

# Peace Corps Botswana

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014



# REMMOGO







# Message from the Country Director

*"Over the past four years, PCVs have documented reaching over 80,000 Batswana with individual or small group HIV prevention interventions!"*

counterparts held 19 GLOW camps around the country, reaching over one thousand youth! These camps promote learning through fun and interactive activities that build knowledge and youth commitment to avoiding risky behavior. GLOW is taking root in a sustainable fashion.

We can point to lots of results, as we invest significant efforts in the monitoring and evaluation of Peace Corps programs and Volunteer

activities. A huge focus of Peace Corps in Botswana has always been on preventing new HIV infections, especially amongst youth. Over the past four years, PCVs have documented reaching over 80,000 Batswana with individual or small group HIV prevention interventions! Communities have been mobilized and demand created for key preventive services such as voluntary counseling and testing, and safe male circumcision. Condom education, promotion and distribution has enabled thousands of citizens to protect themselves and make informed decisions around sexual and reproductive health. Equal emphasis is placed on abstinence, being faithful, delaying sexual debut, and sticking to one partner. We are also highlighting the link between gender-based violence (GBV) and higher HIV prevalence in women, and mobilizing communities to take action against GBV. Increasingly we are integrating our efforts to promote a suite of proven prevention services. Peace Corps is meaningfully contributing to stemming the tide of new HIV infections in Botswana.

**I**'m delighted to highlight that the Peace Corps Botswana program is stronger than ever! We continue to attract wonderful, dedicated Peace Corps Volunteers – who for the first time in the Agency's history can now request to serve in a particular country. The strength of our program is recognized, as is the proud history of Botswana, so we are able to attract amazing Volunteers for their 27 months of service. A total of 2,483 Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) have now served in Botswana during our 43 years of collaboration. We ended 2014 with 135 PCVs serving in all districts of the country. These current and past Volunteers represent an extraordinary amount of dedication, perseverance, laughter and smiles, caring, and solid technical assistance from the United States to our friends in Botswana. And during those many decades of close collaboration, rest assured that PCVs have taught tens of thousands of Americans about the wonderful country they temporarily called home – Botswana!

The work of our Volunteers could never be successful without committed local counterparts. Thousands of PCVs working in Botswana means many more thousands of amazing local counterparts, communities, organizations, supervisors, and individuals with whom they worked. Together, we are able to accomplish so much! We have chosen the Setswana concept of "re mmogo" – which means "we are together" – as an appropriate theme for this report. PCVs strive to never work alone, as one-off activities teach little and do not create sustainable solutions. It is only by working together that lasting change can take place. Re mmogo!

Those of you who work with PCVs may wish they didn't make so many requests of you to join in camps, clubs, events, lessons, tournaments, tutoring, mobilization campaigns, and any number of other activities – but that's how we train them and they are only doing their jobs! It's by truly working together that meaningful things get done. We preach collaboration and sustainability as cornerstones of all our work. And we have seen many sustainable solutions taking hold. For example, District AIDS Coordinator's Offices around the country are now budgeting financial support for GLOW (Girls and Guys Leading our World) camps, which were introduced in Botswana by Peace Corps. Last year PCVs and



Impact is made on a more micro level as well. One by one, we are seeing once shy youth grow in confidence under the tutelage of PCVs. We are helping youth adopt important life skills, gain valuable experience, and even secure employment. I recently received a letter from a School Head thanking me for posting two successive PCVs to work at his primary school. Not only had the Standard 7 PSLE exam results improved from a 33% ABC pass rate in 2012 to a 79% pass rate in 2014, but "2014 was the very first year that every single class (Standards 1 – 7) passed with ABC!" He directly linked the

efforts of the PCVs – to promote reading, a student-friendly school, the use of the library and computers – with the improved performance. That was quite a message coming from a School Head! I responded that such amazing improvements can only be achieved when everyone is working together – PCVs, teachers, students and the school head – re mmogo! We look forward to more collaborative efforts in 2015, and every year increasing the positive impact made by Peace Corps in Botswana.

*Tim Hartman*

**Tim Hartman - Country Director**



# REMMOGO

This report is dedicated to the communities in Botswana that work hand-in-hand with Volunteers to achieve sustainable development. The partnership between Peace Corps Volunteers and their Batswana counterparts is best exemplified by a traditional Setswana proverb: "mabogo dinku a thebana," which translates as "working together to achieve a common goal". In communities across the country, Volunteers work with local government, traditional leadership, non-governmental organizations, health facilities, schools, churches, and households to implement activities that support grassroots development, especially in regard to HIV/AIDS. By working together with the Government of Botswana, civil society, and Batswana across the country, Volunteers are able to empower their communities to act as agents of change.



