



## WHEC UPDATE

Briefings of worldwide activity of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)  
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### *Shaping the Future*

Volunteerism fosters empowerment and broad-based ownership, through which even the most disadvantaged groups, can contribute to more stable and cohesive communities. Volunteerism is both a manifestation and driver of social capital and civic participation, involving more people in decisions that affect their lives. In particular, it can help disadvantaged populations move from being passive recipients to becoming engaged actors in their own development. As a component of peace, health or development programs, particularly at the community level, volunteerism provides a sense of belonging and ownership, putting marginalized communities at the center of their reconciliation and/or development processes. It is also an important means by which individuals gain the skills necessary to realize their economic potential. Evidence shows that people in conflict environment have the will and instinct to respond with resilience and resourcefulness even in intense or prolonged conflicts. In fact, many of the concepts related to peace and peace building – from conflict prevention and reconciliation, to reintegration and reconstruction – are rooted in volunteerism. Ongoing national and international conflicts continue to weaken national and individual resilience. Nevertheless, emerging from within these conflicts, volunteerism can serve as a key source of reconciliation and reconstruction in divided societies.

Volunteering has been a valuable partner in a broad spectrum of peace, health and development activities, having as their overriding goal the eradication of poverty and the betterment of the human condition. It is closely linked to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially MDG # 4 & 5; where as of today, global progress in achieving MDG targets has been slow. Our initiatives and projects focus on strengthening participatory processes and building partnerships with civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments and the UN, which can be enhanced through volunteerism, are vital for achieving MDGs # 4 & 5. It is also widely recognized that to promote sustainable human development, peace and health is a prerequisite in that process. Volunteerism benefits society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening solidarity and reciprocity among citizens. It can transform the global health and nature of development and peace activities.

Our volunteer program is inspired by the conviction that volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges worldwide. Everyone can contribute their time, skills and knowledge through volunteer action and their combined efforts can be a significant force for achieving peace, health and development. It is not merely about providing human resources or filling in gap, but in fact assisting and uplifting communities so that people can aspire for a better tomorrow. This is inspiration in action. The enormous potential of volunteerism for peace, health and development inspires us as an organization and it is our mission to deliver on that potential. Our global network and project/program **WomensHealthSection.com** is serving in 225 countries and growing fast. We thank our volunteers for their support and contributions at all levels of the initiative.

Achieving the MGDs by the year 2015 calls for a global partnership with commitments from both developed and developing countries. National governments have development plans specific to their country's needs. Mobilizing people's energy, creativity, knowledge and skills through volunteerism towards meeting development goals can facilitate a country's progress, especially when civil society, the private sector, multilateral and bilateral agencies and other stakeholders are prepared to integrate volunteerism in delivering on their own mandates. Your efforts as an advocate for volunteerism for global health, peace and development will have much greater impact if they are coordinated through active networks, so be on the lookout for opportunities to join others or support collective action to advocate for volunteerism.

Promoting Volunteerism for Peace, Health and Development

**Rita Luthra, MD**

## Your Questions, Our Reply

What does it mean to be a volunteer? What is volunteerism for global health, peace and development?

**Integrating Volunteerism for Development:** Every type of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) assignment has the potential to promote volunteerism for global health, peace and development, but different approaches may be required depending on the specific type of assignment or its location. Participating in, or initiating, local volunteer activities and projects not only helps the country where you are working, but can also help motivate you and give you the chance to get out of your regular working environment and get to know your host country and its people more closely. Feel free to contribute photos or videos of any volunteer activities you are involved in both within and beyond your assignment; WHEC can use these images to both document and promote the impact of volunteerism for development. Also feel free to share any notes or other writings about your experience so that we can use them to inspire current and future programs undertaken by WHEC. By sharing experiences with volunteerism, good practices can be identified and new ideas and innovative approaches can emerge that will help make volunteerism for development more effective.

