A. Background

Botswana is a landlocked country at the center of Southern Africa with an area of 569,582 km², i.e. approx. the size of France or Texas. It has a semi-arid climate and about 75% covered by the Kgalagadi desert. The population of Botswana is approximately 2.02 million (2011 Census). The main resources include Diamond, Copper, Soda Ash, Nickel, Coal and Beef. Tourism contributes immensely to the GDP due to existence of the Okavango and the

B. SE4ALL: Botswana Action Process

1. Country Opt in

This opens doors for the commencement of the whole activity towards the development of the SE4All Action Agenda and the respective Investment Prospectus. Opting in took a bit of time as there was need to understand the requirements and then take senior management at ministry level on board as well.

2. Stock-taking & Gap Analysis

This has been done. It is quite elaborate and its importance cannot be overemphasized as it provides input to energy policy development as well as to development of sectoral strategies.

3. Development of National Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus

This is ongoing. A request for technical assistance was submitted to AfDB by Botswana Minister of Energy in January 2016 and AfDB accepted in February 2016. Procurement of the consultant was completed in September 2016 and the consultant is now mobilizing.

The following activities have been agreed with the consultant:

i) Modalities of the delivery of the Technical Assistance for the SE4All Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus for Botswana.

ii) Length of the process: to be around six months, depending on local factors,

iii) Involvement of all concerned ministries early-on in the process to pave the way for high level political approval e.g. set-up (or use of existing) various working groups; Bank to provide a budget for these processes.

iv) The need for high-level political buy-in and the importance of formal government approval at the end, ideally at Cabinet level.
v) Government nomination of a SE4All focal point in the Ministry/Department to be the principal interlocutor on SE4All

vi) Hiring a consultancy firm as it has advantages of advantages

4. Implementation & Monitoring

This will be the next step after Development of National Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus.

5. Major achievements

a) Botswana has produced a Gap Analysis Report for SE4All which outlines areas that need to be addressed. The report can be accessed at http://www.se4all.org/sites/default/files/l/2015/05/Botswana_RAGA.pdf

b) A consultant has been engaged by the African Development Bank to offer advisory services for developing the SE4ALL Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus. The Action Agenda will provide an umbrella framework for energy sector development in Botswana, addressing energy access, renewables and energy efficiency in an integrated manner.

6. Best practices (policies and technologies etc)

a) Botswana, through assistance from the World Bank, is currently developing two strategies which are geared towards achieving the three main objectives of SE4ALL. These are;

   i) Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan

b) A Draft National Energy Policy was tabled in Parliament in July 2016 and will most likely be adopted in the November 2016 Parliamentary sitting. Once approved, the National Energy Policy will pave way for implementation of activities in the SE4ALL Action Agenda.

7. Key challenges

i) The main challenge in Botswana is of insufficient skilled manpower to implement projects geared towards the S4ALL Agenda

ii) There is also a challenge of funding projects in this area as the Government budget is never enough

8. Priority areas for action.

i. The priority areas for action will be clearer after completion of the RE and the EE&C Strategies and Action Plans and of course the SE4All Action Agenda and related Investment Prospectus.

ii. Addressing lack of skilled manpower to implement projects geared towards the S4ALL Agenda

iii. the need to increase access to modern energy services in rural areas,
iv. affordability of energy services especially to low income groups,
v. the risk of exposure to excessive imports of energy especially electricity,
vi. vulnerability to supply disruptions of petroleum products,
vii. promoting the use of locally available energy sources, poverty eradication, sustainable development and environmental protection.

Freddie O. Motlhatlhedi  
Energy Advisor  
Department of Energy  
Botswana  
fmotlhatlhedi@gov.bw

En