"I had the distinct privilege of working with five PCVs from 2003 to 2009 while I was a District AIDS Coordinator in Mahalapye. The PCVs' professionalism, specialized skills, and positive attitudes contributed immensely to the district's HIV and AIDS response. The PCVs and I built friendships which have continued even after they completed their services and returned to the United States. In short, I can say that I have had many memorable moments with PCVs and am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with them in contributing to Botswana's HIV/AIDS response." – **Keitumetse Maapatsane - Chief Health Officer, HIV/AIDS Coordination, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD)**



**Peace Corps sites nationwide** – Past and present placements across Botswana to achieve sustainable development



Mma Maapatsane with PCV in 2005



## PEACE CORPS WORLDWIDE GOALS

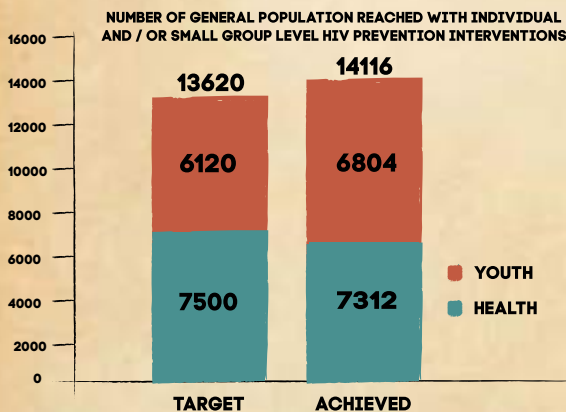
- Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of peoples served.
- Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.



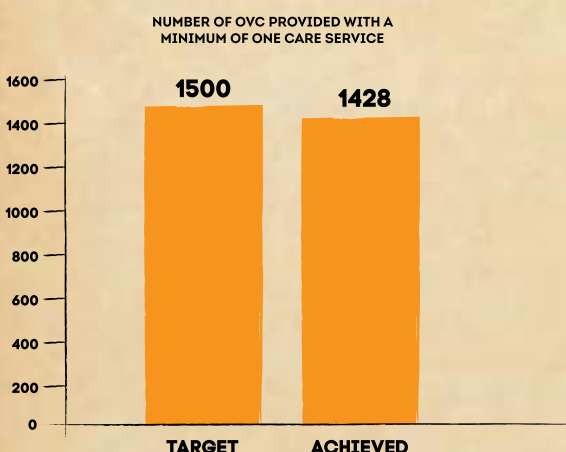
# 2014 Achievements

Peace Corps Volunteers report the results of their work on a quarterly basis. These are shared biannually with the National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA) and partner ministries, as well as PEPFAR and Peace Corps headquarters, and are used to guide our projects and increase our impact. Volunteers report on the indicators in either the Health or Youth Frameworks, and all Volunteers report on a core set of HIV prevention indicators.

Our HIV prevention goal states that individuals/youth will adopt healthy behaviors and practices to decrease the spread of HIV. In 2014, Volunteers reached 14,116 individuals with prevention messages and interventions aimed at decreasing HIV transmission. Prevention interventions promote abstinence and being faithful, HIV testing and counseling, safe male circumcision, correct and consistent condom use, decreased multiple concurrent partnerships, and increased gender equality. The number reached represents individuals who have received one or more interventions throughout the year.

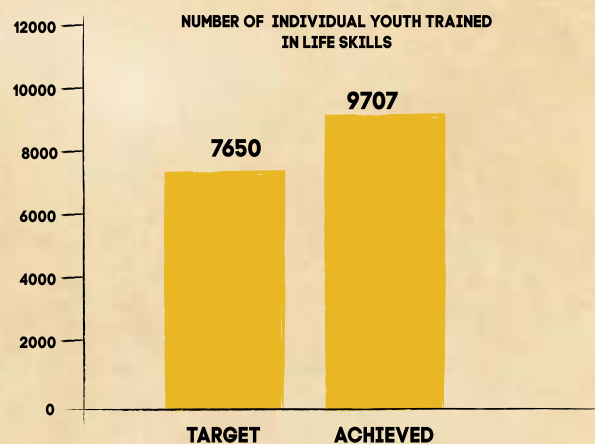


Volunteers also provide education and other services to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). Last year, 1,428 active beneficiaries of OVC programs were served.



