

SmartBots Village Connectivity — Botswana's Universal-Service-Funded Rural Broadband Rollout

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Botswana

Quality score: 68/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Botswana's BTC, funded via the Universal Access and Services Fund, is wiring underserved villages with satellite-backed broadband and free Wi-Fi hotspots — 1,138 facilities across 144 villages by 2023, plus 61 more villages in 2025, en route to a 500-village target.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	2/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	0/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-25

Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) / Government of Botswana — Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology (Universal Access and Services Fund) — accessed 2026-08-25

TechAfrica News — BTC expands network to 61 underserved villages (2025) — accessed 2026-08-25

Government of Botswana — SmartBots Digital Connectivity Standards V4 — accessed 2026-08-25

allAfrica — SmartBots launch promise fulfilled (2023) — accessed 2026-08-25

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