

Peace Corps Botswana

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



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136 Volunteers served across the country
17,832 Individuals reached with HIV prevention interventions
13,117 Individual youth trained in life skills
990 Teachers, caregivers and community members trained in positive youth development activities
4,698 Youth reached through STEPS Films



Message from the Country Director



It is with great pride that I dedicate the 2013 Peace Corps Botswana Annual Report to the 2,407 Peace Corps Volunteers who have served in this fine nation – including the 591 who have served since our return in 2003. Let me also recognize the many thousands of co-workers and counterparts who worked alongside these Volunteers, through good times and bad. Botswana is in far better shape today than it was ten years ago, and Peace Corps is proud to have contributed to an effective national response to HIV/AIDS. During a period when many donors and nations ceased supporting Botswana, Peace Corps actually returned, and has now completed 10 more years of on-the-ground assistance.

In 2002, President Mogae made a request of the United States – please send the Peace Corps back to Botswana to assist in addressing HIV/AIDS. At the time, the disease was threatening to unravel the phenomenal developmental progress achieved by Botswana since independence. Peace Corps and the United States Government quite simply did not want to see such a fate befall our good friends. A first group of 21 new Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) arrived in 2003. All of those new Volunteers were assigned to District AIDS Coordinating (DAC) Offices to assist with organizing the national response to an epidemic that was bringing death and tragedy to all corners of Botswana.

Year by year we brought in more Volunteers, and also broadened their assignments. Working closely with government and citizens alike, Peace

Corps Volunteers focused on a wide range of activities: from scaling up prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), to helping organize testing campaigns; from assisting in clinics and various government offices, to educating rural communities on treatment and prevention. Over the past few years, we've sent more and more PCVs to schools to promote the acquisition of critical "Life Skills". Youth represent the future of Botswana, so helping youth to make wise decisions and avoid HIV infection has become a huge focus of Peace Corps. Ministry of Education and Skills Development recently pointed out a secondary benefit to having PCVs assigned to teach life skills in schools – they can help boost overall academic performance. PCVs facilitate student clubs, teach computer skills and tutor in English, organize libraries and sports activities, and introduce new methods of teaching. After receiving a PCV, the primary school in Dutlwe saw its test scores leap from a 33% to a 76% pass rate between 2012 and 2013. Many factors contributed to this impressive feat, one of which I'll call "the PCV effect".

The PCV effect is what occurs when a village embraces the energy, ideas and enthusiasm of a PCV. So much becomes possible. In this report, you'll read of events ranging from a Special Olympics competition in Maun, to Girls Leading Our World camps across the country, to new libraries blossoming at schools, along with 70 latrines being introduced in a community that previously had none. You can read about how recycled ARV bottles are being used to promote adherence, and to create works of art that address stigma (see the latter in the National Museum). The Peace Corps Botswana program has grown from 21 Volunteers in 2003 to 136 today – because there is still much to be done. It's clear that effectively addressing HIV/AIDS is very complicated and requires interventions on many fronts. We'll continue to have PCVs in schools, clinics, government offices and NGOs. In addition to working on their primary assignments, Volunteers now are expanding their health focus to include TB and malaria. They are promoting backyard gardens and sound nutrition. PCVs assist with income generating projects, and increasingly are addressing gender issues. They are



taking a holistic view to addressing HIV/AIDS, and are getting results. PCVs have documented reaching over 65,000 Botswana with individual or small group HIV prevention interventions over the past four years, with almost 18,000 of those people being reached in 2013. It's hard to prove that one's efforts resulted in someone not getting infected with HIV, but surely PCVs have helped to avert many infections – and hence have saved lives.

What progress this last decade has seen! Saturdays are no longer for funerals in Botswana, although much work still lies ahead. Many in Botswana are tired of hearing about HIV/AIDS, yet Peace Corps Volunteers keep the conversations going. Treatment is now largely available to everyone who needs it in Botswana, but new infections still continue to occur on a daily basis. We remain fully committed to helping Botswana achieve its goal of no new infections by 2016. Peace Corps stands ready to assist in this historic undertaking.

