

Right Sharing OF WORLD RESOURCES

“Let us then see what love can do”

William Penn, 17th Century Quaker

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God calls us to the right sharing of world resources, from the burdens of materialism and poverty into the abundance of God's love, to work for equity through partnership with our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

Amid Daily Challenges – Joy!

SARAH NORTHROP SHARES STORIES FROM HER VISIT TO KENYA



Top: Sarah with the Vushitsulya Friends Women Group.

Bottom: Pumping water from a well in Kenya.

I have been Program Director for Right Sharing of World Resources since 2013. My job involves supporting groups applying for Right Sharing grants as they navigate the process from application to completion of a project. Additionally, I act as the liaison for the three RSWR Field Representatives. This work requires lots of email correspondence with people in distant places. However, I had never actually visited the countries until January 2018, when I made my first visit to Kenya. I came back with a renewed appreciation for the importance of Right Sharing's work.

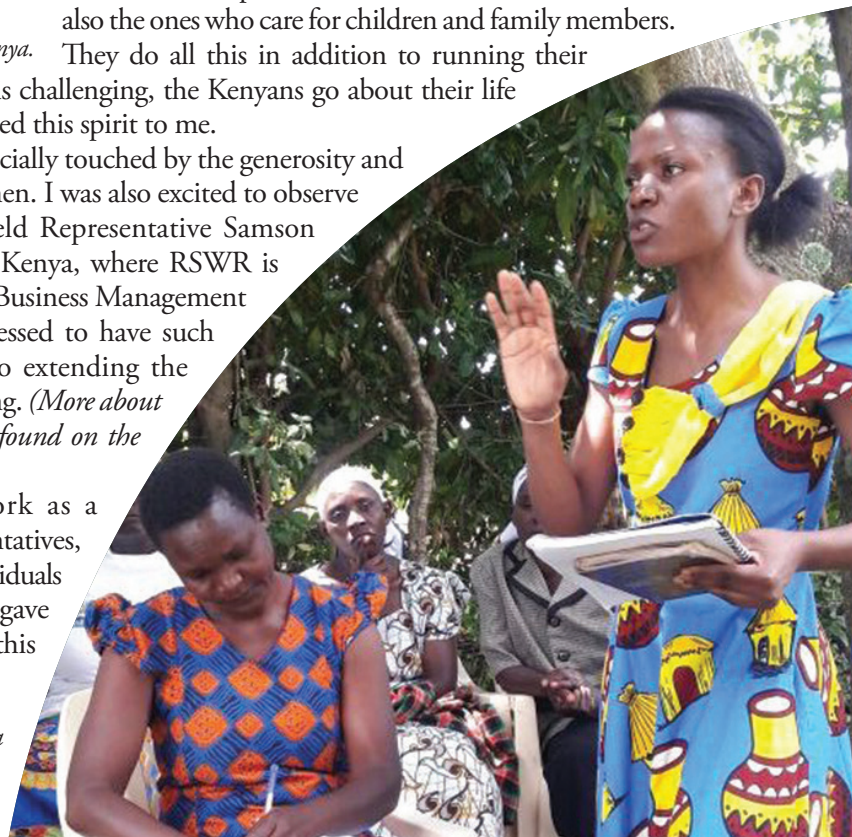
It was humbling to see the reality of life in Kenya. The women we work with are diligent, generous, and tenacious, but they face significant challenges in their daily lives. From very early morning to late at night, these women work hard to make a living. Carrying water is a daily chore due to the lack of indoor plumbing. Cooking is done over an open fire or on little charcoal stoves. The women are also the ones who care for children and family members.

They do all this in addition to running their businesses. Although daily existence is challenging, the Kenyans go about their life with a cheerful spirit and they imparted this spirit to me.

My trip was full of joy. I was especially touched by the generosity and welcome extended to me by the women. I was also excited to observe the new training initiative that Field Representative Samson Ababu is working to implement in Kenya, where RSWR is now offering Capacity Building and Business Management training for new groups. We are blessed to have such dedicated field teams committed to extending the power of our work beyond grant-giving. *(More about the different in-country teams can be found on the next page of this newsletter.)*

Right Sharing views our work as a partnership among staff, field representatives, donors, and the organizations and individuals that we support. My visit to Kenya gave me a much deeper understanding of this partnership.

RSWR Trainer Pauline Andisi Musinga giving a training to a group of women.



Meet the Right Sharing In-Country Teams!

The work of Right Sharing would not be possible without having teams in Kenya, India, and Sierra Leone to provide hands-on support for the groups of women as they apply for, receive, and utilize RSWR grants. Each team, which is led by one of Right Sharing's skilled Field Representatives, also includes trainers or other partners in the work.

KENYA

Samson Ababu is the RSWR Field Representative. He seeks out new groups that could benefit from RSWR funding and introduces Right Sharing to them. He oversees all the programming, assessing the needs of each group and arranging and attending all trainings. Additionally, he keeps in touch with all of the past funded groups.

Pauline Andisi Musinga offers initial Capacity Building training for newly identified groups. She assists them in registering as an official women's group with the Kenyan government. She also helps them set up their membership and account books and instructs them on how to keep their records properly.

Lotan Migaliza conducts the in-depth Business Management training for newly funded groups. Although he is very strict and emphasizes rules and procedures, his manner is funny and engaging, and the groups love his training.

