

BOTSWANA

Bimonthly News Bulletin

No. 2 - JULY 2004



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the pages of our Bimonthly News Bulletin from UNDP in Botswana. A number of activities have taken place since the last publication in May. Through this edition we intend to provide you with an update of what we've been doing and other of developments in Botswana.

Some of the activities we have undertaken in the last month and a half include the successful launch this year's Human Development Report and under the theme of **Cultural Diversity in Today's Diverse World**. On the occasion of its launch we had honour of interacting with the Honourable Minister of Labour & Home Affairs Rre Thebe Mogami as our keynote speaker.

The month of June witnessed the participation of two young Batswana in the Pan African Youth Summit in Dakar, Senegal, where they joined youths from other corners of the world to chart out ways of how they can play an active role as ambassadors for the **Millennium Development Goals**. You will read about their summit (which preceded the African Union Heads of State meeting in Addis Ababa) elsewhere in this bulletin.

We will be open to comments, articles, letters, etc., and we will actively ask our development partners to contribute to the Bulletin.

I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY AND BENEFIT FROM THE READING!

BJØRN FØRDE

RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

United Nations Development Programme in Botswana

UNDP is the development network of the United Nations, advocating for change, and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is working to support the **Government and People of Botswana** build the human and institutional capacity needed to meet challenges in areas like HIV/AIDS, poverty, environment, governance and globalisation; to implement the objectives and aspirations expressed in the **Vision 2016**; and to address the goals and targets set by the international community, including the **Millennium Development Goals** in particular.

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EVENTS: JUNE

- **JUNE 5 – WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:** As has been the case for many years, UNDP cooperated with the Government of Botswana in celebrating this important day. Resident Representative gave a keynote address at Good Hope where the day was commemorated.
- **JUNE 9 - – UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S TASK FORCE ON WOMEN, GIRLS AND HIV/AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:** UN Country Team with two Imminent Persons from UN Secretary General's Task Force formerly presented the report to the President of Botswana, His Excellency Festus Mogae
- **JUNE 13 -** Shigeki , Botswana Country Advisor from New York, visits Botswana
- **JUNE 14 - 18 :** Resident Representative tours parts of the country to donate some US\$75 000.00 funds to a number of NGOs involved in HIV/AIDS war. The funds had been raised by UB40, British rock group.

EVENTS: JULY

- **JULY 9 – UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S TASK FORCE ON WOMEN, GIRLS AND HIV/AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:** The report was launched by the Minister of Labour & Home Affairs at the UN Place.
- **JULY 15 – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2004:** UNDP launched HDR 2004 version of this globally recognized report on the status of human development in the nations of the world.
- **JULY 26 – 27 –** Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa conducts a two-day interactive meeting in Gaborone. Four of the 21 Commissioners attended.

UNDP BOTSWANA PROVIDES US\$75,000 FROM UB40 CONCERT TO SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES

Last month UNDP Botswana donated funds from a UB40 concert to assist HIV/AIDS organizations to fight the epidemic.

In 2001 the worldwide famous rock group UB40 staged a special concert in their hometown of Birmingham to celebrate their 21st Anniversary. Part of the concert proceeds was intended to benefit HIV/AIDS interventions by civil society organizations.

As a result of an invitation to UB40 to join the United Nations' ongoing campaign to stop the alarming spread of HIV/AIDS, the group has released an amount of US\$ 75,000 [seventy-five thousand dollars] from the proceeds of that concert, to UNDP Botswana to disburse to deserving organizations in the area of HIV/AIDS.

During the month of June, the Resident Representative, Mr Bjørn Førde, visited a number of villages and towns to disburse the funds to beneficiary organizations most of which are orphan care givers. In all a total of seven organizations benefited from an amount of US\$ 10570.00, each.



RR presenting a cheque for P50,000 to the Maun Counseling Centre

“UNDP is committed to working with Civil Society Organizations as development partners”, said the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Bjørn Førde, when disbursing the funds, adding that: “they are important development agents, especially in confronting social problems. No country can deliver community services efficiently without CSO involvement, hence there is need for governments to form strategic partnership with CSO for the betterment of their people”.

