

Monthly Report February 2022

IMPROVING SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS BY ADDRESSING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE CHALLENGES

<Activities conducted>

1. Conduct radio talk shows about girls' education and use of a reusable sanitary pad (happy pad).
2. Draft a booklet and a brochure about MHM, sex education and gender issues
3. Conduct project inception meetings in the three districts
4. Finalize the baseline survey
5. Work towards finalizing the happy pad promotion center's renovation.

1. Conducted radio talk shows about girls' education and use of happy pad

In Mubende

The radio talk shows were conducted on 2/02/2022 respectively at Heart FM in Mubende town for one hour starting at 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The talk shows were attended by the Executive Director, Projects manager, projects officer, and projects volunteer. Issues talked about by each one of the above are outlined in the talking point/concept note.

In Wakiso

The talk shows were conducted at Tiger FM located in Nabweru division on the 4th/02/2021.

It was attended by the Executive Director, Projects Manager, Project officer- Wakiso, And Project Assistant information communication and technology (ICT.) The programme lasted for one hour between 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

In Butambala

The shows were not conducted this month.

2. Draft booklet and brochure about MHM, sex education and gender issues

SORAK obtained materials/information for creating a booklet and a brochure from Ministry of Health. This was used and guided the project team in the process of drafting the booklet and the brochure. These two items are still under discussion and development with GBN and will be finalized by the end of March 2022.

3. Conducted project inception meetings in the three districts

The inception meetings were attended by the respective head teachers, their senior woman teachers/ a member of the school management committee, and the selected

government officials. Much more emphasis was put on ensuring that schools report about this project in their routine reports to the district and government during the process of reporting back to government by the school head teachers and to ensure that they provide changing rooms and wash rooms at their respective schools.

In Mubende

The inception meeting was held on the 28/02/2022 from 10:00am -02:00pm at Kibalinga sub-county hall. The agenda to the meeting included: registration of participants, opening prayer, self-introductions from the participants, Opening remarks, presentation and purpose of the meeting, remarks from the DEO, remarks from the Education centre chairperson remarks from area inspector of schools, open discussion, way forward and closing remarks. The meeting was attended by the representatives of or respective head teachers of the ten selected schools and their senior woman teachers. The government officials included the Education center chair person, area inspector of schools, Senior Assistant Secretary /sub county chief and the LC3 chair person. Head teachers of the respective schools signed Memorandum of Understanding as a guiding tool to assist in renovating the identified schools' facilities as par the task list within an allocated budget.

In Wakiso

The inception meeting was conducted on the 4/03/2022 from 10:00am-02:00pm at Jinja Karoli Primary School student's hall. The agenda to the meeting was, Arrival and registration of participants, opening prayer, self-Introductions, purpose of the meeting, opening remarks, presentation about the project, open discussion and way forward, closing remarks by the Municipal Education Officer (MEO). The opening remarks were given by the Honorable Secretary for education for Nansana Division and the closing remarks were given by Municipal Education Officer. The respective head teachers and the senior woman teachers from the selected project schools. Head teachers of the respective schools signed Memorandum of Understanding to assist in renovating the identified schools' facilities as par the task list within an allocated budget.

In Butambala

The meeting was held on the 3/03/2022 from 12:00-3:00pm at Budinse Memorial School in Ngando sub county. The agenda to the meeting was; arrival and registration of participants, opening prayer, self-Introductions, purpose of the meeting, opening remarks, remarks from the Senior Administrative Secretary, remarks from chairperson LC3, remarks from the DEO, remarks from the inspector of schools, presentation about the project, open discussion and way forward, closing remarks by the deputy RDC. In attendance were the District Education Officer (DEO), Town clerk, Head of Teachers Union, School head teachers of the 10 selected schools and the Deputy Resident District commissioner of Butambala district. Head teachers of the respective schools who signed

Memorandum of Understanding to assist in renovating the identified schools' facilities as per the task list within an allocated budget.

Emerging issues from the inception meeting;

- A request to provide more than one sawing machine, more toilet blocks and washrooms as some schools like Jinja Kaloori and Ssanga primary schools in Wakiso district have a big population which causes a lot of congestion in such facilities and a number of girls have their menarche at nine years hence a need for more menstrual materials especially provided at school. (This was Highlighted in Wakiso by the Headmistress of both Jinja Karoli and Ssanga.
- A request for a box where to store both material for making sanitary pads and the finished products. (reusable pads)
- Participants requested for providing certificates to the trainees at the end of the trainings in schools to act as a motivator to the trainees.

4. Finalize the baseline survey

The baseline survey report was finalized. It was used to inform the inception meetings in the 3 project districts.

5. Finalize with working on a happy pad promotion center in Wakiso

The centre is under renovation and will be ready for use in the shortest time possible. Equipment is going to be bought and installed as well. This centre has been now been connected to electricity and awaits being provided with a door and windows. This will commence by the end of March 2022.

