

Bridge the GAP; Governance Oversight and Collaboration between Parliament and CSO

EU contribution: € 200,000.00 (Pula 3,064,955.97)

Period of implementation: 2 years from 2026-2027

Location: Based in Gaborone, outreach activities in Francistown, Molepolole, Mochudi and Maun.

Implementing organisation(s): Lead Applicant by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and Co-Applicant Botswana Centre for Public Integrity (BCPI)

Project Objectives and Description

The proposed action aims to build a formal, lasting partnership between Botswana's Parliament and civil society organisations to make governance more inclusive, transparent and participatory.

It will bring together selected Parliamentary caucuses, committees, staff and CSOs to:

- strengthen legislative development and parliamentary oversight;
- improve public participation in governance;
- create structured dialogue and joint planning mechanisms;
- identify shared legislative priorities; and
- support the co-creation of joint Bills for possible tabling in Parliament.

A key objective is to move Parliament–CSO engagement from occasional consultation to institutionalised collaboration embedded in parliamentary practice. Overall, the project seeks to enhance accountability, improve the responsiveness of democratic institutions, and promote a more people-centred Parliament in Botswana.

Key interventions include:

- Establishing formal coordination mechanisms: Strengthened CSO–Parliament Oversight Collaboration
- Co-designing legislative frameworks: Building on public debates,
- Institutionalising engagement platforms

Achievements / expected results:

- **Public Launch** - successfully launched the Bridging the GAP project **on the 23rd April 2026 at Parliament Garden**, which featured High Level Panel discussion and monumental MoU signing between FES, BCPI and Parliament establishing a formal partnership between Parliament, BCPI, and FES Botswana.

- **Completion of Diagnostic Report** - consultations with MPs, parliamentary staff, CSOs and citizens to identify obstacles to collaboration in oversight, legislation and public participation, and produced a diagnostic report to inform the Joint Oversight Clinic and broader reform efforts.
- **CSO and Parliament Capacity building**
Enhanced CSO and Parliament knowledge and capacity on parliamentary processes, oversight, legislative engagement, and the use of digital tools such as Botswana Speaks to facilitate public participation.
- **Joint Oversight Clinic**
 - all the three Parliament Committees (**10 MPs**), parliamentary staff (**15**), CSOs (**22**), Speaker and Clerk of National Assembly.
 - Joint Parliament–Civil Society Oversight Collaboration Roadmap and Action Plan developed
 - Joint Parliament–Civil Society Task Team established
- **Public Outreach Activities:**
Expanded public engagement through World Café dialogues, creating accessible platforms for citizens to contribute to legislative reform discussions and increasing awareness of Parliament's oversight role. These included:
 - Diamond Square Main Mall Gaborone World Café
 - Francistown Public engagement 29th **April 2026** at Blue Jacket Plaza
 - Molepolole World Café took place on the 20th of **May 2026** at Mafenyatlala Mall
 - Botswana Speaks Online CSO training **3 July 2026**,
- **Legislative Thematic Priorities**
 - CSOs refined their thematic priorities for the thematic workshops, the three legislative priority areas for collaborative reform:
 - **Public Participation Act**
 - **Environmental Management Act**
 - **Gender Equality and Equity Act**

Incoming public / visibility events:

- **26 August 2026** – Public World Café - Mochudi
- **22–25 September 2026** – Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources and Climate Change Thematic Workshop
- **13–14 October 2026** – Gender Equality Thematic Workshop
- **20–21 October 2026** – Governance and Oversight Thematic Workshop

Project website / Social media account links:

- Webpage: [Bridging the Gap](#)
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fesbots>
- Botswana Centre for public integrity facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCPI.org>

