



Rooftops Canada
Abri international

**WOMEN'S SPACES PROJECT
YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION 2024**

Young Professional Volunteer Title: Gender, Land, and Housing Research Officer

Location: Johannesburg South Africa

Host Organization: Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI)

Location: South Africa

Project: Women's Spaces: Implementing Equal Rights to Land, Housing and Livelihoods

Work Period: Six (6) months - Volunteer Program

Project Description

Rooftops Canada Women's Spaces project is contributing to the enhanced implementation of women's equitable rights to and control over land, housing, and livelihoods in urban environments in Angola, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda. WSP will also contribute to poverty reduction and deliver meaningful change to poor and vulnerable women and girls living in urban and peri-urban informal settlements. The project is implemented by rooftop partners in the countries. This project is directly aligned both with Canada's Agenda 2030 commitments and its Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP). WSP is financially supported by Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

Overview of YP Placement

Young Professionals are a major focus of the Women Spaces Project, especially as it relates to enabling SERI to achieve the project objectives of promoting women's access to and control over property in a variety of tenure contexts. The Young Professional will be an integral part of the SERI's Women's Spaces team, they would be required to work with us on working papers with a particular focus on off register/ social tenure housing, assist with and participate in consultations and stakeholder interviews, and assist with drafting a rights guide.

Over six months, the YP will be engaged in a list of responsibilities. Rooftops Canada will cover the costs (travel, visas, insurance, and vaccination where necessary) associated with the placement as well as provide a decent stipend throughout the placement period.

Job Description

SERI is seeking a young professional to contribute to compiling gender-responsive training materials relating to land and housing in South Africa. The materials will be both a legal and practical guide which would be distributed to community advice offices, enabling them to give gender responsive assistance to both men and women who seek to affirm their land and housing rights within the country. Additionally, the young professional may be asked to review working papers as well as assist with other project-related

tasks related to different land and housing tenure contexts. A strong interest in research as well as housing and gender is encouraged.

Qualifications:

- Qualifications in the humanities, social sciences or development studies preferred.

About Rooftops Canada:

Rooftops Canada-Abri International (RC-AI), the international development program of Canadian co-op and social housing organizations, has 35 years of experience and partnerships in SSA, including over \$30 million in Government of Canada project co-funding. It has helped influence policy and develop highly innovative practices related to housing development, management, and finance; responses to HIV/AIDS; local economic development; linking urban food security, urban agriculture, and housing spaces; while consistently mainstreaming gender equality, human rights and participatory governance. That expertise will help guide project implementation through a Project Steering Committee. RC-AI will also manage short-term TAs from the Canadian non-profit housing sector, related legal rights organizations, and some regional sector specialists; learning exchanges to and from Canada and within SSA; and a communications program with the Canadian co-op and social housing sector.

About Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI)

The Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa is a public interest legal services organization that provides research, litigation, and advocacy expertise to communities enforcing their socio-economic rights. A key component of our work is advocating for security of tenure and greater access to land for the urban poor. Through this, we have represented thousands of people threatened with eviction, communities fighting for access to basic services, and the upgrading of their informal settlements. Our litigation and advocacy on evictions have been crucial in attempts to provide security of tenure for urban dwellers who have not been considered by the State in legislation to address the lack of tenure. We also work to support and protect the rights of precarious workers, including informal traders, waste reclaimers, and domestic workers under our thematic area of “Making a Living”. Additionally, we work to support communities and individuals who exercise their right to protest under our third thematic area “Expanding a Political Space”. As an organization we work to support our clients and partners as they seek to protect and enforce their socio-economic rights.