

BOTSWANA RED CROSS SOCIETY



FIRST AID



DISASTER MANAGEMENT



BRANCH & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



OUR MISSION
To alleviate human suffering by providing humanitarian services to most vulnerable communities

OUR VISION
To be a model of excellence in serving the vulnerable

OUR VALUES
Efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery
Transparency and openness at all levels
Authenticity in dealing with internal and external customers
Quality service
Honesty

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Voluntarism
- Universality
- Independence



Follow Us

- Botswana Red Cross Society
- @BotswanaRedCross
- botswana.red.cross



Botswana Red Cross Society

@BotswanaRed

botswanaredcross

OUTREACH 2024



www.botswanaredcross.org.bw

THE YEAR 2024

by the Secretary General

It is with immense gratitude and pride that we look back and sum up the activities that we embarked on during the first half of the year. We have achieved significant milestones in our efforts to build resilient communities and mitigate the impact of disasters. Our collaborations with Key stakeholders have been instrumental in addressing immediate challenges and laying the foundation for long-term sustainability and resilience.

Our Esteemed reader, as we navigate the complex landscape of humanitarian work in the face of escalating climate change, dwindling donor support, and global challenges, it is imperative that we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving those most in need. The urgency of the climate and health crisis, demands innovative solutions and collaborative efforts, and it is within this context that the role of strategic partnerships becomes paramount.

Climate change is not a distant threat; it is a present reality that affects most of our communities. The impacts of prolonged drought in our country are far-reaching and profound. As humanitarian leaders, we aim to adapt and evolve our approaches to meet the evolving needs of those we serve. This means not only providing immediate relief but also investing in long-term resilience-building initiatives that empower communities to withstand the effects of a changing climate.

Following the successful hosting of our inaugural Disaster Risk Management Symposium (hosted on the 25 - 27 March 2024) in partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross Society and the National Disaster Management office under the Ministry of the State President, this was our collective achievement in addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time, which is global warming. The symposium stands as a testament to our commitment to proactive and collaborative solutions in the face of adversity. It is through such strategic partnerships, that we have worked tirelessly to promote sustainable practices and build resilience in communi-



-ties vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Nonetheless, In an era of competing priorities and economic uncertainties, the challenge of securing adequate funding for humanitarian efforts has never been greater. Yet, it is precisely in times of scarcity that the importance of strategic partnerships becomes most evident. By forging alliances with like-minded organizations and governments, we can leverage our collective resources and expertise to maximize impact and reach.

Our ongoing efforts to offer training to curb gender-based violence reflect our commitment to creating safer and more inclusive communities. By empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills to recognize and address gender-based violence, we are working towards a future where everyone can live free from fear and discrimination.

Central to our success has been our quest for strategic partners and donors who share our vision of a more sustainable and resilient world. The unwavering support and generosity have enabled us to implement impactful projects and initiatives that benefit communities. Our successful vaccination campaign stands as a testament to our collective efforts to resolve and combat public health challenges and protect the most vulnerable members of our society. Through our combined efforts with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, and USAID we have made significant strides in improving access to healthcare in Kweneng East and Kweneng West, to promote overall well-being. The challenges we face are ever-evolving, and it is only through collaboration and perseverance that we can overcome them. By ensuring access to life-saving vaccines, we are not only protecting individuals from disease but also strengthening the fabric of our communities.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated team of volunteers, whose unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have been the driving force behind our campaign accomplishments. Their selflessness and dedication to serving others have been truly inspiring, and I am deeply grateful for their contributions.

Their passion, dedication, and hard work have been instrumental in empowering communities to withstand and recover from the impacts of disasters.

“Equally vital is the role of my esteemed Team in achieving our strategic goals. ”

Assembling a diverse and talented team is only the first step; through your unwavering commitment, we can harness the full potential of our collective efforts. In the face of adversity, it is the strength of you my esteemed team that will carry the National Society forward, enabling us to adapt, innovate, and persevere in the pursuit of our mission.

In conclusion, let us embrace the principles of collaboration, innovation, and resilience, to rise and overcome the challenges of climate change and humanitarian crises with courage and determination. Together, we can build a more just and sustainable world for generations to come. Let us remain steadfast in our resolve to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. Together, we have the power to create positive change and build a brighter future for generations to come.

Mr Kutlwano Mukokomani
SECRETARY GENERAL / CEO

CONTENTS

SG'S FOREWORD	2
CONTENTS	4
MEET OUR VISIONARIES	5
BANKING ON COMPASSION	6
BRCS LAUNCHES A TOBACCO UNIT	7
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT ATTENDS A WORKSHOP	9
ONE STEP CLOSER	10
EMPOWERING WOMEN'S VOICES	11
LIFE DROPS	12
BRCS HOSTS DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM	13
UNITY OUTREACH	15
EMPOWERING CHANGE	16
GENERATION UNLIMITED EQUIPS THE YOUTH WITH	17
EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS	17
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BRCS & MASTERCARD	18
BOOSTING IMMUNITY	19
STRIDE OF HOPE	20
TLAMELONG WELCOMES 50TH CLASS	21
BUILDING STRATEGIC SYNERGIES	22
EMPOWERING STREET HAWKERS	23
BUILDING HEALTHY FUTURES	24
UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES	26
EMPOWERING WOMEN	27
ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION IMPORTANT	28
CHAMPIONING RIGHTS	30
KEEPING HUMANITY ALIVE	31
STRENGTHENING SAFETY	32
THE DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING	33
HARMONIZING THE BRCS TEAM	34
BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH VOLUNTEER	35
EMPOWERMENT	35
BRCS BRANCHES	36
PHOTOS	37



MEET OUR VISIONARIES:

Introducing the dedicated national executive committee leading our humanitarian efforts towards a sustainable tomorrow

Botswana Red Cross Society is delighted to introduce the appointed National Executive Committee confident to lead the National Society into a future of impactful service and sustainable growth. Committed to diligently serving communities, our Executive committee brings a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to the table. With a focus on strategic planning and community empowerment, we are confident that under their guidance, BRCS will not only meet but exceed our goals, making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, we embark on this journey with optimism, determination, and a shared vision for a better tomorrow.



Mr. Odirile Otto Itumeleng
PRESIDENT
LLB / LLM



Ms. Otshidile Tshegetsang
VICE PRESIDENT
BA



Dr. Olympia Tombe
SOUTH DIVISION CHAIRPERSON
MBBS



Ms. Lame Batungamile
YOUTH PRESIDENT
Law Student (LLB)



Ms. Bothepha Kgosidiile
TREASURER
BA/CIMA/MBA



Dr. Tshepo Mogapaesi
LEGAL ADVISOR
LLB, LLM, PHD



Mr. Rona Letlhogile
MEMBER
BSN, MBA



Ms. Kgomotsego Motlopi
MEMBER
BA / MSC



BANKING ON COMPASSION:

BRCS Receives A Noble Gesture From FNBB Foundation

In a heartwarming display of corporate social responsibility, First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) extended a helping hand to the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) by donating toiletries and toys.

Recognizing the importance of necessities and the joy that toys bring to children, the bank's gesture not only meets immediate needs but also uplifts spirits during challenging times. Mr. Kutlwano Mukokomani, the Secretary General of BRCS received a noble gesture from the FNBB Commercial Director, Ms. Jennifer Makgabenyana.

In her remarks, Ms. Makgabenyana stated that the donations were made possible by the staff of FNB, who are deeply committed to supporting the local communities. She noted that this was in line with FNB's "Random act of Kindness" initiative, which encourages employees to perform acts of kindness. This program highlights the bank's positive commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of children. Ms. Makgabenyana emphasized that the slogan "How Can We Help You" represents more than just providing excellent banking services, it also means supporting the communities in which FNB operates.

