



**Queen's Project on
International Development**

Mid-Summer Report

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Introduction

This year QPID has eight interns working on projects in Botswana, Nunavut and India. I have had the unique opportunity of following the professional, personal, and travel experiences of these incredible interns and am thrilled to share their insights with you!

In India, interns Adrienne and Jenna have taken on a new partnership with VIDYA. VIDYA is a charitable organization that specializes in the education and empowerment of less-privileged children, youth and women. Their nationally-recognized programs include schools, remedial education, computer training, adult literacy, skills training, microfinance and social entrepreneurship. Adrienne and Jenna have been working in the head office on a variety of tasks including writing grant proposals and systemizing data.

In Nunavut, we continue to partner with the Hamlet of Arviat where interns Tara and Megan run a cost-free summer camp for children. The camp aims to provide a healthy and safe summer recreational alternative for a community that has a high proportion of children and teenagers.

In Botswana, QPID has continued to partner with Travel for Impact (TFI), an organization which joins forces with the tourism industry to put an affordable portion of their income straight back into community projects. Oussama and Ana's main task with TFI has been documenting the impact the partner NGOs have on Maun's civil society. They have also been working with Bana Ba Letsatsi (BBL) to implement a holiday sports program that benefits orphans and vulnerable children.

Also in Botswana, Nika and Kaitlyn have taken on a new partnership with the Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS). MAWS aims to improve the welfare of domestic animals across Botswana. Kaitlyn and Nika have been visiting local schools to educate children on the importance of animal welfare.

On behalf of QPID, I would like to thank all of our supporters, donors, advisors, members, family, and friends. QPID is strongly rooted in a belief in collaboration with others and we wouldn't be where we are today without you. Thank you!

Julie Foster – 2016 Summer Director

A great shot from Ana, our intern in Botswana!



About QPID

What We Do:

QPID is a student-run organization that has operated since 1990. We host a variety of initiatives on campus, in Kingston, and abroad focused on raising awareness on development. On campus we host weekly forums which bring students together to discuss international development topics. We also host Five Days for Homelessness, a campaign where students sleep outside to increase awareness about homelessness in Canada and raise money for the Kingston Youth Shelter. In Kingston, we host international development workshops for high school students, as well as a conference. Furthermore, each summer we send students to partake in international development projects abroad!

Summer Projects:

In cooperation with host partners, QPID sends students on summer projects that provide an encouraging environment for development in marginalized communities. QPID works on mutually beneficial projects that are desired by the community and have the capacity to make long term contributions to quality of life. We believe that providing student knowledge and skill-sets is most valuable when accompanied by cross-cultural learning and reciprocity between QPID cooperants and their host communities. Through this exchange, cooperants gain an appreciation for the complexities of development and the importance of active global and local citizenship.

Our Guiding Principles:

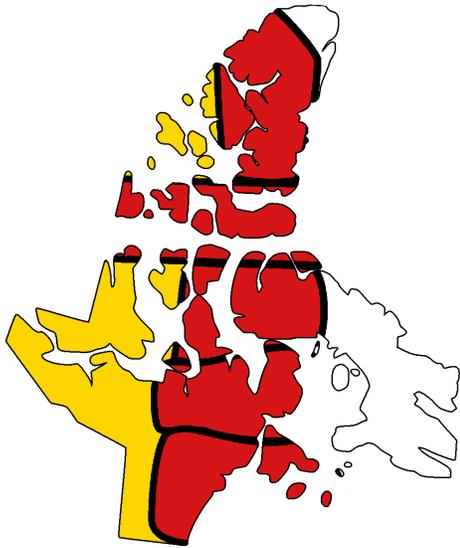
- ★ **Translating our Beliefs into Action:** Central to our beliefs is the notion that small contributions can make a meaningful difference. We seek to have long-term impacts by applying student knowledge, creativity, and enthusiasm to our Canadian and international projects.
- ★ **Promoting Social and Environmental Responsibility:** In all our efforts, QPID is guided by values of justice, equality, and ecological sustainability. This applies to all aspects of our daily operations, campaigns, and summer projects.
- ★ **Valuing Diversity:** Effecting change requires that we respect all points of view. Although QPID has a long history within the Queen's Engineering Society, we have developed an interdisciplinary approach that includes education, gender issues, health, technology, and the environment as important aspects of development. We value diversity in opportunities, perspectives, and our membership.
- ★ **Remaining Student-Run and Volunteer-Driven:** QPID is committed to providing students with opportunities for experiential learning in development-related work and activism. While we are student-run, we do maintain a high degree of professionalism, transparency, and accountability.
- ★ **Being Reflective and Responsive:** QPID strives for rigorous self-evaluation. Through a dynamic and critical approach, we can better adapt to the challenges we face as an organization.

