



2003 – 2007 COUNTRY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND STRUCTURE

The pervasive effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the life and livelihoods of Botswana led UNICEF to concentrate both its human and financial resources on projects that help prevent and mitigate its devastating effects on children, women and families. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Botswana remains one of the highest in the world. Preliminary results from the 2004 Botswana AIDS Impact Survey (BAISII) show that the prevalence rate for the 25-49 age group is approximately 34.4 percent. HIV/AIDS touches every aspect of life in Botswana. It continues to undermine the enormous advances this democratic country has made by aggravating poverty, increasing child mortality, weakening families, compromising productivity, and decimating the working age population. At home, families live with the effects of HIV/AIDS first hand as they try to cope with income loss due to illness, the trauma of losing loved ones, the costs of caring for the sick, the burden of looking after orphaned relatives, and the overall physical, emotional and financial drain that the disease engenders.

Children and women are the most directly affected. Children under 5 have a prevalence rate of 6.3 percent. Women in their childbearing years have the highest rates of infection ranging between 30 to 40 percent. For every HIV positive boy between the ages of 15 to 19 years, there are three HIV positive girls. In Botswana, women head more than 50 percent of households and they are forced to adapt to the stresses that HIV/AIDS places on the family and at the same time have less power to negotiate safe sex. Children live with the consequences. The continued spread of the virus poses a serious threat to the fulfilment of women's and children's rights. It is only through a comprehensive and coordinated emergency intervention that the situation for children and women will improve.

For this reason, in 2004, UNICEF continued to integrate HIV/AIDS related interventions in all aspects of its three primary programmes: HIV/AIDS Prevention and Mitigation; Policy, Legislation and Social Services; and Mobilisation for Children's and Women's Rights.

The overall goal of the Government of Botswana (GOB)/UNICEF 2003-2007 Country Programme is to use UNICEF's technical expertise and modest financial resources to bolster capacity at the family, community and national levels in

order to more effectively promote and fulfill children's rights. UNICEF is dedicated to integrating the Human Rights-based Approach to Programming (HRAP) in each of its projects so that individuals and communities are empowered to play a direct role in the prevention of HIV/AIDS. This partnership with the community- with claim holders and duty bearers, has created local ownership and greater accountability. The result is greater access and wider coverage for those who need help and more personal commitment by the local service providers.

The Country Programme guiding principles are: providing a good start to life for young children; guaranteeing a safe passage to adulthood for adolescents; increasing participation for children and getting their voices heard; and placing children on the official agenda. (For a detailed illustration of the GOB/UNICEF's 2003-2007 Country Programme structure, please see figure 1 on page 14.)

UNICEF Botswana would like to thank all of its partners in government, the private sector and all the NGOs, CBOs, FBOs and individuals for their dedication and tireless work on behalf of children and women in Botswana. A list of individual partners can be found on each programme summary page.



FIGURE 1: GOB/UNICEF COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION: 2003-2007 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

| Programmes | HIV/AIDS Prevention and Mitigation Programme | Policy, Legislation and Social Services Programme | Mobilisation for Children's & Women's Rights Programme | Cross-sectoral Costs Programme |
|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
| Projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMTCT Plus • Care of Orphans and Vulnerable Children • Adolescent Empowerment and Mobilisation • Project Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Legal Analysis • Integrated Early Childhood Development • Integrated Girls Education • Project Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Communication for Community Capacity Development • Advocacy for Children's and Women's Rights • Media and HIV/AIDS • Project Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Support |

Guiding Principles

- A Good Start for Life
- Safe Passage to Adulthood
- Increased Participation and Getting Children's Voices Heard
- Placing Children on the Agenda

Strategies

- Applying human rights principles for programming and community capacity development
- Improving the quality of and access to service delivery through capacity building and institutional strengthening
- Promoting and developing an enabling policy and programme environment
- Strengthening family and community capacities



PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION IN 2004

HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND MITIGATION PROGRAMME

The projects supported under this programme are key to helping mitigate and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. With an HIV prevalence rate of 37.4% among pregnant women, and a national prevalence rate of 17.1%, UNICEF in Botswana continues to focus most of its efforts on helping children, young people, women and families confront the challenges of the epidemic. In 2004, UNICEF Botswana's specific aim was to reinforce existing projects in order to scale up the participation in PMTCT, improve the coverage and quality of services for orphans and to strengthen initiatives for young people.