A key role of the Volunteer is to build capacity for sustainable development. Volunteers improved the capacity of 390 organizations to respond to the HIV epidemic in such areas as planning, project design, internal management, ICT, grant writing, and service delivery.

Volunteers often work with youth between the ages of 10 and 19. The youth development goal in our Youth Framework states: "Youth will lead healthy lifestyles, be prepared for the world of work, and be engaged as leaders of tomorrow." Volunteers teach life skills to in- and out-of-school youth that advance positive identity, positive communication, sound decision-making, goal setting, and emotional health. PCVs reached 9,707 youth with life skills training, largely in schools, but also through camps (Girls or Guys Leading our World), clubs, STEPS films screenings, and other activities. Volunteers also reached 2,940 youth with substance abuse training and 2,631 youth with English and ICT lessons.



Recognizing the high levels of gender-based violence (GBV) in the country and its role in driving the HIV epidemic, Peace Corps Botswana has emphasized gender interventions that address increasing gender equity and reducing GBV. Volunteers reached 1,637 people with interventions on gender norms that meet the PEPFAR minimum criteria of 10 hours of training per person. Volunteers reached an additional 3,254 individuals with other interventions on gender norms (less than 10 hours of contact) and 4,858 individuals with interventions that explicitly address GBV and coercion related to HIV.





# Peace Corps Botswana Project Frameworks and Assignment Areas

Peace Corps Botswana has two project frameworks which it uses to focus its work in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Botswana: 1) Health and HIV/AIDS Capacity Building; and 2) Youth and HIV/AIDS Capacity Building. Both frameworks align with the Government of Botswana's National Strategic Framework II for HIV/AIDS. Peace Corps Volunteers implement these frameworks through their work in four assignment areas: Clinic and Health Team, Life Skills, Local Government Capacity Building, and Non-Governmental Organization Capacity Building.

## Assignment Areas

**Clinic and Health Teams (CHT)** – The CHT assignment is a partnership between Peace Corps Botswana and the Ministry of Health. Volunteers are placed in health facilities across Botswana, including clinics, hospitals, and District Health Management Teams (DHMT). Volunteers work in the areas of community outreach, supply chain, HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, and monitoring and evaluation.

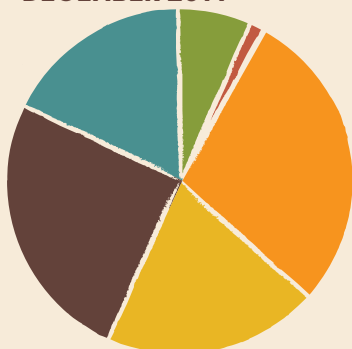
**Life Skills (LS)** – The LS assignment is a partnership between Peace Corps Botswana and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development. In this assignment, Volunteers are placed in schools to strengthen the implementation of life skills education, working with teachers and guidance counselors to creatively adapt and implement lesson plans to engage students with age-appropriate life skills knowledge.

**Local Government Capacity Building (LGCB)** – The LGCB assignment is a partnership between Peace Corps Botswana and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. In this assignment, Volunteers work with District AIDS Coordinators (DAC) and Social and Community Development (S&CD) offices. Volunteers assigned to DAC offices support annual planning and the coordination of annual plan implementation, especially in regard to monitoring and evaluation. Volunteers assigned to S&CD offices support efforts to reach and provide services to people living with HIV (PLHIV), the elderly, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), and people accessing home-based care.

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)** – The NGO assignment is a partnership between Peace Corps Botswana, the National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA), and Botswana's civil society. Volunteers help NGOs address community needs while also building capacity to improve the quality and delivery of HIV services.



PCVs BY ASSIGNMENT AREA  
DECEMBER 2014



- LIFE SKILLS - 39
- NGO - 27
- CHT - 34
- LGCB - 24
- PCV LEADERS & EXTENSIONS - 9
- PC RESPONSE - 2

TOTAL = 135 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS (PCVs)



# Spotlight on Gender Initiatives

Peace Corps Volunteers address HIV/AIDS in numerous ways. Cross-sector programming initiatives give Volunteers unique opportunities to address specific HIV/AIDS and health related issues in creative, yet comprehensive ways. Two of Peace Corps Botswana's standout cross-sector programming initiatives in 2014 were in the areas of gender and malaria.

