

Monthly Report April 2022

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

<Activities conducted>

1. Finalize editing the booklet about MHM, sex education and gender issues
2. Drafting the teachers' MHM training manual
3. Translation of the radio spot message from Luganda to English
4. Finalizing renovation of the happy pad promotion center to be ready for use
5. Follow up on progress of sanitation renovation progress at schools

1. Finalize editing the booklet about MHM, sex education and gender issues

The booklet was edited by the project team. This was after input by key stakeholders from Ministry of health and GBN members. This involved making consultations from different experts including one from the Ministry of Health, Health education department. The suggestions that were received from the experts were used to finalize the booklet. The booklet is now being printed and will be ready for distribution during May 2022.



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The front cover and table of contents of the booklet

2. Drafting the teachers' training manual

The project team identified relevant material which guided them to combine the manual and it will soon be finalized for the team to use during training of the teachers. The manual will be used as a guide by teachers when teaching school learners about MHM using the MHM booklet as a reference source.

3. Translation of the radio spot message from Luganda to English

The spot message was translated from Luganda (local language) to English in order to cater to stakeholders who do not understand Luganda.

<The Spot message >

Fellow Ugandans, did you know that a girl child on average misses four class room days every month as a result of Menstruation Hygiene Management challenges? It is highly recommended to prioritize girl's education by creating a friendly MHM environment both at home and school not forgetting reusable sanitary pads.

SORAK is here to provide support to some of the schools in the same regard.

It is advised that all school proprietors should ensure that schools have changing rooms and wash rooms where girls can be able to clean themselves and change pads.

This message is brought to you by SORAK together with Global Bridge Network-Japan

4. Finalizing renovation of the happy pad promotion center in Wakiso to be ready for use





The Happy pad Promotion Centre, located at Katalemwa secondary School, is now open to the public as the necessary renovation for the inside is completed. The outside wall is planned to be painted in May and a canvas banner will be displayed on the wall.

The IT person -Ms. Restetuta Nabirye will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the center. She will be the overall manager. She will take lead in the conduct of trainings, managing other tailoring team for the mass production and marketing of reusable sanitary pads. She will also reach out to community in Wakiso to ensure that new trainees are recruited and trained at a fee.

The centre will start with one tailor and more will be recruited as demand increases. The centre will operate all days with designed program hours to meet needs of various potential trainees. The centre will be open from Monday to Friday beginning at 8:30am and ending at 5:00pm.

This centre will be advertised in the following ways;

- 1- Communication to parents and potential trainees through students
- 2- Distribution of brochures to community members, school children. A total of 9000 of these have been printed and the distribution will be a continuous process
- 3- Routine announcement on megaphones
- 4- Routine announcement on radio
- 5- Visiting churches and other schools and provide information about the centre

	
<p>External appearance of the promotion centre</p>	<p>Another view of the promotion centre before the wall painting</p>
	
<p>Internal appearance of the promotion Centre</p>	<p>Making of pads in the promotion Centre in Progress</p>

5 Follow up on progress of sanitation and changing rooms renovation at schools

The project team in all the three districts visited and made phone calls to all the supported schools to find out progress on renovation and construction of the facilities agreed up. Most schools had completed renovations apart from the following;

In Mubende, 9 schools have completed renovation. Christ King Primary school needed more funding and they expected to get it after schools opening on 9th May 2022 when parents make cash contributions.

In Butambala, 8 schools have completed renovation pending is Nkokoma primary school still constructing a new washroom and a changing room. Kayenje primary school installed a door on the washroom but the soak pit is yet to be completed.

In Wakiso, 7 schools have completed renovation. Ssanga primary school hope to get money after beginning of the term on 9th May 2022. Jinja Karoli plan to rehabilitate in this new term starting on 9th May 2022 after discussions with the school management committee. This is because their idea of buying an additional sewing machine instead of renovating WASH facilities was disallowable. And a new school will be added in May to

replace the non-complying Kigoogwa Primary school.

<Positive influences/ Changes>

The activities had the following positive influences;

- The project team has been exposed to various literature regarding MHM, gender awareness and sex education which shall be very essential during implementation of the next project activities for example, some staff have learnt about MHM during the process of developing this MHM booklet. They now have increased knowledge about it and hope to use it during the planned activities of training teachers and raising awareness about MHM among community members.

<Challenges faced during the conduct of April activities >

The reusable sanitation pad promotion centre took long to take off because we opted to have a big room at Katalemwa Secondary school, though it still needed flooring, plastering and putting windows and door.

<Lessons Learnt>

- It is possible to achieve impact. For example, most schools supported to renovate toilets, washroom and changing rooms have done excellent work.
- Stakeholders sometimes have the potential but simply need to be told what to do and motivate them to take on particular tasks. This is witness with the way some schools raised more money to complete renovation of their facilities. Schools such as Butalunga primary school in Butambala district went an extra mile to put tiles in the washroom and Lwadda CU in Wakiso bought more iron sheets to renovate the toilet.

Comments from the IT officer Ms Nabirye Restetuta at promotion center



“I have liked this project. It is wonderful. It addresses the most pressing need for pads among our urban poor girls. Now that all commodities are expensive including disposable pads, the girls and their parents will be happy to make savings of the money they have been spending on disposable pads”