



Annual Report

2019



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NOTE FROM CO-FOUNDERS

Today, we are one of the largest youth serving NGOs in Botswana. We dreamt it, but never imagined it would happen so quickly. We initially started with the goal of running a rigorous study to see if a successful program in Kenya would replicate in Botswana. Now we run rapid trials monthly and are transitioning two programs to scale, hand-in-hand with government.

This year, a few achievements stand out. First, we partnered with the National Service Program, a government-run scheme which deploys 15,000 youth in schools and clinics throughout the nation. Fifteen similar schemes exist across sub-Saharan Africa with over \$240 million annual investment, presenting an exciting scale model. Evidence shows that the messenger matters: young people are often most effective at delivering life-saving information to other young people. In 2014-2015 we ran one of the largest randomized trials demonstrating this effect. Harnessing government-run youth service schemes is a promising route to both high-impact and scale, and one we are pursuing.

Second, we're converging on a dual delivery model in partnership with government. We now have 'direct delivery' where we hire and train young people to pilot and pressure test programs and deliver them at grade-A quality. This enables us to (a) continually innovate, (b) rigorously adapt and test programming, (c) provide a north star for possible impact, (d) generate grassroots demand among communities who see the program working, (e) simplify delivery into a scalable package. We also have 'government-led' delivery where we hand off a codified, pressure-tested package to both the National Service Program and teachers and support delivery at scale. This is where impact can reach millions. So far, this dual delivery model is working.

Third, we ran over a dozen rapid trials this year, monthly. We've learned how to test our programs 10x faster and cheaper, and design iteratively, improving our programs with each new cycle of data that flows in. It's a fusion of some of best practices, including randomized controlled trials, A/B testing as used in the technology and business sector, and human-centered design. We've called it Rapid Impact Assessments.

Fourth, our team. We have grown to over 100 strong. Our offices, now decentralized across the country, are filled to the brim with the most remarkable, hard-working, motivated people on the planet. Of course, we admit we're biased. But it's true. This is the engine for the entire operation.

We hope you enjoy our Annual Report which provides a brief view of the last year, including a timeline of the last 5 years to mark our fifth birthday. It's been fun, lesson-filled, and impact-obsessed. Here's a glimpse of where we're headed: over the next decade, we aim to become one of the largest, highest impact NGOs in Africa. Millions of youth deserve to thrive and we won't rest until they do.

Noam Angrist
Co-Founder & Executive Director

Moitshepi Matsheng
Co-Founder & Country Coordinator

Note: This report is being sent out amidst the covid-19 global response. Read our response here: [adapting to the times, committed to the cause](#). In brief, in the short-term we are providing low-tech phone calls and texts to beneficiaries, launched a national radio show, are running a rapid evaluation and will share lessons with governments. This will enable us maintain trust with the communities we serve, sustain a world-class workforce, strengthen our partnerships, and generate real-time evidence, so in the long-term we can rebound from the crisis and 'build back better.'

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Mission

Connecting youth to proven life-saving information.

What we do

We translate rigorous research into high-impact health and education programs delivered by young people for young people.

OUR FOOTPRINT



FAST FACTS

2 Programs

Health and Education evidence based programs



+68K Students Reached

Over 68000 students reached with proven life-saving information



556 Schools

Primary and Secondary schools in Botswana



13 Technical Working Groups

13 scalable partnerships



329 Facilitators Trained

Innovators for impact



134 Staff Members

To connect youth to proven life-saving information



OUR REACH



REGIONS IN BOTSWANA

- South-East
- Kweneng
- Southern
- Kgatleng
- Ghanzi
- Chobe
- Central

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4

Zones

Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL)

It has been 5 years since the rollout of our inaugural anti-sugar daddies program. This 1-hour intervention warning girls of risks associated with “sugar daddies” was inspired by evidence taken from a previous randomized trial in Kenya that showed a 28% reduction in teen pregnancies after a similar intervention. Since then, our anti-sugar daddies program has evolved into Zones - a more targeted, effective intervention encouraging youth to safely date age-mates while making informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. If this shift occurs, girls would shift from dating older partners with a 25%-45% HIV rate to dating younger partners with only a 5% HIV rate.

Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) focuses on basic literacy and numeracy. The program was pioneered by Pratham in India and proven to work through multiple randomized trials conducted by J-PAL. The TaRL approach evaluates student proficiency using a 1-page assessment tool and then groups students according to their learning level instead of age or grade. After re-grouping students, youth facilitators use fun, level-tailored activities during a 30-day after school class. Teaching students at their ability level rather than at grade level curriculum is shown to be one of the most cost-effective interventions at improving basic literacy and numeracy.



#JustKeepItSafe



#EveryChildCan

#Ngwanamongwelemongweonalebokgoni

BUILDING A YOUTH MOVEMENT

“ Our first anti-sugar daddies program started with building a robust team to reach a third of schools in the whole country. It was important to tighten operations and build a recruitment-at-scale system that will absorb passionate and uniquely gifted facilitators and surveyors. With expanding to a second program, TaRL, we have cumulatively recruited and trained over 400+ Batswana youth, who are young professionals in various fields, and some belonging to the National Service Program. I am most proud of building a talented team who are experts in training, facilitation and research.”

Moitshepi Matsheng

Country Coordinator & Co-Founder



Our Values



Youth First

Everything we do is by the youth for the youth. We listen to and put young people first in all that we do.



Truth

We don't aim to feel good, we aim to do good. It is not about ego, it is about impact.



Greatest Good

We aim to do the most good we can possibly do. We optimize for the greatest net impact for the greatest number of people.



Deliver

We practice what we preach. We relentlessly do. We value outcomes over inputs. It's not about engaging in an activity, it is about doing something with a meaningful outcome.



+

We are obsessed with adding value. We don't aim to displace value and obtain credit, we aim to create real impact. We work hard, and our work is hard. Staying, optimistic and remaining positive (+) is paramount.

Memory lane...



Launch date: March 22nd 2014



Young love on national television: Our team appeared on Silent Shout, a youth television show on BTv



First grant: D-Prize - Girls Education Challenge



Co-Founders: 2 Fulbright scholars: Noam Angrist & Brenda Duverce and University of Botswana students: Moitshepi Matsheng & Unami Moatswi



Office: Shared one cubicle amongst 8 team members at the University of Botswana

OUR JOURNEY

The Founding

March 22nd 2014 marked the launch of Young1ove during the Month of Youth Against HIV/AIDS.

2014

We conducted a randomized trial of our first program, an anti-sugar daddies program, reaching 42,000 youth in a third of the country and trained peer educators and guidance and counseling teachers to deliver the intervention.

The Evaluation

2015

A year later we went back to all 343 schools in our randomized trial to measure our impact on dropouts and teen pregnancy.

Visited over 500 girls at their households who had dropped out of school to hear their stories and understand the risks associated with dating sugar daddies.

The Pivot

Early results and analysis of the anti-sugar daddies program:

- What worked - reduced teenage pregnancy
- Mixed results - peer educators more effective than teachers.
- What didn't work: sugar daddies were younger than we thought.

2016

1,000 youth reached through new country pilots in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

We launched a local Advisory Forum – a sustainable high-level structure to ensure we are responsive to regional & government priorities.

Program Portfolio Expansion

Incorporated wealth of evidence from Botswana and Kenya trials into the development of the anti-sugar daddies program version 2.0.

2017

Added a second program Teaching at The Right Level (TaRL), a learner-focused remedial education intervention designed to improve student learning in literacy and numeracy. TaRL is developed by Pratham in India and tested rigorously by J-PAL for 15+ years across 6 randomized trials.

We then verified the conditions on the ground, conducting an assessment with all Standard 5 students in Chobe and Kgatleng. The results were striking: over 85% could not do division and were not at grade level.

