



WOMEN'S
MICROFINANCE
INITIATIVE

building assets to better lives

Buyobo, Uganda

Jing Xie, Class of 2018

Work Overview

- Interned with the microfinance organization, which gives out small amount of loans to rural Uganda women to establish their own business
- Created four videos to demonstrate the organization's impact on the community
- Taught weekly computer lessons for the local coordinators
- Helped organize various workshops for the borrowers and local school girls



First day at work with my colleague Abby and the secretary Merida in front of the office building

Rewarding Aspect

- Interviewing our female borrowers and their children gave me a chance to closely observe how a well-structured program can bring substantial changes to the community
- Making videos for the organization taught me how to use narrative data to demonstrate impact of a social act in a powerful way

Videoring Head of the loan program speaking at loan repayment day



Interviewing our coordinator Penina (previous borrower), who started a primary school with the loan to offer quality education as an alternative to public schools in rural Uganda

Impact of my work

- The videos created will be used by the organization to speak about microfinance at the International Monetary Fund
- They will also be shown to our donors and be used as future promotional materials
- Our computer lessons helped the local coordinators become more self-reliable
- We helped with logistics for many events and workshops, making things easier for our supervisor



Giving computer lessons

Showing finished video to the students at Penina's school, which was started with the loan provided by the organization



Personal Growth

- Learned tremendously from my supervisor and all the local coordinators in terms of video making, budgeting and planning
- My perspective of finance has been expanded. Rather than the usual corporate side, I saw from the grass root level how good finance programs can help improve the economy and lift people out of poverty
- I would like to explore the possibility of importing the WMI loan model to rural China, where similar programs exist but are not well-structured enough

Not only I gave computer lessons to the local coordinators, they also taught me a lot about Excel. The picture is one of the budget file they were working on. It is really amazing to see how rural Ugandan women can do so much with technology despite limited conditions.

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With all the local coordinators

Cultural experience



Wearing traditional clothes at a wedding



Climbing Sipi Falls



Tasting 100% home-made coffee

Best Summer Experience



- This internship combined my interest in both finance and video-making and expanded my perspectives on both areas
- Learned about a new culture and how to communicate with people from different backgrounds
- Made great friends and had SO MUCH FUN!

Safari in Murchison Falls National Park