

Progress Monthly Report July 2022

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

<Activities conducted>

1. 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
2. Establishment of MHM clubs and 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. **(Mubende and Wakiso)**
3. Play Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users
4. Conducted pad training at the happy pad promotional centre in Wakiso
5. Conducted Radio talk shows **(Butambala)**
6. Inspection of school washroom facilities

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

The activity targeted 50 members (men and women) per each of the supported school. A total of 30 meetings were planned in the 3 districts to reach a total target of 1,500 community members. 2 meetings were held in June and, 28 meetings were conducted targeting 1,400 in this month. The objective of the activity was to create awareness on responsibilities of different stake holders on issues related to MHM, Gender Awareness, Sexual and Reproductive Health and importance of educating a girl child. The meetings aimed at reminding and teaching stakeholders including both male and female parents, community leaders and teachers of their responsibilities on issues regarding Menstrual Hygiene Management and the importance of keeping children at school especially the girl child.

Below is the district specific implementation progress;

Mubende

8 Community awareness Meetings were held reaching 300 members out of 400 target number of the PTA (Parents Teachers Associations) and SMC (School Management Committees) from each of the 8 schools.

These meetings consisted of 154 Male and 146 Female.

- Kaabowa Primary School (6th/07/2022)
- Kiyiita Primary School and St. Mary's Gwanika P/S (7th/07/2022)
- Ikula and Dyangoma Primary Schools (8th/07/2022)
- Kasasa Primary School(11th/07/2022)
- CAWODISA Primary School (12th/07/2022)
- Kasaana Church of Uganda Primary School(13th/07/2022)

Wakiso

10 Community awareness meetings were held reaching 454 members out of 500 target number of the PTA (Parents Teachers Associations) and SMC (School Management Committees) from each of the 10 schools. These meetings consisted of 165 Male and 289 Female.

- Ssayi Bright and Kitanda C/U Primary Schools (4th/07/2022)
- Ssanga C/U Primary School (5th/07/2022)
- Lwadda C/U Primary School (6th/07/2022)
- Kitungwa C/U P/S, Kirolo Umea P/S and Kanyange Mixed P/S (7th/07/2022)
- Buwambo C/U P/S, Jinja Karoli P/S and Maganja Umea P/S(8th/07/2022)

Butambala

10 Community awareness meetings were held and a total of 225 were reached this July, in addition to the 180 reached in June 2022 to make a grand total of 405 participants reached

- Lwamasaka Primary school, and Butende primary school (14th/07/2022)
- Kitagobwa, Nkokoma, Ntolomwe and Bule primary schools (16th /07/2022)
- Kiwala, Nawango, Kayenje and Butalunga primary schools (21st /07/2022)

Mubende Pictorial

		
Participants at St. Mary's Gwanika Primary School	Project Manager at St. Mary's Gwanika P/S	Participants at Ikula Primary School
		
Participants at Dyangoma P/S	Participants at Kasaana P/S	Participants at Kasasa P/S
		
Participants at Kaabowa P/S	Participants at CAWODISA Primary School	Participants at Kiyiita P/S

Wakiso

		
Project Officer at Ssayi Bright primary school	Participants at Kitanda C/U primary school	Participants at Ssanga C/U primary school
		
Participants at Kirolo UMEA primary school.	Participants at Lwadda C/U P/s	Participants at Kitungwa C/U primary school

Butambala

		
Participants at Kiwala P/S	Participants at Lwamasaka P/S	Participants at Kitagobwa P/S

2. Establishment of MHM clubs to 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. (Mubende and Wakiso)

This has been conducted in 2 districts (Mubende and Wakiso) where a total of 20 MHM clubs have been formed during community sensitization meetings. (In Butambala, clubs were established in June). About the formation of the MHM clubs for Christ the King and Katega Primary schools in Mubende, the project team engaged the schools regarding the club formation which was done successfully. Teachers assisted students to select the MHM club members including 10 girls and 5 boys where one girl is selected as the President and a boy as the assistant to spearhead the implementation of the MHM activities at school. A total of 300MHM club members (200 girls and 100 boys) in both districts was attained. The club members would be reminded of their roles and responsibilities after which photos of the members would be taken.