When receiving the gesture, Mr. Mukokomani highlighted the important role of the BRCS in connecting communities across Botswana and emphasized the organization's willingness to partner with corporations like FNB to address humanitarian needs. He concluded his remarks by encouraging FNB employees of the BRCS and contribute their expertise to organization's humanitarian efforts. This act exemplifies the power of businesses to make a meaningful impact beyond their bottom line, fostering a sense of community and compassion that resonates far beyond the boardroom.



BOTSWANA RED CROSS SOCIETY

Launches A Tobacco Control Unit



Maun, 15th March: Botswana Red Cross Society Secretary General Mr Kutlwano Mukokomani says although Botswana does not produce tobacco, the increasing prevalence of tobacco use, especially among the youth, is a pressing public health concern that demands immediate attention.

Speaking at the official launch of the BRCS Tobacco Control Unit in Maun, Mr Mukokomani said research has shown that tobacco use poses a significant threat to the health, social, environmental, and economic fabric of the society, adding that it is imperative to take proactive steps to prevent and reduce tobacco use, protect the community from the devastating consequences of tobacco consumption, and provide much-needed support to those affected by this harmful habit.

“Through the implementation of this project over the next three years, we aim to prevent and reduce tobacco use uptake through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), and provide affected communities with rehabilitation services and link them to

other essential support services.” He said. Mr Mukokomani said in line with the National Society’s commitment to addressing this issue, the Society recognizes the importance of the Botswana Tobacco Control Act, which provides a framework for regulating tobacco control measures in the country. This act, he said, serves as a critical tool in the Society’s collective efforts to combat the harmful effects of tobacco and create a healthier environment for all.

Furthermore, he noted that by working hand in hand with the Ministry of Health, the Society is leveraging its collective strengths and resources to address this pressing public health issue and make a tangible difference in the lives of citizens.

Mr Mukokomani said increasing access to rehabilitation, treatment, and education on tobacco use, may save the country from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart diseases, cancer, and respiratory diseases, but also for communicable diseases such as TB which can be activated and exacerbated by tobacco use.





“About 2000 people of those reached have undergone screening for tobacco use and from those screened, about 1300 have indicated their willingness to quit smoking and the need for cessation services.”

He called upon all stakeholders, partners, and members of the community to join in this crucial endeavor. Together, we can create a healthier, more resilient community where every individual has the opportunity to lead a tobacco-free life and thrive to their fullest potential.

For his part, Kgosi Oleyo Ledimo of Maun talked about the consequences of tobacco consumption, further explaining that tobacco has brought poverty into households. He said this is because people use a lot of money in sustaining their tobacco consumption lifestyle. He also reiterated on the difficulties of quitting tobacco. He called on relevant stakeholders to put more stringent policies on tobacco consumption. He said most smokers had less respect for non-smokers because they do not excuse themselves when taking a smoke.

The Botswana Botswana Red Cross Tobacco Control unit is currently working with various stakeholders to assist those identified.” He noted.





DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Attends a workshop hosted by the Botswana Climate Change Network

The BRCS Disaster Risk Management team attended the Inception Meeting of the Civil Society Working Group on Health and Climate. The workshops' aim was to discuss the role of civil society in addressing the health impacts of climate change and the best ways to act.

Research has shown that there is a correlation between climate change and the exacerbation of health issues. These findings have prompted the Government of Botswana to take action to reduce carbon emissions by 15% by the year 2050. The BCCN recognizes the importance of these findings and is committed to working with civil societies and NGOs to address these issues.

The BRCS is also committed to taking action to reduce the impact of climate change. Global warming has resulted in a rise in natural disasters and public health emergencies,

placing additional strain on health-care systems and exacerbating existing health conditions. By tackling the root causes of climate change, the BCCN and workshop attendees hope that more collaborations between them will address this issue.

Following COP 28, the Government of Botswana has committed to a 15% carbon emissions reduction by the year 2050. This comes after various discussions and scientific research showing the correlation between climate change and exacerbated health issues.

Botswana Red Cross Society is also committed to climate change mitigation as global warming has increased natural disasters and public health emergencies. Therefore, the National Society found it imperative to accept the invitation to this meeting and use the platform provided to discuss issues around climate and health in

the country, as well as to share on current and upcoming projects that address health and climate.

This event highlighted the importance of collaboration within various organizations in addressing health and climate issues as emphasized in Botswana's Climate Change Response Policy, with an outlook to form an active Civil Society Working Group on Health and Climate.



ONE STEP CLOSER

To No New HIV/AIDS Infections With Dreams

There has been an increase in new HIV/AIDS infections among young people in Botswana. Tlamelong Rehabilitation Centre in collaboration with DREAMS, held a workshop to educate the new students on how to prevent these new infections. Prevention is better than cure after all! The workshop featured multiple speakers who shared their expertise in their various fields. Rethabile Mosiami from DREAMS spoke extensively about the organization's program and its focus on supporting vulnerable girls aged 10-24 who have experienced abuse, are pregnant or have children, or sexually active. The program provides these girls with resources and support to help them make healthy and informed choices about their lives. Some of the speakers at the workshop were from Tebelopele and BUMMHI, organizations that offer and promote HIV

testing, and advocate for individuals to know their status. They also spoke about the introduction of self-testing kits that allow people to test for HIV in the comfort of their own homes. One of the hot topics that was discussed was PrEP, a pill that can be taken to prevent HIV infection. The workshop provided a forum for open and honest discussion about HIV prevention and testing.

The final speaker at the workshop was Thebe Otlaadiisa, who presented on the correct use and disposal of condoms. The students were engaged and actively participated in the demonstration, learning how to use and dispose of condoms properly. This was a valuable opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience and knowledge about safe sexual practices.





EMPOWERING WOMEN'S VOICES: A National Society's Quest for Change

Botswana Red Cross Society attended the International Women's Day commemoration in Palapye to show our support for amplifying women's voices and addressing the challenges they face. Women from different walks of life gathered with a common objective: to discuss these challenges and find sustainable solutions. Our National Society recognizes the importance of empowering women, not just for their advancement, but for the betterment of the communities they reside in.

The event was organized by the Ministry of Youth, Gender, and Culture with a primary goal to foster dialogue and collaboration among women from diverse backgrounds. The dialogues aimed to identify barriers to women's empowerment and brainstorm actionable strategies to overcome them. By sharing experiences and insights, the attendees can collectively work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society. Women were encouraged to take up leadership roles in various spheres, from politics to business, as they have a unique ability to drive positive change

within their communities. The event was an opportunity for women to exchange ideas, share best practices, and inspire one another. The guest of honor, Kgosi Elizabeth Loso welcomed everyone to the event, and she encouraged women to stand up for themselves and work together to produce better results. Women in attendance were also encouraged by the Makoro Bricks General Manager, Mrs. Dorcus Moshesha to make sure that they take charge of leadership roles, she supported this by giving examples about her position where she works and how she took over as a manager.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Tirelo Ramasedi - Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme Coordinator from Morupule Coal Mine, encouraged women to embark on sustainable projects and empower each other. In summing up the day's deliberations, Honorable Ralegoreng - National Deputy Gender Commissioner BALA thanked everyone for their participation and encouraged women to be involved in leadership positions and particularly politics.



