

Annual Report 2015



Peace Corps Botswana



Here in 1966. Here today.



Letter From The Director

Peace Corps commenced its work in Botswana in 1966. To say that a lot has changed since then would be a gross understatement. Botswana has literally transformed itself over the past fifty years, and is a model for what African nations can achieve through hard work and good governance. Peace Corps is proud to be one of Botswana's most steadfast partners in development. More than 2,500 Volunteers have served in Botswana over the past five decades. We warmly congratulate Botswana on 50 years of Independence!

Peace Corps briefly departed Botswana near the end of the 1990s given the high level of development attained by then. But we returned in 2003, when invited back by former President Mogae to assist in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Volunteers resumed working closely with their counterparts in a host of organizations – from clinics to NGOs, schools to government offices. It takes a multi-disciplinary approach to tackle AIDS, and we intend to help however we can – especially through strengthening local capacity.



Today we have over 130 Peace Corps Volunteers working all across Botswana, from the smallest of villages to within the largest of Ministries. Over the past five years, Volunteers have conducted HIV prevention interventions with over 94,000 individuals. We are working collaboratively and getting results.

Peace Corps remains fiercely proud of Botswana, as it again plays a leadership role in the world – this time through aggressively addressing HIV/AIDS. With continued focused efforts and adoption of progressive policies such as test and treat, Botswana can and will achieve epidemic control! We very much look forward to that day.

Sincerely,

Tim Hartman

Thank You To Our Partners

Peace Corps Botswana works hand in hand with local partners to address HIV/AIDS and better prepare youth for a healthy and productive future. Due to strong collaboration and support, Peace Corps Volunteers and their local counterparts continue to work towards an AIDS-free generation. We wish to thank in a special way, our ministerial partners and PEPFAR:



MINISTRY OF
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
& RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

MINISTRY OF
**EDUCATION & SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT**

We also wish to highlight the organizations we work with across Botswana:

- Gender Affairs Department
- Red Cross Botswana
- National Men's Sector
- Bakgatla Bolokang Matshele
- Botswana Family Welfare Association (BOFWA)
- Botswana Retired Nurses Association (BORNUS)
- Gabane Home Based Care
- House of Hope Trust
- Humana People to People
- Stepping Stones International
- Re Rothe Day Care Centre
- Tsholofelo Lutheran Program for OVC
- North East Support Group
- Camp Hill
- Bana Ba Letsatsi
- Thuso Rehabilitation Centre
- SOS Children's Village
- Kagisano Society Women's Shelter
- Moremi Pre-School
- Botswana Christian AIDS Program (BOCAIP)

By The Numbers

In 2015, we reached many thousands of people with important services such as HIV prevention, gender based violence awareness training, support for orphans, vulnerable children and people living with HIV, and education in life and empowerment skills.



BOTSWANA

HIV PREVENTION

HIV TREATMENT & CARE

YOUTH INTERVENTIONS

ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

CAPACITY BUILDING



13,525

Individuals who completed and HIV prevention intervention



4,287

Can correctly identify three ways of preventing HIV transmission



3,024

Adopted one healthy behavior to reduce STI and prevent pregnancy



968

HIV POSITIVE ADULTS & CHILDREN

Receiving care and support services outside of the health facility



1,579

Orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/ AIDS who received support services

13,839

Youth trained in life skills and personal development



Positive Identity



Communication



Decision Making



Critical Thinking



Goal Setting



Leadership



Emotional Health



1,322

Completed a gender norms intervention meeting minimum PEPFAR criteria of at least 10 hours



10,111

People reached by an individual, small group, or community intervention of less than 10 hours

GENDER

6,328

Youth trained on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse

1,380

Can explain at least three negative effects of drugs and alcohol

1,135

Can articulate at least three strategies to avoid drugs and alcohol

812



Teachers participated in lessons on positive youth development

95



Teachers who increased their use of the *Living* curriculum

92



Teachers who used improved gender equitable classroom practices

1,573



Individuals with improved IT skills

380



Teachers who increased their use of student-teaching techniques

Capacity Building

Although our volunteers are highly qualified men and women in their respective fields, their responsibility is to better equip local Batswana to stop the spread of the HIV/AIDS so Botswana can achieve epidemic control. Peace Corps empowers locals to own the solutions to challenges confronting their villages, districts, and country.

This year, both organizations and individuals benefited from Peace Corps Volunteer led formal and informal trainings in planning, project design and management, internal management, information communication, technology skills, grant writing, or service delivery. In schools especially, trainings empowered teachers to create child-friendly classrooms and to engage students positively.



