

Monthly Report March 2022

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

### <Activities conducted>



1. Renovate selected schools WASH facilities
2. Conduct radio talk shows about girls' education and use of a reusable sanitary pad (happy pad).
3. Finalize a brochure and edit booklet about MHM, sex education and gender issues
4. Work towards finalizing the happy pad promotion center's renovation.











### 1. Renovate selected schools WASH facilities









As a follow up action point from the inception meetings that were conducted in the respective project districts, all targeted schools have also embarked on renovating WASH facilities in line with their most pressing needs regarding MHM in their schools. This begun after the inception meetings that was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup>/02/2022 in Mubende, 4/03/2022 in Wakiso and 3/03/2022 in Butambala as follows,

#### **Mubende**

In Mubende district, several schools took on the idea of renovating facilities including, water systems, toilets and wash rooms where as other schools built up new structures with the contribution of the communities. The renovation at each of the respective project supported schools is illustrated in the photographs here below;

<b>CAWODISA Primary School Kibalinga Sub County</b>	
 <p>&lt;Before&gt;</p>	 <p>&lt;After&gt; Both toilet and girls' wash room have been renovated. The Washroom is the first door as you enter the toilet. It is the front view of the girl's washroom.</p>

<b>Kabbowa Primary School Kibalinga Sub County</b>	
	
<Before>	<After> Girls' washroom and changing room have been renovated. There is now provision for a basin and jerry can.
<b>Kategga Primary School Kigando Sub County</b>	
	
<Before>	<After> The school decided to build another toilet because they only had one toilet used by the entire school population. They resolved with parents and the community to contribute the costs.
<b>Kasaana Church of Uganda Primary School</b>	
	
<Before>	<After> The Girls' washroom was renovated.
<b>Gwanika Primary School Nabingoola Sub County</b>	
	
<Before>	<After> The school did not have any facility suitable to serve as wash and changing room and thus decided to construct a new structure with one stance toilet and a washroom.
<b>Ikula Primary School Kigando Sub County</b>	
	
<Before>	<After> The girls' toilets had broken doors but in poor state with no handles which have been fixed

<b>Dyangoma Primary School Kigando Sub County</b>	
 <Before>	 <After> There were no gutters for the tank thus the gutters were fixed in addition to renovating floor of the washroom
<b>Kiyiita Primary School Nabingoola Sub County</b>	
 <Before>	 <After> Girls' toilet which had no changing room and wash room. Thus, changing room and wash room are under construction.
<b>Kassasa Primary School Nabingoola Sub County</b>	
 <Before>	 <After> There was girls' toilet without a wash room. Thus, construction of a wash room and a changing room are in progress.
<b>Christ the King Primary School Kibalinga Sub County</b>	
 <Before>	 <After> This school had one 2 stance toilet used by boys, girls, all teachers and the neighboring community. This project motivated them to start a 60ft deep,4-stance toilet with a washroom. At the time of monitoring in early march 2022, they had so far excavated 25ft depth

### Wakiso district

In Wakiso district, all schools except Kigoogwa and Jinja Kaloli conducted renovation as illustrated in the photographs below;

\*Kigoogwa Muslim Primary School did not attend the inception meeting and the municipal education officer is going to follow up. SORAK would make a final decision by end of April 2022 whether to continue with this school or get an alternative one. Jinja Karoli was still under discussion whether to work on the water tank which is too costly.

**Kirolu UMEA Primary School**



<Before>



<After> The washroom was fitted with a door and now safe for girls to use during their periods.



a hole on the wall which was filled up and covered.