Building Partnerships

2018

Signed an MoU with the Ministry of Basic Education to scale to scale evidence-based programming to schools across the nation.

Launched the Young 1ove Board and Executive Committee.

Rapid Innovation

Piloted the anti-sugar daddies program version 2.0 and started to test short-term impact using an innovative testing and adapting methodology: Rapid Impact Assessments.

2019

Botswana positioned as the Teaching at the Right Level Innovation Hub, building strong partnerships and innovating with TaRL implementers with the goal to contribute to the global learning agenda and scale-up effort.

Published a subset of results with a full set forthcoming on the BMC Public Health journal; Revealing a safer sex option to reduce HIV risk: a cluster-randomized trial in Botswana.

ZONES



The Challenge

45% of forty-year-old men in Botswana have HIV, with similarly high rates across East and Southern Africa.

90% of young girls think these older partners are "safe and mature" opting for relationships with them unaware of the risks of older partners.

The Solution

The Zones program, busts the myth that older partners are safer via a 90 minute class delivered by dynamic peer educators. The program empowers young people to make healthy and safer relationship choices.

The Supporting Evidence

Two clustered randomized trials show that by revealing the relative risks of intergenerational relationships reduced teenage pregnancy in both Kenya and Botswana. We are improving the Zones program and testing short-term impact using an innovative methodology: Rapid Impact Assessments (RIAs).



Iterative design process: Rapid Impact Assessments (RIAs)

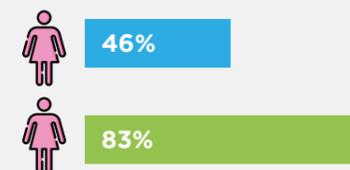
RIAs fuse best practices across product design, impact evaluations and A/B testing methodologies used in the technology sector.

We have conducted eight RIAs in an effort to understand which program features are critical to ensure impact as we encourage students to choose schoolmates over older partners to reduce their risk of HIV.



ZONES

Results



83% of youth can identify safe strategies for reducing HIV (an increase from 46% at the beginning of 2019)



Youth are three times more likely to have visited a clinic or counselor for testing, condoms or additional information on sex in the past two weeks.



Youth are half as likely to engage in risk-seeking behavior such as kissing or dating older partners.



96% of youth identify older partners as a riskier age group.

Student Pledge

I pledge to focus on my studies and say no to older partners when they try to force me to date them and have sexual activities. From the story I heard, I will like to only date my schoolmates who have dreams as I, who knows what he wants and who can encourage and respect my wishes rather than involving in early sexual activities.

- Student -

What's Next? Looking Forward to 2020

- Continuing the RIA Process:** Building on the success of our RIA process, we will continue to test evidence-informed innovations to improve our sexual health programming.
- New Country Pilots:** We are developing partnerships with a variety of implementers in Southern Africa to expand our programming and support youth throughout the region to make healthy, informed decisions on dating and relationships.
- Links to Services:** To accompany our core program, we plan to provide youth with information to access critical public health services such as STI testing and guidance on Botswana's age of consent laws.
- Measuring long term impact:** We will examine our long-term impact on HIV/STIs as well as pregnancy.

TEACHING AT THE RIGHT LEVEL



The Challenge

Students worldwide are sitting in classrooms but are not learning. In Botswana, 90% of standard 5 students cannot do basic division, and two-fifths cannot read a simple story, performing worse than regional neighbors. National data shows a majority of students are below grade level and do not acquire basic numeracy and literacy skills.

The Solution

Teaching at Right Level is a learner focused and 30-hour education program designed to ensure every child in Botswana achieves basic literacy and numeracy. TaRL is developed by Pratham in India and tested rigorously by J-PAL and affiliated researchers for 15+ years across 6 randomized trials.

Expanding Government-led Implementation

TaRL is being scaled in Botswana using two implementation models:



A government-led model that equips teachers and the national youth service program to implement the program and serves as a sustainable model for national scale.



A direct-delivery model that equips Young Love youth educators to implement the program and serves as a site for program innovation and testing.