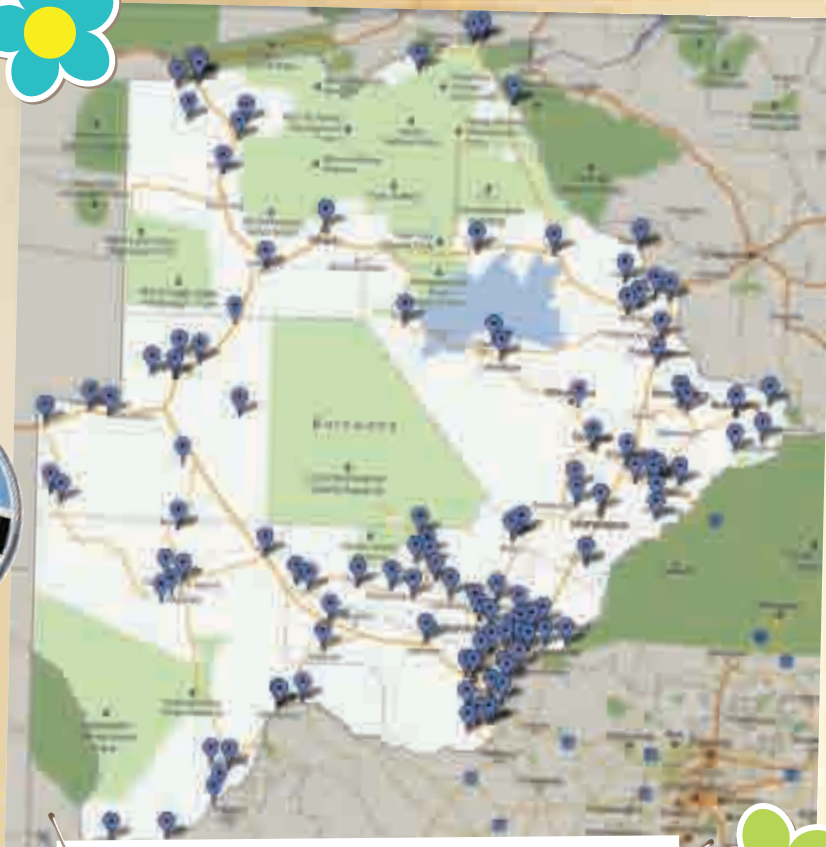
Tim Hartman
Tim Hartman - Country Director

Sites: Past and Present

In 2013, Volunteers lived in over 100 communities spread throughout Botswana. They also worked in many neighboring villages, easily touching lives in at least 300 communities. Placement of our Volunteers is prioritized in smaller rural villages, giving our Volunteers exposure to grassroots community development and opportunities for mobilization, especially around HIV/AIDS prevention.

Peace Corps Worldwide Goals

1. Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
2. Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of peoples served.
3. Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.



Peace Corps sites nationwide - Past and Present



In Their Own Words

Dinah S. - *NGO Volunteer*

Nearly 1,000 people participated in the Okavango Half Marathon, 5k Fun Run/Walk & Health Expo in March 2013. The event was part of a larger project to raise awareness of the need to expand health care access in the Okavango Sub-District in northwest Botswana. The project's ultimate goal was to raise funds for the purchase of a mobile clinic that would provide primary care services in underserved areas of the district.

While there is a clinic in Shakawe, residents in the service delivery area have to walk more than 30km to get there. Lack of transport was among the top reasons I heard about why residents go without care - including routine prevention and other services for chronic illnesses such as HIV and TB.

My first step was to partner up with Carolyn M, a PCV based in Botswana's capital. A seasoned fundraiser and event organizer, Carolyn helped me develop and implement a plan to realize my ambitious goal. By being posted in Gaborone, Carolyn and I could tag-team on fundraising and engaging partners, many of whom were based in the capital.

The next step was to mobilize the Wellness Committee, the Village Development Committees and the village chiefs. It was important to have community buy-in, especially at the leadership level. We also enlisted the talents of other Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) to assist with outreach, branding and website development. Together with local businesses, the Botswana Ministry of Education and Skills Development, the community and the volunteers we held a successful event in



support of the clinic. Over 200 runners and 27 PCVs participated, while hundreds of villagers came to cheer runners, get tested for HIV and diabetes, and learn about services provided by the sixteen local health-related organizations that showcased their work. During the Health Expo, local artists in traditional dance, singing and drama entertained the crowd on health topics and impassioned speeches called for community engagement in securing the mobile clinic. More than \$1,875 was raised from the local community, which was a significant show of support from residents of this very low-income district.