**Lwadda cu primary school**



<Before>



<After>  
New iron sheets were fixed

**Maganjo UMEA Primary School**



<Before>



<After> Washroom with a rough surface and lacks a door which were worked on and fixed

**Kanyange Mixed Primary school**



<Before>



<After> Tank had no gutters supplying water. Gutters fixed and water flows into the tank when it rains fixed

**Kitanda CU Primary School**



<Before>



<After> Toilets with fixed doors

**Buwambo C/U Primary School**



<Before>



<After> Gutter and soak pit renovated

**Ssanga C/U Primary School**



<Before>



<After> Gutters holders have been fixed and gutters will be fixed

### Kitungwa Primary School



<Before>



<After> The girl's wash room had no door and the floor was rough so the school resolved to fix a door and work on the floor and the walls.

### Butambala district

In Butambala district, the progress on the renovation of targeted schools was conducted as presented in the photographs here below;

### Bule UMEA



<Before>



<After> The girls wash room was worked on by fixing a door and tiles on the floor

### Butalunga Primary School



<Before>



<After> A new washroom was constructed behind the teachers' toilet but it does not have a roof and door. However, the school is planning to improvise a door

**Ntolomwe Primary School**



<Before>



<After> The washroom was fixed in terms of its location and the door well fixed with a lock

**Nawango P/s washroom**



<Before>



<After> Washroom door fixed with a lock. Pending is plastering.

**Nkokoma Primary School**



<Before>



<After> The toilet block which was being used as a washroom but a new washroom and a changing room under construction

**Kiwala Primary School**



<Before>



<After> A changing room was extended behind the teachers toilet and a door was fixed with a lock

**Butende Primary School**



<Before>



<After>  
The school did not have a changing room which was improvised, fixed a door and roof and plastered

**Kitagobwa Primary School**



<before>



<After>  
Girls' washroom's dirty floor being improved

**Lwamasaka Primary School**

<Before> The school had no changing room.



<After> The school constructed a changing room which is still not ready for use as the floor is still wet

**Kayenje Primary School**



<Before>



<After> The washroom with a dirty floor is still under renovation but the door has been fixed



**2. Conducted radio talk shows about girls’ education and use of happy pad**

The talk shows were conducted during prime hours of the selected days in order to ensure that a good number of listeners can have chance to benefit. Listeners had time to interact with the project team as they called in to appreciate the project work and some would wish for the project activities to be extended to their respective sub- counties.

**In Mubende**

The shows were conducted on the 21and 22/03/2022 at Heart FM starting at 7:00-8:00pm. Where the project manager, project officer and project volunteer attended. The topics of discussion included; why a girl child should be kept in school, benefits of keeping girls in school, risks arising from not keeping girls in school and the role of wash room and changing rooms at school. The talking points for the second talk show included the prevailing situation of MHM and male involvement, the benefits of involving males in MHM issues and the risks arising from not involving the males in MHM issues.

	
<p>The projects manager highlighting issues of education and the project volunteer creating awareness about the need to have changing rooms and washrooms at school (first talk show)</p>	<p>The project officer educating the public about the relevance of keeping girls in school (first talk show)</p>
	
<p>The project volunteer rising awareness about the risks that arise from not involving the males in issues of MHM (second talk show)</p>	<p>The project manager informing the public about the status of male involvement in MHM issues (second talk show)</p>

**In Wakiso**

The talk shows were conducted at Voice of Kiryagonja and they lasted for 45 minutes each on the 25 and 27/03/2022. Where the project manager and project officer attended. The topics of discussion included; why a girl child should be kept in school, benefits of keeping girls in school, risks arising from not keeping girls in school and the role of wash room and changing rooms at school. The talking points for the second talk show included the prevailing situation

of MHM and male involvement, the benefits of involving males in MHM issues and the risks arising from not involving the males in MHM issues in addition to advertising the Happy Pad Promotion centre in Wakiso district located at Katalemwa Secondary School

	
<p>The project manager informing the listeners about the happy pad promotion center (first talk show)</p>	<p>Project officer giving highlights of the benefits of keeping girls in school (first talk show)</p>
	
<p>The project manager highlighting the situation of males involvement and the dangers associated with not involving males in MHM issues (second talk show)</p>	<p>The project officer informing listeners about the benefits of male involvement in MHM issues (second talk show)</p>

**In Butambala**

Two radio talk shows were held at Voice of Butende on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The topics included the Importance of keeping girls in school, dangers and outcomes of not keeping girls in school in addition to the updates regarding the project work. The talk shows were managed by the programs manager and the team leader.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, the Project officer, gave a recap of the project and its progress as at that time. He reported about the inception meeting. He further talked about the importance of an MHM friendly environment in regard to keeping girls in school.