<Positive influences/ Changes>

The inception meetings had the following influences;

- School head teachers were glad to know more about the project as they promised to follow the terms and conditions in the MOU for effective project implementation
- The respective district officials and the local leaders promised to always work hand in hand with SORAK and the respective schools in the three districts to ensure success of the project implementation
- A WhatsApp group for head teachers and project staff was formed for proper monitoring of the project activities in the three districts.
- The meeting created chance for the government officials to interact with the respective head teachers and learnt of the challenges faced in such schools which they took note of for further action.

<Challenges faced during the conduct of February activities in all the 3 districts >

- The participants did not keep time during the inception meetings however the team was patient until a reasonable number of them turned up and started the meeting as the rest found them along the way. In Wakiso, the Municipal Education Officer got delayed but managed to come towards the end of the meeting and delivered his message to the representatives of the different schools.
- Some Head teachers were not responsive for example in Wakiso one of the Head teachers did not turn up for the meeting despite the fact that he had been invited and reminded about the meeting. The project team requested the Municipal Education officer to advice accordingly. He promised that he will physically reach out to the Head teacher and will update team accordingly.
- Some of the telephone contacts of the participants were not available but team identified their other numbers and for the ones with only one number. Team kept on calling until they went through.
- There was need to ensure that the booklet has simplified language to suit the students, teachers and the community at large and this was resolved by ensuring to make use of more graphics.
- Expectations of the beneficiary schools were higher than the actual budget allocated for the improvement of the selected school facilities however, they were encouraged to concentrate on working towards the success of the project implementation which shall lay ground for more funds.
- Poor internet connectivity where it was not easy to effectively connect with the GBN team in Japan during the inception meetings. The project team kept on trying to connect for the members to join the call.

<Lessons Learnt>

- Some of the schools had more demanding different needs such as buildings and wholly constructed toilet, and some materials as compared to the ones in the task list and in the project.
- Participants appreciated the idea of training learners and teachers on how to make sanitary pads.

Comments from related parties



“Issues of MHM are so portent that one of the girls who was experiencing her periods for the first time was lied to by a man that if she had sex with him, she would stop bleeding, when the girl had sex with the man, she got pregnant! So the project is very vital to help to clear the air about issues of MHM.” said the Education Centre Chairperson, Kibalinga Education centre-Mubende



“The issue of reusable sanitary pads is very important as many of our parents do not have money to buy the pads on a monthly basis due to poverty. This is a chance so let’s ensure that there is sustainability of the project and ensure to meet deadlines of making renovation of our schools toilets and washroom” said the County inspector of schools-Kasambya County- Mubende District.



“Teachers should ensure that they invite the female parents during the parents’ meetings to build their capacity in MHM issues to enable them to teach their daughters back home” said the Subcounty Vice Chairperson-Kibalinga subcounty local government, who represented the Chairperson- Mubende



“I request that the training in making and use of sanitary pads be extended to the private schools because this is a very important issue.; yet we have about 3000 schools in my municipality” said the Honorable Minister for education and sports -Nansana Municipal council



“In a day we handle like 20 cases of girls who experience menstruation while at school, by making reusable sanitary pads and making them available at school will be very helpful. Moreover, majority of our urban children begin menstruation at 9 years of age” said the head teacher Jinja Kaloori Primary School in Nansana Municipality



“This is a very important journey we have started with SORAK which will create a difference in the education sector; I request all the stakeholders present to utilize the resources efficiently to achieve the project goal.” said the Municipal Education Officer, Nansana Municipality



“It would be of great importance if the funds and any resources offered are used for the intended purpose. As I make rounds, we shall know who of you put the resources to good use,” Resident District Commissioner of Butambala emphasized

<Activity photos>



The projects manager rising awareness about what needs to be done to ensure proper MHM in schools



The projects manager rising awareness about what needs to be done to create a conducive MHM environment in schools at Tiger FM in Wakiso district on 4/02/2022



The projects officer talking about the need for safe MHM in schools during the radio talkshow at TIGER FM in Wakiso district on the 4/02/2022



The Director introducing the project to the listeners of Tiger FM in Wakiso District on the 4/02/2022



Head teachers and the senior woman teachers during the inception meeting in Mubende



The Head teacher of Kiyita Primary school signing Memorandum of Understanding - Nabingoola subcounty -Mubende



Executive Director SORAK making presentation about the project in Wakiso district



Project manager requesting Hon. Sec for education to give opening remarks during the meeting in Wakiso district



Municipal Education Officer while giving his closing remarks in Wakiso



Arrival & Registration of stakeholders in Butambala



Team Leader Introduces the project during the meeting in Butambala



Butalunga head teacher signing Memorandum of Understanding



The happy pad promotion centre being fitted with electricity and enough sockets and switched at Katalamwa Secondary School in Wakiso district



It will be fitted with windows and a door soon to commence operations.