

## JICA Monthly Report December 2022

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

#### <Activities conducted>

1. Radio talk show in Wakiso
2. Air Spot Messages to raise awareness on support for girls' education and increase on reusable sanitary pad users in all the 3 target districts
3. Happy pad promotion Centre in Wakiso, and Butambala
4. Distribution of face masks- in Wakiso
5. Monitoring visit to the two project schools in Mubende (Kiyita and Christ the King) to check on the progress of their un finished facilities

#### 1. Radio talk show in Wakiso and Mubende

One hour radio talk show was conducted at Voice of Kiryagonja on 15/12/2022. The radio talk show of Mubende was conducted at Luna Fm on the 14<sup>th</sup> /12/2022. The community was reminded about the need to support adolescent girls especially those who cannot afford sanitary material so that they can comfortably stay at school. The major talking points included marketing the happy pads where the community members were encouraged to have access to pads at a lower price once they buy in bulk and how to ensure a friendly MHM environment at home since children are for holidays.



The director informs the listeners about the availability of reusable pads



The Secretary for women appreciates the good work delivered by SORAK to the community

#### 2. 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 10 times a day.
- Butambala aired 11 times at voice of Kikambwe and 22 times at voice of Butende

### 3. Happy-pad promotion Centre in Wakiso

The 2nd training centre would be established in Butambala and the team will be reporting about it in the subsequent months.



A half of Happy-Pad promotion centre's furniture and tools being taken away to Butambala

The Promotion Centre in Wakiso enrolled 4 girls who booked to undertake training for 1 month. They started in mid-December and will be completing by mid-January 2023. These are coming from 30 kilometers away -Busukuma Subcounty -Wakiso District. Each made a contribution of 100,000/=, being accommodated at the centre. This money is used to buy for them food and pay for the cook preparing meals for them. The fees charged helps to maintain the trainees. Meeting costs of keeping the trainees is one way of sustaining the centre.

This has provided us a lesson that the pad making centre needs to plan for accommodation of trainees because not all of them come from within the centre neighborhood. We think VOTU will take note of that.

#### Trainees at the centre



Trainees being introduced to how to use a tailoring machine



Introduction to how to use a tailoring machine



Trainees learn how to fix the threads into the bobbin



How to make a sketch of a pad

### Happy-pad Promotion Center at Ngando sub county, Butambala

The team received tools including 2 sewing machines, shelves, 2 chairs, 2 desks, 1 table and scissors from SORAK for the establishment of the Happy-pad promotion center in Butambala.

- **Location:** A room where the promotion center will be set up was identified in Ngando Trading Center. Promotion center will open to the public in week 4 of January.
- **Online Training:** The team prepared online training content and material including a power point presentation and feedback forms for the training. The training is scheduled to run on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023 and 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2023 on open zoom invitation. As an activity, this will raise awareness via the online platform as well as communicating project progress to them.
- **Happy Pad:** The team is finalizing the packaging of the reusable pad so as to meet the market standards and competitiveness before the actual product is put on the sale.

Pad production is scheduled to kick off in week 3 of January 2023

#### 4. Distribution of masks in Wakiso district

A total of 345 face masks that were produced in November at the Promotion Centre due to Ebola pandemic and Covid-19 were distributed (150) to the community members in Wakiso especially the ones near the centre including children and a few selected adults. This was done through working with the local leadership, People were encouraged to put on face masks to prevent and help fight the diseases.



Part of the community members benefited from Mask distribution

**5. Monitoring visit to the two project schools in Mubende (Kiyita and Christ the King Primary school) to check on the progress of their un finished facilities.**

The project officer paid a monitoring visit to the two project schools including Kiyita Primary school and Christ the King Primary school to check on the progress of the facilities. So far, the toilet is in place at Christ the King. The changing room and washroom with provision of a 10 litter jerrycan, soap and a basin to cater for the girls’ hygiene during menstruation are in place at Kiyita Primary school as below.



**Positive influence**

- During the radio talk show at Voice of Kiryagonja, the Secretary for Women participated and appreciated the initiative of ensuring that girls are kept in schools. She promised to work with SORAK to conduct community sensitization regarding MHM and Sexual Reproductive Health issues.
- The trainees at the Promotion centre are eager to learn and trainable because they are all literates.

**Challenges**

- Ebola outbreak in Mubende and its associated lockdown from 16<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> December disorganized project activities. Although the lockdown has been lifted, the festive season could

hardly allow for smooth running of the project activities. However, project activities will normalize in January when all government offices will be officially open including the project schools.

- All the four trainees at promotion center in Wakiso did not have prior knowledge in the use of the sewing machine which necessitated them to begin from scratch. The trainers are accommodative and made sure that all the trainees are on track.

### **Recommendations**

- School monitoring of facilities in all the 3 respective districts should be done as soon as schools resume in February 2023.
- Selling pads on a promotion can be one of the strategies to increase the sales.