Following the event, we managed to engage Stanbic Bank in the mobile clinic project. As part of their corporate responsibility program, the bank organized a bike ride from Ghanzi to Gaborone, approximately 800km, led by their senior management team. With the community contribution and the bike ride proceeds, a mobile clinic valued at \$72,000 was secured and was turned over to the Ministry of Health. More than 500 villagers, the village chief, the US Ambassador and the Assistant Minister of Health turned out for the handover event. The US Ambassador called the project a model for public-private partnerships and the Assistant Minister of Health praised the work of Peace Corps in the development of her country - she was taught by a PCV as a girl.

The mobile clinic will provide 3,000 residents in the catchment area with health care services -- people will get TB and HIV medications, children will be vaccinated and pregnant women will get pre- and post-natal care. It was incredible to serve as a catalyst to a project that I hope will have a lasting impact on the community that I served.

2013 Achievements



“When I was in form one, we were short of teachers. I was happy to have Peace Corps Volunteers as my teachers. More recently, because of HIV/AIDS, we pleaded for more Volunteers. Today, the Peace Corps program continues to be a symbol of people-to-people cooperation, and goodwill between Botswana and the people of the United States of America.”

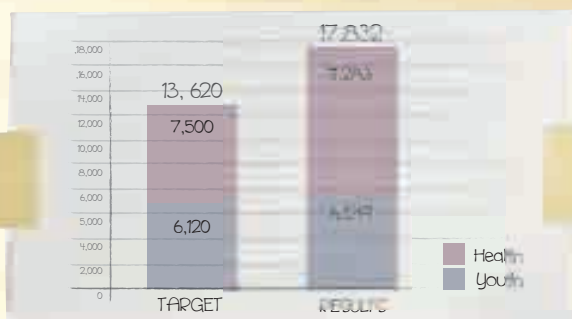
Honorable Dr. Gloria Somolekae
Assistant Minister for Health



Peace Corps has been steadily ramping up its focus on monitoring and evaluation (M&E). We are very conservative in terms of the results we report, and fastidiously avoid double-counting. Volunteers report achievements on a quarterly basis against specific targets and indicators, through an online reporting tool.

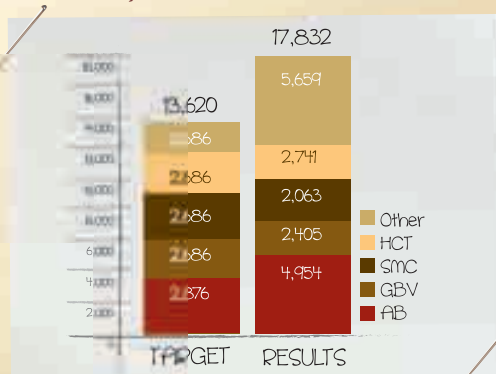
During 2013, Peace Corps Volunteers in Botswana worked with counterparts to reach 17,832 unique individuals with HIV prevention messages and interventions. Many of these individuals were reached with multiple different messages on multiple occasions (e.g. through weekly PACT meetings), but they are still only counted a single time.

Health and Youth: Number of Individuals, excluding PLHIV, Reached with an HIV Prevention Intervention



Prevention interventions focused primarily on abstinence and be faithful (AB), correct and consistent condom use, reduction of multiple concurrent partnerships, HIV testing and counseling (HTC), safe male circumcision (SMC) and gender-based violence (GBV). Each individual could only be associated with a single intervention category (e.g. SMC or HTC), although most received interventions in multiple categories. The below chart illustrates the breakdown of interventions by category. Note that each category is underreported, since Volunteers were only permitted to associate each individual with a single category. Next year we plan to track each intervention in each category, so we can better understand

Results by HIV Prevention Intervention



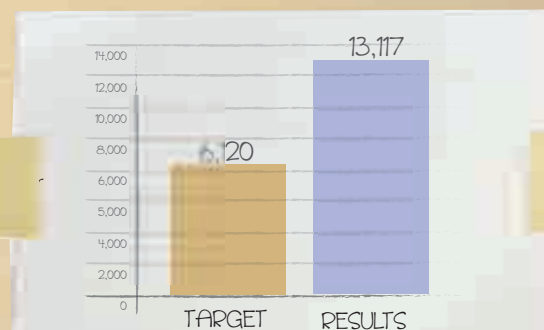
how many categories of interventions were received by each individual.