LIFE DROPS:

Join Our Journey To Save Lives



The Botswana Red Cross Society took part in a blood donation drive in Mochudi and Kang that was organized by the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS). The drive was organized in response to a shortage of blood that is experienced by the country. It serves to recruit safe blood donors, ensuring a steady supply for those in need. Blood transfusions are critical in emergencies, surgeries, and for patients with certain medical conditions like anemia or cancer. By encouraging safe individuals to donate, we as BRCS help save lives. The main objective of the blood donation drive was to recruit safe blood donors and to educate the public about the importance of blood donation. Botswana has been experiencing a shortage of blood in blood banks, making the drive an essential initiative. The BRCS volunteers played a key role in mobilizing the community to the part in the drive and blood donation.

The NBTS target is to collect 45,000 units of blood annually and emphasize the importance of blood donation for the health and well-being of the people of Botswana.

Hosting a blood drive fosters community engagement and solidarity. It brings people together for a common cause, promoting empathy and altruism. This is a huge achievement for the BRCS, the NBTS, and stakeholders as it highlights the generosity and compassion of Batswana. The District Health Management Team (DHMT) in respective areas expressed their gratitude for the valuable contribution to the health and well-being of Batswana and extended their gratitude to BRCS for being available whenever Batswana needed help. This sense of unity strengthens social bonds and reinforces our commitment as a National Society to humanitarian values.

The BRCS mobilized volunteers to spread the word about the donation and encouraged members of the community to come and donate blood. By providing information on the process, safety measures, and the broader implications of donation, these are efforts to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health and contributions to society. As volunteers were spreading the word, to donate blood and ensure that the blood supplies in hospitals remain adequate.



BOTSWANA RED CROSS

Hosts Disaster Risk Management Symposium



28 March, Gaborone: "In an endeavor to contribute and seek solutions to growing natural disasters, the Botswana Red Cross Society saw it fit to partner with the Netherlands Red Cross Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent to host the Disaster Risk Management symposium."

This was said by Botswana Red Cross Society Secretary General Mr Kutlwano Mukokomani at the Disaster Risk Management symposium that was hosted by the Society recently.

When reiterating the objectives of the symposium under the theme, "Promoting Innovation, Integration, Collaboration in Local, National and Regional Disaster Risk Management" Mr Mukokomani said the symposium seeks to explore innovative approaches, harness cutting-edge technologies and develop and implement advanced methodologies and approaches to address evolving challenges in disaster risk management.

"We hope that the knowledge gained from the symposium might also help in guiding future policy reforms by emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction considerations into development planning, policy-making, and decision-making processes across sectors." He spoke.

Furthermore, he expressed gratitude to the Netherlands

Red Cross Society for their invaluable support and partnership.

He said the Netherlands Red Cross Society has a long-standing relationship with the Botswana Red Cross Society in strengthening disaster risk management and fostering innovative solutions, which is crucial for international cooperation in tackling global challenges.

He also extended sincere gratitude to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for being instrumental in ensuring the success of the symposium by providing technical expertise and playing a coordination role in facilitating collaboration among various stakeholders.

"I also thank the NDMO for their continuous partnership, support, collegiality, and guidance in all issues about disaster management in Botswana." He said.

When giving a keynote address Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for State President Mr Moagi Baleseng said the government recognizes climate change and global warming effects on the occurrence of natural disasters and is committed to disaster risk reduction and building resilience at national and regional levels.



Recalling His Excellency the President Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi championing the Reset and Reclaim Agenda call, Mr. Baleseng said this allows introspecting and reflecting on strategies to better the lives of Batswana, further adding that with very ambitious programs like Temo Letlotlo which is geared towards improving quality of life, disasters, if left unchecked can disrupt the production cycles and livelihoods.

"Climate change is amplifying the occurrence of natural disasters including floods, wildfire, and drought. These events are becoming more frequent and severe, posing greater risks to human populations and ecosystems. Rising global temperatures also contribute to environmental degradation. These environmental changes lead to habitat loss, threatening vulnerable species and ecosystems." He said.

Mr Baleseng said it was essential to reflect on the expected outcomes of the symposium namely, enhanced capacity, strengthened partnerships, innovative solutions, and policy recommendations. In closing the symposium, the BRCS President Mr. Odirile Itumeleng highlighted that throughout the symposium, critical topics such as Nature-Based Solutions in Climate Change, the significance of community engagement in

disaster risk reduction, and the importance of domesticating UN Frameworks such as the Sendai Framework For Disaster Risk Reduction were delved into.

Mr Itumeleng further said the symposium had underscored the pivotal role of legislation in facilitating efficient disaster response and fostering collaboration across sectors.

"By harnessing the power of policy frameworks and legal mechanisms, we can enhance our collective ability to mitigate risks and protect our communities from the impact of disasters." He said.

He urged participants to carry forward the insights and lessons learned from this symposium with renewed determination and commitment to building resilient communities and safeguarding the well-being of our people adding that challenges ahead can be overcome together and a safer and more sustainable future for all can be created.

UNITY OUTREACH:

Building Bridges for a Brighter Tomorrow



In a remote corner where hope often feels distant, The Hukunsi District recently had a community outreach event at Inalegolo settlement, where they embarked on a transformative journey of community outreach. The event was organized by the District Extension Team (DET) and Kang Village Extension Team (VET), with the support of the Botswana Red Cross Society alongside Representatives from the government and parastatal organizations were invited to bring services to the people in the area. The event was a great initiative to bring essential services to those who might not otherwise have access to them.

With a shared vision of enhancing lives, essential services were brought directly to the doorstep of those in need. From healthcare to education, every service was a beacon of hope, illuminating paths toward a better future. The BRCS's participation in the event was

-s motivated by the realization that people in remote areas like Inalegolo often lack access to essential services. By setting up a stall and sharing information about the organization's services, the BRCS hopes to reach more and make a positive impact in the community. This is a great example of the BRCS's commitment to bringing its services to those who need them the most.

Conjointly, the stakeholders showcasing this activity did not just provide services; we ignited awareness and kindled positivity. Each interaction forged connections and built trust, laying the groundwork for sustainable change. As we departed, the echoes of gratitude resonated, promising a ripple effect of empowerment and unity throughout the community.





EMPOWERING CHANGE:

a civil society's journey in digital advocacy

Botswana Red Cross Society attended a workshop themed National Digital Rights Advocacy Workshop for civil society on the 30th of January 2024, organized by MISA Botswana. The MISA Botswana Chairperson Thomas Nkhoma said that the main reason for this workshop is for Civil societies to know and understand the data they handle on an everyday basis. Attending a digital rights advocacy workshop is imperative for humanitarian organizations in today's digital age. As technology continues to shape every aspect of our lives, including humanitarian efforts, understanding and advocating for digital rights is crucial.

Humanitarian organizations deal with sensitive information and rely heavily on digital platforms for communication, fundraising, and coordinating relief efforts. Botswana is going digital civil societies, and the media should understand the laws, and risks of social media and all the digital data they complete. The workshop shed light on the Data Protection Act which provides the safety of personal information, and the right to privacy with the realization that data and online privacy are constantly under attack.

It was agreed that civil society organizations play an important role in understanding and disseminating information on the Data Protection Act.

“By participating in such workshops, these organizations can learn how to navigate complex digital landscapes, protect sensitive data,”

advocate for digital inclusivity, and ensure that their activities remain ethically and legally sound in an increasingly digitized world. This knowledge equips them to better serve their beneficiaries while safeguarding their own operations and integrity. These collaborations are imperative among stakeholders to advocate for digital rights.



GENERATION UNLIMITED

Equips the youth with employability skills

A cohort of enthusiastic Botswana Red Cross Society youth volunteers eagerly engaged in a transformative two-day employability training session, immersing themselves in a rich learning experience. The training that took place in Moshupa and Kanye was organized by UNICEF Botswana in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Home Affairs and Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development, focused on providing youth with skills and knowledge they need to find employment.