Project Regions



India Profile

India has a population of over 1.2 billion people. The capital city is New Delhi and the largest city is Mumbai. The main languages in India are Hindi and English. In 1991, India became one of the fastest-growing major economies and is now considered a newly industrialized country. However, poverty, corruption, malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, and terrorism all present challenges to life in India.



Nunavut Profile

Nunavut has a population of approximately 31,906. The capital city is Iqaluit and the official languages are Inuit, English, and French. Nunavut is the largest northernmost, and newest territory of Canada. It has the youngest population in Canada with a median age of 23.1. The region has supported an indigenous population for over 4000 years. Nunavut is supported largely by diesel fuel to run generators and heat homes. Therefore, the government and communities are making an effort to use more renewable energy sources because they are largely feeling the effects of global warming, through hunting, thinning of ice, and the erosion of permafrost.



Botswana Profile

Botswana has a population of just over 2 million. The capital city is Gaborone and the major languages are English and Setswana. Botswana has experienced rapid economic growth and stable democratization over the past few decades. This success has grown from traditional and democratic cultures coming together to develop a flourishing society. However, due to being classed as a “middle income” country, Botswana has suffered from essential donors withdrawing their financial support in order to help countries recognized as “low income.”

India

with Adrienne Fanjoy and Jenna Scheske

Namaste from Delhi! Our names are Adrienne and Jenna, and we have had an amazing time in India this past month. From working with VIDYA to exploring India's rich history, we have done a lot of learning over the past few weeks.

Interning at VIDYA has made our time in Delhi purposeful and educational. VIDYA's leaders are an incredible group of people who are fighting for every child's right to an education community by community. They have expanded the organization to include women's empowerment services through both vocational training and English conversation lessons. We have been working in VIDYA's head office, located on the top floor of their most successful project, the VIDYA School Gurgaon. As interns we provide much needed administrative support in the head office, thereby giving us the chance to learn about all of VIDYA Delhi's programs as well as learn about the intricacies and day-to-day tasks of running an NGO. On a typical workday we write and design newsletters and promotional material, systemize data, write grants and proposals, and help with general marketing tasks. Our biggest challenge so far has been navigating the vast amount of data that VIDYA, a 30-year-old organization, has amassed. We have learned that NGOs often deal with frequent staff and volunteer turnover that can result in data being misfiled, and so we are working to create a master database.

Adrienne and Jenna's first week of work



Visiting the Taj Mahal!





Visiting a wildlife sanctuary in Agra!



Adrienne and Jenna with the founder of VIDYA, Rashmi Misra!

Working in the head office of a large national NGO has afforded us some perspective on what is necessary to run a large-scale organization. While global volunteer work is often sensationalized in popular media, we have learned that much of development work is sustained by operating like a business. Many of the top volunteers work full-time with no pay, and the programs they run depend not only on their passion but on their long-term dedication and reliability. From a student's perspective, we have also learned that doing global development work does not disqualify you from enjoying your host country. To make yourself a martyr simply because you are doing development work is to deny the beauty and success of the country you're living in, and to reduce it to its failures. Outside of work we have tried to see what else makes India such a complex country.

We have spent our weekends exploring – sometimes within Delhi, as well as in Agra and Jodhpur. In the coming weeks we hope to visit Jaipur, Varanasi, Jaisalmer, and a Hill Station. Many of our adventures have taught us about different types of development work in India. In Agra, we visited a wildlife sanctuary that rescued elephants from street begging and circuses. Also, they provided jobs at the centre for people who had previously relied on their elephants for income, therefore ending a cycle that profited off of animal exploitation. In Jodhpur, we visited two different shops which focused on ethical business practices. One, Sambhali Trust, teaches women vocational and creative skills and then sells their products in a boutique. The other was a cooperative in a small village that makes rugs with traditional looms. Once a rug is sold, the profit is split amongst the fifty artisans in the cooperative. In Delhi, even our new friends are running businesses that push towards a more progressive India.