He indicated that so many things relating to HIV/AIDS couldn't be handled and tackled by government alone. UNDP believes very strongly in a strong and vibrant civil society, able to attend to problems at grassroots level, he said.

Receiving the cheque in Maun, northwestern Botswana, where the Maun Counseling Center will use the donation to strengthen/support their ongoing community outreach and sensitization programmes, District Commissioner, Mrs Hobona thanked UNDP for “coming directly to the grassroots,” and assured the Resident Representative that the money will be put to good use. The Centre also intends to start orphan care programmes in the outlying areas particularly in Gomare, which is their satellite settlement.

Other beneficiary organizations will use their money to continue with their campaign programmes while others will start income-generating projects such as bakeries and vegetable gardens.

UNDP regards civil society organizations as partners who are complimenting whatever development efforts government provides to its citizenry. They are run by people who deal with problems at grassroots level on a daily basis.

Therefore there is no better placed authority than them to articulate and understand local problems and needs. And there is a need for government to clarify how and how much civil society should be funded from national budgets.

Benefiting organizations were:

- **NKAIKELA YOUTH PROJECT** IN TLOKWENG

- **HOUSE OF HOPE** IN PALAPYE
- **ITOSENG BANANA TRUST** IN PALAPYE
- **TSHIRELETSO AIDS AWARENESS CENTRE** IN FRANCIETOWN
- **MAUN COUNSELING CENTRE** IN MAUN
- **GANTSI CRAFT** IN GANTSI
- **GANTSI CHRISTIAN AIDS COMMITTEE** IN GANTSI



Orphans at the Maun Counseling Centre

UNDP Commemorates World Environment Day

UNDP Botswana joined the rest of the world in commemorating this year's World Environment Day.

UNDP collaborated with the National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency (NCSA), of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife & Tourism, in commemorating the day in the southern village of Good Hope in the Barolong Farms.

Hundreds of people braved the morning chill to start environmental marches from the village Kgotla to the Fair Grounds where ceremonies were held.

The keynote speaker was the Member of Parliament for the area, Mr Ronald Sebege who told his that conservation of the environment is a must for all people.

"We should be identified as friends of the environment by the way we interact with it", he said.

The Member of Parliament, who is also the chairman of the parliamentary Agriculture & Environment Committee, told his audience "our fore fathers had protected and conserved the environment hence we have inherited it with an abundance of natural resources and plenty of wildlife." As such we are obligated to conserve and preserve it for future generations, he cautioned.

The global theme for the day was "**Wanted! Seas and Oceans; Dead or alive**". The Botswana national theme was: **Environmental Conservation; Our Responsibility**" while the local theme for Good Hope was: **It's our Environment; Let's Protect it**".

While giving the United Nations' perspective of the day, UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Bjoern Forde, stated that "Botswana may be far away from the oceans and seas but as we live in a global village I'll urge you to think globally and act locally".

Today we live in a global village where the activities of or actions of people living in one corner of the world directly or indirectly impact on the lives of those living on the other side, he said.

"Human activity even in landlocked countries such as Botswana can directly or indirectly pollute oceans and seas on which millions of people around the world depend on for their livelihoods," said the Resident Representative.

The occasion was attended by various stakeholders including representatives of district and town councils from as far afield Masunga in the northeast, Francistown and Selebi Phikwe. Highlights of the day included keynote messages, environment marches, entertainment by the Botswana Defense Force, traditional music troupes as well as drama.

Human Development Report 2004 Launch – Botswana

Human Development Report 2004 under the heading “**Cultural Liberty in Today’s Diverse World**” was successfully launched in Botswana on Thursday 15th July 2004. The Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Mr Thebe Mogami, and the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Bjoern Foerde, launched it at the UN Place.

Over one hundred participants, including academics, civil society organisations, NGOs, government institutions and departments, and the media, attended the launch. The launch was divided into two segments. The Minister and an overview slide presentation by the Resident Representative made up the first part of formal speeches.



