

# WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE INITIATIVE- BUYOBO, UGANDA



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Class of 2019

## *What did I do?*

I was one of three interns in WMI's Buyobo loan hub in Sironko District of Uganda. The loan hub is managed by the Buyobo Women's Association (BWA). I was specifically tasked with leading the team to review and analyze survey data and subsequently compile the annual fact book for 2017 detailing the impact of WMI on borrowers and the community. In addition, I conducted borrower interviews to write-up borrower profiles and collected footage for a 10-year video. Once a week, together with another intern, I led 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls in a class on adolescent reproductive health.

# *A team of driven, hardworking people*

Picture 1: The WMI 2017 Intern team



Picture 2: Buyobo Women's Association(BWA). BWA administers the WMI loan program in the Buyobo loan hub.

# ***What was the most rewarding aspect of my experience?***

The most rewarding aspect of my work experience was learning from a successful model of microfinance. My interactions with the members of the community showed me that the community investment in the loan program was critical to its success and it was humbling to be accepted- for even a short time- as part of that community.

# *The community I got to observe and be a part of*



Picture 3: The intern team with members of Buyobo's Volunteer Health Team, a community-level health initiative supported by BWA.

Picture 4: The interns collecting video footage to document the work of WMI.



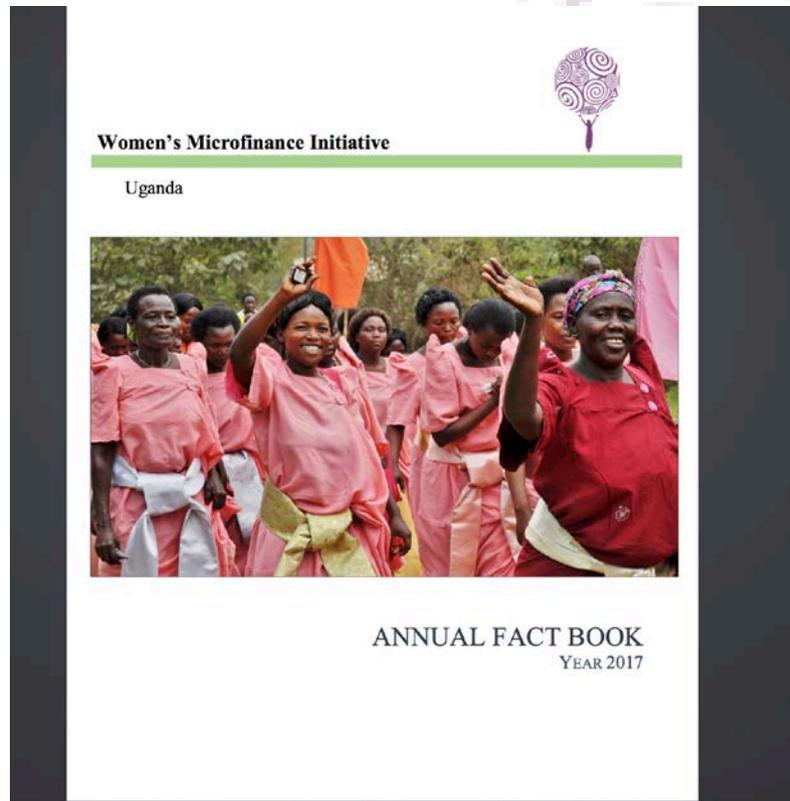
# *How will my work impact the organization ?*

The fact book I led the team to compile will be used to request for funds from donors in order to further expand the loan program, as well as fund initiatives to serve members of the community. The fact book has also been uploaded unto the WMI website to serve as a means of showcasing the impact of the loan program.

In addition, because I was fortunate to have access to the survey data, I was able to draft a proposal to further improve the data collection and tracking process for the organization.

# *It was humbling to meet and document the achievements of the borrowers*

Picture 5: The 2017 fact book compiled by the intern team



Picture 6: Some of the borrowers I met while conducting borrower interviews.

# *What is the impact of my experience on my academic career?*

I am glad I got the opportunity to learn from the Buyobo Women's Association about how to effectively manage and administer a loan program that can be beneficial to borrowers and the larger community. I hope to take classes that further elaborate on similar micro-level economic empowerment and conduct research in this field so that I may implement something similar in my home country.

# *The amazing women who made my experience worthwhile*

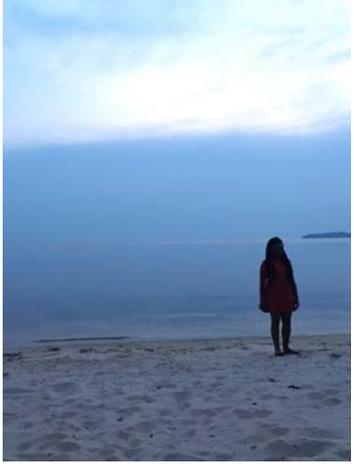


Picture 7: Some of the girls we taught in the lessons on adolescent reproductive health

Picture 8: The board members of BWA during our farewell party



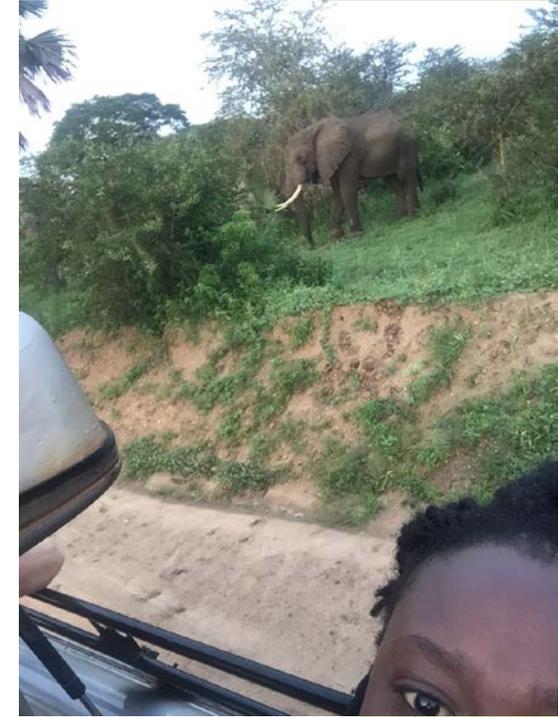
# *Exploring Uganda on the weekends was enriching*



Picture 9: Ssesse Islands on Lake Victoria



Picture 11: Tubing on the Nile



Picture 13: Murchison falls safari



Picture 10: Standing on the equator



Picture 12: Hiking to Sipi falls