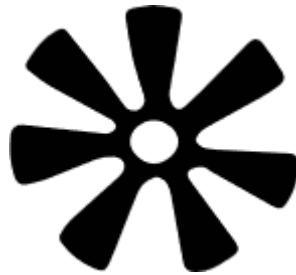


Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Botswana

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Botswana was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 The population of Botswana increased from 0.5 million inhabitants in 1990, via 1.3 million in 1990, to 2.4 million in 2020.
- 2 The country's literacy rate is high: 86%. The mean years of education for adults increased from 5.5 years in 1990 to 9.3 years in 2018.
- 3 Botswana's education index increased from .461 in 1990 to .664 in 2018 and regional inequality diminished.
- 4 Net primary school enrolment was 88% in 2014, and net secondary school enrolment is very high as well. The expected years of education for children increased from 10 years in 1990 to 12.7 years in 2018.
- 5 Within Botswana currently the best education region is Gaborone (for 'mean years of schooling' it used to be Chobe, and for 'expected years of schooling' Francistown). The worst region shifted from Chobe to Ghanzi for the 'education index', and from Ghanzi to Kweneng for 'mean years of schooling'. For 'expected years of schooling' it has always been Ghanzi.
- 6 Botswana's gross enrollment rate is 25%, which is high for African standards, and for women it is even higher (29%). In total there are 50,000 students in Botswana's tertiary knowledge institutions, while there are also 3,000 students from Botswana abroad.
- 7 Before 1982 people from Bechuanaland/Botswana who wanted to study for a university degree were supposed to attend the University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland in Lesotho from 1964 onwards, later renamed as the University of Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland. Only in 1982 Botswana started its own public university. Currently there are four public universities. Private tertiary

institutions started in 1974, and expanded rapidly after 1980. Currently there are 15 private institutions. Almost all tertiary institutions can be found in Gaborone.

- 8 For Botswana we have listed four thinktanks (all in Gaborone), and seven museums (spread over the country).

Part 1: The Story

Botswana's demographic and education development

The Republic of Botswana is located in Southern Africa, bordered by South Africa, Namibia Zimbabwe and Zambia. Botswana was a British colony from 1885 onwards under the name of Bechuanaland . The country became independent in 1966 as Botswana.

Botswana's population increased from 502,745 in 1960 to 2.4 million in mid-2020. In 1960, only 3.2% of the Botswanan population lived in cities (only 16,053 people), while the urban population has increased to 73% or 1.7 million. Botswana's largest city is Gaborone.

Botswana's life expectancy increased from 47.5 years for males and 57.4 years for females in 1960 to 66.7 years for males and 72.7 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 18.3 years in 1960 to 15.7 years in 1980. Since then, it started to increase and is presently 24 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 6.6 live-born children, which increased to 6.7 in 1970. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 2.9 live-born children¹.

1 <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/botswana-population/>



Source: geology.com

Literacy and enrolment

The adult literacy rate in Botswana was 86% in 2013, with women slightly more literate than men. Of the youth (15-24 years old) 8,474 males and 1,736 females were regarded as illiterate in 2013. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 88,103 for males and 88,808 for females.

Botswana's population of primary school age children (6-12 years) is 357,186 children². Education is not compulsory. Currently, 87.7% of the primary school age group attend primary school. Children with the age to attend secondary school (13-17) are 229,743. It is not known how many children are actually attending secondary school in recent years. Around 2006 this figure was 80% or more³. Finally, 198,890 people are in the age category to

² <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/bw>

³ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Botswana/Secondary_school_enrollment/

attend tertiary education (people between 18 and 28). Gross enrolment rates for tertiary education increased from 21% in 2010 to 25% in 2019 with females at 29%, and males at 21%. This means that there are 50,000 students in Botswana's higher education institutions. In addition, there are ca 3,000 students abroad (and that was much higher, ca 9,000 around 2010).

Regional differentiation of education results in Botswana, 1990-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 1990 and 2018, and uses ten regions. Between 1990 and 2018 the population of Botswana as a whole increased with 174%, but regional differences are considerable: from 300% in Chobe to 142% in Ngamiland.