Mubende

		
Participants at St Mary's Gwanika Primary School	Participants at Ikula Primary School	Participants at Dyangoma Primary School
		
Participants at Kasaana P/S	Participants at Kaabowa P/S	Participants at Kasasa P/S
		
Participants at CAWODISA Primary School	Participants at Kiyiita Primary School	Participants at Christ the King Primary School
		
Participants at Katega P/S		

Wakiso

		
Participants at Buwambo P/S	Participants at Kirolo P/S	Participants at Ssayi Bright

		
Participants at Ssanga C/U P/S	Participants at Kitungwa P/S	Participants at Kanyange Mixed Primary School
		
Participants at Kitanda P/S	Participants at Jinja Karoli P/S	Participants at Maganjo Umea P/S

3. 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.

Impact;

- Messages on MHM continues to be in the ears of the community listeners which imparts knowledge and information on proper MHM to the listeners
- Community members especially females urged that these messages have helped them to remind men that they also have a role to play in matters related to MHM and not to leave them to only females (Mubende and Wakiso)

4. Conduct pad training at the happy pad promotional centre

This training is ongoing. So far, a total of 92 students (33 boys and 59 girls) aged between 13-17 years for S.1, S.2 and S.3 have been trained this month. These are conducted on a weekly basis from Monday to Saturday at Happy pad promotion Centre Katalemwa SSS with a total of 122 reusable pads produced. Sensitizations about the pad making activity were conducted in the community and 68 community members were reached (41 Females and 27 Males).

Impact;

- Boys and men are changing their attitude towards supporting girls rather than neglecting them when they are in their menstrual periods.
- Both boys and girls have shown positive interest and says that the venture is cost effective

compared to the costly non reusable pads.

- Both females and males have been enlightened on the kind of materials they ought to use to make a smart, soft and comfortable re-usable sanitary pad.

Happy-Pad Promotion Center/ training pictorial

		
Boys and Girls during sewing of happy pad session	Trainer taking boys through pad making	Girls during happy pad making session

5. Conducted Radio Talk shows (Butambala)

Two radio talk shows were held in Butambala at Voice of Butende and Voice of Kikambwe on 10th July 2022 to sensitize communities about proper MHM and each one’s responsibilities.

Talking points included;

- Reminding parents and guardians of their responsibilities over their children’s MHM affairs.
- Responsibilities and involvement of religious and school leaders on menstruation matters to improve the environment for girls to thrive in a stigma free environment

	
Officers at Voice of Butende	Talk show at Voice of Butende

6. Inspection of school washroom facilities

This activity was conducted in Mubende and Wakiso in July during community sensitizations. Some facilities were still in good conditions and sanitation improved in the respective schools. On 20th July 2022, 7 out of 10 schools were inspected in Butambala district including, Bule, Nkokoma, Kiwala, Ntolomwe, Nawango, Kayenje and Kitagobwa primary schools. The inspection was done randomly without notice. Facilities were still in good condition and general hygiene was well maintained. 6 out of the 10 inspected schools had fully functional MHM clubs. 2 were average while 2 schools had dormant MHM clubs. Monitoring and reporting tools were not well adopted. Only 4 out of 10 schools used the tools.

Mubende

<p>Toilet facility with changing room at CAWODISA.</p>	<p>Improved washroom facility at Kaabowa Primary School</p>	<p>Inside the lockable washroom at Dyangoma P/S</p>
<p>Outside the Lockable washroom at Dyangoma P/S.</p>	<p>Newly constructed Changing room at Kasasa P/S</p>	<p>A changing room and a wash room at Kiyiita P/S</p>

Wakiso

<p>Before, the gutters covered a small part of the building</p>	<p>After gutters extended to a large part of the building</p>	<p>Before, some buildings didn't have gutters</p>
<p>After, gutters were extended to other buildings</p>		

Positive Influence and lessons learnt

Activity	Positive Influences	Lessons Learnt
Radio Talk show	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Messages on MHM continues to be in the ears of the community listeners (Butambala) -Presenters applauded the involvement of religious leaders (Butambala) 	
Community Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parents promised to put into action whatever had been taught to them and also use the acquired knowledge to improve their lives -Schools appreciated grouping them during community meetings (Butambala) -Mothers from Kiwala community meeting asked fathers to rise up and help their daughters and bridge that "dad-daughter" gap (Butambala) -Some of the schools like Dyangoma appreciated the idea of providing a sewing machine for pad making (Mubende) -Schools have appreciated the relevance of a friendly MHM environment and ensure that things like emergency pads, nickers and uniforms are available at schools. (Mubende and Wakiso) -SORAK's visibility has been enhanced in the respective schools as a result of the project undertakings where most of the parents and students are appreciative of the support from SORAK. (Mubende and Wakiso) -The meetings were an eye opener regarding male involvement in MHM issues. -Males learnt that they have a vital role to play in MHM matters as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is need for more awareness, because a lot of misinformation and barriers still exist

