



## Impact of COVID-19 and Related Containment Measures on Civil Society Organisations, Communities and Health Service Delivery in Botswana

### COUNTRY PROFILE

**2.352**  
Million

Population of Botswana

**69.55**  
years

Life expectancy in Botswana

**14.5%**

Population

That lives in poverty in Botswana

Internal travel restrictions/Social distancing/masks defined the key government containment measure

More than  
**50%**  
of CSOs lost funding

### BACKGROUND

At the time of writing, there have been over 242 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in over 4.92 million deaths worldwide. The pandemic is unprecedented in modern history and coronavirus has spread to every corner of the globe. A study carried out in Botswana by EANNASO looked at the impact of coronavirus—and associated measures to prevent its spread—on Civil Society Organisation, Communities and health service provision in the country.

### COVID-19 CASES

Botswana has recorded a total of

**184,051**

confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of October 21st, 2021

### COVID-19 DEATHS

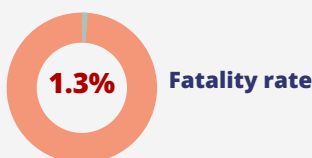
Botswana has recorded a total of

**2,389**

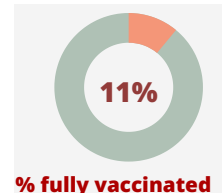
confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of October 21st, 2021

### COVID-19 RECOVERIES

Botswana has recorded **245,786** recoveries from COVID-19 infections.



### COUNTRY VACCINATION STATUS



### KEY MESSAGES

#### COVID-19 CONTAINMENT MEASURES

The Botswana government implemented the following COVID-19 containment measures, as reported by 90% of the study respondents; Internal travel restrictions, external travel restrictions, social distancing, masks, hand washing & sanitizing, limitations on public meetings, curfews, restriction of health facilities now designated as COVID isolation sites and closure of Schools.

#### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CSOS OPERATIONS

Through KII and secondary data, majority of respondents



**84%** confirmed that CSOs were not prepared to cope with the disruption caused by the pandemic.

**84%**

confirmed that CSOs were not prepared to cope with the disruption caused by the pandemic.



**70%** confirmed that CSOs were not prepared to cope with the disruption caused by the pandemic.

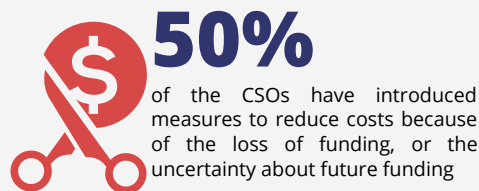
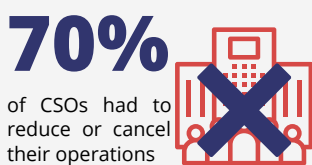
**56%**

CSOs have already experienced a loss of funding,



More than  
**70%**

of CSOs had to reduce or cancel their operations



**IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY**

Health service delivery was negatively affected by COVID-19 and its containment measures.

A lot of disruption of on health service delivery with more than

**60%**

of HIV services disrupted as more focus was directed to COVID-19



Majority, of the respondents stated that HIV and TB treatment was disrupted with most patient defaulting on medication as a result of restrictions on movement of patients.



of respondents reported; Hospitals were also not accessible and overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases.

**36%**



of respondents reported that Botswana experienced reduced HIV testing.

**83%** 

of respondents reported that Overall, health facilities and health workers prioritised covid cases and there has been limited attention to other health challenges.

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY**

More than

**90%**

of KPs were negatively impacted with increased GBV and prolonged detentions in police custody and harassment by law enforcement agencies

**98%** 

majority, of respondents agreed that key and vulnerable populations were mostly negatively affected by COVID-19 pandemic

**The following were listed as the impact of COVID-19 on KVPs;**



Loss of income by male and female sex workers due to closure of hotels, bars, and restaurants,



Increased cases of GBV, SGBV, prolonged detentions



Harassment by law enforcement officer enforcing curfews and lock downs.

**INSTITUTIONAL COPYING MECHANISMS AND STRATEGIES**

Strategies Secondary data and analysis of KII show that

More than

**70%**

of CSOs scaled down their community reach activities and scaled up the use of ICT in their operations.



of CSOs have introduced new program activities.



**62%** 

Majority, of respondents, stated that CSOs have adopted the following copying mechanisms; scale up use of ICT in operations and service delivery, carry out home based delivery of treatment to patients, temporarily suspending some services, and scaling up resource mobilisation.

**76%** Majority, of respondents, agreed that CSOs have resorted to scaling back activities, while laying off staff due to lost funding.