Speakers from the University of Botswana and the Department of Employability Services, including Ms. Mokopi facilitated the training sessions and shared information on various government programs available for the youth. These programs include the Tirelo Secha-ba program, LMO, and internship program. These participants were given the resources to access and register for these programs at the event.

The training sessions were an opportunity for the youth from different backgrounds and experiences to come

get and keep a job and gained knowledge and skills related to entrepreneurship. Through interactive workshops and hands-on activities, they acquired essential skills and knowledge vital for navigating the job market with confidence. Beyond improving their Curriculum Vitae writing and interview techniques, the training fostered a profound sense of community among participants, forging lasting connections and a supportive network.

The BRCS team set up an interactive booth to encourage youth to register as volunteers and contribute to supporting vulnerable community members. The booth allowed the youth to ask questions and get more information about BRCS. Armed with newfound insights and valuable tools, these young individuals are poised to embark on their career journeys with resilience and purpose, equipped to make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond.



Partnership between BRCS AND MASTERCARD FOUNDATION Improves lives in Gathwane and Mosi villages

Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) in partnership with Mastercard Foundation donated two multi-purpose printers for Gathwane and Mosi villages to enhance educational opportunities, aiming to boost efficiency and create a lasting impact on the community. The partnership's goal is to improve the educational outcomes of disadvantaged students by providing them with the necessary resources to succeed.

The donation of the printers was presented to the Member of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Dikoloti representing the start of an important initiative that will hopefully make a lasting impact on the communities. With this support, the students will have the tools they need to excel in their studies and pursue their dreams. Hon. Dr. Dikoloti expressed his gratitude for the gift of the printers, emphasizing the importance of partnership. He explained that the printers would benefit not only the students directly, but also the overall efficiency of the schools and communities. He thanked both organizations for their generosity and commitment to making a positive impact.

In his remarks, the BRCS Secretary General Mr. Kutlwano Mukokomani emphasized to the village leadership and parents present at the event that partnerships such as this one are key to transforming the lives of communities in Botswana. In closing, Mr. Mukokomani expressed his gratitude to the MasterCard Foundation for their unwavering support and trust in the BRCS. He emphasized that this partnership is crucial in allowing the BRCS to effectively deliver its humanitarian services to those in need. He also thanked the parents and community members for their role in supporting the BRCS and its initiatives.

These printers will not only streamline educational processes but also empower students with access to quality learning materials. By bridging the digital divide, they will significantly transform the lives of these communities, opening new avenues for growth and development.



BOOSTING IMMUNITY:

MoH and BRCS partner in the big catch-up campaign

In the effort to improve the health and well-being of children in Botswana, the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) has partnered with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and has taken significant strides in bolstering the health and well-being of children by launching an impactful immunization campaign. The campaign's main aim is to encourage parents to bring their children under the age of 5 to receive vital immunizations. The collaborative effort highlights the importance of childhood immunizations in protecting children from preventable diseases and maintaining their overall health.

Complementing this initiative, BRCS organized a comprehensive capacity-building workshop for 127 healthcare workers, equipping them with the necessary tools and expertise to effectively mobilize communities and deliver critical healthcare services. The workshop was themed "The Big Catch Up," highlighting the need to address the gap in vaccination coverage and prevent the spread of diseases by providing children with vaccinations they missed.

It is well established that child immunization is an essential component of public health, preventing the development of debilitating and sometimes fatal diseases like polio, measles, diphtheria, and whooping cough. BRCS

and MOH have recognized that some families may face barriers to accessing these immunization services. To address this, mobile clinics were set up in various communities, and the campaign will offer free or low-cost vaccinations to families.

With a focused mission to overcome barriers hindering parental access to vital health services, communities were diligently engaged to ensure children receive essential vaccinations, safeguarding them from preventable diseases and nurturing their overall health. Through these concerted efforts, the campaign fostered a healthier future for Botswana's children, ensuring they thrive in a safer and more resilient society.



STRIDE OF HOPE:

Humanitarian Heroes Walk for First Aid and Fundraising



North-West District Council Chairman Honorable Itumeng Kelebetseng successfully delivered the walk for charity which started at the Rural Administration Center on the 9th of March 2024 in Maun. Assistant Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture Honorable Buti Billy graced the event as a guest walker. The walk was organized to raise proceeds for the Chairman's Fun Account. Participation in the walk by the Botswana Red Cross Society, business communities, social clubs, and the public represent diverse segments of society, each with unique resources and capabilities. This indeed serves as a powerful gesture of solidarity and collective action towards addressing pressing social issues.

The Council Secretary Mr. Thatayotlhe Balapi highlighted that the fund has been dormant over the years but noted that the intention is to revive it such that it acts as a bridging intervention where government programs cannot reach out to the needs of communities, especially during natural disasters and emergencies. He said the funds raised during the walk would be used to alleviate those affected. Honorable Billy Buti highlighted that the walk benefits one's health and that adopting it as a lifestyle could help reduce non-communicable diseases. He also emphasized that such events are used as sport tourism marketing tools where people from all spectrums meet for social activities while businesses and networks may be established during the walk as well as used as a health promotion and disease prevention mechanism.

Botswana Red Cross Society participated in the walk as part of the stakeholders providing First Aid services to the community, as well as showcasing other services provided by the National Society to the community. The coming together of these stakeholders for a common cause demonstrates a shared commitment to improving the welfare of the less privileged. The involvement not only raises crucial funds but also amplifies awareness of the challenges faced by vulnerable populations, fostering empathy and understanding within the community.

The engagement in the walk by these stakeholders aligns with broader societal goals of promoting holistic well-being and fostering community cohesion. The chairman's fund account, as a council initiative, signifies a proactive approach to complementing government efforts in addressing social and economic inequalities. By supporting initiatives that assist the less privileged and promote sports tourism, participants contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and vibrant society. Moreover, the event serves as a platform for promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles, reinforcing the importance of sports as a catalyst for positive social change. Through their participation, individuals and organizations not only contribute to a worthy cause but also reaffirm their commitment to building a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

TLAMELONG

Welcomes the 50th Class



Tlamelong Rehabilitation Centre welcomed its 50th class of students since its founding in 1974. The 2024 cohort of youth with disabilities, marked the beginning of the journey of 39 students from various parts of Botswana, aged 18-35. The students are expected to graduate in two years with a certificate in either textile and dressmaking or horticulture from the Madirelo Center for Vocational Education.

During the orientation, multiple speakers were present to inspire and encourage the students on their educational journey. Among the speakers was a representative from Kgotsa Kgolo ya Batlokwa, Kgosi Bogatsu, who shared with the students how they should feel at home and make the most of their time in Tlokweneng. The goal was to help the students feel comfortable and supported in their new environment. Ms. Simon from Tlokweneng Main Clinic was one of the speakers, she provided advice on sexual reproductive health and family planning. She emphasized that students should feel comfortable coming to her with health-related questions or concerns they may have.

Representing the Botswana Police Service, Ms. Moatswi from the CID shared information on common offenses and crimes that students may encounter, either as perpetrators or victims. She urged the students to avoid committing any crime, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem. This was to help the students understand the consequences of criminal activity and make

responsible decisions. Lastly, Mma Morwadi Podile, who has a personal connection to Tlamelong, shared the history of the Centre and why it is such a special place for her. She emphasized the importance of hard work and dedication to complete the two-year course.

A student representative, Simon, expressed his gratitude to the speakers and trainers for taking the time to provide such an informative and valuable session. He promised that the students would work hard and give their best effort to make their families and the Center proud.

Over the next two years, these students will immerse themselves in these trades, culminating in accreditation with a Trade C certificate. This qualification will empower them to apply their newfound skills towards sustainable livelihoods. Throughout their studies, students will be encouraged to strive for excellence, not only for personal growth but also to uplift and support their families, fostering a sense of purpose and independence within their communities.