This year, we expanded the government-led implementation model to three regions and trained over 100 national youth service participants to deliver TaRL.

TEACHING AT THE RIGHT LEVEL

Becoming an Innovation Hub: Learning and sharing in Botswana and beyond

In scaling TaRL, Young Love has joined a continental-wide effort to improve student learning through an evidence-based education approach.

TaRL Africa Innovation Hub

Young Love is working closely with Pratham, JPAL, and their collective TaRL Africa to document and share program innovations that improve TaRL's impact in Botswana and support other countries to adapt and scale TaRL throughout Africa.

Real-time Scaling Lab

In partnership with the Center for Universal Education, Young Love and the Ministry of Basic Education have launched a Botswana Real-time Scaling Lab (RtSL) to document the process of scaling TaRL nationally as it unfolds in real-time. This partnership positions our TaRL efforts to contribute to global education scaling efforts.

Results

We continue to see astounding learning outcomes, even as we expand the program to more and more schools. On average, after receiving 30-hours of TaRL lessons:



89%

Learned a New Operation



40%



4%

Decrease in Innumeracy
Can not operate numbers



7%

55%

Increase in Numeracy
Can add, subtract, multiply & divide

What's Next? Looking forward to 2020 and Beyond

We are rapidly innovating, building and growing our program systems and operations. We are preparing for 2020, a year of tremendous growth.



Path to national scale

We plan to expand TaRL to 5 regions in 2022 and to primary schools in Botswana by 2023.



Rapid innovation, learning, and sharing

As we grow, we will continue to learn. In 2020, we are launching A/B tests - a rapid approach to learning that will help us identify program innovations that ensure we continue to improve student learning as we expand and scale.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

MARCH

Young 1ove's 5th Anniversary



During the Month of Youth Against HIV/AIDS, Young 1ove celebrated its 5th year! The theme on this anniversary was to share our values with our stakeholder and Young 1ove friends.

AUGUST

Sharing Evidence with Partners

Young 1ove, together with the Botswana Baylor Children's Center of Excellence and the University of Botswana disseminated the findings of the 'anti-sugar daddies' study which was published in the BMC Public Health, a peer reviewed journal.

SEPTEMBER

Botswana STI and AIDS Conference Presentation



Our Program Coordinator for the health program, Zones, was in Francistown to present the Zones programs findings at the STI and AIDS conference which is held annually. The presentation gave insights on the program, its curriculum, and early findings.

SEPTEMBER

TaRL International Training



Young 1ove was honoured to co-host the TaRL learning journey and workshop with TaRL in September. The 1 day learning journey provided an opportunity for participants to see TaRL in action and to create a platform for participants to interact and share ideas. The 8 day workshop brought together organizations and individuals interested in implementing the TaRL approach in their context.

Moitshepi Matsheng announced as Botswana National Youth Council Chairperson



Moitshepi Matsheng, has been appointed by the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development to Chair the Botswana National Youth Council. She is the first woman to hold this seat, and we are excited for her and wish her the absolute success as she leads the country's youth development agenda.

NOVEMBER

Eswatini scoping visit



Our Zones Program Coordinator, Training Manager, and Country Coordinator visited eSwatini to conduct sensitisation meetings with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. They had the opportunity to visit schools and meet with the Founder and the Program Officer of Super Buddies. Their visit is another positive milestone for the organisation as we continue to scale and push through for the breakthrough.

PAL Network and India Trip



Our Executive Director and Training Manager represented Young 1ove at the PAL Network conference that took place in Kathmandu, Nepal. The theme of the conference was 'Ensuring all children learn: lessons on inclusion and equity from the South'. Following the trip in Nepal, they visited the Pratham organisation in India to see the roots of TaRL and various models of implementation. [Read blog](#)



Simon Coles
Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Basic Education

Our partnerships are essential for scale and sustainability. We maintain an active presence in existing government, multilateral and strategic coordinating mechanisms.

