace and Security, decentralization was identified as a key ingredient for better service delivery to the local communities.

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<https://vision2036.org.bw/>

Vision 2036 notes that decentralisation promotes participatory development, and local level institutions are important vehicles for delivering on the country's perceived bottom-up development planning as well as charting a development route that ought to be community driven. Through decentralised structures, services are moved closer to the people while simultaneously ensuring that the people's voices and concerns are channelled through the political representation at local level.

Botswana's strategic and national planning documents include but are not limited to Vision 2036 and National Development Plan 11 (2017-2023), which give recognition to the important role played by LAs in the country's development trajectory. Vision 2036 spells out how it perceived the role of LAs in Botswana's transformation agenda. National Development Plan (NDP) 11 has identified Local Authorities as key grassroots implementers of local community development. NDP 11 focuses on six broad-based national priorities of: Developing Diversified Sources of Economic Growth; Human Capital Development; Social Development; Sustainable Use of Natural Resources; Consolidation of Good Governance and Strengthening of National Security. There is also the implementation of an effective monitoring and evaluation system.

In September 2020, to face the impact of COVID 19, the Parliament of Botswana approved a government developed Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP). This ERTTP, which is an addendum to the Mid-Term Review of the NDP 11, followed the adoption of the COVID-19 economic relief package. The ERTTP is designed to strengthen COVID-19 pandemic relief while strengthening resilience to future shocks.

The reality on the ground is that though the national vision (Vision 2036) seeks to project where the desired destination is for the country, there are still gaps that are noted in the development path. It is difficult for example, to be able to disaggregate data that speaks to the contribution of the LAs in issues of national interest. A national survey was conducted when the country was transitioning from Vision 2016 to Vision 2036. The purpose was to establish the impact made and the challenges encountered during the implementation of Vision 2016. The results showed that there was no disaggregated data for the Local Authorities (LAs) (sub national government levels). As a result, the national picture depicts the average of the data from the 16 LAs as the data that feeds into the national aggregate.

It was recommended that going forward it is important that Statistics Botswana and Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA), being the voice of organized local government, should liaise and develop a framework that will aptly capture data that is specific to the role of LAs. There is therefore a need for a system that will have a robust research and documentation component to address some of these glaring gaps.

The challenge though is that there is need for a ramped-up impetus on implementation. This is so because even though there are structures set up at national level, there is still a gap in terms of public education and mobilization of various sectors to incorporate the SDGs in their planning, resource allocation for implementation and performance assessment.

In its quest for effective implementation of the SDGs, the country chose to periodically prioritize a certain number of SDGs in each of the reporting cycles. During 2017 reporting cycle, the country decided on the following SDGs; SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 9, and SDG 17. In the reporting process in 2022, the country is prioritizing SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17. Being a landlocked country, SDG 14 focuses mainly on rivers and their basins.

“The decentralization of power, decision making, resource mobilization and service delivery will underpin our governance system. We will promote active participation of LAs in driving development in their respective localities through legal and constitutional reforms. Our LAs will be empowered through devolution of political and administrative powers to make decisions, mobilize own resources, promote local economic development, and partner with other development actors such as the private sector and civil society in delivering quality services to their communities.”

(Source: Page 38 of 53 Paragraph 2 under Decentralization – Vision 2036)

### 3.3 National Localization Strategies

As an extended arm of government, Local Authorities (LAs) are charged with the provision of service delivery at the community level. The remit of the Central Government is to develop policies and guidelines that will inform localization in Botswana. It is also the responsibility of the Central Government to mobilize and avail resources to LAs for them to implement their programmes and projects.

The LAs are multifunctional in nature, as they carry out delegated responsibilities from various sectors to achieve efficient service delivery at the local level. Their mandates include rural development; tribal administration; community development; local economic development; physical and development planning; development of primary infrastructure and provision of social services. LAs drive the national aspiration to uplift the standard of living of the population. This is carried out through strengthening local decision-making processes all aimed at ensuring the provision of quality services. Government, through the MLGRD, contributes to the efficient operation of LAs through policy direction, administrative support services, financial resources, capacity building and supervision, including the provision of basic physical and social infrastructure.

National development plans are the country's long-term development strategies that are translated into implementable programmes and projects on a periodic basis. At the national level, these are realized through government annual planning processes. Annual budget speeches give guidance and direction on the nature and magnitude of programmes to be implemented, as well as the resources required thereof.

At the Local Authorities level, the District and Urban Development Plans (DDPs and UDPs) are the planning documents that determine the implementation of programmes, projects and the related budget. The bottom-up planning process that the country has adopted, ensures that the DDPs and the UDPs inform the content of the national development plans. These planning documents provide an enabling environment for the incorporation and localization of SDGs.



*“The main development framework through which Botswana has domesticated and mainstreamed the SDGs: NDP 11, DDP 8, UDP 4, national vision 2036 and national strategy for sustainable development framework.*

*(Source: Botswana SDGs Roadmap –*

*A Guide to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals – page 12)*

However, it is also to be noted that gaps are noticeable in the implementation of the SDGs and other global agendas at local level. The area of SDGs implementation is essential and it requires urgent support (technical, finance, human capital and operational), so as to ensure that the LAs play a meaningful role in the development space.

It is also worth noting that the challenges of COVID-19 crisis have in essence shown that where LAs were involved in the mitigation measures for COVID 19, their efforts were more impactful, easily accessible as well as being welcomed and accepted by communities. These developments point to Decentralization as a potential effective vehicle for service delivery. Coupled with this is the Local Economic Development (LED), impetus that is focussed on territorially based resources, inclusivity and accessibility all backed by the availability of local data.

### **3.4 National coordination mechanisms for SDGs implementation and localization**

Botswana recognizes the several lines of accountability, being the vertical approach that moves from local to national, then global and horizontally, which move across different sectors and actors located at national, sub-national and community levels. The framework is also expected to create momentum for public awareness, attend to possible sectoral policy trade-offs and equally create ownership of the SDGs at both country and community level.

The Botswana SDGs institutional structure reflects political will, strong leadership to drive implementation and the well thought out yardsticks to constantly monitor and evaluate the country's progress, as can be noted by the inclusion of Cabinet, Parliament and the Traditional Advisory Body (Ntlo Ya Dikgosi/House of Chiefs), at the apex of the SDGs institutional structure. These are followed by the following:

#### **3.4.1 SDG National Steering Committee – (NSC)**

This committee was set up to drive the 2030 Agenda at the policy level in the country. It is co-chaired by the Secretary for Economic and Financial Policy in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the United Nations Coordinator of the United Nations Development System. Membership is comprised of Central government (through sector ministries and departments), Civil Society, UN Agencies, Bilateral and Multi-Lateral Partners, Youth and Women's organizations, the Private Sector, Media, Academic and Research Institutions.

#### **3.4.2 SDGs National Secretariat –**

This is established by the MFED to support the Ministry and the NSC in the implementation and oversight responsibility of the SDGs. It is housed in the MFED's Population and Development Coordination Section and headed by a Director assisted by two Chief Economists.

#### **3.4.3 SDGs Technical Working Group - (TWG)**

Established by the NSC to perform technical level functions in support of the implementation of the SDGs, as may be deemed necessary by the NSC. The membership is multi-sectoral, drawn from government at the national and sub-national levels including LAs, CSOs, Private Sector, Youth and Women organizations, Academic and Research Institutions, UN Agencies and other Development Partners. This is a structure where the BALA Secretariat also sits. The purpose of the TWG is to validate reports sourced from government structures tracking SDGs implementation.

Amongst the above, there are smaller Technical Working Groups (TWGs) who are assigned specific SDGs to lead on their implementation. These Technical Working Groups (TWGs) are meant to operationalize all government programming throughout the economy in order to facilitate implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. (Botswana SDGs Roadmap ... A Guide to Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2017 – 2023).

#### **3.4.4 Botswana SDG Structure at local level to localize the SDGs**

The existing structures at sub-national level are used, in principle, to ensure that everyone is involved in the implementation of the SDGs. Kgotla (traditional meeting place) is used for community consultations, with the key focus being to educate people and involve them in the planning process. Emphasis is put on striking a balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environment) in the midst of coming up with infrastructure projects and social programmes.

Community participation at local level is assured through structures such as village development committees (rural)/ward development committees (urban), village health teams, village extension teams, farmers associations, parents and teachers associations, as well as community-based organizations. These were set up to ensure that communities play a vital role in the development of their villages, towns and cities in the areas such as health, education and overall development within their localities. All these sub-structures are bringing different aspects of the different SDG priorities to the District Development Committees (DDCs) and Urban Development Committees (UDCs). The expectation is that these plans should cover all SDG priority areas from the given locality. It is yet to be determined if this is the case.

At the district level, DDCs and UDCs play an overarching role in the development of the district. These are the committees where all sectors or sub-structures converge for effective implementation of programmes. The sub-structures include, health planning committee, education planning committee, district extension team, district economic development committee, district land-use planning committee, district multi-sectoral AIDS committee, project management committee, district disaster management committee and technical advisory committee on community based natural resource management. Elements of the three dimensions of sustainable development are embodied in these committees. The structures are also in place at sub-district level.

