WOMEN’S MICROFINANCE INITIATIVE (WMI)

BUYOOBO, UGANDA

ABIGAIL GELLMAN, ‘17
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

• 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!