



© SKI/Cliff Allum

## Arts and crafts sustain Basarwa San in the Kalahari

*By Birthe Gjern, a development worker based in Botswana as an assistant coordinator for Gantsi craft.*

The Kalahari Region has been home to the San (sometimes referred to as the Basarwa or Bushmen) for some 20,000 years. They traditionally live in small family bands as hunters and gatherers in the harsh environment of the Kalahari Desert. Unfortunately, over the past two centuries pressure on land from other ethnic groups, farmers, mining companies and conservationists has cut the San off from their traditional lands. Today the San live in small groups scattered over different countries in Southern Africa. They can be found as 'squatters' near the cities, as labourers settled on farms or in Government designated settlements.

The San communities stand amongst the most marginalised and impoverished groups in Botswana. The lack of group organisation, educational services in their own languages and of knowledge about their rights, leaves them in an extremely vulnerable situation.

Out of approximately 50,000 San in Botswana only a handful are able to hunt and gather on a significant scale. All others lack secure access to vital resources. As a result, many San have become increasingly dependent on government sponsored aid programmes, perpetuating the loss of cultural identity and their alienation from age old traditions, skills and lifestyles.

Skillshare International works in partnership with Gantsi Craft, a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) committed to improving the lives of San communities by promoting and marketing crafts for the benefit of producers in the remote settlements of the Ghanzi and Kalahari Districts. Gantsi Craft is

a member of the Kuru Family of Organisations, a consortium of NGOs who share the common goal of empowering the San to take control of their own destinies through a holistic process approach to development.

Gantsi Craft operates a San arts and crafts museum and sales gallery. The Craft Museum displays a wide range of San artifacts, as well as Bushman craft. Every week there is an open market for producers to sell their craft. The craft is fairly traded and therefore can make a sustainable and significant contribution to poverty reduction.

Gantsi Craft currently serves 15 settlements within the Ghanzi and Kalahari Districts. Within each, Gantsi Craft facilitates producer training workshops, and assists the producers with quality, product development, marketing, and logistics, enabling the San to sell the craft wholesale to retailers. Craft development is not the only focus. Gantsi Craft utilises the opportunity to engage with the participants, to educate and talk with them about issues of concern, such as HIV/AIDS, gender issues, budgeting and responsible use of income. By doing so, the San communities are becoming empowered to take control of their own development and their own lives.

The San communities are faced with extreme poverty, dispossession and are becoming increasingly alienated from their millennia-old culture and traditions. Amongst this negative climate, however, Gantsi Craft has the opportunity to bring some good. By supporting the San to produce quality crafts they are able to generate an income and develop their skills whilst ensuring their age-old traditions and skills are kept alive, and can be passed from generation to generation.

*Photograph: Members of San Community, Botswana*

## Football fundraiser in Lesotho

*As a development worker you can spend years living away from home, but when you're not at work what is there for a DW to do?*

*Development worker John Murray tells us how he spends his spare time in Lesotho.*

As a Celtic supporter since childhood I enjoy watching and taking part in football, which is how I became affiliated with the Lesotho Ladies Football Club formerly known as 'Khutsa', which in Sesotho means 'be quiet'.

They have been playing for a number of years in kit borrowed from the male team. The ladies regularly play after the male team, which means that they have had to play in used kit on many occasions, not a pleasant experience given the heat in Lesotho.

I had met some of the women at the national stadium playing for the women's national team (Mehalalitoe) after which they invited me along to watch them play again. I watched them on a number of occasions and was amazed at the love and dedication they have for the game. Many of them even play barefoot as they cannot afford boots.

I started to watch on a regular basis and would help out with transport whenever I could. I had never been asked but I felt that I could do more to help them. This coincided with the management withdrawing support for the team, so we held a meeting and the decision was made to have a fundraising tournament to buy kit they could call their own.

Many of Skillshare's development workers and some local Basotho businessmen and women made donations, raising nearly M2000.00 (£180). This is not enough to buy a full playing kit but it is hoped that by the end of April, which is when the new women's league starts, we will have enough to buy a full kit.

As a Celtic supporter I wrote to the club's official magazine in an attempt to get some publicity for the team. Glasgow Celtic are now going to donate some shirts for the team. The women are so delighted that they have voted to call themselves Maseru Celtic Ladies Football Club.

**Anyone wanting any further information on the team and its progress can contact John Murray on [murrayceltic@yahoo.com](mailto:murrayceltic@yahoo.com)**

## Skillshare chosen as Charity of the Year by one of UK's top companies

Skillshare International and the Tribal Group Foundation have linked together to form an exciting new strategic partnership. Tribal is one of the most successful and fastest growing companies supporting the public sector in the UK today. It is a leading provider of professional support services, offering a broad range of consultancy and managed services, including management consultancy, property and architectural services, IT services and solutions, information management, recruitment, training, PR, communications and design.

