



“I hope to learn about women’s capabilities and assets and how to actualize these through collaboration, facilitation and sustainable planning. I also want to continue to listen and learn from the women’s co-operative environment.”

Aissa Boodhoo-Leegsma

University of Ottawa

Bongo-Soe, Upper East Region, Ghana

I will be working with a women’s shea butter co-operative in Northern Ghana. The co-op has begun education and outreach efforts in neighbouring towns. I will support this by forming a women’s training centre, expanding empowerment opportunities in shea butter production to a wider scope of women, and uniting those women’s groups that are already established producers in a learning exchange.

During my master’s research, I looked for indicators of how shea butter production contributed to women’s empowerment. I primarily worked with the Ojoba Co-operative and learned about its democratic and inclusive mandates that promote women’s educational opportunities. The women of the co-op taught me the process and shared how they felt economically and socially empowered by the co-op.

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