SADC Regional Workshop on the Use of Administrative Data Sources for Migration Statistics

17-21 March 2025

Background

- Botswana is another key transit country for irregular migration flows that include various migrant categories, including asylum seekers, migrant workers and victims of human trafficking. However, over the years Botswana has increasingly become a destination country.

- Botswana also attracts migrant populations from countries around the globe, in particular from South and East Asia, to work in the mining and construction sectors.

- Over the last decade, the migrant population reached a total of 110,268 people in 2020, representing 4.6 per cent of the country's total population.

- The distribution of immigrants by sex shows that 43 per cent are female and 57 per cent are male. Similar to its immigration data, Botswana has experienced increasing emigration in recent decades, with emigration numbers reaching 63,561 people in 2020, or 2.6 per cent of its total population (2.4 million).

- Botswana has been experiencing very high levels of rural urban migration internally, resulting in the rapid expansion of main cities such as Gaborone and Francistown and putting pressure on these urban hubs to accommodate the international and internal migrant populations.

Mandate

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, through the Department of Immigration and Citizenship is charged with the responsibility of migration management and the overall coordination of collection of migratory data for onward transmission to Statistics Botswana for analysis.

Overall mandate of Department

- Facilitating movement of persons in and out of Botswana in accordance with the Immigration Act (CAP 25:02);

- Issuance of Botswana passports to citizens of Botswana;

- Processing applications for Botswana Citizenship in accordance with the Citizenship Act (CAP 01:01);

- Ensuring the security of citizenship and residents through border control management including conducting investigations, repatriations and deportations;

- Representing and Promoting the interests of Botswana in countries of accreditation (Diplomatic Missions); and

- Facilitating the growth of the economy and improving Botswana's economic competiveness through VISA and permit systems (*Permanent Residence Permit, Residence Permits, Exemption Certificate and Botswana Blue Card*).

Mandate cont...

Statutes

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship derives authority from the following pieces of legislation:

- **Immigration Act, CAP 25:02**

- The Act empowers the Minister, among others, to do the following;

- Establish the Regional Immigration Selection Board;

- Determines Appeals of rejected Work and Residence Permits;

- Confers the status of Permanent Residence to illegible persons including worthwhile investors who do not meet the residence requirements of five (5) years;

- Cancellation of Permits; and

- Declaration of Prohibited Immigrants and Undesirable elements including their removal.

Mandate cont...

Citizenship Act, CAP 01:01

The Act empowers the Minister, among others, to do the following;

- Establish the Citizenship Committee and appoint its members;

- Grant citizenship to persons who have resided in Botswana immediately before 30th September 1966;

- Adopted children of citizens over the age 3 years;

- Persons under 21 years whose father or mother has become citizens of Botswana; and

- Any person with respect to whose citizenship of Botswana a doubt exists, whether on a question of fact or law.

- Grant Certificate of Naturalisation to eligible non-citizens including spouses of citizens;

- May, where special circumstances exist, award citizenship to an applicant who fails to satisfy the language requirement;

- May, in the special circumstances of any particular case, waive or accept a shorter period the residence requirement;

- Register the declaration of renunciation of Botswana citizenship in respect of persons who are desirous   of acquiring a foreign citizenship;

- Deprive any person of citizenship of Botswana who is a citizen by registration or naturalization; and

- May waiver or reduce any citizenship application fee payable.

Organisational structure

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

- Section 26 of the Statistics Act of 2009: states that SB is a coordinator of the National

  Statistical System (NSS).