BUILDING STRATEGIC SYNERGIES:

BRCS Empowering Communities at the Health Research Symposium



Botswana Red Cross Society actively engages in knowledge-sharing and capacity-building by participating in symposiums where policymakers and research sponsors convene. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with their partners hosted the annual 3rd Health Research Symposium on the 8th -9th of February 2024. This year's theme was Strengthening the Implementation Research Capacities for Individuals and Institutions. The symposium featured speakers, panel discussions, exhibition stalls, and networking opportunities. It provided a platform for knowledge sharing, collaborations, an exploration of cutting-edge technology and advancements in health care. The topics covered were, Health leadership and Governance, Disease Burden/Prevalence, Medical Products, Vaccines, Interventions, and Technologies.

The audience and Panelists of the symposium included researchers, policymakers, research sponsors, implementers, the private sector, and other stakeholders from relevant national agencies, associations, and professional organizations. Ministry of Health hosted the symposium to reflect on the evidence generated by the research carried out in Botswana and to enhance the skills, knowledge, & capabilities of researchers, and practitioners in the field of implementation research. The symposium aimed to strengthen the organizational capacity of research institutions, universities, and other entities involved in implementation research, fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Botswana Red Cross Society set up an information stall to effectively communicate our mandate and showcase the impact of our programs, ultimately contributing to the broader discourse on humanitarian efforts in health research and policy development. Exhibiting at such events, we aim to enhance understanding, strengthen research capabilities, and cultivate a culture of ongoing learning within the field. Most delegates were interested in the First Aid Training Programme and had plans to register to train.



EMPOWERING STREET HAWKERS:

Breaking the cycle of tobacco sales



In a bid to uplift the livelihoods of street hawkers, the Gender office in collaboration with Botswana Red Cross Society hosted a workshop for 42 women in small business sensitizing them about government economic empowerment programs and incentives customized to support the establishment of sustainable businesses. Facilitators were from AWOME, Tokafala, CEDA, and the Red Cross.

During the workshop, representatives from the organization shed light on various opportunities available to street hawkers, emphasizing the importance of tapping into these resources to build thriving enterprises. The presenter from Tokafala stated that the 10-month program aims to improve local business in terms of business management by providing business techniques training such as bookkeeping, marketing, and stock control.

Mr. Motlaleng Motlaleng from the Botswana Red Cross Society shared the tobacco law and encouraged entrepreneurs to desist from perception that the cigarettes are more profitable than other commodities and continued to highlight that with good entrepreneurial skills, everything is profitable. Mr. Motlaleng presented and capacitated the participants with the provisions of the Tobacco Control Act of 2021. It was said that The Tobacco Control Act of 2021 in Botswana is a legislative measure aimed at regulating the production, sale, and consumption of tobacco products within the country.

This act is in line with the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which Botswana ratified in 2005. The primary objective of the act is to protect public health from the detrimental effects of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.

The workshop addressed misconceptions surrounding the profitability of tobacco sales and highlighted the broader implications of the tobacco law. The engagement sought to empower street hawkers with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed decisions about their livelihoods. By imparting this knowledge, BRCS aimed to steer street hawkers towards more ethical and lucrative avenues, aligning with the primary objective of the act: safeguarding public health from the adverse effects of tobacco consumption and exposure to secondhand smoke.

The workshop served as a platform for street hawkers to gain valuable insights into government initiatives. Through interactive sessions and discussions led by experts, attendees were encouraged to explore alternative business models that prioritize community well-being and sustainability. Ultimately, the workshop fostered a sense of agency among participants, equipping them with the tools to navigate economic opportunities while upholding public health principles in their entrepreneurial endeavors.



BUILDING HEALTHY FUTURES:

BRCS empowers communities through child health care initiative

Community training sessions serve as vital platforms for educating the community on child healthcare. In these sessions, diverse members ranging from Chiefs to traditional healers, midwives to school heads, and spiritual leaders come together to share their experiences and insights. Botswana Red Cross Society embarked on community training sessions to share knowledge on child health care in Kweneng East and Kweneng West.

As Chiefs discuss community governance structures that impact child welfare, traditional healers contribute knowledge of traditional remedies and cultural practices. Midwives offer expertise on maternal and infant health, while school heads highlight the importance of education in shaping young minds. Spiritual leaders bring insights into moral and spiritual guidance, enriching the discussion with ethical considerations. Together, these voices form a tapestry of community support, affirming the collective responsibility to safeguard and nurture the next generation. Through such inclusive dialogues, the humanitarian organization fosters not only awareness but also collaboration towards building a healthier and more resilient community for generations to come.

Each participant brought a unique perspective on the role they play in nurturing children and shaping them into future leaders. Through these collaborative efforts, the community gains a deeper understanding of the

multifaceted aspects of child well-being, fostering a supportive environment for the holistic development of its youngest members.

KGOSI LETAMMA- GAKUTO

Kgosi was grateful that UNICEF, MoH, and BRCS have conducted these talks in his village as parents need to be encouraged and educated in such matters as they are growing the future generation. He encouraged the parents to go for routine check-ups as the death of children is a loss for the whole country.

MMA MOSEBELETSE- Mma Mmapula Lepelo

Mmapula Lepelo works as Mma Mosebeletsi helping pregnant women and their babies in Molepolole. She helps her patients using water (sewasho) to cure whatever condition they come with. Mma Lepelo does not just help her patients immediately when they arrive, she advises them to go to the nearest clinic before she can attend them. As a former home-based care, she knows a little about assisting people apart from her work. Mma Lepelo has also attended workshops hosted by Hope Worldwide Botswana that have enhanced her skills of taking care of the sick apart from her bosebeletsi work.

SCHOOL HEAD

Mma Letsholo is the school head of Gakuto Primary School, and she advises parents to take their children to routine check-ups and emphasizes that if the child is not

well, parents should immediately take them to the clinic. By doing so, one can avoid other kids being infected by disease, she also promised to spread the message to the parents during parent-teacher meetings.

MORUTI WA ELOYI

Moruti Johane is a pastor that helps people of different ages, he advises his patients to go to the nearest clinic before they can assist them. He mentions that the head of the church Archbishop Sekai also advises his pastors to do so. He promises to speak about the teachings he got at the training sessions and encourage his congregation to take their children for routine checkups.

YOUNG MOTHER

Ms. Mphlefo is a young mother in the Kweneng settlement, she encouraged people to take good care of their children and not neglect them as it is a very common thing in that area. She also spoke on men/ fathers taking part in raising their children as it is important to raise a child as both parents. Lastly, she encouraged mothers to take their children to routine checkups.

ACTING MIDWIFE

Nurse Tsholofelo is the acting Midwife at Gakuto clinic and encouraged parents to bring their children to routine checkups and make sure that their child gets all the vaccines. She mentioned that by doing so it is easier to manage disease and prevent it.





UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES:

Empowering women through online business registration

The Gender Office in collaboration with Botswana Red Cross Society and CIPA trained 23 female small business Hawkers. The aim of hosting the session was to empower women economically through online company registration training for street hawkers in Maun as most of the businesses were operating unregistered. This initiative was designed to provide women with the necessary knowledge and skills to formalize their businesses, thereby enabling them to access a wider range of opportunities and resources in the business world. This partnership. BRCS brought its expertise in community development and support services to the program, while CIPA provides valuable insights into company registration processes and requirements. Together, these partners work towards creating an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs in Maun to thrive.

Economic empowerment for women is crucial for achieving gender equality and sustainable development.

