



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### RE: AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY COMMEMORATION

The African Statistics Day 2019 will be commemorated across the continent on 18 November 2019. Each year Africa observes this day, and uses it to raise public awareness about the importance of statistics in all aspects of socio-economic life. This year, the African Statistics Day is commemorated under the theme, **“Everyone Counts: quality statistics for better management of forced displacement in Africa”**. This theme is in line with the theme for the African Union Summit of 2019, **“The year of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa”**. The theme was chosen to raise awareness on the critical importance of disaggregated statistics when responding to the core concept of the Sustainable Development Goals, **“leaving no one behind”**, and specifically to the challenge of handling forced displacement in Africa.

The Global Trends – Forced Displacement in 2018 report published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that there were 70.8 million forcibly displaced persons in the world. Over a third of this number are in Africa, out of which 17.8 million are internally displaced persons, 7.4 million are refugees and asylum seekers, and about 1 million are returnees. This is a serious societal problem, and therefore finding a sustainable solution is imperative. According to the report, forced displacement worldwide is at its highest in decades, with the young population (those under 18 years of age) constituting half of the refugees.

High quality Statistics are at the core of good governance to address the challenge of forced displacement in Africa. Without quality data, policymakers and other stakeholders would not be able to effectively guide policy formulation, planning and decision making.

Like other national statistics offices in Africa, Statistics Botswana will spend the day raising awareness about the need for better data.

#### **For more information Contact:**

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