Projects and programmes implementation and monitoring is reported through these structures on monthly or quarterly periods and elevated all the way to the political representatives at sub council through to full council meetings. Communities get feedback through political representatives or programme implementers to ensure they are kept abreast of the issues, hence “No One is Left Behind.” The information is transmitted nationally through the MLGRD.

As underlined below in section 4.1, the answer to the BALA survey based on a limited sample of LAs, underline that 37% of respondents said that they have never been involved in the national coordination mechanisms and 31% said they were involved (“more or less”). At the same time, 44% acknowledged “ad hoc” participation in coordination mechanisms for the SDGs and only 18.5% participate regularly in these mechanisms.

### **3.5 Botswana: National Spatial Plan 2036 (NSP)**

The National Spatial Plan (NSP) is a framework and strategy to influence the distribution of people and activities over Botswana’s territory over a twenty year period by guiding spatial development and investment decisions. Since NSP will be implemented at local level, it is anticipated that the plan’s rollout will invariably benefit the SDGs localisation process.

## 4. ENABLING INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR LAs TO LOCALIZE THE SDGs

### 4.1 Decentralization

Even though LAs are not recognized by the country's constitution, the enactment of the Local Government Act No. 18 of 2012 by Parliament gives formal recognition and endorsement to their existence.

According to Vision 2036, Decentralization promotes participatory development, and local level institutions are important vehicles of bottom-up development planning and community driven development. Through decentralization, services are taken closer to the people on one hand, while their voice is heard through local level political representation on the other.

In Botswana, Local Councils were established in 1966; District Administration in 1965 and Land Boards in 1970. Tribal Administration which was an adaptation of the traditional chieftainship system that predates the colonial era, has been in operation since the existence of the communities, thus making the country one of the oldest continuous local government systems in Africa. Tribal administration being the oldest local government institution in Botswana, has progressively been reformed. This was realized by transferring some of its responsibilities to democratically elected Councils and specialized state agencies like Land Boards. The country's socio-cultural and political history and its constitutionally defined two-tier government system, requires that the exercise of power and authority for governance and service delivery be shared across the central government and local authorities.

Of note should be the fact that independent Botswana was formed from tribal territories that were self-governing prior to the formation of the British Protectorate (initially named Bechuanaland). Both decentralization and local governance have been integral and key components of Botswana's democratization and economic transformation processes predating colonial period. The post-independence government inherited self-administering local government structures.

In 2016, the Government started the process of decentralizing the LAs. Currently, countrywide consultations are ongoing to seek the views and input from the local population, in particular through their representatives at local authority level. Much of the groundwork in the consultation process has been covered. It is anticipated that once Cabinet and later Parliament approve the Decentralization Policy (which is in draft form), the roll out process to decentralize the Local Authorities will commence. It is believed that the decentralization exercise will result in empowering local structures through devolution of political and administrative powers to make decisions, mobilize own resources, promote local economic development, and partner with other development actors such as the private sector and civil society in delivering quality services to their communities, and in the process, "Leaving No One Behind."

At the same time, the national government is promoting Local Economic Development (LED) to play a pivotal role in the country's adoption of the Territorial Approach to Local Development (TALD), through LAs embracing an approach to promoting indigenous, integrated, multi-scalar, and incremental local development. The LED has been identified as key to attracting the Private Sector and other non-state actors to create Public Private Partnerships and to collaborate with LAs to enable them to deliver on their mandate to their communities, namely: primary education; health care; the supply of water to rural areas; local development; and road maintenance.

"Mr. Speaker, Government continues to build capacity of the districts to effectively implement the Local Economic Development (LED) Framework and Implementation Plan for Botswana. The LED process was piloted in four administrative districts of Chobe, Francistown, Kgalagadi and Sowa Town since 2014. These pilot districts embarked on the identification of upstream and downstream businesses and bankable business plans, including fish farming in Chobe, small stock in Kgalagadi, waste management project in Francistown, and eco-tourism project in Sowa Town. During the coming Financial Year, the focus will be on up-scaling, deepening and rolling out the LED process to other districts to empower local governments to engage the business sector to avoid expenditure leaks and retain cash in their localities, thereby creating more job opportunities."

2020 BUDGET SPEECH By: Honourable Dr. Thapelo Matsheka - Minister of Finance and Economic Development. Speech delivered to the National Assembly on 3rd February 2020  
Website: [www.finance.gov.bw](http://www.finance.gov.bw)

The quest for participatory democratic governance, as well as inclusive diversified and equitable economic development, and enhanced service delivery are the key motivation for government to formulate the Decentralization Policy. This is coupled by calls from the citizens complaining of constrained service delivery. These developments are as a result of the vastness of the country and a sparse population with services concentrated at the district headquarters and decision making executed at the Central Government level. In this context, it is believed that decentralization, especially through devolution of authority, will give power for decision making directly to the LAs. It has always been the priority of the Government of Botswana to empower citizens, to not only elect their representatives, but to also monitor performance on services that the local leaders were elected to deliver to them.

The Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) explores the rationale for decentralization and argues that the concept is “driven by the need for efficient and effective service delivery”. Equally, “decentralization enhances community participation in development processes” and that “decentralization is the shift in administrative, financial and political authority from the centre to the periphery” (M. Keaja in a paper presented at BALA 16th National Conference 20-22 January 2015).

#### **4.2 Local Government Structure**

At local level, majority of councillors are elected simultaneously with the National Assembly representatives. For example, during the 2014 general elections, out of 609 councillors, 490 were elected democratically for a five-year period, while 119 councillors were nominated by the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development. In 2014, there were 490 council wards in Botswana. The smallest council had seven wards, while the largest had 140.

In the event of a vacancy for a councillor either through resignation, death or other causes, a bye election is held and the newly elected councillor will complete the remainder of the five-year mandate. This is also applicable to the term of office for the Members of Parliament. As for the President, the Constitution provides for automatic succession of the Vice President in the event of a vacancy in the office of the President. Council chairpersons and mayors are elected among the councillors (elected or specially nominated). They hold their positions for a period of two and a half years, whereupon new elections are held in chambers to either retain the incumbents or elect new people to head the councils for the remaining half of the term mandate. The latest local elections were held in 2019.

Women and men are free to stand for elections, starting at party level or as independent candidates. The trend though has been that men are the ones that dominate the political play field though there are some women who have been taking part in local politics and have even held positions of Council Chairperson or Mayor. Following the 2014 local government elections, 18.1% (110/609) councillors were women, of which 63 were elected and 47 nominated. This is down from 23.1% (139/603) following the 2009 elections and 19.6% (116/591) following the 2004 elections. Also following the 2014 elections, 18.8% (3/16) mayors/chairpersons were women, which is up from 6.3% (1/16) after the 2009 elections and back to the level of the 2004 elections. (Source: Botswana Country Profile 2017/18)

#### **4.3 Structure of Councils**

As highlighted above, local government comprises two types of local administration, being ten rural and six urban districts (four town councils, two city councils). There are 23 sub-districts and four administrative authorities. In 2009 the sub-council fora were established, and these include sub-districts and administrative authorities. These are empowered to make decisions

on development issues, save for the following: raising of local revenue, engaging in international relations and formulation of bye-laws and guidelines. These responsibilities remain the preserve of the district headquarters.

It is provided that every council with sub-districts may constitute up to two committees of any nature at all levels, whereas a council without sub-districts may constitute up to seven committees. As the country is vast and the population spread out, councils can establish service centres to bring services closer to the people (Source: Botswana Country Profile 2017/18).

#### 4.4 Urban and District Councils

The councils are composed of elected and nominated members, with the district commissioner as an ex-officio member. In the case of district councils, Kgosi and land board chairpersons are also ex-officio members. Councils are accountable to the electorate, and have both authority to take decisions within their localities and discretion to allocate resources within their area of jurisdiction. It is worth noting that district (rural) and urban councils perform statutory functions under the Local Government District Council Act. These Acts are further complemented by other relevant Acts including the Local Authority Procurement and Assets Disposal Act of 2008, the Public Service Act of 2008 and the Town and Regional Planning Act of 2013 (Ibid).

The main statutory functions of councils include the provision of five key services, namely:

- i) **Primary education:** where the central government develops primary schools while the respective councils run and maintain the institutions.
- ii) **Health care;** equally, the development of clinics and health posts is the responsibility of the central government while the councils have been in charge of their administration maintenance. The two responsibilities above have been given to the central government to administer during the last administration, but there has since been loud calls from the population, especially owing to the perceived constrained performance in delivery of services by the central government, to hand them back to the LAs.
- iii) **The supply of water to rural areas:** this responsibility has been for a long time accorded the councils in collaboration with the department of Water Affairs. It was only during the last few years that the role was hived off to a Government Parastatal-Water Utilities Cooperation (WUC).
- iv) **Local development** now crafted Local Economic Development (LED), is a development concept that has since been approved by Cabinet. The development approach seeks to take advantage of local resources available in the jurisdiction of different councils (Territorial Approach to Local Development - TALD) to promote the utilization of the noted resources (be it beef, minerals, tourism, cultural initiatives etc,) to assist a particular district to develop. Initiation of partnerships with the likes of the private sector is highly encouraged.
- v) **Road and local infrastructure maintenance:** the maintenance of internal roads and related infrastructure is the responsibility of councils within the villages and towns where councils have a mandate.
- vi) The responsibilities of the councils have since expanded to include inter alia, **waste management and street cleaning:** councils are responsible for waste disposal and maintenance of cleanliness in the streets of towns and villages. Where the councils cannot execute the duties themselves, they sub-contract the private sector to do it on their behalf. Councils also rely on engaging the services of the Self-Help Volunteers.