Tribal is fully committed to its social and community responsibilities and established the Tribal Group Foundation, a charitable arm of the company, to specialise in health and education across the globe. The public service background of many of Tribal's 1700 employees mean that the company has a tradition in social development, both in the UK and globally. Tribal's financial support will be drawn

both from the company's own funds and also from the launch of a Give As You Earn (GAYE) scheme among employees. Any donations made by staff through GAYE will be matched by the company.

Martin Cumella, chairman of the Tribal Group Foundation said: "We are pleased and proud to be involved with Skillshare International. The Tribal Group is involved in improving education and health services in the UK on a day to day basis. Our partnership with Skillshare gives us the opportunity to support worthwhile projects in these critical areas in some of the poorest parts of Africa and Asia."

Tribal prefers to focus on strategic partnerships rather than project funding and found that Skillshare's priorities complemented its own. Skillshare and Tribal will be working together to promote long term development, and Tribal will also assist with raising funds to support Skillshare's work across Africa and Asia.

## Special Study Module Success

In the autumn 2003, Skillshare International and the University of Leicester Medical School delivered the second year of the Special Study Module on Health and Development. The module aims to develop students' understanding of issues around health and international development.

Many medical professionals, including Skillshare's returned development workers and health trainers, give their time to make this module possible and their knowledge and experience on health and development is invaluable to the course.

The SSM also uses on-line mentors who are a unique resource for this module. Skillshare's current development workers and health trainers who are on hand to offer help and advice to students that relates to the work they do in Africa and India include Dr. Patrick Okinedo in Mozambique, Sandra Whyles in Namibia, Jan Mayers in Tanzania and Ranjan Panda in India.

This year 17 students were enrolled in the module. The evaluations show that students' understanding of development and the implications on health issues in India and Africa has grown and they have a better understanding of the contribution of NGOs and health trainers in developing countries.

By becoming a guest speaker in the SSM, participating in the production of up-date resources, networking and identifying potential partners in the UK to expand the SSM to other universities you can help us to improve the awareness and understanding of development and health issues.

**If you want to know more about the SSM or are interested in getting involved, please contact Dr. Raúl Pardiñaz-Solis, Development Awareness Officer, on 0116 257 6629 or e-mail [raul.pardinaz-solis@skillshare.org](mailto:raul.pardinaz-solis@skillshare.org)**

## Stop AIDS Campaign

The Stop AIDS Campaign is an initiative of the UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development of which Skillshare is a member. Launched on World AIDS Day 2001, the purpose is to raise awareness in the UK about the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and to campaign for urgently scaled up international action, by urging politicians and decision makers to come together.

**To add your voice to this campaign and to register for regular updates please visit: [www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk](http://www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk)**



© SKJ/Ricardo Xavier

## Skillshare International helps bring cholera outbreak in Mozambique under control

*A serious cholera outbreak has hit Mozambique, leaving more than 30 dead and over 6000 in need of treatment. The outbreak started in December and Skillshare International has been working very closely with the people of Mozambique to help curb the spread of the disease.*

Skillshare International's development worker, Dr Patrick Okinedo, is based at Mavalane Hospital in Maputo, and has been travelling to Inhaca Island to perform home visits, treat the water used by villagers and finalise the construction of a local cholera treatment centre.

Dr Okinedo said: "The first case of cholera was registered on Inhaca Island in January and although there is now a decline in the number of cases, there is still a serious problem. All the water sources are severely infected and are not suitable for human consumption. The number of cases of malaria are also on the rise despite efforts to fumigate by the Red Cross. Sanitation is a major problem, villages do not have latrines and rely on the nearby bush to meet their basic human needs, this has a major impact on the spread of the disease."

Mozambique is prone to epidemics of cholera. It is a highly contagious disease and can be passed on easily through contaminated drinking water, human waste and infected food.

Cholera usually peaks in February when Mozambique often suffers floods and heavy rains, but there are warnings about premature optimism, the rainfall is continuing, and this, combined with poor sanitation means the situation may get worse before it gets better.

### Jubilee Debt Campaign

World Debt Day is on Sunday 16th May. On this day, one month ahead of the G8 summit in the USA, debt campaigners will be calling on world leaders to cancel the remaining debts of the poorest countries.

**If you would like further information on how you could support this campaign, please visit [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)**

# Skillshare International celebrates five years of technical and vocational training in Lesotho

Skillshare International is celebrating five years of successful partnership with the Department of Technical and Vocational Training (TVD) under the Ministry of Education and Training. Skillshare International has been working in partnership with TVD which co-ordinates the provision of technical and vocational education across the country since 1999.

