

This past summer, I was given the opportunity to complete an internship with the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) in Kampala, Uganda. CEDOVIP is one of Uganda's most well-respected and influential non-governmental organizations. Using a methodology created by their partner organization, Raising Voices, CEDOVIP works with communities, stakeholders, and other influential people to change attitudes about violence against women. Their work with stakeholders and various officials has led to several major accomplishments in preventing violence against women, including a law that specifically prevents domestic violence and the approval of a new police curriculum which will result in all police officers being trained in issues of gender-based violence.

I served as an advocacy intern, but I was pleasantly surprised to have an internship where I had the opportunity to complete a wide variety of tasks. Beginning on my first day, I was asked to write various articles, reports, policy briefs, etc. for stakeholders. I obtained information through materials around the office, the website or through interviews with employees in order to compile a well-written article, which would later be published on CEDOVIP's website. Before this experience, I only wrote for academic audiences. Because of this internship, I have now gained the experience of writing for nonacademic audiences, which included stakeholders and the general population.

CEDOVIP also requested that I revitalize their website, Facebook and Twitter. I created different social media campaigns that would make the pages more active and eventually create more traffic on the pages. These included a series of posts that released lesser known facts about violence against women, a series of posts about CEDOVIP staff, updates on trainings or other CEDOVIP events and more. During my internship, CEDOVIP's traffic increased and the page received a number of new followers. During the final month of my internship, I also helped the

Executive Director and the Advocacy Team Representative redesign CEDOVIP's website. Since I did not have previous experience in website building, I learned some of the basic information online in order to be more informed with meetings with the website designer. The new website was launched July 25 and included drastic changes, many of which I suggested.

Some of my favorite tasks involved the trainings that we implemented. During these trainings, I assisted CEDOVIP staff with preparation, contributed to the trainings when participation was waning and created reports or debriefs about the training for social media, the website or debrief meetings with the Executive Director. The first training that I helped with was for local teenagers. The purpose of this training was to raise the teen's awareness of gender-based violence and power disparities within their community. These trainings taught teens the different types of violence, different signs that violence was occurring, and the relationship between domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. We also conducted a capacity-building training for the Uganda Police Force. This training helped demonstrate to officers how to handle cases of gender-based violence and how these cases tend to have more complicated elements than other crimes. Another training targeted media personalities and covered reporting on gender-based violence. During this training, I was specifically asked to give closing remarks and contribute to discussions, which helped improve my public speaking skills in a new context.

Another task that the Executive Director asked for my help with was the developing program with universities. CEDOVIP is beginning a new program with local universities in hopes of decreasing gender-based violence across campuses. I played a large role in coming up with activities to interest university students. I also largely assisted with the proposal itself, as well as the plan for beginning work with universities, which will occur this fall.

CEDOVIP asked me to complete a longer project as well. They had received feedback from studies that demonstrated SASA!'s effectiveness in decreasing gender-based violence within communities where the program was launched. Still, CEDOVIP did not have records of any of these success stories that came from the community itself. CEDOVIP asked me to conduct interviews with community members, CEDOVIP team members (but not staff), partner organizations, etc. in order to collect some of these positive experiences. I conducted about 15 interviews within the last three weeks of my internship, and I wrote nearly 30 success stories. These stories will be released on the website periodically and will contribute to the organization's social media campaign.

CEDOVIP exceeded all of my expectations for a first internship. My working environment was fun and filled with meaningful projects. Going into this internship, I expected to primarily work with social media. Instead, I completed an internship that gave me skills in communications, editing, advocacy and executive functions of a nongovernmental organization. I worked with stakeholders, police officers, media and the Human Rights Commission of Uganda in various capacities. I also had the opportunity to interact with individual communities where CEDOVIP training was implemented. All of this has given me a clearer picture of what it is like to work with a nongovernmental organization. Working with CEDOVIP underscored my plans to take an international affairs internship in New York City this fall for my post-graduation plans, and it has solidified my desire to continue working with nongovernmental human rights organizations in the future.