



Strengthening the Capacity of Botswana Civil Society to play an effective Watchdog Role for enhanced Accountability and Sustainable Development

EU contribution: € 225,000 (approx. BWP 3,500,000)

Period of implementation: 2020-2023

Location: Kgalagadi, Ghanzi, Kweneng and Northwest Districts

Implementing organisation(s): Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO); Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA)

Project objectives and description:

This programme aims to strengthen civil society's watchdog role in enhancing transparency, accountability, and sustainable development in Botswana. The programme seeks to address systemic challenges—such as weak coordination, limited resource mobilisation, and ineffective engagement strategies—that hinder CSOs and local authorities from fully contributing to the implementation of Botswana's National Development Plan 11 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By building institutional capacities, fostering collaborative advocacy, and establishing social accountability mechanisms, the Action will empower CSOs and local authorities to monitor public procurement, budget processes, and service delivery, ensuring they are responsive to the needs of marginalised groups while combating corruption. The initiative also prioritises mainstreaming cross-cutting issues like human rights, gender equality, and HIV/AIDS responsiveness.

Achievements / expected results:

A new partnership between BOCONGO and BALA was created, improving how they work together. They now have shared plans and tools (like a joint communication strategy) and trained leaders to better guide civil society and local councils. While more groups are not yet fully involved in holding leaders accountable, the groundwork is set for future success—delayed slightly by COVID-19.

New easy-to-use tools (like simplified budget guides and spending reviews) were introduced to help communities monitor government plans (NDP11 & SDGs). Local councils are now working more closely with civil society, showing early progress. Though full rollout was slowed by COVID-19, groups are ready to use these systems widely to improve transparency.

Incoming public / visibility events: -

Project website / Social media account links:

- <https://www.facebook.com/bocongo>