Eleven of Skillshare International's development workers have been sharing their skills in various technical and vocational institutions, including the Lerotholi Polytechnic, the Technical Institute of Leloaleng, the Thaba Tseka Technical Institute, the Lesotho College of Education, the Lesotho Opportunities Industrialization Centre and TVD.

The Director of TVD, Mr. Nkopane Ramaphiri said: "Working with Skillshare International has been a fulfilling partnership. During the past five years there has been a tremendous improvement in all areas where development workers are based, particularly in the Curriculum Development, Examinations Development and Administration, Business Advisory and the Technology Studies Department. At the Ministry of Education, we have benefited a lot from the skills transferred by the development workers and the funding of the project."

## Elton John Aids Foundation grants hope to HIV/AIDS sufferers

The Elton John Aids Foundation have agreed a grant of £61,453 for the Samraksha HIV-AIDS care continuum project in Bangalore, India.

It is estimated that at least 4 million people in India are currently living with HIV. These figures are rising rapidly and India is expected to be the epicentre by 2020.

The disease is having a massive impact on the communities as its most active members are dying. Grandparents are taking primary responsibility for their grandchildren and child headed households are increasingly common. In India, HIV/AIDS care is still blocked by stigma and people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS face discrimination from health care providers, employers, the community and family, in addition to the affects of their illness.

The Samraksha HIV-AIDS care continuum project seeks to address the problems encountered by people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Samraksha works to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS by arming people with information so individuals can take responsibility to halt the spread of the epidemic. Samraksha's prevention work covers rural and urban areas in approximately 1,800 villages. In particular they target the trucking community reaching about 22,000 truckers annually and 5,000 sex workers. The HIV/AIDS prevention work is complemented by a reproductive and sexual health programme based in Bangalore city and six of the community towns.

Samraksha helps to meet the needs of people with HIV/AIDS through its Counselling Care and Support Services which include outreach sites, outpatient clinics, two respite homes and community based home care support.

It is through this community work that Samraksha can support the community to respond to both the spread of the disease and its impact on the people.

## Supporters association launched in Lesotho

The new supporters' association in Lesotho was officially launched by Dr Mphu Ramatlapeng, at a dinner dance at the Lesotho Sun Hotel, Maseru on 6th December. Dr Ramatlapeng, a well known and respected paediatrician, was chosen by her fellow supporters to be their representative.

The event is only one of a range of activities that have taken place since the first supporters were recruited at an open day in September 2003. Supporters in Lesotho have already held a fund raising appeal to help build a girls' and women's dormitory at the Taung Training and Skills Centre. By providing a safe place for women to stay, they will develop better skills which will increase their employment prospects and improve their livelihoods. Supporters have also held a braai (barbeque) and family day, and they are planning a Fun Walk on Sunday 2nd May to raise funds for Skillshare's projects in Lesotho.

**For further information about supporter activities in Lesotho please email [supporters@skillshare.org](mailto:supporters@skillshare.org)**

## Thank you for taking up the Enable Challenge!

We would like to thank all of those supporters who took up the Enable Challenge to help raise nearly £2000 for the Adult Based Education and Training for physically disabled learners in South Africa.

Supporters did a variety of things to raise funds, including cake baking, living off £1 a day for a month, holding an open-house event and donating in lieu of Christmas shopping!

**Please call Victoria Edge-Baron, Supporter Development Officer, on 0116 257 6625, or email [supporters@skillshare.org](mailto:supporters@skillshare.org), if you have an idea and would like to help us raise funds to support our work.**

## 0.7% Campaign

This is an appeal for all supporters of Skillshare to add their voices to the 0.7% campaign to demand that the UK government commits more money to the overseas aid budget.

We would like all supporters to send a real or virtual postcard to Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to ask him to commit 0.7% of GDI to the aid budget.

**Please visit [www.007campaign.org.uk](http://www.007campaign.org.uk) to find out more and to take action.**

### Skillshare International

126 New Walk, Leicester LE1 7JA, UK

Tel: 0116 254 1862 • Fax: 0116 254 2614

Email: [info@skillshare.org](mailto:info@skillshare.org)

**Chief Executive:** Dr Cliff Allum

**Chair:** Wendy Tabuteau

**Vice Presidents:** Bill Morris  
Richard Caborn

**Patrons:** Richard E Grant  
Sir Trevor McDonald OBE

**Newsletter Editors:** Emma Judge  
Lynne Slowey



Company Registration No. 2447107 England  
Registered Charity No. 802576