

# WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE INITIATIVE (WMI)

**BUYOBO, UGANDA**

ABIGAIL GELLMAN, '17



# WORK DESCRIPTION

As a summer intern, my main responsibility along with the other Princeton IIP intern was to create videos to help the Women's Microfinance Initiative show the impact of their loan program on the community. We created four videos in our two months there that highlighted how the impact of the WMI program has reached beyond loans and business training to improve health and education opportunities for the community at large. We spent a large part of our time out in the community, collecting footage, learning and filming, as well as editing in the organization's office. We also taught basic computer skills like Microsoft word and typing lessons to the new secretary and other local women at the organization. Another fulfilling task we helped with was preparing for and running workshops to create reusable menstrual pads for girls who would otherwise stay home from school during their periods.

# WHAT I CONTRIBUTED:

WE CREATED FOUR VIDEOS THAT THE ORGANIZATION NOW USES TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMPACT OF THEIR WORK:

- The first is about a borrower in the loan program whose business was starting her own school:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8yKN\\_oJWoE&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8yKN_oJWoE&app=desktop)

- The second shows how interest charged from the loans supports a Girls Group that teaches health and entrepreneurship skills:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZneE4Zx347c>

- The third is about more education and health community programs that are supported by interest from the loans:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsaaPqeivyY>

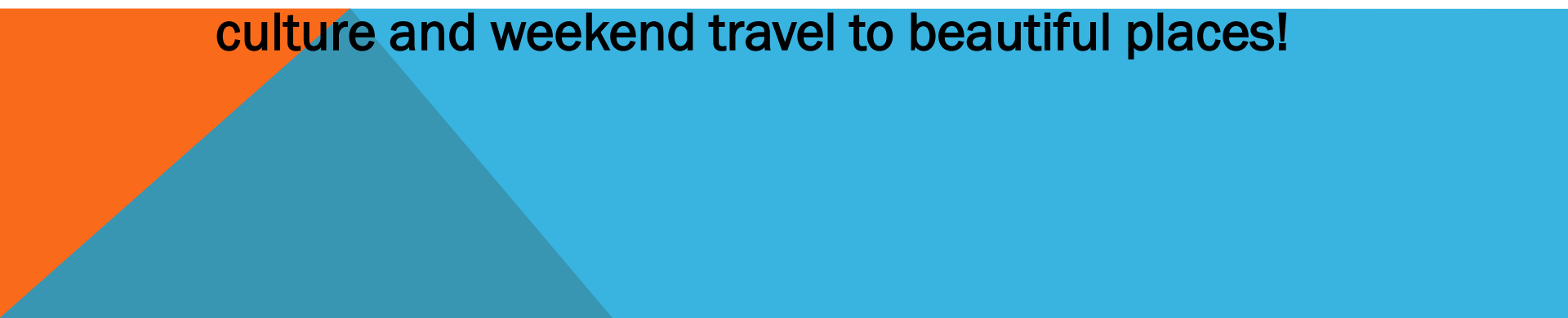
- The fourth reveals the multigenerational impact of the loan program in a collection of testimonials

from interviews with children of loan program participants:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XtroSSKGvQ>



# WHAT I GAINED FROM MY IIP INTERNSHIP

- Practical skills and experience in videography from filming to editing using iMovie.
  - Exposure to WMI's microfinance model and how an NGO functions practically on the ground.
  - Inspiration from the hard work, passion, and intelligence of the women I worked with and filmed.
  - Connections and friendships with local community members.
  - Increased appreciation and knowledge of Ugandan culture and weekend travel to beautiful places!
- 



# WHERE WAS MY IIP? BUYOBO, UGANDA

VIEW OF THE VILLAGE  
CENTER FROM NEARBY  
HILLTOP



OUR LODGING: WMI  
GUESTHOUSE



# MORE SCENES FROM BUYOBO

VIEW FROM OUTSIDE THE  
OFFICE



THE MAIN ROAD  
RUNNING THROUGH  
BUYOBO

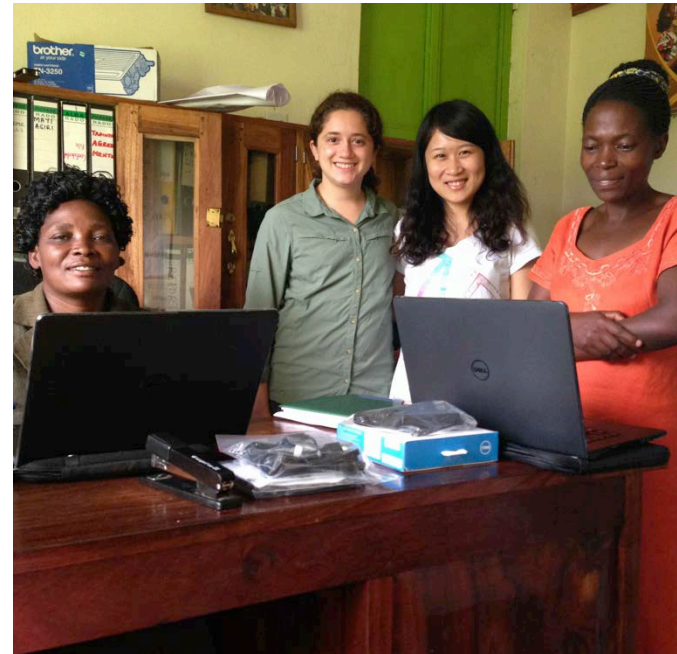


# SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES

JING, THE WMI  
SECRETARY, AND I



JING AND I WITH THE  
DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR IN BUYOBO





# SOME PHOTOS OF OUR WORK

CUTTING MATERIAL AND  
HELPING GIRLS ATTACH  
BUTTONS AT A WORKSHOP  
CREATING REUSABLE PADS



JING TEACHING COMPUTER  
LESSONS TO THE  
ORGANIZATION'S  
OPERATIONS MANAGER





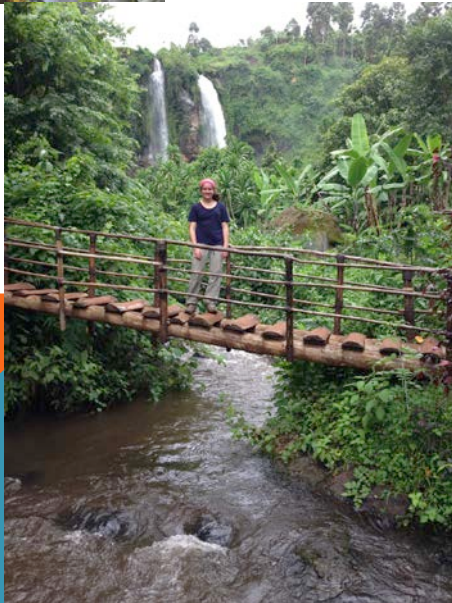
# COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDSHIPS

WITH (SOME ADORABLE) LOCALS AND NEIGHBORS IN  
BUYOBO



# WEEKEND TRAVEL

HIKING AT SIPI FALLS,  
UGANDA



ON SAFARI AT MURCHISON  
FALLS NATIONAL PARK





# EXPERIENCING UGANDAN CULTURE

IN TRADITIONAL DRESS AT AN INTRODUCTION, A UGANDAN ENGAGEMENT CEREMONY, WITH OUR SUPERVISOR AT WMI, THE OTHER INTERN, JING, AND A UGANDAN FRIEND



**THANK YOU IIP AND WMI, FOR AN INVALUABLE  
OPPORTUNITY!**