There is a strong gender dimension to HIV/AIDS in Botswana, illustrated by a significantly higher prevalence rate for women compared to men. Peace Corps Volunteers work with young people and older generations to address gender-based violence. Education on GBV is achieved through many means, including GLOW camps, PACT Clubs, and counterpart trainings. In 2013, at least 2,405 people were reached with gender-based violence messaging as it relates to HIV.

In addition, 2,395 Orphans and Vulnerable Children and People Living with HIV/AIDS were provided with a minimum of one care service, which could include a psychological, spiritual, preventive, food support, shelter and protection, access to health care, education or economic strengthening intervention.

Volunteers also reached 13,117 youth, largely in schools, with Life Skills training aimed at improved decision making, critical thinking, problem solving, and positive coping strategies. In addition, 990 teachers, caregivers and community members were trained in positive youth development activities. Finally, Peace Corps Botswana participates in a special global initiative to reduce malaria (Stomp Out Malaria), and through these efforts 516 individuals were reached with malaria prevention messages

Youth: Number of Unique, Individual Youth Trained in Life Skills



In the area of capacity building, 165 organizations/clinics/offices have staff that are better able to respond to the HIV / AIDS epidemic through improved planning, project design and management, internal management, ICT skills, grant writing or service delivery. 307 people demonstrated that they were better able to type, create spreadsheets/tables, analyze data or otherwise use electronic resources.

Assignments and Outcomes

Peace Corps Botswana is guided by two project frameworks aligned to the National Strategic Framework II for HIV/AIDS. These are the *Health and HIV/AIDS Capacity Building* and *Youth and HIV/AIDS Capacity Building* frameworks. Two major purpose statements drive the work of Volunteers in four specific assignment areas.

Purpose Statements

Health: Botswana will benefit from the strengthened capacity of individuals, service providers, and organizations to mitigate the effects of HIV and AIDS through prevention of new infections and care for those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

Youth: Botswana youth will be healthy, productive, and active community members effectively contributing to the achievement of an AIDS-free generation.

Assignment Areas

Clinic and Health Teams (CHT) - Volunteers in clinics and District Health Management Teams work to help them achieve their mandate for community outreach and HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Volunteers in these placements work with their counterparts and communities to mobilize individuals and educate communities on different services, such as ARVs, tuberculosis prevention, malaria, maternal and child health, and HIV prevention.

- Prevention of HIV infections through improved education and outreach to targeted audiences
- Improved data capturing and reporting to national level
- Improved computer skills, including typing and internet use
- Improved implementation of programs by committees such as the Health Committee, Men's Sector, and Peer Mothers' Support Groups
- Improved monitoring tools and databases

Local Government Capacity Building (LGCB) - Volunteers under LGCB work with Ministry of Local Government's District AIDS Coordinators' (DAC) Offices and Social and Community Development (S&CD) offices. DAC-assigned Volunteers play a key role in the annual planning process and coordination of yearly plans' implementation, especially related to monitoring and evaluation. Volunteers assigned to S&CD offices address efforts to reach orphans and vulnerable children and their families.

- Coordination of district-level agencies and organizations working to address HIV/AIDS
- Increased inclusion of smaller community-based groups working on HIV/AIDS
- Improved computer literacy comprehension
- Improved outreach and services to the most vulnerable rural communities

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) - Volunteers work to help build sustainable NGOs that can provide services to clients and meet community needs. The focus for these Volunteers is on systems strengthening, resource mobilization, and organizational development.

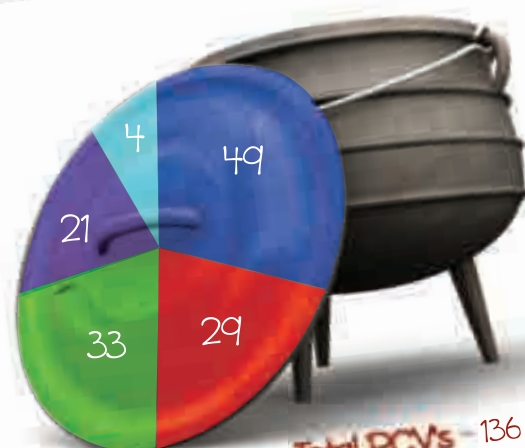
- Prevention of new infections through improved service provision and program implementation
- Systems established to improve human resource management, governance, financial accountability, and monitoring and evaluation
- Improved grant writing skills and increased funding

Life Skills - An important component for preventing new HIV infections is working with in- and out-of-school youth. In this assignment, Volunteers work with schools, teachers, and community leaders and parents to design and implement activities to address identified needs, such as leadership training, lack of recreational activities, and health education.

