

Tanzania - Sinead O'Meara

I'm back in Ireland now over 2 years but think of Tanzania and Dar Es Salaam every day.

I worked for a women's group called Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP). My job was a programme officer for information. In two years a website, network and some hours of training were done but as with many NGOs there was never enough time to do all the things that were necessary.

TGNP is an internationally funded NGO with connections to national and regional organisations - www.tgnp.co.tz They lobby policy makers, train at the grassroots and provide fora for discussions of topics issues through gender mainstreaming.

When I remember Dar Es Salaam, its not just for the job and the amazing women at work. I remember Dar for all the sights, sounds and smells like the first time I heard frogs croak in unison I thought it was a generator. The smells of roasting corn by the side of the road and the sight of old washing mangles used for making sugar cane juice. The daily battle with cockroaches and ants. And fretting if we didn't have enough water boiled and filtered before either the electricity or the water was cut off.

I had a fabulously rich experience there for two years and would love to do something similar somewhere else. I think I did manage to do something positive while I was there but the feeling lingers that maybe I could have done a lot more.