  NSS comprises of all users and producers of data and these includes: Data users
  Data producers, Data suppliers, Research and training institutions

- Statistics Botswana developed a framework named BSDS (2015-2020, and later extended to March 2023)- its purpose was to:
    - Address data limitations
    - Respond to the declining quantity and quality of official statistics
    - Respond to the new emerging data requirements
    - To encourage mainstreaming of statistics in the sector planning process

- Ministry – anchor point , include other stakeholders in related business parastatals, private sector and other agencies,

- Sector Statistics Committee Coordinators are -appointed by the Permanent Secretary

Relevant human resources in the NSO and Labour and Immigration departments for the production of migration statistics

Statistics Botswana

- Several units within the NSO deal with migration statistics
- Headed at Senior Statistician level.
- Each unit has at least 2 Statisticians.
- *Census & Demography, Health, Education, Crime , Civil & Vital, Tourism, Labour & Poverty etc.*

Immigration & Citizenship

- Several divisions within the Department (Migration & VISA; Passport and Border Control; Citizenship; and Investigation and Repatriation) deal with migration statistics-the Divisions are headed at Chief Immigration Administrator Level.
- However, the majority of the officers are not Statisticians by profession.

Labour & Social Security

- Training and Localisation Management Unit
- Headed at Principal Officer level
- Senior Officer Level – 2
- Lower level- 4

Institutional arrangements and data sharing

Institutional arrangement

Currently no MoU between Statistics Botswana and Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs

Technical Working Group - with the Dept. of Immigration and Citizenship (data sharing, data quality)
provide general oversight on all issues relating to production of migration statistics, technical, operational, budgeting, data exchange and advocacy matters related to the collection and compilation of migration statistics.

Legal provisions

- **Statistics Act 2009** – provides for collaborate with Government ministries, departments and other agencies in the collection, compilation, processing, publication, dissemination and archiving of statistical information including statistics derived from routine administrative activities

- **Census Act 2001**

- **National Migration Policy** – aims to improve the collection, storage , management, use and sharing of migration data as a tool for informed and evidence based migration policy and management while ensuring the integrity of the data. Promote use migration data in migration management and national strategic planning

Data sharing procedures

- **User-producer dialogues**
  Essential for matching demand and supply of official statistics and promote efficiency in the NSS. Initially held annually, but due to NSS coordination capacity constraints, the forums were reduced to once in every two years.

- The implementation of the BSDS I led to establishment of statistics units in various sectors, these structures facilitated the development of statistics.

- Some MDAs formed statistics committees with technical support from SB although a number were non-functional. This was perpetuated by the non-supportive environment within the respective MDAs which also led to slow implementation of SSPs due to budgetary constraints for statistical activities including in sectors that had signed SSPs.

- **Inter-Ministerial Committee** - Sectorial Committee on Migration, tasked with effective coordination and implementation of action plan chaired by Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation sub-committees** - established to deal with sector specific migration issues

Challenges

- Migration data is fragmented in multiple documents across Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

- The absence of interfaced data systems between stakeholders results in delays in transmission of available data.

- Sharing of migration data between MDAs and National Statistics Office (NSO) is not timely.

- Dual collection of data;

Migration statistics produced and disseminated

Most of the household surveys and census carry migration module. Analytical reports for PHC 2022 are currently being finalized and published.

Some migration statistics and produced from intercensal surveys and administrative data sources:

- Botswana Multitopic Household Survey – currently ongoing from October 2024 to October 2025;

- Demographic and Health Survey

- Work and residence Permit Holders

- Tourism and Migration statistics

- School Enrollment statistics

All statistics produced by the NSO are published on the website, statistical and micro data portals, and other platforms. Raw data is shared on request to the Statistician General.

How are administrative records (microdata) from Labour and Immigration departments captured and stored (digital/manual)? Elaborate on systems used

Immigration and Citizenship System (ICS)

- Used for processing applications of all permits (Residence Permits, Exemption Certificates, Permanent Residence Permit, Citizenship, Botswana Blue Card, VISA and processing of prohibited immigrants as well as cancellation of permits). The system is interfaced with systems from agencies such as BOCCRA, BURS, Ministry of Health and the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC).

- **Labour Market Information System (LMIS)**
  Collects, analyses, monitors and captures labour market information. The system captures statistical and non-statistical information concerning labour market actors and their environment.