- Strengthened Guidance and Counseling teams in schools
- Improved leadership skills, self-confidence, and self-awareness
- Delayed sexual debut or abstinence and reduced pregnancies
- Prevention of new infections through health education
- Improved study skills
- Raised awareness about alcohol abuse

Volunteers by Assignment December 2013

- Life Skills - 36%
- NGOs - 21%
- CHT - 24%
- LGCB - 16%
- PCV Leaders - 3%



President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the United States Government's initiative to help save the lives of those suffering from HIV/AIDS around the world. This historic commitment is the largest by any nation to combat a single disease internationally, and PEPFAR investments also help alleviate suffering from other diseases across the global health spectrum. Over the past ten years, PEPFAR has provided over \$650 million in funding to Botswana.



Thank you

PEPFAR for supporting Peace Corps' Gender Work!

Peace Corps Volunteers in Botswana are actively engaged in gender and gender-based violence (GBV) reduction activities in all communities in which they work. In 2013, Volunteers reached 2,405 individuals with interventions that explicitly addressed GBV and coercion related to HIV. Examples of activities that Volunteers and their counterparts use include: GLOW camps (see p. 8), PACT Clubs (see p. 7), Guidance and Counseling curriculum, workshops, commemorations (International Women's Day, International Men's Day, and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence) and community marches (below). Peace Corps Botswana has an active Gender Committee that has strengthened PCVs ability to address gender and GBV by providing training, resources and support. In the coming year, through PEPFAR support, Peace Corps Botswana will further strengthen its engagement in this vital area of programming.



In Their Own Words

Jvani C. - LGCB Volunteer

I am a LGCB Volunteer in the southern part of Botswana. Recognizing that roughly 67% of women in the country have experienced gender-based violence in their lifetime, my community joined me in standing up against it.

As a part of its efforts to mainstream gender into central government initiatives and operations, our local District Gender Committee planned to hold a leadership walk surrounding gender-based violence with the ultimate goal of getting the community

involved. When all of our planning, resource mobilization, and publicity came together on August 30th, we were relieved to find the turnout was greater than expected and proud when we observed that those in attendance, a parade of over 300 community members, really seemed to understand the purpose of the day and truly support it.

The success of the event came not from the number of people who attended on that day, but from the mobilization efforts that took place throughout August. To mobilize resources for the event, I liaised between the District Gender Committee, Gender Affairs in Gaborone, Women's Affairs in a neighboring village, women's groups around Botswana, Peace Corps, and local stakeholders. A series of briefing meetings were held with the town leadership, umbrella committees and various sectors throughout the town.

Everyone the committee encountered during these meetings was asked to sign the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Pledge, which delineates the behaviors that must cease to end the violence. The pledge was an excellent tool to communicate the committee's vision of a violence-free future.

I am so proud of my town and the planning committee for their support in helping me plan this event. I truly feel that my community will be a benchmark for gender initiatives.



PCV Programming

STEPS For The Future

The Social Transformation and Empowerment Projects (STEPS) film collection emerged out of a collaboration of Southern African and international filmmakers, broadcasters, AIDS organizations and people living with HIV/AIDS who united to produce 50 high-quality, professional films. These compelling stories reveal the effect of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the lives of individuals, families, communities and nations. The films form part of a media advocacy campaign which is intended to promote debate and discussion around HIV/AIDS related topics such as disclosure, discrimination, treatment and living positively.

Peace Corps Botswana distributes the entire STEPS collection to all interested volunteers, along with providing them with two days of intensive training to become facilitators, able to use these films to stimulate debate and discussion with different age groups and diverse audiences. The facilitation process is intended to equip audiences with information and skills to empower them to make important decisions and take responsibility for their lives.

HEALTH GOAL:

Individuals will adopt healthy behaviors and practices to decrease the spread of HIV.



In Their Own Words

Hollis C. - *CHT Volunteer*

I am a Community Health Team Volunteer in the Bobirwa sub-district. Over half of the 3,000 community members in my village are on antiretroviral therapy. Every week on ARV day, 70 to 120 patients come to see the doctor and refill their prescriptions. At the end of the day a mountain of burning plastic and cardboard would pollute the village center. I proposed we organize the ARV storage room, save the returned bottles, and in the future build something cool. I am thrilled and humbled to have played a role in what came out of this effort: two successful recycling projects. The first project was a seven-day pill organizer addressing ARV adherence and the second was a community-made art sculpture tackling stigma and adherence.

