

Overview –Botswana Family Welfare Association (BOFWA)



A 34 year old national not-for profit, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that promotes and provides integrated Sexual Reproductive and Rights and HIV services.

- A member of the Botswana national Council of NGOs (BOCONGO)
- Works in partnership with Botswana Gender -Based Violence Prevention & support centre (BGBVPC) & Women Against Rape (WAR)



The submission focuses on addressing the effective implementation of the 2030 Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) Ministerial Commitment of 2021, ‘toward fulfilling the Education, Health, and Well-Being of Adolescents and Young People in Botswana.’

Issues –

1. Accountability mechanisms for the effective implementation of the 2030 ESA Ministerial Commitment
2. Gender Equality



Strategic Priorities

Botswana signed the ESA Ministerial Commitment (2013) and the 2030 ESA Ministerial commitment (2021). The latter 'seeks to expand the focus beyond Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Youth Friendly Health Services to the health and well-being of adolescents and young people.

While important strides have been made toward improving Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) outcomes among adolescents and young people, significant gaps and barriers still exist to the realization of the ESA Commitment targets.



Adolescents and young people have continually shown poor Sexual Reproductive and Rights and HIV outcomes especially adolescent girls and young women.

They experience high unintended pregnancy, low HIV and contraceptive knowledge and sexual and gender-based violence.

While Botswana has reached the 95, 95, 95 targets, adolescent and young people are lagging behind at about 77% viral suppression.



Gender Equality

Mexico recommended that Botswana ‘Implement gender equality policies that foster girls’ access to health and education and raise awareness among the population about sexual and gender-based violence’

Botswana has made efforts to eliminate gender inequality.

However, the Second Botswana Youth Risk Behavioural and Biological Surveillance Survey Report (2018) states that among all students, 22.2% reported being forced to have sex the first time they had sexual intercourse.



Among those sexually experienced, 18.8% were forced to have sex in the last 12 months. (BYRSS II, 2018).

Across the ESA region, young people continue to experience different forms of violence at school, and at home, from various perpetrators including peers, teachers and adults, with girls being at a much higher risk of experiencing such violence than their male counterparts, (UNESCO, 2020).



Botswana was rated as number one globally in gender - based violence;

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/rape-statisticsby-country>)

BOFWA and partners consider the 2030 ESA Commitment, a tool to address adverse SRHR & HIV related outcomes and gender inequality for adolescent and young people in order to improve access to health, education and development.

Therefore,



In order to prevent the loss of previous gains, build upon successes and contribute toward attaining the goals of the national vision (Vision 2036), FP 2030, AU 2063 and SDGs, we recommend that Botswana:

Operationalise and implement the 2030 ESA Ministerial Commitments, including by earmarking funding, clarifying priority actions, designating implementation responsibilities, and establishing a national accountability mechanism based on the renewed 2030 ESA Commitment targets, in order to combat sexual and gender-based violence and advance gender equality, health and education of adolescent and young people.



Thank You

