

# Technical Advisors: Supporting Botswana to diversify its Future Industries

## Botswana - Supporting Botswana to diversify its Future Industries

The Republic of Botswana has developed from one of the world's poorest countries to a middle-income emerging country. The country has made significant social and economic progress since it gained independence in 1966. With a population of about two million spread across an area approximately the size of France, Botswana's citizens enjoy the benefits of uninterrupted democratic leadership, progressive social policies, and significant capital investment. Botswana's wealth is based on mineral extraction - mainly diamonds. Over the past 20 years Botswana has made progress in reducing its dependence on diamond extraction for sustained economic growth and social expenditures. Whereas mineral revenues accounted for well over 55 per cent of total government revenues in the late 1990s today the figure is under 40 per cent as diversification of industries is a national priority.

### Programme objective

In recognition of Botswana's rapid development, German development support to Botswana as partner country is gradually being phased out. In appreciation of the long standing and fruitful cooperation between the two Governments through GIZ and its predecessors, and in view of identified skills gaps of the country, different cooperation models were explored. In March 2004 a review of GIZ activities led to an agreement, whereby the cooperation could be continued on the basis of cofinancing arrangements for the cooperation with the former DED. This project is now being continued through GIZ.

Project Title	Capacity Development to achieve the "Botswana Vision 2016"
Client	Republic of Botswana
Countries	Botswana
Political Partner	Republic of Botswana
Budget	EUR 4.2 million
Total Term	2008 - 2014

After 35 years GIZ continues to work with the Botswana Government and supports the country's efforts to diversify its economy and capacity development. GIZ's contribution becomes visible in the overall objective of the current program entitled, "Capacity Development to Realise Vision 2016: Development Goals in Botswana". The programmes' priorities are aligned with Botswana's strategy for economic diversification, enshrined in their Vision 2016. GIZ currently supports the Government in the areas of (1) Vocational Education & Training, (2) Environment (3) Transport and Road Safety and (4) Regional Economic Diversification. Eighteen GIZ advisors are embedded in partner organisations for a minimum period of two years working directly with the counterparts for maximum sustainability of achieved outcomes.

### Approach

As Botswana strives to position itself as a regional education hub, GIZ is actively involved in developing programmes that support and further strengthen capacity to position Botswana as an international competitive economy. Based on the multi-





level approach, the cooperation focuses on core issues towards expansion of the scope for the country's progressive developing economy for example availability of skilled labour. By improved vocational training for a large number of young people, a corner stone for an internationally qualified and competitive labour force shall be set. Enhanced employment and self-employment perspectives, further multiplies possibilities for industrial diversification and alleviation of poverty.

### Example of impact

GIZ supports a practically oriented Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) reform to turn great challenges of about 20,000 school graduates, yearly, into economic growth factors and sustainable individual development opportunities. GIZ is focusing on capacity development, implementing successful elements of the German TVET approach and supporting Botswana on its way to an industrialized, globally competitive economy.

As complementary measures for active industry involvement and efficient government initiatives, towards Botswana becoming a regional player in the field of vocational training, GIZ supports institutional development and process improvement. "Trained in Botswana" is envisioned to guarantee and certify internationally recognized quality TVET.

Our support is concentrated on the following areas in the Vocational Training sector:

- Heavy Plant Engineering
- IT and Mechatronics
- Jewellery Design and Manufacture
- Change Management

Currently there are nine technical advisors working in these fields. If the negotiations are successful in extending the partnership to private sector, it is anticipated that this number could grow to twenty over the next five years. GIZ will therefore continue learning lessons from other emerging countries in which the company is positioning itself as the international cooperation partner of choice.

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