

Existing rates of: **Wasting: 7.2%** **Stunting: 31.4%** **Proportion of population underweight: 11.2%**

Source: Gov. of Botswana (Family health Survey IV, 2007)

Strong Performance





















- Government of Botswana has ensured tenure security for rural populations. Land titling is common and land markets function well. Policy promotes equitable access to common property resources.
- Botswana has devised a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- Botswana has introduced a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism to support delivery of the National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- The Government has fully enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- The Government of Botswana promotes complementary feeding practices.
- 96.8% of the population of Botswana in 2012 has access to an improved drinking water source.
- In Botswana 94.1% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2007.
- Botswana's social safety nets are well developed, but do not cover all risks for all of the population.

Areas for improvement

- Spending on agriculture (2.86% of public spending in 2013), does not meet government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Botswana's spending in its health sector (8.1% of public spending in 2012) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- Extension services are the preserve of government and poor farmers have no say in setting policy priorities. The agricultural research and extension system is not properly reaching out to poor farmers. There is no policy promoting gender equity in access to extension services.
- In Botswana, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Botswana does not have a separate budget line for nutrition; this prevents transparency and accountability for spending.
- Even though Botswana has developed a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism, clear time-bound nutrition targets are still lacking.
- Policymakers in Botswana do not benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2000.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (64.3% in 2012) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- In Botswana, constitutional protection of the right to food and the right to social security is weak.

Key data for Botswana

Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

























Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	 2.86%	2013	31st
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹	 8.1%	2012	33rd
Policies			
 Access to land (security of tenure) ²	 Strong	2011	Joint 3rd
 Access to agricultural research and extension services ²	 Weak	2007	Joint 42nd
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	 72.2%	2007-2008	20th
 Functioning of social protection systems ²	 Strong	2014	1st
Laws			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ²	 Weak	2014	Joint 18th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ³	 In Law, not in Practice	2014	Joint 1st
 Equality of women's economic rights ³	 In Law, not in Practice	2011	Joint 1st
 Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)	 No	2013	Joint 27th

¹ Possible scores are:  <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges  >=75 % and <100%  >=100%




² Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong

³ Possible scores are:  Not in Law  In Law Not in Practice  In Law & Practice

Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
 Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	 No	2014	Joint 28th
Policies			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	 83%	2013	Joint 25th
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	 Yes	2010	Joint 1st
 Population with access to an improved water source	 96.8%	2012	Joint 3rd
 Population with access to improved sanitation	 64.3%	2012	7th
 Health care visits for pregnant women	 94.1%	2007	16th
 Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	 Moderate	2009-2016	29th
 National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	 No	2010	Joint 32nd
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	 No	2000	Joint 37th
Laws			
 ICMSB [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	 Fully enshrined	2014	Joint 1st

¹ Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

² Possible scores are:  Not Enshrined in Law  Voluntary Adoption  Fully enshrined.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes