



Oregon State University

BOTSWANA GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Summer 2022 | Maunatlala, Botswana

An update from one of our teammates

We arrived in Maunatlala on June 24th, and have been spending the first week getting to know the community and exploring the village! We were greeted by many of the village chiefs, village development committee, women's group choir and other community partners. We were each gifted a Setswana name by the village based on our personalities, so that the village can welcome us into their culture! Our program coordinator OT, Fifi and many others have made an immense effort to welcome us into the Maunatlala culture so that we can start to learn the context behind our work. My favorite part has been getting to know all the kids in the community. A group of us met the kids at their after school program at the library, where we taught them how to play duck duck goose and Simon says! After our time here in a little more than a week we have been able to share many laughs, ask many questions and most importantly, listen to the community. We are eager to continue working on our projects and we cannot wait to see what this collaboration will accomplish! - Kate Bandettini

Meet our program coordinators!

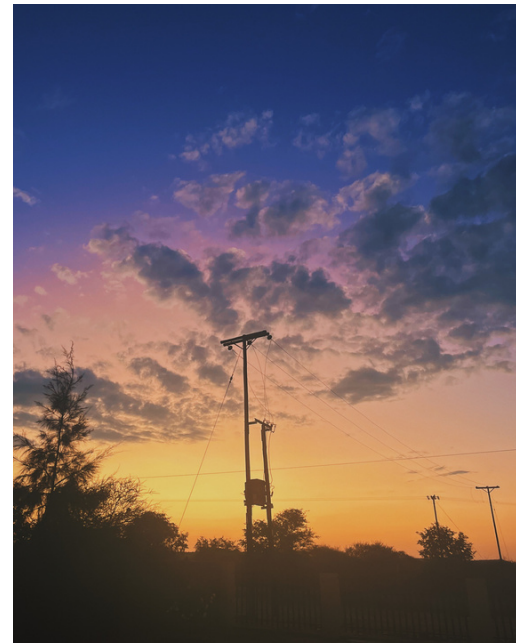
Oteng Toteng

"My name is Oteng Toteng, and I am the coordinator of the program of Oregon State University in Maunatlala where I help with organizing for their accommodations and help them get all the information they need from the Village. I also connect them with the rightful stake holders to collect all the information they need for the program."

Kefilwe Segwati

"My name is Kefilwe Segwati. I've just joined the team as a coordinator for the Oregon State University program in Maunatlala, helping the students with their projects by connecting them to important contacts and resources while they're here, as well as sharing insight on Village life."





Left: Divya and Peter outside the clinic. Middle: Dr. Khanna and Kevin at the clinic Right: Sunset outside the guest house

A closer look at the projects our students are working on

Sexual and Reproductive Health & Gender-based Violence The sexual and reproductive health education program is developed for the adolescents and their parents at the junior secondary school that would help them build their knowledge on the various SRH issues prevalent in the community. There are three components for this program targeting the adolescents, their caregivers and finally bringing them together to build a better communication. The SRH curriculum will be implemented using different activities, videos and props to make the students and their caregivers. -Divya Reddy



The gender-based violence project involves a workbook for middle school children and their caregivers. These workbooks promote gender equity, and how to have healthy relationships between peers, adolescents and their caregivers, and romantic relationships. Activities involve skill building, and promoting community ownership of gender-based violence to reduce incidences of violence. - Marky Kowal

Mainstreaming Disability The Mainstreaming Disability group has developed a comprehensive Disability Awareness Program based upon feedback from a needs assessment completed in 2019. Our group aims to address disability stigma through this community-based training. We will work with three vocational groups to assess the effects of a community-driven disability awareness program on the attitudes, perceptions, and experiences of community members in rural Botswana. - Courtney Jost

Positive Youth Development The positive youth development (PYD) project aims to study the relationship between youth development and alcohol use behaviors among youth in the village of Maunatlala. The results from this study will help inform the development of a community-based PYD program. - Ivan Estrada

Menstrual Health and Hygiene The menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) project aims to develop a baseline understanding of the menstrual hygiene needs of the women of Maunatlala. This study will include information about products, disposability and comfortability discussing these topics. This information collected on knowledge, attitude and practice of MHH will help the two engineering students on the study develop a sustainable sanitary pad solution for Maunatlala. - Kate Bandettini