## Continued Gender Efforts

### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

In 2014, Peace Corps Volunteers co-organized and participated in a highly successful Ribbon Campaign in commemoration of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). As part of the campaign, Volunteers facilitated gender trainings for traditional leaders and service providers, organized community marches and youth camps, and distributed 20,000 purple ribbons across Botswana to encourage communities to work together to end GBV.



### All-Volunteer Conference

In February 2014, Peace Corps Botswana held its very first All-Volunteer Conference to commemorate 10 years of HIV/AIDS work in Botswana. For three days, 126 Volunteers from across the country gathered together to share best practices, coordinate collaboration, and be briefed on the scope of key issues facing Botswana as a means of developing pragmatic solutions and innovative projects. The cornerstone of this effort was intensive gender training. The trainings were met with universal acclaim by Volunteers, stating that they gained valuable skills necessary to run successful gender projects.



### Peace Corps Response

The Peace Corps Response Program offers Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and seasoned professionals the opportunity to undertake short-term, high-impact assignments in Peace Corps countries around the world. In October 2014, Peace Corps Botswana welcomed its first two Response Volunteers who were assigned to work with the Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit in the Ministry of Health and the Gender Affairs Department in the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs.

## GLOW Camps in 2014

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.

**19**

GLOW CAMPS

**1035**

GLOW PARTICIPANTS

**554**

FEMALE GLOW PARTICIPANTS

**481**

MALE GLOW PARTICIPANTS

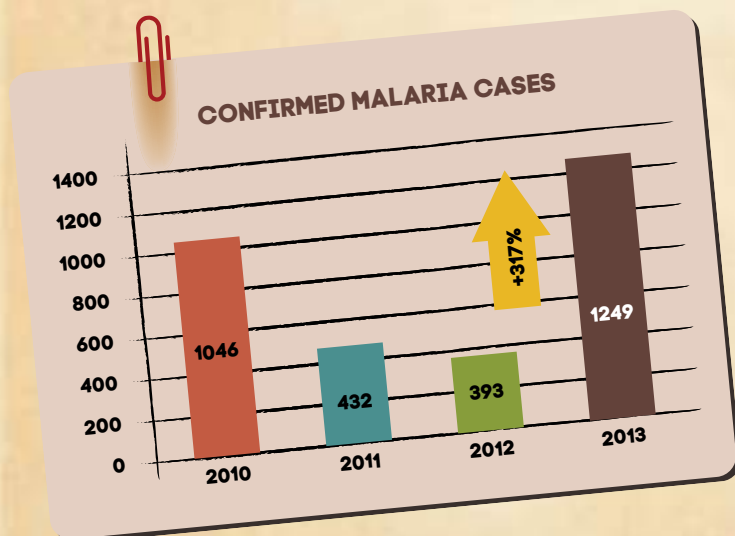


Thank you, PEPFAR,  
for your continued  
support and  
partnership!



# Malaria Efforts

Although malaria is 100% preventable and curable, it kills over 650,000 people annually, with 90% of these deaths occurring in Sub-Saharan Africa and the majority of cases being children under the age of 5. Unlike most African countries, Botswana has had phenomenal success over the past decade in addressing malaria. The country has reached the elimination stage, which means that the number of symptomatic cases has decreased to the threshold level. Unfortunately, during the last malaria season, there was over a 300% increase in malaria cases - calling for renewed attention.



In order to assist Botswana on the path to eradication, Peace Corps Botswana has made prevention of malaria one of the four goals within its Health Framework. Peace Corps Botswana is also one of the posts in Sub-Saharan Africa that has joined the Peace Corps "Stomping Out Malaria in Africa" initiative.

PCVs have used their passion and talents to address malaria within their respective sites. During the first annual Month of Malaria Campaign hosted in April 2014, Volunteers worked with their clinics and District Health Management Teams to hold health events to educate community residents about malaria/HIV co-infection. One Volunteer also worked with local musicians to create a "Stomp It Out" music video encouraging Botswana to take proper precautions to prevent malaria transmission. Additionally, Volunteers have been instrumental in introducing ways to utilize technology and innovation to increase capacity for malaria planning and prevention. These efforts have included an online community mapping initiative, introducing Global Positioning Systems (GPS) units and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to assist with data collection and map making at the national level and tablet-based malaria surveys to inform district malaria prevention efforts. Volunteers and communities across the country are working together to eradicate malaria in Botswana.



