

## JICA Monthly Report October 2022

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

#### <Activities conducted>

1. Delivery of Sewing machines and pad making training in 20 target schools in Wakiso and Butambala
2. Radio talk shows in Wakiso and Mubende
3. Air Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users in all target districts
4. Happy pad promotion centre in Wakiso
5. Updates on renovation of schools (Christ the King and Kiyita Primary Schools) in Mubende

#### 1. Delivery of Sewing machines and pad making- training in 20 target schools in Wakiso and Butambala

In Wakiso, sewing machines were delivered from 25 to 28/10/2022 in the ten target schools and trainings were conducted to teach members of the school including teachers, students, parents and a few members of the school management committee on how to make reusable pads. The students were mainly MHM club members of each school and other students from upper primary who were interested in the training.

In Butambala, trainings were conducted to teach members of the school communities including teachers, parents and members of the school management committee on how to make reusable pads from 8 to 12/10/2022. Trainings were conducted in all the 10 target schools in attendance of the MHM club members of each school and other enthusiastic learners.

#### Wakiso

		
<p>Delivery of sewing machine at Ssanga C/U</p>	<p>Head teacher of Kirolo UMEA receives the sewing machine</p>	<p>Group photo of teachers and SORAK members at Kitungwa C/U P/S</p>



Some students rewarded with a packet of pads for answering questions well at Kitanda P/S



Project officer demonstrating how to cut the cotton material at Jinja Karoli



One of the students at Buwambo C/U shows off a sketch he had made

**Butambala**



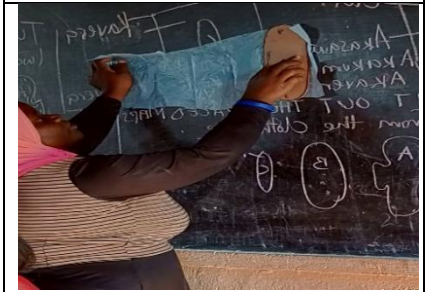
Pad training at Lwamasaka P/S



Training learners at Ntolomwe P/S



Demonstrating to a parent of Butalunga P/S



Trainer demonstrating measurements of the pad



Pad Training at Kayenje P/S



Team leader cuts polythene as he demonstrates



Officer shows finished pad at Kiwala



Demonstration to Bule P/S Parents and Teachers



Children participating in pad making at Kiwala

		
Machine handover to Bule P/S	Machine handover a Nawango P/S	Machine handover at Kayenje P/s
		
Nkokoma learners excited to receive sewing machine	Machine handover at Nkokoma P/S	
		
Machine handover at Kiwala P/S	Machine handover at Ntolomwe	Machine handover at Lwamasaka
		
Machine handover at Butende	A boy shows finished pad at Lwamasaka P/S	Machine handover at Butalunga



## 2. Radio Talk Show in Wakiso and Mubende

One hour radio talk shows conducted at Voice of Kiryagonja on 27/10/2022 in Wakiso and at Luna Fm in Mubende on 28/10/2022. 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.

In Wakiso, the major talking point was about the happy-pad promotion Centre located at Katalamwa Senior Secondary School, the training timetable and reusable pads that the team had introduced in the target schools, how to make them, how to use the pads and how to keep them clean.

In Mubende, the major talking point was about proper menstrual management, educating the girl child, the sewing machines that will be delivered in the 10 target schools to enable training of those schools on reusable pad making, their usage and how to keep them clean. Also promised listeners that these will be supplied after removal of lockdown.

	
<p>Project team during the talk show at Voice of Kiryagonja</p>	<p>Project officer Mubende educating about reusable pads during the talk show</p>

**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 of Kiryagonja and Tiger FM 10 times a day.
- Butambala aired 11 times at Voice of Butende and 10 times at Voice of Kikambwe.

