

Project introduction to Districts and Baseline Survey

- Project introduction (16th November -22nd November)
- Baseline survey and Data Collection (29th November - 6th December)

<Progress>

The project was introduced to the respective districts including Wakiso, Butambala and Mubende through getting in contact with the Chief Administrative Officers. The team first of all prepared necessary documents including the introduction Letter to the Chief Administrative Officers (From JICA), project first quarter workplans, project minutes signed with JICA and Global Bridge Network (GBN). These were put in file which was presented during the meetings in the respective districts. In all the districts a conclusion was reached on the schools where the project activities shall take place.

During this period, data collected for the baseline survey was started reaching the selected schools in each of the 3 districts. By the time of this reporting, this is still continuing up to 6th December 2021. Details about baseline survey data collection will be contained in the December 2021 report and the baseline survey report itself.

<Selected target schools>

Mubende District	Wakiso District	Butambala District
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Christ the King Nkadwa ✧ Kabbowa primary school ✧ Kasaana Church of Uganda ✧ COWADISA primary school (Kibalinga Sub- County) ✧ Kategga Primary School ✧ Dyangoma Primary School ✧ Ikular Primary school(Kigando Sub- County) ✧ Kiyiita primary school ✧ Kassasa Primary School Gwanika primary school (Nabingoola Sub- County) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Lwadda Church of Uganda primary school ✧ Kitanda Church of Uganda primary school ✧ Ssanga Church of Uganda primary school ✧ Buwambo Church of Uganda primary school ✧ Kirolo UMEA primary schools ✧ Kigoogwa Moslem primary school ✧ Kitungwa church of Uganda primary school (Gombe Division) ✧ Maganjo UMEA primary school ✧ Jinja Karoli primary school 10-Kanyange Mixed primary school (Nabweru Division) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Butalunga Catholic School ✧ Butende UMEA ✧ Kitagobwa Catholic School ✧ Lwamasaka UMEA ✧ Kiwala UMEA (Ngando Sub- County) ✧ Nkokoma Catholic School ✧ Nawango Church of Uganda ✧ Bule UMEA (Bulo sub-county) ✧ Ntolomwe UMEA 10-Kayenje Catholic School in (Gombe Sub- County)

<Positive influences/ Changes>

The project was welcomed in each of the targeted districts with high hopes of bring positive changes to girls stay in schools. It was noted that it would support schools that had bigger enrolment as well as those that lacked support from other donors.

In Butambala, the project awakened the need for the district to recruit and employ a female school inspector. This was observed by the Butambala Chief Administrative officer who noted" Now you are bringing a female related project, yet we don't have any single female in our top district education management... We shall very soon employ a female school inspector to make sure that we have someone who can effectively follow up on this MHM project which is a female related project" The project also created increased awareness about JICA, GBN and SORAK as important WASH (Water, sanitation and hygiene) implementing partners.

In Mubende, from the district inspector of schools mentions that we are glad that we have for a project that will help to keep girls at school. This play project will be very helpful especially after long COVID-19 lockdown. Thank you SORAK and also our partners for this timely support.

In Wakiso, the deputy CAO welcomed the project team and expresses his love for the project. He then referred the team to the District Education officer for guidance. The DEO was more than happy that the project aimed at addressing an area that was neglected in most of the schools in the country. He guided the team to conduct project activities in Nabweru and Gombe division all of which are under the supervision of Nansana municipality. While at Nansana municipality, we were received by the Municipal Education officer Mr. Lwanga who was also happy as the rest on knowing what the project was about and selected the ten schools right away before he introduced us to the Deputy Town clerk. She was so grateful of the efforts by SORAK and officially welcomed the project in Nansana Municipality.

All the three district leaders acknowledged how they had always heard about JICA as a very important development partner in many different fields. They got raised hopes that since JICA was the donor to this project, many more other school challenges like lack of enough classroom space, lack of enough latrines/toilets would be provided either by this project or in future support. SORAK was however quick to inform them that this was a pilot project with her scope limited to ensuring the provision /improvement of a girls washroom. It is observed therefore that the district leaders visited are expecting much more from this project than we planned.

<Problems / Challenges>

- During the visit to Butamabala, the team found the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) busy in another meeting which took long to end. This was solved by utilizing the time to first of all

meet Local Council 5 (District Local Government) Chairperson as they kept waiting for the CAO to conclude his meeting and meet with them afterwards.

- Internet connection in Ngando is very poor which affected real time reporting with the data collectors who used online questionnaire. Once the telephone network was available in an area, responses would be submitted instantly/real time. Real time reporting here means posting questionnaire answers/after interviewing respondent immediately. Where there is not network in a locality this cannot be possible. But this was mitigated through audio recording and later find a spot with good internet and the complete the online questionnaire.
- language barrier because Mubende, the population is made up a mixture of tribes and Francis one of the project officers is not familiar with some of the local language for the schools that were visited (Runyakitara) Communication with girls who do not speak English was difficult. This was solved by one of the project volunteers who knows such local languages and would translate for the girls.
- In Wakiso the project team was disrupted with rain and slippery roads and also some appointments were pushed to the next dates, but the team was patient and had to meet their targets for the respective days.

<Lessons Learnt>

Government is currently worried of working with NGOs due to increasing terror threats. Some NGOs have political objectives, and this puts others to disadvantage. It was learnt the government was currently very sensitive with working with NGOs and this it is always good to inform the District Local Government and Security for any project implementation in order to win their support

<Activity Photos>



Project introduction to Butambala district: from left to right; Programme officer, Butambala, SORAK Director, Chief Administrative officer Butambala, Programme Officer Mubende and Director Butambala implementing team.



Project introduction to Nansana Municipality Wakiso district, from left to right is the Assitant Town clerk, SORAK Director and the Municipal Education officer receiving project documents file at the Municipality headquarters.



Project introduction in Mubende district. From Left is inspector of schools -co-curricular, District inspector of schools and SORRAK Director at District education offices Mubende district



Focus group discussion with girls Ssanga Primary school Gombe Division Nansana Municipality Wakiso district



Focus group discussion with boys Ikula Primary school Kigando subcounty Mubende district



Briefing pupils of Manganjo UMEA before questionnaire interviews Nabweru Division, Nansana Municipality



State of toilets Kitanda Primary school Gombe division Nansana Municipality Wakiso district



Focus group discussion with girls CAWODISA Primary school Kibalinga subcounty Mubende district



Key informant Interview with Education officer Nansana Municipality

< Comments from related parties >



Chief Administrative Officer Butambala District

“It is because of this project about Mental Hygiene Management that I have just discovered that we do not have a female inspector of schools in Butamabala district, and I should ensure that during recruitment the human resource manager should consider recruiting of females as a priority”



Member of Parents and teachers’ association of Kasana C/U primary school. Kibalinga subcounty Mubende district.

“Thank you very much for bring this project to our school. This project will help our girl children get pads to help them and stay safe at school. We have always asked their mothers to give them pieces of cloth which they use as pads. These makes them uncomfortable and sometimes get wounds in their private parts, fail to move properly, and decide to stay at home washing so many times because they cannot afford pads. They have to keep washing because they have no pads to use.



SORAK Director

“SORAK is grateful to having partnered with JICA and GBN. We are very grateful to having been selected to work with JICA which has always contributed a lot towards the development of Uganda. All project sites and stakeholders visited are expecting more support from JICA.”