

# ASSESSING MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN BOTSWANA

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This study of Botswana provides useful perspectives of the extent to which migrants and refugees access the available reproductive health services, and compares the availability and access of these services between Botswana and the two groups' countries of origin. A stratified sample of 1088 migrants and refugees was drawn from 23 health districts of Botswana, using proportional allocation to size. Questionnaires which solicited answers to the migrants' and refugees' reproductive health needs and their access to these services were administered on the selected sample. The results of the study show that more female refugee (4.5 2.2%) than males agree (about 1%) that reproductive health services are accessible to them less than 20% of the time when they need those services. But for services such as AIDS counselling, AIDS testing and treatment of STDs, the percentage of males (7-10%) are higher than those of females. On the other hand, more of the female migrants (about 30%) than males ( about 20%) believe that such reproductive health services as antenatal care, delivery (normal), AIDS counselling , AIDS testing, treatment of STDs are accessible over 50% of the time when they need them or they are needed by their wives (in the case of the men). Only 15.1% of the male migrants, 9.3% of the female migrants, 13.5% of the male refugees and 1.3% of the female refugees are of view that their reproductive health needs are being met by the Botswana's health care programme. Furthermore, the participants were of the view that reproductive health services were better, in terms of availability and accessibility, in their home countries than in Botswana. The implications of these results to the Vision 2016 programme of Botswana and the health of the inhabitants are examined in the paper.