



**From
the People of Japan**

**Strengthening the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence
Government of Japan Supports Expansion of Shelter Housing at Botswana
Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Centre (BGBVC)**

Gaborone, 23 October 2025 — In a significant step toward enhancing support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), the Government of Japan has signed a Grant Contract with the Botswana Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Centre (BGBVC) for the expansion of its shelter housing facilities. The grant, valued at USD 84,942, is provided under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) scheme and will fund the construction of additional housing units at the BGBVC premises in Gaborone.

Established in 2017, BGBVC is one of only two non-governmental organizations in Botswana offering temporary shelter to GBV survivors. The Centre provides a comprehensive suite of services including counselling, clinical care, legal aid, and psychosocial support, with a strong emphasis on community outreach, education, staff development, and research. Its mission is to support individuals affected by GBV and HIV, and to foster long-term empowerment and reintegration.

Delivering the welcome address, His Excellency Mr. SHINDO Yusuke, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, reaffirmed Japan's longstanding partnership with BGBVC. "This ceremony highlights our enduring collaboration with the Centre. In 2012, the Embassy of Japan donated the building that currently houses the shelter. Through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer programme, we have continued to support BGBVC with skilled volunteer personnel," he stated.

Ambassador Shindo underscored the importance of shared humanity and community solidarity in addressing GBV, and commended the Government of Botswana for drafting the country's first-ever national GBV bill; a milestone in strengthening prevention and response mechanisms. He also praised BGBVC's critical role in bridging service gaps, particularly in providing safe spaces and holistic support for survivors.

In her keynote remarks, Ms. Lorato Ruth Moalusi, Chief Executive Officer of BGBVC, emphasized the symbolic and practical significance of the grant. "This event represents more than a funding agreement; it embodies our shared commitment to protecting the dignity, safety, and rights of GBV survivors," she said.

Ms. Moalusi highlighted BGBVC's operations in Gaborone, Ghanzi, and Francistown, where over 5,000 survivors have received counselling, legal assistance, and empowerment services. Of these, more than 800 individuals have directly benefited from shelter programmes. She noted that the current shelter, with a capacity of 18, is frequently overextended, necessitating the use of rented spaces that are not ideal for survivors. The expansion project will enable the Centre to accommodate more women and children, while continuing to deliver integrated services that support both immediate safety and long-term recovery.

The Government of Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has also contributed to BGBVC's capacity-building efforts. Ms. Kitso Motlhale, Technical Officer at BGBVC, participated in JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program on Eradicating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Reflecting on the experience, she described it as a transformative learning opportunity that illuminated global challenges such as underreporting and cultural barriers, while showcasing Japan's coordinated response model.

Ms. Motlhale commended Japan's infrastructure for survivor support, which includes 60 One Stop Centres, 150 counselling centres, 323 child protection councils, and over 20 shelters. She identified the hospital-based model utilizing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) as a best practice that could be adapted in Botswana.

Japan's support through the GGP scheme aligns with Botswana's Vision 2036, particularly under the pillar of Human and Social Development, which envisions a moral, tolerant, and inclusive society that offers opportunity for all. To date, the GGP scheme has supported over 60 grassroots projects in Botswana, ranging from the construction of pre-schools and classrooms for students with disabilities to vocational training institutions.

The Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) is a funding initiative by the Government of Japan that supports community-based development projects. It aims to address social challenges and promote people-centred development through direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities.



**Ambassador Mr. SHINDO
handing over cheque to Ms Lorato,
Chief Executive Officer of BGBVC**



Remarks by Ambassador Mr. SHINDO

Signing the Grant Contract



**Remarks by Ms Lorato,
Chief Executive Officer of BGBVC**



**Speech by Yukiko FUJII,
JOCV**



**Speech by Kitso Motlhale
Technical Officer – Psychosocial Support
Program of BGBVC**