

Monthly Report June 2022

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

<Activities conducted>

1. Teachers' trainings on MHM, sex education (sexual and reproductive health) and gender awareness in the three districts
2. Awareness meetings to communities including parents of students in order to introduce the project and the importance of girls' education in a safe MHM environment
3. Establishment of MHM clubs which will be conducting child-to-child approach on sanitary pads making, MHM training, mentoring on issues of MHM and maintenance of school facilities with supervision by school teachers. (Butambala only)
4. Play Spot Messages on the radio to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users
5. Conducted pad making trainings at the happy pad promotional centre in Wakiso

1. Teachers' trainings on MHM, sex education (sexual and reproductive health) and gender awareness in the three districts

In an effort to build the capacity of teachers, workshops were organized in Mubende, Wakiso and Butambala districts. Originally a total 60 participants (1 senior woman teacher and 1 senior man teacher from 10 schools in each district) were targeted, but we included head teachers from each school and made it 90 as total. The activity was aimed at empowering teachers with the knowledge and skills they need to enable them conduct learner's trainings from an informed point of view.

Teachers' trainings were conducted as follows;

Date	District	Progress	Schedule
7-06-2022	Butambala	22 teachers attended the training. All 10 schools were represented at the workshop	Activity was completed 8 teachers that missed the training from Kiwala, Lwamasaka and Kitagobwa were trained by their representatives before 13 th -06-2022
10-06-2022	Mubende	15 teachers from 10 schools and others like the District Secretary for Education, the Education Centre Chairperson and the Sub County Chief for Kibalinga attended the workshop	8 schools were represented during the teachers' training and were taken through the different sessions. 2 schools (Christ the King and Kasaana Primary Schools) failed to attend but strategies on how to engage them were discussed and those two remaining schools conducted trainings in June during community sensitizations.
15-06-2022	Wakiso	17 participants from 10 schools attended workshop	All the 10 schools were represented during the training though some sent in one participant due to their busy schedule at their respective schools.

Activity Photos for Teacher's Trainings

<Butambala>



During the MHM session



Hygiene and Washroom facility Session



During the Gender Awareness session



During the session on Sexual Reproductive Health

<Mubende>



During the gender awareness session led by the Project Officer



The Executive Director handing over the booklets to the participants



The District Secretary for Education as he gives closing remarks



During the MHM session by the projects manager

<Wakiso>

<p>The Director SORAK gives opening remarks during the teachers' training</p>	<p>During the gender awareness session by the project officer</p>
<p>During a presentation on Sexual reproductive Health</p>	<p>During the MHM session</p>

2. Community Awareness Meetings including parents of students in order to introduce the project and the importance of girls' education and a safe MHM environment.

This activity was conducted in Butambala and Mubende though only 2 schools were visited for community sensitization and 8 sensitizations to be conducted in July in Mubende. Wakiso community sensitizations to be conducted in July as well. The activity targeted 40 community members (men and women) per each community of the supported school. A total of 30 meetings were planned in the 3 districts to reach a total 1,200 community members.

The objective of the community awareness meetings was to raise awareness on issues related to MHM, Gender awareness, and Sexual and Reproductive Health. The awareness campaign aimed at reminding girls and boys, parents, teachers and community leaders about their individual roles in proper menstrual hygiene management. It also involved gender awareness as well as information sharing on sexual and reproductive health.

Below is the district specific implementation progress;

Date	District /Location	Progress	Schedule
13 th -06- 2022	Butambala -Kayenje, Ntolomwe and Nawango	10 community awareness meetings were held reaching 180 out of the target 400 members of the PTA (Parents Teachers Associations) and SMC (School Management Committee) of each of the 10 beneficiary schools.	To reach 220 more community members to meet the target, the project team scheduled meetings on;
14 th -06- 2022	-Butende, Kiwala, Lwamasaka and Butalunga	More female (106) reached than the male (74)	1. 14 th July 2022 Lwamasaka and Butende primary
15 th -06- 2022	-Nkokoma, Kitagobwa and Bule primary schools respectively		2. 16 th July at Kitagobwa and Nawango Primary 3. 21 st July 2022 at Kiwala, Nawango and Butalunga primary schools
16 th -06-2022	Mubende -Katega Primary school	Two school communities, a total 111 participants reached.	8 school communities to be reached on the scheduled dates below;
24 th -06-2022	-Christ the King	46 (34 female, 12 male) from Katega primary. 65 (34 female, 31 male) from Christ the King primary school)	6 th /07 Kabowa P/S 7 th /07 Kiyiita and Gwanika P/S's 8 th /07 Dyangoma P/S 9 th /07 Kasaana Primary and CAWODISA P/S 10 th /07 Ikula and Kasasa P/S's

<Butambala>



Bule Primary School Community

Project Officer creates awareness at Bule Primary school



Kayenje C/S Primary School MHM club (Boys excited to participate in the project)

Giving out T-Shirts to MHM club students at Kitagobwa primary school



Nkokoma MHM club receiving booklets and T-shirts



Nkokoma Community Awareness on MHM, Gender and SRH



Leaders present during the meeting at Katenga Primary School Mubende



The chairperson PTA emphasizing the issue of keeping children in schools



Project introduction by the Executive Director



The Head Teacher Christ the King giving opening remarks



Project officer talking to the participants about responsibilities of the stakeholders



Executive director talking to the participants about the importance of educating children

3. Establishment of MHM clubs and conduct child-to-child approach on sanitary pads making, MHM training, mentoring on issues of MHM and maintenance of school facilities with supervision by school teachers.

