Botswana
Joined: April 2015

Highlights

- There is general consensus that social protection programmes contribute immensely to addressing hunger, poverty and vulnerability. Therefore, Botswana has set up a complex social protection system and dedicates a large part of its national income to finance several social protection programmes. Botswana’s social indicators compare well with those of upper-middle-income countries.
- It has been recognised that weaknesses in the design, implementation, coordination and monitoring, and fiscal sustainability of these social protection programs need to be addressed.

Under five stunting: 31.4%
Low-birth weight: -
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding: -
Under five wasting: 7.2%
Under five overweight: 11.2%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years: 28.5%

*Data sources detailed in Annex 1
Botswana joined the SUN Movement on 9th April 2015, with a letter from the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Patrick Pule Ratotsi, in which progress achieved in food security was highlighted as well as areas requesting further attention in the future such as: food accessibility, quality and utilization, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, coordination and monitoring & evaluation for nutrition.

There is currently no information provided by Botswana regarding the existence of financial tracking systems for nutrition allocations and spending or specific funds dedicated to nutrition.

Botswana has a revised National Food Strategy (2000) and a National Nutrition Strategy which is not yet endorsed. It has common salt regulations which include iodisation and the Food Control Act (2008). It also has regulations for the marketing of breastmilk substitutes which date to 2005, but, Botswana recognises that their effective implementation remains a challenge due to the behaviors of local industries and other country trade partners. The draft of an Infant and Young Child Feeding Strategy exists but is not yet enacted.

Finally, though food fortification is not mandatory in Botswana, the government provides fortified sorghum and maize products through the Vulnerable Groups Feeding Program.

Botswana has no Common Results Framework yet but is leading several programs that contribute to better nutrition among the population, including: a growth monitoring program to identify vulnerable under-five children that need special attention; a Vulnerable Groups Feeding Program implemented across the country; a School Feeding Program; a Destitute Persons’ Program (food basket); Backyard Garden Projects which are part of the poverty eradication program; a Youth Grant Program enabling youth to engage in agriculture (crop and animal production) and the Ipelegeng Program, whose main objective is to provide short term employment support and relief.

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Progress reported by SUN Movement Secretariat in 2015 and validated by country