

On May 1st, 2023, students from the African Rural University (ARU) successfully returned from a transformative one-month Practicum that began on April 1st, 2023.

The One-Month Village Practicum is a supervised participatory fieldwork experience designed for second-year students at ARU. Its purpose is to empower students to bring about positive change in rural communities by putting into practice the knowledge they have gained in the classroom. Prior to the Practicum, students receive theoretical training on various subjects such as the principles of the creative process, systems thinking, integrated rural development, and more, providing them with a solid foundation in rural transformation.

During the Practicum, each ARU student is placed in the home of a parent who has a child attending URDT Girls School. This arrangement allows the student to immerse themselves in the URDT/ARU methodology and approach to rural transformation while receiving guidance and mentorship from both the parents and the Epicenter Managers. Over the course of one month, the intern actively contributes to and strengthens the ongoing projects of the host family, thereby gaining practical experience in their chosen field.

The Practicum covers a wide range of development aspects, including health, nutrition, sanitation, agriculture, and appropriate technologies for rural transformation. Its main objectives are:

Facilitating the process of empowering individuals to realize their role in their own development.

Facilitating the process of enabling communities to formulate and implement their own visions and action plans.

Assisting communities in developing strategies for self-help and self-reliance through active community participation.

Promoting the recognition and utilization of the interrelationships between various development concerns, such as health, nutrition, sanitation, agriculture, water management, rural technologies, income generation, and the environment, to foster a holistic approach to development.

By the end of the one-month Practicum, students are equipped with practical skills and knowledge, enabling them to establish epicenter villages where transformation can begin.