These people (known locally as Ipelegeng volunteers) are people who assist the councils to clean the streets in both towns and villages and are given food rations daily while on duty and a minimal allowance monthly.



- vii) **Urban and land planning:** Various councils have employed economic and physical planners through-out the country. The latter are responsible for the planning of both rural and urban infrastructure development projects that include the development of residential, industrial and business land parcels. The land boards allocate land whose planning and demarcation was done by planners employed by councils.
- viii) **Environment protection, cultural activities:** the protection of the environment and the promotion of cultural activities is also a responsibility undertaken by councils. There are some bye-laws developed to promote the management of the same, and in councils that house tourism activities, some of the cultural initiatives such as the development of souvenirs, beads, baskets etc have been converted into economic and income earning ventures.

#### 4.5 Tribal Administration

Botswana's institution of traditional village leadership has both a traditional and a development remit. The institution serves to support rural development initiatives, in particular those at the community level. It comprises two units being the judicial which is led by the Kgosi and the administrative, which is headed by the tribal secretary. The relationship is such that the traditional system of village leadership works cooperatively with councils. Each village is headed by a chief, or Kgosi, who is an ex-officio member of the district council in their area of jurisdiction. In addition to the working arrangement described above, the tribal administration system is also supported by a traditional arbitration forum now known as the Customary Court of Appeal, and by the Ntlo ya Dikgosi (House of Chiefs). The mandate of the latter is primarily to advise government on socio-economic and cultural matters.

Governance at the local level is sub-divided into three local structures: the district (rural) and urban councils, land boards and traditional administrations based on a traditional system of villages headed by a Kgosi (Chief). The Township Act provides for the regulation of cities and townships. The Kgotla (assemblies of tribes) is considered a sacred place where meetings are held convened by the Kgosi, and it functions as an immediate public platform that allows members of the community to raise their concerns, while also informing the community about public policies and local level targeted development plans.

*Kgotla is a public meeting, community council, or traditional law court of a Botswana village. It is usually headed by the village chief or headman, and community decisions are always arrived at by consensus. Headmen usually work as the advisers to the chief. No one may interrupt while another is having their say. Because of this tradition, Botswana claims to be one of the world's oldest democracies. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kgotla>*

One of the key duties of the traditional administration is being tasked with the responsibility of linking central government with the local community by providing a channel of communication through the di-Kgotla. The di-Kgotla (more than one Kgotla) are headed by Chiefs whose primary responsibility includes calling meetings to the Kgotla. The second key function of the traditional administration, under the responsibility of the chiefs and within the framework of these same meetings, consists of the settlement of customary court cases as well as dialogue and discussion of ideas meant for the development of the villages. The current Constitution

also mandates eight of the Chiefs, who are designated as leading eight principal tribes, to also hold office as substantive members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi (House of Chiefs). The latter is a consultative institution that advises the National Assembly, but with no executive nor veto powers, in issues that require executive decisions. (Source: Botswana Country Profile 2017/18)

#### 4.6 Land boards

Land boards are corporate bodies responsible for land administration. They are accorded the responsibility of holding the tribal land in trust or on behalf of the citizen population for the purpose of promoting social and economic development. During their early days of establishment, the land boards were accountable to district councils. This dispensation however changed over time, especially after the last amendment of the legislation establishing the same, and the land boards now report directly to the Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services. Each of the 12 main land boards has between eight and sixteen members who are appointed by the minister, including the chairperson. The land boards were set up through the Tribal Land Act of 1968, which was amended both in 1984 and 1993. The Act further provides for cooperation with the district council in formulating policy. The establishment of subordinate land boards in 1973 was a response to the increasing responsibilities of land boards. The 12 land boards in rural areas across the country are further divided into 39 sub land boards. (Ibid).

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development also appoints district administrations with a mandate to fulfil certain local government functions. The District Commissioner (DC) used to be appointed by and would report to the Ministry of Local Government and heads the district administration. The new dispensation is that the DC is appointed by the Permanent Secretary to the President and reports to the Office of the President (OP).



#### 4.7 The Financing of District and Urban Councils

The available data on the expenditure of local government by functions of government is minimal. Generally, expenditure priorities include construction and maintenance of primary schools and college facilities, teachers' salaries, customary courts, rural administrative centres, and recreational parks.

Local authorities in Botswana have the statutory power to collect fees and levies to cover operating expenditure, although local governments remain heavily reliant on funds disbursements from the central government. Depending on the council size and location, operational costs, including maintenance spending, are financed through the revenue support grant. The latter provide financing of up to 75 percent of priorities while own generated revenue amounts to 25 percent on average.

On tax revenue, it is noted that since 2012, property tax and business tax are applicable in both urban and district (rural) councils. In Botswana, property tax assessment is carried out by the central government while the local authorities are in charge of their collection. They (local authorities), however face major challenges regarding the administration of revenue collection. Levels of property and business tax collected are unknown as tax collected are not captured or monitored (Source: Botswana Country Profile 2017/18).

On grants and subsidies, it will be noted that there are three types of transfers that Local Governments receive from Central Government. The first is the Revenue Support Grant. This is a subsidy to offset the expense of the responsibilities which the LAs are responsible for. It is a formula-based grant which was introduced in 1994. At the time of its introduction, it took into account local government's population size, distance from the administrative capital, and surface area for its distribution. By 1997, the formula expanded to include capital investment, the mobilisation of local revenues, and local government's operating costs.

The second type of financial transfer is a local government loan system known as the Public Debt Service Fund (PDSF). The PDSF was established in 1973 and serves as a source of funds to service public debt. The third type of transfer is administered through an equipment (capital) grant. In this case, the National Government provides an average of 90% and 80% of district and urban councils' recurrent budgets, and 100% of their capital budgets. Botswana's domestic government revenues are largely generated by mining and national taxes, which are the primary source of revenues that are then transferred to local governments.

Provision for other revenues sees the Local Government in Botswana being able to levy tariffs and fees for the services they provide (e.g. leasing of government boreholes in farming communities) or licenses that are issued (e.g. boat registration and licenses in areas where tourism activities are operated). The Local Authorities also serve to collect revenue from customary court fines. Other sources of local tax revenue include rates, service levies and user charges such as trade licenses, alcohol levy, interest on investments and housing rentals. The experience of Local Authorities over time is that funds transfers can be very problematic as they experience delays in deliveries.

The Botswana government is currently promoting the self-sustenance of LAs as a way to bring in the much-needed extra revenue to try and assist in addressing the above-mentioned challenges. This is in recognition of the fact that LAs are solely dependent on funding from the Central Government; that revenue collection at local government level is not as efficient and as effective as it should be. This was reiterated by Hon Molale, the then Minister of Local Govern

#### 4.8 Botswana Association of Local Authorities – BALA

ment and Rural Development when addressing a BALA National conference in February 2020 in Gaborone Botswana. Hon Molale stressed the fact that LAs should start generating their own revenue and not rely solely on central government funding. He said that this should be achieved through vigorous rates collection and other resource mobilization strategies. (Report on: BALA National Conference 2020: 4th Industrial Revolution “Towards Achieving Knowledge Based Economy”)

Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) was formed in 1984 by the then crop of Councillors. BALA continued operating outside formal legal instruments until 2012 when the Local Government Act was promulgated. It was established at a time when there was greater delegation of responsibilities to LAs, which subsequently resulted in a greater need for information exchange and sharing of experiences. BALA was also tasked with the responsibility of coordinating the functioning and delivery of activities for its membership.

At its inception, the organisation operated on ad hoc and voluntary basis without offices and personnel, and relied on monthly membership subscriptions from honourable councillors for financial support. The monthly subscriptions were inadequate to meet the demands of the day-to-day functioning of the association. As a result, each council committed to contributing some finances worth approximately USD100.00 per month to the operations of BALA. It is through this modest contribution that the organization was kept running.

The Association started to work in a more professional and systematic manner after receiving funding from the European Union in 1987. This enabled the Association to recruit a programme officer, and to have some running costs for the office. Gaborone City Council in turn availed office space for the officer. It was not until 2008, when the organization finally established a fully-fledged secretariat headed by an Executive Secretary and programme staff.

In 2012 the association became fully recognised by section (90) of the Local Government Act no. 18 of 2012. The Act further empowered the association to self-regulate and develop a Code of Conduct for its members.

The purpose of Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) is to help create an enabling environment for the councils to become credible and recognised partners of central government, the civil society and the private sector in the development process. The association provide amongst others: advice and guidance to local authorities; capacity building; training and information sharing and opportunities for discussing issues of common interest. BALA also formulates common policies on issues affecting local governance; build partnerships, networks and coalitions with strategic organizations locally, regionally and internationally. Among the main focus of action are: Advocacy and Lobbying activities, fundraising and resource mobilisation and establishment of Resource Centre.

