


## Connecting Communities from Barcelona to Dukwi – A Year-Round Commitment

# Impact Report

Botswana Mission April 2025

american school OF BARCELONA

# Table of Contents


1 Introduction, Executive summary & Our story so far

2 Pre-Mission projects: building the bridge

3 Mission delegation 2025

4 Gaborone: diplomacy, partnerships & learning

5 Dukwi Refugee Camp: a deepening partnership

6 Stipends for sustainablity & Monitoring growth

7 Conclusion: This Is Only the Begining




# Impact Figures

**12**
Mission merbers

**4**
Monthly stipends granted

**4th**
Annual Mission to Botswana

**4**
Leadership workshops

**3**
After-school programs launched

**300**
Devices connected via Starlink internet

**400+**
Books donated

**$2,800**
Raised for Dukwi students' first cultural outing

# Introduction

## A LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY:

Dear ASB Community,

We are proud to share the outcomes of ASB's 4th mission to Botswana—a project that is more than a once-a-year journey. It is a year-round, living partnership between our school, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Botswana, the Dukwi Refugee Camp, and communities in Gaborone.

Since our return from the April 2024 mission, our commitment hasn't paused—it's evolved, deepened, and grown stronger. The success of our 2025 mission was built on the work done months in advance: student-led collaborations, cultural exchanges, creative fundraising, and hands-on planning that connected classrooms and hearts across continents.

What makes this partnership truly unique in the world is its sustained nature, its foundation in mutual respect, and the student ownership that drives it all forward.

Thank your for reading the report and for your continuous support.

**Marta Vernet Yll**
**Director of the Mission**
Head of Activities and Community Service

## WHAT IMPACT MEANS TO US – THE ASB WAY

An Impact Report is ASB's way of communicating the challenges we aim to address and the transformative role our students play in creating meaningful change.

It highlights not only what we do, but how and why we do it—through a student-led strategy rooted in empathy, partnership, and action.

This report measures the real-world impact our initiatives have on people's lives, focusing on social outcomes rather than just activities.

It goes beyond storytelling; it offers insight into how our efforts evolve into sustainable relationships, empowered communities, and deeper global understanding.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, ASB's Botswana Mission engaged 10 students and 3 educators, launched 3 after-school programs, installed Starlink internet for 300 devices, and empowered local leaders — demonstrating our year-round commitment to community-driven impact.






# Our Story So Far

## OUR MISSION

At The American School of Barcelona, we believe in education that extends beyond the classroom—fostering global citizens who are compassionate, curious, and committed to making a difference.

Our mission in Botswana is a living example of that vision.
Through a year-round, student-led partnership with the Dukwi Refugee Camp, the Ministry of Justice, and local communities, ASB empowers students to co-create sustainable, respectful, and impactful change.

This mission is not a one-time trip—it's an evolving, reciprocal relationship rooted in empathy, collaboration, and deep intercultural learning.

In Botswana, ASB students become leaders, listeners, and learners, using their creativity and initiative to support education, technology access, youth empowerment, and community well-being. By doing so, they not only shape lives abroad—but transform their own.

## OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of ASB's mission in Botswana is to foster meaningful, student-led impact through long-term partnerships that promote education, empowerment, and equity.

By connecting with communities in Dukwi and Gaborone, our aim is to learn with and from others, support local initiatives, and co-create sustainable change—while helping students grow as empathetic, active global citizens.

"From tote bags to tech hubs, our students aren't just learning about the world—they're changing it."

# A Living Partnership

**Year-Round Commitment**
A sustained partnership between ASB, Ministry of Justice, Dukwi Refugee Camp, and Gaborone communities





**Student-Led Collaborations**
Cultural exchanges and creative fundraising initiatives driven by students

**Hands-On Planning**
Connecting classrooms and hearts across continents through thoughtful preparation





**Mutual Respect**
Foundation built on respect and student ownership that drives the partnership forward

# PRE-MISSION PROJECTS: BUILDING THE BRIDGE

These two projects were the heart of our pre-mission efforts, carried out in Barcelona and Dukwi. They turned anticipation into action—and planted the seeds of meaninful relationships.

### "**Meet the Artist" – Art with Purpose**

When the opportunity arose to fund the first-ever cultural excursion for Dukwi Primary School students to Gaborone, we knew this could be more than just a fundraiser—it could be a shared act of creativity and empowerment.

- Dukwi students became artists, drawing the Big Five of Africa
- ASB 5th graders connected with them in online interviews, exchanging stories and insights.
- The artwork became African-inspired tote bags, sold by ASB students in a beautifully coordinated campaign.
- Over $2,800 USD were raised, fully funding transportation, museum visits, and a wildlife park adventure.

What began as a need became an unforgettable co-created experience. These children didn't just receive—they participated, created, and connected.

