

### **Tquii Xu Yani (TXY) project in Kang**

TXY is a Basarwa initiative supported by the Kang Brigade. The Basarwa or San remain the most removed from the norm in terms of social development in Botswana. They exhibit the lowest levels of literacy, high levels of unemployment, high levels of poverty, alcoholism and sexually transmitted illnesses. As a group, the Basarwa have historically been marginalised and underdeveloped until recently. The capacities to develop and the potential for reliable employment have always been low due to their low status in society and the harshness of their locations. This notwithstanding, the Basarwa of Kang with technical and financial support from Skillshare International invested in providing opportunities for development through the Tquii Xu Yani project. With more than one hundred members, it is currently the premier Basarwa project in Kang. Thus far the project is running a pre-school with an enrolment of thirty nine children which also provides one nutritious meal per day per child. A vegetable garden has been established, water borehole drilled and the farm is being fenced. Two pre-school teachers have been trained and are employed.

The Kang Brigade/TXY and Skillshare International partnership is going through a metamorphosis as the local resident partner organisation has had relational problems with TXY. The partners have charted a way forward by engaging members in activities consistent with plan. Issues of HIV and AIDS are being discussed with members of the community as part of the project. There are marked differences of outlook between generations and sexes of particular generations. The younger male members are vocal, positive and play a lead role, while the older female members of the group are less vocal but stable and committed. The younger women have a strong resolve to see the project succeed but have to deal with anxieties of unemployment and the challenges brought on by poverty. Skillshare International is committed to placing a development worker directly in TXY to give further impetus to the project.

TXY has enjoyed direct funding support from Comic Relief facilitated by KSI, DFID and the Canada Fund. They have benefited from the technical expertise of capacity building provided by Skillshare International. Skillshare International's partner organisation who manages the funds, Kang Brigades, has benefited from the expertise of the development worker while TXY also derives indirect benefits from this placement.