BALA structure is made up of: National Conference, Members Assembly, Executive Committee, Commissions, Branch Committees and a Secretariat. Its membership is comprised of employees of the MLGRD, Honourable Councillors and employees of district and urban/cities councils. The Association is run by a full-time Secretariat headed by an Executive Secretary. The BALA Executive Council, which supervises the Secretariat, is comprised of politicians (Councillors), employees (mainly Council Secretaries and Town Clerks/City Mayors), and heads of BALA Commissions (Gender, Youth, Finance, Masepala, Local Economic Development, Regions). The core funding for operations and some of the programming of the association is funded through an annual subvention from the Central Government. BALA also gets ad hoc funding from the development partners and some donor communities.

Despite the financial support from Central Government, BALA experiences some challenges in executing its mandate. Some of the constraints include the following; dependency on single funding stream and limited alternative funding sources, constrained human capital to drive

BALA mandate, frequency in the change of BALA Political Leadership and low uptake of ICT usage by BALA membership. There is also the constrained appreciation of global frameworks (e.g. SDGs, AU Agenda 2063 and climate change issues), stalling of decentralization agenda on the part of government, and some emerging issues (climate change, natural disasters, epidemics, economic uncertainties etc).

#### **4.9 Responsibilities of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) is charged with providing policy direction and guidance for socio-economic and rural development at local level. The Ministry formulates and also monitors implementation of policies related to local government. MLGRD has certain powers over councils and is empowered by legislation to vary the number of councillors. The Ministry has responsibility for service provision in areas that include amongst others, providing basic physical and social infrastructure; ensuring efficient operation of all local authorities through good governance; serving as national government's focal point for local government policies and operational matters, coordinating the activities of national government at district level; mobilizing social welfare and community resources to facilitate both community participation in the development process and coordination of rural development.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Since 2017, Botswana Government has been taking part in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and reporting to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on SDGs. For the first time in 2022, the LAs through BALA will be raising a Voluntary Sub-national Report (VSR) in support of the Botswana VNR to submit to the HLPF, in July 2022 in New York, USA. The move for the LAs is a demonstration of their efforts to contribute to the localization process and to participate to the reporting process led by the national government.

Decentralisation is perceived as an approach that will greatly contribute to strengthen Local Authorities and support the localization of the national development objectives that have integrated the SDGs. Currently, LAs autonomy is limited. One of the key challenges facing Local Authorities (LAs) is decision making. Coupled with this, resource allocation remains a prerogative of the Central Government. Local Authorities are charged with delivering the following services at the local level; social benefits programmes aimed at alleviating the plight of the poor and the vulnerable e.g. social security grants, food baskets, orphan care programmes and school feeding initiatives; construction and maintenance of internal roads in villages and towns/cities; maintenance of educational facilities e.g. school buildings; as well as health infrastructure e.g. clinics and health posts, including some technical and auxiliary personnel for both. But the decision making relating to budgeting, resource allocation and planning for the said services, is the responsibility of the Central Government. As regards land use, the LAs are charged with planning and development in their localities, whereas the responsibility for land management and allocation is controlled by a different ministry, being the Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, whilst LAs report to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

The budgeting on how much councils will be allocated per annum, for example, is the prerogative of the Central Government under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Despite councils having the legal powers to raise certain taxes, levies and fees as their revenue collection, the central government provides up to 90% of their total annual recurrent revenue. Even where the LAs could mobilize own resources, there is little motivation to do so because (I) the decision on how to utilize those funds rests with the Central Government, meaning they cannot utilise the said funds in the projects of their choice unless authorised by the Central Government. (II) Even where LAs are able to collect revenue through taxes, levies, rates, etc. such funds are subsequently remitted to the central government coffers. This multiple holding of responsibilities and reporting lines constrain service delivery to the population. These developments bring confusion in implementation.

Of major concern is the fact that LAs were established through an Act of Parliament, exposing them to being vulnerable. In this context, LAs stand the risk of the possibility of the same Act that established them being repealed at any time. This vulnerability gives Central Government the leverage to prescribe priorities for LAs to execute, as well as having the ability to increase or lower financial and administrative support to LAs. Owing to a lack of financial independence, LAs end up acting as agents for the MLGRD. The call is for LAs to be recognised and given more power through Decentralisation so that they can make decisions on what they know to be their priorities and the service delivery programmes and projects that they undertake.

The country's Constitution is currently undergoing a national review and it will be a positive development if the revised Constitution would give stronger recognition to local self-govern-

ments. Currently, LAs have little say in reconciling their plans which reflect their priorities with the budget they get allocated together with the priority areas determined by the Central Government for the same plans.

Decentralization is key to LAs independence and to boost the localization process. Once rolled out, it is expected to give policy direction regarding LAs growth and development. Decentralization would also accord the LAs the power and authority to determine their own priorities, raise their own resources and make decisions on their project and programme implementation, which should impact positively on the attainment of their priority for SDGs achievement. It is in the same vein that LAs would also remain accountable to their electorates regarding service delivery.

For the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be attained, there has to be an uptake by all people living in Botswana, and to permeate the community structures throughout the country, there is need for public education on the SDGs. Capacity also need to be provided financially and technically, as well as capacitating the implementers at the local level on understanding the SDG Monitoring and Evaluation processes for the assessment of SDGs implementation.

## 6. LOCAL ACTIONS TO LOCALIZE THE SDGs

This part of the report focuses mainly on:

- I. A preliminary approach to try to assess and analyse the level of SDGs awareness at local level
- II. Identify local actions that can contribute to the localization of the SDGs

As mentioned in the methodology in section 2. Two survey tools were administered; one was sent to the Council Planners which was to serve as a qualitative tool. The purpose of this tool was to ascertain their level of understanding of SDGs, coupled with how their different Districts infused the SDGs in their plans and programming, and daily project implementation and delivery. This tool was also utilized to afford the different LAs to showcase their projects and share implementation experiences. The study also administered an online tool through Survey Monkey. This tool was to serve as a quantitative tool. This was meant for the rest of LAs staff and some stakeholders to also share their level of understanding of the SDGs and whether their plans and programme implementation took SDGs into account.

### 6.1 Mapping local governments awareness and ownership on the SDGs

The responses received from the survey tools painted a mixed view of how some of the LAs see the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (SDGs) as a part of their responsibility. Information obtained points to the reality that most respondents are aware of the existence of the SDGs. However, the majority of the respondents seem to be not totally aware of the SDGs relevance thereof to their work. This information should be handled with caution, taking into account the limitation experienced during data collection resulting in low number of full answers from the councils.

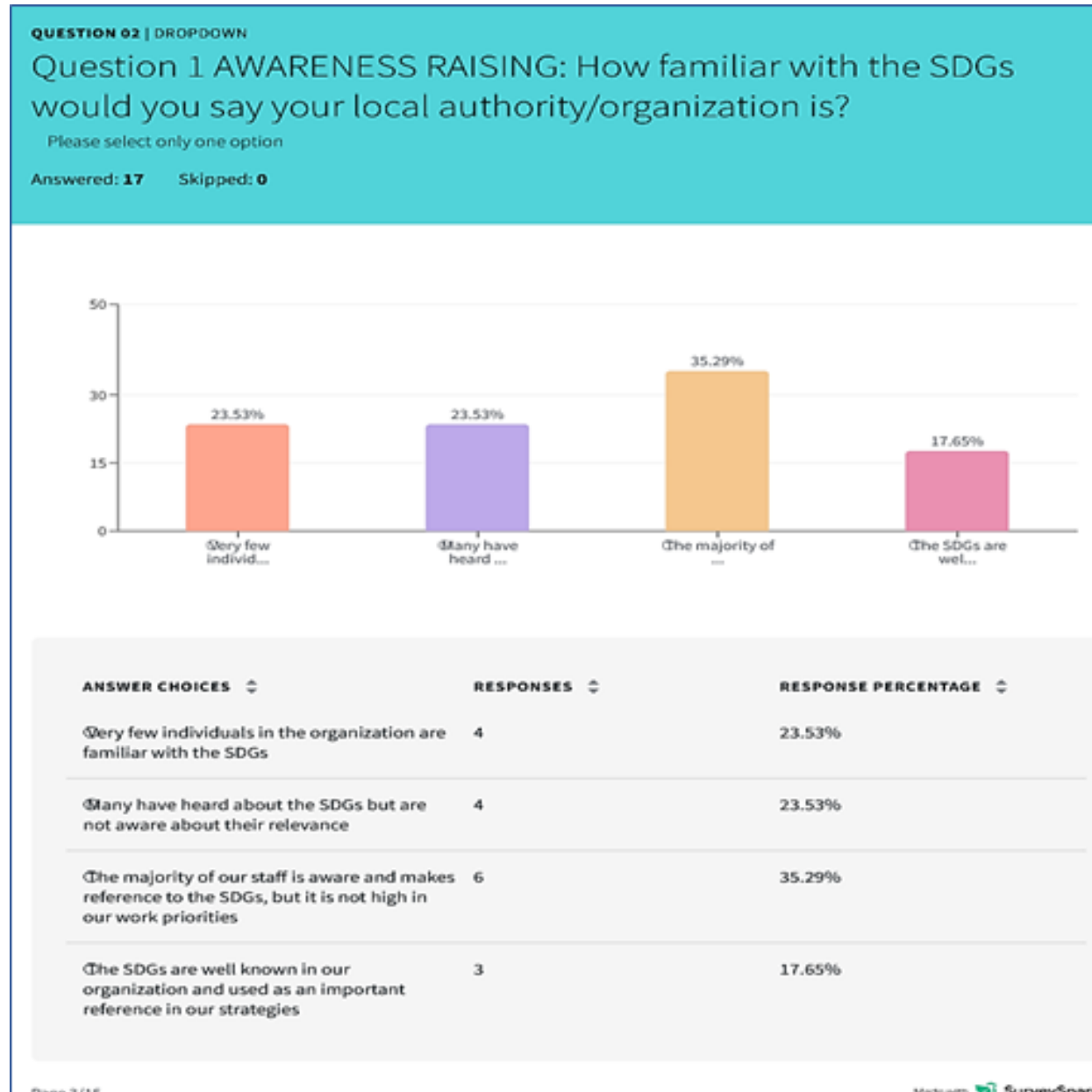
This can attest to by the way some responded to questions regarding the incorporation of SDGs in their plans and project implementation (based on the Survey Monkey).