## 2014 PCV Malaria Highlights

*Created a Malaria Training Handbook, Toolkit, and Music Video*

*Held 1st Month of Malaria Campaign*

*Presented at Botswana's National Malaria Conference*

*Initiated a tablet-based survey and mapping initiatives*



# Re Mmogo: Volunteers Working with Their Communities to Achieve Sustainable Development

Volunteers across the country work hand-in-hand with community members in order to control the country's HIV/AIDS epidemic. With the second highest HIV prevalence rate in the world, Botswana Peace Corps Volunteers partner with students, teachers, parents, youth, community leaders, local government officials, traditional leaders, and various other community members on projects aimed at preventing new infections and empowering those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Aligning community needs and national priorities, Volunteers use their knowledge, skills, and talents to assist communities in meeting their needs. Below are just a few of the stories worth highlighting from Volunteers' work in 2014.

HERE LIES THE GENERAL OPPORTUNITY FOR DESIGNING A STRATEGY WITH SUSTAINABLE RESULTS



## In Their Own Words

### LGCB Volunteer, Charmaine H. & NGO Volunteer, Christina Z.

"Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) exhibit the lowest ART adherence rates in Botswana. To address the challenges ALHIV face, we worked with a group of community stakeholders in our town to establish a Teen Club targeting HIV positive adolescents. The club was based on a model developed by Peace Corps and the Botswana-Baylor Children's Clinical Center of Excellence (BBCCCE). The project was funded by Majwe Mining Joint Venture, a mining contractor, who donated \$2,200 (P20,900) to facilitate Teen Club activities for 2014. A diverse team comprised of teachers, nurses, and social workers facilitate monthly meetings with the adolescents, covering topics from adherence to peer pressure. With the assistance of BBCCCE and local stakeholders, we feel confident that the unique needs of the town's ALHIV will continue to be supported even after the completion of our service."

### LS Volunteer, Lisetta D. C.

"I worked as a Life Skills Volunteer in a small village in the Kgalagadi Desert. Community leaders and I decided to start a local garden project to address malnutrition and the lack of affordable access to a healthy diet in the village. Our project has been incredibly successful in providing quality produce to the most vulnerable populations in the community, particularly people living with HIV/AIDS, women, and children. Community stakeholders and I coordinated with small businesses in the region and NGOs to hold capacity building workshops, educating community members on basic business and management skills, nutrition, and agricultural sustainability. The community has made the success of the garden a priority. For this reason, the garden has continued to prosper even after my involvement ended."







### CHT Volunteer, Jessica G.

"I worked with True Men Trust, a gender and HIV NGO, alongside the Gender Affairs Department to organize and implement a far-reaching campaign against gender-based violence (GBV) to commemorate 16 Days of Activism. Community stakeholders and I planned and implemented a successful campaign where, in total, more than 100 stakeholders were mobilized; 1,000 ribbons were distributed; 15,000 condoms were dispensed; and 123 members of the community marched against GBV. As a result of our teamwork, Francistown is now better able to discuss, support, and develop grassroots activities against GBV."



### LS Volunteer, Amy B.

"I began my service in a community with one school – its primary school. The lack of resources at the school and in the community inspired me to propose the development of a Creative Learning Centre for the school and the village. The center includes both a library and hands-on carpentry lab. The lab will serve as a source of income generation for those trained in the center, helping to combat poverty and juvenile delinquency in Botswana. Together with a local counterpart, we organized a 25 km "Bush Walk" as a way to raise funds to construct the center. The event attracted nearly 400 walkers and raised \$20,000 (P190,000) which was used to construct the carpentry workshop, purchase tools and equipment, and purchase a mobile unit that will serve as the school's library. Books have been donated by the Books for Africa project and companies in Gaborone. Since the walk, the library now serves the 750 students at the primary school and members of the village. The event was made possible by an enormous outpouring of support from the community and the businesses and organizations that partnered with us."



## THE DESERT BUSH WALK

By VOICE REPORTER

TWO young people have embarked on a spirited mission to raise funds meant for the construction of a Creative Learning Centre and a Library at Sese Primary School.

ARMY Bouson aka "Lorato Khepe" who is a Peace Corps volunteer has teamed up with Archibald Nkomo for a 25km Desert Bush Walk which they hope would raise enough money to fund the much needed learning centre and library in the school.

The duo says they are both passionate about giving back to the community, especially the underprivileged and the needy.