Gender Work

In Botswana, two out of three women will experience violence in their lifetime—mostly from intimate partners. Not only does gender based violence physically and psychologically harm its victims, it places them at a much higher risk for contracting HIV, and in fact is a major driver of the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa

Over the last year, Peace Corps Botswana Volunteers have worked to educate communities on the importance of gender equality in building safe and healthy spaces for women and children through the use of community conversations, awareness campaigns, sensitivity training of service providers and police officers, and educational workshops. In 2015, Peace Corps Volunteers conducted gender interventions of at least 10 hours, meeting PEPFAR's rigorous intervention requirements, with 1,322 individuals. More in-depth trainings of less than 10 hours were held with 10,111 individuals.



Moshupa Village Sets Global Graduation Rate Record!



This past year, the village of Moshupa set a new global graduation record for youth completing the GrassrootSoccer SKILLZ curriculum!

Volunteers Matt and Mohammed trained 471 local youth in the rigorous ten session program—setting the global Peace Corps record for graduation in a single village!

Through a series of interactive activities and discussions, the youth gained an understanding of HIV/AIDS and are able to practice the skills necessary for sustainable behavior change.

Key session topics included making healthy decisions, avoiding risks, building support networks, reducing HIV stigma and discrimination, increasing knowledge about HIV testing and treatment, addressing gender issues, and assessing personal values.



16 Days Of Activism Against Gender Violence



Peace Corps Botswana joined the global campaign to fight gender violence from 25 November to 10 December. In total, approximately 25,000 individuals wore purple ribbons distributed by Peace Corps to show their support for women and children's rights. Notably, Vice President Masisi wore a ribbon at the commemoration of World AIDS Day.

In addition, 51 villages held multi-day campaigns against gender based violence with community conversations, protest marches with men wearing stiletto shoes, and promotion of services available to survivors. Volunteers led activities in villages such as Machaneng, Sowa, Letlakane, Maun, Kalamare, and Paje.



Improving Supply Chain Management Systems



Peace Corps Botswana Volunteers, in partnership with USAID and Botswana's Ministry of Health, carried out two 5-day workshops in Logistics Management of Health Commodities. Altogether, 63 local health care practitioners and Peace Corps Volunteers were trained in standard operating procedures and data submission to fortify the movement of medicines in and across Botswana's hospitals, clinics and health posts.

The only training of its kind in the Peace Corps community, the initiative was highlighted as a best practice in official communication with the State Department in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to this innovative training, local health care providers are better able to care for the health needs of their communities.



Providing Psychosocial Support And Development For Vulnerable Youth

Twenty nine youth from three villages in Kweneng district (Khudumalapye, Kaudwane, and Salajwe) attended a week long educational camp facilitated by Peace Corps Volunteers and local counterparts. Volunteers led sessions on bullying, safe sex, gender based violence, leadership, and self-esteem.

Just before the camp, a tragic school bus accident killed over 10 students from the region, many related to camp participants. To support the camp participants through this difficult time, Peace Corps provided a local psychologist who conducted both individual and group counselling sessions for the youth.

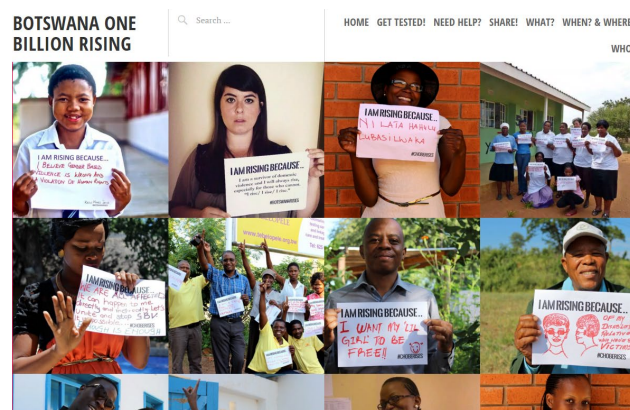


One Billion Rising Against Gender Based Violence

600
people submitted
photos for the
social media
campaign

Using the power of creative expression and community, Peace Corps Volunteer Theresa brought together community members and leaders from across the country to raise awareness on gender based violence in Kasane and across Botswana.

Peace Corps Botswana Volunteers, working with local stakeholders in Chobe District, organized a community awareness event as well as a social media campaign. Over 600 people participated in the Facebook campaign leading up to the live event in Kasane by posting photos of themselves with handwritten signs showing how gender violence had impacted them. On the day of the event itself, hundreds of people came together to show solidarity with survivors of gender violence, learn how to access gender related services, and commit to addressing gender violence in their community.



BOTSWANA ONE BILLION RISING
#BOTSWANARISES

Mapping Botswana, One Village At a Time

In 2015, Peace Corps Botswana Volunteers and their host communities pioneered using OpenStreetMap data for malaria eradication and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment projects. Seventeen Volunteers collaborated with the Peace Corps Office of Innovation to add hundreds of thousands of data points to OpenStreetMap, ensuring that their host communities are represented on the world's largest free and open map.

From presenting to a White House audience to briefing former Botswana President Festus Mogae, our volunteers elevated their communities' use of open geographic data to the highest levels of government and modeled their innovative methods to the world.