When women are economically empowered, they are better able to support themselves and their families, contribute to the economy, and participate more fully in decision-making processes. By providing women with the tools and resources they need to start and grow their businesses, this program not only benefits the individual women involved but also has broader positive impacts on society.

The online company registration training provided as part of this initiative equipped women with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the process of formalizing their businesses. By registering their businesses, street hawkers can access a range of benefits, including legal recognition, access to financial services, and opportunities for growth and expansion. The training covers topics such as business registration procedures, tax compliance, record-keeping, and business planning.

The empowerment of these Street Hawkers in Maun by training them for online Company Registration was a commendable initiative that aimed to uplift women economically by providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to formalize their businesses. Through partnerships with key stakeholders, this program has the potential to make a significant impact on women's economic empowerment in Maun and beyond. Participants appreciated our office's effort to develop small businesses.

EMPOWERING WOMEN:

Breaking the chains of economic abuse through entrepreneurship

In a powerful collaboration between the Botswana Red Cross Society and the District Gender Committee, a series of community dialogues were organized to shed light on the Economic Abuse that our communities experience. Timed to coincide with International Women's Day, these dialogues served as a platform to sensitize the community about the multifaceted challenges faced by women, particularly those who experience gender-based violence. Held under the International Women's Day theme "Invest in Women: Accelerating Progress," the event was hosted to empower and uplift those women who have experienced economic exploitation and gender inequality.

Community conversation sessions were conducted in three (3) villages (Tsau, Makakung, and Kareng) where a total number of 269 people (Female-202, Male-67) were addressed. The activity was also aimed to raise awareness as well as empower women to know when they are victims and perpetrators of economic abuse. The session was done with group dialogues of males, youth, and adults aimed at identifying the most group vulnerable to economic abuse. From the discussion, all groups indicated that they directly/indirectly experience economic abuse as both victims and perpetrators.

Participants linked economic abuse with other forms of abuse, the group representing males stated that they are more likely to be emotionally abused by their partners if they fail to provide them financially. Groups in attendance that were representing women stated that the most violence they tend to suffer because of economic abuse is physical and emotional abuse from their partners.

“A presenter from Women Against Rape encourages participants to empower themselves by starting some small business,”

developing their knowledge and skills (sewing, knitting) by enrolling in short courses or non-formal education. With the skills and business, they develop they can be able to stand against all forms of abuse. Throughout the dialogues, women were not only encouraged but also equipped with the necessary tools and resources to create their path toward economic independence.

By advocating for the establishment of businesses and entrepreneurial endeavours, the initiative aimed to remove barriers that create cycles of abuse. As participants shared stories, exchanged ideas, and forged connections, a sense of solidarity to end this cycle emerged, reinforcing the collective resolve to stand against all forms of gender-based violence and to foster a future where every woman can thrive and flourish.



“ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION IMPORTANT”

Dr Dikoloti



Motokwe, 10th April: Minister of Health Dr Edwin Dikoloti says the State of the World Children's report of 2023, has revealed that globally, a total of 67 million children missed out on vaccinations between 2019 and 2021.

When officiating at a ceremony aimed at appreciating an integrated community-based health services project in Motokwe recently, Dr Dikoloti said this indicates that children born just before or during the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic who would normally have been vaccinated, may have missed crucial lifesaving vaccinations.

“This, therefore, calls for urgent action to catch up for those who missed immunizations during that dark period.” He added.

He said these efforts were achieved through house-to-house visits, community engagements, mobile stops, mobile outreach, and community dialogue. Dr Dikoloti reiterated that through these mobilization activities, community health workers managed to identify children with missed routine vaccinations and as a result, MoH has been able to gather information that will inform decision-making and strengthen the primary health system. He said the Government of Botswana prioritizes health not just as a key service, but also as a human right and further implored parents to take responsibility in caring for their children.

When deliberating on the objectives of the project, the Secretary General who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Botswana Red Cross Society Mr Kutlwano Mukokomani said the objective of the project and its intervention was to ensure that communities are sensitized on child health issues and COVID-19. He noted that the project also aimed at ensuring that vaccines are deployed, and other child health services are rendered at the grassroots level. “Through this project, we have provided 58 human resource support that includes 40 mobilizers, 8 data clerks, 8 vaccinators, and 2 supervisors who are placed in 17 villages across the 2 districts. In addition, We have supported the delivery of services through the deployment of vehicles. These vehicles also supported the distribution of vaccines and other commodities to hard-to-reach areas.” Said Mr Mukokomani.

According to Mr Mukokomani, since the project's inception 259 339 people have been reached with health messages through various forums using different customized formats, adding that “These are people who listened when volunteers went from house to house sharing messages that vaccines work, and indeed the high number is a testament that tailor-made community messaging works.”



“To date, the project has administered 10,532 doses of vaccinations to children under 5 years. About 60% of those referred were linked and offered services.



The campaign managed to administer 1276 doses of vitamin A, and 934 deworming doses to children.” He said.

“We are engaging with communities through the use of social media, chatbots, and mass messaging amongst others. Despite the efficiencies of digitalization and technology, there are also challenges of misinformation and harmful rumors adding a layer of complexity to community engagement,” said Mr Mukokomani.

He also said the digitalization of health information management is an area of improvement where there is a need to transition from paper-based systems to digital tools to facilitate real-time data collection for effective and efficient decision-making.

He concluded that in an era where multiple concurrent public health emergencies are a norm, integration is a befitting cost-effective measure of service delivery and that coordinated action amongst all public health actors is needed to ensure that efforts are not duplicated, and scarce and precious resources are not wasted.

For her part, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S Embassy in Botswana Ms. Amanda Jacobsen said she was thrilled to acknowledge the strong partnership between the two countries, not only to strengthen Botswana’s health and well-being but also to support the sustainable management of natural resources; provide access to credit for small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs; increase regional trade and participation in the African Growth and Opportunity Act; enhance agricultural production; support the country’s goals to transition to clean energy; and create jobs for young people.

UNICEF Representative Ms Joan Matji highlighted that

“this joint project made sure that routine immunization is strengthened.”

She further said that UNICEF has partnered with the Botswana Red Cross Society in similar initiatives and that UNICEF is particularly grateful for the community liaison that the Botswana Red Cross Society brings. Ms Matji acknowledged caregivers and community members who continue to host the community health workers in their homes for the benefit of children.

CHAMPIONING RIGHTS

And well-being of people with disability

Botswana Red Cross Society recognizes the importance of inclusivity and support for all members of the community, including those with disabilities. Tshidilo Stimulation Center and Botswana Council for the Disabled hosted an event at the Maun stadium for their clients and their caretakers to raise awareness for people with disabilities. By attending an event to raise awareness for people with disabilities, the Center demonstrates its commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of all individuals, irrespective of their abilities.

“ The outreach campaign was held under the theme “Promoting community support and bridging the gap for people with disabilities.”

During the event, the Botswana Red Cross Society had the opportunity to create awareness about the services offered by the organization. Much emphasis was placed on the detrimental effects of tobacco use, particularly concerning individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities may face unique challenges, including higher rates of tobacco use as a coping mechanism, place and to ensure the well-being and equitable access to health care for people living with disabilities.

By participating in the event, the Center wanted to provide support and resources tailored to this demographic, helping them overcome addiction and improve their overall quality of life.



The Centre’s participation in this event realized that there is a heightened vulnerability of people with disabilities to the adverse effects of tobacco use. Tobacco use can exacerbate health challenges already faced by individuals with disabilities, leading to worsening health issues and reduced quality of life.

Moreover, attending such an event allowed the Center to foster connections and partnerships within the community. By collaborating with organizations and individuals focused on disability advocacy, the Center can enhance its outreach efforts and better serve marginalized populations. We at Botswana Red Cross Society will continue to advocate for tobacco control measures to be put into place and to ensure the well-being and equitable access to health care for people living with disabilities.



