



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SHORT STORY

April 2014

Household economic strengthening motivates young people in Lesotho

One day in November 2013, 16-year-old Thabelang Linyoloha from Tholang village in Thaba Tseka, Lesotho, returned home excited. He had just earned 200 maluti (\$20) from selling his products at an art exhibition showcasing his work and art produced by several other children.

Since the death of his father, Thabelang and his mother have been struggling financially to meet their needs. It has always been his desire to “grow up to assist my mother in raising my siblings.” Driven by this passion, Thabelang earned a space to attend a craft training conducted by local civil society organization Phelisanang Bophelong HIV Support Center (PB). Following the training, Thabelang worked hard to enhance his newly-acquired skills and produce hand crafts to sell. He has worked on materials including flower pots, fabric-painted tablecloths, and traditional Basotho hats and mats. Although the field was challenging for him, he persisted in pursuing his goal of earning money for his family and continued to produce art, decorating his home with his handiwork. This dedication and practice enhanced his creativity, and he gradually improved.

In collaboration with Lesotho’s Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, PB hosted an exhibition for five of the children in their program to display their products at the Ha Mahlong Resource Center on November 22, 2013.

Thabelang’s products attracted attention at the exhibition. He stated, “The money I have made today might seem small, but it has motivated me a lot. If in one day I can make 200 maluti [\$20], I believe if I work harder and perfect my skills, next time I will make a lot of money. I am thankful to PB for the training and to the organizers of today’s event; I am happy because now people in neighboring villages know about my products and they will come to me whenever they need them.” He shared, “As a result of the training I received from PB last year, crafts have become my passion.”

**All quotes translated from Sesotho*



Thabelang Linyoloha (left) and his brother Thabelo (right)

Phelisanang Bophelong HIV Support Center (PB) is one of seven civil society organizations supported by the USAID-funded Building Local Capacity for Delivery of HIV Services in Southern Africa Project (BLC) in Lesotho. PB provides household economic strengthening services to more than 800 beneficiaries through training in handicrafts and village savings and lending groups.

BLC’s household economic strengthening services are an array of interventions that reduce economic vulnerability among poor households, empowering them to provide for the basic needs of the family and become self-sustaining.

For more information contact:

Building Local Capacity Project (Lesotho)

1st Floor, NBC Sechaba House, Alliance Park
Four Bowker Road
Maseru, Lesotho (Next to Maseru Toyota)
Tel: +266 22 316 096
blcsouthernafrica@msh.org; www.msh.org

Building Local Capacity Project (Regional Office)

Ditsela Place
1204 Park Street (Cnr Park and Jan Shoba Streets)
Hatfield, Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27 12 364 0400; Fax: +27 12 364 0416

Access BLC publications online:
www.hivsharespace.net/collection/blc



This publication is made possible by the generous support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement GPO-A-00-05-00024-00. The contents are the responsibility of The Building Local Capacity for Delivery of HIV Services in Southern Africa Project and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.