Our internship in Delhi has thus far been an amazing experience and we hope that we have been of help to our host NGO. While we expected this experience to change how we felt about India, NGOs, and development work, we didn't expect to feel so confident in ourselves and in the work we are doing. We are so excited to continue our adventures! This next month will be filled with meeting new people, seeing new places, and having wonderful new experiences. Thanks for reading about our summer so far!

Nunavut

with Tara McDonald and Megan Lucarelli

We have been in Arviat, Nunavut for approximately one month now. Although we are outsiders here in almost every sense, the people in Arviat have been incredibly welcoming towards us. The strong sense of community in every facet of daily life has left us feeling very much at home, and we are both looking forward to the continuation of the Hamlet of Arviat's Youth Summer Camp for the next month.

75% of Arviat's population is under 25 years old, which means that the Hamlet's population is going to grow exponentially in the next few generations. We have been told time and again that Arviat is one of Nunavut's most culturally intact communities. For example, almost every child's first language is Inuktitut, many families rely on Inuit hunting knowledge to provide their main source of protein, and local artisan's actively study and master antler and soap stone carving techniques. It is needless to say that future generations have a very strong and unique culture to look forward to in Arviat. At the same time, just like every other community in the world, Arviat faces its own relative challenges.

The dominant message we have received from the community is that there is "nothing to do" in Arviat. As such, there is a great need for increased youth programming that will successfully interest and engage youth. This has been the goal of the Hamlet's Youth Summer Camp, which we have been coordinating alongside two local teenagers. The cost-free camp aims to provide a healthy, safe, and fun environment for children ages 7-13 and allows them to connect with and build relationships with older youth in the community that demonstrate leadership qualities.





Camp has been an amazing experience so far, full of lessons, challenges and rewards. The 14 counselors we hired to work with us this summer are an amazing group of kids. Quick to invite us out to join them on summer excursions and always ready with an anecdote of their lives, we have truly created some friends that will last long after we leave this town. Within our working environment some cultural differences between the North and the South have made themselves known. As students from the South, we seem to have a different concept of work commitment than many of our counsellors. In response, we have hired more counsellors in order to ensure there will be enough people at camp to properly supervise children every day. We are pleased with this solution as it has created more opportunities for employment for youth in the community.

It has been expressed to us by the counsellors that many of the children who have been enrolled in our program come from a difficult home life. Their behaviour at camp often mirrors this upbringing and materializes in disobedient behaviour the counsellors find difficult to deal with. Dealing with this has been one of the main challenges we have faced and yet we feel we have found another positive solution. We realized that the campers respond much better to kind words and reason than punishment. Each time counsellors need to handle a situation they tell the child how great they are, and ask why they are making camp less enjoyable for the other kids rather than punish them. This has worked surprisingly well and the kid's general behaviour at camp has improved, a step that we are both proud of.

Arviat has affirmed the conception of development work we held before visiting. We believed that this trip would be an opportunity to bring our skills to others, and to learn from those we would interact with. Through our actions we wanted to help the kids here develop their own leadership and problem solving skills and we believe we have done that in part. We sincerely hope that by the end of the summer our counsellors will have more self-confidence and will have created strong ties between themselves and their campers that will last into the future, helping to deepen the relationships between people in the community. We have also learned a lot from the community during our time here. On a very human level we have learned to laugh even when things are harder than one can cope with, to love even when that love is not returned and to live with an understanding of the hearts connection to the world around it. Development work is a give and take and in the best of situations all parties benefit equally.

Botswana

with Oussama Hefnawi

Dumela from Botswana! For the past month and a half, I have been staying in Maun which means I am already half way done my internship. Despite my short time here, I've had the privilege to experience local foods, gatherings and indescribable scenery.

The work has been a continuous learning path which has allowed me to work with organizations that would not be possible in a classroom setting. Ana Mejicano and I have been working with Travel for Impact (TFI). TFI aims to bridge the gap between the tourism industry and civil society organizations. We have also worked closely with Bana Ba Letsatsi (BBL) which is an organization that serves to be a child rehabilitation centre for orphans and vulnerable children in Maun, offering counselling, mentoring, and support services.

During our time here, Ana and I have started a Facebook page called Humans of Maun which profiles people from several local organizations who have a positive impact on the community or people that have benefited from them. I have also started a sports program at BBL which aims to provide all the children with equal opportunity to be physically active and stay healthy.

Myself, and 3 other interns were also lucky enough to have visited the Magkhadikhadi Salt Pans and the Okavango Delta and plan to visit the Victoria Falls, Chobe National park and Cape Town for the rest of our stay here. From the lovely people who greet me as if they have known me forever to the incredible art work I get exposed to everyday, it's safe to say, my time here has been nothing short of amazing.

