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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honor to submit Botswana's response to the questionnaire entitled ***"Human Rights and Extreme Poverty"***.

The Mission wishes apologies for the late submission of information and expresses the hope that Botswana's response will facilitate the preparation of the report of the Independent Expert on Extreme Poverty which is to be considered during the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the assurances of its highest consideration.

UN Independent Expert on the Question of  
Human Rights and Extreme Poverty  
UNOG-OHCHR  
CH-1211 Geneva 10



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OHCHR REGISTRY

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GOAL 1: ERADICATION OF EXTREME AND HUNGER POVERTY			
Vulnerable Groups	Why	Existing Policies and Programmes	Participation of the Civil Society
<p><b>Facing Food Insecurity</b></p> <p>Destitute Persons</p>	<p>These are people whose age, physical or mental condition render them completely dependent on outside resources.</p>	<p>▪ <b>Revised National Policy on Destitute Persons</b> The destitute programme provides social assistance and protection for destitute households to attain basic needs necessary for sustenance of adequate nutrition and health. The programme aims at improving the living conditions of the very poor. Beneficiaries receive a food basket and cash (P80) on monthly basis.</p> <p>Within the Destitute programme there is support for Children of Destitute persons (needy students and needy children).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing structures on poverty reduction such as the <b>Multi-Sectoral Committee on Food security and Poverty Reduction</b> tackle issues such as food insecurity of the poor, be it those under the destitute programme, orphans and vulnerable children, remote area dwellers, young children, the elderly and unemployed. Representation in these committees include Non-Governmental Organizations who are able to influence policies.</li> </ul>
Orphans and Vulnerable Children	They do not receive extended family	<p><b>Orphan Care Programme</b></p> <p>The Government support package to orphans and</p>	

	support	vulnerable children contains among others, maize meal (12.5 kg), Sorghum (10 kg), Rice (5 kg), Samp (2.5 kg), Beans (0.5 Kg), Vegetable oil (0.75 lts) and Milk (3 lts) on monthly basis to an individual beneficiary.	
Remote Area Dwellers (RADS)	Poor access to facilities and very low or no income	<p><b>Remote Area Development (RADS) Programme</b></p> <p>Programme was adopted in 1978, to assist Small scattered communities who are geographically isolated, reside far from basic services and facilities; high poverty levels, characterized by lack of basic means of life, lack of cash income or have lowest wages; fall out of the scope of and coverage of other national development programmes; lack livelihood support for their day to day life; and have low level of literacy and little access to formal education.</p> <p>The programme Promotes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• production oriented income and employment generating activities.</li> <li>• Promote social, cultural and economic advancement of the communities and Enhance the RADs communities' access to land.</li> </ul>	
School Children	Children from poor families	<p><b>School Feeding Programme</b></p> <p>All children in primary schools (regardless of family background) are provided with a meal for all schools days. The food items in the school meals include: sorghum, beans, <i>samp</i>, beef, cooking oil, milk and</p>	



		<p>bread.</p> <p>In the case of RADS, a second meal is provided each day and In some cases primary school hostels are built for them to ensure good school attendance. For those in hostels, three meals are provided per day.</p>	
Young Children (5 years and below)	Parents unable to provide food and care	<p><b>Vulnerable Group Feeding</b></p> <p>The programme targets all children who attend Child Welfare Clinics and it is not means tested (blanket coverage). The package includes highly nutritious foods such as Tsabana, Tsabotlhe, cooking oil and beans.</p>	
The Elderly	Inability to do any productive work and in some cases also have disabilities	<p><b>The Old Age Pension Scheme</b></p> <p>The Government of Botswana introduced the Old Age Pension Scheme in 1996 (currently P220.00) for all citizens who are 65 years and above. The pension is universal and not means tested.</p>	
Unemployed Poor	<p>Non-skilled, low education</p> <p>Or due to limited employment opportunities</p>	<p><b>Ipelegeng Programme</b></p> <p>This is a Public works programme aimed at increasing incomes of poor households by providing temporary employment and relief income to unskilled and semi skilled labour. Main activities include road maintenance, digging wells and clearing bushes. The pay per day is P18 for workers and P24 for supervisors.</p>	<p>The Civil societies are represented in the committees that monitor the implementation of this programme.</p>

