



Oregon State University

BOTSWANA GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

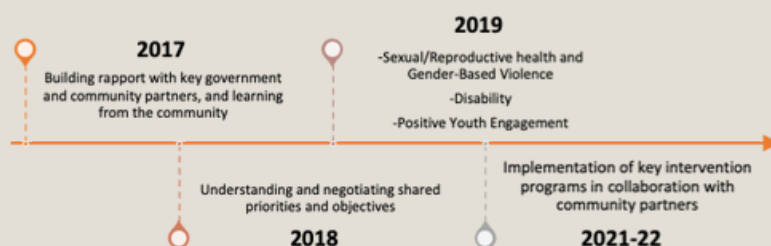
Summer 2022 | Maunatlala, Botswana

More About Our Program

From Dr. Sunil Khanna

The Botswana Global Health Initiative (BGHI) serves as a platform for supporting teaching, research, and outreach in global health and for developing sustainable solutions to the health challenges facing families and communities in Botswana and globally.

Building upon the commitment of Oregon State University and the College of Public Health and Human Sciences to transformational excellence and impact through exceptional research, discovery, innovation, and engagement, the BGHI focuses on advancing the lifelong wellness of people and communities in Oregon and throughout the world. The Botswana Global Health Initiative actively engages in exploring, developing, and sharing concrete solutions that communities, government organizations and civil society groups can use in addressing practical problems facing needy populations in Botswana and globally.



An Update from Jess Fujinaga

"Hi, my name is Jess, and I am a rising junior majoring in Kinesiology. The time I've spent in Botswana thus far has been one

to remember! I have made incredible friends, immersed myself in a welcoming community, and learned more about myself than I could have ever imagined. I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about this culture and begin my research. I decided to embark on this global experience because I have a passion for global health and had so many unanswered questions that I knew wouldn't be satisfied in the classroom. I want to understand how peoples' perceptions impact the way they treated others and how this impacts access to health care.

I am currently doing work alongside Courtney Jost and working on implementing a disability awareness training program in the school and clinic within the village. We successfully initiated the training in the primary school and plan to start training the clinic next week. I am excited to see the programs implications and if it can increase access to quality healthcare for marginalized groups, specifically for individuals with disabilities.

Although my primary intentions of coming to Botswana were research based, I have made some incredible memories. We recently went to the Limpopo River, and I got to see local wildlife and enjoy Botswana cuisine! I am looking forward to many more adventures and being able to share them with friends. Most of all, I have gained some of the best relationships from this program. My favorite memory is meeting all the kids at the library and learning about Botswana's amazing culture."

A Brief History of Botswana & Maunatlala Village

Citizens of Botswana are referred to as "Batswana" or "Motswana"; the country that you see on maps today was originally made up of tribal groups who primarily sustained themselves as hunters and gatherers, animal herders, and farmers. In the early 19th century, the ancestors of present-day Batswana had their first contact with Europeans through missionaries. According to Neil Parson, the author of Brief History of Botswana, the heritage of these original tribal peoples is still an integral part of the culture of Botswana today. While the capital city of Gaborone is very urbanized, smaller villages like the one you will be living in are prevalent throughout the country. These villages still have chieftom structure that operates and exercises social influence over the people living in the villages. The government of Botswana often works with this structure when enacting new policies or programs throughout the country, it is important to remember that Botswana is a young country, having only been modernly independent of colonization for 51 years as of 2017. The cultural heritage of ancestral tribes is valued by Botswana people today and is evident in their lives and social structure

....The Babirwa people of Maunatlala are ancestors of people from what is now the Limpopo Province of South Africa. They first came to Botswana under Kgosi Mphato and settled near Serowe between 1817 and 1826. After a lost battle, the Babirwa settled near Bobonong. In fear of the Ndebele and a future massacre, Kgosi Mphato led the Babirwa to Shoshong in 1840. Kgosi Mapena succeeded his father in 1866 and led the people toward the Limpopo River. They were joined by the Bakaa and the Bakwena. When Botswana became the Bechuanaland Protectorate in 1895, the people under Kgosi Mapena were outside of the territories, but were invited in and decided to settle near the Tswapong Hills. That same year, Kgosi Mapena's first son died, and the village was named Maunatlala in his honor. Kgosi Masupe succeeded Kgosi Mapena until 1949. Currently, Maunatlala's royal seat is ruled by Gobusamang Mapena, Phoophoo Mapena, and Phillip Sebopeng.

-Dr. Sunil Khanna, Botswana Internship Handbook



Pictured: Disability team; Jess Fujinaga, Courtney Jost, Malia Roll, Cassie Guiley



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT Mainstreaming Disability

educators and health care workers in rural Botswana? Driven by a community-based needs assessment conducted in 2019, our work aims to assess participant's change in knowledge, attitudes, and behavior related to disability as a result of their interaction with the comprehensive disability awareness training. While conducting the community-based needs assessment in 2019, researchers from OSU identified key themes related to the lived experiences of individuals with disabilities in the Maunatlala community. We combined these results and tenants of the Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills-Resource (IMBR) model to inform the development of a community-driven Disability Awareness Program.

This eight-domain program incorporates unique content areas specific to the needs of local community members with disabilities. We are currently implementing the program to teachers at a local primary school and are scheduled to begin implementation at the local clinic at the end of this week. We are set to pilot this program with roughly 30 participants. After completion, we will work with key stakeholders with disabilities and those who work closely with people with disabilities to adjust the program content. We will collaborate to adapt the program so that it better reflects the lived experiences of the community, centering the experiences of persons with disabilities in the Disability Awareness Program.

-Courtney Jost, MPH, Project Leader