

JICA Monthly Report September 2022

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

<Activities conducted>

1. Procured sewing machines for Mubende and Wakiso
2. Purchased MHM T-Shirts for Mubende and Wakiso
3. Radio talk show in Butambala
4. Air Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users
5. Happy pad centre in Wakiso
6. Updates on renovation of schools (Christ the King and Kiyita Primary Schools) in Mubende

1. Procured Sewing machines for Mubende and Wakiso

There are 20 Sewing machines that were purchased to be supplied in the 20 respective schools in Mubende and Wakiso.

Pictorial



Sewing machines that will be supplied in the respective schools in Wakiso and Mubende

2. Purchased MHM T-Shirts for Mubende and Wakiso

T-Shirts were procured for the MHM Club members in the respective schools. 25 dozen were purchased having 300 T-shirts for the 20 schools.

Pictorial



3. Radio Talk Show in Butanbala

One hour talk show conducted at Voice of Butende on 25th September 2022. The community was reminded about the need to support adolescent girls especially those that cannot afford sanitary material so that they can comfortably stay at school.

The major talking point was about the reusable pads that the team was yet to introduce in the target schools, how to make them, how to use the pads and how to keep them clean.



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 2 times a day.
- Butambala Spot messages aired 11 times at Voice of Butende and 10 times at Voice of Kikambwe

5. Happy pad promotion centre in Wakiso

A total of 45 pads were produced this month. 23 students were trained and 9 outsiders from the community visited the promotion centre. Bags for packaging pads were made and took for branding. These will be ready next month and pads will be packaged for marketing. The main target market are secondary schools and retail shops within the community. Selling of pads will start as soon as the branding process is completed. We intend to sell a package containing a pair of pads at 8000 Ugx. A professional tailor for the pad centre was identified for pad making, cutting and aligning.

Pictorial

		
<p>Bags that will be used for packaging of pads at the centre</p>	<p>Happy pad bag</p>	<p>Scissors that were replaced at the centre</p>
		
<p>Happy pad</p>		

6. Updates on renovation of schools (Christ the King and Kiyita Primary Schools) in Mubende.

Christ the King Primary School constructed a toilet and a wash room facility at the school. The facility is still under construction not yet completed.

The status is still the same as Head teacher of Kiyita Primary School promised to finish renovation after parents’ finish harvesting their crops and pay school fees.

We also have to note that Christ the King is a community school with no government funding.

They have made every effort to reach this far with SORAK mobilization. It is hoped that this will be completed during the December long holiday in preparation for the new academic year 2023.

Pictorial

		
<p>Outside part of the facility at Christ the King</p>	<p>Washroom and toilet facility at Christ the King</p>	<p>Washroom at Kabowa P/S: This is a good step compared to the situation before.</p>
		
<p>Inside part of the washroom at Kiyita P/S</p>	<p>Inside part of the changing room at Kiyita P/S</p>	<p>Outside part of the changing room with a curtain at Kiyita P/S</p>

Positive influence

- Menstrual hygiene management has greatly improved among pupils since they know how to handle themselves during their menstruation for example, girls no longer miss classes because of menstruation as they see it as a normal situation, boys no longer laugh at girls when they are in periods, they can manage their periods well using pads, clean pants among others
- The quality of pads improved since a professional tailor was hired to work at the promotion Centre (Promotion Center, Wakiso)
- Learners at the pad Centre have gained pad making skills (Promotion Center, Wakiso)
- Newly enrolled trainees are helped by some of their colleagues who joined before them at the promotion Centre (Promotion Center, Wakiso)

- Members of the community and young children are now familiar with the message especially in areas near the stations (Butambala)

Challenges

- Some schools had incomplete facilities for example Kiyita Primary School due to inadequate funds but they promised to complete the facilities as soon as parents harvest their crops and pay school fees (Mubende)
- Some of the trainees are slow learners who require extra time to pick but they are helped by some of their colleagues who pick quickly and those that joined before (Promotion Center, Wakiso)
- Absenteeism of some MHM club students due to economic hardships faced by parents to raise school fees making some to miss out some trainings. This is mitigated by engaging them when they return to school (taking them through what they missed) (Wakiso)

Lessons learnt

- It is important to start encouraging beneficiaries to come up with creative solutions to solve some of the prevailing challenges like inadequate funds to finish up renovation which they can address by making use of the locally available resources