Inspection of washroom facilities and MHM activities	<p>-Compliance and cooperation by the schools to lift and improve hygiene standards</p> <p>-Active participation from the beneficiary schools' management</p>	<p>-Random checks/ Spot checks gave a clear picture of normal routine management of menstruation (Butambala)</p> <p>-There is need to reinforce the use of monitoring tools for appropriate washroom facilities and MHM activities</p> <p>-More capacity building needed for MHM clubs because some of them were not fully functional (Butambala)</p>
Establishment of MHM Clubs in Schools	<p>-Pupils were happy and interested to participate in MHM clubs since it would generate more ideas on matters related to proper MHM (Mubende and Wakiso)</p> <p>-Teachers welcomed this idea of establishment of MHM clubs because they would use it as a platform to pass on information regarding to MHM to their pupils (Mubende and Wakiso)</p>	<p>-More sensitization of schools needed for MHM clubs in schools (Mubende, Butambala, and Wakiso)</p>
Conduct training in happy pad promotion Centre	<p>-Both boys and girls, women and men have been trained and attained Knowledge on MHM matters (Wakiso)</p> <p>-Boys no longer feel nasty about girls who are in periods (Wakiso)</p> <p>-Girls no longer dodge lessons because of menstruation (Wakiso)</p>	<p>-There is need in churches, mosques and other public places for mass sensitization about the dream services offered by promotion center (Wakiso)</p>

Challenges and Mitigation

Activity	Challenges	Mitigation
Radio Talk show	<p>-Limited coverage. (Butambala)</p>	<p>-Team encourages community members to share information.</p>
Community Awareness	<p>-The cultural rigidities among community members and conservativeness that is opaque to change.</p> <p>-Religious misconceptions that sometimes oppose the parental responsibilities in MHM.</p>	<p>-Radio talk shows and spot messages, meetings to create awareness about culture beliefs.</p> <p>-Continuous awareness campaigns with to sensitize religious leaders about issues related to MHM.</p>

	<p>-Language barrier. Having over four tribes in the region, the project team used Luganda as a language of communication which most of the members could understand and a few could not. (Mubende)</p> <p>-Poor time management by some participants during the community meetings at most of the schools. (Mubende and Wakiso)</p> <p>-Some of the parents do not know how to read and write and some participants were shy to respond to the assessment tool. (Mubende and Wakiso)</p> <p>-Schools had already conducted their parents' meetings for the term and during which, some of the PTA members did not attend and in addition the number of participants reduced. (Mubende)</p>	<p>-Few needed interpretations to pick the message and give feedback which was done appropriately. (Mubende)</p> <p>-The project team had to wait until there was a reasonable number of participants and started the meeting. (Mubende and Wakiso)</p> <p>-This called for one-on-one interaction during the process of filling in the questionnaire. (Mubende and Wakiso)</p> <p>-They invited a few parents of the students in the specific classes. (Mubende)</p>
Inspection of Washroom facilities	<p>-Implementation of MHM club still challenging (Butambala).</p> <p>-Laziness from some administrators.</p>	<p>-Building capacity of MHM club members subsequent with ongoing activities (Butambala) .</p> <p>-More awareness for schools still behind.</p> <p>-Planning exchange visits between performing schools and those lagging.</p>
Conduct training in happy pad promotion Centre (Wakiso)	<p>-There is still need for massive sensitization to the communities about MHM issues and pad making trainings.</p>	<p>-Sensitization of communities about the services offered at the promotion Centre on local radios like the Voice of Kawanda, Voice of hope, Kirinyabigo and voice of Katalemwa.</p>
Establishment of MHM Clubs in Schools	<p>-Busy schedule at schools for sustainability of MHM activities. (Mubende and Wakiso)</p>	<p>-The school management will create some time to allow MHM activities continue in their respective schools. (Mubende and Wakiso)</p>