Hi Roger,

Thanks very much for your interest in learning more about this opportunity with Help Lesotho.

Help Lesotho is an Ottawa-based NGO that was founded by a former University of Ottawa professor, Dr. Peg Herbert, who has a background in educational psychology. Help Lesotho is now in its 13th year and we reach between 15-20,000 vulnerable children and youth with our education, psychosocial support, and leadership development programs every year.

I feel that I should start by explaining that we do not have a fully formed idea at this point. As Bob mentioned, we are currently delivering teacher training to primary and secondary teachers in Lesotho. Our training is outside of the formal curriculum, and instead is focused on life skills training and support. For example, we are running a training this coming weekend for 50 teachers where the main focus is helping the teachers understand their position as role models to their students. Many teachers in Lesotho are not formally trained, and they lack the ‘connection skills’ with their students. Most classrooms are still teacher-focused (and to a somewhat extreme level where students are scared of their teachers and often experience corporal punishment).

Going forward, Help Lesotho is planning to scale up our teacher training program. We are hoping to build a partnership with the Ministry of Education so Help Lesotho can be the primary life skills trainer in Lesotho. This is likely to take several years, given the current political challenges Lesotho is experiencing.

We are interested in exploring what partnerships might be possible with Canadian teacher associations, and we greatly appreciate Bob helping make introductions such as this!

Would you like some more substantial information about Help Lesotho as an organization before your meeting? Or is this enough for a preliminary discussion?

Thank you!

Kate

Kate Lambert

Program Manager

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