“KEEPING HUMANITY ALIVE!”

The Red Cross and Red Crescent movement reinforces the basic principle of humanity, especially in the places where it is most essential to keep humanity alive.

In commemoration of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, Botswana Red Cross Society had an array of events in all our branches across the country where our volunteers undertook different acts of kindness in their respective branches and sub-branches.

Guided by the theme of the day, “Keeping Humanity Alive”, the day saw our volunteers engaged in providing humanitarian aid such as litter-picking, donations of food items and clothes, and doing laundry for the elderly.

For the main event, in honor of Henry Dunant, our Kopong branch joined forces with its neighboring branches to jubilantly celebrate the day with Kopong residents. Gracing the event were the village leadership inclusive of the Member of Parliament Ms Naniki Makwinja, Kgosi Molefe, and his herdsman.

A joint message from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in commemoration of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day,

“ We pay tribute to the millions of volunteers and staff working alongside people in need of protection, assistance, healthcare, social aid, and solidarity.”

In these challenging times, the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems we wear are powerful symbols promising protection to people in need. Their universal recognition is crucial to help protect volunteers and staff worldwide as they carry out their life-saving work. Let us work together to keep humanity alive.”



STRENGTHENING SAFETY:

BRCS partners with BCM to improve first aid practices in mining

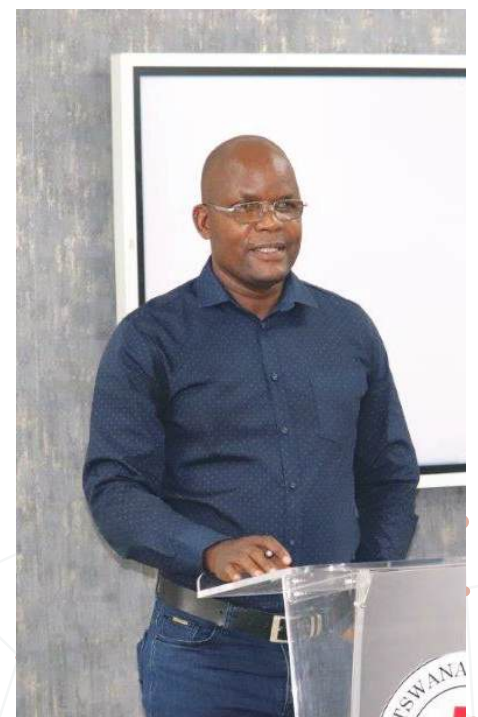
The Botswana Red Cross Society as it is renowned for its humanitarian efforts and First Aid Training, hosted the annual Botswana Chambers of Mine (BCM) meeting on the 19th-23rd of February. The primary focus was discussing first aid practices within the mining sector, the competitions, and reviewing the first aid book used during training. This initiative aims to enhance safety protocols and response mechanisms in mining environments, ultimately prioritizing the well-being of workers. The industry experts deliberated on safety protocols and response mechanisms in mining environments, with a primary focus on prioritizing the well-being of workers.

Welcoming the BCM First Aid Instructors, Mrs. Tshepo Dixon highlighted the crucial role of the BRCS in providing first aid training and selling first aid kits to the mining sector. The National Society's mandate of protecting life and health is achieved through equipping miners with the necessary skills and knowledge to respond to workplace emergencies. Mrs. Dixon further emphasized that the goal is to empower miners to create safer and more secure working environments.

At the meeting, Mr. Benjamin Moni, the chairman of the Instructor Forum highlighted the planned improvements to the first aid competitions. He suggested the addition of another

judge by the BRCS to ensure unbiased and accurate results. He concluded by mentioning that the BCM is committed to making the competitions more efficient and effective.

This collaborative effort underscores the importance of proactive measures to ensure the safety and health of individuals working in the mining sector.





The devastating EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

Affecting the livelihoods of our communities

The past 9 years have been the warmest with global temperatures rising by 1 degree Celsius due to a rise in carbon emissions. Consequently, global temperatures have been increasing by 1.5 degrees Celsius since 2020, which has exacerbated the occurrence of natural disasters locally, regionally, and internationally.

To combat the adverse effects of climate change, the Government of Botswana joined many other nations in pledging to achieve Net Zero by committing to a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. This has provided the opportunity for the National Society to position itself as a key stakeholder in ensuring that the necessary information, resources, and community-led projects reach even the most remote areas where the rural communities are feeling the brunt of the socio-economic impacts of climate change.

COP 28 emphasizes the importance of developing localized and nature-based solutions to climate change, such as sustainable land management which is in alignment with various BRCS projects such as the Gweta Community Farm which aims to capacitate the locals on sustainable agricultural practices, promote carbon sequestration and effective water use. Therefore, it was important for BRCS to have this symposium at a time when fostering strategic partnerships and collaboration is key to addressing the evolving challenges in disaster risk man-

agement by sharing resources, and best practices, and coordinating response efforts. The effects of climate change, paired with El Nino have come with dry spells and heatwaves which have culminated in a devastating drought in Southern Africa and Botswana is no exception. This drought has worsened the food insecurity that was already prevalent due to many factors such as the spike in food prices. As a National Society, we endeavor to support vulnerable and underserved communities to ensure that their basic needs are met and therefore, recently partnered with Palms For Life to distribute food packages in the Qanqwa Village. This food relief operation targeted malnourished children under 5 years, expectant women, and lactating mothers.

We are continuing our efforts to reverse the effects of climate change and to build resilient communities through the Gweta Community Farm which provides food for the community and also capacitates community members on climate-smart agriculture and empowers them to start their gardens.





HARMONIZING THE BRCS TEAM

For strategic impact in the communities we serve

“Botswana Red Cross Society hosted its annual staff meeting which brought together dedicated teams from diverse corners of Botswana.”

Over two days, our team convened to strategize, reflect, and align our efforts toward advancing our mission of serving communities in need. This was an opportunity for the team to step out of the work environment and engage in activities where they exchanged ideas that would enable them to achieve the set strategic goals. The retreat helped to ignite motivation within the team to step into the new year with a high morale.

Our Secretary General, Mr. Kutlwano Mukokomani, encouraged the team to nurture team spirit and to

remain resilient as we create the plans for 2024. The SG advised the team to focus on measurable goals that will advance our mission, building a shared vision for the furtherment of our mandate of serving our communities. He further highlighted to the team that by setting clear, measurable goals, the team will emerge from the meeting energized and empowered to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve. As a token of appreciation, the SG presented certificates to team members in recognition of their commitment, determination, and valuable contribution to the National Society.

Industry experts enlightened the Red Cross Team about how they can nurture a holistic approach to work, ensuring that they are not only financially sustainable but also personally fulfilled and resilient in the face of challenges. The team was edified with essential skills and perspectives to navigate the complexities of our field. The meeting ignited a renewed sense of purpose and motivation within everyone, fostering a collective spirit that propels the National Society forward.



BUILDING RESILIENT Communities Through Volunteer Empowerment

A multi-stakeholder approach is necessary in uprooting Sexual Gender Based Violence in our communities. In an endeavor to achieve this, the Botswana Red Cross Society in partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture and International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent hosted Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Psychological First Aid training in Maun, Kasane and Palapye.

This training was done to build the capacity of BRCS volunteers and Village Development Committee members with the critical skills necessary to support their SGBV community action. Ensuring that the first responders at the community level are capacitated with knowledge and skills contributes towards a comprehensive SGBV response. Amongst the facilitators were members of the district gender committee from gender affairs, NGOs, and Government departments.