Oussama cooking pap (thick polenta), a local food.



The Botswana team taking their first steps in Maun!



Botswana

with Ana Mejicano

Dumla lotlhe! Hello everyone!

This is Ana – your (almost) 3rd year Global Development Studies major and Travel for Impact intern in Maun, Botswana, for summer 2016.

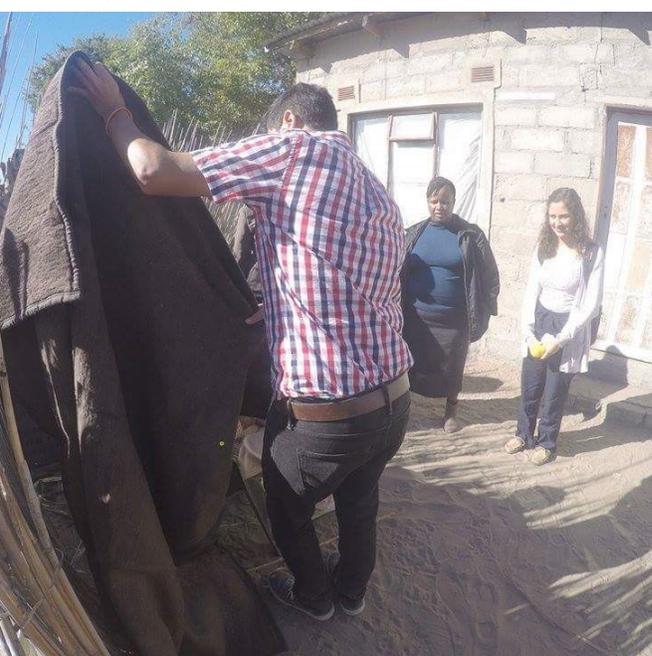
It's very hard to believe that I'm just a little over half way through my internship and the trip of a life time! Botswana is such a charming place. To me, its beauty rests on the confidence of its people, its incredible wildlife, its vast blue skies and indescribable sunsets. I am forever grateful and consider myself so, very, lucky to have been granted the opportunity to be here.

Maun is a wonderful place for all who enjoy nature and a relaxed life style. People have been so kind and welcoming and talking to them has taught me so much about Botswana, the world, and has even made me re-discover many aspects of myself I had forgotten were there.

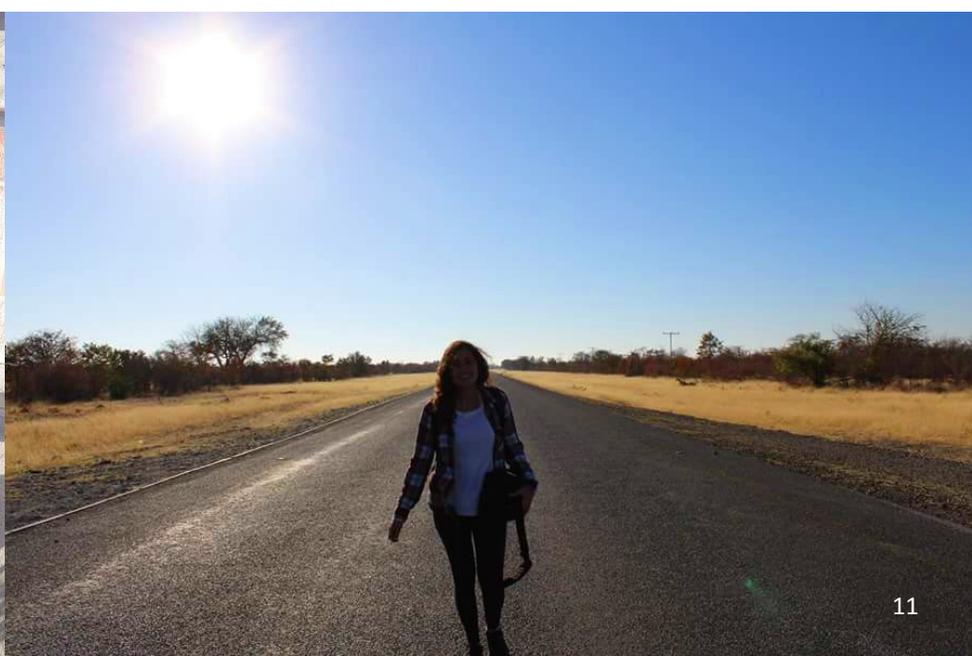
For the past month and a half, working at Travel for Impact has enriched me professionally in innumerable ways. My main task here has been to develop creative ways to document the impact that our partner NGOs have on Maun's civil society in order to increase their exposure. To do this, I've learned to be become very careful in not making a spectacle out of people's misery and in staying away from encouraging external action and aid through pity. I have come to approach my task merely with the intention of celebrating the lives of people that have been positively changed with the help of TFI's partner NGOs. Due to the nature of my task at TFI, I have also had the opportunity to be an active listener in many conversations that happen within Maun, which has helped me gain such a better understanding of Setswana culture, and what development entails for the people of Maun.

