

ROOFTOPS CANADA

Building Homes and Communities



WOMEN'S SPACES PROJECT UPDATES

**LAND
RIGHTS ARE
HUMAN
RIGHTS**

»»» INTRODUCING OUR UPDATE NEWSLETTER

We are excited to introduce this first issue of our new Rooftops Newsletter, which will provide important information about our project, share experiences of our participants and provide news from our volunteers working overseas.

OVERVIEW «««

Time flies! The Women's Spaces Project is already in its second year of operation. With the assistance of our partners in Angola, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, we have helped 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.

**WITH LAND RIGHTS,
WOMEN GO FROM
BEING PROPERTY TO
OWNING PROPERTY**

UPDATES FROM THE PARTNERS

ANGOLA, KENYA, SOUTH AFRICA & UGANDA

»»» ANGOLA (DWA)

DWA continues to publish their monthly community newsletter, Ondaka. Ondaka informs its viewership of roughly 1,000 individuals on gender equality and the challenges women face in their communities regarding housing and land rights. Stories range from the Women's Spaces Project to gender-based violence that is often related to power imbalances and inequitable housing rights.

DWA is currently creating a video of their women's empowerment and education training. We look forward to sharing this video with you once it is completed.

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT: SUSAN MUGURE

Susan attended the February Gender, Urban Agriculture and Food System training. By teaching Susan, the rest of her farming group and community is able to benefit from urban agriculture technologies and grow vegetables that are organic and healthy.



“Me and my family and neighbourhood have been selling them. So I have increased my production by farming fresh vegetables”

»»» KENYA

On August 14th, the Mazingira Institute kicked off their 7-day Gender, Urban Agriculture and Food System training. The program was held in collaboration with Nairobi City County to train urban farmers on practices and techniques to enhance their farming. The hands-on workshops included crop production and management, and the of making organic liquid fertilizer, which contribute to healthier and nutrient rich soil and crops. Other topics included livestock production management, domestic value-adding food processing and urban agriculture products marketing.



»»» KENYA CONTINUED..

Discussions on policy and governance aspects of gender, urban agriculture and food systems led to further discussion about the cultural roles played by men and women and some of the negative consequences associated with commonly held beliefs. For example, agriculture is generally viewed as a manly, dirty and physical profession and not appropriate for women. Through education and women's empowerment initiatives, the goal is to promote the inclusion of women in all professions and sectors.

»»» UGANDA

SSA has been busy working with paralegals in four districts: Kamuli, Kayunga, Mityana and Entebbe. A new office for the paralegals was opened in August to provide supports to community members who experience violations to their housing rights and educate community leaders on the Ugandan laws pertaining to those rights. For example, the belief that female children cannot inherit is a commonly held but inaccurate belief.

In August, SSA participated in the Municipal Development Forum which is comprised of leaders from various sectors including education, business, and transportation along with the Ministry of Housing. Their goal was to address urban planning issues effecting their communities. SSA presented the Women's Spaces Project highlighting the importance of housing as a basic human right.

ROOFTOPS NEW BOARD MEMBER



Rooftops is pleased to welcome a new board member this month, Jaclyn Johnston. Jaclyn has over 10 years' experience in governance support with a background specializing in property, financial and contract management. She has been employed by Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF) as the Atlantic Regional Co-ordinator for the past three years. Through her employment she has been supporting initiatives that foster the understanding, awareness and learning of co-operative housing development and growth. This work includes alternative governance models that enhance scale and sustainability among members and the sector. She is a supporter of continual learning through workshops, formal education and shared experiences and holds a Bachelors of Business from Mount Saint Vincent University and a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute. Welcome Jaclyn!

