

2ND QUARTER 2023 | www.rswr.org

Global Learning

The RSWR Country Coordinator Consultation, held in Kisumu, Kenya, in April 2023, was a transformative experience for the entire Right Sharing team!

This is the first time **ever** that ALL our Country Coordinators and

Trainers were able to meet with each other on a personal basis. It was a joy to have this opportunity.

We got SO MUCH work done! All the country teams shared how they carried out different aspects of the RSWR work, such as

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The RSWR family together in Kenya for the Consultation. They are presenting teal pot holders Jackie made from Sierra Leone fabric. All participants brought gifts from their respective home countries. (Front row, left to right) Sarah Northrop, Jackie Stillwell, Eva Ramírez, Abinaya Murugesan, Ruth Bueso, and Pauline Andisi Musingah (Back row, left to right) R. Kannan, Sibella Swaray, Sallian Sankoh, Ahmed Muckson Sesay, Lotan Migaliza, Samson Ababu, Nallandala Purushotham, and Megan Fair

PARTNERING WITH WOMEN IN COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

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group formation, business training, and supporting groups once they receive grants. It was important for us to see how culture, geography, language, religion, and so much more shape how RSWR shows up in each country. Our shared mission towards equity unifies the work, and our unique perspectives strengthen it. The relationships that were deepened through this time together will allow us to continue learning from one another and the women whom we serve for years to come.

We had a wonderful experience visiting two of RSWR's current partner groups in Kenya. We heard about successes and challenges they faced in starting their group, in getting their businesses off the ground, and in navigating the problems that arose. This was a time of mutual growth, as the women in the group helped each of us better understand the long-lasting impacts of RSWR on community. In all the countries where RSWR works, our Coordinators and Trainers see themselves as the facilitators of the work while the women are the ones who are transforming their own lives.

It made me so happy to experience how well our country teams bonded and how much enthusiasm and love they all have for the work of RSWR. It made my heart glad to see such dedicated and enthusiastic young people from all four countries who are already sharing their wisdom and expertise to make the RSWR program better and who will carry it on so well as time goes by.

With joy and hope for the future, Sarah Northrop

Program Director



Caroline and Sharon

Visiting the Jitegema Women's Group

During the consultation, the RSWR team visited with a few women's groups in Nandi County, Kenya. Many team members hadn't ever met with women's groups from outside their home countries. Understanding the differences and similarities between women's groups in the varying contexts provided by location was eye-opening to program coordinators.

The team visited with Jitegema Women's Group, a community full of remarkable women whose support of each other has grown over time. Two

former members of the group, Caroline and Sharon, were able to afford to go to university as a result of their businesses. Both women are now teachers and, although no longer business owners, they remain involved with the group. The group's love of Caroline and Sharon, and pride in their accomplishments, were palpable.

Dorcas is another member of the Jitegema Women's Group that the RSWR team connected with. She has four children, and her husband works as an auto mechanic when work is available. They live in Kapsabet, the capital town of Nandi County. At 5:30 A.M. Dorcas wakes up, gets her children and husband ready for the day, and does all the housework. Then she goes to her restaurant at 9 o'clock and supervises nine employees, all of whom arrive before her at 5 A.M. to make the food for that day.

On Monday Dorcas buys all the food and the necessary items for the restaurant that she will need to use on Tuesday. She only buys one day at a time, because at the beginning of her business she had a fire and lost everything,



Dorcas and her customers at the restaurant — The Mum Joy Hotel in Kapsabet, Kenya

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including a week of supplies. It became clear to her that, to avoid financial loss, it was better to buy for one day at a time. She also has the challenge of theft, because she's selling in a little place in the center of town that is easy to break into, which happens regularly. The thieves take her furniture, the food that she has waiting, and anything else that can be carried.

Dorcas was inspired to start her business because she observed that young boys in



Edith is a member of the Jitegema Women's Group

her town were only earning ten shillings a day as laborers. Ten shillings isn't normally enough to buy anything to eat, so the boys were going hungry consistently. She opened a shop where she could sell them tea and a little bit of ugali for just 5 shillings. From there her business has grown to a little restaurant, and she has continued to sell food at a reasonable rate so that all the workers who are barely earning enough for their families can also eat lunch themselves.



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Welcoming Another Team Member!



Abinaya Murugesan, preferred name Abi, has joined the Right Sharing family as a Program Coordinator in India. She was hired by the India team this spring. Please join us in welcoming her!

Abi is from a family of social workers. She holds a Bachelor's in Dental Surgery and a Master's in Public Health and Dental Public Health. As a doctor, her perception of being healthy is not limited to physical health but includes a combination of physical, mental, and social wellbeing along with the ability to lead a socially and economically productive life.

Abi has a passion for working with women to increase equality, financial independence, self-reliance, and positive health outcomes. She also adds that, being a woman from rural India, she can relate to the suffering of women. Abi hopes to improve the overall quality of life of rural women in India by working with RSWR.

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