The pill organizer, *Nonofa Naledi* (power star), is created with seven ARV bottles manipulated into a star shape and holds a week's worth of medication. It aims to promote ARV adherence and encourages health care professionals to go the extra mile when counseling sub-adherent patients.

The second project is a *Baobab tree* made with over 1000 ARV bottles; *Setlhare sa Botshelo* (Tree of Life). It was a collaboration between community youth, local government workers, and Peace Corps Volunteers. The project was featured at the *Botho Art Festival* as part of the *Compassion Movement*. We encouraged people to make declarations of compassion (on ARV bottles) to people living with HIV/AIDS and add them to the tree. The Department of Art and Culture has accepted the tree into its annual art exhibit at the National Museum, where visitors will be able to see it every year from December through January. The triumph of these projects makes us delighted and hopeful that communities will continue to create art that will challenge people to think differently about HIV and AIDS.

In Their Own Words

Sally H. - *Life Skills Volunteer*

I am a Life Skills Volunteer at a Junior Secondary School. This school has 707 students (ages 12 to 16) in three grades (6 classes per grade). I began showing the STEPS films to all 18 classes in January of 2013. By the end of the school year, I had shown every class all 15 of the short films and several classes saw several of the longer films. This totaled 270 film screenings in all.

Because my classroom was small, 35 to 40 students generally had to sit on the floor for our film viewings and discussions. Then we decided on actions they could take. I usually also had them do some stretching, and we sang some educational songs (which they later sang at assembly).

The following term, I had them all write a short essay or commitment paper on *How I Am Going to Help Botswana Achieve Its Goal of Zero New Infections by 2016*. The papers were very rewarding to read, since the students showed great knowledge of HIV/AIDS and the ways they could help themselves, their families, their friends, and their communities.



PCV Programming

PACT Clubs

Peer Approach to Counseling by Teens (PACT) is a program in schools that strives to empower teens to make informed decisions about important issues in their lives. In an afternoon club atmosphere, teens receive training on the subjects of communication and sexuality and how to develop relationships that offer dignity and respect. The objective is to give teens the confidence and skills to talk to their peers and to adults and educators on a formal or informal basis about the issues affecting them. Dozens of Peace Corps Volunteers use PACT Clubs to help teach youth how to keep healthy, learn life skills, and develop into Botswana's leaders of tomorrow.



In Their Own Words

Alex M. - *Life Skills Volunteer*

All too often, children at the Primary School level have little access to a proper Life Skills Education, so I worked with the youth at our Primary School to develop their leadership and peer-to-peer communication skills during my service. When we began, our meetings consisted of a handful of shy girls staring at the floor while I lectured at them. Slowly, over the course of our years together, the PACT Club grew to be a boisterous, proud group of children from Standards 5-7. Each week we covered topics from the Life Skills Manual, such as assertiveness, communication, HIV/AIDS awareness, decision making, and goal setting. The kids often dictated what our schedule and lessons would be and every Wednesday morning two members of the PACT Club taught the school at morning assembly about the previous week's topic. Through the inclusion of tools like a Question Box and STEPS films, PACT members had the space to explore difficult issues that they otherwise weren't able to discuss with many adults.

In March of 2013, Motokwe's PACT Club celebrated International Women's Day by creating a banner in the local language, Sekgalahari, that said, As A Woman, I Have The Power To... . We brought in female leaders from the school and community to celebrate being an empowered woman by writing their answers to the statement on the banner. Among the lessons we taught each other in PACT Club, the most noteworthy change I saw in the kids was a stronger sense of self-confidence and self-worth.

In Their Own Words

Sandra H. and Jorge A. - *Life Skills Volunteers*

We were very fortunate to arrive in our village at the same time that a new project was in the making. We first learned of Nix Mogowena 2016, meaning "No new infections by 2016", when we interviewed the Acting Chief Medical Officer at Primary Hospital for our community needs assessment. When we explained that we were in Botswana to help strengthen the Life Skills of the youth, the doctor perked up. He explained that he was working on a project funded by the Ministry of Health intended to improve the lives of unemployed and out-of-school young women ages 15 to 25.

