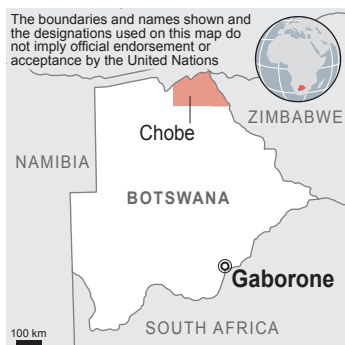


# Increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services by youth



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Botswana

**Duration:** March 2002 to January 2004

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNAIDS; UNFAP

**Other Implementing Partners:** Botswana National Youth Council

**Budget:** \$270,175

**Key Words:** Health; HIV/AIDS; youth

## BACKGROUND

In 2001, Botswana had one of the highest HIV infection rates in the world at 35.8 percent among people aged 15 to 49. The rate of infection meanwhile was rising sharply among pregnant women and adolescents, with alarming implications for the future of the nation's economy and its workforce. The rising rate of infection among adolescents was symptomatic of a larger issue facing Botswana that had to do with

the lack of sexual and reproductive health education and services. Contraceptives, including those that would prevent the spread of HIV, were not widely used by sexually active teenagers, and the teenage pregnancy rate was high. To preserve health and economic security, a wide expansion of sexual and reproductive health services for teenagers was urgently needed in Botswana.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project was to contribute to improved sexual and reproductive health among youth in the Chobe sub-district of Botswana. This was to be achieved by providing sexual and reproductive health training to healthcare providers; improving access to

information on sexual and reproductive health issues for youth; and providing access to better healthcare, including the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

### BENEFICIARIES

The main recipients of the project were youth aged 10 to 29 with an emphasis on adolescents aged 13 to 19 in the remote area of Chobe Sub-District, covering five villages of the Chobe Enclave: Mabele, Kavimba, Satau, Parakarungu and Kachikau. Community members such as teachers, parents, health workers

were the secondary beneficiaries of the project. The project involved Community Based Organisations (CBOs) including youth groups, national and local Governmental organisations, schools, clinics and hospitals.