Key answers to be underlined:

- A 35% of the respondent consider that the Councils refers to SDGs and part of the staff is aware (47%), but only 17% use the SDGs as an important reference in their work.
- However, the majority of the respondents confirmed that LAs have plans and strategies on development priorities that “speak to some SDGs”
- While 37% of respondents said that they organized or participated in activities to promote SDGs, a similar percentage said that they never participated.

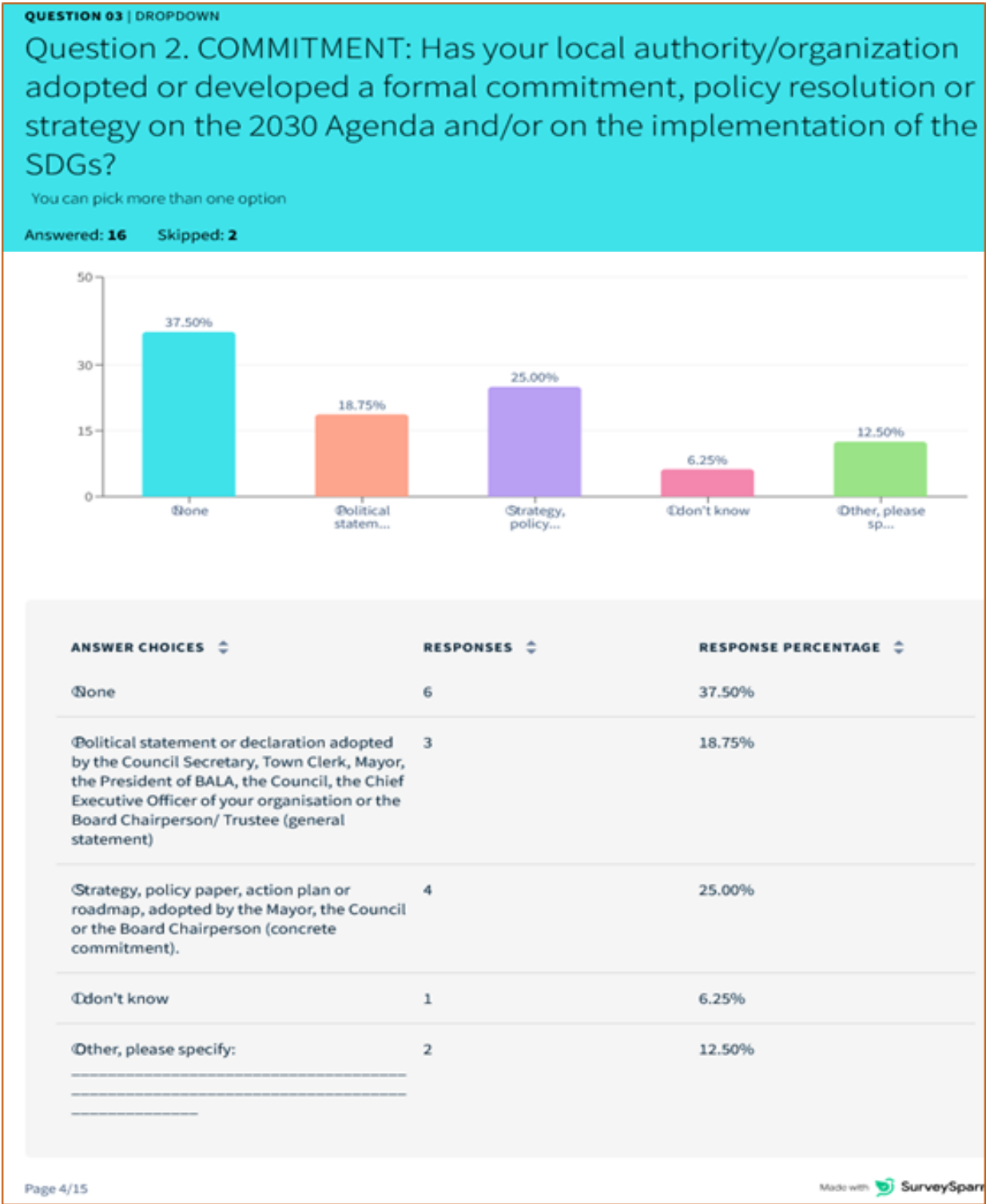
<https://balaorg.surveyparrot.com/public/reports/survey/255937/bqRsCSja>  
 Whilst 192 people accessed the electronic quantitative tool and only 19 people fully completed the survey).

- At the same, CSOs responses show a more important awareness but also limited mobilization.

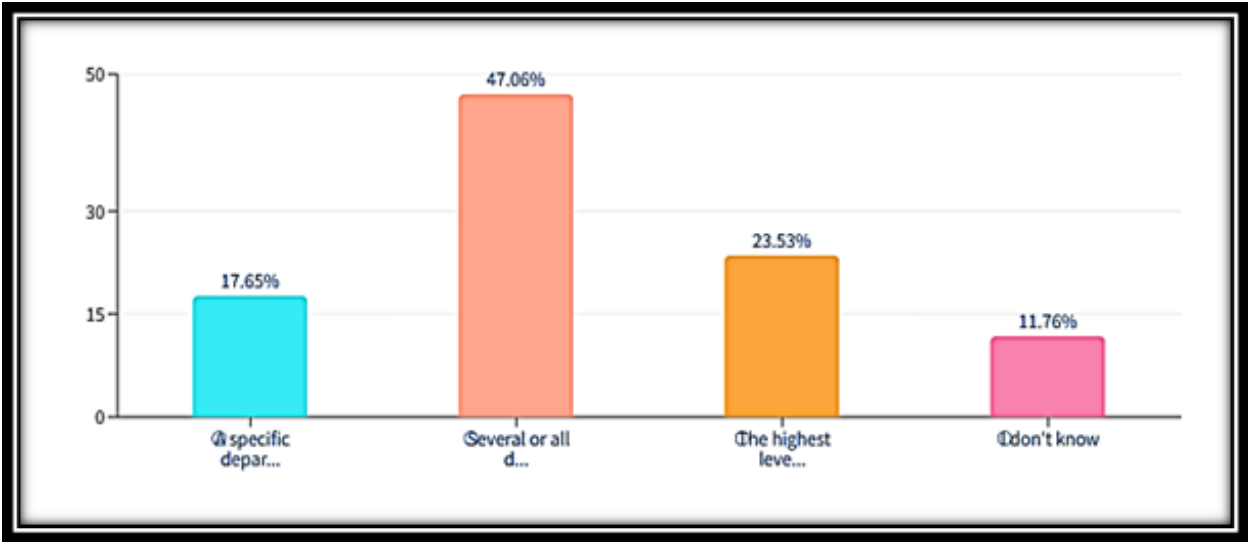
**Detailed results of the survey:**

The majority of respondents, 35.29% alluded to the fact that though the Council staff do make reference to the SDGs, it is on an ad hoc basis. The survey response also indicated that 23.53 % said a few individuals in the organization have heard of the SDGs and the same percentage responded to say many are aware of the SDGs. A smaller percentage, 17.65% confirmed that SDGs are well known and that they are an important reference in their strategies.