Farmers	Resource Poor farmers, with no farming implements	<p><b>Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development scheme (LIMID)</b></p> <p>LIMID has two components, one of which promotes food security through improved livestock productivity to the poor in order to eliminate destitution. Packages aimed at poverty reduction include small stock, Tswana chicken and guinea fowl production (each household is given a specific number of either one) and government facilitates raising and care through provision of food and vaccines/medication for the stock.</p>	
Farmers	Lack of farming implements	<p><b>Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture (ISPAAD)</b></p> <p>Government provides tractors to plough fields up to 5 hectares per household. In case a farmer ploughs their own fields, Government pays P400 per Hectare ploughed up to 5 Hectares and the farmer is subsidized at 50% for extra up to a maximum of 16 hectares.</p> <p><b>Seed Distribution:</b> A package of free seeds is distributed to eligible households and this includes 2 kg of beans, 10 kg of maize, 10 kg of sorghum and 2 kg of millet. This is mainly for open pollinated planting.</p> <p><b>Fertilizer:</b> Free fertilizer is provided to farmers 200kg/ha to cover up to 5 hectares. In addition, government provides fertilizer enough to cover up</p>	

		to 11 hectares at a 50% subsidy. The free and subsidized fertilizer, however, is given to farmers who row plant and have access to fertilizer applicators.	
Households without Shelter	Low or no income households	<p><b>Integrated Poverty Alleviation Housing Scheme</b></p> <p>The programme addresses poverty through facilitating home ownership. It targets those without shelter and unemployed but able to work at project wages and assists them to build their own houses through a self-help scheme. Beneficiaries in this programme, acquire stable employment in the different projects, marketable skills (which include brick moulding, book keeping, basic construction and basic business skills).</p>	

### GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Vulnerable Group (drop-outs)	Why	Existing Social Protection Policies and Programmes to prevent drop-out	Participation of the Civil Society
Remote area dwellers, mostly from the minority groups	Found in small, isolated settlements. Some of these population groups are nomadic and their means of survival is seasonal	<p><b>Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE);</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multi-grade schools/ One or two teacher school policy</b> - targets children from small and sparsely populated settlements to access education.</li> <li>• Nomadic nature of these groups sometimes makes it difficult for Government interventions and programmes to reach them. For instance, during winter the Basarwa children would relocate with parents for hunting expeditions. They also would rather stay home for warmth from fire, which is largely cultural.</li> </ul>	Civil Society Organisations participate in the design and development of educational policies and programmes. The Young women's Christian Association (YWCA) have a programme of absorbing returnees who dropped out of school due to pregnancy. A Day Care Centre is found within the school premises to enable the young mothers to



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for multi-grade schools is also a challenge. Initially fifty three schools were going to be constructed, but because of budgetary constraints, the number has been cut down to a paltry eight.</li> <li>The boarding facility remains useful though there are still cases of drop outs.</li> <li>School Fees. Botswana has ten year basic education programme with very minimal cost sharing. Enrolment into secondary school is almost automatic. There are mechanisms put in place to monitor parents ability to pay the minimal cost sharing, otherwise such parents are exempted so that their inability to pay do not jeopardize the child's future</li> </ul> <p><b>School Feeding Programme.</b> A noble programme that provides learners with meals at school.</p> <p><b>Boarding facilities</b> for remote dwellers. Prevents children from walking long distances to school and addressing learning constraints such as cultural and family chores which include herding, hunting and gathering etc</p>	breast feed their babies. Faith based organizations also run day care centers offering pre-primary education. The culture of attending school instilled at this early age help children to stay in school.
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### GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Vulnerable Group (access of girls and women to secondary, tertiary, work employment)	Why	Existing Policies and Programmes that facilitate access of girls and women to secondary, tertiary, work employment & participation of women in decision making	Participation of the Civil Society
Women and	Traditionally male	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destitute Policy, Orphan &amp;</li> </ul>	Civil Society Organizations participate