Volunteerism is a fundamental source of community strength and resilience that exists in all societies throughout the world. Volunteerism is expressed through a wide range of activities, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help, formal service delivery, campaigning and advocacy, as well as other forms of civic participation. The UN General Assembly defines volunteerism as undertaken of free will, for the general public good, and where monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor. Following the International Year of Volunteers in 2001, the UN General Assembly recognized that "volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at ... poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, disaster prevention and management, social integration and overcoming social exclusion and discrimination". And that volunteering, particularly at the community level will help to achieve the development goals and objectives set out in the UN Millennium Development Goals ....

No matter where you are based, how much time you have, or what kind of work you do, you can play an important role in promoting volunteerism for peace, health and development. With so many projects and programs in our network around the world, the possibilities for success are enormous. Please do whatever you can to continue supporting our collective mission of harnessing the vast potential of volunteerism to advance development and peace worldwide.

We wish you a great assignment with many positive results.

## United Nations At A Glance

### Botswana and the United Nations

MESSAGE BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CHARLES THEMBANI NTWAAGAE, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

I am delighted to welcome you to the first website of the Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations. Since Botswana joined the United Nations on 17 October 1966, this Mission has and continues to play a critical role in promoting and defending the national interests at the United Nations and its associated Councils. It was through this Mission that Botswana, in spite of its strategic vulnerability compounded by hostile geopolitical circumstances in Southern Africa from the 1960s to the '90s, asserted her principles of the right of every people to self-determination.

This is hardly surprising because as a small state Botswana has always attached great importance to the utility and instrumentality of the United Nations in the advancement of international peace and security as well as economic and social progress in the world. Botswana has always believed in peaceful resolution of disputes. The United Nations has, and continues to be a very important vehicle in that regard.

His Excellency Sir Seretse Khama, the first President of the Republic of Botswana, said this eloquently in his first address to the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 1969:

As a small poor country, we set particularly high value on our membership of the United Nations and those agencies which our budgetary restrictions have permitted us to join. I should like to emphasize the particular importance of the United Nations for states like Botswana which, because of development priorities, are obliged to restrict their bilateral contacts and keep their overseas missions to a bare minimum. Here in New York we can make contacts which would otherwise be difficult to achieve.

The United Nations has 192 Member States. This cosmopolitan community of nations work together to search for global consensus on the most pressing problems of our planet such as conflict, poverty, HIV/AIDS, terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, climate change, to mention but a few. Only the United Nations, due to its universality and legitimacy, can embark on this enterprise. Botswana must be ready, committed and proud to be part of this important task of building a more peaceful, just and prosperous world order.

The objective of this website is to give you, the visitor or the reader, an idea of purpose of this Mission - what it is doing and most importantly, what is happening at the United Nations. In this respect, we are happy to provide speeches of Botswana leaders from the 1960s to date. You will also find information about Botswana that is not necessarily related to the United Nations. That is how it should be, because this Mission is not just about the United Nations, but most fundamentally, it is about promoting the interests of Botswana abroad. Botswana is the land of the legendary Okavango Delta, the undulating sand dunes of the Kalahari Desert and it is home to unimaginable variety of wild life and fauna. It is our pleasant duty to let you know about these important places of interest of international acclaim and above all, the friendship and hospitality of the beautiful as well as peace-loving people of Botswana. Where we cannot provide such information we will always be happy to refer you to relevant websites that can help you in that regard.

Naturally, being the first website for this Mission, we will certainly count on your support and feedback to help us improve it further so that it could meet your interests and needs. This is *your website*. Together we can make it what it should be, so that citizens of Botswana and the world as a whole can, at the click of a mouse, access Botswana at the United

<http://www.botswanaun.org/>

## **Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)**

### **WHO | Botswana**

The second generation Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) for Botswana provides strategic guidance for WHO work at all three levels (country, region, HQ) for the period 2008 to 2013. The CCS has been informed by WHO global and regional strategic documents and orientations; key national documents such as the National Development Plan 9 (NDP 9), the National Health Policy and the Human Resources for Health Plan; the UN Country Cooperation Strategy; and UNDAF. Implementation is aligned to that of the WHO Strategic Framework 2008-2013.