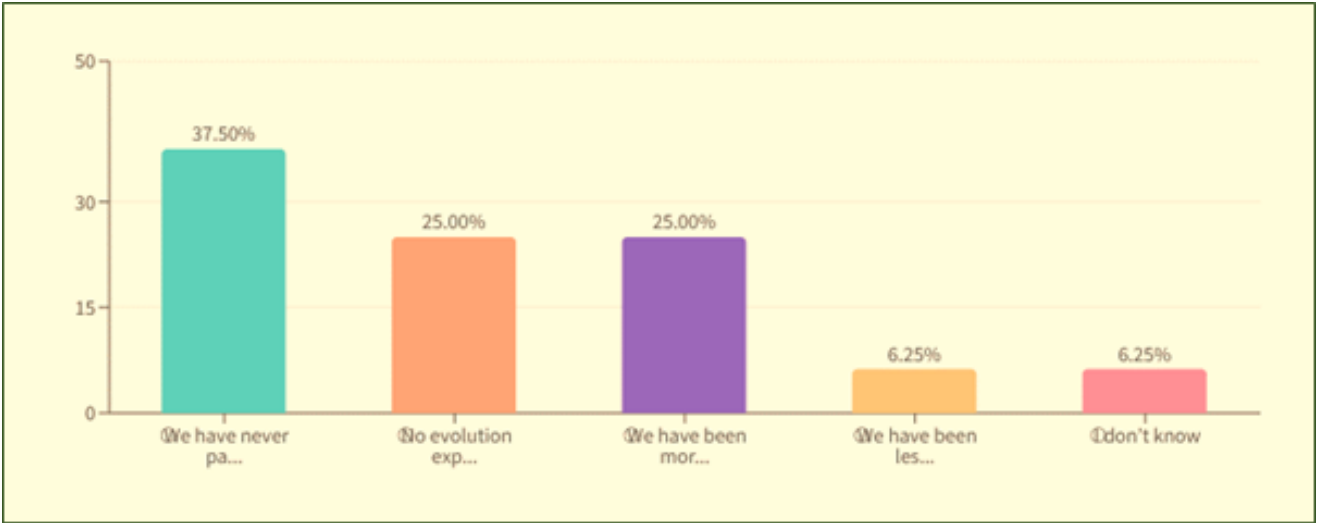
Given the level in the LAs hierarchy of some of the respondents to the survey, (2 x Council Secretaries, 1 x Town Clerk, Chief Finance and Development Planner, Principal Economist II, Chief Physical Planner, 4 x Councillors), it is a bit perturbing that a higher percentage, 37.5% of respondents said their Councils have not adopted or developed a formal commitment, policy resolution or strategy on the 2030 Agenda and/or on the implementation of the SDGs. However, of note is the fact that all respondents to both survey tools confirmed that the LAs had plans and strategies on certain development priorities that speak to some SDGs, and that they reported progress either on a monthly or quarterly basis. As regards question (3) on – institutional coordination, 47.03% of respondents said, “Several or all departments deal with the SDGs in a scattered and non-coordinated way”, and 23.53% responded to say SDGs are coordinated at the highest decision making in the LAs. See below chart:



This Table Chart shows Responses to Question 3. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION: within your organization, who is in charge of the coordination of the SDG-related work?

The study further asked respondents whether their organization or any representative of LAs have been somehow involved in the institutional mechanisms put in place by the National Government to coordinate SDG implementation and to state how they have been involved. The majority of respondents, 43.75% said they participated on an ad hoc basis, not as permanent members, whilst 18,75% said they are not involved at all, and another 18.5% said they participate in regular decision-making processes as an equal partner with a right to vote.

Another question asked respondents whether their LAs/organization has experienced any change in its involvement in the national coordination mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs? Most of the on-line survey respondents, 37.50% said they have never been involved in the national coordination mechanisms, whilst 25% said they have been involved and another 25% asserting that the involvement has not changed. The chart below shows the survey responses to question 7 of the quantitative tool: “Question 7 - EVOLUTION OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUR LA/LG IN THE NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS: has your organization experienced any change (progress, setback...) in its involvement in the national coordination mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs?”



This Table Chart shows Responses to Question 7. EVOLUTION OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUR LA/LG IN THE NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS

On whether LAs have participated in general awareness-raising activities for SDGs, 37.5% of respondents said they have never participated in any activities meant to promote the SDGs. Another 37.5% said they have organized or participated in limited actions including attending conferences or events meant to mobilize communities for the SDGs at the local level.

As regards civil society members who participated in the study, twenty civil society organizations were invited through the Botswana Council of NGOs (BOCONGO) as the umbrella organization for CSOs in Botswana, to participate at a focus group discussion to guide their interaction with the questionnaire. Only ten CSO representatives participated. Respondents were asked to respond to a printed quantitative tool entitled: “The Localization of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda – Survey on the Role of Local Governments and their Associations.”

In assessing their responses, the study has shown that, the majority of CSOs practitioners that were interviewed or that answered the questionnaire were aware of the UN Agenda 2030 on sustainable development. However, they are not doing much to promote SDGs to their constituents and local stakeholders and have not adopted the SDGs as a central reference to their strategies. Finally their organizations were not involved in the institutional mechanisms put in place by the National Government to coordinate SDGs implementation.

It is worth mentioning that in addition to the ten CSOs mentioned above, an additional five more CSOs responded to the survey tools at a later stage. An analysis of their responses showed a similar pattern with the initial ten CSOs as regards their views and perceptions on the localisation of SDGs.

## 6.2 Progress made in the implementation of the goals and targets: some examples

The study also reflected that even some of the implementing officials are not fully aware that many of the initiatives they are implementing are linked to different SDGs. The following are examples of some of the programme and project activities that are aligned to some of the government’s SDGs priority areas.

District/Town Council	Programme/Project	SDG priority
Chobe District Council	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/system. Baseline 704; 2020 @ 773; 2021 @ 745 and 2022 @ 778. The figures include all beneficiaries covered by social protection programs including Poverty Eradication.  Proportion of population below the international poverty line. Baseline 612. 2020 @ 636; 2021 @ 595 and 2022 @ 586. Majority of the clients are orphans and needy students. The numbers fluctuate as depicted due to large number of orphans graduating from the program at the age of 18years	SDG 1 – Poverty Eradication
Chobe District Council	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services – Baseline 75%. 2020 @81%, 2021 @82% and 2022 @84%. Target for 2022 is 95%, but currently at 84%. Major water projects are ongoing and some nearing completion	SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation
Chobe District Council	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth
Chobe District Council	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased number of reported GBV cases due to the increase in public awareness</li><li>Establishment of a Gender and Child Protection Unit</li></ul>	SDG 5 – Gender Equality
Jwaneng Town Council	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishment of governance structures at local level e.g. Ward Development Committee (WDC)</li><li>Construction of a multipurpose recreational facility</li><li>Implementation of the Local Economic Development Strategy</li><li>Servicing of Agro- Industrial land</li></ul>	SDG 11 – Sustainable Communities

Jwaneng Town Council	<p>Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of 2021/2022 financial year, a total of 3319 out of a target of 3300 jobs were created through different programmes such as: waste management, poverty eradication, outsourcing of general services, licensing etc.</li> </ul>	SDG 8 - Decent work & economic growth
Jwaneng Town Council	<p>By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46466 people accessed information materials for learning and research purposes, and 384 people trained on basic computer training.</li> </ul>	SDG 4 – Quality Education
Jwaneng Town Council	<p>By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 Youth businesses funded under Youth Development Fund for the financial year 2021/2022</li> </ul>	SDG – 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
Jwaneng Town Council	<p>Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of social welfare support services</li> <li>Management of child protection issues e.g. establishment of District Child Protection Committee</li> <li>The establishment of a children's consultative forum</li> </ul>	SDG 5 – Gender Equality
Kgatleng District Council	<p>Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services</p> <p>DDC Report to Full Council for Quarter Ending March 2022 - Youth Development Fund for youth empowerment &amp; employment through entrepreneurship</p>	SDG 8 - Decent work & economic growth
	<p>received disbursement of P10, 678,164.80 which is 81% of the approved funds. The total expenditure to date is P9 706,101.95. (Ipelegeng projects).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 16,946 beneficiaries were engaged by the end of quarter 3. This represents 99.6% enrolment. Out of this figure 2,361 are males and 14,585 are females. 4,618 youth (886 male and 3,732 female) benefited from the programme.</li> </ul>	economic growth
Kgatleng District Council	<p>By 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age, and By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The district is offering the following services: prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), anti-retroviral therapy (ARV), safe male circumcision (SMC), tuberculosis, teenage pregnancies statistics and prevention services, HIV counselling and testing (HCT) program, health promotion, orphan and vulnerable children (OVC register), including 9 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) coalition and sectors services.</li> </ul>	SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellness
North West District Council	<p>By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy</p> <p>Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) EDUCATION - The district has 17 primary schools at RADS settlements and 2 RADS hostels. A total enrolment of 1 829 pupils has been recorded.</p> <p>Achievements during the Quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of school uniform to deserving learners; and provision of toiletry to both primary and secondary students</li> <li>Transportation to schools, both primary and secondary students</li> <li>Monthly living allowances to Brigades &amp; Technical Colleges students</li> <li>Students from Khwai have been admitted at Khwai Primary after it was officially opened in January 2021, this has reduced the burden of travelling for them. This has also reduced overcrowding at Kareng RADS hostels. Currently there are 238 students at Kareng RADS hostels.</li> <li>Two graduates (Khwai and Phuduhudu) have been absorbed as permanent employees by department of broadcasting and wildlife respectfully.</li> <li>Former Miss and Mr RADP contestants have been assisted with establishing their own economic businesses (tuck shops) which are operational.</li> </ul>	SDG 4 – Quality Education