The Minister of Labour & Home Affairs Hon Thebe Mogami (right) when officially launching the report. With him is UNDP Resident Representative Mr Bjoern Foerde

In his presentation UNDP Resident Representative debunked myths in the report that policies that encourage the flourishing of cultural identity and diversity do not fragment and result in conflict and weakening development or authoritarian. He added that as a human right, cultural liberty is as important as politics and the economy because people should live and be what they choose.

The second part included panel discussions on the subject of culture and civil governance. There

were two groups of panelists. The first group of panelists, made up of well-known opinion makers tackled the issue of Culture, society and development. This group was made up of:

- a) Professor Lydia Nyathi-Ramahobo, a well-known spokesperson and advocate for the Kamanako Association – a cultural group in northwestern Botswana. She’s also a Professor at the University of Botswana. She argued that while she as an individual does not have a problem associating with anybody in the country she feels the constitution of the country discriminates because it only mentions eight principal tribes and excludes the so-called minor tribes.
- b) Dr Mmualefe Raditladi, an elder and renowned newspaper columnist who writes in both English and Setswana. Raditladi writes extensively on culture, politics and development in general. He presented that some of the culturally excluding practices were a colonial inheritance whereby citizens were taught to think that everything western was superior to their own cultures.
- c) Mr Phorano, the Director of Youth and Culture in the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs. Mr Phorano on the other hand argued that the government tries hard and recognizes the cultural diversity of the country, which is why in the Cultural Council various stakeholders are brought aboard including the youths. During the discussions one of the participants from the floor, Mr Pheny Mogae, one of the two youths who has recently returned from the Pan African Youth Summit in Dakar, Senegal, had asked as to how the youths are involved in Culutre policy formulation in Botswana. He had argued that because there is always a clash of interests between the youths and parents on matters of culture it is very important to include

youth when formulating any policies relating to culture because they are future leaders.

The second group which addressed the issue of Religion, Law, Culture and Development, was also made up of well known social commentators in the country:

- a) Reverend Prince Dibeela, the Principal of a local theological college in the city.
- b) Mr Omphemetse Motumise, the chair person of the Botswana Law Society
- c) Mr Rahim Khan, a board member of the Botswana Centre for Human Rights.

In all there was a lot of interesting the subject of cultural diversity and how nations can make use of their differences for national unity.

Earlier on when giving his keynote address the Minister mentioned that to have the debate about culture at this point in time is very appropriate because some of the most disturbing turmoil in the world today is related to it. He said that even in parts of the world such as Botswana, where there is relative peace and stability civil debates take place around it. He noted that because Botswana recognizes the importance of culture in national development the country has since the end of the UN's World Decade for Cultural Development decade that ran 1988 –1997, the country has declared May 21 its National Cultural Day and the theme for this year was "Culture and Democracy".

The Minister noted, "we welcome the Human Development Report 2004, not necessarily because we agree with everything it says, but rather because it provides relevant intellectual input towards a debate that virtually all contemporary societies are engaged in".



Part of the audience who attended the HDR 2004 launch

Youth leaders decide to set up standing network for Millennium goals

Participants in the first Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit Dakar, Senegal, this June decided to set up their own standing network, linked by the Internet, to work together on a regional and continental level in helping people and national institutions achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Two young Botswana are attending the summit in Dakar, Senegal. Ms Motshidisi Makgalemele and Mr Phenyog Mogae represented Botswana at this summit where each African country was expected to send two youth, male and female. The youth leaders identified conflict, HIV-AIDS, poverty and corruption as the main obstacles to progress. They called on governments to sign with youth representatives a convention on transparent management of public affairs. They also want to bring together the leaders of all religious denominations in each African country to commit themselves to promoting peace and dialogue, the essential prerequisites for development.



Motshidisi Makgalemele (left) and Phenyo Mogae (right)

HIV-AIDS, which affects between 2 and 40 per cent of all adults, depending on the country, has placed this matter at the heart of the youth leaders' concerns. They proposed making the African Nations Cup 2006 a special occasion for increasing awareness of the epidemic. They want to create partnerships in each African country to encourage young people to get together and carry out innovative awareness campaigns. They also suggested creating a continental network of young people suffering from AIDS and holding an annual summit for them.

