

ICT Committee Draft Proposal

(Later to be significantly expanded into the official committee charter)

Peace Corps Lesotho



Revision: 28 January 2014

Mission

The Lesotho ICT Committee (acronym- LTC) will be a body of volunteers and HCN (Host Country National) liaisons that will provide formal assistance and relevant knowledge in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and HCNs. Members of the LTC will strive to provide a central resource for aiding and assisting the sustainable development of ICT skills while also providing technical assistance to those who request it.

Goals, Aspirations, & Activities

- Promote and stress the importance of basic computer literacy to HCNs
- Provide relevant and specialized support in the field of ICT
- Provide consulting for PCVs and HCNs
- Produce documentation for the implementation of various skills or procedures related to ICT
- Stay up-to-date on current technology trends relevant to Lesotho
- Explore ways to maintain a central repository of information on an organized digital platform
- Provide training and resources to PC staff, PCVs, and HCNs
- Construct tutorials and how-to documents that can be distributed to interested parties
- Actively pursue secondary projects with Basotho in regards to ICT
- Assist in pre-service training for all areas related to ICT (mobile phones, VRF, anti-virus, etc)
- Development of a comprehensive plan to assist Basotho with computer and data security; using external resources if possible
- Assure, with staff input, that all technology initiatives and activities conform to Peace Corps Headquarters policies and initiatives.

Rationale

The modern world has been rapidly becoming more integrated and dependent on ICT since the early 1990s. Now, more than ever, it is essential for all developing nations to not get left behind. Governments, business, classrooms, utilities, and social communication all have some component of ICT as part of their operation.

Lesotho is in a good position in that it has an expanding high-speed data network provided by Vodacom and Econet. They have effectively leap-frogged the need to build costly ground-based infrastructure in order to have broadband access to the internet.

“Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”
- Mattie Stepanek

With proper guidance, training, and implementation; the people of Lesotho can take full advantage of the knowledge and educational value the internet can provide.

The formation of this committee will have a focus on providing any and all types of ICT assistance to PCVs and Basotho alike in order to realize this reality.

Local Partnerships

LTC members will actively facilitate relationships with interested HCNs to provide them with technical resources, training, and assistance. Youth centers, schools, and businesses can be points of contacts. The PCV will determine the best course of outreach based on their discretion and geographic location.

Membership & Officer Duties

During the initial formation of the committee, any interested members will be accepted. At some point an election will be held to determine officers. At this time, the proposed officer positions are Chairperson, Sustainability Coordinator, Administrative Secretary, and Basotho Liaison

Chairperson – The chairperson is the head of the committee and will have responsibilities that include, but aren't limited to: delegation of committee resources, planning and coordination of trainings, management of knowledge repositories, and oversight of the committee in general.

Sustainability Coordinator – The sustainability coordinator is responsible for aiding and assisting with the chair's duties. In addition, the sustainability coordinator is to be an integral part of the development and maintenance of all knowledge repositories implemented by the committee. The sustainability coordinator is to fill in for the president if he/she is unable to do so.

Administrative Secretary – The secretary is in charge of compiling and recording the minutes from each meeting. Their other primary task is the distribution of materials to PC staff, PCTs, PCVs, and Basotho.

Basotho Liaison – The Basotho Liaison is a flexible officer position in which one or more HCNs can occupy. The main responsibility is to act as a bridge to discuss the concerns or needs of the overall Basotho community. They also serve as the chief Basotho liaison to assist the committee with communicating the goals, ideas, and projects to HCNs.

Staff Liaison – The ITS will be the Staff Liaison. He/she will participate in the 3 annual meetings and be available to provide guidance and support to the committee.

Meetings

LTC will meet tri-annually. The officers will commission an agenda prior to the meeting with points to be discussed.

The first informal meeting will be held the week of February 15th, 2014 in Hlotse, Leribe to lay the foundation of the group's structure, ideals, and outlook.