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In total 533 applications were received by the office through (LEA platform and inbox office) for the Year 2021/2022</li> <li>25 projects have been funded with 11 from Mochudi East and 14 from Mochudi West.</li> <li>The District was given BWP 3 million. BWP 2 565,837.67 has been approved for the 25 projects and so far 22 have already been funded while the remaining are at different stages of processing.</li> <li>BWP 2 166, 262. 96 has already been disbursed to the Beneficiaries and BWP 133, 216.38 has been used to cover other expenses.</li> </ul>	
Kgatlang District Council	<p>Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade of Bokaa water pipeline and storage tank @ P14, 996, 361-08 (Start date: 21/05/2018 and end date 31/7/2019). The project has been completed.</li> <li>Design &amp; construction of approximately 100km long transmission pipelines &amp; associated works from Masama well field to Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant @ P781, 555, 356-90 (Start date: 24/04/2020, end date 30/04/2021). 100% completed. 9 villages in the Kgatleng district benefiting from this water project.</li> <li>Connection to Oodi and Matebele (Construction of Gaborone Water Master Plan Infrastructure) @ P253, 000, 000-00. Start date: November 2020, end date 30/11/2021. Project at 95% completion and the villages are already benefitting from the water.</li> </ul>	SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation
Kgatlang District Council	<p>Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), and Proportion of population below the international poverty line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2021, 470 tonnes amounting to BWP 2,885,281.00 of fruits and vegetables were sold from projects in the Kgatleng district. This can be attributed to the fact that government restricted the importation of the following from the neighbouring countries: green and red chilies, green mealies, rape, herbs, spinach, green pepper, lettuces, and potatoes.</li> </ul>	SDG 2 – End Hunger
Kgatlang District Council	<p>By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2019/21 7 RDP Houses @ P600 000-00. 5 Completed and 2 at roofing level.</li> <li>Construction of 15 destitute houses (Two roomed) at 11 villages @ P1, 249, 312.72 (12 houses 100% completed, 2 houses @ 60%, 1 house @ 0% completion)</li> </ul>	SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
Kgatlang District Council	<p>Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the 2021/22 financial year, the Ministry has approved an amount of P13, 169,912.23 and the District has</li> </ul>	SDG 1 – No Poverty and SDG 8 – Decent work &
North West District Council	<p>By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DESTITUTE AND RADP HOUSING 2019/2020- 48 out of 50 houses are complete. The two remaining project are now at plastering stage.</li> </ul>	SDG 11 – Sustainable Communities
Central District Council	<p>By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Tutume, the target is the construction of 33 RADP houses which are at an overall progress rate of 97%.</li> </ul>	SDG 11 – Sustainable Communities
Gaborone City Council	<p>By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are currently one hundred and twenty-nine (129) registered privately owned Day Care Centres and eight (8) are Community owned, belonging to either Faith-Based or Civil Society Organizations.</li> <li>Of the 129 registered, 91 are owned by locals (Batswana) while 38 are owned by non-locals.</li> </ul>	SDG 4 – Quality Education

The Botswana government resources LAs to deliver services to address identified poverty challenges in the country. For example, the different departments in each LA or District Council address different prioritized and specific SDGs. Having said that, most of the projects and programmes tend to be those geared towards SDGs addressing poverty and hunger, creation of employment and provision of decent work; access to information and bridging the digital divide; servicing of agricultural land and availing agricultural opportunities to the youth; provision of proper sanitation and waste management; infrastructural development projects; social protection projects and programmes.

For example, in Jwaneng Town Council, 68 projects have been funded under the Youth Development Fund since inception, with 11 youth businesses funded under Youth Development Fund for financial year 2021/2022. Still in Jwaneng, by end of 2021/2022 financial year (31st March 2022), a total of 3319 out of a target of 3300 jobs were created through different programmes such as: waste management, poverty eradication, outsourcing of general services, licensing etc. that were meant to address unemployment and poverty.

However, this is not without challenges. All District Councils interviewed have shared their challenges with implementation of projects in general. Some of the challenges identified included but not limited to:

- a) Limited engagement and collaborations with the private sector for facilities management, e.g. public toilets, abattoir and landfill
- b) Lack of or inadequate financial and technical resources
- c) For youth businesses, challenges with empowering more youth with basic business skills so that they could sustain their businesses; increase amount of funding because prices for commodities have increased significantly; lack of operational space for youth businesses because of high rentals for operating space

“Due to lack of funds, we still have projects that were planned for implementation during UDP 4 and we still do not have funds to implement. These projects were meant to address challenges under sustainable environment such as rehabilitation of the waste water system and pump stations, construction of storm water drainage system, construction of a desalination plant, construction of a waste separation and recycling plant, etc.” (Respondent from Jwaneng Town Council)



**GOALS**





## Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### Key targets:

- 1.1. Eradicate extreme poverty for all everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

### GOOD PRACTICES

#### Chobe District:

- Timely provision of food baskets, timely issuance of licenses and timely completion of projects.
- Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/system. Baseline 704; 2020: 773; 2021: 745 and 2022: 778. The figures includes all beneficiaries covered by social protection programs including Poverty Eradication
- Proportion of population below the international poverty line. Baseline 612. 2020: 636; 2021: 595 and 2022: 586. Majority of the beneficiaries are orphans and needy students. The numbers fluctuate as depicted due to large number of orphans graduating from the program at the age of 18years

#### Jwaneng Town Council:

- 1) SDG priorities are: SDG 1 – No Poverty, and SDG 2 – Zero Hunger.
- 2) The District economy is currently characterized by unemployment and limited opportunities for employment resulting in high levels of unemployment. It is therefore expected Industrialization as an intervention will create employment opportunities for the local communities and improve their livelihoods, creation of jobs through licensing, social welfare programmes, Ipelegeng Programme
- 3) Furthermore, Agriculture has been identified as one potential area in which the township residents could invest to diversify the economy and achieve food security.

#### Good practice projects:

- Implementation of Social welfare support Services
- By end of 2021 to 2022 financial year, a total of 3319 out of target of 3300 jobs were created through different programmes such as:
  - waste management
  - poverty eradication
  - outsourcing of general services
  - licensing etc that were meant to address unemployment and poverty
- 11 Youth businesses funded under Youth Development Fund for financial year 2021/2022
- Since inception 68 projects have been funded under Youth Development Fund

## GOOD PRACTICES

Kgatleng District Council

- IPELEGENG PROJECT

- For the 2021/22 financial year, the Ministry has approved an amount of P13, 169,912.23 and the District has received disbursement of P10, 678,164.80 which is 81% of the approved funds. The total expenditure to date is P9 706,101.95.

- A total of 16,946 beneficiaries were engaged by the end of quarter 3. This represents 99.6% enrolment. Out of this figure 2,361 are males and 14,585 are females. 4,618 youth (886 male and 3,732 female) benefited from the programme.

- A total of 1,181 Green scorpions have been employed by end of quarter 3; 1,044 Females and 137 Males, 58 Males and 386 Female youths.



## Goal 2 – Zero Hunger

Key targets:

Key targets:

- 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons (1.2% Stunting, 3.5% underweight children-2015, and 15.2% overweight)

### GOOD PRACTICES

Chobe District:

- Timely provision of food baskets, timely issuance of licenses and timely completion of projects.
- Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/system. Baseline 704; 2020: 773; 2021: 745 and 2022: 778. The figures includes all beneficiaries covered by social protection programs including Poverty Eradication
- Proportion of population below the international poverty line. Baseline 612. 2020: 636; 2021: 595 and 2022: 586. Majority of the beneficiaries are orphans and needy students. The numbers fluctuate as depicted due to large number of orphans graduating from the program at the age of 18years

Jwaneng Town Council:

- Implementation of Social welfare support Services

Kgatlang District Council

- AGRI-BUSINESS: LOCAL PRODUCTION AND SALES
- During the quarter ending 31 December, 2021, 470 tons amounting to BWP 2,885,281.00 of fruits and vegetables were sold from projects in the Kgatleng district. This can be attributed to the fact that government restricted the importation of the following from the neighbouring countries: green and red chilies, green mealies, rape, herbs, spinach, green pepper, lettuces, and potatoes

### GOOD PRACTICES

North West District Council

- Primary School feeding Programme
- Bread supply - All pupils in the district were fed with bread including second meal for Remote Area Dwellers (RADs) pupils, suppliers who were engaged for supply of bread for all schools were poverty eradication beneficiaries, Gender beneficiaries, YDF, people with disability. All pupils were supplied with bread
- Breakfast in Primary Schools - All schools were supplied with beans and Maize.

Kgalagadi District Council

- Primary School feeding Programme
- The responsible department supplied 96.70% of required food commodities. For the Tsabong Sub District Council, 93.39% were supplied while Hukuntsi Sub District Council had supplied 100% of the required food commodities.

FOR SDG 2. The Botswana government has put various programmes in place to address poverty in the larger community, and nutrition issues for children, especially at schools and health centres. However, from the responses from the survey, except for one report from the Kgatleng District Council, reporting personnel at Councils were good at articulating the programmes that their respective Council offers to the communities. They were also good at giving total lump sum numbers. Unfortunately, from most of the reports accessed and the responses from the survey tools, the data is not disaggregated. For all the social protection programmes, data found does not disaggregate according to programmes, sex, frequency etc.



### Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all stages

#### Key targets:

- 3.1. By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.3. By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water borne diseases and other communicable diseases

### GOOD PRACTICES

#### Chobe District:

- Under 5 Mortality – 2020 (23/1000); 2021 (12/1000); and Neo Natal Mortality – 2020 (12/1000); 2021 (8/1000)
- Malaria – Baseline – 1/1000; 2020 (2/1000); 2021 (2/1000); 2022 (1/1000); and TB – Baseline 100/100k; 2020 (81/100K)
- HIV Infections per 1000 – 2020 (6/1000); 2021 (8/1000); 2022 (2/1000)

#### Kgatleng District Council

- The district is offering the following services: prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), anti-retroviral therapy (ARV), safe male circumcision (SMC), tuberculosis, teenage pregnancies statistics and prevention services, HIV counselling and testing (HCT) program, health promotion, orphan vulnerable children (OVC register), including 9 non-government organisations (NGOs) coalition and sectors services.

#### North West District Council

- The PMTCT program has an uptake of 100%, with no children were born with HIV in the reporting quarter.

#### South East District Council

- Regarding the immunization coverage for the district, the target for all immunizations is 90%.
- The district is doing well on their immunizations that include but are not limited to: BCG (110%) and Hepatitis B (110%).



## Goal 5 – Gender Equality

### Key Targets

- 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

### GOOD PRACTICES

#### Chobe District:

- Increase in reported cases due to public education; and Establishment of a Gender and Child Unit

#### Jwaneng Town Council:

- Management of child protection issues e.g. establishment of District Child protection committee, and an establishment of a children's consultative forum

#### North West District Council

- The teenage pregnancy rate in this quarter is 9.7%, compared to 14.4% recorded during the third quarter. The 2020/2021 average rate was 13.7%.
- This can be attributed to the programs put in place by the District Health Management Teams (DHMT) to empower adolescent girls and young women through various activities such as the life skills training, and the comprehensive sexual education.

"Top 10 Countries with the Highest Rape Cases: Botswana (92.93); Australia (91.92); Lesotho (82.68); South Africa (72.10); Bermuda (67.29); Sweden (63.54); Suriname (45.21); Costa Rica (36.70); Nicaragua (31.60); and Grenada (30.63)" - World Population Review on World Rape Statistics Report 2022

FOR SDG 5: To address Gender Based Violence (GBV), Botswana GBV is a cause for concern.

The latest figures from some of the data provided by the Councils show that the numbers are going up. A report from the World Population Review on World rape Statistics Report 2022 has put Botswana as the number 1 country in the world with the highest rape cases at 92.93 over 1000 people.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



### Key Targets

- 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- 9.3: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other

### GOOD PRACTICES

#### Chobe District:

- Rehabilitation of water reticulation from Kasane to Kazungula
- Internal reticulation complete at Pandamatenge, Parakarungu and Satau

#### Kgatleng District Council

- SUPPLY OF WATER
- Upgrade of Bokaa water pipeline and storage tank @ P14, 996, 361-08 (Start date: 21/05/2018 end date 31/7/2019). The project has been completed.
- Design & construction of approximately 100km long transmission pipelines & associated works from Masama well field to Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant @ P781, 555, 356-90 (Start date: 24/04/2020, end date 30/04/2021). 100% completed. 9 villages in the Kgatleng district benefiting from this water project.
- Connection to Oodi and Matebele (Construction of Gaborone Water Master Plan Infrastructure) @ P253, 000, 000-00. Start date: November 2020, end date 30/11/2021. Project at 95% completion and the villages are already benefiting from the water.



## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### Key targets:

- 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- 17.2: Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/ GNI to least developed countries
- 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4: Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

## 7. CONCLUSION

Local Authorities (LAs) are a critical partner in national development as can be seen by the role they play in project implementation and service delivery at community level. Equally, LAs are a vehicle through which the localization of SDGs at local authority level could be attained.

The study has reflected that there is need to boost the localization process to enhance SDGs coordination mechanism from national to local level. This is meant to inter alia, communicate, promote, and mobilise LAs to facilitate the SDGs localization efforts. BALA is better placed to assume the responsibility of coordinating SDGs uptake and implementation at local authority level.

Considering the role of LAs in service delivery to the communities, local implementation should reflect a correlation and alignment to the Vision 2036 pillars. From the study results, it was observed that many programmes and projects implemented at local authority level, address one or more of the four pillars of Vision 2036. The Botswana Vision 2036 is a key strategic document that projects the country's development trajectory. It is the document of which other national strategies such as NDPs, SDGs, and others are anchored on. It is through the continued execution of projects that are aligned to the Vision 2036 pillars that the country will be able to attain the aspirations of the vision and in the process attain the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.

The decentralization discourse has been under discussion for a number of years. Decentralization is viewed as a potential opportunity for empowering the LAs to be able to grow in autonomy, decision making, resource mobilization and management, accountability and service delivery to their communities. It has been observed from the study that multiple responsibilities that directly affect LAs are still under the control of different ministries and structures, thereby undermining coordination and policy cohesion, as well as effective service delivery. Sectoral policies modelled on silo approaches have negative impact on LAs service delivery because programme decisions and priorities, and financial budgets and allocations are determined elsewhere. As a result, LAs are constrained in advancing their local priorities because the approach in terms of supporting their programmes, is determined by the Central Government and might come as a "one size fits all support." Programming and priority setting might not be targeted enough to address challenges found in a particular locality. As a result, the country and the people of Botswana will stand to benefit immensely from the roll-out of the decentralization programme.

Local Economic Development (LED) is an economic concept that has been approved by government. It seeks to take advantage of and mobilize local resources which are unique in different communities. If rolled-out properly, LED has the potential to drive and promote the performance of the economies in various localities under the Territorial Approach to Local Development (TALD) initiative. LED can contribute to support localization and implementation of the SDGs.

The onset of COVID-19 disrupted many development agendas and plans, including those of the Botswana government. As the entire world begins to build back better, the government of Botswana introduced the Economic Recovery Transformation Plan (ERTP), to begin to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and people of Botswana. The outcome of the study findings shows that projects that are implemented at local authority level are mostly funded and driven by national government. This is understandable as government sees it as their role to fight poverty and other social ills in the country. However, given the nature of the ERTP, one

will think that national government will involve local governments in the implementation of the recovery package to strengthen local public services and build more resilient infrastructures to boost local economic recovery, fostering local partnerships with the private sector and local communities to advance the localization agenda.

## 8. NEXT STEPS

This exercise, the initiation of the VSR, which entails both the literature review and the data collection and analysis, has reflected some gaps relating to SDGs implementation that require action by all levels of government and partners committed to the attainment of the UN 2030 Agenda on sustainable development. It will greatly benefit both the Voluntary Nation Report and the Voluntary Subnational Report, most importantly, the attainment of the SDGs targets and indicators by the country, if the following can be considered for action and implementation:

- I. Local Authorities need to be enshrined in the Constitution of Botswana and decentralization should be implemented. This will enhance the status of LAs in delivering on their mandate.
- II. Decentralization projects the hope for LAs in Botswana to attain the level of independence and autonomy that will relieve the Central Government of responsibilities that include but are not limited to: utilization of resources in their localities to enable them to raise funds for their operations and development agendas. This will enable LAs to relieve government of the burden of implementing projects that can best be done at local level.
- III. BALA needs to be capacitated so as to be able to effectively coordinate the work of the LAs including in areas of resource mobilization and management, programme and service delivery and financial accountability. There is an urgent need for supporting BALA to undertake SDGs coordination, communication and promotion.
- IV. Statistics Botswana to work collaboratively with Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) to develop a data collection tools and Monitoring and Evaluation framework that will ensure a robust and specific LAs reporting on SDGs.
- V. There is need to strengthen partnerships between government, LAs, and other partners, especially civil society organizations and most importantly, the private sector. If Botswana is to attain the SDGs, government needs other players to assist to implement the recovery process through the ERTF.
- VI. This VSR has highlighted the need for Government to support and facilitate the strengthening of the SDGs structures to ensure that the following components also play an effective role in SDGs rollout and implementation: wider inclusion of LAs and other stakeholders in the SDGs national coordination and implementation, structured communication and feedback mechanisms, partnerships for SDGs, and public awareness as well as SDGs promotion for effective roll-out and exposure to communities.
- VII. There is a need to capacitate the civil society organizations (CSOs), technically and financially, for the uptake and implementation of SDGs. CSOs are an organ that delivers services to communities, augmenting the Government and LAs efforts. CSOs are therefore an important constituency when it comes to service delivery at local government level.
- VIII. Lessons learnt from implementation of the MDGs should be adopted to ensure that SDGs are cascaded down to the grassroots level to ensure participation, inclusivity and transparency by all.

- IX. BALA to periodically embark on a resource mobilisation campaign for LAs as a standing activity.
- X. It is recommended that the SDGs localisation process be incorporated in the secondary school curriculum.
- XI. There is need to capacitate BALA Secretariat by engaging the services of a Desk Officer designated for SDGs localisation.

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## Partners



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