



## Oregon State University

# BOTSWANA GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

### Summer 2022 | Maunatlala, Botswana

### What we've been up to lately

After long days of travel, we all arrived in Gaborone between June 20th and 23rd. On the 23rd, we met with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture. We learned a lot about the structure of their ministries, as well as insight into how healthcare operates within Botswana.

On June 24th, we made the 4.5 hour drive from our hotel in Gaborone to the village of Maunatlala! Along the way, we stopped at Nando's for lunch and had the opportunity to meet the Honorable Counselor of the village, Ma Salome, as well as Otteng, leader of the youth group. When we arrived in Maunatlala, we were welcomed in the library by members of the Village Development Committee (VDC), as well as representatives from the two ministries. We settled into our guesthouse for the night, feeling very grateful for our accommodations and delicious food cooked by Dorcus and Sheila!

The next day, Otteng led our group on a spiritual hike up to the village totem, inscribed with the names of all past chiefs. We could see the entire village, as well as the Lotsane Dam that provides the village's water. It was beautiful, and we were honored to be granted permission to complete the hike. The rest of the day was spent getting acquainted with the villagers, followed by Zumba (dancing) led by Ellen in the evening.

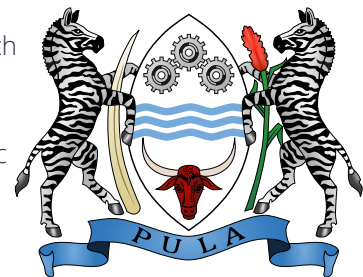
On Monday, we were invited to the Kgotla to be formally introduced by the Chief. The village choir led us in song and dance, and it was a very special ceremony. We then participated in a trash pick-up event around the village, and met at the library to be introduced to students participating in the Brighter Kids after-school program.

We are all excited to begin the research process and develop our projects in collaboration with this beautiful community. Grateful to be here is an understatement, and we look forward to strengthening our partnership further throughout these next 6 weeks! Stay tuned for more updates!

-Cassie Guiley

### A little more about Botswana

Botswana is a nation of roughly 2.025 million people and is located right above South Africa between Namibia and Zimbabwe. The national currency is Pula which means "rain" in the native language Setswana. Notable geography includes the Kalahari Desert and the Okavango Delta, which is one of Africa's seven wonders of the world. Botswana has been a republic since its liberation in 1966, making it Africa's longest continuous democracy.



Our group will be spending about 6 weeks in the village of Maunatlala, which is about an hour east of Palapye. Maunatlala is a small village that is comprised of a little over 4,000 people. We will be working on numerous projects related to disability, women's health, gender-based violence and positive youth development with the community in



partnership with the Botswana Ministry of Health and Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport, and Culture. We are so excited for what's to come in the next few weeks!

# Meet Our Team!

**Dr. Sunil Khanna, Ph.D, Ph.D** is the head of the Botswana Global Health Initiative and chairman of the Rothschild Endowment Fund

**Divya Yerram, MPH** is working on her Ph.D in Global Health and is leading the Sexual Reproductive Health project

**Ivan Estrada, MPH** is working on his Ph.D in Global Health and is leading the Positive Youth Development project

**Marky Kowal, MPH** is working on her Ph.D in Global Health and will be leading the Gender-based Violence project

**Courtney Jost, MPH** is working on her Ph. D in Global Health and will be leading the Mainstreaming Disability project

**Kevin Luyamba,** is working towards his MPH and will be working on the Positive Youth Development project

**Ellen Radcliffe** is working towards her MPH and will be working on the Positive Youth Development program

**Jeff West and Peter Jefferson** will be joining our team to explore culture and society in Maunatlala

**Malia Roll** recently completed her B.S. in nutritional health science and will be working on the Mainstreaming Disability project

**Rachael Schmidt** is an undergraduate public health and business student who will be working on the Gender-based Violence project

**Cassie Guiley** is an undergraduate public health and human development/family science student who will be working on the Mainstreaming Disability project

**Kate Bandettini** is an undergraduate engineering student who is co-leading the Menstrual Health & Hygiene project with Isabel

**Isabel Griffin** is an undergraduate engineering student who is co-leading the Menstrual Health & Hygiene project with Kate

**Jess Fujinaga** is an undergraduate kinesiology and chemistry student who will be working on the Mainstreaming Disability project

**Willa Bixby** is an undergraduate public health student working on the Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender-based Violence programs



Pictured: Students, Honorable Counselor Ma Salome, and Maunatlala community choir dancing at the Kgotla meeting on June 27, 2022.

We would like to give a huge thank you to Sara and Robert Rothschild for their generosity and support in helping to make this program possible! We could not do this without you and are so grateful to have been provided with the opportunity to explore new places and cultures.