



Report

Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC) Training

Place	Mogobane, Village
Date	25-06-2026-26-06-2026

Introduction

The Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC) training was held in Mogobane. The purpose of the training was to help community members understand child protection, the role of the committee, and how to work together to keep children safe.

Training Objectives

The training aimed to:

- A. Explain the duties of the Village Child Protection Committee.
- B. Teach the child protection referral system.
- C. Increase awareness of child protection issues.
- D. Promote teamwork in preventing abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children.
- E. Functionality of child protection committee in Mogobane.

Cases recorded;13 defilement,16 child neglect,3 rape and 12 child maintenance.

SOS Children's Villages in Botswana

SOS children's villages is a non- profit organisation that cares for children who have lost parental care and those at risk of losing it; vulnerable children, supports children who are at risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. SOS Children's Villages in Botswana works with social workers, police, health workers, and the community to ensure that every child grows in a safe and nurturing environment.

We are pleased to share that we are celebrating a significant milestone of 40 Years of Care, marking four decades of providing safe and nurturing homes for children in our care.

Meaning of Child Protection

- A child is any person from birth to 18 years old.
- Child protection means keeping children safe from:
- Abuse, Neglect, Violence, Exploitation

It also includes preventing harm and responding quickly when problems are reported.



Statistics

2025	2026
Neglected/exploited 2	4
Child maintenance 1	0
Child access 1	1
Assault 0	5
Gender based violence 0	2
Child in need of care 6	6
Needy child 45	45
Delinquency 5	10

Emerging Trends

- Remote parenting and breakdown structures where parents live far from their children for a long time either divorced, conflict, migration, unemployment and other social problems.
- Drug and alcohol abuse which leads to crime, school dropouts, and abuse at home.
- Economic stress which is caused by unemployment

Child Protection Issues Discussed

- Poor Parenting

Participants said that poor parenting can lead to:

Child neglect, Bullying, Bad behaviors, Poor school performance, Children spending too much time on activities without proper supervision

- Child Abuse, violating children's privacy, including sharing their pictures without their permission.
- Teenage pregnancy was identified as a major concern. The group discussed the importance of education, guidance, and support for young people. Cases recorded from 2024-2026 June; 15 cases-majority 19 years, and the lowest is 15 years
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Drug and alcohol abuse can cause crime, school dropouts, child neglect

- Family problems
- Digital Safety; cyberbullying, exploitation, Unsafe use of social media and the internet, Economic challenges.

Unemployment and financial problems can increase stress in families and affect children's well-being.



Role of Different Stakeholders

Social Workers

- Assess child protection cases.
- Provide counselling and provide emotional support.
- Connect families to provide services/family support.
- Monitor and follow up on cases.

Health Workers

Health services support children through:

Growth monitoring, good nutrition, Sanitation, Immunization, child health check-ups.

Schools

Schools help by:

- Teaching life skills and health education.
- Addressing bullying and discipline issues.
- Working with parents and community leaders.
- Supporting vulnerable children.

Community Members

Everyone in the community has a responsibility to protect children. Parents, teachers, churches, police, social workers, and traditional leaders should work together.

Reporting and Referral of Cases

Participants learned that:

- Child protection cases must be reported quickly.
- Confidentiality should always be maintained.
- Families, neighbors, and community leaders should support children in need.
- Different service providers should work together to help affected children.
- Educational Concerns Raised
- The following concerns were discussed:
- Poor academic performance.
- Bullying and indiscipline.
- Lack of parental involvement.
- Weak Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) participation.
- Theft and other risky behaviors.

CHILD ABUSE

1. The following types of abuse were discussed:
2. Physical abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Emotional abuse
5. Neglect





Recommendations

- ◇ The training recommended that the community should:
- ◇ Strengthen the Village Child Protection Committee.
- ◇ Promote positive parenting.
- ◇ Increase awareness about child abuse and teenage pregnancy.
- ◇ Improve cooperation between schools, families, and service providers.
- ◇ Encourage children to stay in school.
- ◇ Provide guidance, counselling, and support to vulnerable children.

Conclusion

- The training helped participants understand their role in protecting children. It highlighted the importance of working together to prevent abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation.
- The community agreed that every child deserves a safe, healthy, and supportive environment.