

# MOBILITY WINDOW

In the framework of the IOB Going Global programme, three IOB students Jimena Corzo (Peru), Britt Dutour (The Netherlands) and Janne Bemelmans (Belgium) were selected by the South partner and IOB staff to participate in the Mobility Window programme. Mobility Window is a six week research internship offered as a subunit in the first module of the IOB programme. Instead of learning a new research method during classes, students are enabled by this programme to apply their knowledge of research methods as a co-researcher in an existing research project at one of the partner universities.

Jimena and Britt were invited to join two projects at Mzumbe University in Tanzania, respectively on mobile

community monitoring of rural water sources and social networks' influence on climate change adaptation. Janne Bemelmans traveled to the Philippines to work on a project on the impact of international labour migration on education of children left behind. Ideally, the mobility window programme should be a win-win project, allowing IOB students to learn to apply research skills and experience intercultural professional exchanges, while the South project should be able to benefit from the additional student's input into the research project.

The three students seemed to agree that even though there were quite some challenges it was a worthwhile experience that gave them new perspectives and insights you do not learn from books.



Jimena

"1500 people live in Lugono, the village I visited. Their only source of water is a single water pump that was built by missionaries ten years ago. If it is ruined, women and children, traditionally responsible for fetching water, will have to walk much more than the 3 km they currently walk every day to get water to live. In Tanzania, in 2010 just a little more than 50 % of the population had access to a safe water source. In rural areas just 44 %. Eight years later and millions invested, really not much has changed."

Britt

"During my research in Tanzania I faced a couple of challenges. However, these provided me with a lot of new knowledge and insights on doing research and in particular, doing research in a development context. I gained a lot of new information that I will hopefully be able to use in further research whether it is in an academic, government, business or (I)NGO setting."

The two students at Mzumbe University also got to know some people at an orphanage nearby. They asked their friends and fellow students to support the crowdfunding project and were able to provide the 53 children with health insurance, new school uniforms and a wheelchair and special shoes for children with difficulties to walk.

Janne

"At De La Salle University (Manilla) I was introduced to the Community Based Monitoring System by Prof. Alellie Sobreviñas and I have experienced first-hand how research can inform local development. Moreover I worked in a multicultural environment and learned how to network. I would highly recommend future students to apply for the research internship, as it broadens your perspective and gives you the opportunity to put theory in practice."

