

»»» YOUNG PROFESSIONAL UPDATES «««

EXPERIENCES WORKING WITH THE WOMEN'S SPACES PROJECT



CAROLYN: UGANDA

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM (MDF)

»»» I had the opportunity to attend three MDF meetings in Entebbe, Mityana, and Kamuli. The MDFs consist of leaders from various sectors (education, business, and transportation) discussing various urban planning issues effecting their communities. The Ministry presented their vision for urban development in Uganda, focusing on sustainable land use,

affordable housing, and overall organized urban development, including improved development urban infrastructure such as waste disposal systems, roads, and hydro. They plan to achieve these goals by focusing on tasks from the ground up, liaising with community groups such as MDF's to find sustainable solutions from local citizens.



Rooftops Canada
Abri International

➤➤➤ MDF CONTINUED..

I had the opportunity to gain valuable insight into the urban development problems within the community, including weak infrastructure, waste management, affordable housing (etc.). Currently, many areas in Uganda, especially in informal settlements lack basic infrastructure such as adequate roads, electricity and running water. Waste disposal is another issue. Garbage pickup is currently a private industry, requiring households to pay out of pocket. For many who can't afford the added cost, they dump their garbage in marshes and ravines, leading to environmental degradation, disease, and flooding. This is a complex issue, with MDF continuing to look for solutions that fit their community. One solution of interest, advocating to all levels of government through meetings and position papers.

KAYUNGA MUNICIPALITY

In the Kayunga Municipality, a mother died without a will. After meeting with local leaders, her sons decided to claim her land for themselves, while allowing their sisters to take household objects, including clothing and makeup. The daughters, who felt their rights were being violated, approached one of the local paralegals, Beatrice Nyasuna. Beatrice met with the community leaders, and the sons, to explain how they were violating Uganda law, by excluding the daughters from equal land inheritance. With Beatrice intervening, the community leaders and sons reversed their decision, with the land being evenly divided amongst all the children.

➤➤➤ EQUAL LAND RIGHTS

In order to understand the violations clients have experienced, community paralegals submit reports to SSA. These reports provide information on the individual or group who experienced housing and/or land violations, along with the necessary steps taken. A large portion of cases pertain to children who have disagreements on how to divide the land after a parent has passed away. Unfortunately, it is often the female children who are excluded from land inheritance. The paralegals address these individual cases through mediation, sensitization, and liaising with local leaders.



SARAH: KENYA

>>> GUAFS

In August, the Mazingira Institute completed their Gender, Urban Agriculture and Food System (GUAFS) training week. This was held in collaboration with Nairobi City County to train urban farmers on the various practices and techniques to enhance their farming. Discussions were held on gender and the stigma around women participating in the agriculture industry. This was a great experience, I was able to meet project beneficiaries, hear their stories, and see first-hand how the project has impacted participants.

>>> INDOOR FARMING

One story that impacted me was of Judy and Edwin. Their education does not exceed the primary level, which they believe has affected their ability to be successful in life. This perception forced them to have low self esteem along with the feeling of being stuck in a world where the cost of living is constantly rising. By attending GUAFS, they became empowered and hopeful for the future. They

learned that with the skills taught, once put into practice, can lead to a successful business, without receiving a higher level of education. Through Mazingira Institute, Judy and Edwin are able to pursue an agriculture business with the tools and support needed to succeed

RABBIT REARING

On the fifth day of the training, trainees learned about the importance of proper livestock keeping with a focus on rabbit rearing. The trainers took the group through a tutorial on the proper upkeep and provisions to butcher their rabbits for human consumption. During the trainings, the rabbits were prepared to show participant the value rearing rabbits as a business.



Judy: GUAFS Participant