

# Botswana



**Joined Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement:** April 2015

**National multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition:** National Nutrition Technical Committee

**SUN government focal point/country coordinator:** Mr. Thabang Leslie Botshoma, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Support Services), Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security

## COUNTRY NUTRITION STATUS

### → Annual country nutrition indicators from the Global Nutrition Report:

<https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/southern-africa/botswana>

### ● National multi-stakeholder platform (MSP)

Date established: 2013

### ● MSP annual action plan exists

### ● Subnational nutrition coordination mechanism

#### ● Subnational MSPs exist

#### ● Subnational MSPs have annual action plans

### ● National nutrition plan

### ● Advocacy and communications framework/plan

### SUN networks in-country presence

#### ● SUN Civil Society Network

#### ● SUN Business Network

#### ● UN Nutrition

#### ● SUN Academia Network

#### ● SUN Donor Network

#### ● Others: e.g. youth, parliamentarian, media

### Finance for nutrition

#### ● Resource mobilization strategy exists

#### ● Budget tracking exercise done this year

#### ● Funding gaps identified this year

#### ● Domestic expenditures on nutrition tracked

● Yes ● In process ● No ● Costed ● M&E framework

## COUNTRY PRIORITIES 2022

### → Improving access to safe and nutritious food, including addressing under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

### → Improving maternal nutrition, reducing overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases and improving food quality and safety.

### → Improving production and productivity and organizing markets for agricultural products, particularly for smallholder operators.

## 2021 SHARED COUNTRY GOOD PRACTICE

**Topic:** Institutionalizing nutrition in agriculture: the nexus through which agriculture can influence nutrition outcomes

**About:** Botswana is committed to tackling malnutrition in a more sustainable and multisectoral manner, which is evident through its recognition of the role and responsibility of all relevant sectors in improving nutrition and its integration of nutritional objectives into a new policy and investment plan.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS

## SUN 3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

### → SO.1 Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments

Botswana uses the priority areas of the Southern African Development Community's Food and Nutrition Security Strategy to guide the implementation of nutrition and agricultural production initiatives and programmes. The draft Revised National Policy on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Transformation has also integrated nutrition. It seeks to catalyse sustainable agriculture by transforming smallholder agriculture into a highly productive, efficient, competitive and sustainable system. The Government acknowledges that effective governance and relevant policies can accelerate the transformation of food and agricultural systems while sustainably reducing hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

### → SO.2 Develop and align shared country priorities for action

Despite having made little progress in malnutrition-related multisectoral interventions and coordination, plans are under way to form or strengthen partnerships between the Government and relevant stakeholders to tackle food security and nutrition capacity gaps and align country priorities. This is important as agricultural policies and programmes usually cut across several ministries and involve various stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of integrated policies. Context-specific multisectoral and multi-stakeholder strategic frameworks should be implemented at the subnational and national levels in alignment with national priorities, as well as regional and global aspirations.

### → SO.3 Build and strengthen country capacity

Nutrition capacity is limited in Botswana, particularly in non-health ministries. The following strategies should therefore be implemented to build and strengthen country capacity: the provision of evidence-based knowledge on the role, constraints and mechanisms of capacity-building in food security and nutrition; the design and implementation of context-specific capacity-building activities within the country's food security and nutrition environment (policies and programmes), alongside collaboration with relevant stakeholders to increase the impact of such policies and programmes on the ground.

### → SO.4 Ensure governance of SUN that promotes country leadership and responsibilities of government, aligns the resources of all SUN Movement stakeholders behind country priorities and strengthens 360 mutual accountability

Botswana is not on track to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) nutrition targets. The COVID-19 pandemic and its response strategies have worsened the situation by disrupting food security, nutrition and health systems. The Government plans to implement context-specific multisectoral and multi-stakeholder subnational and national strategic frameworks to prioritize nutrition on the development agenda and build capacity (e.g. SUN focal point(s) and members of the MSP for nutrition) to develop strategic partnerships on policy reforms. Combined interventions and the institutionalization of nutrition expertise in non-health sectors can improve the nutritional status of population groups.