This has been conducted only in Butambala district where a total of 10 MHM clubs have been formed where each has a total of 150 members (100 girls and 50 boys). Mubende and Wakiso districts will conduct this activity in July 2022 during Community sensitizations.

Activity Photos – MHM Clubs in Butambala district



MHM club at Nkokoma P/S



MHM club at Butalunga P/S



President & Vice President of MHM club at Ntolomwe P/S



MHM club at Ntolomwe P/S



MHM club Kitagobwa P/S



Community members with MHM club at Bule P/S



MHM club at Kayenje P/S



MHM club attends session with community members of Lwamasaka P/S

4. Air Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls’ education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users

Spot messages about Menstrual Hygiene management, girls’ education and reusable sanitary pad are aired as follows;

- Mubende via Luna FM 6 times a day
- Wakiso via Voice Kiryagonja two times a day
- Butambala via Voice of Butende and Voice of Kikambwe where 10 and 11 spot messages are plaid on a daily basis respectively.

➤ **Impacts**

- Out of the spot adverts, during community engagements at Katega P/S in Butanbala, one of the parents noted that they hear about the spot adverts and it has helped them to understand more about the relevance of MHM materials towards the education of the girl child.
- A community member of Kitagobwa community in Butambala district reported that continuous spot messages clearly remind the members about their responsibility.
- Two schools namely Little Flowers primary school from Butende village and Wamala Foundation approached Butambala team for support after listening to the spot messages on several occasions. They confessed to the need of creating a girl friendly environment at schools.

5. Conduct pad training at the happy pad promotional centre

This training is ongoing. So far, a total of 94 students from different classes who attend in different sessions of training at Katalemwa Secondary School have been trained and a total of 94 pads have been produced. These are conducted from weekly from Monday to Saturday. 10 people from different communities approached to get more information about the promotion center by phone calls during radio talk shows, and others directly visited the center.

➤ **Impacts**

- Students are adapting to the use of reusable sanitary pads as they learnt the benefits over the disposable ones.

- Boys are eager to learn how to make reusable sanitary pads and it has created room for access to information regarding MHM issues by boys hence being supportive in that regard.

	
During the sketching and tracing session	Sketching and tracing
	
Sewing session	Sketching
	
Project team from Butambala during the training	Finished products of the reusable pads

Positive influences, Challenges, Mitigations and Lesson learnt

Activity	Positive Influences	Lessons Learnt
Teacher's Trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants pledged to go back and train their fellow teachers, students and parents. The political leader present made commitment to provide continued support supervision and monitoring to project supported schools and well as encouraging all other non-targeted schools to adopt the good practices introduced by this project. (Wakiso) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural barriers and misinformation among the members of the community requires a well-planned approach involving regular awareness campaigns. Deconstructing myths about menstruation is a gradual process.

Community Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement in project implementation • Parents from Christ the King primary school in Mubende pledged to contribute 1,000 shillings each towards washroom improvement. This came as a fruit of the community awareness at the end of which participants appreciated the importance and relevance of MHM • After acquiring the right information, perspectives of some male parents changed indicating their willingness to support their daughters during menstruation. (Butambala, Mubende) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male involvement in menstruation matters was strongly dented by the long history of women denying men information about the matter, claiming menstruation is a feminine issue. • The idea of involving boys and invoking child responsibility through the MHM club was well received by the community members and teachers as they would hardly prioritize it before. • Engaging children in an open meeting with parents boosts confidence and encourages open child-parent communication
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Activity	Challenges and Mitigation	
Teacher's Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 participants attended in all three districts. The ideal number of participants was 3 from each school (total of 90), and the number was less than that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The project teams have to get back to unrepresented schools to ensure that they are all brought on board. Teachers promised to train fellow teachers who were not able to attend. • Cultural buriers in the communities of Butende, Butalunga (in Butambala) and Katega primary school (in Mubende). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The project team had to strike a balance not to offend the culture of participants yet without compromising the facts. An informative approach was taken to scientifically explain menstruation. 	
Community Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural norms tend to be a hindrance especially about gender equality and proper MHM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sensitization of both males and females that MHM issues are for all not only females as most cultures assume • Language: Many community members could not read or write. This slowed down the training evaluation process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Information was shared in local dialect with demonstrations. ➤ Teachers administered oral questionnaires and wrote responses on behalf of the parents who couldn't write. • Industrial action (teachers went on strike) on 15th June 2022. Schools closed hence the poor attendance of community members at school and the delay in activity. 	
Promotion Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the outside people haven't yet aware of the service of the promotion center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More sensitizations and advertisements will be made to create awareness about proper MHM 	

Comments

“I urge all the participants to come up with a strategy of using the locally available materials to operationalise what they have learnt during the sessions. I will pay a monitoring visit to each and every school to follow up on this issue.” Noted the District Secretary for Education during his closing remarks for the teachers training.