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools.

We present the data for the years 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). See tables 1-4 in part 2.

Education index

The education index is an element of the human development index. In Botswana it shows a steady increase for the country as a whole, and for most of its ten regions. However, between 2000 and 2010, three regions showed some deterioration, and between 2010 and 2018 this happened in another region. The fastest progress can be noted for Chobe in the extreme north. The slowest growth happened in and around Francistown. The best region has always been Gaborone/South-East, and the position of worst region has shifted from Chobe to Ghanzi, in the western part of the country. Regional inequality was high in 1990, but slightly improved afterwards.

Mean Years of Schooling for Adults

According to UNESCO, 'Mean Years of Schooling' is an indicator about the "average number of completed years of education of a country's population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades"⁴. For Botswana as a whole the indicator shows a steady progress, and for the period as a whole this is also the situation for all regions. However, three regions in 2000-2010 and two regions in 2010-2018 show some deterioration. The best region used to be Chobe, but that position has shifted to Gaborone. The worst region was Southern in 1990-2000, it became Ghanzi in 2010, and Kweneng in 2018. The fastest improvements can be noted for Southern Region, and the slowest in

⁴ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

Chobe. Regional inequality was quite extreme in 1990, but improved considerably after 2000.

Expected Years of Schooling for Children

UNDP defines the ‘expected years of schooling’ as the: “Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child’s life”⁵. In Botswana the expected years of schooling for children increased from 10 years in 1990 to 12.7 years in 2018. The fastest increase happened in Kwening, and the slowest in Ngamiland. The best region shifted from Francistown in 1990-2000 to Gaborone in 2010-2018. The worst region always was Ghanzi. Regional inequality is modest and more or less stable.

Botswana’s tertiary knowledge development

Botswana currently has 19 universities or other tertiary institutions. There are 4 public ones and 15 private ones. University education only started in 1974. The number of private tertiary institutions started to grow from 1980 onwards and soon there were many more private institutions than public ones. Currently they far outnumber the public universities (but not in terms of numbers of students). Almost all tertiary institutions in Botswana are located in or near the capital city Gaborone. The only exceptions is the Botswana International University of Science & Technology. There are also some think tanks (most of them in Gaborone as well) and museums in Botswana (more spread out in the country). The 4icu ranking of African universities lists the University of Botswana, Botswana Accountancy College and Botho University as among the 200 top universities of Africa.

Historically the development of the number of universities is as given in the following table.

Botswana’s universities and other tertiary institutions 1960 – 2020

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	4
Private	0	0	1	3	5	6	8	12	13	15
Total	0	0	1	4	7	9	12	16	17	19

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bw/>), and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available. The year 2000 includes one private university for which it is not known when it has started.

Public and private universities in Botswana

Botswana’s tertiary knowledge system only started in 1974, with the first private institution, to be followed by the first public institution, the University of Botswana in 1982. Before 1982 students from Botswana were meant to go to the joint university of Basutoland/Lesotho, Swaziland, and Bechuanaland/Botswana in Lesotho. Wikipedia contains this information about this institution: “The University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland (UBLS) was a predecessor to the universities of the respective countries, presently National University of Lesotho, University of Botswana and University of Swaziland. The University was formerly

⁵ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>

known as the University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland (UBBS), which had its headquarters in Lesotho between 1964 and 1975. The UBBS had developed from the Pius XII Catholic University College at Roma, which was the product of a long-held desire of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Southern Africa for an institution of higher learning for Africans. The UBLS awarded its first degrees in April 1967, after a transitional period during which former Pius XII College students continued to take University of South Africa degrees. The university became University of Botswana and Swaziland (UBS) after the National University of Lesotho was established on October 20, 1975. The ultimate end of UBS was in the 1981-1982 academic year when Universities of Swaziland and Botswana were established independently”⁶.



