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 -CORRECTED VERSION-

GFI Newsletter: Announcing the Sapin Fellowship

News:

Befair Campaign Has a New partner!

The Guatemalan Federation of Coffee Cooperatives (Fedecogua) will work with GFI to deliver farmer livelihood kits to help small coffee farmers diversify productions and improve food security.

[See pictures here!](#)



With woman representing the minority of coffee farmers in Guatemala, Fedecocagua will work with wives, mothers and daughters of their members so they too can benefit in the belonging to a cooperative that promotes organic certification.

[See pictures here!](#)



Fellow Feature: Meet Andile Mxotwa, our first Sapin Fellow



As a South African, I have firsthand experience in how the most vulnerable communities can find themselves in a structural poverty trap while trying very hard to extricate themselves from it. This happens in a numbers of ways, such as the inability of poor communities to navigate the channels that are required to start a business, or just lacking the necessary expertise to get access to funds, and the salient element that accompanies all poor people, illiteracy—a result of lack of educational opportunity.

Thus, my firsthand experience of how devastating the lack of economic development can be for most people in developing countries will aid my learning through this fellowship, with the aim of plowing what I learn back to those vulnerable communities I left back home. To be a fellow at GFI is to situate myself in an organization that is grappling with the developmental issues for developing countries and developing solutions.



You Can Help

The Global Fairness Initiative launched the BeFair Campaign to bring low-cost technologies that improve livelihoods.

Farmer Livelihood Kits use low-cost drip irrigation and specialized trainings to help farmers improve their nutrition and increase their incomes by as much as 50%. Your contribution of \$40 will deliver one irrigation kit plus technical trainings to an indigenous farming family in Guatemala.

Donate \$40 or more and receive a BeFair water bottle!



LEARN MORE AT
BEFAIRCAMPAIN.ORG

As a fellow at GFI I am exposed to the vast experiences that they have accumulated through dealing with issues of a similar nature in their engagements in developing countries from West Africa to South America and South Asia. My experience at GFI will give me a perceptive lens to filter some of the developmental issues that face my own country. I am able to compare the issues from a global framework and translate my experience at GFI for the betterment of poor communities back home.

That is why I would like to thank GFI and the Sapin Family for giving me the opportunity to be a fellow. Shirley Sapin strived for equality and opportunity for all people; and I intend to espouse the same values when tackling the problems of economic development while at GFI and throughout my life.

About the Sapin Fellowship

Created by the Sapin Family and in honor of Shirley Sapin and her commitment to equality and opportunity for all people, the Sapin Opportunity Fellowship (Sapin Fellowship) was established to offer students in post-secondary institutions the opportunity to work for four months with Global Fairness Initiative (GFI) on issues of economic development and workforce equity.

Fellowship Overview

The Sapin Fellowship is a four-month program offered twice each year to any student pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree from any accredited academic institution. The Fellowship creates an opportunity for engagement, networking and training through direct and substantive work with GFI on issues and programs at the heart of economic access for the working poor. They participate on all levels with GFI staff and initiatives and are exposed to the broader international development community in the Washington, DC region. A grant of \$2,000 is included for the four-month term of the Fellowship.

Who is eligible to apply?

Sapin Fellowship applicants must be willing to commit an academic or summer semester to working at GFI. Fellows must meet a minimum of 18 hours of work per week and are required to complete a research study or proposal on a subject to be developed with GFI staff. Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a range of academic interests, personal perspective, and life experiences suited to work with GFI and our beneficiaries.

How do I apply

If you want to learn more about the Sapin Fellowship contact us

at sapinfellows@globalfairness.org

Field Update: Building the Foundation For Successful Market Development

GFI hosted a 2-day training with the Board of the Association of Agro-Producers of Alta Verapaz. This interesting training focused on organizing small farmers who currently operate in the informal market in Guatemala. Most farmers who are able to grow enough produce to sell to locally have to do so on the streets, as there is no infrastructure for this type of sale in a near by town of Fray Bartolome. Selling on the street and putting their produce on the ground while carrying a handful of samples to show to passer-bys, they pay the municipality a small amount for using a public space. If they were to abide by standard taxation laws for small producers, they would have to pay an aggregate of approximately 30% of their earnings—which for a small farmer would entail reverting to a food insecurity situation. Also, farmers have a limited math skills and cannot calculate complicated percentages and calculation needed to pay their taxes.

The association has successfully negotiated with the municipality to refurbish an old building in downtown Fray Bartome, with the Municipality providing running water and services, and farmers working with them directly for the payment of their dues in an affordable manner (and in increments as the market gets more settled and the farmers gain more experience).

The training helped farmers organize responsibilities of their members, agree on the activities and effort needed to re-build the selected building, organize their receipts, agree on products each will market, pricing, promotion and more. By forming an association, farmers have space to help each other, where the ones with greater knowledge and experience can coach other farmers. But also it gives farmer a voice that allows them to negotiate to improve working conditions. In the photos you can see snapshots of that training, next month you will see the before and after pictures of the market, stay tuned!



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