All of our Field Representatives and their assistants perform site visits to assess each new group that has applied to RSWR. They write a report for the Board to help members choose which groups to fund. In addition, our field teams also perform other roles for RSWR:



From left: Samson Ababu, Pauline Andisi Musinga, Lotan Migaliza.

INDIA

In India, RSWR works through NGO partners that provide much of the capacity building and business training that we must provide ourselves in the two African countries. Our Field Representative in India, **Dr. R. Kannan**, seeks out new, small NGOs that are already doing good work and trains their leaders in how to create a micro-enterprise project and carry it out successfully. He oversees the work of the funded NGOs and assists them in overcoming problems and making reports to RSWR.

Purushotham Nallandala is Dr. Kannan's partner. He is the former founder and director of the NGO SPREADS. He assists with the NGO training workshops and the site visits. He also helps RSWR's NGO partners liaison with the cumbersome government bureaucracy and with the banks, facilitating their acquisition of the proper permits to receive their funds and carry out their work.



From left: Dr. R. Kannan, current Board member Doug Smith, Dr. Kannan's wife Revathy, current Board member Marian Beane, former Board member David Camp, Purushotham Nallandala.

SIERRA LEONE

Sallian Sankoh is the RSWR Field Representative. She seeks out new groups that could benefit from RSWR funding and introduces Right Sharing to them. She also is available to help new groups write proposals to RSWR. Additionally, she oversees the funded groups, helps them write their reports to RSWR, and keeps in touch with them after their projects are completed.

Ahmed Muckson Sesay, director of his own NGO, Organization for Peace, Reconciliation, and Development Sierra Leone (OPARDSL), is a well-known development professional in Sierra Leone. RSWR contracts with him to provide training for new RSWR project partners. He instructs new beneficiaries in how to run a business and support one another as part of a self-help group.



Ahmed Muckson Sesay

Sallian Sankoh

Recent Stories from Kenya and India

In addition to the tales brought back by Program Director Sarah Northrop, we have some stories from a recent trip to India. Current Board members Marian Beane and Doug Smith, accompanied by former Board member David Camp, spent 10 days visiting projects in India in late January.

KENYA

Juhudi Women Group is a group the RSWR team helped form and train as part of the new Capacity Building Training. The group had 5 training sessions with Field Representative Samson Ababu and Trainer Pauline Andisi Musinga before they wrote their proposal, and the benefits were evident: they were organized and knowledgeable, and their businesses are thriving. The women all do business together in a large market. The group is a mixture of tribes and religions, including several Quakers and Muslims.

Sigira Friends Women Group is a part of Bware Yearly Meeting, which is the first Kenyan Yearly Meeting to have a woman as the presiding clerk. Sarah observed the group receiving a Business Management training from RSWR Trainer Lotan Migaliza. The women listened attentively and asked good questions. Geographically, the group is located where the lands of many tribes meet and as such is made up of a mix of tribes. The Secretary of the group is a Luo, the Treasurer is a Kisii, the Chairlady is a Luhya, and the Loan Committee Representative is a Kikuyu. It is exciting to see the positive effect these women are having on their community.

INDIA

Doug, Marian, and David were able to visit several income-generating projects facilitated by **Vasantham Pengal Sangam** in Tiruchirappalli District. One involved tarp-making: heavy commercial plastic bags, once empty, are cleaned and sewn into tarps. Another group was making thatch, using palm leaves. The members of the group, who were in



Aisha Khamisi is the chairwoman of Juhudi Women Group. She is shown here with her stockpile of charcoal that she buys wholesale and sells in small amounts.



Tabitha Giya (Juhudi Women Group) sells Matumba, or used clothing. This is a thriving business in Kenya. The clothes come from the USA and Europe and are sold in bales for resale in the local markets.



Sigira Friends Women Group in front of their new meetinghouse.



Vasantham Pengal Sangam thatch-making

good spirits, related how much their incomes had increased since they had become independent of an employer. The visitors also spent time with a group making coir rope, which uses dried coconut husks and a machine that takes four women to operate.

A self-help group under the care of **Kalanjium Trust** is located in an agricultural village in Pudukottai District. Virtually all the projects involve agriculture: milk-handling (gathered from one-cow families, combined, and sold to a processor), creation of milk products (ghee, yogurt, etc.), sales of products from stalls, gardening or raising vegetables for sale, and raising grain (millet in particular). The self-help group is comprised of Hindus and Muslims working well together. Marian, Doug, and David had a very pleasant meeting with the group and were impressed by the competent NGO leadership.

RIGHT SHARING of WORLD RESOURCES

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*Send in
your stamps!*

Quaker Missions Stamp Project, now under the care of Indianapolis First Friends, collects and sells used postage stamps to benefit RSWR. In order for stamps to be salable, please follow these guidelines:

USA STAMPS:

Cut or carefully tear the corner bearing the stamp(s) from the body of the envelope. If more than one stamp has been used for postage, remove the stamps as a group on the paper (do not remove separately). Leave a border of 1/8-1/4 inch around the stamp or group of stamps.

Especially desirable are:

- Pop culture stamps (television, movies, singers, comic books, etc.)
- Stamps bearing values greater than 50 cents
- Zazzle and personalized stamps

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