Delegates called for reform of the education system, so that it includes an introduction to the challenges to be faced by 2015. They want to see countries include in their school curricula specific courses on issues such as environmental management. They proposed awarding a special trophy to those who have been particularly outstanding in environmental action.

Participants had the opportunity of listening to an address by Senegalese architect Pierre Goudiaby. He recounted his career and advised them to be enterprising and imaginative.

Marie-Angélique Savané, joint chairperson of the African Peer Review Mechanism, also spoke to them and explained how this new African institution operated, stressing its importance in regard to good governance. She

encouraged young people to take part in the work of the national peer review committees in their countries. The "Africa 2015" initiative aims at promoting attainment of the eight Millennium Development Goals – on poverty, hunger, education, maternal mortality, infant mortality, management of natural resources, HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and international solidarity. But it emphasizes Goal 6 – controlling HIV-AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and more specifically reversing the current spread of these diseases. The youth leaders underscored the urgency of such action in Africa, where three-quarters of the 42 million people worldwide suffering from HIV-AIDS live. It is estimated that 860,000 children in Africa have lost their teachers to AIDS. The epidemic contributes to famine in regions where agricultural producers have been decimated. It killed 2.4 million Africans in 2002 alone, and the rate of new infection is rising each year.

UNV provides technical assistance to the Central Statistics Office

United Nations Volunteer Specialist, Mr. Rashad Muaziz was placed as Database Administrator within the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). through a UNDP- Government of Botswana technical assistance project to establish a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to monitor and assess the performance, progress and achievements of all stakeholders within each of the following seven pillars/objectives which make-up Vision 2016: A Long-Term Vision for Botswana:

The Vision Council (VC) and its Secretariat was entrusted by the Office of the President with coordinating the extent to which implementation of programs and projects contribute to achieving the objectives of Vision 2016.

Recognizing the need to measure the development goals and objectives of the Vision 2016 and to create a M&E system with information-sharing

capacity; the Vision Council sought the assistance of UNDP Botswana to establish a Vision 2016 M&E system.

This led to the establishment of an M&E tool that further defines, measures and provides connectivity that allows for data-sharing among stakeholders. The M&E Section of the Central Statistics Office is responsible for populating and managing the Vision 2016 database. The database is actively being populated, and is currently connected to the Vision Council, the Vision Secretariat, the Office of the President, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and the Botswana National Productivity Center.

The post of the Database Administrator at the Central Statistics Office was filled with Mr. Muaziz, a native of Pakistan, in March 2003 to provide technical assistance and capacity building in the areas of database management including networking, programming and troubleshooting for the Vision 2016 M&E system - which is envisaged to be an on-line database system with reporting entities from government and other stakeholders. According to CSO Chief Statistician, Mrs. Anna Majelantle, Mr. Muaziz's work in the areas of performance screening and connectivity has been immensely valuable to the progress of the Vision 2016 M&E system.

Mr. Muaziz brought over 10 years of experience to the Botswana Central Statistics Office and the UN Volunteers Country Programme Botswana. He is an engineer with graduate training in Computer Programming and Systems Analysis and has a MCSE Certification from Microsoft. The bulk of his database management and capacity building experience emanates from work with the Afghanistan operation of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), which then were based in Islamabad Pakistan. Mr. Muaziz will continue his important assistance to the Central Statistics Office through March 2005.

BACKGROUND

FACTS ABOUT VISION 2016

Vision 2016 – Long-Term Vision for Botswana

- **An Educated and Informed Nation**
 - Education
 - Information
- **A Prosperous, Productive and Innovative Nation**
 - Sustainable Growth and Diversification
 - The Environment
 - Per Capita Incomes
 - Employment
 - Housing and Shelter
- **A Compassionate, Just and Caring Nation**
 - Income Distribution
 - Poverty
 - Social Safety Net
 - Health
 - HIV/AIDS
- **A Safe and Secure Nation**
 - Crime
 - Road Safety
 - National Defense
 - Disaster Preparedness
- **An Open Democratic and Accountable Nation**
 - Transparency
 - Attitude and Quality of Leadership
 - The Role of Traditional Leaders
- **A Moral and Tolerant Nation**
 - Morality
 - Tolerance
- **A United and Proud Nation**
Family Values, Traditions and History

BACKGROUND

FACTS ABOUT INDIGENOUS VEGETATION PROJECT (IVP)

Is a five year project ending in 2007. It is funded by the Global Environmental Facility and the Botswana government. It is implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture This is a pilot project aimed at developing models and practices for community-driven rehabilitation of degraded rangelands, for replication throughout the arid and semi-arid zones of Africa.



