



Building
Assets to Better Lives

Women's Microfinance Initiative Internship: Buyobo, Uganda

WMI is a non-profit microfinance organization providing small loans and business training and support to impoverished women in developing nations. WMI's mission is to work with village-level organizations to provide capital to women in the lowest income brackets so that they can engage in income producing activities. Its goal is to help women living in poverty build assets so that they can stabilize their income and raise their standard of living for their families.

The Buyobo, Uganda loan program is the oldest WMI loan program, established in January 2008. Located in the Sironko District, about 30 minutes from Mbale, it has over 2,500 clients. It is administered by the Buyobo Women's Association (BWA) and SURE Women's Association (SURE), through a grant from WMI. Olive Wolimbwa, chair of BWA and SURE, is the local director for the loan program.

Interns are primarily responsible for reviewing and compiling data from surveys completed by borrowers in the loan program, analyzing the data, and creating an annual Fact Book that documents the impact of the loan program. Interns also create a video from original footage for the WMI web site to update supporters on some aspect of loan program operations. Fact Books prepared by prior interns can be viewed on the WMI web site: wmionline.org.

<https://wmionline.org/documents/reports/WMI-2021-Factbook.pdf>

Additionally, interns may interview borrowers, prepare summaries of borrowers' business, write biographies of borrowers, teach in the local Primary School, and assist with community projects.

Interns work on group projects and must communicate well and work cooperatively. They handle substantive projects and must be organized, insightful, responsible and comfortable using Excel. Interns will not receive any compensation for participating in the internship program. The WMI program works with women who live in extreme poverty and the data WMI handles is very personal. Interns must be sensitive to the nature of the information and files WMI maintains and respect the privacy and confidentiality of WMI's borrowers.

Our data is all original data collected in the field. The ongoing publication of program results on the WMI web site contributes to the body of literature measuring the impact of access to financial service on the poor. Interns agree to treat all documents, files, and information obtained from WMI as the exclusive, proprietary property of WMI. Interns agree not make any such materials available to any person or organization except as approved in writing by WMI.

INTERNSHIP DATES:

2023 Summer Internship dates: June 25 – August 5 (6 weeks).

Housing and meal arrangements will be made for interns in Buyobo village (in a guest house with indoor plumbing, solar electricity, and shared rooms).

COSTS:

Room/board (including all meals) = \$25 per day (\$1,050)

Program fee = \$500

Total = \$1,550

Intern is responsible for arranging transportation to Uganda and the costs of ground transport to and from Buyobo (WMI will assist with the ground transport arrangements).

REQUIREMENTS:

- At least 18 years of age
- College student or recent graduate
- Helpful skills: videography, photography, computer know-how; Excel; teacher training; bookkeeping; community organizing; ability to work co-operatively
- Prior living experience in a developing country is also helpful

ALL INTERNS MUST SIGN A GENERAL LIABILITY RELEASE AND WAIVER BEFORE BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.