(Public) University of Botswana⁷



(Public) Botswana Accountancy College⁸

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Botswana,_Lesotho_and_Swaziland

⁷

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Botswana#/media/File:University_of_Botswana_Earth_Science.JPG

⁸

<https://free-apply.com/en/university/1007200002>



(Private) Botho University⁹

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Botswana

According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, there are 13 think tanks or research institutes in Botswana, outside the university system, but only for four of them further details have been given. We listed four think tanks in Botswana in table 7 in part 2. According to UNESCO there were ca 700 researchers working in the country's institutions (386/million; 30% female): 43% in higher education, 46% in (other) government positions, 10% in private non-profit organizations, and 1% in business .

Museums in Botswana

Most museums in Botswana are historical cultural museums, and with locations in various parts of the country. We listed seven museums in table 8 in part 2.

⁹ <https://blog.bothouniversity.com/about-botho-university/>

Part 2: The Data

Map and table 1: Botswana, regions and population 1990 and 2018

Map	Region / Région	Population x 1000		'18/'90
		1990	2018	
	Central	410	710	1.73
	Chobe	10	30	3.00
	Ghanzi	20	50	2.50
	Kgalagadi	40	60	1.50
	Kgatlang	60	100	1.67
	Kweneng	150	340	2.27
	North-East / Francistown	120	180	1.50
	North-West / Ngamiland	120	170	1.42
	South-East / Gaborone	200	380	1.90
	Southern	160	240	1.51
Total Botswana		1290	2250	1.74

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Map:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nooraida_Yakob/publication/311087278/figure/fig1/AS:746791930720257@1555060479366/Botswana-map-showing-different-districts-and-regions.jpg

Table 2: Botswana: Education index 1990-2018¹⁰

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Central	435	553	589	623	1.43
Chobe	321	434	628	635	1.98
Ghanzi	423	547	509	560	1.32
Kgalagadi	461	592	555	604	1.31
Kgatlang	460	586	642	676	1.47
Kweneng	433	552	616	625	1.44
North-East / Francistown	530	682	688	682	1.29
North-West / Ngamiland	449	572	561	628	1.40
South-East /	551	712	787	818	1.48

¹⁰ The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Gaborone					
Southern	392	495	579	632	1.61
Total	461	589	636	664	1.44
Inequality	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	

<https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Table 3: Botswana, Regional data for ‘mean years of schooling for adults’

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Central	4.7	6.5	7.9	8.6	1.83
Chobe	8.1	11.2	9.7	9.7	1.20
Ghanzi	6.2	8.6	7.1	8.4	1.35
Kgalagadi	6.0	8.2	7.6	8.8	1.47
Kgatleng	5.2	7.2	8.6	9.3	1.79
Kweneng	5.0	6.9	8.3	8.2	1.64
North-East/ Francistown	7.2	9.9	10.3	9.8	1.36
North-West/ Ngamiland	5.0	6.9	7.6	9.3	1.86
South-East/ Gaborone	7.9	11.0	12.0	12.4	1.57
Southern	3.7	5.1	7.4	8.7	2.35
Total	5.5	7.6	8.9	9.3	1.69
Inequality	2.2	2.2	1.7	1.5	

<https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Table 4: Botswana, Regional data for ‘expected years of schooling for children’

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Central	10.0	12.1	11.8	12.2	1.22
Chobe	?	?	11.0	11.2	?
Ghanzi	7.8	9.4	9.7	10.1	1.29
Kgalagadi	9.4	11.4	10.9	11.2	1.19
Kgatleng	10.3	12.5	12.8	13.2	1.28
Kweneng	9.6	11.6	12.2	12.6	1.45
North-East/ Francistown	10.5	12.7	12.4	12.8	1.22
North-West/ Ngamiland	10.1	12.3	11.1	11.4	1.13
South-East/ Gaborone	10.3	12.5	13.9	14.5	1.41
Southern	9.7	11.7	11.9	12.3	1.27
Total	10.0	12.1	12.3	12.7	1.27
Inequality	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	

<https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Table 5: Public Universities in Botswana