My personal goal for this internship was to turn more of my "half-baked thoughts" on development into "full-blown pastries" based on personal experience. I'm almost there. This internship has allowed me to form my own opinions, and to decipher how it is that I can best put my knowledge and skills to work in order to make this world a better place.

Ana helping to distribute blankets to seniors around Maun.



Enjoying the beautiful Maun sun!



Botswana

with Kaitlyn Gillelan and Nika Elmi

Since working with Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) we have been lucky enough to collaborate in creating a very interactive and engaging curriculum on animal welfare. Our curriculum has been incredibly well received by all the schools we have presented at. Both faculty members and locals within the community have expressed the need for an education outreach dealing with animal welfare. We are happy that we have been able to assist on this project and look forward to watching the program grow!

Every morning we start our day off bright and early at the Place of Joy Preschool. As soon as we arrive, we are always eagerly greeted by a group of excited kids in their bright blue uniforms. Since we are working with children between the ages of 2-6, we have turned a large bulk of our curriculum into songs. Although we often find ourselves humming the exact same song for countless hours, the kids keep requesting new ones so it seems to be an effective method so far! As for the afternoons, we go to Bana Ba Letsatsi, a school and rehabilitation centre for orphans and vulnerable children. The age group here is a bit older, 7-16 year olds, so we're able to venture more into the academic aspect of things. We've recently begun collaborating with two new schools: Love Botswana, and Delta Waters. Some of these schools even have their own animal welfare extracurricular clubs, so we hope to work more with them to try to arrange a field trip to the MAWS clinic for better exposure of what the clinic does.

Overall, we've received very positive encouragement and feedback from the schools. The teachers have even requested for us to modify the program into a comprehensive curriculum binder. This way, the schools can continue on with the program, even when we leave.

Meet our new friend Charlie!



Meet Kenny! For the last month he has been coming into the schools with us as a friend, teacher, and translator.





An action shot of us doing the MAWS presentation at Modisa.

In other news, we were able to spend a week at the Modisa Wildlife Project in the Kalahari! Most of the work we do with MAWS is with domestic animals, so going to Modisa gave us a taste of wildlife conservation efforts in Maun. What they wanted in exchange was a presentation about MAWS and our education program. Modisa in itself was incredible. We were part of a group of 13 youth from around Europe, and were able to learn tons about sustainability, what lion conservation really means, and all about Serga. Who is Serga, you ask? Serga was a hand raised lion who lived right next to us on camp. Him and Val, the owner, have this incredibly special bond that we were able to witness. Whenever Val walks into her cage, she jumps right on him and they roll around together. Turns out, a video of them actually went viral on Facebook, so that was cool to hear, too.

All the experiences we've had have contributed in unexpected ways to our life in Maun. It's easy to get discouraged when standing against the giant of an obstacle that is development, or in our case animal welfare. Just walking in the streets everyday we often see numerous street dogs and stray animals that look a bit too skinny, but then we get to come home to the clinic and watch 20 dogs get neutered in one day. We know the vets are doing their job by providing the free sterilizations, and now we get to do our jobs by pursuing community outreach and working with the kids. We've been told countless times that animal welfare and animal education is something that just hasn't been offered in the community. We hope that introducing it now will be worthwhile, even if it means educating one or two groups about rabies and how to protect yourself. We're learning just as much as we're teaching here, and we hope that this program continues to have an impact and create more positive relationships with animals. All in all, these past few months have flown by, and we couldn't have asked for a better internship. *Ke a leboga, everyone!*

“The girls have helped the kids in improving not only their English speaking skills, but their confidence too. The lessons are something the kids look forward too.” - Teacher at Place of Joy

Sponsors

QPID is incredibly grateful to all of our donors and sponsors that make our summer projects possible:

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