<p>children, particularly the girl-child.</p> <p>Women in the rural and remote areas are less likely to access vocational as well as wage employment,</p> <p>whereas secondary and tertiary education are equally accessible to males and females.</p>	<p>dominated vocations tend to attract few girls and women although currently, there seems to be improvements.</p>	<p>vulnerable children programmes – provide safety nets for the clients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Women in Development Policy</b> (assists in income generation projects, gender education)</li> <li>• <b>Women's Finance House</b> assists women's small businesses</li> <li>• <b>Readmission Policy of pregnant girls back to school</b> after childbirth - Pupils allowed six months maternity leave and will return to school the following academic year.</li> <li>• <b>Life-skills Programmes</b> – promotes survival skills including sexual and reproductive health education for children in schools</li> <li>• <b>Out-of-school Programmes</b>, provision of <b>boarding facilities</b> for pupils from small settlements</li> <li>• <b>Mainstreaming gender</b> into policies and programmes to facilitate gender balances in all sectors</li> <li>• <b>Enactment, amendment and review of all laws that discriminate against women</b> e.g. Abolition of</li> </ul>	<p>at various fora to make higher level education and work opportunities accessible. These include Women's Finance House, Women's shelter, Women and Law in Southern Africa, Gender Links and Emang Basadi (meaning stand up women).</p>
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		<p>Marital Powers Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowerment workshops for women politicians and prospective women politicians held.</li> </ul>	
<b>GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY, GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH, GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA &amp; OTHER DISEASES</b>			
<b>vulnerable group (highest child &amp; maternal deaths &amp; highest prevalence of major diseases)</b>	<b>why</b>	<b>Existing Policies and Programmes to ensure access and sustenance to health care programmes and services</b>	<b>Participation of the Civil Society</b>
<p>Infants, children under 5yrs and women in the reproductive ages (15-49)</p> <p>Adult females in their 50s and above mostly infected with cervical and breast cancer. Adult males affected by prostate cancer.</p> <p>All adults mostly suffer from cardiovascular</p>	<p>Young children and child bearing women are in critical ages of human development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accelerated Child Survival &amp; Development Strategy (ACDS)</b> – identification and integration of high impact interventions implemented by key stakeholders, including the supply chain</li> <li>• <b>Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)</b> – targets all children below 2 yrs old</li> <li>• <b>Integrated Management of Childhood Diseases (IMCI) Strategy</b> – aims at reducing under 5 mortality by strengthening capacity for</li> </ul>	<p>Numerous Civil Society Organizations are involved in increasing access and sustenance to health care programmes and services, particularly those implementing HIV/AIDS projects. These include Botswana Network of AIDS Service Organizations, Botswana Network of People Living with AIDS, Botswana Network of Law Against AIDS. Some of these networks sit in the National AIDS Council (NAC), which is the highest coordination body for HIV/AIDS programmes in Botswana. NAC is chaired by the highest political office in the country, the President. Currently, the former President continues to chair it. Other health related NGOs include Cancer Association of Botswana, Botswana Association for People with Disabilities, Botswana Association of Diabetics and the</p>

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<p>diseases</p> <p>All population groups are infected with HIV/AIDS</p>		<p>improved service delivery in districts. Follow-up or home visitations necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy and Community Management of Acute Malnutrition Policy</b> – promotes exclusive breastfeeding programs, monitors the dietary needs of children</li> </ul>	<p>Botswana Association for Down syndrome patients.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS</b></li> <li>• <b>Routine HIV Testing Programme</b> – implemented in all health facilities</li> <li>• <b>Universal ART Programme</b> – MASA programme provides all citizen HIV positive and AIDS patients are provided free ART</li> <li>• <b>Community Home Based Care Programme</b></li> <li>• <b>National TB Strategy</b></li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Malaria Strategy</b></li> <li>• April 2010 primary health care services relocated to Ministry of Health to streamline the coordination and harmonization of all health care services under one authority.</li> </ul>	
<b>GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>			
<b>Vulnerable Group</b> (loss of biodiversity, least access to safe drinking water & basic sanitation, live in slums)	<b>Why</b>	<b>Existing Policies and Programmes to ensure access to safe drinking water &amp; basic sanitation, access to adequate housing)</b>	<b>Participation of the Civil Society</b>
Subsistence pastoral farmers using communal grazing land  Rural communities that depend on firewood for	Subsistence pastoral farmers using communal grazing land and water points experience overgrazing especially around boreholes  Rural communities cannot afford other forms of energy. High demand of fuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act</b></li> <li>• <b>National Action Plan under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity</b></li> <li>• <b>Okavango Delta Management Plan – sustainable use of the delta by various</b></li> </ul>	Numerous Civil Society Organization are involved in making safe drinking water and basic sanitation accessible such as Permaculture, Somarelang Tikologo, Kgalagadi Conservation Society, Thusanyo Lefatsheng, Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Community Based Natural Resources Management Committees. The UN Framework of Assistance also provides financial and technical assistance for identified environmental concerns.



energy.	wood exacerbated by demands from businesses in urban areas.	stakeholders	
Rural communities that depend on groundwater sources	Ground water sources are prone to pollution and are expensive to provide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The National Master Plan for Waste Water and Sanitation</b> – installation of underground sewage pipelines to replace pit latrines</li> <li>• <b>Integrated Poverty Alleviation and Housing Programme (IPAHP)</b> – provision of basic shelter for the poor</li> </ul>	
Indigenous hunter-gathering communities	Hunting and gathering of some traditional herbs regulations can be restrictive to some communities		
Communities found along the borders of national parks and game reserves	Conflict between human activity and wild animals, especially predators and elephants		
Urban populations that live in high density areas	Crowding compromises environmental health especially toilet facilities		