

ROOFTOPS CANADA

Climate Change Edition



WOMEN'S SPACES PROJECT UPDATES

COP28 DUBAI

»»» At the end of November, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP28 will commence in Dubai. COP28 will be a milestone event where the world takes stock of its progress on the Paris Agreement. The first Global Stocktake will provide a comprehensive assessment of the progress made to date and create opportunities for nations to align their efforts on climate action. This will include measures that will need to be put in place to continue achieving the goals set out in the Paris Agreement.

In light of COP28 and the magnitude of the need to create a global transformative climate action plan, we have dedicated this Newsletter as the Climate Change Edition. As an NGO working with partners in the global south, we have seen firsthand that climate change has the greatest impact on the people that have contributed the least to global warming. Our current program, the Women's Spaces Project and our future projects will continue to collaborate with host countries in reducing the impact of climate change and adapting to the changes that have already occurred.



#GIVINGTUESDAY

➤➤➤ We are excited to announce that Rooftops Canada will be participating in #GivingTuesday on November 28th. #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the power of social media to raise awareness and funds for important causes.

On this #GivingTuesday, we are raising funds for our Women's Spaces Project. With the assistance of our partners in Angola, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, we are helping women to attain equal rights to use and control land, housing and related resources. This will enable women to better provide for their families and respond to challenges such as gender-based violence, health emergencies, climate change and political upheaval.

We hope you will join us in supporting our work by giving generously!
To donate go to rooftops.ca/donate

➤➤➤ FOOD INSECURITY AND WORLD HUNGER

It is deplorable that, in 2023, 783 million people globally do not have enough food to eat and more than 40 million people in 51 countries are at 'emergency' levels of hunger. The consequences of diets low in calories and poor in vitamins, minerals and other nutrients, affects the health and life prospects of millions more people casting a shadow over the future of communities and entire countries.

It is a misconception that there is not enough food to feed everyone on the planet. Challenges in feeding the world stem from a multitude of factors including conflict, climate change, disasters, and structural poverty and inequality. The socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated global hunger, pushing millions of vulnerable people in greater food insecurity and driving up the costs of food.

Kenya is one of the many countries facing high levels of food insecurity. Among its population of 48.5 million, 35.6% of their citizens live on less than US\$1.90 a day. The past decade has led to positive economic growth and the government prioritized food and nutrition security but this increased national wealth has not benefited all Kenyans equally. Over one third of the population still lives under the international poverty line and social, economic and gender disparities remain.

Rooftops Canada is working with the Mazingira Institute in Kenya to combat food insecurity by providing training related to farming practices, growing nutritious food and rearing animals. This program builds the knowledge and skills required by women to establish their own businesses, achieve stable incomes and feed their families. The support from our donors has been critical to enabling Rooftops to work with the Mazingira Institute to assist many women and families in the community but more work is still needed.



PARTNER UPDATES

»»» ANGOLA (DWA)

DWA held a forum to discuss the creation of a municipal system to address women's issues related to land use rights and management. Participants included government officials such as the Secretary of State of Housing and the Secretary of State of National Territory. Participants shared knowledge and discussed actions they could take to support changes to land use rights. Forums like these are vital for the Women's Space Project. In enables Rooftops Canada and DWA, along with other stakeholders to understand the experiences of those within the community to create viable solutions.

»»» KENYA (MAZINGIRA INSTITUTE)

Mazingira Institute participated in the Nairobi International Trade Fair which focused on promoting climate-state agriculture and trade innovations for sustainable economic growth. The Mazingira Institute demonstrated innovative urban agriculture practices. Many of farmers and recent trainees from the Women's Spaces Project showcased their value-added products, including peanut butter, bio-slurry, avocado oil, briquettes, and dried kale. The Trade Fair was an important venue for trainees to promote their products and network with others who were interested in buying the products or learning how to make them themselves.

RUTH KAMAU (PROJECT PARTICIPANT IN KENYA)



“Opportunities come to those who are prepared”

Ruth has managed to turn her backyard into a prosperous agriculture business earning her KES20,000 (\$183CAD) per month! Not only does she grow vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, and keep poultry and rabbits, she also produces flavoured probiotic yogurt. In 2019 she founded a probiotic yogurt-making company, Frizel Dairyland, certified by the Kenya Bureau of Standards. The company's vision lies in providing affordable healthy probiotic yogurt in her country.

MIRIAM (PROJECT PARTICIPANT IN KENYA)



Miriam attended the GUAFS training held last February by Mazingira Institute. After learning about animal feed formulation, she began to make her own nutritious chicken feed. Her chickens are now producing more eggs that generate income and feed her family.

“Although I used to dislike farming, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic taught me otherwise. I have learned to appreciate farming. It is a good source of income and anyone who wishes can make money through it.” – Miriam

➤➤➤ SOUTH AFRICA (SERI)

The Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI), held a community training and consultation on succession for those living in state-subsidized housing communities and residents of informal settlements. The main issue discussed with participants was that of intestate and testate succession. In South Africa, an intestate succession of a child's share is determined by dividing the estate by the number of surviving children of the deceased and the number of spouses. Unfortunately, female heirs are not guaranteed to inherit estates and face eviction. Addressing this women's rights issue is a very complex matter.



➤➤➤ UGANDA (SSA)

Over the past few weeks, SSA has hosted radio talk shows where paralegals presented vital information to the public to inform them of interventions related to the land and inheritance rights of women. Uganda has implemented laws that protect women by allowing them to access, own and control land however, the changes to the laws are not widely known or understood. The radio talk shows were a very effective way of reaching broader audiences and informing women of their rights.



ROOFTOPS' YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YPS)

Our YPs are volunteers with a passion for international development and women's issues. We currently have two such volunteers – one working in Kenya and the other in Uganda. While working with our partners, the YPs are acquiring vital skills that will benefit both their host organizations and their future careers. Here are some of their stories about their overseas experiences.

>>> SARAH

My experience with Mazingira Institute in Kenya has been very fruitful. The team here is great at letting me explore my ideas, while also providing the right amount of support and collaboration. They also highly value providing me with a holistic experience where I can learn and grow during my short time here. I have attended a variety of local events that provide me with a greater understanding of the culture in Kenya. This allows me to do a better job and develop skills and knowledge that will benefit me in my future career.



>>> CAROLYN

At the end of September I created and conducted a workshop on women's rights to housing. The experience of preparing a workshop really built my confidence. I think sometimes as women, we are led to believe that we need to avoid talking too much and expressing our thoughts. Being able to prepare a training session has shown me that I have important things to share and I am capable of being a professional leader! And, if anyone out there wonders whether they should move or travel to Uganda, my advice would be, DO IT! People here are so nice, and it is not hard to make genuine friends you can celebrate with.



Rooftops Canada will be looking for new YPs to start in early 2024. If you know someone who may be interested in this amazing experience, look out for our YP recruitment postings on our website [Rooftops.ca](https://www.rooftops.ca) or contact us directly at info@rooftops.ca