

# Botswana Immigration Detention Data Profile



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	110,596
New asylum applications (2019)	21

## NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/africa/botswana>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

## STATISTICS

### Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Criminal prison population	3,960	2015
				4,241	2012
				5,063	2010
				6,074	2007
				6,105	2004
				6,042	2001
				6,455	1998
Percentage of foreign prisoners	31.6	2014	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	193	2015
	22.6	2009		205	2012
				251	2010
				315	2007
				328	2004
				336	2001
				377	1998

### Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	2,400,000	2020	International migrants	110,596	2019
	2,262,000	2015		160,600	2015
	2,100,000	2012		146,500	2013
International migrants as a percentage of the population	7.1	2015	Refugees	1,113	2019
	7.2	2013		2,047	2018
				2,119	2017
				2,080	2016
				2,130	2015
				2,773	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	0.91	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	21	2019
	1.19	2014		173	2016
	1.41	2012		77	2014
				104	2012

## DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION		
Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Civil law	2017
	Common law	2017
COVID-19 UPDATES		
Latest Update	Update Status	Observation Date
	<p>Botswana, which has long operated a “Centre for Illegal Migrants” at Francistown near the border with Zimbabwe and a refugee camp in Dukwi, has struggled in its response to the Covid-19 pandemic, repeatedly shutting down various regions of the country as cases have spread. While there appears to be little public information about whether measures were implemented at the Centre for Illegal Migrants to prevent the spread of the infection, UNHCR has provided some details about the situation at the Dukwi camp. The UN refugee agency reports that since 1 April, more than 1,000 of refugees living in the camp have “benefited from risk communication and upgraded health and sanitation systems, in line with the international guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.” There has also been some information about Covid-19 response in prisons. Prison visits were suspended on 24 March and resumed on 1 June. According to one press account, when she announced the resumption of some services at prisons, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Justice, and Security Matshidiso Bokole said that although “prison visits would commence” they would be “restricted to one visitor per prisoner per day for remands and illegal immigrants, while convicts would be allowed one visitor per month” (Botswana Daily News, 1 June 2020). The government announced the release of more than a hundred prisoners in mid April. A month later, 15 Zimbabwean prisoners were released and deported to Zimbabwe. During a 24 July 2020 press conference, the prison commission said that currently there were “3,729 inmates and two kids, against the prisons’ holding capacity of 4,337 and this gave an under crowding status of 14 per cent, which enabled them to observe the Covid-19 safety regulations” (Botswana Daily News, 26 July 2020).</p>	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW		
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
International treaties	Name	Ratification Year
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	2000
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	2008
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2002
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2002
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2000
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1996
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1995
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1974
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1969
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1969
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	10/19	

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaty reservations	Name	Reservation Year	Observation Date
	ICCPR Article 7	2000	2017
	CAT Article 1	2000	2000
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Individual complaints procedure	Name		Acceptance Year
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999		2007
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date	
	1/5	2017	
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	§ 18 [...] The Committee recommends that asylum seekers be detained only when necessary, for a limited period of time, under other regulations than the Prisons Act and in accordance with UNHCR guidelines. The Committee also recommends to the State party that it recognize the right of asylumseekers to appeal the decision denying them refugee status before a judicial body.	2006
Regional treaties, regulations, and directives			
Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)	
	ACHPR, African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights	1986	
	ACRWC, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	2001	
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recommendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	Yes	2009	2017
	No	2013	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS															
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Custodial authority	Agency	Ministry						Ministry Typology			Observation Date				
			Department of Immigration and Citizenship						Immigration or Citizenship			2008			
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Types of detention facilities used in practice	Immigration detention centre (Administrative)	Immigration field office (Administrative)	Transit centre (Administrative)	Reception centre (Administrative)	Offshore detention centre (Administrative)	Hospital (Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
															2015

More information about immigration detention in Botswana is available at the website of the Global Detention Project  
([www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org))

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