The strategic agenda focuses on the following key areas:

1. Strengthening health systems, in particular supporting the development and revision of national health plans, policies and legislation as well as supporting their implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
2. Supporting the development and review of programme-specific implementation plans in all key health programmes to ensure that they address the real health needs of the country and are in line with international standards and best practices;
3. Strengthening health sector responses to HIV/AIDS towards universal access and sustaining the efforts;
4. Scaling up interventions for malaria prevention and control towards the goal for elimination;
5. Intensifying efforts for TB control in terms of expanding DOTS and minimizing the emergence of drug-resistant TB;

6. Ensuring coordination and collaboration among programmes—HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and sexual and reproductive health services;

Details: [http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation\\_strategy/ccs\\_bwa\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_bwa_en.pdf)

## WHO Reproductive Health Update

### Adolescent health – a priority for our future



In a key note address at a meeting of USAID's Interagency Youth Working Group, Dr. Marleen Temmerman, Director of WHO's Reproductive Health and Research Department, identified adolescent sexual and reproductive health as a priority health concern for the future and announced that the Human Reproduction (HRP) research would be building a portfolio of research projects. She extended a hand of collaboration to researchers, implementers and funders. HRP is seeking to build alliances with academic institutions, governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to take research evidence to policy and practice, and to identify relevant research issues.

[Watch video](#) | [Read more on adolescent health](#)

### Bulletin of the World Health Organization; Complete list of [contents](#) for Volume 91, Number 9, September, 621-715

### Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research) *Expert Series on Health Economics:*

#### Botswana as a Role Model for Country Success

I argue that the economic success of Botswana can be explained by the historical development of its institutions which is related to the trajectory of the Tswana states over the past 200 years. These institutions created a much more stable and accountable government than elsewhere in Africa after independence with the desire and incentive to adopt good economic policies. There are two main lessons from this experience. The first is how successful an African economy can become using simple orthodox well-understood policies. The second is that successful development in Africa will be helped by a focus on the development of state institutions. Though Botswana inherited different institutions from elsewhere, it also built on these, in particular trying to create a national identity and to continually modernize and adapt institutions. There are many lessons for other African countries from these policy choices.

To see in a practical way how these lessons are useful, consider the reconstruction of the state in Sierra Leone following the end of the civil war in 2002. One of the first initiatives the new government undertook with the support of the British was to reinstate chief-ship as the crucial local political institution. Chiefs in Sierra Leone are elected for life by an electoral college based on a franchise of taxpayers and have to be selected from a few 'ruling families' whose origins trace to the creation of indirect rule by the British. They have large powers in addition to their traditional roles in allocating land and custodians of customary law. For instance, they can command unpaid labour services and they play important roles in influencing national elections. The Botswana experience suggests that reinstating the powers and prerogatives of chiefs in Sierra Leone was almost certainly a mistake and impedes the ability of the country to construct the modern state which it so desperately needs.

The lesson here I think is that instead of focusing on policies or outcomes, reform should focus on the structure of state institutions and how they can be altered to form a national state. Some of this may clash

with other notions, such as the need to respect linguistic or cultural diversity. The experience of Botswana, and probably that of Europe historically, suggests however that such respect may come at the expense of political instability and conflict.

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*(Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>)*

## **United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)**

*The Effort to Advance the Global Strategy  
(Continued)*

### **Botswana**

Botswana is a landlocked country in southern Africa with a total population of approximately 1.8 million people. Since independence in 1966, Botswana has had a stable, democratic government, sound economic policies, and a strong education system. Primary Net enrolment rate is around 85% and girls' participation in primary school is almost equal to that of boys.