We soon became partners in the project and conducted the first week-long workshop for 20 young women. The workshops involve interactive sessions on self-esteem,

effective communication, assertiveness, decision-making skills, relationship skills, HIV and AIDS information, preventing unwanted pregnancies, and alcohol abuse prevention. For many of these young women, it was the first time they had ever thought about their uniqueness, their self-worth, and their importance. One young woman responded that the most important thing that she learned was "self esteem - that I have to believe in myself." Another young lady said, "I learned that I should not let myself be forced to do things I do not want to do." These are the things that make our Peace Corps experience so worthwhile. We now help organize a monthly community event that the Nix Project holds to give young people something to do besides go to the bars.



PCV Programming

Girls/Guys Leading Our World (GLOW) Camps

Camp GLOW (Girls/Guys Leading Our World) is a model of camp designed to encourage young women and men to become active citizens equipped with the skills they need to succeed in today's world. While each camp reflects the unique characteristics and diversity of the local community, all share similar principles and themes: promoting gender equality, developing leadership skills, improving self-esteem, increasing knowledge of health issues, and supporting aspirations and career goals. This is done while promoting volunteerism and the belief that each young person can make a difference in his or her community and by offering adolescents self-development opportunities in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

In Botswana, these multi-day GLOW camps are held for girls, boys, and sometimes girls and boys together. In addition to the global principles and themes, GLOW camps in Botswana place heavy emphasis on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, HIV awareness and prevention, and substance abuse prevention. In 2013, 52 Volunteers held 9 GLOW camps for 361 youth. Many of these camps have been funded with local resources and have had increasing participation of local service providers and stakeholders.

**Peace Corps Goal
for Youth Development:**
Youth will lead healthy
lifestyles, be prepared for
the world of work, and
be engaged as leaders
of tomorrow.

In Their Own Words

Kate S. - *Life Skills Volunteer*

July 30th was International Day of Friendship. To mark the occasion, seven volunteers from the Kweneng West Region put on a GLOW camp that centered on the theme of friendship. For five days, thirty-two boys and girls from five villages came together to learn about the meaning of friendship, how to be a good friend, romantic relationships, and what it takes to remain friends forever.

These topics were explored through the use of various Life Skills activities. Sessions focused on leadership, volunteerism, peer pressure, decision-making, alcohol, positive treatment of animals, gender roles, self-awareness, goal setting, self-esteem, puberty, sex, and HIV/AIDS.

The camp was a collaboration of the PCVs and the District Multi-Sectoral AIDS Committee and was funded by the District AIDS Coordinator office and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) through the alcohol levy.

While the youth benefited from the information provided and the new skills learned, it was also evident that the camp had an important role in how the youth now look at relationships and how they are formed. What these children needed more than anything was support and a positive influence in their lives - someone to turn to when things get rough. These GLOW camps provide the perfect venue for this sort of connection to occur. The kids know they have friends they can count on. Additionally, the children also learn who they can turn to in their own communities. For example, the Health Education Assistant, nurses, and youth officers. Witnessing the children develop these important relationships makes me confident in our work towards equipping the new generations of Botswana with the skills to live healthy lives, overcome hardships, and ultimately, move towards sustainable change.



Spotlight on Capacity Building

In Their Own Words

Brandon L. - *LGCB Volunteer*

During my first month at site, I was taken to an area of Letlhakeng by my counterpart. I saw 3000 people living in an area with only 2 water pipes and no toilets. The local chief told me about children dying from diarrhea. In a country that has overcome issues with mother-to-child transmission because of the Government's effective PMTCT program, it is heartbreaking to lose a child due to such a preventable illness. I am proud to say in two years we were able to build 70 pit latrines for the community. It was truly a community effort: A grant was co-written by three government offices, the architect's office designed low cost, yet permanent/eco-safe latrines, a local contractor built the toilets at a much reduced cost, the beneficiaries chipped in and dug the pits for the latrines themselves, and much of the funding came from the local diamond mine. The best part was that after bringing dozens of government workers and businesses to Metsiela, several new projects, such as income-generating and garden and housing projects, started to arrive for the area.