University	Year of	Location
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	establishment	
University of Botswana (https://www.ub.bw/) (4icu rank: 1 in Botswana, 31 in Africa (top 200 list))	1982	Gaborone, Francistown, Maun
Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) (https://www.buan.ac.bw/index.php/home/) (4icu rank: 5 in Botswana)	1991	Gaborone
Botswana Accountancy College (https://www.bac.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 2 in Botswana)	1996	Gaborone
Botswana International University of Science & Technology (https://www.biust.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 4 in Botswana)	2005	Palapye

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bw/>, and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 6: Private Universities in Botswana

University AND ITS WEBSITE (IF AVAILABLE AND WORKING; CHECK!) AND 4ICU RANK, IF GIVEN	Year of establishment	Location	Religious affiliation
Institute of Development Management (https://www.idmbls.com/)	1974	Gaborone	No
ABM University College (https://abm.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 10 in Botswana)	1989	Gaborone	No
London College of International Business Studies, Botswana (https://lcibs.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 13 in Botswana)	1990 (1870)	Gaborone	No
Gaborone Institute of Professional Studies (https://gips.co.bw/)	1991	Gaborone	No
Mega Size College (http://megasize.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 11 in Botswana)	1993	Gaborone	No
Botho University (formerly known as Botho College/NIIT) (https://bothouniversity.com/) (4icu rank: 3 in Botswana)	1997	Gaborone	No
BA ISAGO University (http://www.baisago.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 8 in Botswana)	2002	Gaborone	No
Imperial School of Business and Science (Damelin Botswana) (https://isbs.ac.bw/)	2003	Gaborone	No
Gaborone University College of Law and Professional Studies (https://www.guc.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 7 in Botswana)	2006	Gaborone	No
Boitekanelo College (http://boitekanelo.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 9 in Botswana)	2007	Gaborone	No
Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (Limkokwing University College of Creative Technology (2000–2010), Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology (1991–2000)) (https://www.limkokwing.net/) (4icu rank: unranked)	2007 (1991)	Gaborone	No
New Era College (https://neweracollege.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 6 in Botswana)	2008	Gaborone	No
Imperial School of Business and Science (https://isbs.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 12 in Botswana)	2011	Gaborone	No

Logan Business College (https://www.lbc.ac.bw/) (4icu rank: 14 in Botswana)	2017	Gaborone	No
Bosa Bosele Training Institute	?	Gaborone	?

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bw/>, and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 7: Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Botswana

Think tanks	Year of establishment	Location
Okavango Research Institute (https://www.ori.ub.bw/)	1994	Maun
Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) (https://bidpa.bw/)	1995	Gaborone
Centre for Applied Research (CAR) (https://www.car.org.bw/)	2000	Gaborone
Joint Minds Consult (https://www.jointmindsconsult.com/)	2011	Gaborone

Sources; https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks (for: 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report); <http://africathinktanks.org/think-tanks>

Table 8: Museums in Botswana

Museums	websites	Location
Botswana National Museum	https://web.archive.org/web/20080705193208/http://www.botswana-museum.gov.bw/	Gaborone
Kgosi Bathoen II (Segopotso) Museum	https://www.musicinafrica.net/directory/kgosi-bathoen-ii-segopotso-museum	Kanye
Kgosi Sechele I Museum	https://tracks4africa.co.za/listings/item/w179239/kgosi-sechele-i-museum/	Molepolole
Khama III Memorial Museum	https://www.lonelyplanet.com/botswana/serowe/attractions/khama-iii-memorial-museum/a/poi-sig/1281492/1000830	Serowe
Nhabe Museum	https://vivid.travel/en-gb/africa/botswana/maun/nhabe-museum	Maun
Phuthadikobo Museum	https://www.lonelyplanet.com/botswana/mochudi/attractions/phuthadikobo-museum/a/poi-sig/1543084/1327912	Mochudi
Supa Ngwao Museum	https://www.lonelyplanet.com/botswana/francistown/attractions/supa-ngwao-museum/a/poi-sig/1281494/1327917	Francistown

Source: Wikipedia: Museums, and other sources, like <https://www.arts-store.com/mus%C3%A9es-museums-world-1/>). Not included: cultural centres

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