1

"Meet the Artist"

2

"Games Around the World"

### "**Games Around the World" – A Book by 6th Grade**

Between February and March 2025, ASB 6th graders, created a book of traditional games from their own cultures.

- The games were played by Dukwi Primary students during the mission.
- Ilana, one of our mission participants, facilitated an interactive session using the book.

Copies were gifted to the school, turning fun and play into shared cultural storytelling.

# Mission Delegation

**10**

Students

**Eila Alegre**
**Martina Escriva**
**Finny Loftus**
**Nina Jansen**
**Ilana Pardo**
**Caetano Castillo**
**Seth Anwar**
**Max Koscienly**
**Sergio Romagnoli**
**Arseni Korytko**

**2**

Educators

**Marta Vernet**
Director of the Mission

**Javier Caparrós**
Teacher & Workshop Leader



# Gaborone: Diplomacy, Partnerships & Learning

**European Union Delegation**
The EU Delegation represents the European Union in Botswana and promotes diplomacy, development cooperation, education, and human rights across the region.

**Ministry of Justice (Botswana)**
The Ministry oversees legal affairs and refugee protection in Botswana, working to ensure human rights and support for displaced communities.

**SOS Children's Village**
An international nonprofit organization that provides long-term care, education, and family-based support for children without parental care.

## 1

### Meeting with the European Union Delegation

Students presented their projects to:

- Mr. Dionyz Hochel, Head of Political, Press & Information
- Ms. Samantha Refilwe Pilane, Press & Information Officer

The EU Delegation praised ASB's approach, calling it "true global learning in action."

## 2

### Ministry of Justice Reception

Held at Mokolodi Mountains, the dinner included:

- Mr. Majaha, Director of Refugee Affairs, who honored ASB as "the Ministry's strongest international partner."
- Informal follow-up meeting with Ms. Gloria Lethaltage, a key government voice for human rights, who spent time with our team, reflecting our deepening diplomatic ties.

## 3

### SOS Children's Village

Led by Mr. Aobakwe Malejane, the team explored sustainable care practices and proposed a new program:

- Oracy & Debate Club – Centered around a student named Carlson, now mentoring others through debate.
- ASB committed to year-long mentorship and resources.

# Dukwi Refugee Camp:
## a deepening partnership

Stepping into Dukwi felt like returning home. The excitement, warmth, and trust from the community was tangible. This year's mission focused on four core pillars

1

After School Program Launch

Robotics, Sports, and Art initiatives

2

Cyber Cafe Library

First in Dukwi!

3

Starlink Internet Installation

High-speed connectivity

4

Leadership & Empowerment Workshops

Skills development

# DUKWI REFUGEE CAMP:

## After-School Program: Robotics

- **Equipment Provided**
  - Laptops, robotics kits, and a comprehensive training course for Mr. Sena - robotics teacher in Dukwi - to ensure sustainability.
- **Ongoing Mentorship**
  - Continuous guidance provided by ASB students Ilana, Seth, and Arseni to support the program.
- **Hands-On Workshop**
  - Interactive robotics workshop delivered directly in Dukwi Primary School to engage students with technology.

**1**

After-School Program Launch

## After-School Program: Sports

The sports program, led by Caetano and Nina alongside Coach Mungele, provided **12 soccer balls, cones, floor ladders, hula hoops, and 20 sweatshirts** specifically for the girls' team, promoting inclusive athletic development.

**"50+ Dukwi students regularly attend weekly Robotics, Sports, and Art sessions**

## After-School Program: Art

- Resource Provision
  - 2 full suitcases of art supplies were delivered to Dukwi Primary School, providing essential materials for creative expression.
- Workshop Delivery
  - Interactive art sessions conducted by Max, Eila, and Finny alongside Teacher Joyce, introducing new techniques and creative approaches.
- Sustainable Implementation
  - Training and resources provided to ensure the art program continues throughout the year, fostering ongoing creative development.





DUKWI REFUGEE CAMP:

## 2. Cyber Café Library – First in Dukwi!

A cozy, modern space for learning and connection, featuring:

- **Comfortable Reading Space**
  - 3 Sofas, carpet, and pillows create a welcoming environment for reading and learning
- **Learning Resources**
  - 400+ books and board games provide educational materials and entertainment options
- **Student Leadership**
  - Martina and Sergio led the setup and decoration, creating a space that feels both functional and inviting

**Over 1800 residents have accessed the Cyber Café since opening**

2

Cyber Café Library – First in Dukwi!

## 3. Starlink Internet Installation

Thanks to Arseni's initiative and leadership, Dukwi now has a new and reliable, high-speed internet. This milestone unlocks new possibilities for education, communication, and connection across the camp.

3

Starlink Internet Installation

300

**Device Capacity**
High-speed connectivity supporting up to 300 devices simultaneously

12

**Months Funded**
Full-year subscription completely funded to ensure continuous connectivity

650

**Monthly Cost (Pula)**
Ongoing subscription maintained through dedicated funding


16



DUKWI REFUGEE CAMP:

## 4. Leadership & Empowerment Workshops

ASB students and educators led a series of leadership and empowerment workshops designed to spark dialogue, build confidence, and support community growth in Dukwi.

