

## Section I

### B. Summary of the project goals

The Boloka Ngwao Culture and Leadership Youth Camps aimed to bring together youth of diverse cultures and socio-economic backgrounds from different parts of Botswana, to talk about the different issues that they face today. We aimed to rediscover our history and culture to understand how our forefathers built what we now see as Botswana today, as well as draw lessons on how we can come together to continue developing our nation.

### C. Fund-raising Efforts

The project was mostly funded by Davis Projects for Peace. This reduced the burden of fundraising and allowed us to spend more time on programming and forming long-term partnerships with stakeholders. However we received donations in kind from various organizations. Stationery and supplies for activities were donated by students from Bucknell University. YaronaFM, a youth radio station on Botswana donated Advertising costs and airtime in the form of professionally produced ads that were played on prime time radio shows. UWC Botswana national committee provided advertising through their weekly on-air segment "Community Service Corner".

### D. Project Details

The camp began with recruitment of five facilitators who helped with planning, logistics and leading activities/events. The Youth camps were advertised online, through radio, newspapers, at malls and through youth organizations. Participants applied and were selected by the facilitators. In total 24 participants were selected and attended. They were from various parts of the country of contrasting cultures, including two foreigners. The camps were held at the Botswana National Productivity Center, a conference facility that is located on the outskirts of the capital city, Gaborone. It allowed for participants to be together day and night therefore encouraging them to interact and removed them from the usual distractions of the city. Several events were held on site including the key note address by Paramount chief Mosadi Seboko, substance use and abuse workshop with Botswana Substance Abuse Support Network, Life skills workshop with Stepping Stones International and Career fair with Bakaedi Society. Other events were held off-site such as the historical tour of the national museum, the visit and lecture at the Kgotla (tribal administration) in Ramotswa and the community service trip to SOS Children's Village. The evenings were used for reflections and group bonding which gave time for discussions surrounding themes that were related to youth and life in Botswana.

### Unanticipated difficulties

Commitment from volunteers was sometimes unreliable because they did not put as much effort into working for the project as they might have if there was a financial incentive. We came to learn that unless someone shared our passion for the cause they were could struggled to see the long term purpose and benefits and became less invested. There was also an unexpected sense of reluctance from various groups because the project explored new territories and was wholly youth run.

### Budget constraints

Budget constraints limited the extent to which we could reach out to youth in rural areas. Because the country is big those who could not afford the trip to the city were disadvantaged and we were limited on how much we could cover for them. However the budget allowed us to provide an opportunity to many despite their economic status.

### Language or cultural barriers

There were only two instances of language barriers, where some non-citizen participants could not understand a speaker in a cultural workshop and it had to be translated to them. This meant that they

slightly felt out of place, however they overcame that with a willingness to learn the local dialects. Another instance was of a participant who did not speak English or the major national language and had to be rejected because he could barely communicate with the facilitators and other participants.

### Successes and Failures

The greatest successes during the camps were the partnered events where an existing organization led a customized activity/workshop. It gave us support in terms of topical knowledge and skills, as well as giving the organizations an opportunity to reach out to an elite group of young people. The room allocation where we partnered participants of same sexes but different backgrounds as roommates was also a great way of ensuring that the camp was a full time interactive and learning experience. The only failure was not involving other organizations during the planning stages to draw from their experiences.

### Beneficiaries

The immediate beneficiaries of the camps are the various stakeholders involved including the facilitators, participants, sponsor and partner organizations. In addition those who will interact with the participants and gain from their future efforts and endeavors will also be indirect beneficiaries.

### Long-term impact and sustainability

The camps sparked very important conversations that need to keep going about how to face these challenges and create long lasting solutions. In addition many were inspired to begin other projects, such as the culture day that Ramotswa hosted and a community service group started by some participants. The project also inspired organizers to ensure that a formal structure in the form of a legal trust is created to continue hosting such camps and do more programming around culture and leadership.

## Section II

### Defining peace

Peace is a state of harmony where several segments work alongside and with each other in a manner of mutual respect and benefit. This could apply to an individual's life, an ecosystem or most relevant to Boloka Ngwao in a community, where various groups and organizations can live together without discord.

### How Boloka Ngwao contributes to peace?

In the short-term, Boloka Ngwao showed participants and observers that although we all had different life stories, tribal backgrounds and economic statuses we were facing the same challenges and could do better by working together. In the long-term, youth whose lives were touched by this project are going to be changed. It may be small at first and take a long time to manifest but most people will lead a better life.

### How the project changed the way I think about the world and changed me

The project showed me that there is great value in cooperation and communication. It has inspired me to continue doing work of this nature and showed me that one can touch the lives of others, leaving their mark on earth in small ways.

### Personal Statement - Lebo Letsie

Culture and leadership camps such as these are valuable in teaching us about our heritage and making us realize our own abilities to better our communities. I used to think that we as Africans are backward but I learned that we have immensely rich cultural systems and norms that we rarely assess and appreciate.



Camp participants after graduation



Camp Participant Raymond Tuferenyika presenting his groups thoughts at the Life skills workshop