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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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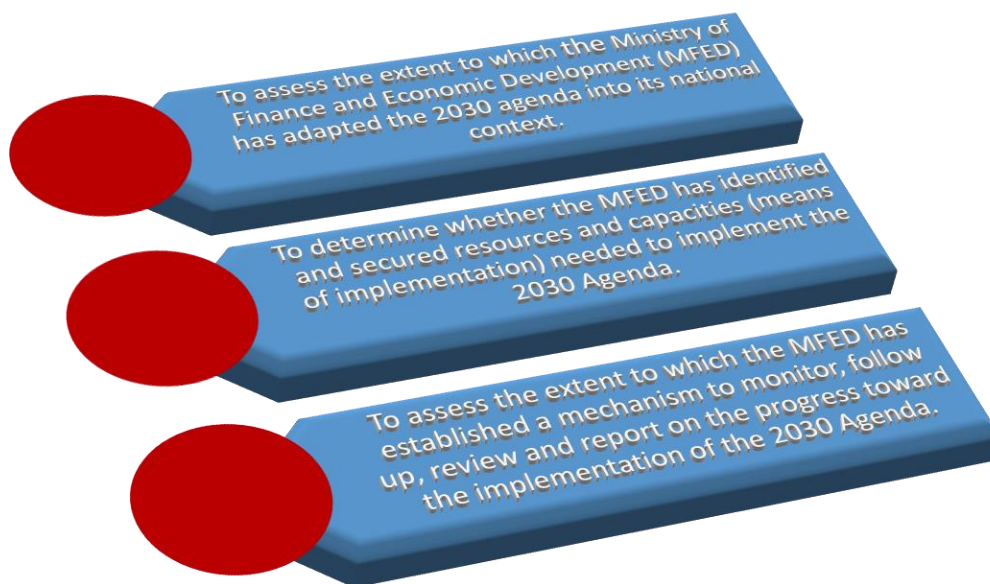
# Performance Audit on Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

SAI BOTSWANA



## Executive Summary

The ambitious 2030 Agenda is comprehensive in scope and calls for an integrated approach. Therefore, in order for it to be a reality, it is critical that Botswana as one of the 193 United Nations member states who endorsed the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, effectively prepares for its implementation, in terms of adapting the agenda to her national context, securing resources and capacities for implementation as well as devising robust and comprehensive mechanisms for monitoring, review and reporting on the progress of the agenda and the SDGs. Therefore, an audit on preparedness for implementation of SDGs was undertaken to:



The audit assessed strategies/actions put in place by the MFED regarding preparedness for implementation of SDGs from September 2015 to March 2018. It also assessed the actions and strategies regarding nationalisation of the SDGs into national development plans and policies, means of implementation and mechanisms put in place for review, follow up and reporting on the SDGs.

## **Key Findings and Recommendations**

1. The MFED had not developed national baselines. Lack of national baselines will impact negatively on the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs as there will be no basis for measuring performance regarding implementation of SDGs hence delays in achieving the goals.

### **Recommendation**

- ✚ The MFED Management in collaboration with Statistics Botswana and relevant stakeholders should develop SDG baselines. This can provide the basis for setting targets and for evaluation of SDGs implementation status.

2. The SDG Secretariat was limited in terms of institutional capacity to ably deliver on its mandate. Moreover, the MFED Management had not undertaken capacity assessment to determine if implementation of the SDGs would be effective under the current structure.

### **Recommendation**

- ✚ The MFED Management should strengthen the human and institutional capacity of the National Secretariat to enable it to effectively lead and coordinate SDGs implementation at National and Sub national levels.

3. The Government ministries operate in silos with standalone policies, which could stretch the limited resources at the Government disposal and ultimately defeat the 2030 Agenda intent of Whole of Government approach.

### **Recommendation**

- ✚ The MFED Management in collaboration with NSO should review and assess the existing policies to ensure policy coherence within the Government. Harmonised policies will consequently, promote Whole of Government approach (WoG).

4. In terms of communication and public awareness about the 2030 Agenda, more needs to be done as there is still low level of awareness on SDGs.

### **Recommendations**

- ✚ The MFED Management should continuously raise awareness of the universality of the agenda in order to ensure full understanding and ownership by all.
- ✚ The MFED Management should engage and utilize various means of communication to engage communities and local authorities to carry out advocacy, sensitization and raising awareness. These means of communication could be public fora, billboards, use of social media, live events, printed materials, radio and television.

5. The Ministry had not been able to explore and secure innovative financing of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to augment the national budget.

### **Recommendation**

- ✚ The MFED Management should explore other financing mechanisms for implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. This can provide for innovative ways of funding for the implementation of SDGs. Thereby, not relying on the national budget which already covers for day to day expenses.

6. There were no mechanisms or systems set by the MFED to integrate monitoring, follow-up & reporting into actions of all parts of the government and other stakeholders.

### **Recommendation**

- ✚ The MFED in collaboration with relevant stakeholders should put in place mechanisms/ systems that will integrate monitoring, follow-up & reporting into actions of all parts of the government and other stakeholders to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.

7. There was limited quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data for monitoring the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, due to inadequate statistical production and dissemination standards in ministries, departments and agencies.

## **Recommendation**

- ✚ The MFED Management should establish effective data collection systems at both National and Sub national levels to generate disaggregated data in a timely and reliable manner.
- ✚ The MFED Management should also take stringent measures to operationalize the National SDGs Roadmap which calls for data revolution in Botswana.

## **Overall Conclusion**

Botswana has made significant efforts in preparing for implementation of SDGs. However, some deficiencies pertaining to the country's readiness for implementation of SDGs were noted.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has adapted the 2030 agenda into its national context though public awareness on the 2030 Agenda need to be intensified, since there is still low level of awareness on SDGs. On another note, Government Ministries still operated in silos with standalone policies, which calls for policy review.

With regards to means of implementation, the Ministry had not done much to explore and secure innovative financing of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to augment the national budget. Additionally, there were no monitoring mechanisms or systems to integrate monitoring, follow-up & reporting into actions of all parts of the government and other stakeholders. Moreover, availability of quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data for monitoring the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs still remains a challenge.