The challenge is improving learning outcomes and providing a gender-sensitive environment that encourages girls to stay in school. HIV/AIDS pandemic is the most devastating emergency in the nation's history.

### **Barriers to girls Education**

- Sexual violence is on the increase as a result of the lack of respect for girls among their peers and adult men.
- Orphans and child-headed households are on the increase. There are an estimated 65,000 children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic. It is estimated that a third of the children in Botswana will grow up without one or both parents.
- Social-cultural issues. Girls are consistently discriminated against as their education continues to be viewed as less important than boys'.
- Early Pregnancy results in girls dropping out of school before completing school

### **Key initiatives for girls' education**

- Girls and Boys Education Movement (G-BEM) has disseminated the findings of a child-led human interest project called Telling The Story (TTS) project to 100 children representing categories of children across Botswana; resulting into the development of child-friendly, gender-sensitive criteria for Botswana schools.
- The regionally developed GEM manual was contextualized into Botswana's G-BEM manual and was used to conduct the initial 40 G-BEM Training of Trainers (TOT).
- "Ring the Bell" project manual was revised and aligned to the Ministry of Education's curricular on Guidance and Counselling as well as HIV and AIDS.

### **Partnerships**

Ministry of Education, Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (BONEPWA), University of Botswana, young people, Girl Child Network, , Girls and Boys Education Movement (G/BEM), Community-based organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations in Ghanzi and Mahalapye.

## Girls' Education in Africa: What do we know about strategies that work? (2004)

*Working paper on successful strategies in improving girls' education in Africa*  
[http://www.ungei.org/infobycountry/files/girls\\_ed\\_Africa04\\_AFRHD.pdf](http://www.ungei.org/infobycountry/files/girls_ed_Africa04_AFRHD.pdf)

*To be continued.....*

### POINT OF VIEW

#### Nothing for us, Without us

Monday August 5, I attended the United Nations Headquarters, to participate in an interactive dialogue on UN youth initiatives, moderated by Ahmad Alhendawi. The main focus of the conference was to discuss the increasing role of youth in society. The conference room in New York was packed with youth, as young as 13. Along with domestic participants, youth from India, Belgium, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Brazil were present via Skype to ask questions and lend insight on issues they face. No issue was limited to one region, all were relevant to everyone. Although we seem very different, we all shared common concerns, needs, and ideas. "Nothing for us, Without us." One of the speakers used this quote and I thought it struck the nail squarely on the head. Every person present in the conference room was there because they felt that no discussion about youth should happen without youth.

The conference focused on two major topics, women parity and youth parity. I was surprised to discover a link between the two topics exists, and it is strong. The overlying message on both issues was the UN must lead by example. Therefore the UN must push for gender equality within itself, offering women higher roles. The UN must also become more accessible to younger people.

The youth of the world are facing their own problems that have commonalities with women. We have seen what happens when the youth doesn't have a voice, job, or future; they take to the streets. Today's youth has the ability to hold people accountable. Tweets have a lot of power. Yet, sitting in the New York conference room, many of the fellow attendees voiced concerns of being powerless and silenced. It is a scary time to be young. We all fear the world that is getting left for us to inherit. The world economy, global warming, and the interconnection of it all is overwhelming. The speakers at the conference challenged the doubt by arguing that the youth is more powerful than ever. They pointed to the Arab world as an example of change the youth can bring.

In respect to the economy, the speakers all agreed that the fear of lack of jobs for youth is valid. One speaker outlined his idea of concrete steps to solve the flat job market. He listed a series of seven steps he called the seven C's of youth employment policy:

1. Concrete, we're talking tangible gains and concepts;
2. Coordination, all the parts must work in a harmonious relationship;
3. Credit (finance), young people will need loans;
4. Competency, the youth must be capable of doing something successfully and efficiently;
5. Care, there must be support for those less fortunate;
6. Communication, the key to every good relationship. Conversations must be allowed to occur in a safer and more open environment than the streets;
7. Control, the cause of today's economy problems is due to lack of control over companies and money.