How are administrative records (microdata) from Labour and Immigration departments captured and stored (digital/manual)? Elaborate on systems used

Births and Deaths Registration System (BDRS)

- The **BDRS** is used to register births and deaths. The National Birth Register stands at **two million, one hundred and forty-three thousand, four hundred and seventy-one (2,143,471)** from 1968 (commencement of compulsory registration) to date.

- The has been improved registration of vital events hence the latest Annual Vital Statistics Report indicates that coverage is currently at **98%.**

National Identity System (NIS)

- The Ministry currently uses the **NIS** to manage the National Register and to produce Identity Cards. The National Identity Register currently stands at a total of **one million, eight hundred and fourteen thousand six hundred and twenty-seven thousand (1, 814,627)** from 1988 to date.

- A total of approximately **two million, one hundred and thirty-seven thousand, eight hundred and seventy-five (2,137,875)** National Identity Cards were processed from **1988** to date.

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Passport and Border Control System (PBCS)

- The system has two Modules, that is, the Passport Personalisation System (PPS) which is used for processing of Passport applications and the Border Control System (BCS) used for the management of movement of persons in and out of the country. However, the Ministry is considering separating Passport Production and Border Control functions.

It must be noted that in order to facilitate safe, orderly cross border movement of people, goods and services, the following have been achieved:

- Use of National Identity Cards for Cross Border Travel between Botswana and Namibia commenced on 24 February 2023.

- Computerization of **31** out **32** Border Posts and Installation of Public Key Directory (PKD) in compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) standards. Only **Dobe Border Post,** which is currently under construction, awaits Computerisation.

- Publication of the National Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) Report to promote evidenced based policy decisions.

- Extension of the operating hours- 24-hour operation at Mamuno/ Trans- Kalahari Border Posts.

- Establishment of One Stop Border Post (OSBP)- Kazungula and Mamuno/ Trans- Kalahari Border Posts to promote coordinated and integrated approach to facilitate trade, movement of people and improving security.

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- Work Permits are currently processed manually. However, the Ministry, through the assistance of the Digital Transformation Coordination Office (DTCO), is currently developing a new system.

- The **Automation of Ministerial Work and Residence Related Functions.** 13 out of the 31 processes are complete and the system is to be commissioned on the 31st March 2025.

- The modules include **Work and Residence, Permanent Residence, Citizenship, Blue Card, VISA, Appeals, Registration of Trade Unions**, as well as resolution of trade disputes etc. the system will be able to issue Work and Residence Permit in one sticker unlike currently whereby two (2) different documents are issued.

- In order to address the issue of statelessness, the Birth and Death Registration Act makes provision for the registration and issuance of a Birth Certificate in respect of every person born in Botswana and provision of registration of the births of foundlings. In order to operationalize this Registration Centres have been established in all major Health facilities, including, private hospitals to ensure timely registration of births and deaths.

- Government also undertakes Mobile Registration Exercises targeting remote areas aimed at registering events and issuing certificates on the spot. In such areas penalty fees for late registration are often waived to encourage people to register events.

- Targeted Registration Campaigns are also conducted with the support of UN partners and NGOs to promote and encourage registration of vital events.

Technical assistance and capacity building needs

Technical assistance or training obtained in the past 5 years on migration statistics and administrative data systems

➢ Botswana had the opportunity to attend a training workshop organised by IOM on Migration Data Analysis and Report Writing in August 2024. however, we still need further assistance or training in this area.

Capacity building needs and technical assistance required to set up administrative data systems for migration statistics

➢ Botswana is undertaking a project on the Strengthening of Migration Data Systems to support evidence-based policymaking and align with both the GCM and Vision 2036.

➢ The project will be undertaken during the Financial Year 2025/26. IOM is providing funding for the project. We are hopeful that this will go a long way in addressing challenges currently being experienced with regard to migration data.