Successful project examples, all of which included close collaboration with counterparts, include:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of an Indoor Residual Spraying campaign and presenting actionable data to the lead entomologist at the National Malaria Control Program
- Conducting geographic analysis of the locations of free condom dispensers to inform the placement of condom distribution sites throughout Ghanzi district
- Developing maps for improved home-based care visit planning and routing on the part of community and public health workers

Creating Safe Places for HIV-Positive Youth

Working closely with counterparts at health facilities, volunteers facilitate programming to support HIV-positive youth as they learn to live healthy lives with HIV. Ranging from week-long camps to monthly support groups, volunteers provide safe places for youth to openly discuss the challenges they face living with the virus and to learn how to keep themselves and their intimate partners healthy.

With colleagues from his local clinic, volunteer Erin created the Tonota Teen club—a peer support group for teenagers living with HIV. Through monthly meetings, the club empowers teens to build positive relationships, improve self-esteem, and gain life skills necessary to transition into healthy adulthood. Regular sessions include information on adherence to HIV treatments, safe sexual relationships, and other medical advice to keep them healthy.



YOUTH



Creating Stronger And Safer Intimate Relationships



Through financial support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Peace Corps Volunteer Erika and her team of local counterparts designed a series of workshops that addressed gender norms, power dynamics in intimate relationships, and HIV/AIDS.

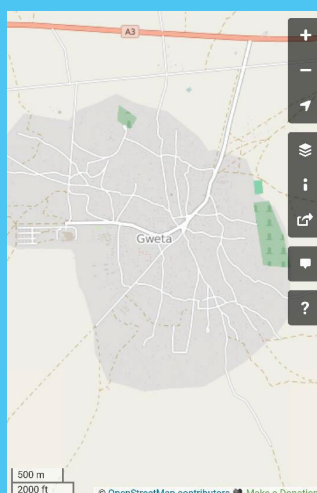
During the twelve hour workshops, local facilitators conducted small group discussions and training on gender-related themes for men and women separately. Both groups then came together to dialogue.

Reaching 256 people in six different villages, the initiative had a significant impact. For many participant, this was the first time they learned of the devastating effects of gender based violence in their own relationships and villages. According to a survey analyzing participants gender attitudes after the workshop, a majority felt better equipped to communicate with their partners instead of resorting to physical abuse.

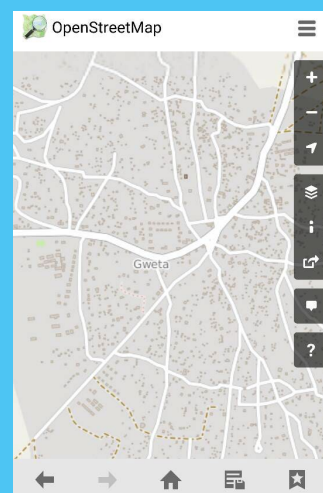
GENDER



BEFORE



AFTER



CAPACITY BUILDING

Here in 1966. Here today.

Peace Corps Botswana Volunteers live and work in villages across the country. Often working in remote and hard to reach areas, they work with local counterparts in clinics, community organizations, government offices, and schools.

Although they work in an array of locations, their energy is solidly focused on addressing HIV/AIDS in Botswana so epidemic control can be achieved! Volunteers particularly focus on prevention activities with youth, and mobilizing communities to seek services and access treatment. In schools they teach life skills, conduct classes on HIV prevention, and collaborate with teachers in creating safe educational environments. In NGOs, Volunteers empower organizations to better respond to the HIV epidemic through the development of skills including planning, budgeting, and program evaluation. At local government offices, they help improve existing systems to better deliver HIV-related support to field workers and communities. And in clinics, Peace Corps Volunteers work to improve the availability of life saving medical supplies, and collaborate directly with health workers to maximize the effectiveness of HIV prevention and care initiatives.

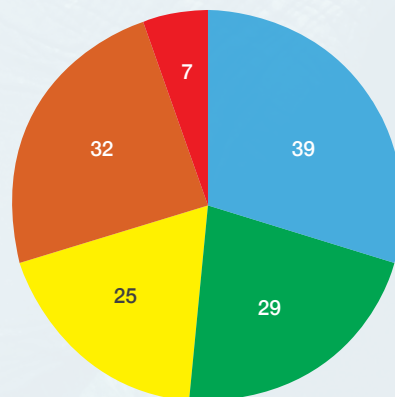
Thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers have lived and worked in Botswana since 1966. During their two years of service, it is the country they proudly call home. Today Volunteers are living and serving in well over 100 communities across this nation, alongside their counterparts and countless friends. As a long term partner in development, Peace Corps congratulates Botswana on the incredible progress this nation has achieved over the past 50 years!



Sample Sites - Past and Present






Volunteers By Sector



Total = 132



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