One of the posters that the Botswana team displayed in Bangkok

The presentations highlighted the successful partnership of several organizations and government institutions: UNDP, the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnership, the Botswana Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Local Government, and Botswana Television.

The focus was on sharing the Botswana experience in distance education and the use of multimedia teaching methodology, underlining both successes and challenges. TCB would also benefit by learning about other HIV education programs world-wide.

“TCB is serving as an example of the potential of interactive television for bringing about desired behavioral change towards HIV prevention in teachers and students, said UNDP TCB Manager representing the team in Bangkok, Mr. Richard Mathhare.

“TCB relates directly to Botswana’s national Vision 2016 that addresses youth as a ‘window of opportunity’ for creating an HIV-free generation.”

TALK BACK NEWS

By Linda Pfothenauer

Talk Back at Bangkok, 2004

A series of posters on the Talk Back television program was presented at the 15th International AIDS Conference held this July in Bangkok, Thailand.

The poster presentations explained the philosophy, policy and implementation of the project, the scripting and production processes, and the use of interactive television in Botswana schools.

Talk Back is part of the **Teacher Capacity Building Project** for HIV/AIDS Prevention (TCB) that aims to empower Botswana teachers with knowledge and skills to infuse HIV and life skills education in classroom teaching.

UN VOLUNTEER UPDATE

- **POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY:** UNDP has been asked to participate in the Multisectoral Committee, hosted by Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, tasked with the monitoring of the implementation.
- **INVESTMENT POLICY AND LAW:** Stakeholders have met to discuss priorities for the next three years and agree on annual plans.

NEWSFLASH

UNDP launches Global Compact

UNDP launched the UN Global Compact initiative in Botswana towards the end of May 2004. The event which was held at the Gaborone Sun, was attended by, among others, community leaders, Gaborone business community the media and United Nations staff. The launch will start at 6 pm. NGO are encouraged to join in the launch.

The Global Compact is the United Nations' Secretary Generals, Kofi Annan's initiative by which he calls on business leaders, private companies to come together with UN agencies governments, labour and civil society to support universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour and environment.

UN Global Compact is a voluntary corporate citizenship initiative with two complimentary objectives;

- ✓ Making the Global Compact and its principles part of business strategy and operations
- ✓ Facilitating cooperation among key stakeholders and promoting partnerships in support of UN goals.

To achieve these objectives, the Global Compact offers facilitation and engagement through several mechanisms: Policy Dialogues, Learning, Local Networks and Partnership projects. Please come and join UNDP launch this initiative, your attendance means much.

HIV/AIDS UPDATE

- PROMOTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN POLICY AND ILO CODE OF PRACTICE: Briefing session on the un policy. UNDP this will be undertaken by UNDP in collaboration with UNAIDS, in May.
- PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ALL STAFF MEMBERS , OTHER PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS ON HOW TO ACCESS VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING (VCT) AND TESTING SERVICES – FRIDAY 7 MAY: For “**We Care programme**”, UNDP together with sister agencies will identify VCT services offered in Botswana. Organise learning sessions on the need for VCT. Legal aspects of confidentiality.
- CREATE A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHANGE OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIV/AIDS - FRIDAY 7 MAY: To dialogue on facts about HIV/AIDS and also on the purchase of HIV/aids video tapes.

TEACHER CAPACITY BUILDING: UPDATE

Botswana teachers watching Talk Back last May were treated to the launch of the ‘new face’ of Talk Back.

An attractive new set, new graphics and music, and a new presentation of clips were introduced, along with a sign language box. This was a first for the nation – live, simultaneous signage for the hearing impaired on the national BTV.

The ‘new face’ of Talk Back has added substantially to the visual appeal of the program, and already producers are receiving positive feedback from viewers.

