ADVOCATING FOR EVICTED PERSONS IN CAMBODIA
By Marissa A. Gutiérrez-Vicario
(MPA, International Policy and Management, 2009)

This past summer, I interned at the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), which works to empower communities by providing trainings and workshops on housing rights.

I was part of a delegation to the relocation site of Sambok Chab, a community of 1,000 families forced to relocate two years ago by military police armed with AK-47s and electric batons. Confused and scared, many of the families had no idea where they were going. When they arrived at the new site, Andoung village, the community was left without latrines, electricity, or even running water.

While working with COHRE, I learned that this is just one of the many instances of forced evictions within the country, one of the most prevalent human rights violations within Cambodia. Currently over 150,000 individuals throughout the country are faced with forced evictions. In many cases, these evictions are done in the name of “development”—often high-rise building projects initiated by the rich and powerful, that only the most elite of the population can actually afford.

As an intern in Phnom Penh, I compiled data concerning forced evictions in Cambodia and COHRE’s region for the bi-annual Global Forced Eviction Survey. I also attended COHRE community workshops and worked on several protest letters, which are considered an integral advocacy tool used by COHRE in order to bring awareness of these housing rights violations to the rest of the international community.

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IN GUATEMALA
By Jen Cheslock (MPA, Management, 2009)
and Oriana Seastone Stern (MPA, Public Policy Analysis, 2009)

We traveled to Guatemala this summer to work with As Green as It Gets (AGAIG), an organization that serves as an incubator for small businesses in Guatemala. The majority of our trip was spent looking at ways we could improve AGAIG’s long-term sustainability. We developed program proposals, worked on a performance measurement plan, and examined financial statements and brand management strategies. To supplement our analytical work, we packaged and exported coffee, planted trees, led and translated tours, and taught a computer class for local farmers. Each evening we returned to our rented house in the middle of San Miguel Escober. Living within the community was a transformative experience, and deepened our understanding of community development.

SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS IN RWANDA
By David Russell (MPA, Management, 2009)

Last summer, I worked in Kigali, Rwanda with two local organizations dedicated to supporting survivors of the 1994 genocide: AVEGA (Association of Widows of the Genocide) and IBUKA (National Umbrella of Survivor Organizations).

With AVEGA, I developed the “terms of reference” and an evaluation metric for a new gender-based violence study. AVEGA has undertaken a three-year program to sensitize the judiciary, local government, media, and the public to the issue of violence against women, but the impact the funding had on the lives of women in the region was unclear. So, I developed a performance scorecard, and identified the data needed from the field to determine changes in attitudes and action.

With IBUKA, I developed a critical path for a new capacity building project, establishing two new employee positions that will focus on advocacy, fundraising and stakeholder engagement. I began work on a white paper that details the issues and priorities of survivors and the organizations that they represent. In addition, I helped craft an evaluation scorecard, identifying the areas on which the performance of the new employees would be measured in order to assess their impact.

This was an incredible opportunity to get deep insight into the issues that smaller NGOs have to address—and to develop a privileged view of the challenges that survivors in Rwanda still must face.

SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECT
By Nina Ivory (MPA, International Policy and Management, 2010)

I worked with the South African Education and Environment Project (SAEP), an organization based in Cape Town, South Africa. In collaboration with community leaders, SAEP delivers vital public service to communities in disadvantaged townships. SAEP works in partnership with the local, regional and federal government to connect community leaders with education resources, and teach-