There is a long way to go until the youth can feel secure about jobs. Similar to the women equality, ideas of addressing the lack of jobs for youth are not enough. Execution is the key to solving the dilemma. The problems of youth and women seem completely unrelated, however, a tie exists. Women equality and the seven C's to resolving job deficiency cannot be achieved without education. Education is essential to giving women a voice and youth tools to solve problems. Along with education the steps must also be accompanied by action. The first step is having a discussion. The conversations began at the UN

headquarters on August 5th. Now it is time to turn ideas into reality. The youth has the tools to do so. Youth and women must participate in every part of the process.

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## Top Two-Articles Accessed in August 2013

1. Depression During Pregnancy;  
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsmd/obsmd016.php3>  
WHEC Publications. Special thanks to writers / editors for compiling the review. Gratitude is expressed to World Health Organization (WHO) and Perinatal Depression Information Network (PDIN) for the contributions.
2. Domestic Violence: Screening and Interventions;  
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/vaw/vaw012.php3>  
WHEC Publications. Special thanks to our reviewers for helpful suggestions. We thank our Advisory Board for the financial support for worldwide dissemination of educational information for the healthcare providers.

## From Editor's Desk

### Global Model United Nations (GMUN)

GMUN offers three unique innovations:

1. It uses Rules of Procedure that more closely represent how the United Nations functions.
2. It provides unparalleled access to UN officials and diplomats prior to and during the conference.
3. Each delegation representing a Member State is made of students from different countries

### Selection of GMUN Delegates

The Global Model United Nations conference aims to draw outstanding delegates from Model UN programmes around the world. To achieve this, the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) is inviting students to apply for positions as delegates to the 2011 GMUN conference as outlined below. Delegates can be: 1) selected by a Model UN programme they participated in during the 2010-2011 academic year or 2) may apply on an individual basis provided they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the call for applications.

Model UN programmes wishing to nominate delegates to GMUN 2011 must use the Form for Model UN programmes which can be downloaded from the Quick Links section on the home page.

Students applying as individuals must use the [Individual Application Form](#) also available in the Quick Links section on the home page.

The selection process is designed to ensure that the student delegates are selected through a fair and transparent process that is gender balanced and reflects the geographic diversity of the United Nations. All delegates chosen for Global Model United Nations conference must be at least 18 but not older than 26 years of age at the time of the conference, must be enrolled in a university during the 2010-2011 academic year and must have at least one prior Model UN experience.

## Position Paper Awards

Each delegate at the Global Model UN conference 2011 is required to submit a position paper on the Member State's position on the topic addressed in his/her respective committee. The position paper award is the only award given at GMUN in order to focus attention on the substantive issues addressed by the conference each year. The winners are presented with a special certificate by the United Nations Department of Public Information.

The United Nations Department of Public Information wishes to congratulate the five students who received this prestigious award at GMUN 2011:

- Mr. Nicholas Lochner (Australia) representing France (Disarmament and International Security) - read it [here](#)
- Mr. Dennis Egger (Switzerland) representing Republic of Korea (Economic and Financial) - read it [here](#)
- Ms. Lyra Dietrich (Philippines) representing Kyrgyzstan (Social, Cultural and Humanitarian) - read it [here](#)
- Mr. Patrick Desmond (Australia) representing Jordan (Special Political and Decolonization) - read it [here](#)
- Ms. Confidence Okezuruonye (Nigeria) representing the United Kingdom (Security Council)- read it [here](#)

Details: <http://www.un.org/gmun/>

## Words of Wisdom

Globalization is a fact of life. But I believe we have underestimated its fragility.

– Kofi Annan; 7<sup>th</sup> Secretary-General of the United Nations  
(In office 1 January 1997 – 31 December 2006)

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*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on  
the latest UN and NGO activities*

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/>