In Their Own Words

Lindsey F. - *NGO Volunteer*

When Thuso Rehabilitation Centre in Maun was given the opportunity to host the 2013 Northwest Regional Special Olympics, I was able to take on the role of event coordinator, working closely with the Regional Committee on planning and executing this event. The Rehabilitation Centre provides care, treatment, and support for people with disabilities, making it a perfect fit to host this event. Six schools were represented and 113 athletes, all with intellectual disabilities, competed in various athletics competitions at the Maun Sports Complex.

Ten dignitaries attended, including the chief and a Member of Parliament. Donations were provided by local businesses and the day included a Health Expo for service providers to disseminate information about available services. I was joined by eleven Peace Corps Volunteers, who gave HIV and AIDS health talks, and taught yoga, as well as assisted during the races.

The athletes were so excited to be part of the event. After each race they were greeted with a hug, high five, and congratulations. The excitement in their eyes and the smiles on their faces made every ache in my body worth it. Each received a prize for competing, which included a tooth brush, washcloth, bar of soap, and other small hygiene items. This continued our promotion of healthy living and hygiene.

By the end of the two days, I was exhausted and overwhelmed, but I also could not wipe the smile off my face. The time that I spent with the Special Olympics of Botswana, and especially the athletes and coaches who participated, will forever be in my heart.



Then and Now



Mosadi mogolo from Nkange attempts a penalty shot against Zebra's goalkeeper Kagiso Tshelametse. Footballers from the Botswana national team traveled to rural villages to bolster HIV education and testing efforts. The project -- Zebras for Life, Test for Life -- was a Peace Corps Volunteer initiative.

Photo submitted by: Peace Corps Volunteer Brian Awsumb (Molepolole, Botswana 2005-2007)



Month of Youth Against AIDS Event in Mmathethe coordinated by youth and Peace Corps Volunteer Lynn Deutsch. Lynn worked in schools in Mmathethe in southeast Botswana for two years as a Life Skills Volunteer for HIV prevention.

Photo submitted by: Peace Corps Volunteer Lynn Deutsch (Mmathethe, Botswana 2011-2013)



Peace Corps Volunteer Ed Pettitt at play with kids in New Xade, a San village deep in the Kalahari Desert of western Botswana. Ed worked in New Xade for two years as a community capacity builder for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support.

Photo submitted by: Peace Corps Volunteer Ed Pettitt (New Xade and Gaborone, Botswana, 2006-2009)



Condom distribution project with taxi drivers in Maun coordinated by Peace Corps Volunteer Trevor F. Trevor is working to build the organizational capacity of NGOs delivering HIV programs and services in the Maun area of northwestern Botswana.

Photo submitted by: Peace Corps Volunteer, Trevor F (Maun, Botswana 2012-2014)

Thank You To Our Partners

Peace Corps is grateful to its many Botswana government partners and others who support the Volunteers and our project goals and implementation. We certainly could not exist without you.

2013 Partners

National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA)

Village of Serowe for hosting Pre-Service Training and to all of the homestay families for taking in Volunteers

Ministry of Education and Skills Development

- 22 Volunteers with Primary Schools
- 23 Volunteers with Community Junior Secondary Schools
- 3 Volunteers with Community Senior Secondary Schools
- 1 Volunteer with a Teacher's College

Serowe College of Education and the Education Centre of Serowe for the use of classroom and training facilities during Pre-Service Training

Non-Governmental and Community-Based Organizations

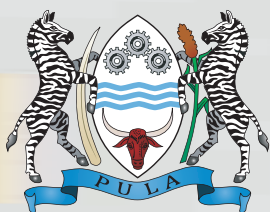
34 NGO and CBOs have Volunteers placed either full-time or part-time with them, such as, but not limited to: Bakgatla Bolokang Matshelo, BAPR, Botswana National Youth Council, Botswana Family Welfare Association, Botswana Retired Nurses Association, Gabane Home Based Care, House of Hope, Humana People to People, Leretlhabetse Support Group, Mpule Kwelagobe Children's Centre, Pabalelo Trust, Sekgele Training Society, Stepping Stones International, Thuso Rehabilitation Centre, Top Banana, YWCA, Kagisano Society Woman's Shelter

Ministry of Health

- 28 Volunteers with Clinics
- 5 Volunteers with District Health Management Teams

Ministry of Local Government: Departments of Primary Health Care Services and Social Services

- 15 Volunteers with District AIDS Coordinator Offices
- 2 Volunteers with Social and Community Development Offices
- 4 Volunteers with combined assignments (DAC and S&CD)



Ministries of Local Government and Education and Skills Development





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