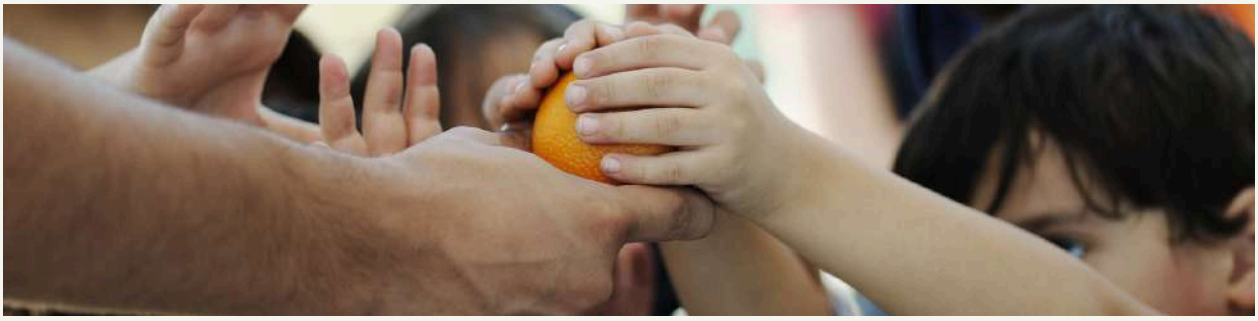
Each workshop focused on a key theme and was tailored to different groups—youth, women, and children—through interactive, student-led sessions.

| WORKSHOP | AUDIENCE | FACILITATORS |
|---|---|---|
| Emotional Intelligence | Youth club leaders | Javier Caparrós |
| Entrepreneurship | Cyber Café youth team | Marta Vernet & Sergio Romagnoli |
| Gratitude | Women's Forum Association | Martina & Finny (Program by Eloise) |
| Games Around the World | Primary School students | Ilana & Ms. Laia |

4

Leadership & Empowerment Workshops

**Leadership & Empowerment Workshops trained 60+ youth and women leaders.**




- WHAT ARE EMOTIONS
- WHAT IS EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
- WHY IS EI IMPORTANT?
- LETSILE
- MINTHAME
- CONSCIOUS LEADERSHIP
BOSS
LEADER
- LOVE IN LEADERSHIP


- WHAT ARE EMOTIONS
- WHAT IS EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
- WHY IS EI IMPORTANT?
- LETSILE
- MINTHAME
- CONSCIOUS LEADERSHIP

# End of Mission Celebration

The mission concluded with a joyful and emotional farewell at Dukwi Camp, where students, children, families, and elders came together to celebrate.

There was music, dancing, balloons, and sweet treats—cookies, chocolates, and juice—creating a festive atmosphere full of laughter and connection.

This was more than a goodbye; it was a symbolic celebration of unity, shared growth, and the deep relationships formed throughout the journey.



Sustainability is central to ASB's mission in Dukwi. Monthly stipends of 600 Pula (≈ €40) support 4 refugee-community leaders who ensure robotics, art, sports, and the cyber cafe-library year-round—reinforcing local ownership and community capacity.

## STIPENDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

| PROGRAM | RECIPIENTYS | PURPOSE |
|---|---|---|
| Robotics | Mr. Sena | Program delivery, materials |
| Art | Teacher Joyce | Year-long continuity |
| Sports | Coach Mungele | Weekly coaching sessions |
| Cyber Café | Youth Team | Supplies, maintenance |

**300**

Starlink supports 300 connected devices

**600**

Pula per month / per person

**€40 x 4 = €160**

**4**

Stipends support local leaders

## MONITORING, GROWTH & COLLABORATION

Under Ms. Marta Vernet's leadership, the partnership continues through:

- Regular check-ins with Camp Commander Ms. Masego Mmphare.
- Strategic communication with Mr. Ralph Majaha and Ms. Thobo Lethaltage
- Ongoing student collaborations with Mr. Sena, using a service-learning approach

A next-phase vision: Design and sponsor a recreational area for children and families in Dukwi

# This Is Only the Beginning

**We didn't say goodbye—we said see you soon.**

This partnership is transformational—an educational model that doesn't just teach students about the world, but empowers them to shape it.

From tote bags to tech hubs, debates to dances, this is a story we co-create every day.

Do you want to know the best part? We're just beginning.

With gratitude and vision,

**The ASB 2025 Botswana Delegation**



"Thank you for believing in us, walking beside us, and helping turn compassion into lasting change."

**The American School of Barcelona**
Carrer de Jaume Balmes, 7, 08950
Esplugues de Llobregat, Barcelona

asbarcelona.com
933 71 40 16