The two volunteers say they also intend to use the walk to promote and brand Jwaneng and the environs as a tourism destination for both local and international tourists, under Cultural and Sports Tourism Potential.

The walk has been scheduled for Saturday 26th July starting at 0700hrs from Jwaneng Don-



HELPING HANDS: Amy and Archibald

www.thevoicebw.com

THE VOICE:

FEEL GOOD IT'S FRIDAY

Friday July 04, 2014



# PCVs & Youth "On the Move" Towards an HIV Free Generation

## Grassroots Soccer

The Grassroots Soccer (GRS) Program provides a toolkit that Peace Corps Volunteers use to teach young people about HIV/AIDS and life skills. Through the program, Volunteers engage young people in meaningful and relevant discussions about life, achieving their goals, staying strong when faced with challenges, and protecting themselves from HIV/AIDS. In 2014, 8 PCVs implemented a combined total of 16 GRS interventions in Botswana, reaching 429 youth.

*Two Volunteers, Mohamed H. and Matthew K., ranked among the top five PCVs in the world in regard to the number of GRS Programs they implemented in 2014.*

## In Their Own Words

**NGO Volunteer, Mohamed H. & LGCB Volunteer, Matthew K.**

"The GRS program gives us the opportunity to communicate with the youth of Botswana, primarily ages 10-16, on HIV prevention issues. We hope to prepare them so that, when given the opportunity to engage in risky behavior, they recall the messages we conveyed during the program and avoid engaging in that kind of behavior. We truly believe that the GRS message can reach youth in a fun and interesting way that other programs and HIV prevention interventions cannot."



## Kings Volunteer

Kings Volunteer is a non-profit organization that promotes the use of sports to improve the lives of young people and transform communities. Kings Volunteer trains Peace Corps Volunteers and provides them with a Base Pack. This Base Pack includes resources that allow Volunteers to engage young people in sports, teach adolescents and youth life skills, and help young people develop self-esteem, confidence, and respect for others. Volunteers also use the Base Pack to teach young people the importance of avoiding risky behavior and how to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.

In 2014, 10 Botswana PCVs received Kings Volunteer Base Packs and implemented activities in their communities. Twenty Base Packs were purchased to enhance PCVs' work in gender activities. Additionally, a Kings Gender Manual is currently being developed to be used along with other Kings Volunteer activities.

## In Their Own Words

**LGCB Volunteer, Anne C.**

"I use my Base Pack and the activities I learned during the Kings Volunteer training any time I work with children. Recently we were able to do an advanced training for service providers in my community which increased access to even more kids. Sessions are often educational with HIV specific messages and games, but sometimes they're just a way for kids to get out and play."

**NGO Volunteer, Bettina B.**

"Using the Base Pack, as well as recycled toys, I have created a safe space for the 20+ kids in my neighborhood to play, create, interact, and grow at the Little Angels Kids Club that I formed. The Kids Club teaches kids important life skills such as negotiation, conflict resolution, caring for belongings, accepting responsibility, and asking an adult for help. The Kings Volunteer Base Pack has been instrumental in the success of the club."





# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

Peace Corps is grateful to its many partners in Botswana's government and civil society that support Volunteers. It is because of you that Volunteers are successful in supporting Botswana's HIV/AIDS response. Re a leboga!



## 2014 Partners

### National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA)

#### Village of Serowe and dozens of homestay families

### Ministry of Education and Skills Development

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

### Non-Governmental and Community-Based Organizations

27 NGO and CBOs have Volunteers placed either full-time or part-time with them, such as, but not limited to: Bakgatla Bolokang Matshelo, Botswana Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Botswana Family Welfare Association, Botswana Retired Nurses Association, Gabane Home Based Care, House of Hope, Humana People to People, Kagisano Society, Leretlhabetse Support Group, Mother's Union, Pabalelo Trust, Sekgele Training Society, Stepping Stones International, Thuso Rehabilitation Centre, Pelegano Support Group, North East Support Group, Bomme Isago, Re Rotlhe Day Care Centre, and Young Women's Christian Association.

### Ministry of Health

- 25 Volunteers with Clinics
- 9 Volunteers with District Health Management Teams

### Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

- 16 Volunteers with District AIDS Coordinator (DAC) Offices
- 5 Volunteers with Social and Community Development (S&CD) Offices including Mpule Kwelagobe Children's Centre
- 3 Volunteers with combined assignments (DAC and S&CD)

### 100+ Villages; 390 Organizations

### All Districts







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