**4. Happy pad promotion centre in Wakiso**

A total of 128 pads were produced this month. 23 students were trained and 8 outsiders from the community visited the promotion centre. No sales have been made yet but we are hopeful that we shall make sales as we keep marketing during talk shows, and community sensitizations



Students (Trainees) during happy pad making at the promotion Centre



Students during sewing of happy pad bags



Students during packaging of finished happy pads in the happy pad bags



Packaged happy pads

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

Christ the King and Kiyita primary schools have made some progress to provide fair spaces for girls wash and changing rooms. All this has happened amidst challenges of limited financial resources. This being third term of the year all efforts are geared towards ensuring that children do examinations in order to move to the next class. The ebola outbreak and associated lockdown has also stopped parents ability to make contribution for fast completion of the wash/changing rooms at the two schools. The current situation which will remain the same until next year 2023 is presented in the photographs below;



Washroom and toilet facility at Christ the King in October, a carpet curtain wall has been improvised.



Inside part of the changing room at Kiyita P/S



Outside part of the changing room with a curtain at Kiyita P/S

### Positive influence

- Participants (learners, teachers and parents) were excited to learn how to make reusable pads (Wakiso and Butambala)
- Boys participated attentively and were eager to learn more especially at Kitungwa C/U Primary School (Wakiso and Butambala)
- Some of the parents and teachers had basic tailoring skills which made training easier (Wakiso and Butambala)
- After the training, participants appreciated the support thanking SORAK, VOTU and GBN for the initiative. (Wakiso and Butambala)
- At Ssayi Bright Primary School the members of the PTA (Parents Teachers' Association) and School Management Committee were present during the exercise and they appreciated the support given to the school and promised to work hand in hand with the project team towards the success of the project activity implementation. (Wakiso)
- At Ssanga C/U primary school, the team met a bigger audience as it was a speech day where many parents, religious leaders, local leaders, students, members of the PTA and the School management committee were present. The Municipal Education Officer was present and he commended SORAK for the good job. (Wakiso)
- While at Voice of Kiryagonja, the presenter requested the team to drop some pads at the radio station for the community members to have access in case of need. (Wakiso)

- Community members appreciated spot messages that are aired daily reminding them of proper Menstrual Hygiene Management (Mubende and Wakiso)
- Listeners appreciated the idea of providing sewing machines and training on reusable pad making in the 10 target schools. This was evidenced by the number of calls they made during the talk show which showed their eagerness to receive them. (Mubende)

### **Challenges**

- Schools were preparing for the Primary Living Exams and the Primary Seven students did not effectively participate but they were advised to utilize the vacation and attend trainings in making reusable sanitary pads at their respective schools (Wakiso)
- Among the ten schools only one student at Kitanda C/U primary school could operate the sewing machine and the rest needed serious training. (Wakiso)
- 3 schools had no power and had no plans of installing soon. Machines will be replaced with manual machines (Butambala)
- Teachers worried about how to acquire user material to start production. The team advised the participants to be creative and mobilize resources. (Wakiso and Butambala)
- The 2 hours training per school was insufficient time considering the number of trainees. Head teachers requested the team to schedule other training sessions during the project life cycle. The head teacher at Bule Umea primary school suggested that we should consider a community training center to reach more people (Butambala)
- Due to Ebola pandemic, a lockdown was imposed on the 16/10/2022 first for 21 days and later extended for another 21 days stopped some activities like training in pad making till the situation improves hence affecting the programs that were met to take place during that period. (Mubende).
- Slow response from community members willing to take on training in pad making. Potential trainees want to take on a whole package of tailoring but not pad making only.

### **Recommendations**

- After-training, assessment should be done soon (Wakiso and Butambala)
- Each practical training session should be attended by at least 15 members so that the training is effective. (Butambala)
- Theory lessons for measurements, cuttings, how to use pads and how to clean them should be conducted prior to the practical sewing. (Butambala)
- Records of the trainings should be kept at school (Wakiso and Butambala)
- Schools should identify possible ways of accessing pad making materials (Wakiso and Butambala)

### **Lessons learnt**

- It was learnt that most of the schools had an idea concerning the use of the sewing machines and some lacked knowledge about it. This was evidenced during the pad making training when some schools could try to operate the sewing machines though a few schools didn't know.