The project team at Voice of Butende with one of the female teachers of Butende Primary School.

importance of an MHM friendly environment in regard to keeping girls in school.

The talk show on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 was more about the reasons why girls should be kept in school, the risks faced by girls who are not in school. How does the family, community and country benefit when girls stay in school. In attendance was the senior woman teacher of Butende primary school.

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

The brochure was finalized and pending is printing the first hard copy for a final review whereas the booklet is still being reviewed and it was suggested during the project meeting that there is need for an expert to guide the process of coming up with the right content to suit the intended audience. It will be complete as soon as possible. Currently the project team is in touch with an expert from the Ministry of Health to assist in proof reading for an improved and final version.



Brochure (front)

Brochure (back)

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

Happy pad promotion Centre located at Katalemwa secondary School and is now ready for use as the door and windows have been inserted. Equipment namely sawing machines have been installed. The centre will be opened to the public by the end of April 2022.



The doors and windows have been fixed

Installation of sockets is done

Walls have been worked on

### <Positive influences/ Changes>

The activities had the following positive influences;

- School head teachers are willing to work hand in hand with the project team to finalize the renovation process and have been sharing pictures of updates regarding the processes

in the respective schools. In addition, schools including Butalunga P/S, Ntolomwe P/S and Nkokoma P/S made community contribution both in cash and in-kind to ensure that renovation is completed. For example, each of the above schools made a contribution of 20,000 ugx, 133,500 ugx and 527,000 ugx respectively.



Lwamasaka P/S Boys involved in the renovation of girl's washroom/changing room in Butambala district

- Involvement of the boys was evident at Lwamasaka P/S. The boys provided labour during construction. They were seen carrying bricks to the site.
- Community involvement and contribution towards the renovation of facilities in all the three project districts. This was through respective school management committees and Parents Teachers Associations.
- Some schools head teachers embraced the urgent need for the wash room and changing rooms at school and have prioritized building or renovating them in their respective schools.
- All the project schools are appreciative support given to them to conduct the process of improving their respective schools' facilities
- The process has created a positive relationship between the project team and the respective schools
- In Wakiso district, the talk shows were an eye opener to the male parents that they are also supposed to support their daughters during menstruation as they approached the presenter and thanking him for hosting the project team
- Some schools like Bule Primary School have included guidance and counseling on MHM on the timetable as a result of the project interventions in the schools.



An altered time table that includes guidance & counseling as influenced by the introduction of the MHM project in the schools at Bule P/S

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

- Most of the schools have noted that the budget for improving the respective schools' facilities is small yet the necessary requirements for completing the entire process are many but they are trying their level best to make use of the available resources
- Some of the schools Head teachers do not have smart phones and this would make it difficult for them to capture and share the pictures regarding the progress of the renovation processes.

- Jinja Karoli has not yet utilized the funds. The reason being that they needed to renovate a rain water harvesting tank, which needs much more funds than provided. They are still mobilizing funds from parents/community to have this done.

**<Lessons Learnt>**

- Every shilling matter however small it may be. This is demonstrated by the wonderful work and improvement done in all the supported schools with the funds provided. Head teachers of the supported schools and the project team have been supportive and innovative to make use of the limited funds. They have both mobilized and motivated school foundation bodies (School management committees and parents and teachers' associations) to the extent of encouraging them to make own contribution both in cash and in-kind.
- The motivation is nevertheless hinged on anticipated further support with other activities. This was clearly stated during inception meetings that failure to renovate the WASH facilities will mean no more support with tailoring machines, trainings among others.