

We are looking for a volunteer for a three-month internship

Supporting GROOTS in the area of Gender, SDGs and Communication Advocacy, Kenya (IN8)

Nairobi /Kenia

GROOTS (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood) Kenya is a non-governmental organization (NGO) registered in 2000 under section 10 of the Society's Act, with a national secretariat based in Nairobi Kenya. It's a national movement of grassroots women that is shifting the role of women in disadvantaged communities from vulnerable, victimized recipients of charity to empowered, effective leaders in community development work. Founded in 1995 after the 4th UN Conference on Women in Beijing, China, GROOTS Kenya began as a response to the inadequate visibility of grassroots women in development processes and decision-making forums that affect them and their communities. Today, it's a force of over 2,000 community-based organizations and self-help groups with the shared mandate of ensuring grassroots women at the forefront of community change. GROOTS theory of change is to shift grassroots women perceived role of vulnerable, victim and passive participants in development to empowered and effective leaders and agents of change in their communities. GROOTS's work has enabled women to influence decisions on matters that affect them at the community, national and international levels. As a testament to this, one of GROOTS Kenya grassroots women was nominated as the only African civil society advisor to the UN Women Chief Madam Michelle Bachelet. In addition, the grassroots women have been able to influence national policies on issues relating to HIV and AIDS, Land, Housing, Inheritance Rights among others.

The aim of the internship: is to support GROOTS Kenya in developing and rolling out of their SDGs communication strategy.

Profession needed in the field of study

Vienna University of Economics and Business; University of Technology Vienna; Department of Development Studies Vienna; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

Tasks of volunteer

- Support GROOTS Kenya in developing communication messages from the gender data sets available at the Gender Data dashboard and tailor-make the data for dissemination to the different audiences.
- Support GROOTS Kenya in monitoring the feedback from the audience as well to inform programme processes.
- Support GROOTS Kenya in documenting and sharing success stories from the programmes.
- Support GROOTS Kenya in writing periodic project and activity reports.

Necessary qualification/ Profile of the Volunteer

- Study of the above mentioned disciplines
- Study progress of at least 100 ECTS or completed Bachelor's degree
- Good knowledge of spoken and written English (min. B2-Niveau)

- Enjoying knowledge transfer
- Africa experience desirable
- Willingness to adapt to simple living conditions
- Team-player, solution-oriented and flexible
- Independent, responsible and resilient
- High intercultural sensitivity and social skills
- Interest in development cooperation and SDGs

Project description

The internship will be based at the office of Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS Kenya). With the Promulgation of a new constitution in 2010, a new shift and rights-based approach to programming emerged, providing for a legal framework for the government to fulfil basic rights, and for marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially women and children, to claim their rights. As 80% of working Kenyan women are engaged in small holder farming, only 1% own land in their own right, access less than 10% of available credit, and less than 1% of agriculture credit (UN WOMEN-Kenya, 2016). Gender Stereotyping and traditional practices governing inheritance, acquisition of land and benefits accruing to land produce continue to favour men. It is against this background that GROOTS is seeking an intern to analyse its work around the SDGs against the crosscutting issues of gender for better programming.

Location/transportation/climate

The GROOTS Kenya Office is located at Divyam Apartment; CEDAR Road-Westlands, Nairobi (Cedar Road is opposite Azure Hotel) .The office is situated in Westlands, an uptown area and neighbourhood with advanced facilities and one of the biggest shopping centres called **Sarit Centre, Westgate** , The Mall etc . There are local public vehicles traditionally named '**Matatus**'and **Buses** (City Hoppers etc.) which charge quite fair rates. There are also private Taxi service available; Uber and Taxify. Decent accommodation is available near the GROOTS Kenya Office that meets international standards and one can be secured in places like Kileleshwa, Riverside and Westlands. Fully furnished apartments and those that are not furnished are available depending on the preference. The prices vary depending on the location and services provided. GROOTS Kenya office will support the intern with a checklist for secure housing and advise in accommodation search. However, for some very close by areas walking to office would be an option. The climate in Nairobi consists of both wet and dry seasons. There are two rainy seasons, but rainfall can be moderate. The warmest part of the year is from December to March, when temperatures average in the mid-twenties during the day. Climate in Nairobi is very fine and favourable for work and living, warm most of the time, light cloth pull overs can do during peak rainy periods for instance the April rains.

Living situation/Supply/Leisure Facilities

There are many exciting opportunities to enjoy recreation activities within Nairobi and other interesting traditional towns like Naivasha and Mombasa. In Nairobi, you will find some of the finest gardens including Uhuru Park and Jeevanjee, and of course the Nairobi National Park. Nairobi is the only capital in the whole world with its own game park that hosts Zebras, Lions, Rhinos, Giraffes, Hippos, Crocodiles, etc. In addition, there is the Kenya National Museum, the Village Market, Masaai Craft Markets, Modern shopping Centres such as the Hub and Two Rivers, Imax Theatre and Nairobi Safari Walk among others. In Nairobi, one has access to Health and Banking facilities of International standards etc. The cost of living is reasonable. A number of hospitals can be accessed within reasonable distance from place of work and home of residence including Kenyatta National Hospital and Nairobi Women's Hospital among others. Many stores (supermarkets-Uchumi, Naivash, Tuskys, and Carrefour etc.) exist and small shops and groceries with a variety of items, from clothing to household items etc. shops are open from early morning to late night. Some supermarkets operate 24hours a day.

Security

Most parts of Nairobi are generally safe; except for some petty theft. However, there are places where one has to be extra vigilant regarding personal property and especially jewellery. It is fairly safe to walk or take Taxis/Matatus all day long, but don't take unnecessary chances using them at night, but rather make use of Uber, trusted taxi drivers. In addition, the Regional Office East Africa provides security alerts when received from reliable sources, such as the SRMO GDC in Kenya. However, students are urged to be responsible and careful for their own safety. It is important for the intern/student to keep the host organisation in the know of your movements, they can always advise on the best/appropriate security means and information.

Information about the local organization

GROOTS Kenya has four main programs namely: 1) Women Leadership and Governance, 2) Women and property, 3) Community Responses to HIV and AIDS and lastly 4) Community Resilience to disaster and climate change. GROOTS Kenya works in poor rural areas and urban informal settlements, where gender disparities are often highest. Here, women disproportionately shoulder the burden of the impact of climate change, HIV/AIDS, human rights violations and other forms of injustices. The work of GROOTS Kenya has ensured the growth of many women led community based and self help groups struggling to organize to respond to their development issues in Kenya. Such groups are now recognized at the local, national & international arena. GROOTS Kenya has been a champion of grassroots women work in Kenya, winning the confidence of various partners and stakeholders among them the Government of Japan, World Bank, European Union, UN-Women, UN-Habitat and the Government of Kenya. GROOTS Kenya has been in operation for over 17 years and through the years, the organization has managed to create a huge impact on the lives of the grassroots women who are ultimate beneficiaries of the change envisioned by its initiatives and interventions. (<https://grootskenya.org/programmes/>).