Meanwhile, still in Maun, Kasane, and Palapye Botswana Red Cross Society in partnership with the National Blood Transfusion Service hosted sensitization meetings of volunteers on blood donor recruitment.

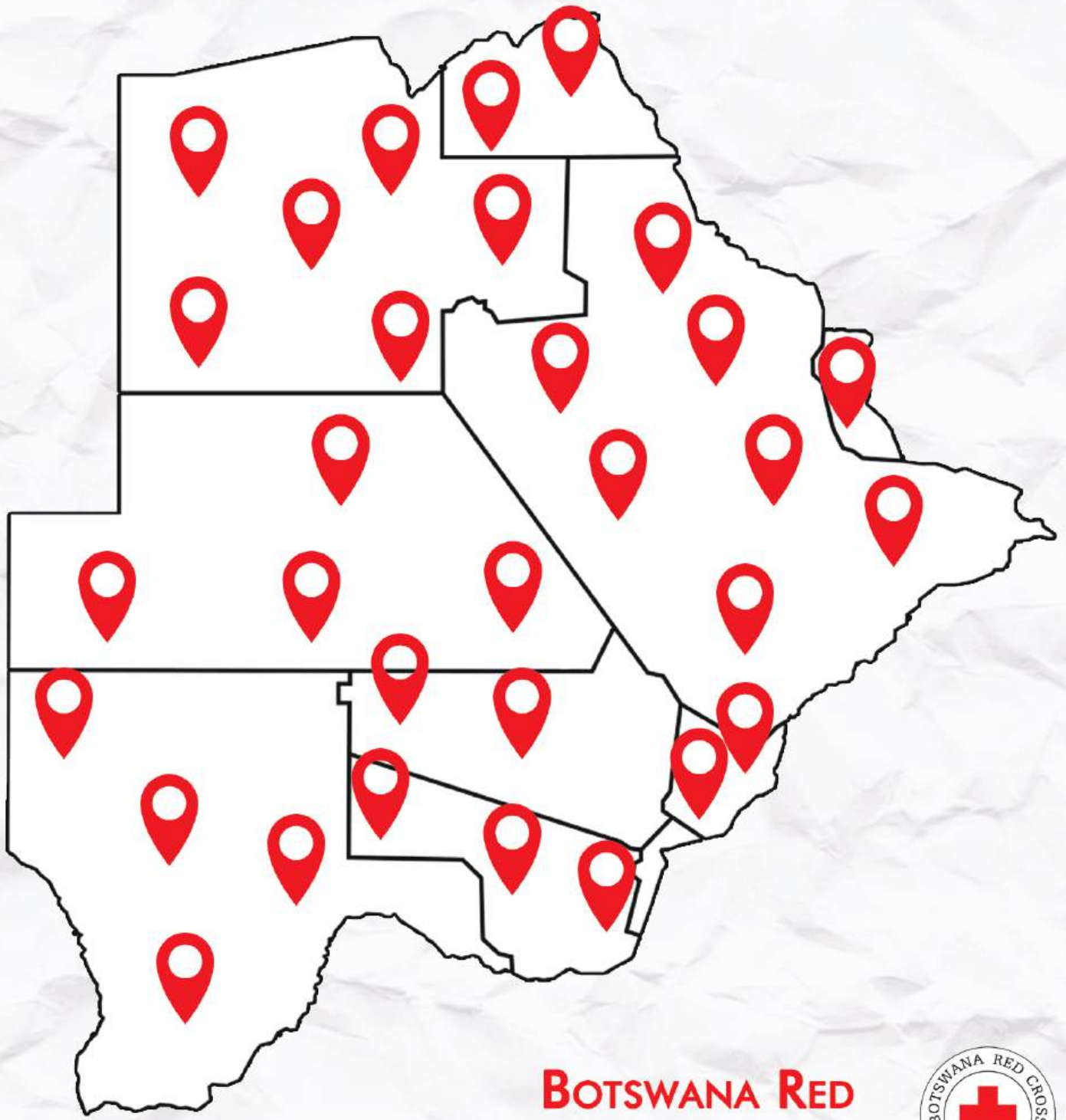
This comes after the realization that there is a need to ensure a sufficient supply of blood across the country's blood centers through community mobilization and awareness creation. Through these meetings, the

volunteers were equipped with knowledge on blood donation to share in their communities as we work towards a yearly target of 45,000 pints of blood collected.

By equipping volunteers with the necessary knowledge, skills, and support we can create a safe, welcoming, and efficient donation environment that encourages continued participation and fosters a culture of giving within the community.

As part of these trainings, the responders are equipped to engage in self-care to promote their physical and mental health to promote a comprehensive response action. Mental health matters for both responders and those being assisted.

Prioritizing mental health support for volunteers is essential for creating a supportive and resilient volunteer team. By providing training on mental health awareness and self-care practices we can empower



BOTSWANA RED CROSS BRANCHES



MOLEPOLOLE
ARTESIA
MALOTWANA
MABESEKWA
TSHESEBE
TSAMAYA
FRANCISTOWN
MASUNGA
MARAPONG
NATALE
KANG

LEHUTUTU
MABULE
GWETA
KASANE
KALAMARE
SEROWE
S/PHIKWE
SEFHARE
MAUN
NXARAGA
TSAU



Botswana Red Cross Society



@BotswanaRed

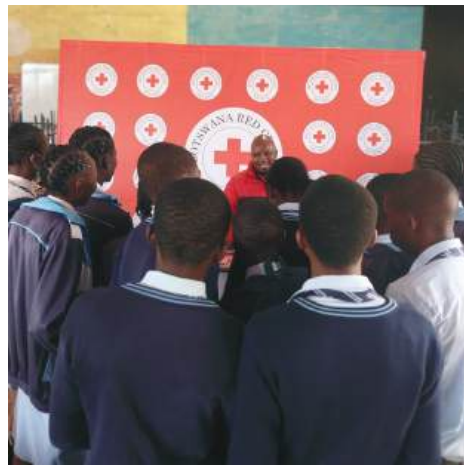


botswanaredcross



Botswana Red Cross Society







FIRST AID TRAININGS & SALES

Basic First Aid	P850	Intermediate First Aid	P1150
Mining Basic First Aid	P1450	Advanced First Aid	P1300

Industrial First Aid (fully stocked)

P950.00

Industrial Box

P350.00

Mine box (fully stocked)

P2550.00

Sports Kit (Fully Stocked)

P1140.00

Motorist Bag (Fully Stocked)

P650.00

WE ALSO HAVE FIRST AID STRETCHERS





FIRST AID TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR SEPT TO DEC 2024

COURSE FEE DATE LOCATION

Mining Basic First Aid	P 1 450.00	23-26 September	Gaborone
Basic First Aid (<i>Level 1</i>)	P 850.00	8-9 October	Gaborone
Mining Basic First Aid	P 1 450.00	5-8 November	Gaborone
Basic First Aid (<i>Level 1</i>)	P 850.00	12-13 November	Gaborone
Mining Basic First Aid	P 1 450.00	12-15 November	Lethakane
Intermediate First Aid (<i>Level 2</i>)	P 1 150.00	19-21 November	Gaborone
Basic First Aid (<i>Level 1</i>)	P 850.00	19-20 November	Gaborone
Mining Basic First Aid	P 1 450.00	26-29 November	Gaborone
Mining Basic First Aid	P 1 450.00	26-29 November	Jwaneng
Advanced Intermediate First Aid	P 1 300.00	3-5 December	Gaborone
Basic First Aid (<i>Level 1</i>)	P 850.00	3-4 December	Gaborone
Mining Basic First Aid	P 1 450.00	10-13 December	Gaborone