United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC) and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative (RR), her excellency, Mrs. Jacinta Barrins visited Chobe District to familiarize herself with the district and development challenges that the district is faced with. Her journey set off from Gaborone to Maun via Makgadikgadi and her final destination was a small village called Parakarungu, in Chobe District, before heading back to Gaborone. Her journey was prompted by UNDP’s footprint in Ngamiland, Makgadikgadi and Chobe District through UND’s Sustainable Land Management Projects (SLM).

In Chobe District her visit was mainly to assure Chobe residence that UNDP will continue to be a preferred development partner of choice through its programmes aimed at successfully achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals through the Bio-Chobe Project. A number of initiatives were implemented by the Project and this was an opportunity for the RR to review progress made thus far and areas of opportunities that could be tapped on for locals’ active involvement in the tourism industry.

The RC/RR had an opportunity to meet with Dikgosi, Heads of Government Departments, NGOs to discuss development issues and exchange ideas on how best to tackle them. In her meetings with different stakeholders she preached and promised partnerships, transparency, results and accountability, and requested for good working relationships in order for all stakeholders and UNDP to work together towards resilient communities and empowered lives.
From right to left: Mrs. Barrins, Mr. Chika – one of Conservation Agriculture (CA) lead farmers, Dr Koboto, Mrs. Masilo-RaKgoasi – Bio-Chobe Project Manager, Mr. Kgositsele & – Department of Crops Extention officers showcasing the benefits of CA.

Mr. L. B. Chika of Parakarungu (second from left) explaining to Mrs. Barrins the benefits attained from UNDP supported Conservation Agriculture equipment towards improved yield. Also in the picture is the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security extension officers.
“...... we are in it together....” Her excellency, Mrs. Barrins addressed the Bio-Chobe Project implementing partners. She appreciated their active involvement in the project implementation and encouraged them to strive for full participation in the project as all stakeholders and UNDP are in this project together as partners.

Land Board Secretary; Mr. K. Kemoreile & his Deputy, Mr. D. setimela, Head of Department of Crops, Mr. Z. Mmapetla, Chobe National Park Acting Manager, Mr. M. Mafa and Head of Research, Department of Wildlife & National Park, Ms. M. Solomon.
Next to Mrs. Barrins is Chobe District Council Person Honorole Mwanota Kachana, Dr. Kathleen Alexandra & Dr. Mark Vandevalle of CARACAL establishing linkages between UNDP, NGOs and District Authorities and how this relationship could benefit the District development and people’s livelihoods.

“... Lead, we will support...” Mrs. Jacinta Barrins reminded the District leadership that UNDP as a development partner cannot lead in the processes but can support the District leadership and stakeholders in formulation and implementation of development initiatives and processes.