

*Public Affairs Section  
U.S. Embassy, Gaborone, Botswana*

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **U.S. Government Invests P 109 million in improving the quality of life for vulnerable groups**

The United States Embassy is pleased to announce a new cooperative agreement that will improve the quality of life of orphans, vulnerable children, women and their families/households in Botswana. The BWP 109 million project is funded through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and will be implemented by Project Concern International (PCI) over five years. In addition, PCI will contribute a cost share of not less than 20% and it will work with local partners to develop public-private partnerships with co-financing from private companies and foundations. These contributions will strengthen services and lay the foundation for sustainability of project activities following the culmination of U.S. Government funding assistance.

The specific goal of the project is to improve the livelihoods of households for vulnerable adolescents, especially girls and vulnerable women. The project will also improve developmental interventions for vulnerable children and adolescents and reduce the risk of neglect, exploitation and abuse of vulnerable children, adolescents and women. It will also improve development, implementation and coordination of national frameworks and policies that address the needs of children and women.

U.S. Ambassador Michelle Gavin said, “The Government of Botswana and civil society have made tremendous progress in addressing the needs of vulnerable children and women, but much work remains. I am extremely pleased that the United States has entered into this cooperative agreement, particularly because it goes beyond donor assistance, and includes an important element of sustainability and co-financing from private partners. Public-private partnerships will become ever more important in the challenging budget environment we face today.”

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