PARTNERSHIPS TO SCALE



National Service Program

We partnered with the National Service Program, a government-run scheme which deploys 15,000 youth in schools and clinics throughout the nation. To date, we are working with the youth scheme as a promising route to both high-impact and scale, and one we are pursuing.

Technical Working Groups

We hold a seat in various platforms for action namely; the Global Fund Adolescent and Young People Constituency, Adolescent and Young People Coordinating structure, National Strategic Framework III Adolescent Girls and Young Women Thematic Group, Ministerial Commitment on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people in Eastern and Southern African (ESA) Technical Working Group, DREAMS Technical Working Group, UNICEF Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Campaign Coordinating Structure.

Our Board

Our Board members in Botswana and the US have continued to play a pivotal role in providing support and strategic direction to our growth. We are deeply grateful to Gabatshwane Tsayang, Owen Pansiri, Charles Birungi, Norma Altshuler, Kirk Friedrich and Paul Youn.

TaRL Scaling Lab Committee



Through the strengthened partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Brookings Institution, this structure convenes education players in the country and is chaired by the Director of Education. We are playing an important role in converging education leaders in the country and documenting the scaling process in real time.

Government Ministries in Botswana



Young Love has continued to work closely with the Ministry of Basic Education to reach every school and learners in the country, and the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development to train over 400+ youth enrolled in the National Service Programme.

Advisory Forum

In August, our Advisory Forum had its 4th Annual Meeting. This sustainable high-level structure has representatives from; Ministry of Basic Education, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Culture Development, UN Women, PEPFAR, BERA, University of Botswana, Botho University and NAHPA.

UNICEF, TaRL Africa and PAL network Collaboration



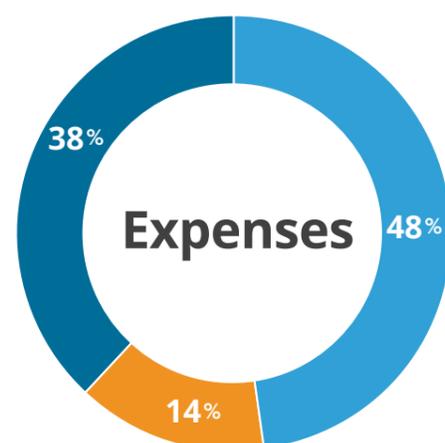
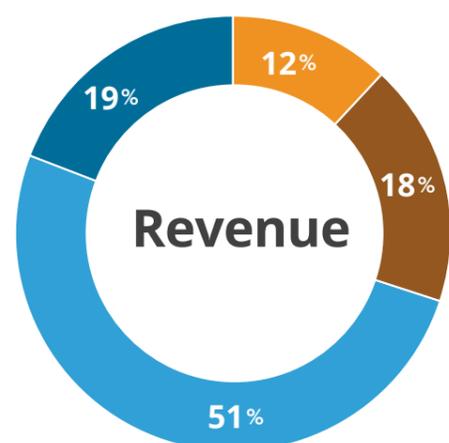
Our collaboration with UNICEF, Pratham, J-PAL, the PAL Network has been on-going for the past two years. We have signed a Letter of Agreement with J-PAL and Pratham to collaborate on the Botswana scale-up over the next five years and to build an Innovation Hub in Southern Africa that will be catalytic for the broader TaRL scale-up effort across Africa.

PARTNERS



DOUGLAS B. MARSHALL, JR.
FAMILY FOUNDATION





- Foundations
- Government
- Retail & Other Fundraising
- Multi-literal & Development Agencies

- Education Program - Teaching at The Right Level
- Health Program - Zones
- Management & General Support

BUDGET	Amount
Annual Budget - December 2018	852,668
Annual Budget - December 2019	1,063,628
Growth in Annual budget	25%

Our Future

- Reach **One Million** Youth in East and Southern Africa enabling them to thrive.
- Emerge as a global thought partner on how to connect evidence with action.
- Integrate, work and scale in partnership with government.



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 **Young love**

Connecting youth with proven life-saving information